



The essential daily brief on the Irish churches

Bikers on a mission

The Revds Nigel Kirkpatrick and Andrew McCroskery are taking to the road for 10 days this August to mark the 300th anniversary of the United Society in Ireland.

Nigel, rector of Gilnahirk in Belfast, and Andrew, who is rector of St Bartholomew's and Christ Church Leeson Park in Dublin, will travel on their motorbikes to every cathedral of the Church of Ireland during the first 10 days of August.

This is an important year for *Us* and Andrew and Nigel hope to raise a significant amount of money for the Society, and particularly its work with the Diocese of Swaziland. Their journey will start and finish in St Anne's Cathedral.

Their route is as follows: 1 August: Lisburn, Dromore, Armagh. 2 August: Kilmore, Clogher, Enniskillen. 3 August: Derry, Raphoe, Sligo, Killala. 4 August: Tuam, Kilfenora, Clonfert, Killaloe. 5 August: Limerick, Rosscarberry. 6 August: Cork, Cloyne, Lismore. 7 August: Waterford, Cashel. 8 August: Kilkenny, Leighlin, Ferns. 9 August: Dublin, Kildare, Trim. 10 August: Downpatrick, Belfast.

All bikers are welcome to join Nigel and Andrew in return for a donation to *Us*. Contact either Andrew or Nigel, or Linda (086 8586337) for more details.

Where their visit does not coincide with a regular service, either Andrew or Nigel will lead a short service and everyone is most welcome.

Nigel and Andrew will be posting regular updates via Facebook and Twitter:

www.facebook.com/bikerson.amission.9

www.twitter.com/BikersOnMission

Biography of Donald Caird published

This evening at 5pm in Christ Church cathedral, Dublin there will be a service of Urnai na Nona followed by the launch, by Catherine McGuinness, of a new biography of the former Archbishop of Dublin, Dr Donald Caird.

Donald Caird: Church of Ireland Bishop: Gaelic Churchman: A Life has been written by Aonghus Dwane and published by Columba Press. The book launch is part of the ongoing celebrations to mark the centenary of Cumann Gaelach na hEaglaise which has also mounted an exhibition in the cathedral, devised and co-ordinated by the Cumann's research officer, Caroline Nolan, Canon Roy Byrne and Lesley–Anne Carey from Christ Church cathedral.

This week's interviews by Soul Waves Radio features, among other things, an interview by Paul Loughlin. with Aonghus Dwane about his new biography of the Rt Revd Donald Caird who was Archbishop of Dublin between 1985 and 1996.

Donald Caird: Church of Ireland Bishop: Gaelic Churchman: a Life will be launched on Saturday evening, July 25, in Christ Church Cathedral. Aonghus is interviewed by Paul Loughlin.

Soul Waves Radio supplies over 30 local and community radio stations throughout Ireland with news, reaction stories and features. Each week, three interviews, edited and ready for transmission, are broadcast and posted to our website, reaching an estimated audience of 300,000. Topics are of a religious and social nature and can fit into a number of categories including: Church Year, Calendar Year, Faith/Spirituality, Current Topics, Social Issues, Third World Issues, Human Interest Stories.

You can listen to the interview with Aonghus Dwane online at <http://www.soulwavesradio.ie/>

Church events this week

Tomorrow (Sunday) the 150th anniversary of the consecration of Kill o' the Grange church will be celebrated when the visiting preacher will be the Revd Peter Stavent from Australia.

On Wednesday at lunchtime Sarah–Ellen Murphy (alto) and Peter Barley (piano) will perform songs by Brahms, Wagner, Wolf, Liszt and Dvorak in St Mary's cathedral, Limerick, while on Thursday evening the recitalist in the St Barrahanes Church Festival of Music will be the pianist, John O'Connor. In

Dublin on Friday Tanya Sewell (mezzo–soprano) and Alison Young (Piano) will provide the lunchtime ‘Summer Music at Sanford while in Belfast the Tacoma Youth Chorus from California will give a concert in St George’s Church at 7.45pm.

Presbyterian Moderator visits Belfast Synagogue

The Moderator of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Ireland Dr. Michael Barry visited the Synagogue on the Somerton Road in Belfast to offer support to the Jewish community following an attack on their place of worship over the weekend.

Speaking after the visit, Dr. Barry said, “I have been appalled to hear of the recent attacks at the Belfast Synagogue and the Catholic churches in Kilkeel and North Belfast. Regardless of the faith, places of worship should not be the target of any attack. I condemn these religious hate crimes and ask those involved to have more respect for their neighbours.

“By visiting the Synagogue today, I hope I have encouraged Rabbi David Singer and assured him and members of the Jewish community that they are valued citizens of this city.”

Methodists and Anglicans united in shared witness

In 1965 Methodists, Presbyterians and Anglicans met above a local dentist’s surgery on the Jordanstown Road in Monkstown. This was hugely significant and pioneering.



News Letter - From the very beginning of the Troubles, members of three main Protestant churches were worshipping together in the same building in the loyalist estate that is Monkstown; and plans were being made to share one permanent church building in the heart of the community.

Sadly, for various internal constitutional reasons at the time (1967), the Presbyterians could not continue with the shared buildings proposals. But the Methodists and Anglicans decided to forge ahead with the shared proposals and by 1969 new halls were built by the Methodists; and a church sanctuary by the Church of Ireland. The opening service was held on April 25, 1970. The Anglicans met for Sunday morning worship at 10am, and the

Methodists met at 11.30am – each with their own minister and governance structure. Uniquely, it was a united act of worship and a coming together of both traditions.

There was good will from both parent denominations and by 1994 the Church of Ireland had legally recognised Monkstown as a parish in its own right. This meant the Col congregation at Church of the Good Shepherd would have their own rector and no longer be considered an extension of St Patrick's, Jordanstown. The parish of Monkstown was born.

But joint worship arrangements in the shared premises did not always run smoothly. Unity is not an easy path. Relations between the two congregations fluctuated and by 2002 things had deteriorated to such a point that the best way forward seemed to be if the partnership was dissolved. There was no real living and working together.

The Methodist Church in Ireland and the Church of Ireland signed a covenant in 2002 where both denominations agreed to enter into a closer working relationship. This new dispensation in church led the Methodist minister and Church of Ireland rector of COGS to try and put this covenant into practice in Monkstown and to begin to fulfill the dream summed up in the logo of Church of the Good Shepherd, drawn from John 10:10: There shall be 'one church under one shepherd'.

The Methodist congregation and the Anglican congregation, with their own independent clergy and governance sharing the one building was akin to two different seeds being planted in the same piece of ground.

Once it was recognised that the fluctuating relations between the two churches was really a systemic problem, the solution was obvious: they needed to sow a new seed in Monkstown, a single seed stemming from a fully united covenant. There would no longer be two congregations using the premises, but one - united in heart and vision; sharing fully together in mission.

At a meeting with the Bishop of Connor and the Superintendent Minister of the Newtownabbey Methodist Mission, it was suggested that a joint meeting of the Select Vestry and Leaders' Board be called to discuss the way forward. At that meeting all leaders affirmed their commitment to full unity. Everyone who wanted to be a part of COGS would enter into relationship together in Holy Communion on Sunday March 16, 2003.

After that all worship services, organisations and midweek meetings would be united and there would be one decision making body called a Church Council. So COGS became one body in Christ with services on Sundays at 11am and 6.30pm.

Each year on the Sunday nearest St Patrick's day this covenant is renewed in community life together in Christ - man, woman and child. Since then every child that was baptised in COGS is baptised into both traditions. Likewise at confirmation the young persons received into full membership of the MCI and confirmed as a member of Col.

Working out the covenant on the ground took longer to achieve in terms of fully legislated interchangeability of ministry and integrating legal ownership of buildings .

COGS has been a pioneer in all this and while it is exciting, often it has been difficult as there is no precedent.

More at -

<http://www.newsletter.co.uk/life/churches/methodists-and-anglicans-united-in-shared-witness-1-6201847>

Feed the Mind - Autumn Irish visit

This year Feed the Minds celebrates its 50th anniversary. The charity works with local communities through education projects which support some of the world's most disadvantaged individuals to combat poverty and discrimination.

All Feed the Minds projects have literacy at their heart but they embed this in practical life changing skills based on the needs of the community. Examples of our impact include Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) abandonment in Kenya through awareness education, reducing maternal and infant mortality rates in Ghana by providing training on pre and postnatal care to midwives and Peace building and Trauma healing through storytelling in South Sudan.

Last year alone, Feed the Minds helped over 100,000 people worldwide. The skills learnt through their projects empower individuals to transform their own lives and those of others.

To celebrate the 50th anniversary Feed the Minds is launching a campaign to enable them to help even more communities around the world.

Over the years there have been a number of donors from Ireland including considerable support from Church of Ireland who have funded many projects through donations given to Bishops' Appeal. These contributions have been invaluable and they hope to strengthen this existing relationship and attract new donors.

In October, as part of the campaign, four members of the Feed the Minds team will visit Ireland to talk in a number of churches and schools to share the impact of our work with as many people as possible.

The visit will conclude with a launch event in Dublin on Monday October 20. Any individuals or your parishes interested in finding out more about Feed the Minds work, fundraising or attending the launch event can contact Bex on +44 (0)20 7582 3535 or rband@feedtheminds.org.

Archbishop calls on Christians to join Iraq protest

Christians want the UK government to do more to stop persecution in Iraq. An Iraqi archbishop has urged believers to join him in protest



outside the Houses of Parliament in London today - Saturday, calling on the UK government to do more to stop the persecution of Christians in Iraq.

Premier Radio - Syrian Orthodox Church UK Archbishop, Athanasius Toma Dawod believes not enough is being done to tackle militant group Islamic State.

It follows an ultimatum given to Christians last week by the group to convert to Islam, pay a tax or be killed.

Speaking to Premier, he said: "I am from Mosel, everyday I speak with them; I speak with the bishop, and the priest. They inform me step by step what is going on, people now are starving, there is no food, no medicine outside Mosel".

On Thursday IS ordered all girls and women in and around Iraq's northern city of Mosul to undergo female genital mutilation.

The United Nations says the fatwa, or religious edict, applied to females between the ages of 11 and 46.

Meanwhile, Kurdistan's government has offered the refugees a 'safe-haven' in the wake of order.

Leaders in the autonomous region of Iraq have now said Christians will be offered a 'safe haven' in Kurdistan and will be welcomed, protected and free to practise their religion.

Speaking to religious liberty organisation Release International, the region's newly-appointed Religious Affairs Minister, Kamal Muslim, gave the

assurance, he said: "Kurdistan will always be a safe haven for those leaving their places of terror."

Rt Revd Christopher Cocksworth is the Duty bishop in the House of Lords this week.

He told Premier what's happening in the country must be stopped: "I think we need an international effort to protect Christian believers.

"Also remembering that terrible things are happening to Shia believers in Islam at the moment in Mosul and other parts of the area that ISIS has claimed."

Meanwhile, displaced Christians have expressed anger towards the international community for failing to protect them or offer asylum.

One priest, who cannot be named, told Release International, that he was furious that Britain "offered visas to terrorists", but refused to grant them to Iraqi Christians.

The priest was also dismayed that British jihadis were among the ISIS fighters.

"There is no hope, no future. All we have is war and killing and fighting," says Thiar, a Christian refugee. He says he desperately wants to leave the country and join the rest of his family in Germany.

Audio interviews at -

<http://www.premierchristianradio.com/News/World/Archbishop-calls-on-Christians-to-join-Iraq-protest>

Former UK ambassador condemns Government's 'silence' over Mosul

Newry man Francis Campbell, a former British ambassador to the Holy See has condemned the UK Government's muted response to the persecution of Christians in Iraq that has forced more than 3, 000 people to flee the country's second city, Mosul, with little more than the clothes they were wearing.

The Tablet - The Iraqi city of Mosul is empty of Christians for the first time in the history of the country, the country's most senior Chaldean Catholic said. Patriarch Louis Sako said the city's Christians – who until last month

numbered a few thousand – were fleeing for the neighbouring autonomous region of Kurdistan.

Christian families abandoned homes and belongings and some were robbed of their vehicles by the jihadists and forced to flee on foot. Some Dominican nuns based in nearby Qaraqosh said that the jihadists had demanded the Christians hand over money, personal documents, passports, cars, and all valuable items.

Francis Campbell, former UK Ambassador to the Holy See, criticised the Government for its failure to speak out over what he described as ethnic cleansing.

“A culture and civilisation is being destroyed and our political leaders are silent,” he said, asking Prime Minister David Cameron via the social networking site Twitter: “Why is the UK silent on the ethnic cleansing of Christians from Mosul?”

A Foreign Office spokesman told *The Tablet*: “The threat to Christians in the Mosul area is a particular tragedy, given that it has one of the oldest Christian communities in the world. We will work with the new Baghdad Government to raise these matters further.”

Mr Campbell, who is to take over as vice-chancellor of St Mary’s University Twickenham in September, and others including the official Twitter account for the Church of England, changed their profile pictures to an image of the Arabic “N” symbol, which stands for Nazarene, or Christian, and is reportedly being painted on the homes of Christian families in Mosul to single them out.

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, urged social media users to show their concern for Iraqi Christians by adopting the hashtag #WeAreN. He tweeted on Wednesday: "Share solidarity of prayer and love with victims of terrible suffering in Iraq, especially threatened Christians of Mosul. #WeAreN."

The exodus of 3,000 followed a warning read out in Mosul’s mosques on 18 July, and broadcast on loudspeakers, that ordered Christians either to convert to Islam, to submit to its rule and pay a religious levy, or face death.

“If they refuse this they will have nothing but the sword,” the announcement read.

The 57-member Organisation of Islamic Cooperation condemned the forced displacement, while the Kurdistan regional government has offered Christians a safe haven.

A demonstration organised by the five Iraqi Eastern Churches in support of Iraqi Christians is to take place in London on Saturday at noon at the Houses of Parliament.

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www.churchnewsireland.org**