

The essential daily brief on the Irish churches

Soul Waves Radio Features Bikers on a Mission Interview

Among this week's offerings by Soul Waves Radio is an interview with the Revd Andrew McCroskery, Rector of St Bartholomew's and Christ Church, Leeson Park, about the forthcoming Biker's on a Mission road trip to raise funds and highlight the work of the United Society.

Last March Soul Waves reported on Linda Chambers' plan to go barefoot during Holy Week. Linda is Director of the United Society in Ireland and she wanted to draw attention to the plight of people in Swaziland, a tiny African kingdom surrounded by South Africa and Mozambique.



The United Society is an Anglican organisation that began life 300 years ago to propagate the Gospel in foreign parts. Nowadays it partners people and communities around the world through their local churches. The Irish wing of the United Society, now known as Us, fundraises for Swaziland projects. Linda's week in her bare feet

raised €8,000. But in one of the poorest countries in the world with 26% of all adults HIV-positive, the need for outside aid is immense.

Two Church of Ireland rectors who are also motor cycle enthusiasts responded and offered to raise funds for Us. The reverends Andrew McCroskery and Nigel Kirkpatrick are using part of their annual vacation time to visit all thirty Church of Ireland cathedrals in Ireland over a ten-day period starting on the August bank holiday. They will do a complete circuit of Ireland visiting between two and four cathedrals per day. At each stop they will either join in a service or lead a short prayer service. They hope local bikers will come with them for part of the run and that people will offer donations to support the United Society's efforts in Swaziland.

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 the Revd Andrew McCroskery online at <http://www.soulwavesradio.ie/>

Sunday's Songs of Praise from St Patrick's, Jordanstown

Songs of Praise on BBC1 on Father's Day, Sunday June 15, will come from St Patrick's Parish Church, Jordanstown.

The Songs of Praise team visited St Patrick's on Saturday April 26, recording two programmes – one for Father's Day and one for Harvest Sunday.

The programmes, which will feature people from the wider borough, will also have input from local parishioners. One of the films to be shown on Sunday features the Central Belfast Child Contact Centre, run by Connor Mothers' Union. The programme will be broadcast at 5.25pm





The Bishop of Derry, Most Rev. Donal McKeown and Hollybush pupils pictured at the launch of Feed My Lambs, published by the Derry Diocesan Catechetical Centre at Thornhill College. The book has been published in book and digital format. Also included, are Therese Ferry, Marguerite Hamilton, principal, Thornhill College and Leona Mathews and Carmel Dunne, Hollybush PS.

Bishop of Derry launches new book about Pope Francis

The Bishop of Derry, Most Rev Donal McKeown was in Thornhill College yesterday to launch a book about Pope Francis for children and young people.

Derry Journal - The book, produced by the Derry Diocesan Catechetical Centre, was illustrated by Year Seven pupils from Hollybush Primary School, supported by three Art students from Thornhill College who are participating in the Pope John Paul II Award. The book aims to help young people get to know Pope Francis, a man who knows and loves Jesus Christ.

Therese Ferry, from the Catechetical Centre said, 'We hope the book will also encourage children and young people to read and reflect on the [stories of Jesus](#) and be inspired to develop a closer relationship with him, as their friend and brother'.

Music at the launch was provided by Thornhill College Choir and Miss Anne Marie Hickey. Ms Elizabeth Quigley led the choir in a beautiful rendition of Lord Make Me an Instrument of Your Peace, based on the prayer of St Francis and Anne Marie Hickey sang The Magnificat, reminding us that as Pope Francis has said Mary, the Mother of Jesus, sings the 'Magnificat of hope,' a song of great joy, with us, with people everywhere, all over the world.

The new book is available from the Derry Diocesan Catechetical Centre, The Gate Lodge, 2, Francis Street, Derry, telephone +442871264087, email:ddcc@derrydiocese.org. and from Veritas, Shipquay St, Derry. Through the expertise of Leonard Meehan,

St Cecilia's College, it will also be available shortly as an ebook.

Proceeds from the book will go towards faith development projects for young people in the diocese.

The Derry Diocesan Catechetical Centre tries to bring people of every age into a closer relationship with [Jesus](#) by forging stronger relationships between the family, Catholic schools and parish communities.

<http://www.derryjournal.com/news/your-community/bishop-launches-new-book-about-pope-francis-1-6116081>

Warmed Hearts and the Breath of God at Methodist Conference

Balmy weather – hard seats – icons – a sense of expectancy – storytelling – the breath of God. These are just some of the phrases that attach themselves to Conference Thursday when the focus was on warmed hearts.

Archbishop Richard Clarke set the tone in his opening Bible study as he reminded Conference that an open warmth of heart is something that God gives us as a gift for his glory and for the salvation of others. He challenged us not to confuse this gift with a superficial friendliness.

Something of the glory of the genuine article shone through in the warmth of the welcome to the guests from other churches and in the graciousness of their response. Bringing greetings from the Church of Ireland, Bishop Harold Miller recounted the first steps of the pioneering ecumenical journey that had led to breakthrough into full communion between the Church of Ireland and the Methodist Church in Ireland – a breakthrough evidenced in the

participation of three Anglican bishops in the installation of Methodist President the Rev Peter Murray the previous evening. This was a big public story of a historic breakthrough with far-reaching implications.

At many other points in the day smaller stories were told – sometimes by speakers at the front of the church or on video, but mostly in the circuit sharing times facilitated by the Rev Diane Clutterbuck. The Rev Patsy Holdsworth, an observer from the Moravian Church commented on how she had appreciated hearing about the new projects and events that local churches had taken on and how God had surprised and encouraged folk. ‘It was exciting to hear how people had got their feet wet in their circuits,’ she said.



Jon Mittendorf speaks at the evening celebration

One of the most memorable moments of the day was when Conference rose to give retiring Home Mission Secretary the Rev Des Bain a prolonged standing ovation. The theme of journeying has become ingrained in Methodist thinking over the years to the point where it was even given a gentle send-up in an introductory drama. But the recognition that Irish Methodism would not be where it is today without Des’s daring, caring, imaginative, missional leadership was palpable.

And then there was the evening celebration. Envisioning – challenging – hope-filled. Jon Mittendorf focused on the heartbeat of a creative God who seeks to breathe through his people to redeem the world. ‘God still breathes into rooms full of Christians,’ he said. ‘The prayer I want to invite you to pray is: “Breathe here. Breathe in us”’.

The day ended with the aisles of a historic church building where, as we had been reminded earlier, ‘the walls are soaked with prayer’, being filled with people seeking to pray this prayer.

‘Breathe here.’...‘Breathe in us.’...Amen.



Armagh train disaster memorial which was dedicated this week marking the 125th anniversary. 88 people died in the accident which involved participants in a Sunday school excursion.

Feature at - <http://www.newsletter.co.uk/news/sunday-school-outing-turned-into-terrible-tragedy-1-6110155>

Safeguarding Children and Towards Peace spiritual support service

Ms Teresa Devlin, the Chief Executive Officer of the National Board for Safeguarding Children, along with the chair of the National Board, Mr John Morgan, appraised the recent Irish Catholic Bishops' Conference of current issues including the status of the National Board's review process of dioceses and congregations into safeguarding practice in the Catholic Church in Ireland.

All twenty six dioceses on the island have now been reviewed. The National Board also provided an update on the revision of the Standards and Guidance document for the Catholic Church which is being reviewed to take account of developing legislation in the Republic of Ireland and best practice in safeguarding children. The National Board is assisting with the administration of the forthcoming Anglophone Conference which will take place in Rome from 7 – 11 July next. Amongst the speakers will be experts in the field of offering counselling and support to survivors and monitoring perpetrators of abuse within the Catholic Church

Feedback from survivors has indicated that part of the profoundly negative impact that abuse has had on their lives includes its effect on faith and their relationship with God. Towards Peace spiritual support service is a whole Church response to this concern. It has been established and funded by the Irish Catholic Bishops' Conference, Conference of Religious of Ireland and the Irish Missionary Union. There is no pre-determined road map and each

person travels their own spiritual journey at a different pace. The service has been launched in Cork and Knock and will be rolled out across the country over the coming months. Towards Peace offers ‘spiritual companions’ to those who wish to avail of its service. The companions are women and men, lay, religious and priests, who live in various parts of the country and who are trained to offer spiritual support and guidance to people using the service. Sister Mary Whyte is the Coordinator for Towards Peace and can be contacted on 00 353 (1) 505 3028 and by email on towardspeace@iecon.ie. Information on the spiritual support service can be found on www.towardspeace.ie

Protestant Bethany Homes babies ignored despite Tuam revelations

When is a dead baby in an unmarked grave not a dead baby in an unmarked grave? When it’s a Protestant baby!

Victoria White in Irish Independent - The Tuam “babies in the septic tank” scandal and the media hysteria which culminated in the Government’s frantic announcement of a statutory inquiry into mother and baby homes show how carefully we choose what we remember and when.

It is four long years since the academic Niall Meehan found records which led to 222 unmarked graves of babies and young children who died in the Protestant-run Bethany home in the Dublin suburb of Rathgar.

Last July survivors of the home were refused redress by this Government, a decision which the Government said was “based on an examination of the human suffering involved and no other criteria.” Alan Shatter told the survivors that the State would pay for a “modest” memorial to those 222 innocents who died of exactly the same causes — infection and hunger — as the Tuam babies.

Just two short months ago the memorial was raised in Mount Jerome bearing the names of 222 babies and young children. The “revelation” about the 800 baby deaths was made by Niall Meehan to the entire audience of media and public representatives who were at the service.

The information about a mortality rate for “illegitimate” babies sometimes four and six times as high as that of “legitimate” babies in the early and mid-twentieth century has been raised by many historians and picked over by many writers, including me. I wrote in this newspaper last November, “You would have to close your eyes very tightly if you were trying to deny that the deaths of these so-called illegitimate children was a policy.”

It seems no-one gave a tosser until a newspaper provided the story with the only enemy worth having: the Catholic Church. There has been hardly a mention of the Protestant Bethany Home babies because they ruin the story. We've got to blame the Catholic Church because it's a safe dump for anything we don't like about our history. The reason for the lack of care shown to "illegitimate" babies is ludicrously put down to "Catholic morality", as if morals ever evolved outside their economic context.

The Bethany and Tuam deaths are identical because their social and economic contexts were identical. Ireland was a poor country and during the previous century the population had halved. People carried the memory of Famine babies starving in their mothers' arms.

All societies have since the dawn of time "eliminated" babies they feel they cannot support in order to redistribute to those they can. During the Stone Age the human population remained quite static and many anthropologists believe this was achieved through infanticide. Nowadays we abort babies we feel we can't support, and although there are sometimes medical and emotional reasons for this decision, I would argue that deep down it is more often economic. More at-

http://www.irishexaminer.com/viewpoints/columnists/victoria-white/protestant-bethany-homes-babies-ignored-despite-tuam-revelations-271739.html#.U5oZBU_hVP4.facebook

PCI TEEM Malawi distance learning

TEEM is Theological Education by Extension (TEE) in the Malawian context, providing self-study course material on basic biblical, doctrinal, practical and ministerial subjects.

It was founded more than 30 years ago as a nationwide, distance-learning theological institution. Over the intervening years, it has provided practical training to thousands of students.

TEE programmes are widely used in many countries around the world.

It is important that church leaders are able to access training that will help deepen their biblical and doctrinal knowledge, as well as their personal relationship with God. However, it is not always possible for such people (particularly lay leaders) to leave their home environs or churches to attend a residential course at a Bible or Theological College, or they may not be able to afford the fees involved.

Recognising these difficulties, TEE, as an alternative leadership training system, brings theological, biblical and practical leadership training to people right where they live and worship. TEE is largely a church-based training programme that attempts to train students in a church setting, so that they can immediately apply their learning to the ministry they're involved in within their local context

[Volker Glissmann](#) took up the role of **Director** of Theological Education by Extension in Malawi (TEEM) in **2010**, and since then he has been working to develop and expand its work throughout Malawi.

TEEM are now producing a Newsletter to provide their supporters with more information on their work. The Newsletter provides more information about what TEEM does, how TEEM is developing E-learning, as well as a report on a visit to a TEE group in Malawi.

Read [TEEM's April Newsletter \(646Kb\)](#)

Church's Ministry of Healing Thanksgiving Service and Gift Day

The Church's Ministry of Healing: Ireland will hold its annual Thanksgiving Service and Gift Day on Sunday June 22 2014. This Service of Wholeness and Healing with Holy Communion will begin at 3.30 pm in St Michan's Church, Church Street, Dublin 7.

The Very Revd Dermot Dunne will celebrate and the Rt Revd Patrick Rooke will preach. During the service, there will be an opportunity for prayer with the laying on of hands and anointing with oil.

Everyone is invited to enjoy some light refreshments after the service.

St Michan's is easily reached by Luas or Dublin Bus. Parking is available on-street or in public car parks.

For further information contact: T: (01) 872 7876, E hello@ministryofhealing.ie or www.ministryofhealing.ie

Habitat NI's Big Build 2014 - an invitation

Habitat NI's Big Build event will take place in Caracal, Romania from 4-11 October 2014. Big Builders will work alongside the local community

to help transform a crumbling apartment block and deliver safe homes for 48 families.

Big Build is part of a wider community empowerment programme which is supporting vulnerable groups of Roma, women, young people and children. Work will begin on World Habitat Day, Monday 6 October.

Be part of one big impact week and work alongside a local community not just to build homes but to stand beside those who have so much less than we do and raise awareness of the impact of poverty housing.

To take part each participant is asked to raise £1850 which covers travel, in-country expenses and a donation to Habitat's work.

For more information or to register call Karen on 028 92 635 639, email karend@habitatni.co.uk or visit



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