

## Group from Cork C of I visit Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland



**Bishop Paul Colton and Bishop Björn  
Visktröm**

Yesterday on All Saints' Day, 1st November, a group from the United Dioceses of Cork, Cloyne and Ross, led by their Bishop, the Right Reverend Dr Paul Colton, travelled to Helsinki to make a visit to the Diocese of Borgå, the Swedish speaking Diocese in the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland. The group has been invited by the Bishop of Borgå, the Right Reverend Dr Björn Vikström, who visited Cork with his Diocesan staff in June 2016.

The Cork group will visit Helsinki, Porvoo, Tampere and Turku. Porvoo is the Finnish name of the city and diocese that gave its name in October 1992 to the Porvoo Common Statement resulting in the [Porvoo Communion](#) of Churches, and, as a result, creating the largest ecclesial grouping of Christians in northern Europe: four Anglican churches from these islands, as well as the Nordic and Baltic Lutheran Churches (except Latvia which has observer status). Bishop Colton was involved in the process, on behalf of the Church of Ireland, that led to that international agreement.

The group from Cork, Cloyne and Ross have a busy week ahead. They will meet with the Church Council and Swedish Speaking staff of the Diocese of Borgå. When they meet the Department of Foreign Affairs of the Evangelical

Lutheran Church of Finland they will be joined by the Irish Ambassador in Finland, Maeve Collins and some of her colleagues at the Irish Embassy in Helsinki. There will be a meeting in Helsinki about Church music in the Swedish speaking parish as part of the Cork, Cloyne and Ross Diocesan Church Music Scheme and creating connections between church musicians. There will be visits in Helsinki to the Cathedral and to the Church of the Rock.

A full day will be spent in Porvoo where, as well as visiting the famous cathedral, there will be a visit to the Chapter to meet the co-workers in the Diocese, and a briefing from the Rev. Tuomas Mäkipää, from the Anglican Chaplaincy of St. Nicholas, Helsinki. There will be an evening reception as guests of Bishop and Mrs Vikström in Bishop's House. Bishop and Mrs Susan Colton will reciprocate hospitality later in the visit whilst staying in the city of Turku.

One of the other highlights will be a visit on Saturday 4th November to Toijala where there is a church day for teenagers "Höstdagar", approximately 500 16-18 year old. (It's an annual camp for teenagers, for those participating in confirmation education and for their leaders). Afterwards a courtesy visit will be made to the Bishop of Tampere, the Right

Reverend Dr Matti Repo, before the group continue to the city of Turku (Åbo).

On Sunday morning, 5th November, Finnish National Television will broadcast the national Finnish Reformation 500 Service from Turku Cathedral at which the Cork group will be present. Afterwards they will receive a briefing from a representative of the Åbo Akademi, ThD Mikael Lindfelt, at the faculty of Theology.

The busy schedule will conclude on Monday, 6th November with a visit to the meeting of the General Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland, which Bishop Colton has been invited to address.

## **Insight from Scottish Episcopal Church at Changing Attitude Ireland AGM lecture**

How did the Scottish Episcopal Church do it?

This was the question in the minds of those who gathered for the Changing Attitude Ireland AGM lecture by the Provost of St Mary's Cathedral Glasgow, the Very Revd Kelvin Holdsworth, in Dublin on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> October. As a key member of Changing Attitude Scotland, Holdsworth has been at the heart of the campaign to permit its clergy to solemnise

marriages in church regardless of the couple's gender.



**Very Revd Kelvin Holdsworth**

“The key turned out to be the core value of ‘conscience’, and the importance of Christians respecting each other’s conscientious decisions”, the provost explained in the Molesworth Hall. The SEC has simply decided that clergy who wish to marry same-sex couples in church may register with their bishops to do so. But there is no pressure on clergy who do not wish to do this. We came through to the view that respect for conscience must go both ways; so some clergy will and others will not be

available to officiate at marriages between Christians of the same gender.”

In his sermon at Dublin’s Christ Church Cathedral on Sunday, Provost Holdsworth referred to the disputations between the Pharisees, sometimes involving Jesus, in 1<sup>st</sup> century Jerusalem. Such disputation has always continued to be part of church life, he argued, and dialogue and mutual listening is essential if we are to move towards the fullness of truth. At a certain point, though, decisions must be made, and courage is needed, lest we give way to fear in the face of threats.

The SEC has made an important and difficult decision on an ecclesially controversial matter without causing an internal split. Courage and respect for conscience were key factors in the achievement.

Changing Attitude Scotland is now about to close, having achieved its objective.

## **Songs of Praise from Enniskillen to recall Remembrance Day**

In a special Songs of Praise programme, Claire McCollum will be in Enniskillen where 30 years ago, an IRA bomb exploded during a

Remembrance Day ceremony. The programme will feature inspirational stories of hope and faith, including the story of Gordon and Joan Wilson, whose daughter Marie was the youngest victim. Joan recalls how her husband's deep Christian faith inspired his famous words hours after the atrocity: "I bear no ill will to anyone."

There will be hymns for Remembrance Day from St Macartin's Cathedral, Enniskillen, including 'O God Our Help In Ages Past' and 'Abide With Me'. The programme will be broadcast on BBC1 on Sunday, 12th November, at 4.20pm.

## **Remembrance weekend commemoration in Adare**

Adare Community Council will host a World War I heritage event to commemorate the 21 young men from the Adare area who lost their lives in World War I.

These men came from all classes and creeds in the area and many, sadly, were not honoured for their gallantry, fighting for "the freedom of small nations".

There will be a public display of memorabilia from the War in the Adare Village Hall, on

Saturday, 4th November, from 1.00 to 4.30pm, and on Sunday, 5th November, from 10am to 4.30pm.

People with houses or outbuildings of that era may have articles or items. Experts will be available to examine items which attendees may wish to have assessed.

On Friday, 10th November, at 7.30pm, St. Nicholas Church of the Church of Ireland will host a Commemoration in Poetry, Song, and Prayers, highlighting the work of a selection of World War I poets. On Sunday, 12th November, for the observation of Remembrance Sunday, the week will conclude with an Ecumenical Service in St. Nicholas Church, at 12.30 pm, followed by the dedication of a memorial plaque.

This plaque will list the names of the dead, as well as their military details and burial places. It will be placed on a cut stone obelisk to be located in the planned sensory garden in the Adare Village Park.

## **Maynooth conflict intervention centre hosts Irish missionary's lecture on peace and development in Eastern Africa**



Irish missionary, Fr. Padraig Devine SMA will deliver the Fourth Lt. Gen. Dermot Earley Memorial Lecture at the Edward M. Kennedy Institute for Conflict Intervention at Maynooth University on Thursday, 23 November at 6.30pm. The title of the lecture will be “Peace, Security and Sustainable Development in Eastern Africa”.

Fr. Devine is the founder and Executive Chairman of the Shalom Centre for Conflict Resolution and Reconciliation - <http://www.shalomconflictcenter.org/> - based in Kenya. A native of Frenchpark, Co. Roscommon, he is assisted by Fr. Oliver Noonan, another SMA missionary from Cork city. He was recipient of the Caring Award from the Caring Institute in the USA in 2013, and was short-listed this year for the Tipperary Peace Prize.

In his address, Fr. Devine will discuss his experience of working with communities in East Africa to promote peace, justice, security, reconciliation, and conflict transformation. In particular, he will focus on Shalom’s approach to its work with tribal and community leaders on education, empowerment and transcending ethnic and religious boundaries to get to the root causes of conflict.

Shalom has had considerable success in replacing conflict and violence with peace and co-operation in renowned conflict areas catalyzed by negative ethnicity, long-standing animosities, cultural differences, resource competition, and institutional deficiencies. It is comprised of an international team of conflict resolution experts from various religious backgrounds and disciplines.

It focuses on the root cause of violence in the tribal lands of eastern Africa. It was created in the wake of persistent widespread violence and dislocation across northern Kenya, and in the aftermath of the disputed Kenyan elections of 2008. Its major impact on peace initiatives has been recognised by both state and church bodies with which it has established collaborative working relationships. Its work is strictly non-sectarian and is closely aligned with civil society organisations. It is supported by partner organisations and a network of visionary donors, primarily in the United States, the UK and Ireland where it has support groups.

Shalom benefits from practical collaboration with key organisations with which it has Memorandums of Understanding. These are the eight governments of eastern Africa that comprise the Intergovernmental Authority on

Development, the Association of Member Episcopal Conferences in Eastern Africa, the Edward M. Kennedy Institute for Conflict Intervention at Maynooth University, and the Institute for Conflict Transformation at Queen's University Belfast.

Following a lecture Fr. Padraig delivered at the University of Texas in Austin last month, preparations are now being made for a memorandum of understanding between the university and Shalom.

During his visit to Kenya last November, then Minister of State for Overseas aid, Joe McHugh TD spent a day in Tuum in Samburu county - a remote part of northern Kenya – where he saw at first hand how the Samburu and Turkana pastoralist communities are trying, with support from Shalom, to address their long-standing ethnic differences to live in peaceful co-existence.

During the EU Development Council Meeting in Brussels last May, Minister McHugh used that experience to describe Shalom as a successful model of peace-building and conflict resolution that should be supported.

Admission to the lecture in Maynooth is free. Places can be reserved by email to [kennedyinstitute@mu.ie](mailto:kennedyinstitute@mu.ie) or by telephone to 01-7086629 before 17 November.

## **Ballyclare Male Choir in concert for Children's Hospice Christmas Campaign, "Jingle All The Way"**

Ballyclare Male Choir will host a concert at First Larne Presbyterian Church with special guests, Roddensvale School Choir, Larne Adult School Choirs and Larne Grammar School Chorale Group.

Proceeds from the concert, on Friday, November 24, will be donated to Northern Ireland Children's Hospice Christmas Campaign, "Jingle All The Way."

Ballyclare Male Choir Secretary, Hubert Greer is looking forward to an exceptional evening of song, inspired by the bravest of children who receive specialist palliative care from Northern Ireland's only Children's Hospice.

Mr Greer said: "We are delighted to be in a position to host this wonderful evening in support of Northern Ireland Children's Hospice.

It is also a privilege and to have students from Roddensvale Special School Choir, Larne Adult Centre Choirs and Larne Grammar School Chorale Group joining us at First Presbyterian



## **Supporting Jingle All The Way at Roddensvale Special School.**

Larne on 24th November. It really promises to be a very entertaining concert and one not to be missed."

Northern Ireland Children's Hospice Regional Fundraiser Catherine O'Hara said "This will be an unforgettable night of song and I would like to sincerely thank everyone involved. The Choir masters have met, the programme for the evening has been planned and hours of practice

are ongoing for this very special “Jingle All The Way” Concert. We are deeply grateful to Ballyclare Male Choir, Roddensvale and Larne Grammar Schools, Larne Adult Centre and First Larne Presbyterian Church and wish everyone the best of luck.

“Proceeds from this show will help us to maintain a unique service of specialist care for our life limited and life threatened children and young people in the Larne area and across Northern Ireland. With over £3.2 million needed every year, nights like these are a life line to our charity and the families who need our care. We appreciate every penny.” Doors open at 7.00pm. Show Time: 7.30pm. Report courtesy Larne Times.

## **Dublin cathedral concert in aid of Refugee Housing appeal**

Christ Church Cathedral is holding a concert in aid of Dublin & Glendalough's Diocesan Refugee Housing Appeal on Sunday November 26 at 8pm.

The concert will feature Discovery Gospel Choir and High Hopes Choir who will provide the

fabulous music for the evening of awareness raising and fundraising.

Admission to the concert is free but donations are invited towards the appeal.

The Diocesan Refugee Housing Appeal supports the Irish Refugee Council's transitional housing project which helps people who have been given Refugee Status in Ireland move from the Direct Provision system to independent accommodation.

Apart from having basic shelter needs met, support is provided to enable people to continue the process of integration without the considerable stress of finding suitable accommodation in a highly competitive market. This includes securing full time employment, commencing third level education, pursuing advanced English classes and having qualifications accredited in Ireland.

## **Reformation revisited in St Comgall's, Rathcoole**

St Comgall's Parish, Rathcoole, held both a special service and exhibition to commemorate the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the beginning of the Protestant Reformation.

Priest-in-charge, the Rev Arlene Moore said it was decided to commemorate rather than celebrate this anniversary 'to reflect sorrow for



**The Rev Arlene Moore with some of the exhibits on display in the exhibition in St Comgall's commemorating the 500th anniversary of the Reformation.**

the pain and division in the Body of Christ that has resulted.'

She said: "However, we did want to remember and thank God for our heritage and all the good



that has issued from the Reformation. We wanted to do something in our day to mark this important historic milestone especially in a predominantly Protestant estate, such as Rathcoole.”

She said that as well as holding a special service, the parish wanted to do something more creative as well. “Conscious of the fact that many Protestants really do NOT know their own history we felt that it would be good to try and address that in an accessible way,” she said.

“We wanted to do something that would help the congregation share their faith and reach out to others with the love of God and as a way of bringing the Reformation alive.”

Mr Tom Nelson put together a commemorative booklet, with images and snippets from history about various key people and events. A special order of service was compiled and the liturgy crafted thematically around the Five Solas.

Elements from various denominational traditions were used: The Lutheran prayer book, the Heidelberg catechism, material from Presbyterian CI, and MCI, as well as the Lund statement. Thanks to Rev Nigel Dunne, permission was given to use some of the liturgical material, lyrics and ecumenical readings

from the 500<sup>th</sup> Reformation anniversary service in St Fin Barre's Cathedral, Cork, scheduled to be broadcast by RTE that same day.



**A scroll containing 95 ideas for random acts of kindness/service accompanied by 95 equivalent supporting Scriptures was pinned to the outside of the front door.**

Arlene said that in true Luther style a surprise awaited the congregation when they arrived on Sunday of the anniversary. "A colourful exhibition had been set up in the foyer and decorated the stairs leading to the church

sanctuary itself. It was partly based on the Luther1517 project booklet 'Luther's life in Ten Objects', put together as a joint initiative between the Linenhall Library, Belfast and the Orange Order," she said.

The display also included books on Luther, his wife Katarina de Bora and other key players such as Calvin, Zwingli, Jan Hus and Erasmus, as well as on the outworking of the Reformation in various countries. There were also DVDs, a copy of Tyndale's 1526 New Testament; a special anniversary edition of Luther's 1534 Bible in German, the now famous Playmobil Luther, ink printing stamps, quill pens and calligraphy parchments; and other commemorative objects, toy figures and special memorabilia from Germany.

The children at the service were introduced to the symbolism of Luther's rose and issued with the challenge of learning by heart the Scriptures contained in Luther's pouches, which each child received to take home as a memento.

Ninety five key facts about Luther's life were woven into the sermon along with two challenges reflecting the Gospel lectionary reading (Matt 22:35-) Using a 'Where's Wally?' image people were invited to connect with the

question 'Where's God?', Luther's personal quest and their own life experience.

Then people were encouraged to consider how they might need to change to meet the challenges of presenting the Gospel today. The 95 Acts of service challenge was offered as one way of beginning this journey of re-formation and calling Protestant Christians again to the Biblical way of Jesus.

A scroll containing 95 ideas for random acts of kindness/service accompanied by 95 equivalent supporting Scriptures was unfurled and then taken by one of the Church wardens to be pinned to the outside of the front door as a statement of protest at human self-centredness, and as a symbol of desire to change/repent.

The congregation inside stood to join in an act of commitment.

Arlene added: "So the Reformation was not only revisited but begins again in Rathcoole!"

After the service various there was an array of special Reformation themed treats prepared secretly by Rev Arlene and her family – a 'diet' of gummy and Squirly worms; Luther's rose buns, edible Twiglet, Matchmaker and marshmallow hammers with fruit winder scrolls; iced fig roll

and chocolate biccie Bibles, chocolate gold coins, and even delicious Luther shaped shortbread, made by Carol Moorehead (a chef and cousin of Rev Arlene Moore)

*(Should you wish to participate, copies of the 95 Acts of Service are available on request from any member of St Comgall's or Rev Arlene Moore [sendmyemails2me@yahoo.com](mailto:sendmyemails2me@yahoo.com))*

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