



# IRISH CHURCHES PEACE PROJECT



## ANNUAL REPORT

2014

[www.icpp.info](http://www.icpp.info)



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The Irish Churches Peace Project is a collaborative partnership between the Roman Catholic Church, the Church of Ireland, the Methodist Church in Ireland, the Presbyterian Church in Ireland and the Irish Council of Churches.

Copies of this resource may be requested from the Irish Council of Churches and are available for download through their website, as detailed below.

Address: Irish Council of Churches  
48 Elmwood Avenue  
Belfast  
County Antrim  
BT9 6AZ

Phone: +44 (0)28 9066 3145

Website: [www.irishchurches.org](http://www.irishchurches.org)

Email: [info@churchesinireland.com](mailto:info@churchesinireland.com)

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*The views and opinions expressed in this resource do not necessarily reflect those of the European Commission or the Special EU Programmes Body.*

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# Contents

<b>01. Chairman's Foreword</b>	p04
Bishop Donal McKeown	

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<b>02. About ICPP</b>	p06
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<b>03. Director's Report</b>	p09
03.1 Overview of Our Work	p11
03.2 Engaging Local Areas	p17
03.3 Churches Speaking with a United Voice	p33

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<b>04. ICPP Resources</b>	p34
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<b>05. Appendices</b>	p37
1. Steering Group Members	p38
2. ICPP Staff Team	p39



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# 01

# Chairman's Foreword



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This report tells of the many initiatives that have been tried around the six areas of Northern Ireland and the Border Region. Some of them have been successful in terms of participation rates, others less so. However, all have been prepared and enacted with huge levels of commitment by the Good Relations Officers and the office staff. The engagement of local church communities and their clergy has also been crucial.

Many people have been enabled to take part in serious discussions. Often we have found that they had a deep longing for such engagement – but that their churches did not have the capacity or skills to build relationships, share stories and talk about shared ways to process the pain of the past. We have tried to fill that lacuna.

What we have learned is that church communities still have an enormous font of goodwill and of social capital to offset the antagonism and fragmentation that affect much of our society.

We have had great encouragement from the leadership of the church bodies that work together on the programme. And our funders have pushed us to build on whatever has been achieved. We know that we have a long Exodus journey before us if we are to escape from the slavery of the past and slavery to the past.

But we believe that we have tried to build on rock and not on sand. We have a shared cornerstone – and trust we have not laboured in vain.

**+Bishop Donal McKeown**

Chair of the ICPP Steering Group

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# 02

# About ICPP

2014 has seen the Irish Churches Peace Project continue to work in partnership with churches and communities in the delivery of peace and reconciliation programmes. It is important that we seek to be accountable for how we have used public monies and to take time to reflect on the lessons that have been learned.

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## Our Partnership

The Irish Churches Peace Project is a collaborative partnership between the larger denominations in Ireland (the Roman Catholic Church, the Church of Ireland, the Methodist Church in Ireland and the Presbyterian Church in Ireland) and the smaller member denominations of the Irish Council of Churches.

The Presbyterian Church, because of its centralised infrastructure based in the Assembly Buildings in Belfast, agreed to be the lead partner responsible for the funding from the European Union's PEACE III Programme which is managed by the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB).

## Our Vision

The vision of the ICPP is to deliver a series of initiatives to support "a peaceful and stable society, with a shared and better future for all" and its work is accordingly focused on promoting reconciliation and the emergence of a shared and peaceful future.

## Our Objectives

The five main objectives of the project are:

1. To be able to define regional and local good relations and reconciliation work issues and church led good relations and reconciliation work;
2. To facilitate challenging, sustained and sensitive dialogue within churches, and between churches and the wider community, on contentious good relations, reconciliation and peace work issues;
3. To facilitate meaningful and progressive good relations and reconciliation focused inter-church contact, collaboration and engagement with community groups in the target areas, as well as the wider community, concerning issues held in common;
4. To facilitate learning in churches good relations, reconciliation and peace work on a local, regional and international basis; and
5. To provide a united voice on behalf of churches with regards to good relations, reconciliation and peace work principles, policy and practice and other issues held in common.

## Our Staff Team

The programme is delivered by a team of nine:

- Project Director
- Finance Manager
- Administrator
- Six Good Relations Officers based throughout Northern Ireland supporting project development in six areas:
  - Craigavon Borough Council Area;
  - Armagh, Dungannon & Cookstown;
  - Greater Belfast;
  - Fermanagh & the Border Region;
  - Strabane & the Northwest; and
  - Newry & Mourne.

## Governance

The Presbyterian Church in Ireland, as the Lead Partner, is responsible for the governance of the project providing the financial and management support required by the funder. A Steering Group, consisting of representatives from the partner churches and co-opted members from other bodies, meets quarterly to advise on the strategic direction of the project. A Management Group (which is comprised of partner representatives from the Steering Group) meets every four to six weeks to provide support to the Director.

Areas in which ICPP is currently working



0 100km

- |                |                   |                  |                   |
|----------------|-------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Portstewart | 6. Derrygonnelly  | 11. Dungannon    | 16. Whitewell     |
| 2. Derry       | 7. Maguiresbridge | 12. Coagh        | 17. North Belfast |
| 3. Strabane    | 8. Lurgan         | 13. Newry        | 18. Larne         |
| 4. Castleterg  | 9. Portadown      | 14. Killeel      |                   |
| 5. Enniskillen | 10. Coalisland    | 15. Castlewellan |                   |

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# 03

# Director's Report

The past year has seen the ICPP staff team engage with communities throughout Northern Ireland and the Border Region, connecting local churches and supporting peace and reconciliation. This, the second Annual Report, seeks to highlight the impact of this work. It is important to reflect on the key points of learning that have come out of programmes and to use these to encourage, inspire and act as a catalyst to further relationships in what is still a very fragmented and divided society.

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A key element in the delivery of successful programmes is the development of connections between local churches and the wider community, including community leaders and the locally-based statutory agencies. At first sight this may appear to be straightforward but in many cases the conflict has left a legacy which has made it extremely difficult for some participants to engage.

“Doing difference well” is a phrase first employed by the Evangelical Alliance. The Irish Churches Peace Project has enabled a new generation of people to cope with differences and to redefine their communities through the development of new programmes and initiatives. The focus has not been on what divides communities but has been on the things that are common to all, encouraging individuals and groups to build relationships with others who have different beliefs.

In 2014 the project saw many of the inter-church networks develop to include representatives of the lay community and the conversations became increasingly focused on what people could do together to address some of the issues of concern in their communities.

This has seen the formation of many new friendships and in this report tribute is paid to the numerous participants who have taken fresh steps to become involved in the work of the project. These initiatives have ranged from a short series of inter-church events to large-scale community events.

The key message coming out of this project is that churches working together is positive, uplifting and beneficial to everyone. Furthermore all this can happen without groups compromising on their theological beliefs. Society is also changing and in times of austerity increasing numbers of churches want to engage in the local community and this is most effective when churches do this together.

Amongst some groups there have been deeper conversations looking at issues such as racism, victims, trauma and forgiveness. ICPP has focused on creating the safe spaces necessary to help small groups engage in such discussions, supporting the steps required to promote mutual understanding and addressing the legacy of the past.

As the project, in its current form, ends in June 2015 it is the desire of ICPP staff to leave a significant legacy. Contained within this report is a series of articles on a number of programmes as well as information on new resources which will be freely available to churches and future programmes. The hope is that existing groups and networks will continue to work together, will continue to grow and will continue to inspire others to make a difference in their community.

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## 03.1

# Overview of Our Work

**ICPP has delivered a rich and wide selection of programmes in 2014. This has ranged from monthly lunchtime meetings between groups of clergy to complex interagency support strategies designed to help families in need.**

At the core of all ICPP programmes is the desire to build and strengthen relationships between churches and between divided communities. This is primarily delivered through establishing connections, forming new relationships, building trust and creating new opportunities for dialogue.

The methodology of the project seeks to move from initial tentative conversations between small groups of clergy to dialogue between church members and finally engagement with the wider community.

ICPP has been able to conduct community research, fund speakers, residential events, conferences, seminars, events and training. The project also supports mentoring for clergy, a programme with theological colleges and the production of a range of resources to support church-based good relations work.

Set out overleaf are just a few of the ICPP programmes and events that have taken place throughout 2014:

## Inter-church reflections bringing groups together to discuss good relations issues

African Christians group, North Belfast	Presentation on peacebuilding and the work of ICPP
Ardoyne Community & Church representatives	Exploring possible ways of working together and developing cross-community engagement
Cavanaleck & Chanterhill Community Groups	Discussion on the development of ideas around future programmes and residentials
Coalisland Clergy	Exploration of key issues facing the community and to discuss potential programmes that ICPP could help deliver
Cookstown Churches Forum	Introductory meeting to outline the assistance that ICPP could provide, including potential initiatives on the legacy of the Troubles
Derriaghy Clergy	Discussion on the work of ICPP and the challenges posed by sectarianism
Derrygonnelly Community Partnership	Introductory meeting to look at the progress achieved within the community to date and to examine the ongoing challenges faced by the community
Dungannon Churches Forum	Identification of the opportunities available to deliver programmes addressing the legacy of the Troubles
Enniskillen Clergy, Laity & Immigrant Support Groups	Promotion of ICPP to established groups and discussion on the issues of integration faced by the migrant community
L/Derry Senior Clergy	Building on existing relationships to examine opportunities for peace building in the City
Maguiresbridge Community Group	Obtaining feedback from the group on the specific ways ICPP could engage in peace building activity
Moy Clergy	Discussion on existing local cross-community work and to introduce clergy to the work of ICPP
North Belfast Women's groups	Examining how to heal divisions and build bridges within the community
Pan-Ireland Clergy	Session examining the churches' role in peace building and looking at the work of ICPP
Shankill Clergy	Looking at the potential for expanding the monthly prayer group
Strabane Clergy	Reviewing the costs of the conflict and sharing of experiences between participants
Strabane Parish Council	Initial meeting to discuss the importance of peace building and to explore the desire for developing peace building
Students from Duke University, North Carolina	Presentation on the role of churches in the delivery of peace building and reconciliation work
Ulster Project students & parents	Introduction of ICPP to parents and an invitation for them to engage in a series of dialogue sessions on sectarianism and racism

## Delivery of single sessions aimed at exploring deeper issues within the local community

Adress & Culmaine Clergy	Single identity session examining ways for clergy to act locally as peace makers
Castlewellan Inter-Church Group	Looking at the production of a joint website for local churches
Coagh Community Group	Cross-community session to discuss the potential for groups working together
Coalisland Clergy	Meeting to explore how churches can work together to address the legacy of 'the Troubles'
Cookstown Food Bank Steering Group	Session to look at addressing the issues of segregation and sectarianism which impact on the support for the local food banks
Ederney Parish Council	Examining community relations and exploring ways in which the churches can act as peace makers
Enniskillen Churches	Wide-ranging discussion event to explore common issues around sectarianism and to establish ongoing commitment from churches
Enniskillen Community Groups	Looking at developing a new programme for long term peace in the wider community
Enniskillen Residents & Migrant Community	'Meet Your Neighbour' event promoting community engagement
Innishmacsaint Select Vestry	Looking at the opportunities to improve community relations
Kilkeel Residents & Migrant Community	Delivery of 'A Cultural Experience' evening to local community members
L/Derry Churches	Church network event to bring local churches together
Lurgan Cross-Community Clergy Group	Cross-community workshop designed to examine the challenges facing groups looking to work together
Lurgan Cross-Community Clergy Group	Joint study tours of the Peace Walls and Murals
Newry Inter-Cultural Group	Exploring the reasons for migration from Eastern Europe
Newry Residents & Migrant Community	Delivery of 'A Cultural Experience' evening to local community members
North Belfast Women's Group	Exploration of contentious issues in the Shankill/Twaddell area
Sacred Heart & Joanmount Churches Group	Exploring how best to work together as a group of clergy
St Michael's Parish Council, Enniskillen	Examining community relations and exploring ways in which the churches can act as peace makers
Strabane Clergy Group	Exploring the opportunities for peace building in the local community
Waterside Parish Group	Defining good relations work and discussing opportunities for further dialogue
Whitewell Clergy	Looking at the development of a family outreach programme in the White City Estate

**Residentials and away days focused on building cross-community understanding and relationships**

Castledearg Churches & Ulster Project Members	All day event to highlight the role of younger members of society in creating a sustaining peace
Cavanaleck & Chanterhill Residents	Excursion to Wexford to explore sites of significant Irish history and to discuss the relevance of such events to modern day issues in Northern Ireland
Cookstown Clergy	Away day themed around "How can churches address the legacy of 'the Troubles'?"
Enniskillen Clergy & Lay Members	Away day examining the wider issues relating to forgiveness and to consider its potential in building good relations
Kilkeel Cross-Cultural Group	Residential event looking at pre-reformation Celtic history and its influence on the modern church
Lurgan Clergy	Progressive community residential exploring forgiveness
Mid-Ulster Clergy	'Go, and Do Thou Likewise' clergy conference
Newry Inter-Cultural Group	Away day looking at the issues arising out of the conflict, incorporating tours of Belfast peace lines
Newry Residents & Migrant Community	'Cultural Journey' residential to explore local history and to discuss the issues of division and the benefits of reconciliation
Portstewart Clergy & Lay Members	Away day to discuss the development of a shared community hub
Sacred Heart & Joanmount Churches Group	Inter-church away day to develop relationships between participants

### Structured peace work dialogue sessions focusing on local/regional issues

Castleberg Churches & Ulster Project Members	Sessions looking at promoting awareness amongst the group around key social issues, including racism
Castlewellan Church Group	Inter-church visiting
Castlewellan Clergy, Lay Members & Residents	'A Step Too Far' forgiveness series
Cavanaleck & Chanterhill Residents	Series exploring contentious issues in local communities
Enniskillen Clergy & Lay Members	Dialogue series focusing on local issues with a view to developing a short-medium term action plan
Enniskillen Clergy & Lay Members	'A Step Too Far' forgiveness series
Kilkeel Cross-Cultural Group	'Cultural Journey' series
Lurgan Clergy	Reflection series based around an initial visit to the Belfast peace lines
Lurgan Migrant Community	Series of workshops focusing on creating mutual understanding and learning about diversity
Mid-Ulster Clergy	Sessions looking at legacy issues and practical steps the churches could take to address these issues
Newry Clergy	Series challenging local churches on the current state of community relations and the issues to be addressed
Newry Inter-Church Group	Inter-church visiting
North Belfast Churches & Lay Members	Peace dialogue series looking at areas for common peacebuilding in the local community
Portadown Clergy, Lay Members & Residents	'A Step Too Far' forgiveness series
Sacred Heart & Joanmount Churches Group	Inter-church dialogue programme
Whitehouse & Greencastle Churches	'A Step Too Far' forgiveness series

### Ministerial training programmes delivering seminars on good relations, reconciliation and peace work

Centre for Youth Ministry Students	Delivery of the 'Biblical Studies' module
Church of Ireland Theological Institute	Delivery of parts of 'Ministry of Reconciliation' module to the Church of Ireland theological students
Union College Theological Students	Delivery of the 'Mission in Contemporary Western Society' section of the Missiology course and 'The Challenge of Being Good Neighbours' module in the Study of World Religions course.

### Engagement with local cross-community groups in the delivery of support initiatives

'Castlewellan Together' Website Group	Communications project leading to the development of an inter-church website
Coagh Community Group	Coagh community Christmas tree light switch-on event
Coalisland Clergy & Residents	Community carol singing walk
Cookstown Food Bank Steering Group	Cookstown Cross-Community Foodbank Partnership
Derrygonnelly Clergy	Cross-community carol service
Enniskillen Churches & Residents	Island Youth Community Initiative
Mid-Ulster Clergy, Lay Members & Residents	'International Day of Peace' event
Newry Inter-Church Group	Community support initiative based around the 'Cultural Journey' series
North Belfast Clergy & Residents	Engaging with churches to support the delivery of the 'Messy Church' programme
Portadown Clergy & Community	Young families 'Christingle' event
Portadown Young Families Working Group	'All Things Family' community initiative
Strabane & North West Churches & Residents	'Tour de Foyle' charity cycle ride event

### Mentor support sessions with groups considering engagement in good relations and reconciliation work

Coagh Clergy	Mentor support
Cookstown Churches Forum	Mentor support
Derrygonnelly Clergy	Mentor support
Dungannon Clergy	Mentor support
Enniskillen Clergy	Mentor support
Enniskillen Strategy Group	Mentor support
Kesh & Ederney Clergy	Mentor support
Mid-Ulster Clergy & Churches Forum	Mentor support
Newry Clergy	Mentor support
North Belfast Clergy	Mentor support
Strabane Clergy	Mentor support
Theological Colleges	Mentor support

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## 03.2

# Engaging Local Areas

### Larne: Driving change in the community

Many will recognise this as part of the opening chapter of the classic Dickens novel “A Tale of Two Cities” but it could equally be the opening to a modern day story about Larne.

The airing of a locally made documentary of Larne in 2014 created a significant level of negative publicity for the town. However rather than having a harmful effect on the local community the media production has helped galvanize the resolve of the people of Larne and many have redoubled their efforts to portray the town in a positive light.

One such group is the Larne clergy who have been meeting together in the town for many years. This group have not only maintained the ethos of the Christian family but have seen growth with several local projects now coming to fruition. Some of these projects have evolved due to socio-economic circumstances, such as the much needed food bank, whilst others have come about due to the support and facilitation of the Irish Churches Peace Project.

One example of the support from ICPP can be seen in the 2014 cross community summer scheme when young adults from Larne spent a week in the company of contemporaries from Warrington and Bradford. This event provided a platform for participants to discuss highly relevant and challenging issues such as racism and sectarianism.

Another is the “Church in the Market Place” project, which had its foundations firmly laid in late 2014. The local clergy, in partnership with ICPP, have identified the Auction House in the recently redeveloped Market Yard as being an excellent location for the locating of a joint premises. Going forward the group will look to use the Market Yard as a key location in Larne for linking the local churches with the wider community. The location will be used to provide

local information, deliver help and advice services from local community agencies, put on local events and activities and facilitate arts and crafts sessions. These will be facilitated by church volunteers from a range of denominations and by doing so will be a powerful and practical demonstration of faith as well as taking the civic lead with a wide range of churches and community agencies working together.

“It is great that ICPP has Good Relations Officers working with the local groups offering them personal and financial support and enabling them to achieve much more.”



So whilst Dickens was writing about the French Revolution, the great story in Larne is one of evolution through dedicated teamwork by a group of committed Christians focused on living out their faith and being good neighbours to everyone.

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## 03.2

# Engaging Local Areas

### North Belfast: Engaging in forgiveness and more

For anyone who has read the 2013 ICPP Annual Report and heard about the good work going on in the Greater Whitewell area it will come as no surprise that this work has not only continued but has increased beyond expectations. Messy Church has established itself in White City and has grown from small beginnings to become a firmly established project reaching out to the local community. The success of such a venture can be attributed to the hard work and continued efforts of local church and community representatives.

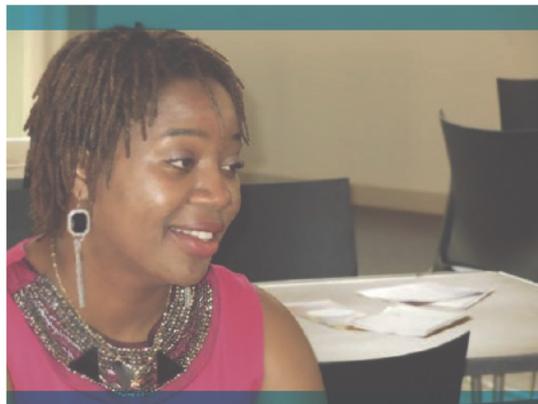
**“For where two or three are gathered in my name, there I am among them.” Matthew 18:20**

2014 saw the delivery of the ICPP programme “A Step Too Far?” in many areas including Greater Whitewell. This series of four evenings focused on the theme of forgiveness and was delivered at Merville House. The final night of the series has been seen by some as the cathartic moment in the journey that many people have travelled thus far. Participants were challenged on what practical actions should flow out of the issues discussed over the series and the result was an outpouring of ideas and plans as to how to develop engagement across all sections of the local community.

All of the churches involved have shown genuine enthusiasm for the proposal of a food bank in the Whitewell area and this is well on the way to fruition. Plans are also being developed for the local churches to connect with the communities in areas where there is currently little or no engagement, such as Bawnmore and Graymount.

Given the success of the Greater Whitewell “A Step Too Far” series, the intention is to roll out the programme further in 2015, staging the sessions at the local Presbyterian, Methodist and Catholic churches.

In October 2014 over fifty people attended an ICPP event entitled “A Cultural Experience”. This incorporated music from around the world, some food and a short quiz on the local area. However the most memorable part of the event was an interview session chaired by former TV presenter Anne Hailes. The panel consisted of Dr. Singhal from the Indian Community Centre, Jennifer Yu (a former resident of Hong Kong) and Nandi Mboondiah (an asylum seeker from Zimbabwe). Probing questions from the Chair elicited insightful answers from all the panel members. However it was Nandi’s heart-breaking story of having to flee from Zimbabwe, leaving her husband and child behind, that really touched the hearts of the assembled group. This window into the life of Nandi really opened the minds and hearts of all who heard it.



2014 has been an encouraging year and there is no doubt that an enthusiasm exists for many people in this area to live out their faith. Participants have shown a willingness to reach out and help their neighbour regardless of colour or creed, by giving of their time and expertise. Groups have recognised the importance of growing up with a Christian philosophy which can be the basis for a peaceful and stable society where there is a shared and better future for all. And this after all is the best legacy that the Irish Churches Peace Project can leave.

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## Cookstown: Working together to support local people in crisis

Concerned to do something about rising food poverty, Cookstown Clergy Forum carried out a review of support services in their local area. This appraisal identified two food banks which had recently been established – one operated by St Vincent de Paul and another by an independent evangelical church, Ark Kingdom Ministries. Although both worked hard to provide a service to people of all backgrounds, both were largely dependent on donations from a specific church or denomination. They expressed the need for wider support from other churches and the community to ensure an ongoing supply of food for people in crisis.

In response to this ICPP facilitated a number of community meetings which brought the food banks together with agencies, churches and others to explore how they could best work together to support people in food poverty in the Cookstown area. This led to the establishment of a Steering Group with representation from local schools, churches, St Vincent de Paul, Antioch Storehouse, Cookstown Council, the Churches' Community Work Alliance, the Citizens' Advice Bureau, Cookstown Ethnic Minority Support Project and Cookstown and Western Shores Area Network.

The group worked together to tackle false perceptions that the food banks were only for individuals belonging to a particular faith or community background. Participants also expressed a strong desire to challenge stigmas around poverty and to take a holistic approach to the breaking of the poverty cycle. The outcome of the work of the partnership was a realisation that the most helpful role of the group would be to focus on how best to support the existing food banks, ensuring that they were supported by and made accessible to the whole community.

The partnership also delivered a number of awareness events and produced a joint flyer promoting the food banks and the partnership. As a direct result the profile of the two food banks was raised, the community partnership developed and the food banks experienced an increase in donations – due in part to churches whose members might not have traditionally supported them.

**“I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink.”**

**Matthew 25:35**

An away day was arranged for churches in the Mid-Ulster area in order to continue this theme of churches, poverty and the conflict. The excursion incorporated visits to Bawnboy Workhouse Project in Cavan, the Pauper's Graveyard and Memorial in Enniskillen and the Kilmacormick Resource Centre. The latter is run by a community organisation based in one of the most deprived wards in Fermanagh. The group were given the opportunity to explore a number of issues including the impact of the Irish Famine across local communities, the link between perceptions of the Famine and politics at the time and the causes/consequences of modern day poverty and conflict.

The Cookstown Food Bank Partnership continues to meet to explore how to work together to support local people in poverty.

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## 03.2 Engaging Local Areas

### Coagh: Building better community relations

In 2014 ICPP worked alongside clergy from Coagh as they looked to meet together for the first time. The group, which consisted of the local Church of Ireland rector, Catholic priest and Presbyterian minister, discovered a shared desire to work together to build relationships between the churches and the wider community.

Coagh is a town with a painful history linked to a conflict which has left a legacy of hurt, anger and mistrust beneath the surface of this attractive village. Initial discussions were considered positive, and the group made the decision that they would like to keep on meeting together.

It was agreed that a good starting point for engagement with the wider community and the modelling of good relations would be for the churches and schools to take the lead in organising a Christmas tree lights switch-on event. By supporting this event, which was organised through Cookstown Council's PEACE III programme, the group set a good foundation for sustainability which would ensure that the cross community engagement would continue well after the Council's programme had finished.



The local clergy, council officers and the principals of Coagh Primary School and St Malachy's Drummullan met to organise

the event. The occasion proved to be very significant in terms of bringing people together in a spirit of hope, as enshrined in the Christmas message, and allowed individuals to demonstrate their support for the local community. While a number of local groups had organised events earlier in the year, this Christmas event was particularly successful in terms of engaging children and families and involving people from different churches.

*"Initiatives like ICPP can be at the forefront of change in our community, especially when leadership is needed to bring principles and values which will improve the quality of life for small rural communities."*

In order to continue the momentum generated by the event, ICPP invited volunteers along with other community representatives, churches and schools to a number of community meetings. The purpose of these sessions was to discuss local issues and to explore the possibility of continuing to work together with a shared concern to benefit the local area. There was a general feeling that meeting together on a regular basis was helpful and it was agreed that the group would focus on working towards organising another Christmas event for 2015. The clergy also continue to meet regularly as a group, and are meeting with the school principals to plan the Christmas event and explore other possibilities.

In order to build on this ICPP plan to organise an away day in partnership with Cookstown and Western Shores Area Network and Cookstown Council (Good Relations) to reflect on the journey so far and to plan for the future. The journey continues...

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## Castlewellan: Learning through sharing

"I hope there will be more projects like this. Any activities that bring people from the community together are beneficial, as it helps people to understand and respect each other better."

Many people enjoy looking around churches and cathedrals when they are on holiday so it is strange that we rarely take the time look around the churches in our own towns.

ICPP, in conjunction with the Castlewellan Inter-church Forum and Bible Prayer Group, thought that providing an opportunity for people in Castlewellan to visit each of the churches, in order to learn more about them, would help strengthen good relations in the town. This visiting series followed a number of previous initiatives by the Inter-church Forum to contribute to the civic life of Castlewellan.

The series took place over four evenings in November 2014 and incorporated visits to the local Church of Ireland, Catholic and Presbyterian churches as well as the Brethren Assembly (which meets in a former Methodist church building). The programme proved to be extremely popular, with 40 to 60 people attending each event.

A typical evening began with a welcome by the clergy member or leader of the host church. People were then invited to have a look around the church and permission was given to explore the building including areas such as pulpits and confession boxes. Some people reported it was the first time they had explored some of these places in their own church! Participants were encouraged to ask the clergy or members of the church anything they wanted to know about as they looked around.

After exploring the church the group moved on to a local coffee-shop which provided refreshments and a comfortable venue for further conversations. Individuals were asked to identify what had struck them most as they had looked around the church. People were also asked to

state the similarities and differences they had noted between the church they had visited and the church which they would normally attend.

The conversation naturally moved on from observing differences in church architecture, layout and design, to a discussion about the significance of the differences. Church buildings are physical manifestations of theology and spirituality and so the conversations became an opportunity for participants to listen to each other and share their faith. During this time people asked the questions they had always wanted to ask, but never had the chance, or perhaps were too embarrassed to ask.



Each church visit raised different points, highlighting the specific theology or spirituality of the particular church. For example, following the visit to the Catholic Church some of the conversation centred on the practice of confession. Some Protestants imagined that going to confession must be an ordeal but this misperception was corrected as Catholic people spoke of how beneficial they found it. Following the visit to the Presbyterian Church there was

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conversation about the way in which communion is served to people as they are seated in the pews and how this reflected the democratic way in which the church is organised.

Conversations were open and honest and were conducted in a positive atmosphere. Questions were asked out of a genuine desire to understand and not to prove a point. The outcome from the visiting series was that people

from each church were able to share honestly their faith perspective. In the process many false perceptions, based on incomplete knowledge or second-hand information, were corrected. The major theological differences between the churches and between individuals were neither ignored, nor overcome but the result of the process was a greater respect and understanding between participants.

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## Theological Colleges: Influencing future church leaders

Building a peaceful and stable society and a shared future requires that people at every level of society be involved. It is also a process that must continue well into the future. ICPP has therefore sought to engage not just with clergy and lay people currently in churches, but also with future leaders. It is in the seminaries and theological colleges that these future leaders are trained and ICPP has sought to stimulate the contacts between the colleges and to ensure that reconciliation issues are part of their curricula.

ICPP has engaged with the colleges of our four partner churches, that is:

- The Catholic Church: St Patrick's College, Maynooth
- The Church of Ireland: The Church of Ireland Theological Institute, Dublin
- The Presbyterian Church in Ireland: Union Theological College, Belfast
- The Methodist Church in Ireland: Edgehill College, Belfast

Each of these colleges works with a wide range of students, not just those in training for ordained ministry, through theological education and lay training courses.

Although regular meetings between the colleges had taken place in the past, in recent years the contact between the colleges has been sporadic. ICPP has initiated several meetings between the colleges in order to strengthen the relationships again.

The first meeting looked at how peacebuilding and good relations were being addressed in each of the colleges. It became apparent that each college recognised the importance of preparing future church leaders to minister in the context of a divided society, with each college having at least one course or programme which addressed

these issues. In some colleges such courses were compulsory for students preparing for ordination; in others they were optional.

However, in addition to discussing the courses offered within the colleges, the group quickly agreed that there should be some opportunity for students in the various institutions to interact with each other with a particular focus on those students preparing for ordination.

Agreement in principal was easy to achieve. However, putting ideas into practice proved to be much more difficult. This was not because of any lack of desire or commitment, but due to a combination of complex factors. For example, the training programme for ordination in each of the churches is intense and is already full of essential courses, programmes and events. Furthermore several of the colleges are affiliated to universities who accredit their courses and have their own criteria for how courses should be structured and delivered. Finally, each college has its own timetable and so finding time-slots that work for each college was going to prove to be a challenge.

In spite of these challenges progress has been made through a combination of a commitment to the need to build the relationships between the colleges and some creative thinking. In January 2015 a conference for students of the colleges will look at the question "Who Owns Luther?" This conference is significant as it is the first event to bring students from all the colleges together.

Overall, whilst there are still challenges to overcome in the co-ordination of course delivery, significant steps have been taken in past year which will lead to colleges working more closely and more effectively with each other.

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## 03.2

# Engaging Local Areas

## Portadown: Churches working together to support young families

Many would acknowledge that Portadown suffered substantially during the conflict and is an example of a town that is continuing to grapple with the legacy of the past. Therefore finding ways for the communities to work together through common interest issues has been central to ICPP's approach in engaging with the Portadown area churches over the past year.

Following a series of consultation meetings with local clergy and church representatives, the idea of the churches coming together to support young families took hold. Eight local churches, representing the four main dominations, nominated representatives to work with ICPP in the development of a range of family-focused activities designed to bring people together in non-threatening ways.

This group of volunteers came together for the first time in March 2014. The majority of the members of the group had never met before and so a period of relationship-building work was undertaken incorporating icebreakers and team building exercises with a joint meal and social evening. These activities were highly advantageous in that they enabled the group to get acquainted with each other and become friends prior to formally working together.

Since then the group has met regularly and, with direct assistance from ICPP, has continued to develop and grow, adopting the name "Portadown Churches Young Families Group". Its central mission is to demonstrate to the local community that it is possible for the churches to work together along practical common interest themes, regardless of any theological differences.

In October 2014 the group delivered a family fun and information day in Portadown Town Hall. The "All Things Family" event proved to be a

great success and saw 23 family and community support organisations come together to provide information on a range of issues including child care, benefits, parenting and relationship issues, home safety, social media, health checks, education and learning opportunities. The event also included refreshments, a puppet show, a cookery demonstration, climbing wall as well as arts and crafts events throughout the day. Over 200 people attended and many commented to the group members on how positive it was to see the local churches working together to put the event on for the community.

At the start of December St. Columba's Church of Ireland held a Christmas Tree Festival. The Portadown Churches Young Families Group used this as an opportunity to sponsor a tree on the theme of "Family". This not only demonstrated their direct support for one of the partner churches but also celebrated the fact that despite our differences we are all part of God's big family. Once again this became a highly successful event which raised the profile of the group further amongst the community.

In mid-December the group hosted a community event to enable families to come together to make Christingles and celebrate the true meaning of Christmas. The outcome was a wide level of participation from across the local community and a clear demonstration of the group members' commitment to continue on their journey of working together.

Going forward, work is set to continue as the group develops its vision and a practical action plan that will continue to see the churches reach out to support young families who need help no matter what their circumstances.

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“Non-Christians looking on from the fringes must sometimes scratch their heads and wonder just why there are so many different churches and fellowships. The truth is of course that we have more in common than we are sometimes prepared to admit.”



## 03.2

# Engaging Local Areas

## Lurgan: A new cultural journey begins...

In recent years Lurgan has seen an increase in both the number and variety of different ethnic groups living within its communities. This pattern of change is not uncommon and can be seen in many other towns across Northern Ireland. Migrants have come to the area for a wide variety of reasons, with the most common being that of employment in locally-based businesses. In the Craigavon area the majority of migrants are of Polish or Lithuanian origin.

This gradual change in the demographic has brought about an increased need for new residents to be made welcome by existing members of the community. This challenge was something that was recognised by the Community Outreach Group in Lurgan.

The Community Outreach Group was formed in 2004 as a result of an initiative by the Rev. Dr. Maurice Elliott, a former rector of Shankill Church of Ireland, and is a partnership between Shankill Parish and the local Roman Catholic parishes of St. Peter's and St Paul's. The group was set up to bring together people from both communities in Lurgan, to assist in breaking down the barriers and healing the divisions which exist in the town.

In autumn 2014 ICPP led a series of four evenings entitled "A Cultural Journey" which was delivered in partnership with the Community Outreach Group, EMBRACE and Craigavon Borough Council. The programme was specially designed to allow local people in the Lurgan area to meet with new residents and build friendships and develop understanding.

An introductory evening was held in October where the participants met with each other (most for the first time), enjoyed music and food from around the world and also learned new facts about different cultures through an enjoyable table quiz. This initial event was followed up with two further workshops which focused on exploring cultural differences, allowing

participants to ask each other questions before examining how such differences can be a positive feature within our society.

The programme culminated in a joint residential trip to L/Derry to explore Irish history and peace building. It was encouraging and reaffirming to see the mix of participants across the series with attendees present from all sections of the community, including representation of four different migrant groups.

As a result of the programme, new links have been opened up between the Community Outreach Group and a number of the new residents with contact details being exchanged and solid lines of communication being established. The cultural series has proved to be an excellent starting point which will hopefully lead to further opportunities in the future for the progression of community integration in Lurgan.

ДОБРЕ ДОШЛИ BUN VENIT  
DIA DUIT MABUHAY

**A Cultural Journey Series**  
**Seria Spotkań o Kulturach**  
**WSTĘP WOLNY**

Możliwość odkrycia i lepszego zrozumienia kultur  
reprezentowanych w naszym regionie!

Spotkanie pierwsze: środa, 29 października, 19:00 - 21:00

Porównanie kultur - próba wnikięcia pod powierzchnię kulturowych różnic

Spotkanie drugie: środa, 5 listopada, 19:00 - 21:00

Pozytywne doświadczenia wynikające z kulturowej różnorodności

MIEJSCE: YMCA Centrum, 4 CARNEGIE STREET, LURGAN  
(naprzeciwko biblioteki)

Spotkania zakończą się dwudniową bezpłatną wycieczką do L/Derry

Aby się zarejestrować, lub uzyskać więcej informacji, prosimy o kontakt z:  
Yvonne (yvonne@icpp.info lub 0784 177 6869) lub Aneta (aneta@embracenlurg, 07731378037)

 IRISH CHURCHES  
CATHOLIC CHURCH  
COMMUNITY OUTREACH GROUP (C.O.G.)  
European Union  
Erasmus+ Programme  
Erasmus+ Fund  
Erasmus+ Programme

ICPP is supported by the European Union's PEACE III Programme

ATVYKE BIENVENIDOS  
SVEIKI ZAPRASZAMY

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## Derrygonnelly: The importance of being patient

When the Chair of the Derrygonnelly District and Community Partnership (who is also a member of Inishmacsaint Select Vestry) approached ICPP in late summer 2013 to see if they could support the churches in the Derrygonnelly area, the number of possibilities for programme delivery seemed extensive.

At the early meetings with clergy from the local Church of Ireland, Roman Catholic and Methodist Churches and the local District Community Partnership Chair, ICPP suggested a number of potential initiatives. However, it became clear that this was a group who were on a journey together, which had to be taken at their own pace and in their own time. In the early stages a focus on building relationships and learning about the context in each other's churches was required before engaging on particular projects. Only when this relationship-building

work had been completed was it possible for the participants to move on to arrange some joint activities.

One of the first events which the group decided to undertake was to cook food on-site at a local community event. This was a simple yet effective method of demonstrating the churches' desire to reach out in a practical way and engage with the local community.

When ICPP ran a one day "Forgiveness" workshop in Bellanaleck, clergy attended and encouraged local parishioners to come along with them. These parishioners met, listened and talked together about a difficult subject in their context. They made their own observations and suggestions about community and church relations in the Derrygonnelly area. One parishioner shared how her child had once



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asked her "What happens in a Church of Ireland mass?". She did not know, as she had never been inside a Protestant church. In light of this she suggested to the group that church visits in the local area would be of great benefit and would provide local people with the chance to explore and learn about the buildings they passed by every day. The clergy are currently working on facilitating such visits around the local churches.

In November the group decided they would like to run a joint churches and community carol service in the local community centre. They put together a hugely successful event with participants from the local church choirs and the three local primary school choirs leading the carols and lessons. Over 200 people were in attendance and the hope is that this can become an annual event.

Looking back over the past year it is clear that peace and reconciliation work takes time and is at its most effective when the ideas and suggestions are from the participants themselves. The Derrygonnelly group operated at their own pace, established their own boundaries and demonstrated that they knew which ideas were best suited to the local context in the timeframe provided.

The good relations work of this clergy group will continue, not because of the intervention of ICPP, but because of the patience they showed in first establishing a strong foundation of relationships, understanding and respect.

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## 03.2

# Engaging Local Areas

## Enniskillen: Leaving a legacy

“[ICPP has] brought us together in a safe environment to talk about the issues that concern us, about what initiatives to support and about promoting better relationships among our young people.”

“Legacy” and “sustainability” are at the core of any long-term peace and reconciliation work. How can a project support initiatives that will take on a life of their own and continue to develop in years to come?

One way ICPP has sought to address this issue is by assisting the establishment of local initiatives. In Enniskillen ICPP has supported the formation of the Enniskillen Churches Good Relations Group, a group that has the very real potential to lead its own fruitful and productive life for many years to come.

In recent years Enniskillen has seen the establishment of good working relations between the clergy in the four largest denominations. They have set a strong example in the community of how people of different faith traditions can positively and fruitfully engage in both working and personal relationships. The ongoing challenge however is to help extend and grow those positive relations between church lay leaders and members.

It was suggested that a simple meal amongst the different church leaders could provide the backdrop for working towards this goal. The meal would provide opportunities for leaders to engage with their counterparts in other churches – some of whom they had not met before – and have honest discussions about some of the challenges facing Enniskillen and wider Fermanagh.

ICPP agreed to run the event in partnership with Fermanagh District Council. A date was set and each member of clergy committed to identify and bring an agreed number of leaders from their congregation to the meal and discussion. One of the keys to the success of this enterprise was the commitment by clergy to identify and bring these leaders. All too often such events are attended by those who are already involved or committed to an idea or task. The local clergy went beyond mere invitation and urged those in leadership to come and represent their view-point and engage in the event. The outcome was that 118 lay leaders from across seven denominations attended the event in February 2014. Sitting at carefully colour-coordinated tables of eight, to ensure that those who were present mixed, each table was given five questions which focused on community cohesion for the participants to discuss over their meal.



The first person to stand up at the plenary at the end of the evening started by saying, “When we sat down to look at these questions, we all wondered why we were being asked them, because Enniskillen is a cohesive and confident community...”. He went on add “...but then we began to talk about politics, flags, youth, culture and we realised we have a lot of work to do.” Those sentiments were echoed around the tables.

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Work began the following month when ICPP held a series of four dialogue sessions, looking at some of the key themes identified in more detail. Around 30 people turned up each night and engaged in honest, and sometimes difficult conversations, about what needed to be done to make Enniskillen a more cohesive community.

A group of lay participants from across the churches was set up to produce a strategy to reflect and address the issues identified. This document, entitled "Community Together: Engaged, Understanding, Respectful", covered areas including youth, communication, social engagement and dialogue. The group adopted the name "The Enniskillen Churches Good Relations Group" and commenced the implementation of the strategy by establishing the "Island Community Youth Project", a youth organisation which meets fortnightly, attracting enthusiastic and engaging young people who want to make a positive impact on their local community.

The Enniskillen Churches Good Relations Group is also working in partnership with the local council towards formally constituting themselves so that they can access funding, explore ways in which they can broaden their membership further, and discuss the possibilities for a permanent venture to host their activities.

ICPP has helped create a space for conversations, which in turn has identified areas of common concern and a constituency of people moved to act. This local group of church leaders is seeking to address local issues in local ways. Progress takes time and the success of these initiatives cannot be measured in the short term but can only be determined by the work these groups will continue to deliver in the years to come.



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## Strabane: Celebrating diversity

For many years the local clergy in Strabane have operated without the benefit of a forum. As a result the level of contact and communication between clergy and churches has been minimal. In January 2014 ICPP brought together a group of clergy from the four largest denominations with the aim of developing better links between individual and to provide a solid platform for dialogue and communication.

During the course of these meetings, which were facilitated by ICPP, participants were encouraged to explore how they could make a united contribution to building better community relations in the Strabane area in the aftermath of many years of conflict.

Following a number of discussions within the group it became apparent that clergy recognised the rich cultural diversity that existed in the local community and the need for greater understanding and tolerance of people and cultures which were different from "our own".

The outcome of these initial discussions was a programme of events aimed at recognising and celebrating the rich and wide range of cultures that exists within the local community. Participants, from local churches and from the wider community, were invited to come and listen to talks on local cultural organisations and to meet with representatives from a local ethnic group.

The series provided participants with the opportunity to get to know each other and created an environment where all sections of the community could freely learn about and explore each other's cultural identities. Individuals also had the chance to examine their existing views of cultural organisations and to correct any misconceptions that they might have had in respect of different cultural identities. The presentations from the speakers were not only educational but were the basis for developing a better understanding, respect and tolerance of different cultures, traditions and identities.

The programme took place in the Alley Theatre over four evenings in October 2014. The first night began with a "Celebration of Culture" where participants had the opportunity to sample an evening of world music, dance and food. This multicultural evening was delivered in partnership with Strabane Ethnic Community Association. The evening ended with a short talk from a member of a local ethnic group, Bobby Rao, who shared his story of making Strabane his home, the challenges he had to overcome and the opportunities he had embraced.

**"I am very impressed with the work of ICPP and... I think it is a vital project in a land where there still seems to be a good deal of mutual suspicion around."**

The following three evenings featured a variety of speakers including representatives of the West Ulster Bands Forum, the Gaelic Athletic Association, Culturlann ui chanain, Bready & District Ulster Scots Development Association, the Orange Order and the Ancient Order of Hibernians.

Feedback on the series proved to be both positive and encouraging. All of the speakers spoke openly and honestly on the importance of respecting one another's right to be different and being able to "agree to disagree". However participants and speakers did not shy away from the more challenging issues and lively, yet respectful, discussions ensued on each evening – so much so that at every event the group had to be encouraged to leave so that the staff could close the building!

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## 03.2

# Engaging Local Areas

## North West: “Tour De Foyle” Charity Cycle

In May 2014 ICPP held a number of meetings with the North West Methodist Mission and the Churches Trust with regard to how it might support their work whilst also bring together people from both sides of the local community.

Having undertaken a small scale charity cycle ride to Iona in Scotland in 2013, the North West Methodist Mission was keen to stage a similar event on the local stage. This would present an excellent opportunity to engage the wider community in addition to the group of committed clergy who participated in the previous year. The Churches Trust were also keen to raise awareness in the wider community of the work of their organisation and in particular their food bank project.

After a series of planning meetings and discussion sessions the partnership unveiled the “Tour De Foyle” Charity Cycle – the charitable proceeds of which would go towards the homeless hostel run by the North West Methodist Mission and the Churches Trust food bank. The church leaders provided their endorsement of the event and set about issuing a call for people across the city and beyond to participate.

The chosen route for this inaugural cross-border cycling event was centred on a scenic lap of Lough Foyle which extended to almost fifty miles. Participants set off from Ebrington Square and cycled across to Magilligan where they stopped for a short break. From here the cyclists boarded the local ferry which transported them across to Greencastle in County Donegal. The final stages of the route brought the participants back into the city, crossing the landmark Peace Bridge before arriving at the finishing line in St Columb’s Park.

Building on the excitement generated by the Giro d’Italia earlier in the year, the idea was simply to bring people together from all of the communities across the city and beyond in a united effort to raise funds for two very worthy local causes. The response exceeded all expectations with countless churches, businesses, cycling clubs and individuals from across the city aiding in the delivery of the event. Over 140 people were involved in the cycle ride itself with representation in the field from across Northern Ireland and the Border Region – a real testament to the unifying power of such an event. In addition to this over £4,000 was raised for the North West Methodist Mission homeless hostel and the Churches Trust food bank. The “Tour De Foyle” was an outstanding event which was effective in bringing people together regardless of ability or background.

Given the success of the 2014 “Tour De Foyle” Charity Cycle, work is already underway to deliver the event again in 2015 in what is sure to become a regular fixture in the local church calendar in the North West.



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## 03.3

# Churches Speaking with a United Voice

“This is an important time for our society; the momentum for building peace should not be lost...We firmly believe that a peaceful and reconciled society is possible. Responsibility for building peace and the development of mutual respect and tolerance in our society does not lie with our political leaders alone, but is shared by every individual. As Christians we emphasise the value of building trust, in a spirit of generosity and forgiveness. We encourage every member of our community, church and parishes to be instruments of reconciliation and peace-building. The Christian call to reconciliation, inspired by the example and sacrifice of Christ, is one that calls us to reach out to others in a spirit of understanding, seeking to be sensitive to their concerns and recognising our need for one another.”

Joint statement of Church Leaders at the conclusion of the Haass process, 2014

Throughout 2014 threats to the future of the Northern Ireland Assembly, arising from the failure to achieve agreement in key policy areas, were a powerful reminder that we cannot afford to be complacent about the necessity of working for peace and good relations in our society.

Responding to the conclusion of the Haass all-party talks process in January 2014, Church Leaders appealed to political leaders not to lose the momentum that had been generated by the initiative. In April, the Secretary of State, Ms. Teresa Villiers, met with representatives of the Christian Churches to discuss her priorities for political progress in Northern Ireland.



*Kelvin Boyes / Press Eye*

The Secretary of State acknowledged the contribution of churches to the development of good relations and social cohesion in Northern Ireland.

A particular concern for churches was the political impasse surrounding the proposed welfare reform. In March Church Leaders met with the Minister for Social Development, Mr Nelson McCausland, for an update on the progress of the legislation. At that meeting they expressed their concern about the fear and anxiety experienced by some of the most vulnerable members of our communities as a result of the continued uncertainty about this vital area of social policy.

These concerns were reiterated in October in letters to the new Minister for Social Development, Mr Mervyn Storey, and the Chair of the Social Development Committee. Church Leaders stated that *'the lack of clarity around welfare reform presented a serious obstacle to informed debate in civil society'* and created *'fear and anxiety for those who are dependent on welfare payments and now face an uncertain economic future'*. In subsequent meetings with both the Minister and the Chair of the Social Development Committee, together with their colleagues, Church Leaders appealed to politicians not to allow the urgent needs of the poorest to become a hostage to the wider political impasse.

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# 04

# ICPP

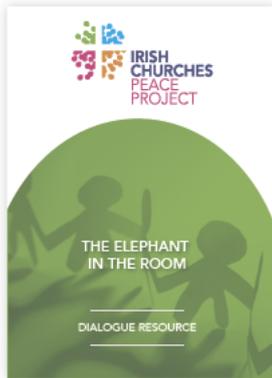
# Resources

One of the key aims of ICPP has been to create a strong and lasting legacy. One way of achieving this has been to capture the experiences and lessons learned from throughout the project and to document them in the form of programme resources.

Set out on the next two pages are details of the full range of ICPP resources that are openly available to the public. Each resource looks at a different area of the peace and reconciliation work that the project has delivered to date.

Hard copy versions of the resources can be requested from the Irish Council of Churches - the contact details are located at the front of this report. Electronic versions can be downloaded from [www.irishchurches.org](http://www.irishchurches.org)

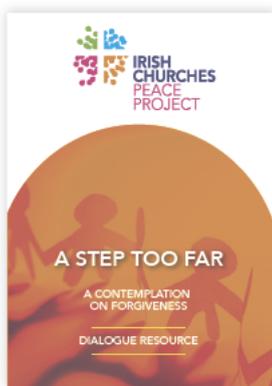




## The Elephant in the Room

This dialogue resource contains six sessions focusing on contentious issues in Northern Ireland, such as identity, parades, symbols etc. An accompanying DVD contains video clips to stimulate discussion for each session.

This resource is appropriate for use with a wide variety of either single identity or mixed groups.



## A Step Too Far

This resource is based on the award winning film "A Step Too Far: A Contemplation on Forgiveness". The film is divided into three episodes and an accompanying resource provides outlines for three discussion sessions plus an optional final session.

This resource is suitable for use in a wide variety of church settings such as home groups, youth groups, informal services etc.



## A Cultural Experience and a Cultural Journey

This resource enables local people and migrants to build relationships and explore their various cultures. The series of sessions and events in the resource can help local people understand some of the problems migrants face in adapting to the local culture. They can also help migrants in the process of learning about and adapting to the local culture.



## Towards Greater Understanding

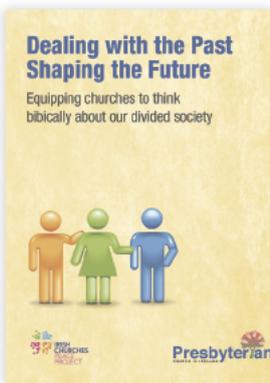
This four-session series is designed for two or more churches from different traditions in a local area. The first three sessions focus on increasing understanding of each other's faith traditions. The final session focuses on identifying areas for future co-operation in peace-building in the locality.



## Addressing the Legacy of the Troubles

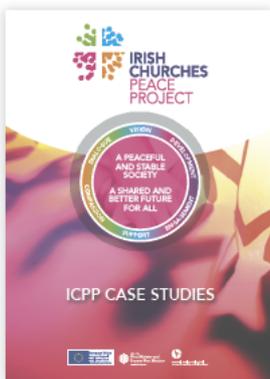
This DVD resource is based on a conference for clergy on addressing the legacy of the Troubles. This was organised by ICPP and clergy in the Mid-Ulster area. The resource booklet provides discussion questions on topics raised in video clips of the main conference speakers on the DVD.

This resource is appropriate for groups of clergy or other church leaders interested in exploring the continuing legacy of the Troubles and the role of churches in addressing the issues.



## Dealing with the Past, Shaping the Future

This DVD-based resource contains a number of talks presented at a 2014 Presbyterian Church in Ireland conference. The accompanying booklet contains Bible study notes and discussion questions that may be used in a wide variety of small group settings.



## ICPP Case Studies

These cases studies capture the experience and learning from ICPP's engagement in peace-building and good relations work with churches. The booklet is divided into three key themes:

- Connecting the Community
- Developing peace building when it is challenging
- Organising joint conferences and events



## Resource Directory

The Resource Directory provides contact details for organisations and individuals who can support churches who are engaging in peace-building and good relations activities.

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# 05 Appendices



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# Appendix 1

## ICPP Steering Group Members

### Chairperson

**Bishop Donal McKeown** *Roman Catholic Church*

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### Vice Chairperson

**Mrs. Joan Doherty** *Methodist Church in Ireland*

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### Group Members

**Rev. Tim Bartlett** *Roman Catholic Church*  
**Dr. Nicola Brady** *Roman Catholic Church*  
**Mr. David Clarke** *Special EU Programmes Body*  
**Mrs. Eileen Gallagher** *Roman Catholic Church*  
**Rev. Donald Ker** *Methodist Church in Ireland*  
**Mrs. Felicity McCartney** *Religious Society of Friends  
(Irish Council of Churches)*  
**Mr. Mervyn McCullagh** *Irish Council of Churches*  
**Bishop John McDowell** *Church of Ireland*  
**Rev. John McClure** *Church of Ireland*  
**Rev. John Peacock** *Presbyterian Church in Ireland*  
**Rev. Dr. Donald Watts** *Presbyterian Church in Ireland  
& Irish Council of Churches*

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### Co-opted Members

**Rev. Doug Baker** *Presbyterian Church (USA)*  
**Mrs. Diane Holt** *Tearfund Northern Ireland*  
**Ms. Jacqueline Irwin** *Community Relations Council*

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### In support

**Mr. Clive Knox (Finance)** *Presbyterian Church in Ireland*  
**Ms. Laura Kelly (Human Resources)** *Presbyterian Church in Ireland*

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# Appendix 2

## ICPP Staff Team

### Director

Keith Hamilton

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### Good Relations Officers

Yvonne Breen

*Craigavon Borough  
Council Area*

Emily Brough

*Armagh, Dungannon  
& Cookstown*

Laura Coulter

*Greater Belfast  
(January 2014 – June 2014)*

Glenn Harvey

*Fermanagh & the Border Region*

John Kelly

*Strabane & the Northwest*

Peter McDowell

*Newry & Mourne*

Eamonn McFerran

*Greater Belfast (July 2014 – )*

---

### Administration & Finance Staff

Heather Carson

*Administrator*

Sharon Brown

*Finance Manager  
(January 2014 –  
September 2014)*

John Reed

*Finance Manager  
(September 2014 – )*

