

Unwanted household items collected in Portglenone and Ahoghill are building hope in Burkina Faso



Norman Worthington from Bridge of Hope with Mayor Paul Reid, Stephen Holgate and Philip Thompson from Mid and East Antrim Borough Council.

A Mid and East Antrim recycling scheme is helping to build schools, a church and health clinic in West Africa.

Unwanted household items which would otherwise have been sent to landfill are helping to fund four schools, a church and a health clinic in Burkina Faso.

Mid and East Antrim Borough Council's partnership with Bridge of Hope, a social enterprise with centres in Portglenone and Ahoghill, has resulted in the diverting of tonnes of material from landfill while also improving the lives of people in Burkina Faso.

A landlocked country of around 274,200 square kilometres, Burkina Faso is a poor country even by West African standards, and has suffered from recurring droughts and military coups.

Burkina Faso, which means "land of honest men", has faced domestic and global concern over the state of its economy and human rights over the years.

The previously unwanted items from Mid and East Antrim have generated an income stream of more than £100,000 for humanitarian relief work



Norman Worthington from Bridge of Hope

since the scheme was set up and saved thousands of pounds of local ratepayers' money.

The initiative also offers items for sale at a low cost to residents of Mid and East Antrim. Mid and East Antrim's Mayor, Councillor Paul Reid, recently visited Bridge of Hope's Portglenone base and confirmed he was hugely impressed by the ongoing work.

Mayor Reid said: "Back in 2015 a deal was agreed to divert material from Householder Recycling Centres in the borough to Bridge of Hope.

“The organisation is headed up by Norman Worthington, who is a church pastor within the local community.

“Our staff at the recycling centres identify and set aside material which is in a condition good enough to be considered for re-use. “Bridge of Hope undertake regular collections and transport these items to their base in Portglenone.

“There they are sorted, repairs carried out if needed and resold to the public through shops manned by volunteers.

“It was a privilege to meet with the volunteers and Norman, and I commend them for their work on this remarkable project which is having such a positive effect on the lives of people thousands of miles from home,” said Councillor Reid.

Bridge of Hope diverted 38 tonnes of material in 2015/16 and 46 tonnes last year.

The tonnage diverted by Bridge of Hope has realised savings to Council of more than £8,400 to date. As a result of the partnership, three primary schools, one secondary school, a church and a health clinic are being provided to people in Burkina Faso.

App maps Troubles 'killing fields' of Fermanagh

A smartphone app dubbed The Killing Fields is being launched to pinpoint the scenes of more than 100 of the Troubles' most vicious terror outrages.

It is being developed by victims organisation the South East Fermanagh Foundation, whose motto is: "I'll never forget."

Head of the SEFF Kenny Donaldson said the app is not only being developed as a reference for tourists and locals.

It will supplement the experience of those taking the SEFF Border Trail tour, which visits the sites of some of Co Fermanagh's most horrific paramilitary murders.

Mr Donaldson said: "Our Border Trail tour has been running for some time and we thought it was time to augment the experience with an app. Across Co Fermanagh, 112 people were killed as a result of terrorism in the Troubles. The Border Trail tour in conjunction with the app will bring these attacks vividly to life and show the



Head of the SEFF Kenny Donaldson

deep hurts inflicted on communities by telling people exactly what happened, where and why.

"It will also show there are still generations of victims of terrorism who need help and support."

SEFF say their Border Trail walk highlights how Fermanagh was a 'killing field' area during the Troubles. One of the most notorious attacks was the IRA's 1987 Enniskillen Remembrance Day bomb, which killed 11 and injured 63 others.

The Border Trail tour and its upcoming app includes a forensic history of more than 100 other attacks in the area, including shootings of police officers and families.

Mr Donaldson's SEFF group says in a promotion for its Border Trail tour: "This allows you to pay tribute to the memory and walk respectfully in the footsteps of some of those individuals, who perished at the hands of terrorists during the Northern Ireland Troubles.

"Mapping incidents in this border location of south-east Fermanagh helps to paint a graphically visual and educational interpretation of recent past events, embedding each memory of loss and trauma into the rural landscape.

"These atrocities and the fear of further attacks forced an exodus of Protestant farmers from the border area."

Archbishop of Dublin strengthens mission links with Chota Nagpur

The chairperson and the secretary of Dublin University Mission to Chota Nagpur, Archbishop Michael Jackson and the Revd Steve Brunn, are currently spending time in Ranchi and Hazaribagh where the focus of the Mission has been and where the footfall of the Mission historically has been.

They are visiting schools and colleges, hospitals and nursing institutions along with the diocesan



theological college. Their hope is that as Dublin University and the Church of Ireland engage afresh with DUMCN there will be a vibrant two-way exchange of experience between India and Ireland as the years progress and the link strengthens.

Notable names of members of the Church of Ireland who have been associated with the Mission in Chota Nagpur are, among others Bishop Pakenham-Walsh (obit), Miss Elizabeth Ferrar (obit) and the Reverend Canon William Marshall.

The Archbishop arrived in Ranchi on Thursday last from Nagpur where he had been participating in a Consultation on Inter Faith Approaches to Disability Issues in India in The Pallotine Conference Centre (August 7–9). During

that time he also met with the Bishop of Nagpur (Bishop Paul Dupare) and the diocesan clergy. The Revd Steve Brunn, Chaplain of Trinity College, and Secretary of DUMCN, had arrived in Ranchi the previous day.

Steve, together with members of the Diocesan Clergy and Lay Team of Chota Nagpur Diocese, met the Archbishop at Ranchi Airport.

There followed a meeting over lunch where the local church leaders (Diocesan Secretary, Diocesan Vice-President, Diocesan Treasurer, Diocesan Secretary for Education, Diocesan Registrar, Director of the Diocesan Catechist School and others) briefed the Archbishop and Steve on aspects of diocesan life and of on-going work supported by DUMCN.

They explained that the Diocese of Chota Nagpur is set in a state with a population of 31.9 million people. They described the range of diocesan life as consisting in some 70 parishes and 150 congregations; ministering to a wide range of tribal peoples with a broad diversity of languages; taking responsibility for healthcare and educational institutions, both primary and secondary and sensitive to the needs of people whatever their economic standing. The third strand of outreach into the society is agricultural

development programmes, as 85% of the population of the state is involved in agriculture.

The Archbishop and Steve then went to The Bishop Westcott Boys' School, Namkom where they were received and welcomed by The Principal, Mr RI Thornton. The school was founded in 1927 by The Right Reverend Foss Westcott, bishop of Chota Nagpur and Bishop Westcott subsequently became Metropolitan of India, Ceylon and Burma. The Archbishop and Steve are based in the school during their time in Chota Nagpur.

Archbishop Jackson has been writing about their visit so far

Wedding dress festival and night of wedding music in Buncrana church

Christ Church, Buncrana, is to host a couple of events this month as a contribution to the Republic of Ireland's Heritage Week celebrations.

The church, on Market Square, Buncrana, will be the venue for a four-day wedding dress festival and for a night of wedding music.

The wedding dress festival will run from Thursday 24th – Sunday 27th August. Dresses will be on show from 10 am – 7pm from Thursday until Saturday, and from 2pm – 7pm on Sunday. The festival will close with a short Service of Thanksgiving on Sunday 27th August at 7.30pm.

The wedding dresses and accessories on display have all been worn or used by local women or women with local connections, and date from the 1950s to a dress worn just a few weeks ago.

On Friday 25th August there will be a night of wedding music in Christ Church, beginning at 7.30pm. Local musicians will play and sing favourites that have been performed at local weddings. There will be a cup of tea for audience-members after the concert. Both the festival and the concert are free of charge. Donations will be welcome, though, and will go towards badly-needed repairs to the church.

Mothers Union offers marketing posters

The MU has produced Marketing Posters which can be used to help promote Mothers' Union activities and fundraising appeals

A new batch of posters highlights MU work around the world - you are invited to use them on your notice boards or anywhere else you think MU work can be promoted!

See - <http://www.themothersunion.org/content/marketing-posters>

Champions theme at Children's Holiday Club in Carrigaline



A joint holiday club was organised by the Carrigaline Union and Templebreedy Group of parishes in the Diocese of Cork once again this year. This year it was called: 'Champions!'.

50 children and 20 teen leaders (along with the adult leaders) had a great week full of fun and games with puppets, drama, song and dance. The program, written by John Hardwick who visited the Diocese last year as part of an initiative by the Children's Ministry Group in Cork, Cloyne and Ross, explored sports-related themes of direction, distraction, dedication, determination and decoration through stories of the life of Jesus.

Priests should report abuse confessions, says Australian inquiry

Priests who fail to tell police about suspected child sexual abuse should face criminal charges, even if they learn of abuse during a confidential religious confession, Australia's most powerful investigative authority has recommended.

Australia's Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse - the nation's highest form of inquiry - recommended that all states and territories in Australia introduce legislation which would make it a criminal offence for people to fail to report child sexual abuse in an institutional setting. Clergy who find

out about sexual abuse during a religious confession would not be exempt.

"The right to practise one's religious beliefs must accommodate civil society's obligation to provide for the safety of all and, in particular, children's safety from sexual abuse," the commission wrote in a report released on Monday.

"Institutions directed to caring for and providing services for children, including religious institutions, must provide an environment where children are safe from sexual abuse. Reporting information relevant to child sexual abuse to the police is critical to ensuring the safety of children."

Current laws on reporting knowledge of crimes vary across Australia. In some jurisdictions, information received during religious confessions - which are considered highly confidential by churches - is considered privileged, and thus exempt from mandatory reporting requirements.

The Royal Commission has been investigating since 2013 how churches and other institutions responded to the sexual abuse of children in Australia over the last several decades. The reporting requirement it urged Australia to adopt

was one of 85 recommendations it made in a report aimed at revamping the criminal justice system to ensure fairer treatment of victims of child sexual abuse.

The reporting mandate would apply to people who failed to tell police that they knew, suspected or even should have suspected that an adult associated with their institution was sexually abusing a child.

If such a law was actually imposed in Australia, priests would ostensibly have to choose between following criminal law or canon law, which forbids them from revealing anything they hear during confession.

In its report, the commission acknowledged the significance placed upon the confidentiality of religious confessions, particularly by the Catholic Church. But the commission also said it had learned of cases in which abusers had confessed to clergy that they had sexually assaulted children and then went on to re-offend, before seeking forgiveness yet again.

The issue of whether religious confessions should be considered privileged has long plagued governments and courts across the world.

In the United States, the Louisiana state Supreme Court ruled last year that state law does not require a priest to notify authorities after hearing evidence of child abuse from a child making a confession. That ruling came amid a lawsuit against Catholic authorities by parents who say their daughter was sexually abused by a parishioner at a local church.

Ireland introduced legislation in 2012 which made it a legal requirement to report knowledge of crimes against children, and made no exemption for priests who received information about crimes during confession. How that law has been applied since then, though, is unclear; Australia's Royal Commission noted in its report that the issue has yet to be tested in Ireland's courts.

Global response to East Africa's hunger crisis is only 'the tip of the iceberg', says Christian Aid

Christian Aid's [emergency fundraising drive](#) for East Africa's hunger crisis has raised more than £2.1m in six months says the charity, as it urges the global community to do more to stop the scandal of mass starvation.

To date, Christian Aid and its local partners have helped nearly 75,000 people across Ethiopia, Kenya and South Sudan, since launching an appeal an emergency appeal in February.

Christian Aid is now issuing a renewed plea for urgent, comprehensive global action to help some of the 20 million people affected by food shortages, fuelled by either severe drought or conflict.

Speaking from Nairobi, Christian Aid's regional humanitarian adviser Mbaraka Fazal said: "In terms of scale and intensity, this is the worst disaster that I have seen in my 20 years as a humanitarian worker, and the worst in our generation. It is certainly the most severe crisis that Christian Aid and our partners here in East Africa have dealt with.

"We are working relentlessly to support those in need of life-saving assistance. So far we have managed to deliver aid to 74,879 people: from helping them access food and clean water, to giving them the means to catch fish, feed their cattle, earn an income and keep their children in school.

"This is all thanks to the generosity of those who have donated. Over the coming weeks we are



intensifying our response, using these funds and money from the Disasters Emergency Committee's (DEC) appeal.

“However, over 16 million people are affected by this catastrophe: together with other national and international aid agencies, we are only touching the tip of the iceberg. So many lives hang in the balance, as hunger, thirst and disease tighten their grip.

“In 2017, it is a scandal that anyone should starve to death. Yet, that is the reality facing millions of people – from babies to the most elderly. As an international community, we cannot just sit by and watch from the side-lines.

We can, and we must, do more. We need extra funding to help women, children and men not only survive, but also rebuild their lives.”

In Kenya and Ethiopia, persistent drought and poor rains have driven people to their limit: harvests have failed, water sources have dried up, and cattle – the life-source for many – have died in their thousands. In South Sudan, violent conflict has forced millions to abandon their homes and land, with [more than half of the population](#) severely short of food.

Mbaraka Fazal said: “With the dry season now beginning, conditions are about to deteriorate even further. People are in a very vulnerable situation: they have long exhausted all their means of coping. Most of them have lost almost all their livelihoods, especially the families who rely on livestock, while those who farm have been unable to grow any crops.

“In order to survive, people are migrating long distances to search for food, safe water, work and grazing lands for their animals. This is leading to conflict between different people groups, as tensions rise over what little resources remain.

“When groups migrate, it is the children, women,

the elderly and those with disabilities who are left behind: with hardly anything to eat, they scrape by on wild fruits and waterlilies. Malnutrition levels are alarmingly high, especially for under-five-year-olds.

"We can't sit by and watch a generation of children die before they have had a chance to live. We need to act now."

Press watch

Ruth Dudley Edwards writes -

The liberal authoritarians manipulating social media in order to stifle honest debate

<http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/opinion/columnists/ruth-dudley-edwards/the-liberal-authoritarians-manipulating-social-media-in-order-to-stifle-honest-debate-36028292.html?>

Anger as RTE blocks rugby fans in NI from seeing World Cup tie

<http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/northern-ireland/anger-as-rte-blocks-rugby-fans-in-ni-from-seeing-world-cup-tie-36028045.html?>

S Times/Tel/Mail

Reports on interview with Katharine Welby-Roberts, daughter of the Archbishop of Canterbury, in advance of the publication of

her book *I Thought There Would be Cake*. The book will be published by SPCK on Thursday.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/news/archbishop-unable-to-help-suicidal-daughter-tpj79c95s>

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2017/08/13/katherine-welby-roberts-admits-could-not-turn-family-depression/>

[http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-4787242/Katharine-Welby-didn-t-ask-dad-help.html?](http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-4787242/Katharine-Welby-didn-t-ask-dad-help.html?ITO=1490&ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490)

[ITO=1490&ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490](http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-4787242/Katharine-Welby-didn-t-ask-dad-help.html?ITO=1490&ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490)

Times

Report that Roman Catholics are the largest religious denomination for the first time amongst prisoners in England and Wales. The article quotes the Bishop of Rochester, James Langstaff, who is Bishop to Prisons.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/catholic-inmates-outnumber-anglicans-for-the-first-time-s5qc6jwjf>

Mail

Report that the Labour Party is supporting efforts to limit the maximum stake on Fixed Odds Betting Terminals (FOBTs). The article refers to the letter sent last week to the Chancellor Philip Hammond by the Bishop of St

www.churchnewsireland.org

News August 15

Albans, Alan Smith, seeking reassurances that a review of FOBTs will go ahead and publish this autumn

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-4787270/Labour-backs-clampdown-crack-cocaine-betting-machines.html>

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