



the Corrymeela community

embracing difference • healing divisions • enabling reconciliation

The Journey continues...



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www.corrymeela.org
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Bethlehem

Easter 2002

Arrived, in a dark
pitching, two thousand and
two wintertimes ago.

Warmed by animal heat
and the nighttime sweat of
his exhausted mother

surrounded by angels,
singing peace and pleasure
to all who follow,

while timid shepherds bring
kind gifts; a lamb, a reassurance,
a gentle prophecy
for long years ahead.

And now, huddled in
the hidden corners
of nativity's cathedral

lie fighting men
and praying men,
warmed by each others' blood
and the nighttime sweat of tired vigilance.

They are surrounded
by the keepers of Zion.
Those seen,
and those unseen.

And their harmony together
is found in rounds of fire
and occupation
seeing occupation
and resistance of each other.

Today, I saw a white clothed nun
scurry like a frightened animal
past a green cloaked tank.

Her prayers, I'm sure,
are ones for safety for two troubled peoples,
for quiet ambles round Monday morning markets,
for stars of promise
to shine again in Bethlehem.

5 Pádraig Ó Tuama

"readings from the book of exile" First published by Canterbury Press,
Norwich 2012.

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<http://www.facebook.com/MatthewWoodhousePhotography>

Also, very special thanks to Anne McDonagh for her patience and help.

Dear Friend

THIS EDITION OF THE MAGAZINE acknowledges our past, present and future, the words "the journey continues" come up time and time again. Next year marks an important milestone on this journey, our 50th Anniversary, a time of celebration and acknowledgement. Please check our website www.corrymeela.org for details of how you can get involved by coming along to an Open Event at our Centre or support our fundraising – information on events will be available from November onwards.

Throughout this magazine you will see a series of photos and text titled Corrymeela Is... This is a photo essay compiled by some of this year's volunteer team, the theme is "Corrymeela Is... ", the words attached to them are by Emma Schmelzer – thank you Emma.

A special word of thanks to all those who supported our Christmas Appeal, we have raised over £18,000, this will go directly towards funding our work with young people at our Ballycastle Centre.

Thank you.

Angela Saunders
writeback@corrymeela.org

Goodbye Bill

IT IS WITH GREAT REGRET that we say goodbye to Bill Osborne, our Interim Chief Executive.

He has encouraged, motivated and inspired us for almost a year and acted always with good intentions, good grace and good humour.

We wish you well Bill, thank you and good luck!

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Welcome back Colin



IN FEBRUARY THIS YEAR, Colin Craig was appointed Corrymeela's new Executive Director. Colin previously worked for Corrymeela as Centre Director from 1990 to 2001.

Life has a strange way of bringing you home. If someone had asked me a year ago whether I would be about to take up the new Executive Director position with Corrymeela, I would have smiled politely and told them that never, in my career to date, have I ever returned to an organization that I have previously worked for. This was not because of some kind of internal prohibition but simply because I generally have been more interested in travelling towards new horizons rather than old ones. To my surprise I have found these new horizons are with Corrymeela for which I am truly both excited and a little daunted.

Since leaving Corrymeela in 2001, I have had the honour of working with Mary Montague

in co-founding and developing TIDES Training. Together, we not only found ourselves working across Northern Ireland trying to build up local community leadership and confidence but also out in Kosovo, Bosnia and Pakistan to name just a few places. Then through the encouragement of Jaap van der Sar of Stichting Oikos, a Dutch NGO, I also had the chance to work in other settings globally training nearly 1,000 facilitators on the Dialogue for Peaceful Change methodology.

Unexpectedly, these opportunities brought me to meet and become deeply inspired by the work of Iris and Keith Archuleta on a Youth and Gang violence initiative in Antioch, California. Together over the last 5 years, we have been building

a Citywide collaborative called the Youth Intervention Network with over 40 stakeholder groups involved. It was this work that convinced me that my work in Northern Ireland had become too often focused on tackling the symptoms of sectarianism rather than its root causes. It is not that dealing with the symptoms is not important; it is! However, if that was to stay my focus then I might, in the end, be caught in a co-dependency with the very problem I wanted to help alleviate.

This led me to step away from TIDES in 2012 and develop a new organization called Different Tracks Global (DTG). This is where I fully expected to see out my professional career. Then, with my ongoing involvement as a Community Member, I was asked to support the development of a new Strategic Plan. In doing so I found myself calling for Corrymeela to enter its own journey into revitalizing the scope and impact of our work.

Next year is our 50th Anniversary. Corrymeela, inspired by Ray Davey, sought to respond to a world that was rapidly heading into violent sectarian conflict. Yet sectarianism still remains cancerous in our society and we need to continue to seek a path of reconciliation across this divide. Our politics are too often characterized through a balancing act of "barely tolerated co-existence". True reconciliation remains elusive and we have much more still to do.

We need to remember that Corrymeela was not just founded as a reaction to sectarianism, but out of a Christian vision as to how we can truly build communities that live out the values of equity, diversity, interdependence

and sustainability. This is a transformational commitment. Over these last 50 years our world has become increasingly fractured in ever more dangerous ways. Families are struggling, our economic models are struggling, our youth are struggling, our education system is struggling and perhaps most critically the Earth is struggling to cope with the burdens we are placing on it. All of these are deep rooted and systemic challenges. Could Corrymeela tackle these on its own and should it even try? Absolutely not! That would be arrogant folly. However our vision, as Corrymeela, is that we can and must, as a Community and a Staff team show up to these challenges. To do so, we must now join with others to make a real difference and offer our children's children the chance to live on a planet characterized by a sense of abundance rather than scarcity, hope rather than fear and sustainability rather than just survival.

To meet this calling we will need our Community to strengthen and grow. To do this we will need to support our staff team to continue to build skills and confidence to meet this vision with entrepreneurial energy and imagination. To do this we need your support, prayers and love. This is the horizon line I have felt called to join. Ray often used a phrase from a diary entry that Christopher Columbus made as he sought to cross the Atlantic for the first time. "No land in sight: Sailed on"

So we need the journey to continue.... together

Colin Craig

Executive Director, Corrymeela



Thought for the day

CAN THERE BE A LIMIT TO JUSTICE? Should there be no further investigations, inquiries or inquests into killings that predate the Good Friday Agreement, as the Attorney General for Northern Ireland suggested? Such a suggestion highlights two profoundly different notions of justice.

The first kind of justice is justice for those in charge – who command budgets and oversee procedure. They are saying convictions for crimes committed a generation ago are hard to come by. They think truth will emerge more readily once the threat of punishment is removed.

The second kind of justice is justice for the wounded. The day your child was gunned down is a day you'll never forget as long as you live. Nothing is going to take away your ache to know what happened, who was

responsible, and how they'll be held to account.

The accusations levelled in a Panorama programme that a virtual terror group existed within the British army in the early seventies will seriously underscore that.

Both kinds of justice matter. Arguably it was the chronic absence of the first kind among those in charge that brought about the Troubles in the first place. But the devastating legacy of the Troubles is the second kind – the blood of

the victims that cries from the ground.

However this debate turns out, neither kind of justice is adequate on its own. Law protects us from tyranny and arbitrary violence. But the things we most need the law can't give us. There's a lot more to justice than getting a conviction and putting a person behind bars. We need to go deeper than prosecutions and deeper than punishment.

Going deeper involves naming our own hatred. Our hatred may be rooted in a desperate determination to go on living and not be dismantled by grief and hurt. But not to be consumed by hatred requires us to unravel a bigger story. When Jesus was nailed to the cross he said, 'Father forgive them: they don't know what they're doing.' Moving beyond hatred means recognising that the people who hurt us so badly didn't truly know what they were

doing – even if they thought they did. They were part of a bigger story too.

This doesn't mean denying our earlier hatred. It involves allowing ourselves to be gradually dispossessed of that hatred. Eventually we understand that hatred as part of a whole series of events, mostly outside our control.

This is a journey beyond justice. It's not something the law or the state can really help us with. Journeying beyond justice takes us to places we call forgiveness and healing. It takes us to the heart of who we are; and into the heart of God.

Rev. Dr. Sam Wells

Rev. Dr. Sam Wells is Vicar of St-Martin-in-the Fields, London. He worked as a volunteer with the Corrymeela Community in the late 1980's. This is an excerpt from his BBC Radio 4 broadcast Thought for the Day, reproduced with kind permission.



*Corrymeela is ...
light in all its forms: a rainbow, a candle,
sun on the sea and through the rain.*

????????????????????

Our 50th Anniversary



“I am sure this is one of the great things God is saying to us as we gather here today. Have more faith in me; understand the sort of God I am. If you want a place where people can get together to know me better... a place where they can learn to think about my world and my purpose for it... a place where Christians can come together, especially those from different fragments of my broken body and learn to trust and love each other – if you want that – I want it infinitely more. O ye of little faith.”

Ray Davey, speaking at the service to mark the purchase of the Corrymeela site in June 1965.



I need a caption for this please Angela

FIFTY YEARS are only of momentary significance. However, a community, which has grown to maturity through the many trials and tribulations of half a century, is an accomplishment that can justify a celebration. Next year, during the commemoration of the 50th anniversary of Corrymeela’s founding, it is appropriate to respectfully review the achievements of its work for reconciliation and peace building, to acknowledge those who have walked beside us in this journey of peace through Christ.

At the same time, our vision should be focused on the future, as we plan the reinvention of Corrymeela with due regard for the evolving needs and requirements of the society within which we live. Fresh energy has to be injected into our enterprise, so that we may boldly face the continuing challenges in pursuing reconciliation and peace building in our society. The activities being conceived by the 50th Anniversary Steering Committee are all oriented towards these objectives.

Our year-long programme

of activities will allow us the opportunity to share, in gratitude, the progress made in terms of reconciliation and peace building in Northern Ireland over the last 50 years. It will also be an occasion for The Corrymeela Community to reiterate its core values and its mission and to bring to the wider community’s full view, Corrymeela’s Christian and humanistic spirit which is its guiding light.

The 50th Anniversary will be a celebration of Corrymeela’s journey down the road of peace and reconciliation in Northern Ireland. The Anniversary provides an opportunity to affirm and reinvigorate the work of reconciliation and peace building in Northern Ireland and around the world. We will also pay tribute to those who have led us on this journey; the people who have walked alongside us in this journey; and finally, the young people who will lead us as this journey continues.

At the 21st Anniversary, Ray Davey called it, “The Unfinished Journey.” At the 50th Anniversary, we call it, “The Journey Continues.”

Michael Gibbs
Treasurer, Corrymeela Community





Remembering

I RECENTLY HAD THE GREAT PLEASURE of being the respondent to John Paul Lederach at a guest lecture that he was giving in Belfast. It was a somewhat daunting prospect as John Paul is someone that I hold in such high regard as a man who not only speaks about peace and conflict transformation but also lives it. Here are some of my reflections:

The recent furore over the On the Run is a stark reminder that our past, our recent history is still very much alive in the everyday. Our past makes its presence known at a political level as well as in the interpersonal; we have not yet learned how to do the past well.

In his recent lecture at Queen's University in Belfast, hosted by the Institute of Conflict Transformation and Social Justice, John Paul Lederach spoke about how post conflict societies need to manage the past in a way that recognises

that time and memory are not linear, but rather the past, present and future are involved in a subtle choreography where each interact with the other.

John Paul Lederach suggests that the question is not if or whether we will remember but rather how? When? And for what purpose?

We all remember differently, selective memory with some feelings like a deep sense of injustice staying long in the wake of the happening.

John Paul Lederach talks about re-imagining the past and remembering the future saying that in every act of perception/ memory there is included an act of creativity and in every bit of imagination there exists memory. He talked about the need to have the human experience as the starting point, to redo the relational calculus where at the very least there is an acknowledgement that

everyone has an experience that is legitimate.

The difficulty in learning how to re-imagine the past is that it will take decades, and in our world of short term funding and electoral cycles that reinforce certain memories for political gain, we are not given the space to learn a new language of softly spoken words needed to bring a fresh lens to how we view our present.

John Paul Lederach suggested three pointers to re-imagining the past and remembering the future in such a way that brings something new:

Nurture a common aspiration among actual people; get ordinary people round the table talking. Learn from women who do this more easily

Give time to explore how we see ourselves and others. Give the other a possibility.

Leadership: it is not easy to be a leader and leaders need to lead for the whole while holding onto their own identity. It is in the sphere of leadership that civil society has a significant role to play.

Throughout the lecture John Paul Lederach emphasised that the past is an ambiguous place that we cannot forget, but we can reimagine in such a way where we find a place not only for our story, but for the story of the other, even when the other is the enemy.

John Paul Lederach did not offer an easy answer. He recognised the importance of Peace Accords with all the formal structures that ensue but looking at the past is deeply human and personal. It will need gentle creativity and courage to explore how that can be done and how we in turn as peace builders can play a role in making it safe to remember and re-imagine our past, so that we are not held captive by it in the future.

Susan McEwen

Head Of Programmes, Corrymeela Community



Dr. John Paul Lederach is Professor of International Peacebuilding at the University of Notre Dame, Indiana. He is a committed Mennonite Christian and the author of several books on Reconciliation and International Conflict Transformation.

“A peace lover clings to his or her myths and vigorously resists anything or anyone who challenges them. A peacemaker is one who is willing to give up all myths of peace in order to receive the ‘peace that the world cannot give.’”

We live into stories that

LAST YEAR I READ THE FOLLOWING, quoting David Stevens, on the wall in the Big Croi “Love - divine, human - de-centres us, transfigures our reality, it does not dissolve disagreeable facts, but puts the facts in their proper place.” Twenty years ago my circumstances changed irreversibly. I welcomed the change with some relief. Living with a context, I had been unable to change was at times painful and perpetually frustrating.

When the change flowered and everything was re-configured I realised that I was struggling to live in the new reality. Time spent enduring in a contested space had created in me a habit of being that I was unfree to move on from.

As I became aware of this dynamic in myself, I was given a glimpse into the shared human experience of finding the way of freedom. Thomas Keating provocatively describes

this process of liberation from the stories we tell ourselves: “A peace lover clings to his or her myths and vigorously resists anything or anyone who challenges them. A peacemaker is one who is willing to give up all myths of peace in order to receive the ‘peace that the world cannot give.’”

Attachment to my suffering found me at a lumpy crossroads where I was free to choose either to remain in a narrative that had been, despite the fact that it was no longer reality in my present. Or I could re-locate myself, in step with the now, letting go of my pain; free to learn from my own faults, which had contributed to the discord I had known as a kind of suffering.

Richard Rohr defines suffering as not being in control or not getting what we perceive we want. Wisdom teaches that our approach to suffering, regardless of its cause, will define our future selves and our

present experience of peace. The mystics are clear that suffering is a landmark along the pathway to human growth and transformation. John O’Donohue suggests that if we wish to change our human experience we simply need to “change the way you think”. For me this idea resonates with what Ben Okri observes when he describes that “we are the stories we tell ourselves”. What stories do we re-tell, nurture, ponder or enshrine?

“We have to make and to fake histories,” Roel Kaptein reminds us. “We have all had the experience of telling stories about our lives while people who know us well smile knowingly. They know that the story is not true and that it is only our story, the story we need to stay ourselves as we think we are, and to have self-respect. But every now and then, while telling our stories, we become aware that we are living lies, both our own and those of other people.”

the we tell

So how do we know the veracity of our stories? The desert fathers tell a story of a young monk who went to an older monk asking "teach me about wisdom and about god" and the older monk exhorts the young brother "return to your cell and it will teach you everything you need to know." This journey of solitude and stillness to the heart of our very selves takes a lifetime and few have the perseverance to complete the journey. As with so many of the adventures life offers they can be undertaken alone but a journey shared in community is a deeply transfiguring experience.

We live in a culture where the dominant patterns are about separation not reconciliation. The Easter story celebrates one who, motivated by transcendent communion, endured great suffering on behalf of everyone including his enemies. Why? So that we might all know re-configured relationships with ourselves and all things simply by

surrendering to being in mimesis with this Jesus. The story insists on the open invitation "Follow me..." into scary freedom.

In contrast to the cultural foundations of western civilisation which assert "I think therefore I am", participation in the contemplative consciousness of our mystical traditions unlock us from our heads and posits "we love therefore we be". This re-frame is a universal invitation into the exercise of being faith, hope and charity for the good of self, other, sister & brother. Patterns of thought, the stories we tell and re-tell will determine our shared choices, charitable actions and ultimately whether we are agents of separation or reconciliation.

As Corrymeela anticipates celebrating our 50th anniversary it would be radical if we could re-experience deep transformation and a reconciliation of our very selves by that ancient immanent power; love. As we approach

our own jubilee let's remain under the influence of that divine, human love which transfigures and de-centres the stories we live into and resonate to others.

Why not make some time this Easter to be still and know more deeply the stories you tell, and ask whether they are worth recycling?

Matt Scrimgeour

"But every now and then, while telling our stories, we become aware that we are living lies, both our own and those of other people."



Corrymeela is...

community by design, not by happenstance

Exploring the silence

– experiences
at a Quaker
meeting

Quaker practice: when the first person enters the space the meeting has begun.
Head nods, smiles, recognition of presence. Then into the waiting silence.
An ear-marked silence of coughs, creaks and slow-turning pages.
Occasionally a snore, which no-one judges. Then back to the silence, which is once or twice briefly punctuated by someone led by the Spirit to speak.
Then back to the silence.
Sixty minutes later, hands are shaken, announcements made, tea offered in another room.
It's a small gathering, averaging around seven people.
I am one of the youngest.
This is an external sketch of a Quaker meeting – where a person might observe that nothing much happens for an hour.

But here is another take: a view of an inner landscape.

I arrive with all my thoughts and lists and worries and fears, unsettled and unfocused. So many words I have spoken, heard, read. So many things that appear to be important. Appear.
In the stillness I feel the aches of my body – stiff neck, tight left thigh. I focus on my breath – in, pause, and out. I focus on my breath. I settle on my mantra, a word that I use to deepen my focus. The word I use is Maranatha, a Greek word, meaning Come Lord Jesus.

Mara on the in-breath,
Natha on the out.

The fight is constant – multiple thoughts vie to be crowned king of my attention.
And my aim is to give this hour a single focus – Maranatha.
An itch in my right ear becomes piercingly vital to address. Leave it.
Dark thoughts emerge to challenge and batter my worth.

This is stupid!
Why did she?
How could I?
What's for lunch?

Focus on the breath.

Mara on the in-breath,
Natha on the out.

Big ideas to change the world
bluster into consciousness.
Ignore them. Ignore every epic world-changing distraction.

Mara on the in-breath,
Natha on the out.

Let me be honest. Sometimes I want to bolt, leave the awful silence that highlights my hysterical whirring guilt-grooved mind.

But sometimes, not always, the silence reveals a well of deep belonging.
An unearned love.
And I experience in a cellular way
the truth that
I am the Beloved.
I am Gods Beloved.
We are Gods Beloved.
And God is waiting
In the silence...

A final quote to end, quoted (but not attributed) by Jason Elliot from his wonderful travel book, *Mirrors of the Unseen*:

The face of the Beloved wears neither a veil nor covering.
To glimpse it for yourself, just let the dust of the road settle.

Amen.

Paul Hutchinson



Sunshine and lollipops

I DON'T OFTEN HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY to use the word 'momentous' to describe my life. No matter how valuable my work at the Ballycastle centre might be, there is really no such thing as a 'momentous' tea trolley. However, for a number of reasons, I feel that the events of this past week meet the Oxford English Dictionary's definition of having 'great importance or significance, especially in having a bearing on future events.'

This week marked the first time that I was assigned to a family group, and the first time in my life that I was responsible for a group of children under 10. I was part of a team of 6 volunteers looking after 19 kids aged 5-7 while their mums, aunts and grandmothers worked in private sessions discussing issues around identity.

Not only was this my first time working with children in this age group, I also have next to no experience of spending time with little ones outside work. I was

nervous. More than nervous, I was scared. I don't know how to talk to kids, I don't know how to look after them, what if they hate me, what if they hate each other, what if they..... CRY.

All these thoughts and more were running around my head in the days leading up to the group's arrival.

The day came, the bus pulled into the car park, and 20 families poured into the Centre with Spiderman puffer jackets and One Direction suitcases in tow. And, of course, everything

was fine. More than fine, it was excellent. With so many adults per child, any hiccups were dealt with calmly and competently, and there was more than enough support for a fledgling baby handler like myself to find her feet. I discovered depths of patience I never knew I had, and in the children themselves I saw an endless capacity for honesty, trust and joy – a capacity that is less obvious in the adult groups I often work with, muffled perhaps by the hard truths and heavy responsibilities of maturity.

The group left the site in a whirlwind of sweetie wrappers and we went over the feedback the adults had given to their facilitators. One mum had reported that, at 6 o'clock that morning, her little girl got herself up and out of bed, dressing herself for the first time in her life, because she wanted to make sure she didn't miss any of the activities of the day. Other parents reported that their children were as happy as they'd ever been, they'd never seen their son smiling so much, and they'd never expected their daughter to settle in so quickly.



These little ones left with new friends and lifelong memories, and I know they'll carry this experience with them into their lives outside. Working at Corrymeela is not all sunshine and lollipops, but there are times like this week when I have the chance to do something truly momentous, and for that, I feel blessed.

Helen-Rose Owen

Corrymeela One-Year Volunteer



*Corrymeela is...
what football feels like when you don't keep score*

Together for Peace

Together for Peace, (T4P) is a Leeds based community development organisation, bringing diverse people together - from grassroots to government - to find creative, collaborative solutions to local and global issues.

“For us, this visit represented hope and demonstrated courage to our group, it showed people can work together even after huge conflicts”

IN NOVEMBER 2013, Together for Peace brought a group of 20 young adults from Leeds to Corrymeela for a significant and hugely enjoyable long weekend. This residential was part of an ongoing project called Active Citizens, a flexible programme of training and activities which aims to inspire and support grassroots community amongst participants. The British Council developed the Active Citizens concept, which is delivered around the world by organizations that tailor the programme locally

and bring in other partners - like Corrymeela.

Through a series of facilitated workshops exploring themes such as identity, belonging, community and dialogue the programme supports small groups of participants in the development of intercultural skills. It builds their confidence, expands their perspectives and motivates them to become involved in community-led activities.

With the support and advice of

Ivan Cross, (Corrymeela's Youth Work Co-ordinator) we devised a schedule for the November residential which allowed our group to bond and to reflect on their own community experiences in Leeds. We were thrilled that through Ivan's connections we were able to meet with a group living in an interface area of North Belfast. We met and heard stories from ex combatants and the PSNI. For us, this visit represented hope and demonstrated courage to our group, it showed people can work together even after huge conflicts.

Our group was struck by the visual experience of Belfast, the dividing walls, the murals and the flags. As we drove around the city, Ivan explained some of the history and current contexts to us in a very engaging, accessible and unbiased way. In their reflections participants from our group noted that we don't have physical walls in Leeds, there are barriers in people's minds and they posed questions such as what can we do to bridge those divides in our city?

Our group was multi-racial and consisted of participants from various backgrounds



“...there are barriers in people's minds and they posed questions such as what can we do to bridge those divides in our city?”



come to Corrymeela



including African, Caribbean, South Asian, White British and Eastern European. Our three-day programme was sensitively put together and it worked incredibly well. It mixed an understanding of the local context with opportunities to reflect on the inter-racial conflicts and intra-community tensions at home in Leeds, but more importantly gave us opportunities to build relationships between one another.

Participants in our group thoroughly enjoyed the residential, the variety of the programme, the thought provoking inputs from Ivan and the wonderful team of enthusiastic volunteers. The whole team struck the balance perfectly between enabling our group to deal with difficult subjects and dialogues and also to be able to relax, dance,

sing, laugh and experience the fantastic Corrymeela community spirit and hospitality. Since returning to Leeds, participants in our group have been inspired to create social action projects together in their communities. This has been against a backdrop of renewed inter-racial violence. The bonds, trust, understanding and friendships between members of our group are creating resilience in the face of wider community traumas. The visit to Corrymeela came at a significant time and its positive impact will last way beyond the 3 day residential. Thank you to all involved!

Jill Mann

Project Worker, T4P

South Sudan

IT'S HARD FOR ME TO ARTICULATE how in 8 months the people and country of South Sudan got under my skin. As a manager in the Northern Ireland Health Service in need of adventure, I had heard stories about Voluntary Service Overseas (VSO) from a range of people and in October 2012 I decided to apply. I was eventually matched with a placement as Primary Healthcare Management Advisor in Juba County Health Department, South Sudan and knew adventure was likely to be in store!

South Sudan is not only the newest country in the world, formed in 2011, but famously has one of the worst healthcare systems with widely quoted statistics about maternal mortality. One of the aims of development work is to move from humanitarian i.e. NGO service delivery to enabling governments to adequately oversee and run their own services. As soon as I arrived on the 1st of May, 2013, I

immediately saw that it would be years before South Sudan would be able to do so without NGO intervention. While a structure is in place at national, state and county level for running the health service, there is very limited capacity to administer never mind deliver core services.

Most people spent time as refugees or hiding in the bush during the war and so a mix of trauma and limited education has had huge consequences.

I had heard stories about Voluntary Service Overseas (VSO) from a range of people and in October 2012 I decided to apply.

In addition, when I arrived, the County Health Department (CHD) landrover had broken down and so there was no way for CHD staff to go and do crucial supportive supervision over the hundred health centres under their remit and with long delays in pay, little motivation to be creative.

But, if I've learned one thing from Corrymeela, it's about the power of welcome. It's the power of sitting with people and their stories and choosing to walk towards those who might be perceived as 'other', sometimes awkwardly, sometimes tentatively but carefully stepping forward with courage.

Initially I spent a lot of time sitting with my colleagues under the mango tree drinking sugary tea, listening to stories and laughing a LOT:

"Hey, white woman, will you marry me and become my third wife?"

"Well I'll think about it if you pay my father 3 elephants, a giraffe and 17, 000 cattle."

"Mmmm, I'll talk to some people and get back to you."

There were of course ways to be creative and I tried to keep energy levels high and do what I could. I worked with the nutritionist, teaching her how to write proposals and piloting presentations she delivered to teach mothers how to feed their families cheaply and healthily. I organised NGO co-ordination and staff meetings and tried, without much success to teach the secretary how to take minutes. I went out supervising door-to-door polio immunisation campaigns where each time over 150,000 children under 5 were vaccinated across 16 districts of Juba.

I spent a lot of time working with my boss, Celestino, the new County Medical Officer, and after a frosty start where he nearly sent me packing, he and I formed a strong relationship. He was delighted with himself when he sent me his first ever email – the entire thing in the subject line! – and even more delighted when I replied. Together we navigated a few difficult relationships and I was encouraged when he asked my advice and we would eat biscuits, sigh about the 'Mushkillah ketir' ('big problem') and come up with solutions together as he grew into his new role with confidence.

For every glimmer of encouragement there were days where no one would show up at work for hours or where a few people would jump into the (by then fixed) land cruiser and leave me behind because planning just doesn't happen.

Aside from work, I learned an incredible amount from living with other VSO volunteers, enjoying limited electricity, no



But, if I've learned one thing from Corrymeela, it's about the power of welcome. It's the power of sitting with people and their stories and choosing to walk towards those who might be perceived as 'other'

air-conditioning and brown Nile water. I loved drinking strong habesh coffee with Eritrean friends who had their own staggering stories. I saw and learned a lot about the aid 'industry' and struggled not to become cynical.

So after all that, the time came for me to come home for Christmas. The night I arrived home a political skirmish descended into a form of civil war wreaking havoc across the country. Since December the fighting has brought the country out of 3 years of stability and back into a state of turmoil with hundreds of thousands camping at the UN sites or nearby. VSO evacuated volunteers and suspended their work but they subsequently decided, with sadness, to close the programme in South Sudan because the current situation means core funding has to go to the many humanitarian needs and a development programme like VSO isn't appropriate at the moment.

I've taken the difficult decision to take a job at home with the hope of returning to Juba with a medical team later this year for a few weeks. I'm in touch with a lot



of people and working out how to keep invested. The challenge I have - as I know many of you do - is to weave together images of those who are poor and hungry and the follow-on rush of compassion with what I can do to responsibly help from afar. I have some ideas.

Thanks so much to everyone for your support. A special mention must be made of the very energetic Linda Agnew who organised a clothes swap - so far half of the money raised has already gone to an orphanage

... the time came for me to come home for Christmas. The night I arrived home a political skirmish descended into a form of civil war wreaking havoc across the country.

I volunteered at. This will help support Mary David, one of the girls I tutored in English begin a teacher training course. (see <http://www.confidentchildren.org/> or <https://www.facebook.com/ConfidentChildren> for more information).

I'd welcome conversations with anyone interested about how we, as Corrymeela members and friends link in with work in South

Sudan and elsewhere in the developing world.

Sarah Williamson

Corrymeela Member

A friend, Colleen Brown sent me this quote last week and I thought I'd share it: "Hope has two beautiful daughters; their names are Anger and Courage. Anger at the way things are, and Courage to see that they do not remain as they are." Augustine of Hippo.



The beating heart of hospitality: what does 'Welcome' mean?

Róisín is the team leader of the Housekeeping Team, she is assisted by **Shona, Monika and Agnieszka**, she ensures the Centre is clean and ready for day guests and overnight visitors.

Moyra is head of the Kitchen Team, she is helped by **Dessie, Marian and William**, every day she plans menus and prepares and serves meals for anything from 30 to 250 visitors.

Wojciech keeps our gardens in excellent order and is married to **Agnieszka**.

AT CORRYMEELA, we understand the power that a residential experience can have. It has a positive transformative effect through true human engagement and offers a real sense of belonging and acceptance. This doesn't happen by accident. Our welcome begins before our visitors arrive, throughout their time at the centre, and after they leave. Our staff team, volunteers and the wider Corrymeela family work hard to make sure our visitors' experiences are the best they can be.

Hospitality is the "heart" and Programme is the "head" of the body we know as Corrymeela, the two are inextricably linked. Good hospitality provides the foundation blocks on which we build our programmes so we can truly and progressively journey towards our vision of Embracing Difference, Healing Divisions, and Enabling Reconciliation.

Our Housekeeping and Kitchen teams are key to making our visitors feel welcome. We do not underestimate the importance of a warm, clean, comfortable bedroom, well-serviced meeting spaces and facilities, and of course an enjoyable meal experience. We are fortunate to have dedicated (and long-standing) staff. We have our challenges, but we have a solid ethos of hospitality and a strong sense of team spirit and take pride in producing our daily bread, our nightly bed, our heart for our head.

As we acknowledge our appreciation for everything they do, we listen to some of the staff themselves, their experiences, what inspires them and what working in Corrymeela means for them.

Shane O'Neill
Head of Hospitality and Facilities,
Corrymeela Ballycastle

What are the highlights of your job?

Róisín: I get great satisfaction when the rooms are ready to receive a new group and everything is clean and tidy.

Dessie: People make Corrymeela. It's not a normal job because everyone's so friendly and we're a close-knit bunch. The compliments from the groups are a highlight and it means you're doing something worthwhile.

Marian: No two days are the same. You get to meet a lot of people from so many different countries and hear about their lives.

Monika: Every day is different, but making people happy makes me happy, I know I have done a good job.

Who is your greatest inspiration?

Agnieszka: It would have to be Ronnie Millar – the former Centre Director; he made us laugh every day and taught us to smile all the time.

William: Pauline, my wife is my greatest inspiration.

Shona: Erin, my four year old niece – we are thick as thieves. I have been involved with her from the day she was born and we will always be pals, she makes my heart melt.

Marian: My parents both lost their fathers when they were young and had to work to support the rest of the family. They had additional





caring responsibilities when they got married with an ill grandmother and they never ever complained.

What is your most memorable moment at Corrymeela?

Róisín: When the Dalai Lama visited Corrymeela, he is such a famous and important man, there was such a buzz at Corrymeela and we were delighted to welcome him. (Róisín)

Shona: When Ray Davey and Kathleen stayed at the Centre I was privileged to prepare their room with flowers, extra pillows and blankets. I also remember Prince Charles arriving by helicopter we were all introduced to him, as he wanted to talk to the people behind the scenes. I remember before his arrival there were sniffer dogs everywhere, they climbed over the beds and wrecked them.

Marian: The morning I started in Corrymeela, a staff member was involved in an accident and I was thrown into the deep end. I remember Kate Pettis saying, "Thank goodness you're here. You'll know what to do!" Fortunately I managed.

Agnieszka: When I first met Ray Davey, he spent time with us and told us about meeting Polish people during the war years.

How is working in Corrymeela different from other jobs you have had?

Róisín: We get a great deal of satisfaction from the groups who visit. We provide a service to people who really need a break. I am a strong believer in creating a nice clean environment for family and conference groups and you can see that you are changing lives. Hosting and hospitality are very important to us. (Róisín)

Shona: You know who you are and what you are and it's good when you get praised for your work. It's not like working in the hospital when you had a certain time to do certain chores. Here at Corrymeela you have time to do the jobs but with so many groups and so many rooms you are working flat out.

Dessie: It's very different from working in a hotel – people talk to you and make time for you – everyone is friendly. You get to know the suppliers, the staff, the volunteers, the groups, and the members; there is a lot of interaction.

Marian: This job is different because I enjoy going to work. It is a caring environment and it has flexible working conditions for the different needs of staff.

Monika: Corrymeela is a community and everyone looks out for each other and everyone is important. It's not like showing up and doing your work and going home. People notice you and care about who you are as a person; it's more like a family.

Moyra: Having worked in the Health Service, which has very strict rules that only permit catering staff in the kitchen, I found it strange that anyone can come in and help themselves to anything.

Wojciech: You meet lots of different people and I even work with my wife!

William: It is all about peace and reconciliation totally different from a hotel.

Do you have any tips you would like to pass on?

Moyra: Try and plan ahead, this helps keeps stress levels down and also saves money!

Róisín: Be willing and pleasant, housekeeping can be a good job if you want to help people.

Shona: Know that it will all work out in the end.

Dessie: Patience is the key.

Marian: Don't get flustered, stay calm in the kitchen.

Monika: Keep up good communication with the rest of the housekeeping team.

William: Make cooking fun but keep it simple!



*Corrymeela is...
harnessing storytelling as a power source*

Summer 2014

Did you know?

CORRYMEELA SUPPORTS residential stays for thousands of people each year. Now, in this funding climate it is getting harder to access grants and donations in order to fully or partially help groups who wish to access the opportunities at Corrymeela's Residential Centre.

Looking to the summer, family groups will need support from Corrymeela and our funds need a boost to help them access respite holidays and peace building initiatives. As you know the summer programme is a vital link between Corrymeela and the Northern Ireland Community – it is essential peace building work with people from disparate

Comments from last year's participants:

It kept the kids and us away from the riots

Children have developed a deeper understanding of identity, community, trust, respect and living together

I feel more confident and ready to face life again

communities engaging with diversity and improving relations with their Catholic, Protestant or Ethnic neighbour.

Last year's summer support cost £44,066 which Corrymeela secured in grants and donations.

Corrymeela has applied to several sources for funding and has secured £3,300 to date and while there are other applications

pending, the shortfall is worrying and we need your help.

If you want to support our Summer Programme, please send your cheque made out to the Corrymeela Community to 8 Upper Crescent, Belfast BT7 1NT or call us on 028 9050 8080 to make a Credit Card donation, you can also donate online www.justgiving.com/corrymeela



BBC TV journalist Tara Mills pictured with Pauline McCann (Corrymeela Member) receiving a cheque on Sunday February 2 at the Annual Good Samaritans' Service in St Anne's.

Black Santa

EVERY YEAR, since 1976 the Dean of St Anne's Cathedral Belfast has collected money in the week running up to Christmas on the steps of the Cathedral inviting passers by to make donations. Many local people make a special trip to Belfast just to shake his hand and give him some money. In December 2013, the current Dean, the Rev. John Mann collected an amazing £196,000, this was distributed to 200 plus local charities.

Thank you Rev. Mann for sitting out for us and so many others during a very cold and miserable December.

Corrymeela Sale

a sign / essence / soul searching
 an airport / 'Arrivals' and 'Departures' lounge / BT54 6QU
 the hamlet that never sleeps / a cup of tea and a chat that has lasted
 many years to date / **home away from home** / respite / challenging and
 comforting / meeting the stranger / uncontrolled laughter / **headspace** / a peaceful
 vision / where I hear my heart again / where I find my humanity / peace in
 progress / **a place to be you** / a projection of collective hope / about trying to make
 God's kingdom come / peace / a civic elder / finding possibilities and fulfilling potential
 amen / addictive and more-ish / an anticipation / **a moment of silence** / talking heads / **healing**
by the sea / life changing but challenging / now and not yet / a contrast
 an experience / a safe space / no strings acceptance / a memory / a dream / in between
 a shadow of our future selves / intense / a people and a place / my four year old son's memory
where I grew into the person I am today / a place of insight and companionship
 sacred and dynamic / an awareness of the Holy Spirit at work / an opportunity / walking with new
 legs / broken too / precious hope / community / an oasis in the chaos / moving / a place of
 hope / a place of lasting memories / a place where we learn to live with each other

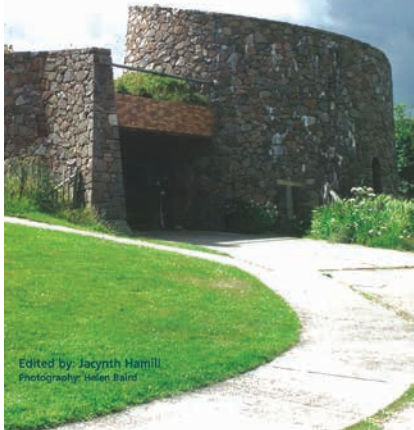


WE ARE OFFERING CHURCHES AND INDIVIDUALS an opportunity to purchase our worship book **Travelling the Road of Faith** at a reduced cost of £5 plus post and packing. (Normal retail price is £9).

Our beautiful **Corrymeela Is...** cards normally retail for £3.50 for a pack of 5, sale price £2.50 plus post and packing.

To order the worship book or cards call 028 9050 8080.

Travelling The Road of Faith
 Worship Resources from the Corrymeela Community



Edited by: Jacynth Hamill
 Photography: Helen Baird

Corrymeela Sunday 2014 – a resource for Churches



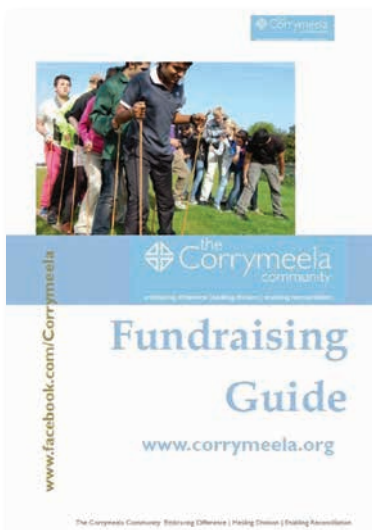
THE THEME for this year's Corrymeela Sunday service is **A Shared Future and Reconciliation for All?**

Corrymeela Sunday provides an opportunity to reflect on embracing difference and what it means for each of us - wherever we live, work and worship. It is also an opportunity to remember the work of Corrymeela and the work of many individuals and groups for peace in Northern Ireland.

If your church is interested in having a Corrymeela Sunday service in aid of Corrymeela, please download our Corrymeela Sunday pack. This pack contains Reflections, Readings, Prayers and Litanies for Worship, suggested hymns and additional resources on the themes of peace and reconciliation. Our pack is available for download <http://www.corrymeela.org/donate/corrymeela-sunday-2014.aspx> or on request. Call us on 028 9050 8080, Corrymeela collection envelopes are also available.



*Corrymeela is...
 a clifftop wave!*



Are you interested in organising a Fundraising Event for Corrymeela?

HAVE A LOOK at our Fundraising pack this is available for download from our website www.corrymeela.org or on request from our Belfast office 028 9050 8080.

Writeback

If you have something you would like to share with us, please send your contribution to Magazine Editor, Corrymeela, 8 Upper Crescent, Belfast, BT7 1NT Northern Ireland or email writeback@corrymeela.org

IN THE WINTER 2013 EDITION, Denis Humphrey drew our attention to giving gifts in wills and suggested we should consider acknowledging Corrymeela in our wills.

Wills are an efficient and ethical way of avoiding Inheritance Tax if we have the good fortune to have possessions to leave in excess of the Chancellor's allowance. However, whether our legacy is above or below the Chancellor's allowance, the charity receives only the bequested amount and no more. If we want to make even better use of spare money then it seems more efficient to give the money when we are still alive as a yearly donation and use the additional 25% benefit of gift aid. This assumes:

We are still receiving a taxable income

We have made adequate allowance for relatives and friends in our will.

Giving the money now enables us to appreciate the benefits of our giving and for the charity to make immediate use of the money.

For this reason we have been enhancing our annual donations to Corrymeela (and other charities) and suggest that Members and Friends might consider doing likewise.

Kind regards,
D.A. England

MY NAME IS JUDE HAWTHORNE and I am the Head of the RS dept in The Wallace High School in Lisburn. We inherited your latest DVD UP Standing and accompanying books from our History Dept. Having watched it with my GCSE classes (studying an Ethics module, including Social Justice), we found it both relevant and challenging.

I loved how the stories were short

and to the point. They engaged our pupils and left opportunity for discussion and further class development. Thanks so much for this. Having taught for almost 14 years, I feel my teaching has really been enhanced by this,

adding a fresh, current reality.

Yours sincerely
Jude Hawthorne
Head of Department Religious Studies
Wallace High School



*Corrymeela is...
meals made richer by unexpected company*

Congratulations to some very special people

Hello Luca!



DELIGHTED PARENTS Shane and Carla O'Neill welcomed the arrival of their beautiful son Luca in December. Shane is Head of Hospitality and Facilities at our Ballycastle Centre. Congratulations to you both.

We're so proud of Desney!

CONGRATULATIONS TO Desney Cromey, who was awarded an MBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours List in June 2013. Desney received the award 'for services to bereaved children in Northern Ireland'. Desney's colleague Elaine Roub from Cruse NI writes: "Desney has played a crucial role of hope and healing in the lives of bereaved children in Northern Ireland."

Through her initiation of the Corrymeela based Treetops Child Bereavement Project, and the Bereavement Education Network (which later became the NI branch of the Child Bereavement Network), as well as pioneering Training Workshops, Desney has truly been the unsung Champion of bereaved children in Northern Ireland.

Speaking of the award, Desney said, 'I feel so honoured and touched by this award, especially since it was my colleagues who put me forward for it'. She added 'I'm thrilled that children's bereavement is being recognised in this way. I will wear this award lightly because it rests on the shoulders of the team I worked with and all the colleagues who supported me along the way. As my dear friend Ray Davey once said, 'When you receive an award you smile and remember not to inhale!'



Well done Aoibhin

AOIBHÍN STEWART, a pupil at St Mary's Primary School, Strabane won 1st prize in the Corrymeela Children's Art Competition featured in our last magazine.

Marie-Louise McClarey, Fundraising Manager at Corrymeela dropped into Aoibhín's school to present her with her prize. She said, "The Corrymeela judges liked the picture because it was so bright and cheerful. There was a good use of colour and the whole A4 page was used. Well done Aoibhín."

Girard Study Weekend

13th – 15th June 2014 Corrymeela

**What has been exercising your mind lately?
Where do you find your wisdom?**

DURING THE WEEKEND, we will share concerns from our lives and respond to others' in light of learning from René Girard and the Christian tradition. Come to be a critical lover of both: be open to received insight and exploration of doubt. Ultimately, our purpose is not diagnostic, but to recognize our common humanity. Sharing into the stories and questions of others will be an essential contribution. We will be led by Duncan Morrow, a lecturer in politics who has been steeped in this way of thinking for many years. Those who have travelled this road before are welcome, along with those who are new to Girard.



To book your place at this weekend please visit our website for a booking form www.corrymeela.org or contact us: 028 2076 2626, bookings@corrymeela.org



MACS Charity Football Tournament



WE ARE VERY EXCITED to be entering a team into the inaugural MACS Charity 7-a-side Football Tournament. We will be competing alongside Corrymeela F.C, who were founded in 1988 by two Corrymeela volunteers with the purpose of bringing together young men from across Belfast to play football on a cross-community basis. The founder of Corrymeela, Ray Davey, was a keen supporter of Corrymeela F.C. and was the Honorary President of the club. The Corrymeela Community team will be made up of Volunteers and Staff from our Ballycastle Centre.



So, if you can, come along and cheer them to victory on Saturday 7th June 10 am -3 pm to Crusaders Football Club, Seaview, Shore Road, Belfast, BT15 3QG.

Angus Macpherson (1931 to 2014)

ANGUS CAME DOWN THE STAIRS of Corrymeela's Belfast office clutching a cheque for £10,000. His face was beaming "At the end of the year they want us to tell them we have spent it!" This was before computers and before the current forensic scrutiny on how charities spend donations. When Angus worked as Corrymeela's Bursar it was a different time, but it was the same Corrymeela.

Angus in many ways summed up the spirit of Corrymeela. He was employed to look after the finances; a task he did with diligence and care. He was no back room administrator. He was an active member of the Community and liked nothing better than being involved in its programmes. His ever present smile showed his real interest was in people. On the financial side he cared deeply for those who made a donation to Corrymeela. No matter the size of the gift he was scrupulous that the gift was used in accordance with the donor's wishes. He cared deeply for people and was a true and loyal friend to many.

Angus had a deep Christian faith. True to character, his faith showed itself in very practical ways. He belonged to a group in North Belfast who fasted on the 16th of every month in solidarity with those living in hunger. He imported and sold Fair Trade coffee. He lived his life determined to do something that would make a difference and encouraged others to do the same. He gave each Corrymeela member £5 and, following the parable of the talents in the Gospels, he expected everyone to use their talents to bring back a useful donation for Corrymeela funds.

Ten years ago Angus had a massive stroke which robbed him of mobility and speech, but not his smile. He fought on bravely, but when the time came he was ready to give up the fight, because his faith assured him that he was bound for his next adventure.

Corrymeela misses Angus, but we won't forget him. He was one of us and in so many ways an inspiration to us. Our thoughts and prayers are with dear Lois, their children and grandchildren.

Trevor Williams

Share Corrymeela with your Friends

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO MAKE A DONATION to Corrymeela instead of giving a gift to a family member or friend, please send your donation with your (and their) details to us and we will send them one of our lovely Corrymeela Is cards thanking them for your generous gift: Corrymeela Community, 8 Upper Crescent, Belfast, BT7 1NT or call us to make a donation by credit card on 028 9050 8080.

Sad News

Legacies

We remember
Vera Jane Annett

Gifts in memoriam

We also remember
Sally Stuckey
Margaret (Peggy) Vowles
May Cairns
Nigel Gilson

Farewell to Inderjit Bhogal

Leader of the Corrymeela Community



IT WAS WITH SADNESS that the Community gathered together at our Ballycastle Centre on Sunday 8th December to say farewell to Inderjit and Kathy Bhogal.

John Hunter, Chair of Council, welcomed all our guests. In his speech he noted that the past twelve months had been a

momentous time in the life of the Community. We had sought not only to complete work on the new Strategic Plan 2013/16, but also to meet the challenges facing the Community in 2013. These challenges were partly of a financial and organisational nature as we face cut backs in government and EU funding and partly of a programme nature as we seek to promote our Christian message of peace and reconciliation to an increasingly secular and at times hostile world.

In wishing him well on his return to the Methodist Church in England, John paid a warm tribute to Inderjit's leadership of the Community as a caring pastor and a spiritual guide. "He has

led the Community with a generosity of spirit and sought, in the difficult environment of Northern Ireland, to promote ecumenism and to counter sectarianism. He has led and encouraged the City of Sanctuary movement here, which has borne fruit in various cities across Northern Ireland and beyond – offering sanctuary to refugees and asylum seekers. Above all, Inderjit has been an active ambassador for Corrymeela, not least in promoting our mission of embracing difference, healing division and enabling reconciliation."

The Rev. Donald Ker spoke on behalf of the Methodist Church in Ireland and brought the good wishes of the Methodist President Rev. Dr. Heather Morris. Craig Cameron spoke on behalf of the Friends of Corrymeela in England and beyond.

Inderjit responded reflecting on his time at Corrymeela, he recalled some of the highlights of his leadership, notably his involvement in the City of Sanctuary movement and the Lenten Walks around Northern Ireland.

Inderjit said, he left the Leader post with regret, but would be maintaining his membership of Corrymeela as he took up a new challenge in the Methodist Church in England. He looked forward to handing over the Leader's symbol- a cross worn round the neck - to his successor.



Corrymeela Lent Pilgrimage

ON MARCH 4TH A GROUP OF 13 MEMBERS and friends of Corrymeela caught the 10:30 am ferry to Rathlin Island to begin the first of this year's three Lent Pilgrimages for Peace. They paused to pray for peace at St Thomas' Church of Ireland and The Church of the Immaculate Conception. The views from Rathlin were magnificent, if you would like to join them next year, please contact Richard Naylor at our Ballycastle Centre 028 2076 2626.

CORRYMEELA FRIENDS WEEKEND

**Remembering the Past
– A Bridge to the Future – Healing Division**

31 MAY - 2 JUNE 2013

We are delighted that our new Executive Director, Colin Craig will be joining us along with other staff, members and volunteers. The full programme for this event is available on our website <http://www.corrymeela.org/events.aspx>

I would like to attend the Corrymeela Friends Weekend 2014.

*I enclose payment of £105 (single room) £79 (sharing twin room)
 £38 (Non Residential weekend) £19 (Day Rate)

*Rates are per person and include a 15% discount. The residential rate includes all meals

Transport: A shuttle service will be available on Friday 9th May leaving Corrymeela House, 8 Upper Crescent, Belfast, BT7 1NT at 6pm. Returning Sunday 11th May at 3pm. Cost £20 per person - please add this amount on to your payment.

Will you require a seat on this bus? Yes No

Name (Please PRINT): _____

Address: _____

Postcode: _____

E-mail address: _____

Telephone Number: _____ Mobile: _____

Dietary Needs: Vegetarian Vegan Other

Please give details _____

Payment for this weekend should be made by cheque payable to The Corrymeela Community and sent to Anne McDonagh, The Corrymeela Community, 8 Upper Crescent, Belfast, BT7 1NT annemcdonagh@corrymeela.org or 028 9050 8080. Please note that all payments are non-refundable.

**Corrymeela
acknowledges
the support of
the following**

