



Welcome to the third CC Newsletter. Last year's programme, mostly organised by our cluster groups, went very well with encouraging attendances ending with almost 70 at 'Just Living' - a night of story and song with Andy Flannagan, singer/songwriter. Andy told a moving and coherent story along with his songs and as Sojourners magazine said when describing his 'Drowning in the shallows' album it was "a piece of art far more powerful than simply notes and words on a page." During Community Relations week in May our "In Conversation with..." event was also presented a few days later in the NI Assembly when Rev Mercia Malcolm gave an illustrated talk on the subject of her research on the friendship of CS Lewis and JRR Tolkien - 'A Journey of Reconciliation.'

This years ICW... has kicked off already with Dr Maithre White's challenging talk on Cultural engagement.

The next two ICW's will

Cluster Groups

Art and Faith.

The Faith and Arts Cluster Group facilitated stimulating discussions for the three "In conversation with...." evenings in the Spring series. 'Room for Art' took the form of looking at and responding to artworks brought by members of the group and art brought by attendees. The 'Art as Prayer' discussion explored communication with God through art and the 'Art: the misunderstood voice') evening

consider issues of gender.



On 8th October we will have Fran Porter speaking on "Disorderly Women and Men: Gender Relations After Christendom." Fran previously carried out two research projects for the Centre for Contemporary Christianity in Ireland and is now living in England. She is currently writing 'Women and Men After Christendom' for the Paternoster 'After Christendom' series. On Tuesday 19 November there will be a follow up ICW... discussion.

Our annual Catherwood Lecture will DV be delivered on 10th October by David Porter, the former director of ECONI and later the Centre for Contemporary Christianity. The title is "Justice, Mercy and

explored the 2 way conversation between the world and the church. Thanks to all the members and especially to Katherine Rush the convenor who was preparing for her wedding day at the same time as helping prepare the events.

Walking with God: The mission of the church and the future of reconciliation in Northern Ireland." In February 2013 David was appointed the Archbishop of Canterbury's Director for Reconciliation. In Lambeth he is one of three advisors supporting Archbishop Justin Welby.

Contemporary Christianity
Annual Catherwood Lecture in Public Theology

**JUSTICE, MERCY AND WALKING WITH GOD:
THE MISSION OF THE CHURCH AND THE FUTURE OF
RECONCILIATION IN NORTHERN IRELAND**

David W Porter

David Porter is well known as a confidante and then Director of ECONI (Ecumenical Consultation on N Ireland). He has served on the NI Social Consultative Bodies (Social, the NI Police Civil Forum and the Public Order Consultative Group on the North (Economic)). He represented NI on the Ecumenical Alliance UK Board for three years as its chair.

Since 2010, David has been the Group Director for Reconciliation Ministry at Centre for Reconciliation in Lambeth. He is one of three advisors supporting Archbishop Justin Welby.

2013 marks 25 years since the publication of 'For God and His Glory Alone', the landmark publication which shaped the work of the Ecumenical Consultation on Northern Ireland (ECONI). We are really delighted to welcome David back as our guest speaker at this time.

This is an open event. There will be a Reception given by Dr Heather Morris (Theological President) and a time for questions and discussion.

Thursday, 10 October 2013 at 8pm
SKAINOS, 239 Newtownards Road
Belfast, BT16 1AF
(Served by Metro bus routes 3A & 20)

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Also on 10th Oct we will be relaunching 'For God and His Glory Alone' which was originally published in 1988 by ECONI. We are reprinting it with a new preface as we are convinced that it is every bit as relevant in Northern Ireland as it was 25 years ago.



Centenaries

'1912 - One Hundred Years on' drama. We have produced a dvd for Windows PC's of some of the events and people who feature in the play and there is also a powerpoint file for anyone in educational settings who might wish to project individual scenes. It costs £5 and can be ordered online on our website. The full script of the play is also available to download free. We also hope to make a dvd recording of the complete drama later this year.

Economics

Last autumn's ICW programme series on economics generated a lot of interest and there were lively discussions on each evening. Thanks to Alan Sleith, Esmond Birnie, Philip McDonagh and Colin Neill who introduced the topics on 3 evenings in the centre.

Special Event

To mark the UK City of Culture year in Derry/Londonderry CC joined forces in February with the Presbytery of Derry and Raphoe to host a concert of Jazz music and story entitled

"Heaven in a Nightclub - the Spiritual Roots of Jazz." Performed in the Waterside theatre by Bill Edgar (piano and story) Randy Pendleton (double bass) and Ruth Naomi Floyd (vocals) from Philadelphia, USA this was a wonderful evening of music & story. Bill described the impact of the gospel on the lives of Afro-American slaves and how the musical and cultural expression of their faith was a major influence on Jazz in the last century.

Website

Most of our 'In Conversation with...' talks and the Catherwood lectures for the past 3 years are available to listen to online. We apologise that due to technical problems not all of the recent ICW economics events were recorded but part of the first and all of the second are available to listen to. The transcript of the most recent Catherwood lectures are also downloadable in pdf form. Information on all our activities, upcoming events and our monthly PS... postings can be found on

www.contemporarychristianity.net and on Facebook where you can also comment on PS.

If anyone would be interested in writing a contribution to PS... (Public Square) please contact the office by e-mailing info@contemporarychristianity.net.

Publications

Peter McDowell's book 'At home in exile' published as a Soundings booklet has sold well both as hard copy and e-version. Feedback has been very positive and we pray that it will be used by God to help his people reflect on the current situation in the church and society.

One previous publication which has particular relevance at present is Philip Orr's book 'New Loyalties: Christian faith and the Protestant Working class'. This book examines issues of social deprivation, the demise of the church's presence in inner cities, the history of conflict in Loyalist communities and the

polarisation of class. It remains a helpful resource to church and community leaders working in loyalist communities. It can be ordered on line on the website. Previous publications in the Soundings and Patmos series are still available to download as resources on our website.