



At “Hidden Pages From the 1916 Rising”, in St George & St Thomas’s Dublin, right to left: Revd Obinna Ulogwara, Stephen Ferguson, Assistant Secretary, An Post, Patsy McGarry, Religious Affairs Correspondent of The Irish Times (who chaired the seminar), Pádraig Allen, Honorary Archivist of the St John’s Ambulance Brigade, Colum O’Riordan General Manager, the Irish Architectural Archive, Ellen Murphy, Senior Archivist, Dublin City Library & Archive and Gráinne Doran, Wexford County Archivist.

“Hidden Pages from the 1916 Rising” seminar well supported

The intimate setting of the parish church of St George & St Thomas’s in Dublin provided the perfect space for the “Hidden Pages from the 1916 Rising” seminar at which five presentations on little known archival sources were delivered by the archival curators responsible for them on Tuesday evening (February 2).

After words of welcome from the rector, the Revd Obinna Ulogwara, there were introductions from Dr Raymond Refaussé, chair of the Irish Society for Archives which co-hosted the event with An Post, and Patsy McGarry, Religious Affairs Correspondent of The Irish Times, who chaired the seminar.

The fascinated audience, who filled the church, listened first to Colum O’Riordan from the Irish Architectural Archive gave a visual presentation of some ‘Architectural Legacies of 1916’. He was followed by Ellen Murphy from Dublin City Library & Archive who brought to life ‘Reactions to the Easter Rising in the Monica Roberts Collection’ as vividly portrayed in Monica’s diaries – now located in that repository. Moving beyond Dublin, Gráinne Doran, Wexford County

Archivist, outlined the experiences of several families involved in the provincial Rising – emphasising that Dublin was not the only arena for events during Easter Week 1916.

Then, dressed in a uniform typical of those worn by volunteers of the St John's Ambulance Brigade at the time, and referring to the archives of that voluntary organisation, Pádraig Allen, Honorary Archivist, brought to life the medical emergency response to the situation. The final talk was delivered by Stephen Ferguson, Assistant Secretary in An Post, who vividly described what happened to the staff of the GPO during Easter Week. Unlike today, the GPO remained open over the weekend, as it was the main communications centre for the country and there were staff on duty for the duration of rebellion events.

The excellent talks were complemented by a range of frank, good-humoured and illuminated responses from the large and appreciative audience made up of a wide-ranging and interested public – demonstrating the yearning there is for dialogue on important historical events. Dr Susan Hood from the Representative Church Body Library, who co-ordinated the event, acknowledged the generous support provided by An Post which made the multi-

speaker event possible and thanked the rector and parish of St George and St Thomas for making available their beautiful church.

Commenting on how positive it had been to work together with all the speakers and interest groups, she said: “when small organisations pull together and collaborate, it widens the audience and deepens the public reach”.

Churches urged to send out a Clarion Call for Earth Hour 2016

A Dublin musician and composer is urging churches to send out a Clarion Call to people to act on climate change during Earth Hour 2016. Clarion Call for Earth Hour is an invitation to all churches and cathedrals to ring out their bells for Earth Hour 2016 and to ring in the changes for our environment.

Campaign organiser, Sinéad Finegan, is asking places of worship to ring their bells at the start of Earth Hour 2016 – at 8.30 pm on March 19.

Earth Hour is a global initiative run by the World Wildlife Fund (WWF), encouraging people to switch off their lights for one hour, as a symbolic gesture of their commitment to tackling climate change – which disproportionately effects the



poorest and most vulnerable – and to protect our natural world.

Throughout Ireland Clarion Call aims to couple with this visual image of hope by adding the striking sound of church bells ringing out in the darkness, waking people to their responsibility to protect our country and our planet.

“People of all faiths and none are welcome to participate,” Sinéad comments. “If your community has no bells to ring, then sign up to spread the message of Clarion Call instead and listen out for the bells that will be calling us all to stand together, and – more importantly – act

together for what we all value and share: our world.”

To register your church for Clarion Call go to <http://sfinegan.wix.com/clarioncall> on Facebook see <https://www.facebook.com/ClarionCallforEarthHour/?fref=ts>

Workshops to focus on dealing with drug and alcohol issues in south Belfast

Clergy and anyone interested in learning more about the South Belfast District Policing and Community Safety Partnership’s work to address drug and alcohol related crime and disorder in the area is invited to attend two events.

The first is a meeting at 2pm on Tuesday February 16 in The Crescent Arts Centre. Invite details: Working in partnership with South Belfast Partnership Board and the BDACT Connections Team, are inviting participants to meet the different organizations which deliver drug and alcohol services in Belfast, to find out what they do and how they can support your group.

Addiction NI 55+, ASCERT Alcohol Services, Barnardo's Pharos Family Support, FASA Trauma and Addiction, One Stop Shop for Young People, Al-Anon Family Support, Narcotics Anonymous, BDACT Connections Service and Lisburn YMCA Vulnerable Youth will all be there.

The second event is training and this takes place at 6.30pm on Tuesday March 2 or 9 at the 3fivetwo Training Academy, Boucher Road. Invite details: South Belfast DPCSP has commissioned ASCERT to run a three hour training session for community volunteers to enable you to engage with young people about their use of alcohol or other drugs. "As well as increasing your knowledge about this, you should have the confidence to engage with the young people and signpost them to services that might help."

Anyone interested in attending either of these events should contact *Rosie Hamilton* Tel: 9032 0202 Ext 3617 or email hamiltonr@belfastcity.gov.uk

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Catholics and Anglicans to distribute ashes to shoppers in Sunderland city centre

Two churches in the north-east of England will take to the streets on Ash Wednesday, encouraging people to repent and return to God.

On Wednesday St Mary's Catholic church and Sunderland Minster, an Anglican church, will be working together to offer "Ashes to Go" – a new approach to a centuries-old Christian tradition.

The initiative will take place around Sunderland city centre beginning with a 10am service in the Minster Church of St Michael and All Angels and St Benedict Biscop, after which two local bishops and other Church leaders will enter the city's streets and the Bridges Shopping Centre to mark the foreheads of interested passersby with ashes.

They will invite them to turn away from the past and seek God's forgiveness and renewal.

"Ashes to Go" will end with Mass at 12.05pm in St Mary's church.

The bishops taking part are Bishop Seamus Cunningham of Hexham and Newcastle and the Anglican Bishop of Durham, the Rt Rev Paul Butler.

Fr Marc Lyden-Smith, parish priest of St Mary's and chaplain to Sunderland AFC, said: "This will be a tremendous witness in our city, with Catholics and Anglicans working together to start the season of Lent, perhaps reminding those who have fallen away from the Church, or have never been before, that the Christian faith is alive and active in Sunderland."

He added: "I hope it will remind everyone that we have a loving and Merciful God, who welcomes all no matter what."

Emma Gibbins to give Armagh organ recital

Dr Emma Gibbins will give the next organ recital on Sunday 21 February 2016 in St Patrick's Church of Ireland Cathedral, Armagh at 4.15pm.

Emma's musical career has led to a range of appointments, including Director of Music at All Saints Parish Church in High Wycombe;

Associate Organist at St. Sepulchre-without-Newgate, the National Musicians' Church in the City of London; Organ Scholar and Director of a newly formed Girls' choir at Brentwood Cathedral in Essex and accompanist of the South West London Choral Society.

A move to Northern Ireland in August 2008 enabled Emma to take up the position of Director of Music at St. George's Church in Belfast. She also taught piano and organ, worked as a piano accompanist in the Music Department at Queens University, directed the Belfast Phoenix choir and accompanied the St George's Singers.

In February 2015 Emma moved to Newport in South Wales to take up the position of Director of Music at St Woolos Cathedral. Here she is responsible for directing the Cathedral's Choir of men and boys and has also established a new girls' choir and Cathedral Voluntary Choir.

Outlining her choice of programme for her recital in Armagh, Emma says, "As well as more traditional German Baroque and French Romantic works, the programme will include two interesting, unusual and more modern pieces. 'L'ange à la trompette' was written in 1954, by the French composer Jacques Charpentier, who

was a student of Messiaen. It is an exciting re-working of the French virtuosic Toccata, ending with a dazzling coda. The second piece, 'Church bells beyond the stars' by the contemporary English composer, Cecilia McDowall, is an atmospheric and sparkling piece inspired by a line from the metaphysical poet, George's Herbert's poem, 'Prayer'."

The Dean of Armagh, the Very Revd Gregory Dunstan, said, "It will be a great pleasure to welcome Emma back to Armagh. Unfortunately, I missed her last visit in 2013, but she is a most accomplished performer, who also gave generously of her time to the Boys' Choir in the Charles Wood Festival of Music and Summer School."

As is the format with recitals in the Cathedral, admission is free, with a retiring collection towards the further endowment of the Cathedral choir through the Archbishop's Choir Fund.

In February's edition of the Presbyterian Herald

This month's cover story focuses on Marriage Week, which is held annually in the month of February. In the article Rob Parsons, founder and churchnewsireland@gmail.com

chairman of Care for the Family, highlights why a marriage pit stop is essential for a healthy relationship.

Continuing the marriage theme, Sarah Harding spoke with Mairisine and David Stanfield – two PCI ministers serving together in First Bangor Presbyterian Church. They reflect upon the call to ministry, their differing vocations and how this has proved to be a helpful support to each other. “I am a pastor and preacher,” said Mairisine, “whereas David is gifted in discipleship, strategic thinking and teaching.”

The Fit for Purpose theme for this year has been a caring fellowship, and with United Appeal for Mission Sunday coming up in March, Stephen Cowan reflects this in his article ‘Caring in Kenya’. Serving as a PCI missionary in Kenya for 30 years, Stephen shares about their life and ministry among the peoples of Northern Kenya.

At the beginning of April a new and exciting initiative for young adults in PCI will be launched. Rick Hill, PCI’s Discipleship Development Officer, discusses the ‘missing generation’ of young adults found in many congregations and introduces ‘Transform’, a new conference

designed to connect, equip and inspire a generation of young people.

In 'For what we are about to receive...' Tom Finnegan explores the challenge of listening well to sermons. "It is God's plan that we faithfully listen to live preaching together as a congregation... In preaching, God Himself is speaking through another human being to us," Tom said.

A phrase found frequently in the Bible is 'Do not fear', and fear is certainly something we all feel at some time in our lives. Alfred Thompson explores what this common biblical phrase means for our lives, discovering fear comes in many forms and how it can be overcome.

In 'Partnering in prayer', Kathryn Anderson reports on the recent conference organised by PCI's Council for Global Mission entitled 'Faith in the Furnace – challenges facing the Church in the Middle East'.

Dr. Norman Hamilton considers 'Fellowship in a me-shaped world', asking if our fellowship together is true to the biblical example of the shared life. He said, "We live in a culture where

the individual is put at the centre of the world... 'me' and 'mine' appears to be more compelling than 'we' and 'our'.

“The Scriptures are absolutely clear that for the follower of Jesus Christ the wellbeing of other people, especially other believers, is of the highest importance.”

During 2015 two news stories caught the public eye. One was Maud Kells' shooting in the Democratic Republic of Congo and the other, a BBC Northern Ireland documentary telling the story of Bob and Alma McAllister who had travelled to Congo as missionaries in 1952. In the article 'Facing a task unfinished', Tim Magowan, Northern Ireland Director of Tearfund, highlights the agency's work in the Democratic Republic of Congo by sharing the story of the McAllister family.

As always, further reading and listening ideas are offered in the reviews pages. While the reflections of Andy Hamilton, Emma Scrivener, Gary Glasgow, Betsy Cameron and Arthur Clarke are also there to be enjoyed.

Don't miss out on February's Herald; [to download](#) this edition or to see how you can [subscribe](#), visit the Presbyterian Herald section of the website.

Single copies may be purchased at the reception desk in Assembly Buildings, Fisherwick Place, Belfast.

C of E Archbishops launch evangelism week of prayer

All serving clergy in the Church of England will soon receive a letter from the Archbishops of Canterbury and York asking them to take part in a week of prayer for evangelism at Pentecost.

The event — “Thy Kingdom Come” — will run from 8 to 15 May. Cathedrals and churches across England are expected to hold events to encourage churchgoers to “share their faith with their friends”.

The centrepiece will be “beacon” services in Durham, Canterbury, York, Coventry, St Paul's, and Winchester cathedrals, led by bishops, well-known worship leaders, and musicians, including the Revd Tim Hughes, and Martin Smith.



“Thy Kingdom Come” is the fruit of two years’ discussion by the Archbishops’ Task Group on Evangelism. Details of the week were given in a report from the group which will be discussed at the General Synod this month.

The Task Group, set up in 2014 and chaired by the Archbishop of Canterbury, includes specialists in evangelism from across the Church. In the introduction to their report, the vice-chair of the group, the Bishop of Liverpool, the Rt Revd Paul Bayes, writes that their hope is to bring the “beauty” of evangelism to every part of the Church. “Sharing the news of the beautiful

shepherd is itself beautiful, a delicate, gentle, and rich privilege.”

But, the Task Group’s report emphasises that it cannot evangelise England on behalf of the wider Church. Instead, it offers a series of short articles that reflect some of the discussions and work that they have undertaken in the past two years.

Diocesan "Year of Prayer" coming to an end in Raphoe

The Raphoe Group of Parishes are holding a series of events next week as the Dioceses of Derry and Raphoe mark the end of their Year of Prayer and Preparation and look forward to their Year of Opportunity 2016.

Throughout this year, parishes all across the dioceses will be focusing on mission, generosity and children. Over the last 12 months, every parish in the diocese has taken it in turn to organise a week of prayer in preparation for 2016. The 12-month cycle will end in Raphoe.

The Week of Prayer in the Raphoe, Raymochy and Clonleigh Group of Parishes will begin with a



Dean Arthur Barrett

Service of Praise and Prayer in Raymochy Parish Church this Sunday evening, beginning at 7pm.

On Wednesday 10th February, St Eunan's Cathedral, in Raphoe, will hold a 12-hour Prayer Vigil, beginning at 12 noon, to which everyone is welcome. On Friday 12th of February, parishioners and the wider community are invited to take part in a Prayer Walk around Lifford Town, which will begin at 7.30pm.

The week will conclude on Sunday 14th of February, when the Bishop of Derry and Raphoe, Ken Good, will join clergy and parishioners for a

Service of Prayerful Celebration, beginning at 7pm.

The Dean of Raphoe, Very Rev Arthur Barrett, says clergy, parish teams and parishioners have been planning a series of events for 2016: “We will be reaching out to the community during this Year of Opportunity, and engaging with people both in our parish and beyond in creative and imaginative ways.

“Like other parishes, we will be placing a special emphasis on Mission, Generosity and Children. This will be an exciting year for the Diocese, during which we – in Raphoe, Raymochy and Clonleigh – will be playing a full part. I am confident that through our various initiatives, we will realise our Diocesan vision, to transform community and radiate Christ.”

Mothers' Union programme reduces domestic violence

Cases of domestic violence have reduced after the Mothers' Union in the Diocese of in South Ankole, Uganda, undertook a programme of

awareness raising, marriage counselling and radio talk shows.

The Mothers' Union in Uganda is gaining momentum, with around 210,000 members throughout the country. It has developed a Church and Communion mobilisation programme, which they have dubbed Eagle, and it is being used throughout the country.

In South Ankole, in the south west of Uganda, an evaluation of the Eagle process was carried out at the end of last year. "We were thrilled to see some great outcomes of the community & church mobilisation work," a Mothers' Union spokesperson said.

"Through this process Mothers Union in the diocese has been working on major issues such as raising awareness of domestic abuse. Through conducting marriage counselling sessions in parishes and organising two radio talk shows to address these issues the diocese has seen reduced cases of domestic violence where Eagle has been implemented.

"Alongside this work there has been training available to parents speaking about positive parenting and child development. It is estimated

that around 550 women have benefited from this training so far.”

Ida Basalivwa, volunteer Eagle coordinator, added: “Where there is unity, God works. Through Eagle we are changing attitudes – developing positive thinking about ourselves and others and using our eyes to see what we already have around us.

“We really appreciate God so much for the Eagle for opening our eyes to see what we could not see.”

The Mothers’ Union is also teaching and supporting women to come up with initiatives to support their families and those in need in their communities.

“Through the financial literacy and management programme 10 women groups of 500 members in total have, through their own initiative, been able to increase food yield to feed their own households and to generate extra income. They are also encouraged to use some of this provision to help others in need,” the Mothers’ Union said.

“Bible studies played a successful role in helping communities improve and grow their relationships with God. They have also proved a useful tool to guide and encourage good health

and sanitation – for example fruit and vegetable growing and the importance of accessing safe water. It has also led to 20 pit latrines being built in homes and churches!”

The work of the Eagle programme with communities in South Ankole is being supported by central funding from the Mothers’ Union; which is [seeking donations](#) so that it can continue the work in Uganda and elsewhere.

News links to reports on faith, politics and education

English not the first language of more than 600 pupils at Tyrone primary school

Belfast Telegraph

<http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/northern-ireland/english-not-the-first-language-of-more-than-600-pupils-at-tyrone-primary-school-34425873.html>

Praise for move to increase enrolment at Belfast's Strandtown Primary

Belfast Telegraph

<http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/northern-ireland/praise-for-move-to-increase-enrolment-at-belfasts-strandtown-primary-34425085.html>

Christian jail visitor falls in love with murderer who glued victim's lips together

Belfast Telegraph

<http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/northern-ireland/christian-jail-visitor-falls-in-love-with-murderer-who-glued-victims-lips-together-34411560.html>

IRA victim's father's hurt over SF fundraiser

News Letter

<http://www.newsletter.co.uk/news/northern-ireland-news/ira-victim-s-father-s-hurt-over-sf-fundraiser-1-7198973>

Probes into IRA assets 'were blocked for peace process'

News Letter

<http://www.newsletter.co.uk/news/northern-ireland-news/probes-into-ira-assets-were-blocked-for-peace-process-1-7198942>

Allister warns of 'false IRA trail' over Shankill RUC claims

News Letter

<http://www.newsletter.co.uk/news/northern-ireland-news/allister-warns-of-false-ira-trail-over-shankill-ruc-claims-1-7199224>

Judge set to be appointed North's senior coroner

Irish Examiner

<http://www.irishexaminer.com/breakingnews/ireland/judge-set-to-be-appointed-norths-senior-coroner-719123.html>

Irish priest praised in US police letter to the Vatican

Irish Times

<http://www.irishtimes.com/news/social-affairs/religion-and-beliefs/irish-priest-praised-in-us-police-letter-to-the-vatican-1.2523108>

Consecrated life endures in the Church today

The Irish Catholic

This small number reminds us of a great reality: the Lord still calls, and the Lord is calling in **Ireland** in 2016. It is untrue to say "there are no vocations".

<http://www.irishcatholic.ie/article/consecrated-life-endures-church-today>

Premier

The Archbishop of Canterbury has told the House of Lords that there is no right not to be offended by frank assertions of faith. He was speaking as the Upper Chamber discussed extremist interpretations of Islam. Archbishop Justin insisted that some comments were unacceptable, however he added that others were part of general debate.

<http://www.premier.org.uk/News/UK/Justin-Welby-defends-frank-discussions-on-faith>

Tel/Christian Today

LGBTI Mission, a new pressure group has been formed to argue for the "full participation" of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex people in the life of the Church. The aims of LGBTI Mission, whose supporters include heterosexual as well as LGBTI

people, include ensuring that all LGBTI people should be "welcomed and affirmed by the Church of England", that "life-long, faithful, stable same-sex relationships, and the relationships of those who undergo gender transition, should be celebrated by the Church of England" and that the ministries of LGBTI people should be "recognised and authorised". *Pink News* reports comments by the Bishop of Buckingham, Alan Wilson supporting moves for 'affirmation' services for people who have changed gender.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/religion/12139086/Gender-transition-services-and-same-sex-weddings-call-for-Church-of-England.html>

Metro

Further report on a CofE primary school head in Blackburn diocese who claimed via her personal twitter account that evolution is only a theory and there is 'more evidence' the Bible is true. Following criticism of the post, a statement from the head, whose Twitter account has since been removed, insisted her pupils are taught about evolution. A statement from the diocese said "We state all schools should teach the full national curriculum which includes 'adaptation of plants and animals and that adaption may lead to evolution!'."

<http://metro.co.uk/2016/02/04/headteacher-in-row-after-denying-evolution-and-saying-it-is-not-a-fact-5661540/>

Christian Today/Mail online

Ten Australian churches, including Brisbane Cathedral, have offered sanctuary to asylum seekers facing deportation to offshore refugee camps. The action marks a stand against the nation's immigration rules, despite risks of penalties against them. The High Court ruled that

Australia's policy that sends asylum seekers to government-funded offshore processing centres is constitutional. 260 refugees face deportation.

http://www.dailymail.co.uk/wires/reuters/article-3432942/Australia-crack-Syrian-refugees--leaked-document.html?ITO=1490&ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490

Times/Premier

Continuing coverage of plans by Gucci to hold a fashion show in the cloisters of Westminster Abbey in June. The Dean of Westminster John Hall has welcomed the news as a new way to encourage fresh interest in the Abbey, which made more than £400,000 from corporate events in 2013-14.

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/life/fashion/article4683233.ece>

<http://www.premier.org.uk/News/World/Gucci-to-stage-a-fashion-show-in-Westminster-Abbey>

Comment

Telegraph: Don't knock faith schools Richard Dawkins. They taught me a lot about atheism. - Harry Wallop on what he learned attending a church school

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/men/fatherhood/dont-knock-faith-schools-richard-dawkins-they-taught-me-a-lot-ab/>

Christian Today: Not fit for purpose? Just image society without the Church. - Andy Walton writes on the CofE's mission

Spectator: What's so dangerous about this book about the Church of England? - Damian Thompson reviews the forthcoming book by Andrew Brown and Linda Woodhead on the Church of England

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<http://www.spectator.co.uk/2016/02/whats-so-dangerous-about-this-book-about-the-church-of-england/>

