



Lydia Monds (Bishops' Appeal), Archbishop Michael Jackson and Emma Lynch (Tearfund) at the Dublin and Glendalough training day on responding to global poverty.

Relationship Building Vital in Responding to Global Poverty - Dublin workshop

Culture, context and building relationships are the key ingredients to any response to poverty, global or local. While these things take time,

participants in a Dublin and Glendalough training day facilitated by Bishops' Appeal heard that without these considerations, projects aimed at alleviating poverty could do more harm than good.

The seminar was hosted by Archbishop Michael Jackson in the Church of Ireland College of Education on Thursday February 26. It was facilitated by Lydia Monds, education officer with Bishops' Appeal with Emma Lynch of Tearfund and Linda Chambers of the United Society.

In engaging with people in different cultures, Lydia explained that it is important to understand the different concepts and different understandings and to be aware of our own cultural bias which leads us to believe our world view is normal. Our world view is central to us but we have to be open to new perspectives and change, she said. She suggested that a good model to adopt is one of journeying together rather than standing at the end and shouting 'we've arrived'.

Talking about the theory of poverty, Emma Lynch said that the major poverty was the poverty of spiritual intimacy. "Poverty is incredibly complex. Poverty is relational. Any approaches to alleviate

poverty must start with us looking at our own poverty,” she said.

Lydia added that often descriptions of poverty focused on material lack and said it was necessary to broaden that definition. When poor people speak of poverty they talk about much more than material lack. They refer to deprivation, exclusion and powerlessness. “If we don’t observe that, we can exacerbate the powerlessness. We can be so solution based that we can forget about the relationship that needs to happen. We want to bring people to where we are rather than to go with people – this can make things worse,” she commented. The building of confidence and self worth is more important than the material issues, she stated.

More at -

<http://dublin.anglican.org/news/2015/02/Relationship-Building-Vital-in-Responding-to-Global-Poverty-Bishops-Appeal-Training-Day>

Archbishop Martin opens Ireland's First National Safeguarding Conference

Archbishop Eamon Martin opened the First National Safeguarding Conference in Athlone yesterday.

The Archbishop in his opening address said - Our Conference this weekend provides an opportunity for us to look back on where we have come from and assess our progress, to survey the ups and downs along the way, and to look out for potholes that might be emerging. Our National Conference is a vantage point from which to show gratitude to those who have worked tirelessly since the mid 1990's to bring us to where we are today, and to invite new people to bring their gifts and ideas to help us on the journey ahead.

Over this weekend we will hear from national and international experts working in Safeguarding and related fields. It will also be an opportunity to listen and learn from each other, because everyone here has insights which are worth sharing, experiences to process and evaluate. An essential ingredient of this Conference is to harness the 'knowledge capital' that is in this room so that we can all return home having added value to each other's wisdom and understanding of safeguarding issues.

If our National Conference is to be worthwhile, I suggest we ground our deliberations in two underlying themes: the legacy of past failure,

and the importance of safeguarding as a shared responsibility within the Church.

The legacy of past failure

We ought never to forget the legacy of betrayal, trauma and shame that abuse has left in its wake. Child sexual abuse destroys lives, ruins relationships and breaks trust which for some may never be repaired. We should not be offended if the reaction of some people to this Conference is: How dare you! Our discussions this weekend should therefore be rooted in a promise that we are now doing everything possible to ensure that the terrible things which happened them in the past shall not happen again.

Five months ago, on the day I succeeded as Archbishop of Armagh, one media commentator suggested my appointment was an opportunity to draw a line under this pitiful chapter in the life of the Church. Instinctively I found myself reacting against such a perception. How can we approach the issue of abuse or safeguarding in this way? The 28 years since my ordination as a priest have been overshadowed by a cloud of scandal over abuse and its poor handling. If God spares me for another 28 years, that shameful shadow must remain - because we have no right

to draw a line under events that left such an indelible mark on the lives of so many of our people. That is why I prefer to use the words 'milestone' and 'journey' to describe where we are today.

Text of Archbishop's speech at -

<http://www.indcatholicnews.com/news.php?viewStory=26850>

Spring Issue of 'Search'

The spring issue of the Church of Ireland journal, *Search*, edited by Canon Ginnie Kennerley, is now available.

A review, by the Revd Dr Patrick McGlinchey, of the work and witness of the Christian Renewal Centre, founded 40 years ago last autumn, opens this issue – a tribute to the late Cecil Kerr and his leadership in reconciliation between Protestant and Catholic communities and spiritual renewal across the denominations in Ireland.

Further articles explore how this prompting to inclusivity may work out in practice. The Chief Officer of the RCB, Adrian Clements, considers how our calling as Christians demands that we care for one another at parish level, and the

structures needed to enable such care when relationships are challenged by illness, misunderstanding or bad behaviour. Canon William Marshall's article on 'Church, Gospel and Mission' looks to the Four Nations Faith and Order Consultation meeting in Dublin this May, and what we have to contribute to it as Anglicans. Dr Robbie Roulston follows up with a critical look at discriminatory practices, particularly in the areas of education and health care, which 'go both ways', the Protestant community in the Republic being as guilty in this area as the dominant majority. Ali Selim of the Islamic Cultural Centre, looks at Islam's teaching on inter-faith relations, showing that Qur'anic instructions on relations with Christians is much more liberal than is commonly supposed.



In the series on seasonal scripture readings intended largely for preachers and biblical explorers, Margaret Barker contributes some textual insights in her article 'Jesus and Isaiah on the Emmaus Road'.

And to turn to biography, Lady Brenda Sheil, until recently a lay honorary secretary of General Synod reflects on her journey of faith and service in the Church of Ireland, while the Very Revd Dr Robert MacCarthy contributes some recollections of R.R. Hartford, regius professor of Divinity in TCD.

Forgiveness under the spotlight in Cookstown

A series of discussions on forgiveness featuring speakers who lost relatives in the Troubles will be held in Cookstown over the coming weeks.

Mid-Ulster Mail - The events will address the questions - what does it mean to forgive? should we forgive? who should be forgiven? is forgiveness a step too far?

The 'Forgiveness' seminars are taking place at the Glenavon Hotel, Cookstown, over three consecutive Thursdays, starting on 5th March at 7pm, organised through the Irish Churches Peace Project.

Award winning film, 'A Step too Far? – a contemplation on forgiveness' by local film-

maker Paul Moorhead will be shown in three parts across the three weeks, followed by guest speakers and discussion.



Margaret Hamilton, Cookstown Churches Forum, Sean McElhatton, Irish Peace Churches Project, Rev Andrew Rawding, Helen Ryan and Joan Armstrong, Dungannon Churches Forum launch Forgiveness - 'A Step Too Far'

The film explores the Amish community in the USA and their approach to forgiveness, and includes interviews with a number of people closer to home, including Alan McBride, who lost his wife in the Shankill bomb, and Brian Lennon, Jesuit priest and community activist, who has recently written a book on forgiveness.

Speakers will include Peter McBride, Director of the Northern Ireland Association for Mental Health; former loyalist prisoner Alistair Little, whose journey from political violence to peace-building was the subject of award-winning film “Five Minutes of Heaven,” starring Liam Neeson and Jimmy Nesbitt.

Local SDLP Councillor, Denise Mullen, whose father was shot at the family home near Moy in 1975 when she was only four years old, will also take part in the discussions.

The event is being supported by Cookstown District and Dungannon Area Churches and Clergy Forums, the Good Relations Departments of Cookstown and Dungannon Councils, and the Rural Community Network.

Claim same-sex marriage is 'human right' rejected - State body accused of 'misleading' on debate

The State-funded Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission has been accused of misleading the public in the debate on same-sex marriage after allegedly ignoring a vital case.

Irish Catholic -The IHREC has insisted that civil marriage for couples of the same sex is a human right. However, a number of experts have challenged this and pointed out that “there is nothing approaching the universal consensus that would be necessary to claim that same-sex marriage is a human right”.



The IHREC indicated in its policy statement released last week that it “believes that the opening out of civil marriage to two persons without distinction as to their sex is a matter of equality and human rights”.

However, a team of experts, including leading barrister Patrick Treacy, and theologians Prof. Eamonn Conway and Dr Rik Van Nieuwenhove has rejected this pointing to the fact that fewer than 10% of countries worldwide recognise same-sex marriage legally.

Writing in The Irish Catholic this week, the experts also accused the IHREC of ignoring a key ruling by the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) which they insist proves “there is no basis for the contention that same-sex marriage is a human right”.

More at - <http://irishcatholic.ie/>

Dean of St Paul’s warns Church of England over ‘toxic’ views on gays

The Dean of St Paul’s Cathedral has warned the Church of England it is seen as “toxic or oppressive” due to ongoing disagreements about gay people.

Dr David Ison, who became Dean of the Anglican Cathedral in 2012, issued a warning to the Church ahead of [another round of ‘conversations’ aimed at resolving a split on same-sex marriage.](#)

The reverend told [Christian Today](#): “We are in a situation where because of its views about women and about gay people, the church has been seen as toxic or oppressive.



The Very Revd David Ison has warned the Church over its views

“That breaks my heart, that that should be the case, when the church is there to bear witness to freedom, life and hope in the world. Let’s see what we can do to change that.”

He said: “We need to consider what the acceptance of same-sex marriage in the Church would mean in reality, and how it would be

understood in relation to the theology of Christian marriage and the chequered history of that institution, as well as contemporary social practice around sexuality.

“The reality of my encounter over the years, particularly with Christian gay people, has led me to question the rightness of the interpretation of Scripture, that simply to be gay means you must be celibate.”

“I’ve seen in my pastoral work plenty of angst around the whole area of sexuality, particularly dealing with people who are homosexual, about how the double life they’ve felt pushed into has been a huge strain, an emotional and mental strain.

“I’ve known one or two people who’ve committed suicide because of the pressure they’ve been under.”

[He said after his appointment in 2012:](#) “We need to take seriously people’s desire for partnership and make sure that the virtues that you see in married relationships are available to people who are gay.”

“I’m encouraged that a good number of gay people want to take on the virtues of marriage. For Christian gay people to model that kind of

faithfulness, in a culture which, historically, has often been about promiscuity, is a very good thing to do.”

<http://www.christiantoday.com/article/dean.of.st.pauls.david.ison.calls.on.cofe.to.consider.gay.marriage/48940.htm>

Cause opens for Englishman who led the Order of Malta



Fra' Andrew Bertie with Pope Benedict XVI

Fra' Andrew Bertie would be first Blessed with a black belt in judo

The beatification Cause of Fra' Andrew Bertie, who led the Order of Malta for 20 years, has opened.

Fra' Bertie was Grand Master of the order from 1988 until his death in 2008, having joined in 1956. He was the first Englishman to become Grand Master since Hugh Revel in 1258.

During his tenure the Order, which was founded in the 11th century to protect pilgrims, expanded its activities around the world, delivering ambulance and disaster relief and setting up hospitals and homes for disabled children. In 1990 it built a maternity hospital in Bethlehem.

If Fra Bertie's Cause progresses he would be the first Blessed with a black belt in judo.

Educated at Ampleforth College, he worked as a financial journalist and a teacher. A skilled linguist, he spoke five languages fluently and understood half a dozen others, including Sanskrit and Tibetan.

In an address last week current Grand Master Fra' Matthew Festing said his predecessor was a saintly man who had inspired him, along with many others, to join the Order.

He recalled Fra' Bertie tending to his orange groves in Malta and teaching local children judo, saying: "Even in his declining years, former students would come to visit him, never forgetting the kindness and wisdom they had experienced at his hands, as a teacher, as a coach, as a wise friend.

"His personality was quiet – that famous British reserve! – but he had a natural authority and a serenity deeply rooted in his Christian beliefs. He also had a fine sense of humour – a quiet amusement at the ridiculousness of much of life. Those who were privileged to have worked around him were always aware of his calmness and his profound faith."

Today the Order of Malta is supported by 80,000 permanent volunteers and backed by a staff of 13,000 doctors, nurses and auxiliaries.

Charity appeals for money for the children of 21 Coptic martyrs

Established charity will support at least 12 orphans who lost fathers at hands of Islamists

Egyptian charity Coptic Orphans has launched a **crowdsourcing fund to support** the children of the Coptic martyrs killed in Libya.

The charity, which was founded in 1988 by Copts in the United States, says it has identified 12 children left fatherless when ISIS murdered the 21 men in Libya on February 15.



An icon of the 21 Coptic martyrs of Libya by artist Tony Rezk

The Christians, believed to be 20 Egyptians and a Ghanaian, had been kidnapped by the terrorist group weeks earlier as the Islamists took over large swathes of the north African country.

The men came from poor backgrounds and had travelled to Egypt's dangerous neighbour in order to help their families. The charity aims to support their children's education in order to give them a chance to escape from poverty.

Last week Coptic Pope Tawadros II announced the inclusion of the 21 Coptic New Martyrs of Libya in the Synaxarium of the Coptic Orthodox Church, the equivalent of canonization in the Church of Alexandria.

Contributions can be made here.

https://www.indiegogo.com/projects/support-the-orphans-of-coptic-christians-in-egypt/contributions/new?nonperk_amt=0

Media Digest

Guardian

Irish gay marriage referendum

When Enda Kenny, the taoiseach of Ireland, recently announced that 22 May would be his preferred day for a referendum on marriage equality, an already drawn out campaign finally had a date. In May, [Ireland](#) could become the first country in the world to pass marriage equality by a popular, national vote. To get this far is nothing short of a phenomenal achievement. Homosexuality was only decriminalised in 1993; the Civil Partnership Act passed in 2010. The dedication of LGBT rights groups has changed hearts and minds. And

now, Ireland is staging a referendum that enjoys support from all major political parties and the majority of the public, something unimaginable just a decade ago.

<http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2015/feb/27/gay-marriage-referendum-irish-history-catholic-church>

News Letter/ Bel Telegraph

Missionary describes gunshot 'miracle'

A County Tyrone missionary midwife recalls the moment when she grabbed a gun being aimed at her and was shot in the shoulder.

<http://www.newsletter.co.uk/video-missionary-describes-gunshot-miracle-1-6605974>

<http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/northern-ireland/midwife-describes-gunshot-miracle-31027619.html>

News Letter

40 million items a year under free prescriptions in Northern Ireland

<http://www.newsletter.co.uk/40-million-items-a-year-under-free-prescriptions-in-northern-ireland-1-6606785>

BBC News

Lurgan parents angry over 'no free transport' to Newry schools

A group of parents in Lurgan, County Armagh, have said they feel they are being bullied into

sending their children to a new all-ability school. St Ronan's College will merge three schools in the town. It is called a grammar school but will not use academic selection. The parents want to send their children to a grammar in Newry, County Down. However, the creation of a new school in Lurgan means the children do not qualify for a free bus pass.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-31644252>

BBC News

Gay cake row': Amnesty International rejects DUP conscience clause

Amnesty International says it rejects "the premise and proposals" of a DUP Private Member's Bill seeking to build a conscience clause into equality law.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-31667445>

Catholic Herald

The Pope Emeritus experiment is working

www.catholicherald.co.uk/issues/february-27th-2015/the-pope-emeritus-experiment-is-working