



**The Rev Dr Andrew Campbell, rector of Broughshane Parish, with the Mayor of Mid and East Antrim Borough Council, Councillor Audrey Wales MBE, left, and other dignitaries who attended the service of commendation for the emigrant ship the *Friends Goodwill* in Larne on May 21.**

## **First emigrants to sail to America from Larne remembered in service**

The emigrants who sailed on the first organised Ulster Scots ship to leave Larne for the Americas 300 years ago were remembered in a service led by the Rev Dr Andrew Campbell on May 21.

Those attending the service of commendation of the ship the *Friends Goodwill* in Curran Park, Larne, were welcomed by the Mayor of Mid and East Antrim Borough Council, Councillor Audrey Wales MBE.

During the service a plaque commemorating the ship and its passengers was unveiled and Piper Peter Browne played *The Lament*.

In his address, based on Revelation 21:1-7, Dr Campbell, rector of Skerry, Rathcavan & Newtowncrommelin, remembered the 50 or so passengers who had boarded the *Friends Goodwill* in May 1717. “They left these shores in search of freedom and opportunity, they left these shores in search of hope,” he said.

“Their journey was long and tough. It was marked by fear and anxiety. Food and water supplies were so low that lots were cast for who would be eaten in the case of extreme starvation.

“Of those passengers one did not make it to Boston and died on the journey. Yet it was hope



that got the others through this ordeal. Hope for a better world, hope for justice, hope for opportunity, hope for freedom.

“These brave pioneers became the vanguard for a people who would build and shape America. They would produce frontiers men and women, teachers and educationalists. They would produce generals and writers. They produced presidents and even astronauts.

“The men and women who left here did so in hope, and it was that hope that shaped and produced the world we live in, not just here, not just in America, but all over the globe.”

In the prayers thanks was offered for the lives and the achievements of ‘those brave pioneers’ who left these shores in hope of a better life.

Prayer was also offered for those who risk their lives at sea, and for all fleeing persecution and hardship. “For refugees throughout the world, we ask that they would find safety, and protection in places where they can live their lives in peace,” Dr Campbell concluded.

## **Three thousand volunteers needed for World Meeting of Families in Dublin**

At least three thousand volunteers are needed to assist with the planning and organising of the ninth World Meeting of Families which Pope Francis asked Archbishop Diarmuid Martin to host in Dublin in 2018. This six-day festival of faith will take place from 21 to 26 August next year with the theme: “The Gospel of the Family: Joy for the World”.

As part of its pastoral preparations the organisers of the World Meeting of Families are now inviting thousands of volunteers to participate in this once-in-a-generation event. The volunteers will be part of the operational

team which will organise and run what will be the largest gathering of families in the world.

In addition to the volunteer recruitment drive, a 'Host a Pilgrim/Family' programme has also been launched with the aim of hosting pilgrims in family-homes based in and around Dublin.

Launching the recruitment drive and host family programme, the WMOF's Secretary General Father Timothy Bartlett said, "On behalf of the World Meeting of Families 2018 I encourage any individual or group who has an interest in supporting this joyful and faith-filled event to become involved and join as a volunteer. I have no doubt that it will be a rewarding and memorable experience for anyone who takes part, as well as a unique opportunity to contribute to one of the biggest events to take place in Ireland next year. We are a welcoming nation and people who will offer a warm welcome to the many families who are expected to join us from across the world for this incredible event, are now invited to apply to join as a volunteer."

Father Bartlett continued, "We are inviting women and men with a variety of gifts, skills and talents to help us. Volunteers will be needed in a variety of roles such as acting as event



ambassadors, stewards, ushers, meeting and greeting guests, offering hospitality, supporting media communications and providing information, music, liturgy, medical services, pastoral support, language translation, administration, transport, photographic services, and in logistics.”

Father Bartlett concluded, “Most importantly of all we are looking for people with a welcoming, positive and flexible attitude, who can work as part of a team to assist the thousands of pilgrims who will come to participate in the World Meeting of Families in 2018.”

The World Meeting of Families is hosted in a different location every three years; the most

recent being Philadelphia in September 2015 which was attended by Pope Francis. Whilst WMOF2018 will include exhibitions, cultural events and musical performances, events around the city, gestures of solidarity, it will comprise four key events:

Firstly, a National Opening of World Meeting of Families will take place simultaneously in the twenty-six dioceses on the island of Ireland;

Secondly, from 21 to 24 August, a three-day Congress will entail a joyful and reflective programme of workshops, talks and discussions centred on the theme: “The Gospel of the Family: Joy for the World”. The Congress will also offer an engaging programme for young people to include faith and fun activities for children.

Thirdly, a Festival of Families which will be held on Saturday 25 August 2018. This will involve a cultural concert within a prayerful and joyful atmosphere, during which personal stories of faith will be shared by families, each representing the five continents.

Fourthly, Holy Mass for WMOF2018. A solemn Eucharistic Celebration on Sunday 26 August will involve thousands of pilgrims from Ireland and around the world.

## **Volunteering for the World Meeting of Families**

To apply to become a WMOF2018 volunteer, whether to start with helping with the preparations in the run up to the event and/or during the five days of the event, please visit [www.worldmeeting2018.ie/volunteer](http://www.worldmeeting2018.ie/volunteer).

Becoming a volunteer will include a formal online volunteer application, a training programme, as well as Garda vetting and screening process in line with WMOF2018 safeguarding policies. Volunteers must be resident in Ireland, over 18 years of age and respectful of the Catholic ethos of the event. Volunteers will also assist at related preparatory events which will take place around the country.

## **Host A Pilgrim/Family Programme**

A tradition of hosting pilgrims has grown around the World Meeting of Families over the years. Individuals and families from countries such as Peru, Ecuador, the Philippines, Bangladesh face significant costs if they wish to attend the World Meeting of Families in Ireland. These countries have had an Irish missionary presence in the past and some continue to do so today. World Meeting of Families 2018 is now actively seeking offers to provide accommodation for overseas pilgrims in family homes based in Dublin and in



the greater Dublin area, and particularly in locations which are close to direct bus or rail links to the city centre. Applicants interested in hosting pilgrim, or a family, in their home, are invited to

email [volunteer@worldmeeting2018.ie](mailto:volunteer@worldmeeting2018.ie) and please insert "Host a Family" in the subject field. For more on the World Meeting of Families 2018 see [www.worldmeeting2018.ie](http://www.worldmeeting2018.ie).

## **Incoming Moderator awarded honorary DD**

The Presbyterian Theological Faculty, Ireland has awarded this year's incoming Moderator, Rev. Noble McNeely, with the degree of Doctor of Divinity (D. D.) at it's public graduation service ahead of this year's General Assembly, which opens in two-weeks time.

Dr. McNeely was one of the 24 individuals to receive various awards at the annual ceremony, which took place in Belfast. Having graduated with a Bachelor of Education from Stranmillis College of Education in 1976, he received his Bachelor of Divinity from Queen's University five years later, prior to being ordained in Belfast's Fisherwick Presbyterian Church in 1982.



Professor Gordon Campbell read the citation and spoke of Dr. McNeely’s imagination and leadership and how appropriate the Latin motto of Tottenham Hotspur ‘audere facere’ ‘to dare is to do’ was to this particular fan. Speaking of the Moderator-Designate’s time in First Ballymoney Presbyterian Church, his first congregation and his current ministry in First Holywood, Professor Campbell said that they would have also experienced his pastoral sensitivity, “...indeed folk see in him a mix of courage, wisdom and faith, or qualities that would have made him a good diplomat in another life!

“...Noble has also brought imagination to the contemporary challenges of sharing Jesus Christ with ordinary people in a post-Troubles environment: sports ministry, St. Patrick’s Night events or a gift of the Easter story and a creme

egg to local homes around the Church – these are examples of ways that have been found to engage the local community and commend to it the Good News.”

Professor Campbell also spoke of Dr. McNeely’s involvement in church life centrally holding numerous positions on various Boards and the 17 years he served on the Board of Studies and its successors through to convening the present Council for Training and Ministry until last year which brought in a number of key developments.

He concluded by saying, “we now look forward with anticipation to see what the Moderator-Designate will do with ‘audere facere’ in his forthcoming role.”

Dr. McNeely will be formally nominated and installed as Moderator of the General Assembly at its annual meeting which opens in Belfast on June 5, 2017.

The Presbyterian Theological Faculty, Ireland awards degrees by the authority of its Royal Charter, which was granted by Queen Victoria in 1881. Congratulating all the recipients the Principal of Union College, Professor Stafford Carson, who presided over the graduation, said,

“To the Moderator-Designate and all the successful students I offer my heart-felt congratulations

“Thirteen ministry students received a Postgraduate Diploma in Ministry and a Certificate for Licensing, which marks the end of their formal theological education in preparation for ordained ministry within the Church. The students are already serving as assistant ministers in a number of congregations and they will be licensed as probationers for the ministry by their presbyteries at services in their home congregations next month. As Union Theological College continues to prepare students for effective ministry in Ireland, our prayer is that God would use them and all recipients in significant ways that contributes to the advancement of His kingdom.”

The graduation also included Heidi England who qualified as a deaconess and eight students of Theology at Queen's University who completed certificates and diplomas in youth ministry.

Professor Carson also acknowledged the work of Union College's Professor Stephen Williams, who delivered the Charge to the students. Describing him as 'an internationally-recognised scholar and theologian,' the graduation was

Professor Williams' final public event as full-time Professor of Systematic Theology after 20 years of teaching at Union and at Queen's University.

## **Rossorry Parish Church distributes £10,200 to charities at end of 175th anniversary year**

Rossorry Parish Church (near Enniskillen in Clogher diocese), has presented over £10,000 to charities as part of their commitment of outreach during their 175th anniversary year.

The parish decided to nominate 17 local and national charities as beneficiaries as they set out on a year of fundraising to mark their anniversary year.

At the end of the 175th anniversary year in April, it was decided to present £600 to each of the charities, many of whom had participated in the Festival of 175 Christmas Trees organised by the parish in November 2016 which was an overwhelming success, attracting thousands of people over the four days.

At the presentation of cheques to the charities during morning worship in Rossorry Parish Church on Sunday, 21st May, the Rector, Revd



**Representatives from 16 charities who each received cheques of £600 from Rossorry Parish Church as part of their fundraising programme during their 175th anniversary year. Included are the Rector, Revd Canon Ian Ellis (front centre) and Mr George Elliott (right), Honorary Treasurer. Missing from the photograph were representatives from the Guide Dogs for the Blind charity.**

Canon Ian Ellis, described it as a great privilege to be joined by representatives of the charities who were presented with donations totalling £10,200 from their fundraising efforts during the 175 anniversary year.

Cheques were presented by Mr. George Elliott, Honorary Treasurer, on behalf of the Select Vestry. Bridie Sweeney, representing the Aisling Centre, responded by offering thanks on behalf

of all the charities. She said the Festival of Christmas Trees was an event which stood out for them and involved a tremendous amount of hard work, commitment and generosity by the people of Rossorry.

She said it had been a privilege to be involved and she thanked the parish for the £10,200 shared among them. “We congratulate you on 175 years as a vibrant faith community,” she told the congregation.

Charities presented with cheques for £600 were; The Aisling Centre, Autism NI, Bishops’ Appeal, Cancer Connect (Enniskillen), Cancer Fund for Children, Chest Heart and Stroke, Fermanagh Palliative Transport Service, Friends of the Cancer Centre, Guide Dogs for the Blind, Habitat for Humanity, Horizon West Children’s Hospice, Macmillan, Marie Curie, Mencap, Positive Futures, Royal National Lifeboat Institute and St Vincent de Paul.

## **Shandon’s annual IDAHOT Service**

The annual IDAHOT Service took place in St Anne’s Church, Shandon, Cork, on Sunday, 21st May. The International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia (IDAHOT) was on 17th May, and the Service in Shandon is on a

Sunday near that date coinciding with Cork LGBT Awareness Week.

The Rev. Paula Geary was the celebrant and the soloist was Amanda Neri. The Rev. Elaine Murray, Rector of Carrigaline Union, preached on the IDAHOT theme for 2017 'Love makes a Family' saying that the time had come for us to reclaim 'Family Values' in its most loving and inclusive way, pointing out that legal and social recognition and acceptance of Rainbow families was a human rights issue, not something that was open to interpretation because of any religious views. She said that the Gospel was clear: 'We are to be all about love, and if in our parish families we want to model God's love in our world, then we must not exclude anyone.'

## **Justin Welby: How to pray 'Thy Kingdom Come' and mean it**

### **The Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby introduces a new prayer movement**

Lately I have found myself constantly talking and thinking about prayer. This is not because I am an expert on it, or even particularly good at it. Nor is it because it's the kind of thing I am paid to do. It's because I see ever more evidence of





the need for it. These words of Jesus in Luke 11 offer us a good foundation for why we pray: “So I say to you: ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened.”

Prayer begins by acknowledging that we don't have what we need, we aren't who we want to be and we don't see what we long to see.

Last year the Archbishop of York and I invited people up and down the country to pray for the ten days between Ascension Day and Pentecost. The prayers had just one focus – a request to God for a fresh infilling of the Holy Spirit so that those who don't know the love of Jesus might

turn, hear his call and themselves becomes his followers.

We called the movement ‘Thy Kingdom Come’, and we were utterly astonished at how it took off. Many tens of thousands of people across denominations – Methodists, Catholics, Anglicans, Orthodox – came together and prayed, “Come, Holy Spirit.” I can hardly remember anything that I’ve been involved in which I have sensed so clearly the work of the Spirit.

While I remain adamant that the Church doesn’t need more initiatives, projects or resources, it was obvious that we should do this again. But the only reason is the sense that God is leading it and, when the wind of the Spirit is blowing, you just have to hoist the sails and go where you are taken.

## **Come Holy Spirit**

Pentecost is, of course, the time when we remember the sending of the Holy Spirit. It is, perhaps, to our shame that the prayer “Come, Holy Spirit” has been judged to be a bit self-indulgent – gathering together to pray for a fresh infilling for our own sake.

Scripture teaches us something different. The gift of the Holy Spirit, God's empowering presence with us, isn't given to us for our own sake. The reason we pray "Come, Holy Spirit" is not so that we can feel good. It is so that we may be empowered to be his witnesses.

Every Christian is a witness. Whether we like it or not. Read these words of Jesus in Acts 1:8: "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

We cannot witness on our own. So for these ten days we ask, knock and seek for a fresh empowering of the breath of God for this calling.

Of course, we all know what it is to pray for things and not to know how our prayers will be answered. We all know that sense of disappointment and bewilderment when things we had desired haven't come to be. So how can we know praying "Come, Holy Spirit" will make any difference?

If we put it like that, isn't the question really: Will the Holy Spirit be given to us if we ask?

I can make a few guarantees because of some unchanging truths about the unchanging God we

worship. God always, always listens to our prayers. He doesn't always give us everything we want. But if we sit in a room, or in a church, or in a cathedral, or in the middle of a field and pray "Come, Holy Spirit", we can do so with total confidence that the Spirit will come.

"Which of your fathers, if your son asks for a fish, will give him a snake instead? Or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!" (Luke 11:11-13)

There are no preconditions laid out on that promise. If we ask, the Spirit will be given.

The question then is this: Are we prepared to pray such a prayer? Are we prepared to have our lives turned upside down, rearranged and reshaped? Are we up for all God might call us to as his witnesses? Are we ready to see God at work in ways that we can't predict and can't control?

## **Evangelism**

As well as praying, there is a second thing to do. We step out and do something. We put ourselves in God's hands to be used in answer

to our prayer. It could be in your church, your home, or as an informal group of friends, but plan something which invites people to explore the good news of Jesus Christ and God's love for them. Do it with the intention of inviting those people to make a decision to follow Jesus.

Last year I met with a group of people who wouldn't call themselves Christians. We met a few times and read Bible stories together. We saw incredible movement in their lives and in their understanding of God, and it was beautiful. We weren't doing anything special – just opening up space for people to ask questions and encounter God.

So that is my encouragement and my urging. Get together and pray, and then make space for people who don't know Jesus to find out more.

This isn't just something else to add to the 'to-do' list. Many of us aren't in need of more things to do. Lots of us live life fairly overwhelmed, we're aware of our frailties and inadequacies, of our sinfulness and our failures; believe me, I truly know all those things.

But just think back to a time you've seen God's love and goodness bring transformation to someone's life. It is one of the greatest privileges



to see the love of God in action, and it is worth stepping out for.

In Luke 11:5-8 Jesus says, “Suppose you have a friend, and you go to him at midnight and say, ‘Friend, lend me three loaves of bread; a friend of mine on a journey has come to me, and I have no food to offer him.’ And suppose the one inside answers, ‘Don’t bother me. The door is already locked, and my children and I are in bed. I can’t get up and give you anything.’ I tell you, even though he will not get up and give you the bread because of friendship, yet because of your shameless audacity he will surely get up and give you as much as you need.”

Our cupboards might be bare when it comes to how we live and how we tell the gospel. In prayer we come before God and ask him to give us what we need to put before others.

If you get together with friends and pray “Come, Holy Spirit”, and then invite people to come and explore who Jesus is, then for certain, by the end of your time together, some things will have taken place that will be what God is doing in those people’s lives.

Seeing God move is the biggest encouragement you could ask for, and in my experience, when we get a taste for it, we want more. When we hear stories of people becoming Christians we think, ‘Brilliant, this is what it’s about. This is what we want.’ And so we are encouraged to pray more, to expect more, to act more.

We are the Church of Jesus Christ, called together by him, made for his glory and empowered by his Spirit. We exist for God’s sake and for the sake of others. And in Jesus’ name and in his power we witness to the one who was dead and is alive again. Come, Holy Spirit, and renew the lives of your faithful people!

**Thy Kingdom Come will run between Ascension Day and Pentecost 25th May-4th June. For more information, ideas for how to get your church involved and to download resources, visit [thykingdomcome.global](http://thykingdomcome.global)**

- 247,000 resources have already been ordered, from family-friendly Kingdom Kits, Thy Kingdom Come gospels, prayer journals and Novenas, model service plans and liturgies. There's still time to order or download here: [https://  
www.thykingdomcome.global/search/  
resources?tags=1&theme\\_id=1](https://www.thykingdomcome.global/search/resources?tags=1&theme_id=1)
- Pledge to Pray on the website and you'll receive specially crafted prayers by international leaders, and youth-friendly meditations, emailed each day. For a list of the daily prayer themes, visit: [https://  
www.thykingdomcome.global/posts/45/  
your-daily-thy-kingdom-come-prayer-  
email](https://www.thykingdomcome.global/posts/45/your-daily-thy-kingdom-come-prayer-email)
- Participants will also be encouraged to post their own prayers and images which will be captured from social media and displayed on a prayer wall on the Thy Kingdom Come website.  
<https://www.thykingdomcome.global/>

## Today in Christian History, May 23



**May 23, 1430:** French mystic and military hero Joan of Arc is captured by the Burgundians. They sold her to English, who tried her for sorcery and heresy.

**May 23, 1498:** Italian reformer Girolamo Savonarola, who preached aggressively against the corruption of northern Italy's church and society, is hanged for heresy and his body burned. After gaining fame for successful prophecies, he sought to establish an ascetic Christian community. Scholars still debate whether he was a saintly prophet or a fanatic.

**May 23, 1533:** Thomas Cranmer, archbishop of Canterbury, declares King Henry VIII's marriage to Catherine of Aragon null and void: a key moment in the English Reformation.

**May 23, 1618:** Bohemian Protestant rebels storm the castle of Catholic Hapsburg king Ferdinand II and throw his governors out the window (and into a pile of manure). This act touched off Europe's Thirty Years War, which ended in 1648 by the Treaty of Westphalia (see issue 13: Jan Amos Comenius).

**May 23, 1633:** Though Huguenots (French Protestants) had tried to colonize "New France" (Canada) for three decades, France

declares only Roman Catholics are allowed to permanently settle there.

