



Remembrance Sunday at St Patrick's

6th November 2013

Evensong from St Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin, will be broadcast on Remembrance Sunday (10th November) by RTÉ Radio, and Canon Mullen will be leading the Service on RTÉ Television at 11:10 that morning.

Choral Matins will be sung by the Cathedral Choir (Boys' and Men's voices) at the slightly earlier time of 10.55am with music by Stanford (Te Deum in A), Dyson (Benedictus in D) and Ireland (Greater love hath no man). Then at 3.15pm the annual Service of Remembrance sung by the Girls and Gentlemen of the Cathedral



Royal Irish Fusiliers Remembrance Service - Royal Irish Fusiliers Old Comrades' Association held a Service of Remembrance in St Patrick's Cathedral Armagh on Saturday 26 October 2013. Pictured from back left are: Lt Colonel Philip Baxter, Major Mike Murphy, Mr Richard Hamilton Stubber, Vice Lord-Lieutenant for County Armagh, Fr Michael Fava, CF, and Dean Gregory Dunstan. Pictured from front left are: Mr Geoff Brennan (Chairman of the Royal Irish Fusiliers Old Comrades' Association, Armagh), Cllr Robert Turner, Lord Mayor of Armagh, and Major General The O'Morchoe, CBE.

Choir and
broadcast live on
RTÉ Radio.

On
Remembrance
Sunday some
organisations
which highlight
Ireland's
participation in
World War One
will set up stands
in the Cathedral.
Visitors to the
Cathedral
(between
Services) can talk
to these
organisations
about tracing
relatives from the
war or perhaps
just have a chat
and share some
stories.
Participating
organisations
include; The
Royal British Legion, The Royal Dublin
Fusiliers, The Western Front Association
and The Gallipoli Association. These
stands will operate from approx. 12.15 to
14.30.

Stand alongside people in crisis

**Poverty & Homelessness Action Week
runs from 25 January to 2 February
2014.**

Please mark this national event in your
church or community - hold a service and
raise funds to help us speak up for people
who are poor and marginalised.

Find out more and download free
resources at www.actionweek.org.uk



Churchman honoured

Michael Webb, member of several central C of I committees and of the St Patrick's Cathedral Board, was last week conferred with an Honorary Doctorate of Philosophy by the Dublin Institute of Technology. The conferring took place in the Cathedral. Dr Webb is pictured here (left) with Dr Roger West (centre) and the President of DIT Professor Brian Norton.

Twentieth Anniversary of Divine Healing Ministries

**Interdenominational Divine Healing
Ministries will be celebrating its
twentieth anniversary in St. Anne's
Cathedral, Belfast on Monday
November 18 at 8 pm.**

There has been a healing service in the
Cathedral almost every Monday evening
since 1993. Brother David Jardine,
director of the ministry, says that '*during
that time enormous healing has taken
place in body, mind and spirit. Indeed,
there have been quite a number of notable
healing miracles, and we want to come
together on November 18 to thank God for
everything He has been doing.*'

The speaker at this service will be Rev. Pat Collins from Dublin who will address the theme '**God still heals today.**' Worship will be led by West Church Bangor Music Group.

Personal prayer for healing and a blessing with oil will be available. You will be very welcome to join us on November 18 in St. Anne's Cathedral.

For further information please contact Brother David Jardine, Tel: 028 9031 1532.

60th anniversary of suicide helpline started by Anglican

This month marks the 60th anniversary of the Samaritans movement. The movement in Belfast was enabled to commence by Dean Cuthbert Peacock, and his Dean's Warden, the Lord Mayor, Sir Robin Kinahan.

How it began



Samaritans was started in 1953 in London by a young vicar named Chad Varah, then incumbent of St Stephen Walbrook. Through his work in a number of different parishes in the City he had seen the range and extent of the distress experienced by people everywhere, every day. During his career he had offered counselling to his parishioners, and he increasingly wanted to do something specific to help people in distress who had no one to turn to. He

makes reference to one example of a girl aged 14, whom he had buried - in unconsecrated ground. She had started her periods, but having no one to talk to believed that she had a sexually transmitted disease and took her own life. He says, "I might have dedicated myself to suicide prevention then and there, providing a network of people you could 'ask' about anything, however embarrassing, but I didn't come to that until later".

When he was offered charge of the parish of St Stephen Walbrook, in the summer of 1953 he knew that the time was right for him to launch what he called a "999 for the suicidal". At the time, suicide was still illegal in the UK and so many people who were in difficult situations and who felt suicidal were unable to talk to anyone about it without worrying about the consequences. A confidential emergency service for people "in distress who need spiritual aid" was what Chad felt was needed to address the problems he saw around him. He was, in his own words, "a man willing to listen, with a base and an emergency telephone".

15 years after the emergency 999 number was set up, the number MAN 9000 was chosen for the helpline - to signify a human emergency number. Luckily the number of the church was MANsion house 9000. It was the first, and is still probably the best known telephone helpline in the UK.

The first call to the new service was made on 2nd November 1953 and this date is recognised as Samaritans' official birthday. However, in two key respects, the service did not become Samaritans as it is known today until a few months later.

In order to supplement his income, Chad wrote and illustrated articles for children's comics like the Daily Eagle so he knew many of the journalists who worked on national newspapers. He had achieved a lot of publicity for the service by telling his

contacts about the new service and The Daily Mirror gave it a name which was quickly adopted by other media and the public. On December 7th, 1953, it coined the term, "Telephone Good Samaritans" and although Samaritans is not a religious organisation, the name has stuck and become synonymous with the idea of people being there for others in emotional distress.

The publicity meant that within a few weeks it was clear that Chad would not be able to cope on his own, such was the demand for both phone and face to face support. But the newspaper coverage had attracted volunteers as well as clients. Their official duties were to provide tea and coffee and sit with the clients, offering them someone to chat to whilst they waited for their appointment. However, it soon became clear that their role was much more central to the service. Often, the clients would pour out their problems to these 'receptionists' and many felt no need to speak to Chad afterwards, or intimated that it had been helpful to talk about how they were feeling.

Chad began to understand that the action of speaking to someone they did not know, who would simply listen to what they had to say, could be beneficial for people in distress. Because the volunteers were not known to the clients, they were able to be more honest and open about their feelings and they did not feel judged as they might have by a professional or someone they knew, while the volunteers, who were not trained at this time, would not interrupt and felt unable to offer advice. Inadvertently, some years before the benefits of counselling as we now know it were widely recognised, Samaritans was able to give people a space where they could potentially find objectivity and perhaps a way forward, through being listened to.

The emotional support services offered by Samaritans today is based on these same principles.

Chad said, "It was a straightforward matter of observation that the proportion of the callers I actually interviewed diminished, the ones I did see were easier to help because of the time they had spent with a volunteer ... Eventually I was seeing only about one in eight of those who came." In February 1954, Chad officially handed over the task of supporting the callers to the volunteers and Samaritans, based on the principles that it is today was born.



From then Chad became known as the 'Director' and he continued to be in charge of many aspects of the service such as selecting and training volunteers until 1974. His involvement with Samaritans has continued through the years, primarily working on developing a network of international support services to mirror Samaritans' work in the UK but also in shaping the organisation.

Aid sector missing chance to help disaster victims, says NGO report

International organisations which help people recover from disasters such as floods, famines and earthquakes are missing opportunities to achieve more, according to a new report commissioned by ActionAid, CAFOD, Christian Aid, Oxfam and Tearfund.

The report, *Missed Opportunities*, concludes that when international aid organisations work in partnership with local and national groups in countries affected by disasters, their efforts tend to be more effective, relevant and appropriate to the people they are trying to help.

Bishop in the belfry

On Sunday, 3rd November the bellringers of St Mary's Church, Doneraile, County Cork received a visit in the bell tower from the Bishop. (l-r Paul Deane, Eddie Gabriel, Mark Buckley, the Bishop, Ian Wharton, David Deane and Ben Buckley Buckley).



For instance, local organisations can respond more rapidly in the aftermath of a rapid-onset emergency such as a hurricane or earthquake. In addition, their expert knowledge of the local area and culture means they are often best at identifying who is most in need and how to help them.

But the report finds that international aid organisations, as well as the systems through which they work together, have for years failed to invest in and commit sufficiently to partnerships with local organisations. Such partnerships inevitably have costs – including financial ones – as well as benefits.

Alexander Carnwath of Christian Aid, who managed the research, commented: "Local and national organisations play a crucial part in saving lives and rebuilding communities after disasters, but are too often sidelined by the international humanitarian system. This research provides strong evidence of the benefits they bring following emergencies and calls for a fundamental change to the humanitarian system, to strengthen their role."

The new report is based on the five commissioning organisations' experience in four major emergencies: the Democratic Republic of Congo conflict 2009-12; the Haiti earthquake of 2010, the Kenya food crisis of 2010 and the Pakistan floods of 2010.

All five organisations work through local partner organisations, some exclusively and others in addition to direct delivery of aid.

Read the full report here: <http://www.christianaid.org.uk/images/partnering-in-emergencies-report.pdf>

International Anglican mission trustees meet in Dublin

At the invitation of Us in Ireland, the Trustees of their London-based sister organisation will hold their residential meeting in Dublin, today Wednesday November 6 and Thursday November 7. This is the first time the trustees have met



New Canon for Armagh

Following the retirement of Canon John McKegney, Canon Norman Porteous (right) was installed as Treasurer, and Rev Robert Boyd, Rector of Killyman, was installed as the Prebendary of Ballymore.

in Ireland and among their number will be international trustees from Ghana and Barbados.

Bishop Michael Burrows is a trustee as well as chair of the Irish board.

Around the usual business meeting, the trustees will have the opportunity to meet the Irish board of directors and learn more of the work of Us in Ireland. They will also experience some of the atmosphere and hospitality of the Church of Ireland.

A spokesperson for US in Ireland said, "We are delighted to welcome the trustees to Ireland at this time of rebranding and refocussing, and as they prepare to celebrate 300 years since the establishment of the Irish SPG Auxiliary in 1714."

New leader for C of I youth organisation

The Archbishop of Armagh has appointed Melvyn Lockhart to be the new Commanding Officer of the Ulster Regiment of the Church Lads' and Church Girls' Brigade.



Melvyn joined the Christ Church, Lisburn, CLB Company in 1957, became an officer in 1971, and was a Training Officer for both Battalion and Regiment.

Dean Robert Townley, Regimental Chaplain, presented Melvyn with his Commission after a short service of dedication.

Prayer for Today

Everlasting God, in your endless love for the human race you sent our Lord Jesus Christ to take on our nature and to suffer death on the cross. In your mercy enable us to share in his obedience to your will and in the glorious victory of his resurrection, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

