



## **Braniel church plant's vital programmes connect with community**

Braniel Community Church was the second of church plant to be launched by the C of I diocese of Down and Dromore. It has been

going since December 2013. Leader, Susan Macfarland, gives us an update...

“We have a variety of people from the Braniel community coming along to our Café Church. Some have a faith, some are new to faith and some are searching. It’s relaxed and informal around tables. One lady describes coming along on Sunday as like being with family, “It’s like home”.



***Susan Macfarland***

“Our mid-week programmes are also vital. We get to connect and build relationships with those

living on the estate. Our kids and youth clubs happen on Wednesday nights with a chance for the young people to have some fun and hear the good news of the gospel and it's transforming power (see below). Next month we are taking some of our young people away on a residential which we are very excited about.

“Our fitness classes and knitting club try to connect with those living in the community and we also have a presence in Braniel Primary School. We join with other local churches in taking Scripture Union lessons each week and we also have good relations with the local Grammar school, Our Lady and St Pats College. Over the past months, with the four other churches in Braniel and Gilnahirk, we have been able to deliver a variety of workshops, R.E Lessons and some Assemblies at the College.

“We continue to try to reach out to the estate and to draw alongside those in need. Thank you for your continued prayers and support.”

## **Lisburn Cathedral to bring out “God’s colour” in city over Easter**

A squad of 150 people of all ages will be out and about in Lisburn over Easter bringing colour and



***Chris Pickles and Brian Bell, Church Warden***

love to their local community as part of Lisburn Cathedral's Big Church Serve.

The event will build on the success of last year's Big Church Serve. From 1 – 4 April, 150 local people aged 3–83 take part in the project which will include a huge range of activities for all the family held in both Lisburn City Centre and Hillhall.

The aim of the project is to bring out the 'God-Colours' in the city and ultimately bring visitors and residents of the area together at a special time.

Vicar, the Revd Simon Genoe, said: “The huge success of last year has prompted us to host the event again in 2015 and this year it’s going to be bigger and better than before. As an outreach programme we touched the lives of many people last year and we hope to do the same again.

“Making real positive changes to the lives of those in our community is our goal and we can’t rest on our laurels. Each of us is responsible for looking after our neighbours and this is our way of doing what little we can for those in need and our way of bringing fun, joy and laughter to the homes and streets of Lisburn.”

Activities over the four days will include mural painting, flower planting, door-to-door giveaways, kids’ clubs, pamper zones, carwashing and a barbeque with family fun day, all happening in the Hillhall area.

On the streets of Lisburn City Centre there will be a fun photo booth, football cage, balloons, free chocolate lollies, and an Easter egg hunt. At the site of the Cathedral visitors will enjoy an all day ‘Frozen’ Party on the Saturday, a beautiful dawn service at 7am on Easter Sunday, followed by the ‘Ice Cream Sundae’ Family Service at 11am.

The Grace café will be open each day from 10am – 4pm providing visitors with a place to chat, enjoy the craic and let the kids play in the under five play area while absorbing the surroundings of what is arguably Lisburn's most iconic building.

Early risers (and those who need to set an alarm), are also invited to join the congregation for a 'bacon butty' at the 7am Dawn Service on Easter Sunday which will see all the churches in the city come together to celebrate this wonderful occasion in the Castle Garden Grounds as the sun comes up.

The culmination of the Big Church Serve will be the Ice Cream Sundae service at Lisburn Cathedral at 11am on Easter Sunday – this will be church for everybody but with a special Easter themed difference!

## **National Faith Development Team convenes its first meeting with leaders in Youth Ministry**

A gathering for leaders working in the area of teen and young adult ministry was held last week in Saint Patrick's College, Maynooth.

Over sixty leaders representing Catholic Schools' Trusts, Retreat Centres, schools, University chaplaincy, parishes and Dioceses up and down the country met to discuss how they might work more effectively together to share Gospel joy with young people in the Church.

Bishop Brendan Leahy, Co-Chair of the National Faith Development Team, who led the conversation today, praised the dedication and hard work of those gathered. Bishop Leahy emphasised that there was a need not just for “personal conversion to the life of communion but also ministerial conversion in the way we do things. Working together in a planned and coordinated way can no longer be an optional extra but needs to be at heart of our work and our planning.”

Kate Liffey, Coordinator of the National Faith Development Team, expressed her delight in the event. “This is the first of what we in the National Faith Development Team, hope will be many such conversations. The energy, interest and commitment of the group gathered today was really heartening and speaks volumes about the desire of those gathered to reach out in ever more effective, compassionate and real ways to young people”.

## Church of Ireland Historical Society - April Meeting

The next meeting of the Society will be held in the Armagh Public Library (Robinson Library) on Saturday 25 April 2015. The library is located at the northwest entrance gate to the Church of Ireland Cathedral.

### Programme:

10.30am Coffee and registration

11am Dr Immo Warntjes, 'The Irish Easter controversy of the seventh century'

12pm Mr Jamie Blake Knox, 'The most impudent falsehood in Irish history'

1pm Lunch

2pm Professor Pádraig Ó Riain, William Reeves and "the lively movement which Irish literature presented"

3pm Dr Ida Milne, "The Quiet corner Back": rural Irish Protestants and the GAA'

### Speakers:

- Dr Immo Warntjes was research fellow at the German Historical Institute and the Monumenta Germaniae Historica before being appointed lecturer in Irish Medieval History at Queen's University, Belfast in September 2013. His interests include



early medieval scientific thought, the use of the vernacular in monastic teaching, and Irish kingship and succession. He is widely published, most notably his book: *The Munich Computus: Text and Translation* (Stuttgart, 2010).

- Mr Jamie Blake Knox holds an M.A. from University College Dublin and recently completed his doctoral thesis at Trinity College, Dublin, under the supervision of Professor Ciaran Brady. His thesis focused on Church of Ireland historians in the nineteenth century.
- Professor Pádraig Ó Riain was Chair of Early and Medieval Irish at University College Cork until his retirement in 2002. He has received numerous distinctions, notably the Humboldt Prize and the Parnell Fellowship. His research interests include hagiography, onomastics, Irish manuscripts and, most especially, the Irish martyrological tradition. His many publications include his authoritative *A Dictionary of Irish Saints* (Dublin, 2011).
- Dr Ida Milne is a Marie Curie Actions Elevate Fellow shared between Queen's University, Belfast, and Maynooth

University. Her primary research examines the changing landscape of childhood illness in the 20th century. Other interests include war medicine, labour, southern Irish Protestant identity, and the newspaper industry.

You can register online at [www.churchofirelandhist.org/membership](http://www.churchofirelandhist.org/membership) The subscription for annual membership is £35 or €40. Students can avail of our discount rate for just €15 but must present a valid university card at the registration desk. Membership includes admission to our bi-annual conferences, lunch, book discounts, and exclusive access to the Society's podcasts. Non-members are very welcome. They are asked to subscribe £7 or €10 to assist with conference expenses (lunch not included).

W. B. Neely Prize offers postgraduates the chance to submit work on their research that relates to any aspect of the history of the Church of Ireland. Candidates are to write an essay of 5,000 words (including footnotes) and the winner will receive €150. The deadline is Friday 5 June 2015. For terms and conditions, see [www.churchofirelandhist.org/news](http://www.churchofirelandhist.org/news)

Queries may be either addressed to the honorary secretary, Dr Adrian Empey, by email at: [secretary.coihs@gmail.com](mailto:secretary.coihs@gmail.com) or visit the society's website: <http://churchofirelandhist.org/>.

The Church of Ireland Historical Society meets twice a year: in the Public Library, Armagh, in April, and in Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin, in November. It exists to promote scholarly interest in the history of the Church, and to facilitate publication.

## **Archbishop of Canterbury visits Mission Aviation Fellowship**

The Archbishop of Canterbury this week visited an international Christian charity which flies light aircraft in developing countries to reach remote communities in need.

Archbishop Justin Welby and his wife, Caroline, who are spending Holy Week in Canterbury diocese, met with staff at the Mission Aviation Fellowship (MAF) Folkestone office to learn more about its work.



***Archbishop Justin with MAF UK chief executive Ruth Whitaker and MAF co-founder and WWII RAF veteran Stuart King***

During the visit, Archbishop Justin and Mrs Welby spoke with Ruth Whitaker, CEO of MAF UK and other senior staff, as well as Stuart King, one of the founders of MAF and a 93-year-old WWII RAF veteran.

The Archbishop, who flew with MAF during a visit to South Sudan last year, prayed for the charity's work, which he praised as "invaluable and extraordinary".

Speaking about the profound sense of isolation and abandonment that comes with situations of

conflict across the world, he said: “The biggest single thing in conflict is to feel forgotten and abandoned, even when you’re not; your experience is so unique and isolated.”

He added: “We were both very excited to hear that you were in the Canterbury diocese. We’re very, very grateful, thank you for letting us come today, it’s a real privilege to meet you. What you do is invaluable and extraordinary.”

Rooted in the church and working with scores of aid organisations, MAF flies light aircraft in developing countries to enable aid, relief, food, clean water, education and medical assistance to reach isolated and remote communities which could take days or weeks to reach by land.

## **Anglican-Catholic Malines Conversations Group meets at Boston College**

An international group of eight Anglican and seven Catholic theologians representing eight countries and four Anglican provinces, met from March 22nd to March 26th at Boston College, Chestnut Hill, Massachusetts, USA. Called “The Malines Conversations Group,” participants

continued their wide-ranging deliberations on various aspects of Anglican-Catholic sacramental, liturgical and practical theology, which they had begun two years ago at the Benedictine Monastery of Chevetogne in Belgium.

Like the original Malines Conversations of the 1920s hosted by the then Archbishop of Malines-Bruxelles Cardinal Mercier, this is an informal dialogue and not officially sponsored by the Anglican and Catholic Churches, though it has been organized in consultation with and has received the blessing of both the Pontifical Council for the Promotion of Christian Unity and Lambeth Palace.

Last year, the group met in Canterbury and London, and was joined by its co-patrons, retired Archbishop of Malines-Bruxelles Cardinal Godfried Danneels, and former Archbishop of Canterbury The Rt. Revd. and Rt. Hon. The Lord Williams of Oystermouth, each of whom gave presentations. This year, US-based bishops and scholars including Archbishop Joseph Tobin, C. Ss. R., of Indianapolis, Bishop Catherine Waynick of the Episcopal Diocese of Indianapolis, distinguished Orientalist Fr. Robert Taft SJ FBA, Fr. John Baldovin SJ of the Boston College School of Theology and Ministry, and

Professor Karen Westerfield Tucker of Boston University. The Group was hosted by Fr. William Leahy SJ, President of Boston College, and graciously received by the Cowley Fathers at The Monastery of St. John the Evangelist in Cambridge, and the Episcopal Church of the Advent on Beacon Hill. The Malines Conversations Group includes five members of ARCIC including one of its co-chairs, and two members of the IARRCUM coordinating committee including one of its co-chairs.

This year's full conversations explored contemporary Anglican-Roman Catholic relations through the broad lens of Sacramentality, considering the world, the Word, the Eucharist, the Church and ministry. Other topics included joint presentations on the sacramentality of scripture, and discussions relating to apostolicity, history and authority.

At the recommendation of those responsible for coordinating ecumenical relations in the Catholic Church and the Anglican Communion, the Malines Conversations Group remains in close communication and collaboration with both the Anglican-Roman Catholic International Commission (ARCIC) and the International Anglican-Roman Catholic Commission for Unity and Mission (IARCCUM).

The number of participants is intentionally limited, to allow for the detailed conversation, and for the growth of friendship which characterized the first Malines Conversation.

The Group's Steering Committee is chaired by The Revd. Dr. Thomas Pott, OSB of the Monastery of Chevetogne, along with The Revd. Dr. James Hawkey of Westminster Abbey, and the Revd. Dr. Keith Pecklers, SJ of the Pontifical Gregorian University, Rome.

A fourth meeting is scheduled for April, 2016.

Members present in 2015:

*Anglican Participants:*

The Revd. Dr. Jennifer Cooper, College of the Resurrection, Mirfield, UK

The Revd. Dr. James Hawkey, Westminster Abbey, London, UK

The Revd. Dr. Simon Jones, Chaplain of Merton College, Oxford, UK

Archbishop David Moxon, co-Chair of ARCIC III, Archbishop of Canterbury's Representative to the Holy See and Director of the Anglican Centre, Rome, Italy, Archbishop Emeritus of New Zealand

The Revd. Dr. Michael Nai-Chiu Poon, member of ARCIC III, Singapore



Canon David Richardson OBE, Melbourne,  
Australia

Canon Dr. Nicholas Sagovsky, member of ARCIC  
III, London, UK

The Reverend Austin K. Rios, Rector of St Paul's  
within the Walls, Rome, Italy

*Catholic Participants:*

Bishop Donald Bolen, Co-Chair of IARRCUM,  
Saskatoon, Canada

The Revd. Anthony Curren, Pontifical Council for  
Christian Unity, Vatican City, co-Secretary of  
ARCIC III

Professor Joris Geldhof, Catholic University of  
Leuven, Belgium

Dr. Maryana Hnyp, Catholic University of Leuven,  
Belgium

The Revd. Professor Keith Pecklers, SJ,  
Pontifical Gregorian University, Rome, Italy

The Revd. Professor Thomas Pott, OSB,  
Monastery of Chevetogne; Ateneo

Sant'Anselmo, Rome, and Pontifical Gregorian  
University, Rome, Italy

The Revd. Cyrille Vael, OSB, Monastery of  
Chevetogne

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## WCC celebrates the life and witness of Rev. Dr Philip Potter



***Philip Potter at the WCC Central Committee meeting in Geneva, Switzerland February, 1966.***

A special tribute was paid by the World Council of Churches (WCC) to the Rev. Dr Philip Potter, the third general secretary of the WCC, who served in that office from 1972 to 1984. A global ecumenical leader known for accompanying

churches around the world in their struggles for unity, justice and peace, Potter died on 31 March at the age of 93 in Lübeck, Germany.

Born in Roseau, Dominica, in the West Indies on 19 August 1921, Potter began his ecumenical involvement as part of the student Christian movement in the Caribbean. He was a youth representative to the first two assemblies of the WCC at Amsterdam (1948) and Evanston (1954).

He was the first person from the newly independent countries in the world to be elected as general secretary of the WCC. Among the most memorable achievements of Potter's tenure were the theological consensus document on *Baptism, Eucharist and Ministry* and the continuation of a courageous campaign against apartheid in southern Africa and against other forms of racism throughout the world.

“Almost everyone I meet who has a strong image of or a strong opinion about the World Council of Churches links this to Philip Potter. First as a young delegate at conferences and assemblies, then as a member of staff, and later as WCC general secretary, Philip has always brought high visibility to the Council,” said Rev. Dr Olav Fykse Tveit, the WCC general secretary.

“He was ever ready to open debates, to offer the WCC as an open space for ecumenical reflection and action and to make known his own positions. Philip Potter remains as ever, a credible witness to the vision of the kingdom of God and its true values of ‘righteousness’ peace and joy in the Holy Spirit (Romans. 14:17b),” Tveit said.

“We give thanks to God for Philip’s witness,” Tveit added.

Potter made significant contributions to the vigorous debate on the nature of post-colonial Christian mission and evangelism, the churches’ witness for peace amidst East-West tensions, the raising of questions concerning the ecological crisis and encouragement of campaigns challenging the threat of nuclear annihilation. In this era the WCC also sponsored the development of new forms of spirituality, common prayer and music drawing on the diverse traditions and confessions of diverse churches.

Before joining the WCC, Potter served as staff of the Methodist Missionary Society in London. He represented the Jamaica Student Christian Movement at the 1947 world conference on Christian youth in Oslo, Norway. Potter was an

active participant in every WCC assembly from 1948 to the 9th Assembly at Porto Alegre, Brazil (2006).

While in Geneva, Potter also chaired the board of the World Student Christian Federation.

He is survived by his widow, Bishop-emeritus Bärbel Wartenberg-Potter of the Protestant Church in Germany (EKD). His first wife, the musician and composer Doreen Potter, died in 1980.

[At Home with God and in the World: A Philip Potter Reader](#)

[Tributes to Philip Potter \(Excerpt from At Home with God and in the World\)](#)

## **From 1916 Rising to the savagery of the Western Front - Jesuit priest's new book is a treasure trove of memories**

A treasure trove of memories - from the 1916 Rising to the savagery of the Western Front - is at the heart of a new book.

Independent - Entitled 'From Easter Week to Flanders Field', it includes the diaries and letters of a Jesuit priest who "walked the streets of Dublin" during the Rising.

But shortly afterwards, Fr John Delaney, was then dispatched to serve as chaplain on the Western Front, where he had first hand experience of the carnage of the First World War.

The book, which recalls the period 1916-1919, was launched in Dublin's St Francis Xavier's Church in Upper Gardiner Street this evening.

His fellow Jesuit, Fr Thomas J Morrissey, who collated all the memorabilia, said the "treasure" was discovered in the Order's archives just five years ago.

"This volume provides an eye-witness account to two major events of the early twentieth century," he said.

"Fr Delaney was just intrigued by what was happening - so he went into the city centre every day," he told independent.ie

"He walked from one firing area to another - for the first three days - and he recorded everything he saw.

"Of particular interest is the reaction of ordinary people he met.

"The response of the Protestant community is fascinating."

He describes their fear and unease about what was taking place - but he also offers insights into the thinking of the Irish Volunteers.

The publishers quoted an extract which provides an insight into Fr Delaney's writings as an eyewitness to history.

"Men were dying not on the fields of France or in the trenches of Flanders, but on the streets of Dublin.

"It was really dreadful; too dreadful to look at, too dreadful to hear, too dreadful to think of... We went down to prayers. I could not help thinking of the poor fellows dying not so far from us amid the shot and shell."

Among those who attended the launch were Assistant Garda Commissioner, John Twomey, and former Government Minister, Ruairi Quinn.

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