

The essential brief on the Irish churches

Year of Working for reconciliation and peace building marked

The Irish Churches Peace Project (ICPP) marked its first year of activity with an event entitled ‘Our Journey in Peace Building – Stories, Reflections, Conversations’, at Malone House Belfast



Bishop Donal McKeown (Chair of ICPP), Keith Hamilton (Director ICPP), Rt Revd Dr Michael Barry (Presbyterian Moderator), Bishop John McDowell (Col Bishop of Clogher), Revd Dr Donald Watts (President ICC), Mrs Joan Doherty (ICPP Vice Chair, Methodist Church)

The event involving around 70 people from across Northern Ireland and the border region reflected on what has been achieved through ICPP’s work so far and discussed how best to build on the various initiatives already undertaken, underway and in development. ICPP Good Relations Officers, people who have been inspired ‘on the ground’, clergy and lay people from various Churches, a number of politicians and partner agency representatives listened to presentations and conversed with one another in discussion groups over the course of a stimulating morning.

Bishop Donal McKeown, ICPP Chair, set the scene for the session, saying that the event was ‘not just an exercise in accountability or to boast about achievements’ but about focusing on Christ-centred reconciliation in order to develop the ‘skills and confidence to keep the work going long into the future’.

He spoke about 'the tremendous degree of enthusiasm to stand together on common issues' which was now evident and 'a desire to give common witness in stressful times' set against the backdrop of the recent challenging Dr Paul Nolan Peace Monitoring Report (Community Relations Council). Bishop McKeown suggested that despite the challenging context, in fact 'many in the faith communities are energised', believing 'that ordinary pragmatic solutions can and will be found' and ultimately peacebuilding and reconciliation 'can be done'.

ICPP Good Relations Officers (GROs) shared some of their project-based news: Glenn Harvey (Fermanagh and the Border Region) introduced Monsignor Peter O'Reilly of Enniskillen who spoke about his strong working relationship with Dean Kenny Hall which had stemmed from HM Queen Elizabeth II's Jubilee visit to the town and the decision which he and Dean Hall took to work and give media interviews together 'not just for symbolic significance' but also to move away from the language and perception of 'two communities'. This had been built upon by cultivating friendships beyond clergy to wider society and the success of a 'Leadership Meal' in Enniskillen – one of several stories about impacting upon society to be found in the recently published ICPP Annual Report for 2013 which was also profiled at the event.

Emily Brough, GRO for Armagh, Dungannon and Cookstown, spoke about work in the Mid-Ulster area. In addition to the 'Go and do thou likewise' clergy conference on the legacy of the Troubles held in Coalisland, creative work had been undertaken at a cross-community away day at Corrymeela on the theme of forgiveness which participant Libby Keys outlined. She spoke about the depth of pain which still exists for many as well as apathy and resistance to peacebuilding and the need to 'keep continuing to create the spaces' for conversation and encounter. 'Peacebuilding requires patience and persistence ... it is a process not an event or project and needs to be long-term', she concluded.

Introduced by Peter McDowell, Newry and Mourne GRO, Aneta Dabek and Artur Kmiecik, both originally from Poland, spoke about the work of bringing wide-ranging ethnic communities together with local people in partnership with EMBRACE and enriching each other through explaining different cultural perspectives as well as hearing from local people about their own direct experiences on a visit to Derry.

Elizabeth Lightbody of Joanmount Methodist Church spoke about her own active participation in a project with Sacred Heart Parish facilitated by Laura

Coulter (GRO for Greater Belfast). The project allowed people to move from getting to know one another to exploring identity and faith, spiritual journeys and culture and politics together. As evidenced in this work in North Belfast, progress is achieved through taking small but significant steps.

Keith Hamilton, ICPP Director, said that the Peace Project's work was about reducing the fear factor in talking to one another. Work so far has been wide-ranging from community hubs to housing estates to youth work to anti-poverty initiatives. He said that ICPP was designed, as he saw it, to bring all the Churches together as 'a beach-head' – 'a safe place to start and now a secure one from which to build'. See - www.icpp.info

Director of Veritas, Maura Hyland, to meet Pope Francis today

Director of Veritas, Maura Hyland, has been invited to present Pope Francis with a copy of the Irish Catholic Catechism for Adults following his General Audience today, Wednesday, 25 June.

Speaking about the presentation, Maura Hyland said 'Since he stepped out onto the balcony above St Peter's Square on 19 March 2013 and greeted those gathered with the words 'Buona sera', Pope Francis has been capturing the imaginations and hearts of people throughout the world. His humility, his use of images and symbols and his ability to reach out to people have spoken volumes. It is a great honour for me to meet Pope Francis and to present him with a copy of the *Irish Catholic Catechism for Adults*'.

Published by Veritas, Ireland's leading religious publisher and retailer, the *Irish Catholic Catechism for Adults* is a new publication from the Irish Episcopal Conference. The result of several years' work, this Catechism is a call to renewal of faith among adults, at a time when people may be questioning whether the good news of Jesus Christ applies to them. It responds to the recommendation in the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* that Episcopal Conferences would develop 'local catechisms, which take into account various situations and cultures, while carefully preserving the unity of faith and fidelity to catholic doctrine'.

Each chapter opens with a story or lesson of faith featuring a number of notable people of faith including Irish people such as Nano Nagle, Catherine McAuley and Matt Talbot, as well as others such as Pope John XXIII, St Augustine and many more. It aims to provide Irish Catholics with an

accessible, easy-to-understand introduction to Church teachings in a format they can relate to.

Ireland is only the second country in the English-speaking world to publish a local catechism based on the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*. It received the official *recognitio* of the Holy See in late April and was launched by the Irish Bishops' Conference on Monday, 9 June.

Extra resource material is available at www.irishcatechism.ie

Clergy Hear of Exciting New Dublin Missional Initiative

Clergy from across Dublin and Glendalough gathered on Friday (June 20) to hear about a new ministry which will be located in Dublin. Eoghan Heaslip, who is currently a priest working in the Diocese of Worcester in England is moving back to his native Dublin this summer to explore and develop the ICON community here.



The Revd Eoghan Heaslip talks to Archbishop Michael Jackson.

ICON is a missional community and while it is not a diocesan ministry, Eoghan will operate with a licence from the Archbishop. He will develop the community of faith through discipleship, spirituality and social action. ICON is not parish based and it is expected that those who come to be involved in the community will probably not already be in church.

Eoghan explained the shape of his new ministry to those who attended the session in the Church of Ireland Theological Institute. He said that Dublin as a city was constantly changing and as the Church of Ireland continued to explore how to be and do church for everyone, we were going to have to find ways to connect church and culture.



Canon Horace McKinley

Statistics suggest that Dublin is Europe's youngest city with a huge proportion of its residents aged under 36 years. However, Eoghan pointed out that the 18 to 36 year olds were largely missing from church and he asked who would go to them. "I believe with every fibre within me that we have to do everything we can to reach the hundreds of thousands of young men and women who are not worshipping with us," he stated.

He suggested that the Gospel had to meet people where they were and network churches such as ICON could reach new people. He said he was not suggesting

that network churches were better but that they were needed in tandem with traditional church.

The plan for ICON is to plant missional communities in the city. These would not be a substitute for gathered church but they would orbit the centre. "ICON will gather and go. It will be a church which is both rooted and radical – coming together to be sent back out again. Our primary identity will be to live as families on mission around the city. Each community will be shaped by its desire to engage with culture and the Gospel. Our commitment as communities will be to live intentionally," Eoghan explained.

He added that they would not be able to do this alone and would look to their brothers and sisters in the Church of Ireland to work out what God was doing in front of them and to reach people that no one was reaching.

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A question and answer session was conducted by the Revd Adrienne Galligan who enquired how the network would fit in with local parochial structures. Eoghan said it would fit but what that meant in practice had yet to be fleshed out. He said he hoped that a senior clergy person in the dioceses would work alongside him and mentor him.

He said he hoped to find ways to keep parishes connected with ICON, whether through prayer, events like prayer walks in the city or social action. He hoped also to share the good news of what they were doing at regular events. He said ICON was not a diocesan ministry and they were not asking parishes to send them their 18 to 36 year olds.

The longest serving priest in the dioceses, Canon Horace McKinley, gave a reflection at the seminar in which he reflected on the vast changes that had taken place in Dublin's parishes. He said he was "struck by the Icon vision and its title deeds, as I read of "a combination of living spiritually, the sacraments, a rooting in scripture, engagement in social action and blending both ancient and modern forms and practices of worship". All really rather familiarly Anglican, you could even say."

He said he believed new ways of being church need not be an alien concept to the Anglican way and added that the traditional and experiential could always work provided they practiced mutual trust and respect under the one roof. In his closing words, under the heading 'Do not be afraid', Canon McKinley said, "Jesus promised that "The Holy Spirit will guide you into all truth". The verb "guide" has the language sense that this is a continuing process and an ongoing work of the Holy Spirit. The Spirit therefore invites us to look forward both with faith's imagination and expectation".

Fr Kieran McDermott, Parish Priest of Dundrum, said all of us were charged to bring the message of Christ to the world. In an age where sound bites ruled, he said our culture turned off what was not immediately accessible. He said that one of the functions of leadership was to recognise authentic discipleship and that new models of church could be seen throughout the history of Christianity. The reason for church was to make Christ known and Fr Kieran pointed to a recent address by Pope Francis in which he said that the church was called to go to the outskirts or the peripheries. "ICON offers a pathway to rediscover and reconnect with the person of Jesus or for the curious to come and learn. I will follow this initiative with great interest," he concluded.

Intercontinental Church Society Launches New Website

More interactive, more responsive and with new content. The site outlines the people and the work of ICS as well as the chaplaincies and ministry they are involved in.

Richard Bromley, Mission Director comments, "On the new website, not only will you find daily prayer points but up to the minute prayer news and

requests. I hope this allows you to pray for us more intelligently and frequently.”

You can find the site at www.ics-uk.org

If you are on Facebook you can like ICS here <https://www.facebook.com/IntercontinentalChurchSociety>

You can also follow ICS on Twitter @interchsoc

Healing service with Archbishop Eames

A reminder that Archbishop Eames will be the special speaker at a service of divine healing in St. Anne’s Cathedral, Belfast on Monday, June 30 at 8 pm.

Brother David comments, “He will speak on ‘Inner Peace and Community Peace’. The theme is very relevant because there is often tension in the province at this time of year.”

There will be an opportunity to receive personal prayer for healing and a blessing with oil on June 30.

The service will be led by Brother David Jardine, Director of Divine Healing Ministries.

West Church, Bangor, Music Group will lead worship.

Waringstown couple working with church in Kenya since 1989

Stephen and Angelina Cowan have worked among the *Samburu* and *Turkana* peoples of Samburu North District in Northern Kenya since 1989; and have lived in Tuum since 1992.



In the Samburu District, the approach to mission needs to take into account the peoples’ nomadic lifestyle, the lack of pasture for their cattle and camels, and sporadic unrest, violence and cattle raiding.

Along with their Kenyan colleagues, the Cowans are engaged in helping people to help themselves through training and skills development, whilst also sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ and nurturing those who have come to faith. Much has been achieved over the years but there is much still to be done.

Stephen coordinates the work of the [Samburu Awareness and Action Programme \(SAAP\)](#), encourages leadership development, manages project finances, and regularly makes the 1000 km round trip from Tuum to Nairobi and back to purchase food, fuel and supplies for project work — a journey that can take several days, depending on road conditions.

The two older children are at boarding school in another part of Kenya, while Angelina continues to home-school their youngest. Besides this, she is in charge of hospitality, looking after the SAAP guesthouse, and any teams or visitors who come to Tuum. She also acts as a 'listening ear' to many of the young girls who come to the SAAP Camp, as it is known locally.

Tuum is very remote, but a satellite phone and email facilities (with file size limited to 50Kb max) enable the Cowan family to maintain contact with the outside world.

It is exciting to see a small but growing community of dedicated Christian people in and around Tuum and to see their desire that others might come to faith also. A Bible teaching seminar followed by outreach is held each month.

DOWNLOAD [Stephen and Angelina's JUNE 2014 Monthly Bulletin](#) (pdf 497Kb) which gives up to date news and prayer requests.



New rector in Dummurry

The Rev Adrian McLaughlin was instituted as rector of the Parish of Dunmurry by the Bishop of Connor, the Rt Rev Alan Abernethy.

Former Curate Assistant in the Parish of Bangor Abbey, in the Diocese of Down, Adrian is married to Christine, a chemistry teacher at at Belfast Royal Academy and the couple has two children.

Before ordination Adrian was Director of the Pipe Organ Preservation Company and also ran a part-time fireworks display business.

From 2003 until 2006 he was organist and choirmaster at Drummaul Parish Church in Randalstown, and he has also taught religious education and music and chemistry in various schools across Northern Ireland

His many interests include gardening, cooking and baking, oil painting, DIY and bowls while he enjoys singing, playing and composing for the piano and organ and organ building.

Adrian maintains an interest in science. He has restored a derelict house in Brittany, France and has a great passion for church architecture and all things antiquarian and ecclesiastical.

Adrian said: "I have had a long association with Dunmurry. I lived in Dunmurry for five years as a student at the Bible College and my wife taught at Hunterhouse College. I was also kindly given permission by the then rector to practice on the organ at St.Colman's during my time at Belfast Bible College."



Connor Council member recognised

Professor Alan Hibbert, a member of Connor Diocesan Council, has been awarded an MBE in the Queen's Birthday Honour's List.

Professor Hibbert, a parishioner of the grouped parishes of Kilroot and Templecorran, is a retired Professor of Applied Mathematics at Queen's University, Belfast, and is currently Deputy Chair of the Management Committee of Armagh Observatory and Planetarium.

He receives his MBE for services to astronomy. Prof Hibbert represented Queen's University on the Board of Governors of the Observatory and Planetarium. The Observatory was established by Archbishop Robinson in the late 18th century, and the Board of Governors today is made up of the Archbishop of Armagh, the Dean and Chapter of Armagh Cathedral and a number of other people. The Management Committee was set up about 30 years ago and is representative of a wider range of interests and specialities and includes astronomers.

Prof Hibbert said he was surprised but delighted to be awarded the MBE. “It is not the sort of thing one ever expects,” he said. “My research links significantly with astronomy, but I would not call myself an astronomer.”

Born in Lancashire, Prof Hibbert obtained a degree in Mathematics from Oxford and a D.Phil in Theoretical Atomic Physics. “That’s the area of research I have stayed with,” he said.

He came to Queen’s in Belfast as a Post Doctoral Research Fellow and remained as a member of staff. He eventually became Head of the Department of Applied Mathematics and Theoretical Physics.

He was also Dean of Theology at Queen’s from 1997–2002 and is a Member of the Royal Irish Academy.

Prof Hibbert met his wife Gina at Oxford, and the couple have three children. When he first moved to Belfast, he worshipped at All Saints’ in University Street, before moving to the Church of Ireland Centre at Queen’s. In 1969 he was elected to the Management Committee of the centre and was successively treasurer and then chair of its Executive Committee for most of the intervening period.

“It has recently become a joint Centre with the Methodist Church and I am still on the Covenant Management Group and on the Church of Ireland’s Management Committee,” said Prof Hibbert.

The family moved to Dunmurry in 1977, and three years later Prof Hibbert became the parish organist, a role he occupied for 25 years.

When he came to live in Carrickfergus, he joined Kilroot parish and now plays the organ most Sundays in Templecorran Church in Ballycarry. He is a member of Ballyclare Male Choir.

Prof Hibbert has been a Synod Member for Connor Diocese for more than 40 years and is currently a member of Connor Diocesan Council.

England’s Synod agenda built around women bishop question

The General Synod of the Church of England meets in York in July for a five day meeting July 11-15.

The agenda for the meeting was published June 20. The agenda is constructed around a sequence of legislative business on women in the episcopate. This will begin on the afternoon of July 11 with the Report by the Business Committee on the Article 8 Reference to the dioceses.

This will be followed by the Final Drafting Stage for the Measure and Amending Canon. The House of Bishops will meet on the morning of July 12 for its consideration of the draft legislation under Article 7 of the Synod's Constitution. The agenda allows alternative scenarios for the afternoon of July 13 to enable the Convocations and the House of Laity to debate the draft legislation if they claim a reference under Article 7. If these stages are completed, the Synod will take the Final Approval stage during the morning of July 14.

On the afternoon of Friday 11 July, the Synod will be debating the first consideration of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure and the associated Amending Canon No.34, which give effect to proposals in developed in response to the reports of the Chichester commissaries and approved by the Synod in February. Changes will include making it easier to suspend clergy, or bring complaints against them, where abuse is alleged, enabling bishops to compel clergy to undergo risk assessments and imposing a duty on clergy, churchwardens and PCCs to have due regard to the House of Bishops' safeguarding policies.

On the afternoon of July 12, the General Synod will be addressed by the US writer and theologian the Rev. Jim Wallis. Wallis is the president and founder of *Sojourners* magazine and the author "On God's Side." This will be followed by group work by Synod members on the same theme, culminating in a debate later that afternoon on a motion from the Mission and Public Affairs Council.

On July 13 there will be a presentation by the president and CEO designate of the newly-established [Churches' Mutual Credit Union](#). The aim of the CMCU is to provide a mutual ethical vehicle for tax efficient savings and affordable loans for clergy and staff of church charities. It is hoped that the establishment of the CMCU will help to support and strengthen the credit union movement and provide a viable, ethical alternative to mainstream banking for people irrespective of their financial status. Also on July 13 the Synod will be debating the draft new Additional Texts for Holy Baptism in accessible language which have been drawn up by the Liturgical Commission and which have been passed by the House of Bishops to the Synod for First Consideration.

On the morning of July 14 there will be a presentation followed by a debate on a motion promoted by the Mission and Public Affairs Council on The Armed Forces Covenant and Community Covenant. The motion invites many community bodies, including local authorities, churches and others to join the initiative which offers pastoral care for members of the Armed Forces Community. The opening presentation will be from the new Bishop to the Armed Forces, the Rt. Rev. Nigel Stock.

There will be a debate on the commemoration of the 800th anniversary of the Magna Carta on a motion moved on behalf of the Guildford Diocesan Synod. A motion on the Spare Room Subsidy from the Diocese of Bradford (now part of the diocese of West Yorkshire and the Dales) is listed as contingency business. A Private Member's Motion from the Rev. Christopher Hobbs on Canon B 8 (vesture), postponed from the previous Group of Sessions is scheduled for the evening of July. 12

This group of sessions has a substantial legislative program in addition to the items already mentioned, including legislation on synodical elections, ecclesiastical property, the faculty jurisdiction and pensions.

The full agenda can be viewed [here](#).

Synod papers can be found [here](#).

Date set for Anglican-Roman Catholic cricket match

Anglican and Roman Catholic First XIs will face each other in Canterbury on 19 September in a historic match to raise awareness of slavery and human trafficking.

Details of a historic cricket match between Anglicans and Roman Catholics to raise awareness of modern slavery and human trafficking have been announced today.

The Twenty20 match, which will be played at Kent County Cricket Club in the shadow of Canterbury Cathedral on 19 September at 4pm, will raise funds for the Global Freedom Network, the joint Anglican-Roman Catholic anti-trafficking initiative launched in March.

Entrance will be free but there will be a bucket collection during the match, which will be followed by a gala dinner to raise further funds.

The match will mark the culmination of the St Peter's Cricket Club 'Tour of Light' initiative, and follows a challenge laid down by the club's honorary president Cardinal Gianfranco Ravasi to Archbishop Justin Welby.

The Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby said: "I was delighted to meet members of the St Peter's Cricket Club during a recent visit to Rome, and am greatly looking forward to welcoming them to Canterbury in September for what will be an historic occasion. I would like to express particular thanks to Kent County Cricket Club for so generously offering the use of their ground, and to those who are working hard to ensure the St Peter's team enjoy a memorable tour. I also pray that the match will draw attention to the very serious problem of modern slavery and human trafficking, which our two churches are working closely together to combat through the work of the Global Freedom Network."

Cardinal Gianfranco Ravasi, President of the Pontifical Council for Culture, said: "If you want to arrive first, run alone. If you want to go far, walk together.' For this sporting initiative I recall this Kenyan proverb, as it states so simply our need for teamwork, and with clear reference to the charitable aspect chosen, namely the issue of human trafficking, a plague which hurts most those who are left alone and abandoned. In our culture of massive movement of peoples, sport challenges us to examine not just how hospitable we are, as individual athletes, but also how similar we are, for as Jean Giraudoux affirms, "sport is the real esperanto of the peoples". Look at the



ST. PETER'S CATHEDRAL SCHOLA CANTORUM

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FRIDAY 27TH JUNE 2014 - 6.30PM

ST. PETER'S CATHEDRAL, BELFAST

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ADMISSION: FREE

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great success of the World Cup in Brazil! We do well to recall this in our pastoral work!"

Read more about the match – including details of the squads – on the [Pontifical Council for Culture website](#).

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/wires/ap/article-2666229/Cricket-pitch-strengthen-Vatican-Anglican-ties.html#ixzz35X2b1xe0>

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2014/jun/23/vatican-cricket-team-head-to-head-anglican-rivals>

Press coverage

Commission chaired by Archbishop Sentamu champions living wage

Reports on a blueprint to lift one million people out of low pay by 2020 which was published yesterday. The state a commission chaired by the Archbishop of York, calls on the Government to champion the gradual introduction of a living wage higher than the national minimum wage in sectors that could afford it. But it rejects the idea of imposing a higher wages floor by law. The living wage is currently £8.80 an hour in London and £7.65 an hour outside the capital. The minimum wage is £6.31 an hour. Dr John Sentamu said action must be taken to reverse the situation where the majority of people classified as living in poverty are now in working households.

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/archbishop-john-sentamu-britain-could-lift-1m-out-of-poverty-with-living-wage-9557831.html>

<http://www.theguardian.com/society/2014/jun/24/living-wage-commission-report-minimum-pay>

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/money/article4128243.ece>

<http://www.itv.com/news/update/2014-06-24/majority-in-poverty-now-live-in-working-households/>

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-27981975>

Britain is becoming a more religious country

Report on historian Simon Schama's remarks that Britain is becoming a more religious country. It quotes comments he made to the *Radio Times*, saying after years of being relegated to the sidelines, religion has once again become part of mainstream life.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2666485/Historian-Simon-Schama-says-UK-religious-country.html#ixzz35X1CEbAV>

New edition of biography, *Rowan's Rule*

Report by Ruth Gledhill on new edition of biography, *Rowan's Rule*, by Rupert Shortt, which is published next month. It states the former Archbishop of Canterbury, Rowan Williams has "no problem" with legal parity for same-sex couples, but he feels the State rushed into "redefining" marriage without giving the Church enough time to think about it.

<http://www.christiantoday.com/article/rowan.williams.hated.being.archbishop.of.canterbury/38355.htm>

Diocese achieves Fair Trade status - The Diocese of St. Asaph

<http://stasaph.churchinwales.org.uk/news/2014/06/diocese-achieves-fair-trade-status/>

Disdainful Peter Hain won't be missed when he's gone

<http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/debateni/blogs/ruth-dudly-edwards/disdainful-peter-hain-wont-be-missed-when-hes-gone-30374979.html>

Mormons oust 'women priest' backer

The Mormon Church has excommunicated a prominent backer of the ordination of women priests for contravening official doctrine, her supporters say.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-us-canada-27989364>

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