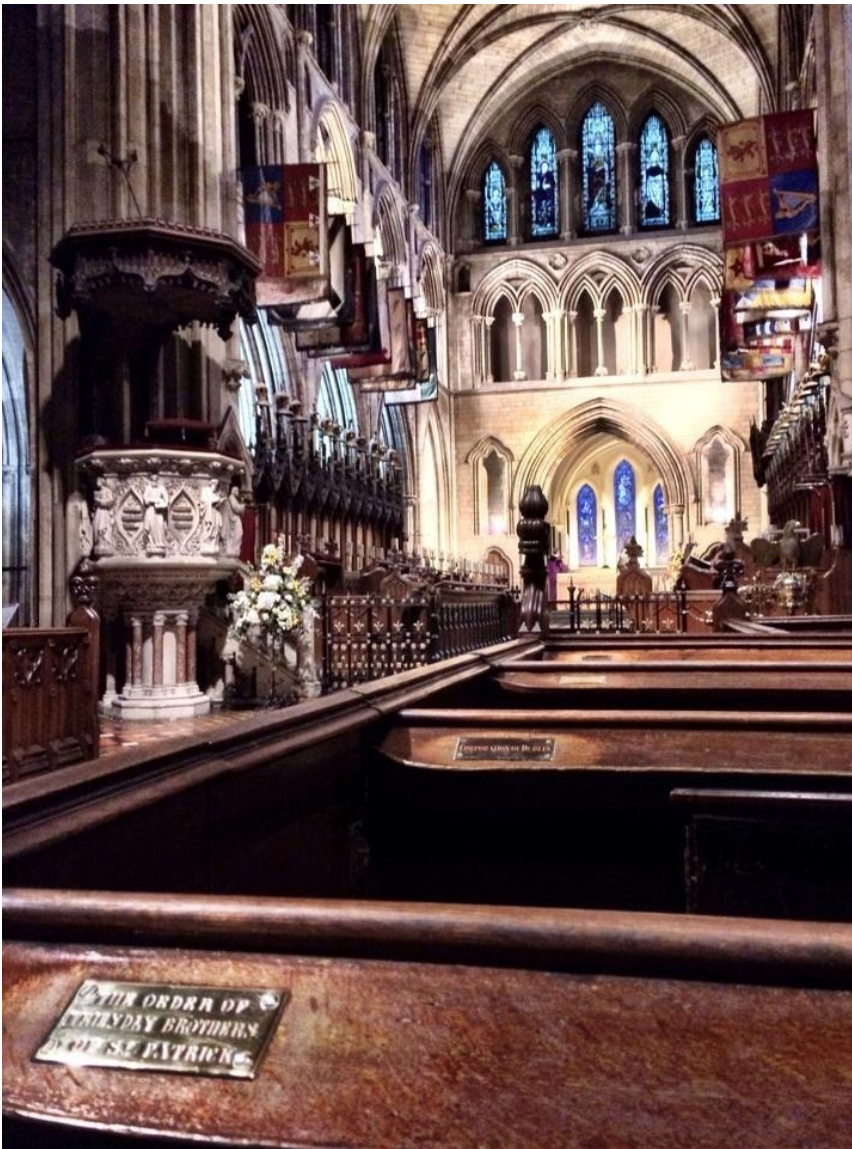


Irish news bulletin 29th January



St Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin

Magherafelt Methodists Help Ugandan Charity

Members of Magherafelt Methodist Church collected over £2300 at a local coffee morning to help the Dwelling Places charity outside Kampala in Uganda. The coffee morning was organised by church member Joanne McConnell.

After leaving school in 2013, Joanne from Magherafelt Methodist Church spent 10 weeks of her gap year working in a Christian charity outside Kampala called Dwelling Places which

rescues, rehabilitates and resettles abandoned and abused children into loving homes. Dwelling places cares for around 25 children in its home and works with another 400 children and families in the local community.

In spite of the excellent work carried out by Dwelling Places, they often find it difficult to raise money to continue the project and to send the children to school. In 2013 they accumulated a number of debts and there was a worry that they would not be able to send the children to school. Therefore, before leaving for Uganda, Joanne organised a coffee morning at Magherafelt Church where she collected £2,300 for the project which enabled them to help pay off their debts and continue their work.

Joanne said, "*The experiences I had during my time in Uganda were amazing.... The children stole my heart and I cannot wait to go back to Uganda and work with again.*" - See more at: <http://www.dwellingplaces.org/>

Diocese of Down and Dromore launches appeal for South Sudan

Even though a ceasefire is in place and Western Equatoria is calm, Bishop Justinof D & D's link diocese of Maridi has expressed great need.

Displaced people have flooded into the town and surrounding areas, putting a squeeze on resources. The price of essential commodities has risen as their scarcity increases and there are many more mouths for the church to feed. Security is also a concern.

A diocesan spokesperson said - On, 16 January, the Diocesan Council (at the request of the Council for Mission) voted to give the developing world allocation to Maridi, a sum of £4000. They also decided to launch an appeal for South Sudan so that parishes would have the opportunity to give. Collections will be taken in our churches on Sunday 2 February so please prepare to give to our brothers and sisters to help them meet the needs of the desperate people in their midst.

We thank God for the ceasefire but the situation in the country is unpredictable. Should we have money left over it will be redistributed in other needy areas of South Sudan through CMS Ireland (who themselves have donated £3000 to Maridi diocese)

Banned comic play about Bible expected to sell out

The comic play about the Bible that was cancelled, then reinstated, by a County Antrim council, is expected to sell out.

The Bible: The Complete Word of God (Abridged) had sold only 150 of a possible 800 seats before the controversy erupted last week. Only six tickets were left unsold at 21:30 GMT on Tuesday. The play's two-night run at Newtownabbey Borough Council's Theatre at the Mill begins today, Wednesday. The council box office extended its opening hours on Tuesday, and its website also crashed because of a surge in demand.

The play was originally cancelled by the council's artistic board after complaints from some councillors that it was blasphemous. However, after widespread condemnation of the move, the artistic board changed its mind on Monday night, and the council ratified the decision to let the play go ahead.

The Reduced Shakespeare Company was already rehearsing the play at the Theatre at the Mill before the council performed its U-turn. See also -

Theatre ban is lambasted by the arts world

<http://www.newsletter.co.uk/theatre-ban-is-lambasted-by-the-arts-world-1-5835521>

U-turn on Bible show ban by Newtownabbey Council

<http://www.newsletter.co.uk/u-turn-on-bible-show-ban-by-newtownabbey-council-1-5837423>

Final line up for Rubicon 2014

The final line up of speakers and contributors for Rubicon has been unveiled. The third Rubicon gathering, which will focus on the theme of justice, takes place in Rathmines Town Hall this Saturday, 1 February, from 9.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m.

The keynote speaker is Shane Claiborne activist, author and founder of the Simple Way Community in Philadelphia. Shane will be joined by the Archbishop of Dublin, the Most Revd Dr Michael Jackson, who will speak at the opening of the conversation about justice as well as the Papal Nuncio, the Most Revd Charles John Brown.

Other contributors who will be involved this year include:

- John Foong: Head of Mid-market Sales and Demand Management, Google Enterprise: Europe, Middle East and Africa



The Dean and Chapter of the Cathedral Church of St Fin Barre, Cork. - The Very Revd Nigel Dunne, installed the Revd Daniel Nuzum to the Prebendal Stalls of St Michael and Inniskenny, in the Cathedral Church of St Fin Barre, Cork.

Front row: L– R: the Precentor, the Very Revd Alan Marley; the Chancellor, the Very Revd Christopher Peters; the Dean of Cork, the Very Revd Nigel Dunne; the Archdeacon of Cork, Cloyne and Ross, the Venerable, Robin E. Bantry White; the Treasurer, the Revd Canon David Williams. Back row L–R: Mr John Jermyn, Chapter Clerk; the Revd Canon Daniel Nuzum; and, the Revd Canon Paul Willoughby.

Gallan: Dublin City University, Dept of Law and Government

- Brother Martin Bennett: Capuchian Friary
- Elaine Moore: Women's Shelter, Rathmines
- Thywill Bankole: Chair of Fingal Ethnic Network
- Graham Jones: Solas Project Head Gardener and Social Entrepreneur Award Winner
- Cameron Stewart: Brand Consultant / Fmr Ark Clothing
- Lydia Monds: Education Advisor, Bishops' Appeal

- Gavin Jennings: Presenter of Morning Ireland
- Daniel Ramamoorthy: Entrepreneur, Business Consultant, Startup & Government Advisor to Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation, Richard Bruton TD
- Lauren Shaw: Human Trafficking
- Dr. James

There will be a live video feed from Rothar Africa cyclists who are traveling from Cairo to Capetown for charity and there will be many more.

Founded by Greg Fromholz and the Revd Rob Jones, the gathering is a Holy Trinity, Rathmines, initiative which aims to create a place where the big questions can be debated and talked about. It draws together people to collaborate intentionally and explore ideas about how people of faith can continue to engage in all their spheres of influence.

The contributors will join 110 new influencers to chat in a 'TED–esque' format with interaction, table discussion and tea.

The organisers are delighted with the reaction the third Rubicon conference has received. "We're really blown away with the variety of contributors this year. And being that we're at capacity it's going to be a hothouse of compelling conversation, hopefully leading to action," Greg Fromholz and Rob Jones say.

Saturday's session is fully booked but there is still space to hear Shane speak at Holy Trinity, Rathmines, at 11.45 a.m. on Sunday 2 February. See www.wearerubicon.com for more details or on Twitter at @wearerubicon.

The Larder is one year old

The Larder in St Christopher's, Mersey Street, Belfast, has just celebrated its first birthday. In twelve months over seven hundred people have had a week's emergency food.



"This has only happened because individuals, churches and other groups have given generously. We at the Larder simply provide the system to sort it, store it and meet those who are referred to it by churches, social services and other charities. Thank you to

everyone," said a spokesperson.



If you would like to organise a one-off collection or a regular donation please contact Adrian McCartney on 07970626384.

Traditional Latin Mass

The monthly Mass in the Extraordinary Form of the Roman Rite will be celebrated in Long Tower Church, Derry, on Sunday 2nd February 2014, at 2:00pm.

It is an opportunity to pray in the form used by the Church for many centuries. Everyone is welcome.

Training in Gregorian Chant

A Training Course in Gregorian Chant is being offered by Thornhill Centre Ministries on Saturday 1

March 2014, from 10.00am - 3.00pm, in St Columb's College, Buncrana Road, Derry.

Guest Director: Nick Gale. Simple Chants for Lent and Easter will be taught. For more information contact Thornhill Ministries on: Tel: 028 7135 1233 or Email: secretary@thornhillministries.co.uk

Three Ulster Peers join former Archbishop in plea to Prime Minister on Syrian refugee resettlement

Viscount Brookeborough, Lord Maginnis of Drumglass and Rt Hon Lord Kilclooney of Armagh joined The former Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Rowan Williams, bishops, crossbenchers and peers from all parties in an open letter to Prime Minister David Cameron, urging a positive UK

government response to the call for re-settlement of some Syrian refugees in Britain and other European countries.

The letter, published in the Independent newspaper late last week, is a response to a plea from the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

"Only a resettlement programme will offer a durable solution for the most vulnerable who will struggle to survive in the harsh conditions in the region," the peers acknowledge.

In full, the letter reads as follows:

"We are deeply concerned about the growing Syrian refugee crisis which you have accurately described as 'the greatest refugee crisis of our time'. As you will know, more than two million people have fled the country, including over one million children, the majority of whom are now living in extremely precarious circumstances. Figures suggest that only around 0.1 per cent of the people fleeing the conflict have found safety in the UK while 97 per cent, are being hosted by the neighbouring countries.

"We write to you today to urge you to heed UNHCR's call to help the countries bordering Syria by establishing a co-ordinated resettlement programme in the UK with a focus on the more vulnerable refugees, including women at risk, those with disabilities, vulnerable older adults and families with children.

"We commend you for pledging £600 million in humanitarian aid to assist people in Syria and the region. However, we are extremely concerned to hear reports of domestic violence, sexual abuse and rape from the camps on the border, and with the arrival of winter and freezing temperatures, these are plainly unacceptable environments for many at risk.

"Only a resettlement programme will offer a durable solution for the most vulnerable who will struggle to survive in the harsh conditions in the region.

"You are well aware of the scale of the crisis which shows no signs of abating. UNHCR has predicted that next year the total Syrian refugee population will increase to over 4 million. Unsurprisingly, given the numbers crossing their borders, Syria's neighbours are buckling under the strain. We are extremely alarmed to hear that scores of people trying to escape the fighting, including families with small children, are being denied admission by neighbouring countries. According to an April 2013 survey, 71 per cent of Jordanians want the border with Syria to be closed to new arrivals. With thousands of people fleeing Syria everyday, this would be catastrophic.

"There is a moral imperative on western countries to show solidarity with Syria's neighbours by sharing the responsibility of protecting some of the people fleeing Syria.

"UNHCR has called for western countries to take 30,000 people through resettlement or humanitarian admission with a focus on the vulnerable, a modest target given the scale of the crisis. So far 18 countries, including Germany, France and the USA, have responded to this call. Despite our proud tradition of protecting refugees, the UK has yet to respond.

"We urge you to work with the UNHCR and the international community in the establishment of a global resettlement programme to help the most vulnerable find safety outside of the region. We must play our part in providing a safe haven to Syria's refugees.

"We would be grateful for your thoughts on this issue and would welcome the opportunity to meet with you to discuss it in more detail."

The letter has been signed by:

Rt Hon the Baroness Williams of Crosby
Rt Hon. the Lord Ashdown of Norton-sub-Hamdon GCMG KBE
Lord Ahmed of Rotherham
Lord Avebury
Baroness Berridge
Rt Hon. the Baroness Boothroyd OM
Lord Brennan QC
Viscount Brookeborough DL
Rt Rev the Lord Bishop of Carlisle
Lord Chidgey
Rt Rev the Lord Bishop of Coventry
Baroness Cox
Lord Desai
Lord Dholakia
Lord Dubs
Rt Rev the Lord Bishop of Gloucester
Baroness Goudie
Lord Greaves
Baroness Hamwee
Lord Hannay of Chiswick GCMG
Baroness Howarth of Breckland
Baroness Hooper CMG
Lord Hylton
Lord Judd

Baroness Kennedy of The Shaws QC
Rt Hon Lord Kilclooney of Armagh
Baroness Kinnock of Holyhead
Lord Lester of Herne Hill
Rt Rev the Lord Bishop of Lichfield
Baroness Lister of Burtersett CBE
Rt Rev and the Rt Hon the Lord Bishop of London
Lord Maginnis of Drumglass
Baroness Meacher
Baroness Morgan of Huyton
Lord Parekh
Lord Roberts of Llandudno
Rt Hon. the Lord Roper
Rt Rev the Lord Bishop of St Albans
Earl of Sandwich
Rt Hon the Baroness Smith of Basildon
Lord Snape
Baroness Stern CBE
Baroness Suttie
Lord Taverne
Baroness Tonge
Rt Rev the Lord Bishop of Truro
Baroness Uddin
Rt Rev the Lord Bishop of Wakefield
Rt Hon the Lord Warner
Baroness Whitaker
Rt Hon the Lord Whitty
Rt Hon the Lord Wigley
Rt Rev and the Rt Hon the Lord Williams of Oystermouth
Rt Rev the Lord Bishop of Worcester
Lord Wright of Richmond GCMG

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