

CREATING COMMUNITY



CELEBRATING DIVERSITY

August, 2010

Newsletter No 23

Our Walk Round Lisbellaw Churches



Msgr Joseph McGuinness highlighting the features of St Mary's church, Lisbellaw, despite the scaffolding.



Rev. Bryan Kerr chats with Rev. David Cupples before telling us about Lisbellaw Parish church.

John writes: Once again we were blessed with sunny weather on June 6th, when some thirty local Christians and Fermanagh Churches Forum members visited the Methodist, Catholic, Presbyterian and Church of Ireland churches in Lisbellaw. Rev. Mark Liddicoat of the Methodist church was able to come with us round all the other churches, after welcoming us to his at the start, and the clergy from the other three made time in their busy schedules to greet us in their own churches, helped by congregational members in recounting details from their past histories. Msgr McGuinness apologised for scaffolding filling St Mary's, but did not let that prevent him from telling us about the special history of its construction that makes it more Presbyterian in layout than most Catholic churches, though there are more characteristic features, including an interesting painting of St Joseph the Worker by Irish artist Dan O'Neill. Participants expressed their enjoyment in taking part in a pleasant and interesting afternoon's exploration of one another's churches and religious cultures, rounded



St Joseph the Worker painting in St Mary's church.

off with very welcome refreshments provided most generously in the Methodist hall by local ladies. FCF would encourage the local churches in Lisbellaw to build on this event and increase interaction among the congregations in the town in the future.

On Saturday
4th September

Join the Fermanagh
Churches Forum on
our visit to



Downpatrick

including guided tours of the
Saint Patrick Centre and Down
Cathedral



website: www.fermanaghchurchesforum.org
email: info@fermanaghchurchesforum.org
or phone Tanya Jones on 028 66 340227

FCF contact person: Tanya Jones, 7 Lakeside Avenue, Irvinestown Road, Enniskillen. (028) 66340227 info@fermanaghchurchesforum.org

Ethical Leadership in Community Relations Week



Baroness Nuala O'Loan, Jane Russell, Tommy Gallagher, Bishop Harold Miller, Thomas Maguire & Tanya Jones.

Eileen writes: FCF members were among over 80 church groups from across Northern Ireland attending a conference on *Ethical Leadership in Church and Society* organised by the Irish School of Ecumenics Education and Reconciliation programme. Keynote speakers, Bishop Harold Miller of Down and Dromore diocese, and Baroness Nuala O'Loan, discussed *The Nature of Power and Authority*; and Dr Johnston McMaster spoke on *The Value Base of Ethical Leadership*. The event held in the Long Gallery at Stormont on Wednesday, April 28, was one of 150 taking place across Northern Ireland during Community Relations Week. It was co-ordinated by the Community Relations Council (CRC) as part of an ongoing programme by CONNECT, the representative body for church fora and interchurch groups, and organised by Churches Fora Development Officer, Eileen Gallagher, a member of the CRC.

Ordination of Bishop Liam MacDaid of Clogher



Bishop MacDaid in St Macartan's Cathedral, Monaghan, after the service.

FCF were invited to this important Catholic church event, and three of the committee were happy to attend.



Liz Sheridan, Tanya Jones and John Phillips represented Fermanagh Churches Forum at the ordination on 25 July.

Please pay your £10 membership for 2011 by 31.10.10 to John Phillips, 60 Old Rossorry Road, BT74 7LF.

Faith and Friendship meet in Lisnaskea



Group photo in Lisnaskea at the start of our meeting

John writes: The annual gathering of Faith and Friendship groups from across Northern Ireland on Saturday, 22nd May was a well attended and joyful event, in which we were led by Anne Gibson and Rev. Ruth Patterson in reflection, prayer, discussion, and friendly interaction, concluding with most enjoyable refreshments. Many thanks to the Lisnaskea group for their hospitality.

Pentecost Service in Clones



Participants including some from FCF gathering in Clones

Tanya writes: On Pentecost Sunday, 23rd May, several FCF members travelled to the Round Tower in Clones for the annual interchurch prayer service. As in past years, it was held in the open air, and again the sun shone upon us. Bishop Joseph Duffy spoke of the early monastic site in Clones, founded in the sixth century by Saint Tiarnach or Tighernach, and about the Round Tower itself, believed to date from the tenth century. Bishop Michael Jackson reflected upon the Pentecost readings, particularly Acts 2:14-18, "Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams." Two students from Clones then spoke about their own faith and experience, after which Bishop Noel Treanor explored the themes of justice, mission and ecology suggested by the reading from Genesis 2: 1-3. Following the closing prayers and hymns, we walked to the Protestant (Church of Ireland) Hall where refreshments were kindly provided. The weather stayed fine all day, providing an ideal environment for an afternoon of reflection, fellowship and inspiration.

Dates For Your Diary

(for more details see www.fermanaghchurchesforum.org)

Saturday, 4.9.10, Downpatrick visit. Book by 21.8.10.

Faith & Friendship – Lisnaskea in Enterprise Centre monthly on 2nd Thursdays from 9.9.10.

- Enniskillen in the Catholic parish centre on 3rd Mondays, from 20.9.10.

Wednesday, 20.10.10, "Any Questions" in the Clinton Centre at 7.30 p.m.

Thursday, 9.12.10, AGM and Christmas party.