



Launching 'Reclaiming Hope' the Presbyterian Church in Ireland's 2016 World Development Appeal in Assembly Buildings, Belfast are (left to right) Derek Hall of Tearfund, Presbyterian Moderator, Rt. Rev. Dr. Frank Sellar, Rev. Dr. Katherine Meyer, Convener of the Church's World Development Committee, Rev. Dr. Liz Hughes, Convener of the Council for Global Mission and Florence Mutesasira of Christian Aid.

El Salvador and Brazil focus of Presbyterian World Development Appeal 2016

Central and South American projects are the focus of 'Reclaiming Hope', the Presbyterian Church in Ireland's (PCI) World Development Appeal for 2016, which has been launched in Belfast.

Launched in the autumn of each year, the World Development Appeal (WDA) aims to raise £500,000, or more, for sustainable development projects overseas. All proceeds will be channelled through PCI's aid agency partners, Christian Aid and Tearfund and this year two the projects that will benefit are based in El Salvador and Brazil.

"The WDA, in its current form, began in 1980 in support of sustainable development work in some of the world's poorest communities. Today the Appeal represents a long-term and generous commitment on the part of PCI members and congregations across Ireland to this work," said Rev. Dr. Katherine Meyer, Convener of the Church's World Development Committee.

"The theme of this year's Appeal is 'Reclaiming Hope', a feeling that resonated with those we met in El Salvador and Brazil. This year highlights the additional challenges created for

sustainable development in post-conflict situations. At the same time, we continue to focus on all the ways in which the effects of climate change continue to make themselves felt in almost every aspect of sustainable community development,” Dr. Meyer said.

Talking about each of the projects, the Minister of Christ Church Sandymount in Dublin said that almost 25 years after the formal end to the 12 year civil war in El Salvador, the country is still recovering from the long-term aftereffects of the conflict.

“The high levels of poverty, which formed the background to the civil war, are still being played out in its aftermath. Our partner in the Central American nation is the Programme for Capacity-Building and Reconstruction in El Salvador, known as PROCARES, which has been one of Christian Aids’ partners since 1998.

“PROCARES is working with returning refugees who were resettled in the Jiquilisco Bay region on the country’s southern coast. In the face of severe climate volatility, ongoing coastal erosion, and ruined infrastructure, this new community began to reclaim the land. One way in which the

community is building their own future is through a shrimp farming co-operative. This year's World Development Appeal will support PROCARES and the El Zompopero Cooperative Society," Dr. Meyer said.

Speaking on a video to support the appeal, PROCARES Director, Berta Aguirre, said, "From PROCARES and the Cooperative, we want to thank you for your interest in us. We know the work of the Presbyterian Church and we know that you have solidarity with us and that you give, so we can have a better life."

The 2016 Appeal will also support ACEV (Evangelical Action) in Brazil, who are working with some of the country's most isolated populations in the semi-arid northeast of the country.

"This part of Brazil has seen few glimpses of the rapid economic growth experienced in other parts of this vast nation. Here the climate is semi-arid, and for people living in the region, access – or lack of access – to water shapes almost every other aspect of their lives," Dr. Meyer said.

“Working in partnership with Tearfund and local churches, the 2016 Appeal will help to support ACEV as it continues to focus on the provision of wells and their maintenance. Training in agriculture will also make the best use of the new water systems, as will the development of new planting and crops particularly suited to a dry climate. All this in partnership with churches whose own horizons are now expanding by moving out into the communities they serve.”

Welcoming the launch of the 2016 Appeal, Presbyterian Moderator, Rt. Rev. Dr. Frank Sellar said, “As those who belong to the Lord Jesus, we have a concern for His creation and people and when we see a need at home or overseas, especially when it comes to the poorest and most marginalised, we should be faithful and true to respond.

“This is our 36th World Development Appeal and last year congregations across Ireland raised over £559,140 (€618,524) for projects in Bangladesh and Ethiopia, among others. I have no doubt that this same spirit of generosity will bless the people of El Salvador and Brazil, enabling them to reclaim the hope that we all seek.”



***Representatives of the Methodist Church in Ireland
at the 13th World Assembly of the WFM&UCW***

Irish Methodist Women at Global conference in USA

From Monday 29 August to Saturday 3 September 2016, six women from the Methodist Church in Ireland – Louise, Elizabeth, Phyllis, Maureen, Heidi and Wanda – joined over 800 women from the nine Areas of the World Federation in Houston, Texas for the 13th World Assembly of the World Federation of Methodist & Uniting Church Women.

This Assembly takes place every five years and sets the theme for the incoming quinquennium

which from 2016 to 2021 is 'Chosen people: called to proclaim' based on the *Good News* translation of I Peter 2: 9 -10.

Writing of her experience in Houston, Elizabeth said: 'There were quite a few special times that could only be described as God Moments. One was before the start of the Assembly, I was in the lift with about ten other ladies. We discovered that each of us was from a different country, all there with one aim, "To know Christ and to make Him known".

'Another special time was when we sang "To God be the Glory" the atmosphere was electric, and as I glanced towards the door I saw some members of the World Methodist Conference and hotel staff had been attracted by the praise.'

Girl choristers wanted in Belfast

Four of the five new girl choristers were formally admitted to the St Anne's Cathedral Choir on Sunday October 9.

Beatrice, Olivia, Mya and Lára (with Kaela, who was not able to be there on Sunday) bring the number in the Girls' Choir back up to 15. Five



vacancies remain and it is hoped that these places will be filled soon.

The Dean of Belfast, the Very Rev John Mann, said: “We do wish the five new choristers many happy years with the choir and are delighted as to how quickly they are becoming integrated into the group of girl choristers.

“Having lost a number of the senior girls who have moved on in their path of education over the last six months, it is good to see the rebuilding process, and hear the new sound gradually develop.”

- Any young person interested in auditioning for any the Cathedral choirs should contact the Master of the Choristers, Mr David Stevens at david@belfastcathedral.org or ring 028 9032 8332.

65th integrated school in Northern Ireland established

A ceremony was held recently in County Down to mark the creation of the newest integrated school in Northern Ireland.

Loughries Primary School, just outside Newtownards in County Down, has 75 pupils. It became an integrated school on 1 September, following approval from former education minister, John O'Dowd MLA, in 2015.

Loughries is the 65th such school in Northern Ireland. It was originally opened in 1842 and is the oldest surviving school in the Newtownards area.

The decision to transform was taken following a ballot in favour of integration by parents whose children attend the school.

Children from Protestant, Catholic and a variety of other backgrounds are taught together in integrated schools. According to statistics obtained by the BBC, about 22,000 pupils – 7% of the school population of Northern Ireland – are educated in integrated schools.

The first integrated school, Lagan College in Belfast, opened in 1981. There are now 45 integrated primary schools and 20 integrated post-primary schools across Northern Ireland.

Any new integrated school must attract 30% of its pupils from the minority community in the area in which the school is situated.

However, the growth of the sector has stalled in recent years. A review of integrated education, also commissioned by Mr O’Dowd earlier this year, is due to be completed imminently.

The Northern Ireland Council for Integrated Education (NICIE) welcomed the announcement concerning Loughries Primary School, and spoke of an increased demand for an integrated primary school in the wider Newtownards area.

Loughries Primary principal, Jo Thompson, said all involved with the school were “over the Moon”.

She said: “Our parents and children have been celebrating today; our school has continued to grow and develop and we now look forward to achieving further successes in the future.” Speaking about the school’s ethos, she said that “the governors, staff and parents work in partnership to ensure that pupils receive a high quality education. Through working together we can support and empower our children to prepare them for a shared future.”



Re-dedication of Portadown area Methodist Church

Portadown District Superintendent, the Rev Ken Robinson (extreme left), is pictured with church ministers, lay workers and spouses following a recent service of rededication in Derryanville Methodist church. The service was led by the local minister, the Rev Aian Ferguson (4th right), and the Rev Billy Davison (3rd left) was the guest preacher.

The service followed the refurbishment and extension of the church halls. Additionally, the church car park was enlarged and the interior of the church painted. Mr Davison preached on the calling and purpose of the Church from I Peter 2.

News briefs

+++ Sympathy expressed on death of Orange Order Secretary - The Bishop of Down and Dromore, Rt Rev Harold Miller 'I was deeply saddened to hear of the death of Drew Nelson after a short illness. Drew was a person whom I greatly respected for his views, and he was well able to argue for them.' He continued, 'I also had the privilege of hearing him confirm his faith in Christ as an adult, in the parish of Kilwarlin. He was a keen member of the Church of Ireland, and we will miss his contribution to both church and society.'

+++ Howth double anniversary - This coming Sunday (16th October) St Mary's Church in Howth is celebrating a double Anniversary. The first is the consecration of the original Church on the site in 1816. The 2nd is the 150th Anniversary of the consecration of the present Church which incorporates the tower of the original building (Provost Mehaffey, who lived in Howth at the time, was said to have dismissed the original Church as 'an ugly whitewashed building'!). So next Sunday they will be welcoming the Archbishop of Armagh, Most Rev Dr Richard Clarke, as their guest preacher at their Anniversary Service at 7:00pm. There is an open invitation to all who might like to come and share in this occasion.

+++ Tuam visitor from Kajiado, Anglican Church of Kenya - Killala Cathedral was pleased to welcome the Ven. Naftaly Lemooke from the diocese of Kajiado, Anglican Church of Kenya, as their harvest preacher on Sunday 2nd October. He was accompanied by the Revd Roger Thompson, CMS Ireland Partnership Co-ordinator for Kenya. He brought greetings from the Bishop of Kajiado, the Rt Revd Gaddiel Lenini, and in his sermon he spoke of love and obedience as a right response to the cross of

Christ. He and Revd Thompson taught us a Swahili song 'Asante sana Jesu moyoni' which means 'Thank you very much Jesus in my heart.' The following day both Ven. Naftaly and Revd Roger attended a morning at the Bishop's house in Castlebar at which Naftaly shared something of his life and work in Kajiado diocese, and the life of the diocese there. The diocese is planning a trip to Kenya in November 2017, the provisional dates for which are 15–27th November 2017. The cost will be approximately €1600 per person. We plan to visit the diocese of Kajiado, especially the location of our current mission project there, the 'Maji' project. If anyone is interested in going, please contact Revd Stephen or Revd Jen McWhirter for more information. Application forms should be with Revd Jen McWhirter by 15th January 2017.

+++ How to use the Bible in your devotional life" - Following on the success of the last Reader "mini-retreat" (June 2016 "Handling Parish Conflict", Laurie Randall) CITI are very excited that the next "mini-retreat" will see Dr Katie Heffelfinger (CITI Lecturer in Biblical Studies and Hermeneutics) lead us in "How to use the Bible in your devotional life". This opportunity will focus on the place of Scripture

and how to read God's Word as part of our devotional life. Alongside Dr. Heffelfinger's teaching, there will be time for worship, prayer and of course "retreat"! If you are a Reader or engaged in any form of Christian ministry you are more than welcome to join us and create some space for building "the devotional life". Put the date in your diary, November 11th (7pm) to 12th 2016 (3pm). Please note: All bookings must be confirmed by Monday 7th November, 12 noon. David Brown. Church of Ireland Theological Institute Lay Training Department. 44 (0) 791 901 6979.

+++ Down & Connor's vocational Come and See Day - Have you ever considered a vocation to the priesthood? Why not explore it further and come along to the "Come and See" day. This event will provide you with an opportunity to visit our diocesan seminary, to meet those young men who are studying for the priesthood and to spend time in prayer and reflection. When: Saturday 22nd October 2016. Where: St. Malachy's Seminary, 120 Cliftonville Road, Belfast, BT14 6LA. Time: 10am – 4pm

News links to reports on faith, politics and education

Ireland's Tory Island in search of new priest

BBC News

Ireland's tiny Tory Island, home to about 150 inhabitants, begins its search for a new parish priest.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-37608614>

Worcester Observer

Further article on the three day visit by the Archbishop of Canterbury to the Diocese of Worcester. The paper reports a question and answer session with school students who asked the Archbishop about topics including Brexit, refugees, euthanasia, same sex marriage and the American presidential election. Having recently returned from a trip to Rome, the Archbishop said, "The visit to Rome felt very much like a step forward with the relationship between the Anglican community and the Roman Catholic Church. It makes sense to work together. If we build on the wonderful work of Rowan Williams, it is a step forward and could be quite historic."

<http://worcesterobserver.co.uk/news/visit-worcester-extremely-important-says-archbishop-canterbury/>

BBC

Report that the UK must lead the global fight against human trafficking, Prime Minister Theresa May will say later. Mrs May will tell a Westminster Abbey service that the UK will "work tirelessly" to combat modern slavery. The service will be held in honour of 18th Century anti-slavery campaigner William Wilberforce. The Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner, Kevin Hyland, who was appointed by Mrs May when she was Home Secretary, will release his first annual report later.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-37622798>

Vatican Radio

Report that more than 40,000 people have tuned into Church of England services broadcast on mobiles, laptops and tablets as part of the year-long *ChurchLive* project. Rev Arun Arora, director of communications for the Archbishops' Council, is quoted.

http://en.radiovaticana.va/news/2016/10/11/church_hails_streaming_scheme_a_success/1264324

Mail/Premier

Reports that the New Zealand judge who resigned as head of the independent inquiry into child sexual abuse has received a pay off worth £90,000. Dame Lowell Goddard, who was in the post for 18 months, had been on a total salary and benefits package worth almost £500,000, it was reported. The Inquiry is investigating cases of historical child sex abuse in a number of institutions including the C of E.

<http://www.premier.org.uk/News/UK/Dame-Lowell-Goddard-received-80-000-after-quitting-Church-abuse-inquiry>

Ind

Marking yesterday's 'National Coming Out Day 2016', the paper lists quotes from high profile figures, including the Bishop of Grantham, Nicholas Chamberlain.

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/people/national-coming-out-day-the-most-important-quotes-on-coming-out-a7355046.html>

Christian Today

Report that the new head of the London School of Theology is to be Revd Dr Calvin Samuel, a Methodist minister who is currently head of the Wesley Study Centre in Durham. He is also Academic Dean of St John's College, Durham

University. He will take up his appointment in January.

Comment

Times: “Vicar’s daughter has gambling in her sights.” The Prime Minister’s religious background has imbued her with the zeal to tackle the twin threats of betting and pornography says Alice Thomson.

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/vicars-daughter-has-gambling-in-her-sights-5rkkcljpv>

C of E Communications Blogs

There are numerous stories of people forming new friendships

<http://cofecomms.tumblr.com/post/151470063632/there-are-numerous-stories-of-people-forming-new>

Code for the Kingdom:

<http://cofecomms.tumblr.com/post/151605374242/code-for-the-kingdom>

World Mental Health Day:

<http://cofecomms.tumblr.com/post/151578004447/world-mental-health-day-love-your-neighbour-and>

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