

CREATING COMMUNITY



CELEBRATING DIVERSITY

January, 2012

# Newsletter No 27

## Our AGM, 7.12.11

*John writes:* The speaker at our AGM was David Bolton, who gave a very informative talk on "How can we live with trauma." He drew extensively from the experience of the Northern Ireland Centre for Trauma & Transformation in describing how sufferers from Post Traumatic Stress Syndrome can be helped, and from that suggested that communities may be similarly helped. The way the traumatised handle memories, whether personal or in the case of communities the remembering of anniversaries is important. Sadly his centre, with so much experience and expertise has had to close for lack of financial support, but he hopes some of the experts will use their skills elsewhere and we are



David Bolton, speaker at our AGM

very pleased that he has come again on to FCF management committee.

Though the attendance of about 25 was a little disappointing, our AGM was very friendly. Our gratitude to Kate Doherty, out-going joint chairperson, and to a retiring committee member, Liz Sheridan, was expressed with colourful bouquets. Tanya Jones will remain joint chair, temporarily on her own, till a second joint chair can be found. Newly elected members of the committee were David Bolton and Eileen Gallagher, and others staying on are Ronnie Brown, Maureen Hoy, John Phillips, Barbara Rivers and Jane Russell.



Gathering for the AGM



Kate Doherty, Tanya Jones and Liz Sheridan with bouquets



## 400th Anniversary of the King James Bible



**Professor Lawrence Kirkpatrick speaking on the "KJV"**

*John writes:* On 21<sup>st</sup> September in Fermanagh House, Professor Kirkpatrick gave an extremely interesting and informative account of the printing of the King James "Authorised" Version of the Bible 400 years ago. From 405 A.D. for over 1000 years the Latin Vulgate translation of the Bible had been central to the church, but first Wycliffe, then Gutenberg, Luther, Tyndale and Coverdale produced translations, followed by others causing varying degrees of controversy, until King James 1st, having newly united the crowns of Scotland and England sought to build accord among differing Christians by appointing 6 panels of a total of 54 Biblical scholars, who worked for nearly 3 years to produce a draft in 1610 that was printed the following year. The language of this new version was largely based on Tyndale's translation, so was already slightly archaic when it was printed, but it was worded so that it would flow well when read aloud, given that so few folk were literate enough to read the Bible by themselves. Commercial interests led the printer of the early versions to take insufficient care over proof reading, and there were many minor errors, further reducing the popularity of the KJV, until Charles 1st banned all other versions and ensured its adoption! Interestingly the version of the KJV printed today follows a text only produced by Blayney in 1769 after 24,000 corrections. Since then the discovery of earlier manuscripts than those the King James's scholars worked from, such as the Codex Sinaiticus, Codex Vaticanus and the Dead Sea Scrolls and the need to use contemporary language have led to many more translations, and of course translations have been made into many other languages. Professor Kirkpatrick provided a very interesting and successful start to our FCF programme this year. We are most grateful to him.

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**Get Peacejam tickets ahead from Tanya, or at the door on 25th.**

## Overcoming Obstacles to Reconciliation



**Barbara Walshe flanked by joint chairs, Tanya and Kate**

*Tanya writes:* In November we welcomed Barbara Walshe, who talked and led discussion about overcoming obstacles to reconciliation. We were particularly pleased to have several members of the Cookstown Churches Forum attend. Barbara spoke movingly of her own experiences, from rural County Clare to the diverse churches of Belfast, and of how other traditions of worship can enrich our Christian lives. She is currently making a series of radio programmes for RTE, documenting the often unnoticed cross-community work carried out by ordinary people in Northern Ireland. As part of this work she interviewed men who had been involved in armed organisations, who spoke about how easy it was to be led into violence and the far greater courage needed to begin dialogue. The problems of young people were highlighted; especially the difficulties of unemployment, low self-esteem and the feeling that they have missed out on the previous generation's sacrifice of armed struggle. We also discussed the damage that can be done by forcing people to try to feel forgiveness before they are ready to do so. The experience of South Africa was mentioned, and we were very fortunate to have the Rev. Ivan Ruiters present to tell us about the Truth and Reconciliation Commission there. The evening ended with a positive, inspiring discussion about the ways in which FCF can facilitate reconciliation in our community.

### **CONNECT Meeting**

*Tanya writes:* In December several FCF members attended the CONNECT meeting of Northern Ireland inter-church groups in Portadown. Dr Johnston McMaster spoke about Hope and History: Theology and Ethics for 1912-1922, and of the difference that a critical and generous perspective can make to our response to forthcoming anniversaries. In small groups we discussed the practical programmes in which churches can communicate this vision, several of which we hope to explore further here in Fermanagh. The meeting ended with an inspiring advent meditation led by Eileen Gallagher.

### **Please make a note of these dates!**

Faith & Friendship in Lisnaskea: Wednesday, January 11<sup>th</sup>, at 4 p.m. in the Enterprise Centre, Lisnaskea.

Faith & Friendship in Enniskillen: Wednesday, January 18<sup>th</sup>, 12.30 p.m. to 2 p.m., in Darling St Methodist Church halls.

Church Unity Week Service: Thursday, January 19<sup>th</sup>, in Enniskillen Presbyterian Church at 8 p.m.

Event: Peacejam: music breaking down barriers, February 25<sup>th</sup>, from 8 p.m. in Westville Hoptel. Speaker Steven Travers of Miami Showband. Tickets £5 include supper.