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Sir Knights on parade  
 in Castledawson,  
 Co. Londonderry, on  
 the Last Saturday.  
 Photo by  
 Graham Curry



# Pageantry and spectacle

**T**ens of thousands of people enjoyed the traditional Last Saturday demonstrations held at six locations across Northern Ireland.

Upwards of 17,000 members of the Institution were on parade, with approximately 350 preceptories - accompanied by a similar number of bands - taking part in the respective processions in Comber, Antrim, Aghnacloy, Lisburn, Castledawson and Omagh.

Sovereign Grand Master Millar

Farr hailed the annual August event as another "magnificent finale" to the main Loyal Order parading season, offering a "wonderful spectacle of culture and pageantry".

Speaking at the Co Londonderry parade in Castledawson, Mr Farr once again underlined the Christian ethos of the Imperial Grand Black Chapter.

Reflecting on the 500th anniversary of the Protestant Reformation, the Sovereign Grand Master encouraged members to live out their faith.

"As an Institution which is founded on Biblical principles, it is fitting we recognise and celebrate this anniversary of Luther's action but we must also rise to the challenge of what we face today," he said.

"As Sir Knights we have a responsibility within our communities to ensure the Gospel message as contained in the Holy Scripture is adhered to by each of us. We have a duty to set examples for others to follow so that our own families and those we are in a position

to influence live in accordance with God's wishes."

Affirming the resolutions at the field, the Sovereign Grand Master reaffirmed the Loyal Order's loyalty to Her Majesty the Queen, and hailed the public service of the Duke of Edinburgh following his recent retirement.

In this decade of centenaries, Mr Farr also paid tribute to those servicemen who paid the supreme

*Continued on Page 12*

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# Message from the Sovereign Grand Master

**T**he past few months of 2017 have been a busy period for our beloved Institution.

It has been a memorable and very rewarding year to date, for various reasons.

As highlighted in the spring/summer issue of this magazine, the charitable outreach of the Imperial Grand Black Chapter was underlined once again through our bi-annual appeal - with the hugely impressive donation of £107,000 to Macmillan Cancer Support.

This was an astounding, yet unsurprising gesture, and I wish to once again place on record my appreciation to all preceptories and districts for their selfless generosity.

I would also like to thank and commend all Sir Knights who attended May's major rally in Portadown to mark the 500th anniversary of the Protestant Reformation.

This was undoubtedly the flagship event of our joint Luther commemorations with the Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland, and all of us who joined in Christian fellowship will always remember the magnitude and significance of a truly special occasion. We were also delighted through our worship to raise much-needed funds for the Wycliffe Bible Society.

The evangelical message of the Luther 500



project remained prevalent at our other main demonstrations throughout the summer.

As well as attending the annual Sham Fight at Scarva and the more recent Last Saturday in Castledawson, I have also had the pleasure this year of being invited to numerous parades, events, banner unfurlings and church services across Northern Ireland and further afield.

It was both an honour and a privilege to have been re-elected as Sovereign Grand Master at the half-yearly meeting of the Grand Council, held in Liverpool in June. The event was well attended by Sir Knights from across the British Isles and

was a wonderful occasion, with members coming together to work for the collective good and wider interest of the Imperial Grand Black Chapter.

It is clear the Institution continues to go from strength to strength. There is a real vibrancy among our preceptories and districts as we conclude another successful parading season. Whilst our public processions may be less during the autumn and winter months, our Christian ethos and reformed faith will still be to the fore in our meetings, activities and fellowship.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere appreciation to all Imperial, County and District officers, and the wider membership, for developing and maintaining all aspects of the Institution.

I bid everyone a peaceful and prosperous 2018, and look forward to renewing acquaintances with you all in the New Year.

*Millar Farr*

**Millar Farr**  
Sovereign Grand Master

## Royal Black launches new website

The Royal Black Institution has launched a new-look website.

As well as promoting the ethos and history of the organisation, the enhanced and informative online platform will play a key role in providing the latest news relating to the Loyal Order.

The online development comes as the Institution embraces social media for the first time, sharing its message via both Twitter and Facebook.

Sovereign Grand Master Millar Farr maintained that it was important for the Loyal Order to use modern means of communication.

He said: "Our new website will play an important part in relaying a positive message of our Institution to a worldwide audience. Visitors will notice a major improvement from our previous version, with the updated platform offering a much more user-friendly and informative resource."

"We are delighted at the product which has been developed over the past months with our website design team, which now incorporates our new social media offering on Facebook and Twitter. These interactive outlets will be extremely beneficial in terms of keeping our membership and the wider public fully informed of our latest news and various events."

He added: "We look forward to increased numbers visiting our website and social media platforms as the result of an improved online presence."

Visit the official Royal Black website at [www.royalblack.org](http://www.royalblack.org).

Alternatively, keep up-to-date with the Institution's latest activities by logging onto Twitter and following @RoyalBlack1797 or liking 'Royal Black Institution' on Facebook.



**Caption | Sovereign Grand Master, Millar Farr (centre,) with Imperial Grand Registrar, Billy Scott, and Imperial Grand Treasurer, David Livingstone, showcasing the Royal Black Institution's new website. Photo by Collette Dobson**



**@RoyalBlack1797**



**Royal Black  
Institution**





the proceeds of a charity quiz, held by Ballymacarrett Grand Black Chapter, in aid of their Christian outreach trip to Tanzania



# Sir Knight Christopher Cunningham on a mission

***During the summer, Christopher Cunningham, Grand Registrar, City of Belfast Grand Black Chapter, was part of a team of volunteers who travelled on a mission project to Tanzania. Here, he reflects on his two-week experience working with impoverished young people in eastern Africa...***

**I**n September 2016, when on holiday in Blackpool with my late mother, I felt the Lord speaking to me in a very moving way following a conversation that had taken place with my friends from my church - Bloomfield Congregational.

After much thought and prayer I took the decision with the encouragement of my late mother that I wanted to go to Tanzania, and so the planning and journey began.

The first task for my six friends and I was to raise the necessary funds to go. We started to do bag packs in various stores, held a country dance and many other events in a bid to raise the necessary money.

Among the many substantial donations included County Down Grand Black Chapter, Provincial Grand Black Chapter of Scotland and City of Belfast Black Benevolent Fund. This, along with other donations, and events held by the Loyal

Orders, raised a total of around £21,000, which enabled us to pay our expenses and carry out the project we endeavoured to do.

At this point, on behalf of the team, I want to personally express my thanks to my fellow Brethren and Sir Knights for your support which I will always be grateful for.

Soon the months flew in and once we finished our Fusion Fun Factory Bible Week in the Church and had done all our packing - David, Aimee, Jordan, Rachel, Mills, Max and myself met with the other members of the team from Kids4School and began our long travel to Dodoma, where we were based for the next two weeks.

The following is a timeline of the work carried out:

## Day 1

Gawaye School - Here we ran our first kids mission. We also painted the classrooms for them to

brighten them up. While this was happening, others were away delivering food to the local houses and experienced the horrendous living conditions.

## Day 2

Bulgiri and Gawaye Schools - here we interacted with the children. A kids mission was also held while those of a construction mind fixed the seesaw and installed a slide. One of the most humbling parts for me was when you blew up a balloon and threw it into the air and hundreds of kids scrambled to get at this balloon. Bubbles were the same. The children are so thankful for the least thing given to them. I often wonder now about children here.

## Days 3 and 4

These days were spent in Hombolo Schools, one of which is special school for blind children. This was a humbling experience. We painted, ran a kids mission and food delivered here.





**Sir Knight Christopher Cunningham with young children in Tanzania, Africa**

#### **Day 5**

We managed to slip in a rest day so off we went to the market to experience the culture there, followed by a visit to the local swimming pool. I woke this morning and played 'My City Londonderry On The Foyle' in my ears as I thought about my Brethren commemorating the annual Relief Celebrations. Something I haven't missed in many years.

#### **Day 6**

It was time to worship at Kitelera Church and what an experience this was with dancing and rhythm the highlight of the two-three hour service. Here one of our team members preached the gospel.

#### **Day 7**

Today was a bank holiday so no schools were open for visitation.

#### **Day 8**

It was time to make the trip to Zepisa Primary School. Here we again interacted with the children and ran a Kids Mission. I had the privilege at each kids club to teach them 'Jesus Loves Me' with the assistance of an interpreter and my good friend, Mills, on the guitar. This was a special experience that made me cry at times.

This day, however, was extremely hard for me personally as a water tank had been installed before our arrival. My best friends took all day to design animals on this in memory of my late mother who had left some funds via flower donations on her

passing to help towards this. I had the honour of dedicating it on completion - something that will remain with me forever. As I stood upset in a huddle with my dear friends it was a moment I couldn't describe but I want to thank them again for doing this and for allowing me to dedicate it.

#### **Day 9**

It was time to go to the local school Buguri for a massive football tournament between four local schools. Here, members of the team assisted with refereeing. Two of the group are IFA trained coaches so that helped immensely. The kids arrived bunched into the back of pickup trucks chanting at the top of their voice or came skipping along in massive groups singing - this was an experience, as was the scorching heat. As a result, the match between the winning team and ourselves had to be called off as team members had been there from early morning with no shelter.

#### **Day 10**

It was time to pack up and travel to Mikumi Safari Park here we stayed overnight in hut-type accommodation.

#### **Day 11**

We went out on a four-hour drive in Landrovers that were open sided around the Safari. This was an experience of a lifetime that I will never forget. You see this on TV and never think it would be you. Following this we left to begin our journey to Dar

Airport for the flight to Istanbul.

#### **Day 12**

We arrived in Istanbul ahead of our flight to Dublin. There was time to enjoy the first Burger King we had seen in weeks, before making our way to Dublin and finally on to Belfast.

This for me was a trip of a lifetime and although the toilet facilities were dreadful, the showers freezing and the food wasn't great - I enjoyed every single minute of serving God with my friends in Tanzania.

I have so many stories I could relate about the experiences there and no doubt when I meet up with various Brethren and Sir Knights I will be able to share better.

The purpose of this article is really to thank all of the Brethren and Sir Knights for your support to me and the members of the team.

However, you may be pleased to hear, that it is our intention to return to Tanzania in 2019 to continue more work.

I do appreciate that everyone was very generous on this occasion and I don't know if the same will be the case again. All I can do, if I get permission to make appeals again, is to leave it to the Lord to speak to hearts and any donations received will be appreciated as always and will assist us to go back and spread the Gospel in Tanzania and help those in need.

Thank you once again and may God richly bless you.



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# Sir Knight's visit recalls strong connection between Portadown and Cavan

By John Kelly

**C**raigavon Worshipful Sir Knight Colin McCusker (Past Master of Morning Star RBP 399, Lurgan) had the honour of being the last ever Mayor of the borough prior to Craigavon Council becoming the now Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council in June 2015.

Colin, an Ulster Unionist Councillor, is the son of the late Ulster Unionist MP Harold McCusker, who was a Member of Parliament for Upper Bann from 1974 to 1990 (his death) and a member of Mount Horeb RBP 68. Before finishing his year as Mayor, Colin, a keen historian and history graduate, wanted to explore the connection between Portadown and Cavan man, the late Right Honourable Colonel Edward James Sanderson whose statue in Market Street, Portadown (in front of St Mark's Parish Church) is an important feature of Portadown town centre.

Colonel Sanderson was Ulster Unionist MP for North Armagh from 1885 to 1906 and leader of the Irish Unionist Party from 1886 to 1906.

Recently, on the invitation of Shane O'Reilly (Chairman of Cavan County Council) Colin paid an historic visit to the Sanderson Castle Estate in County Cavan and also the Cavan County Museum. On arrival at



Worshipful Sir Knt Colin McCusker

the 34-acre estate, he visited the multi million pound Castle Sanderson International Scouting Centre which was opened in 2012. He then visited the restored church on the estate in which the late Colonel Sanderson preached and where he is buried.

A marble tablet in the church records that Colonel Sanderson gave his last address here a fortnight before his death in October 1906.

Colin then visited the nearby Cavan County Museum, Ballyjamesduff where he was given a conducted tour of the museum's 'World War 1 Trench Experience & Exhibition' and also visited the gallery in the museum, which has a display of marching banners from both traditions.



The grave of the late Rt Hon Colonel Edward James Sanderson MP in Sanderson Castle Estate, County Cavan.



The Colonel Sanderson Statue in Market Street, Portadown

## New banner for South Armagh Preceptory



Guiding Star RBP 1133, Newtownhamilton, unfurled a new banner in June. Sovereign Grand Master Millar Farr, and other senior Sir Knights, were present for the special occasion. The dedication service was followed by a parade through the south Armagh town. Pictured are Sovereign Grand Master Millar Farr (seated third from right) and Sir Knights at the banner unfurling in





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# The life of Luther

By Canon Mark Watson

**M**artin Luther was born to Hans and Margaretha Luder on November 10, 1483 in Eisleben, Germany and was baptised on the feast of St Martin of Tours, after whom he was named. Few men in history have contributed so much to the understanding of the Christian faith.

Luther's call to the Church to return to the teachings of the Bible resulted in the formation of new traditions within Christianity and the Counter-Reformation in the Roman Catholic Church. His translation of the Bible also helped create a standard version of the German language.

Luther's hymns sparked the development of congregational singing in Christianity and his marriage, on June 13, 1525, to Katharina von Bora, a former nun, began the tradition of clerical marriage within several Christian traditions.

Martin Luther's father owned a copper mine in Mansfeld near Eisleben. Having risen from the peasantry, his father was determined to see Martin bring honour to the family. To that end, Martin went to schools in Mansfeld, Magdeburg and Eisenach. At the age of seventeen in 1501 he entered the University of Erfurt. The young student received his Bachelor's degree in 1502. In 1505, he received a Master's degree. According to his father's wishes, Martin enrolled in the law school of that university.

All, however, changed during a thunderstorm in the summer of 1505. A lightning bolt struck near to him as he was returning to school. Terrified, he cried out, "Help, St Anne! I'll become a monk!". Luther kept his bargain, dropped out of law school and entered a monastery at Erfurt.

Brother Martin fully dedicated himself to monastic life, the effort to do good works to please God and to serve others through prayer for their souls. Yet peace with God escaped him. He devoted himself to fasts, flagellations, long hours in prayer and pilgrimages, and constant confession. The more he tried to do for God, it seemed, the more aware he became of his sinfulness.

In 1507, Luther was ordained to the priesthood. In 1508, he began teaching theology at the University of Wittenberg. Luther earned his Bachelor's degree in Biblical Studies on March 9, 1508 and a Bachelor's degree in the Sentences of Peter Lombard a theologian in 1509. In 1512, the University of Wittenberg conferred on him a Doctorate in Theology.

Studying for academic degrees and preparation for lectures drove Martin Luther to study the Bible in depth.

Slowly, terms like penance and righteousness took on new meaning. With joy, Luther now believed and taught that salvation is a gift of God's grace, received by faith and trust in God's promise to forgive sins for the sake of Christ's death on the cross. This, he believed, was God's work from beginning to end.

On October 31, 1517, Luther changed the course of human history when he nailed his 95 Theses to the church door at Wittenberg, accusing the Roman Catholic church of heresy upon heresy.

Many people cite this act as the primary starting point of the Protestant Reformation – though, to be sure, John Wycliffe, John Hus, Thomas Linacre, John Colet, and others, had already put their life's work and even their lives on the line for same cause of truth.

Luther's action was in part a response to the selling of indulgences by Johann Tetzel, a Dominican priest.

Luther's Protestant views were condemned as heretical by Pope Leo X in *Exsurge Domine* in 1520. Consequently, Luther was summoned to either renounce or reaffirm them at the Diet (court) of Worms on April 17, 1521.

Luther was shown a table filled with copies of his writings. Luther was asked if he still believed what these works taught. He requested time to think about his answer. Luther prayed, consulted with friends and mediators and presented himself before the Diet the next day.

When facing the same question the next day; Luther respectfully but boldly stated, "Unless I am convinced by proofs from Scriptures or by plain and clear reasons and arguments, I can and will not retract, for it is neither safe nor wise to do anything against conscience. Here I stand. I can do no other. God help me. Amen."

On May 25, the Emperor issued his Edict of Worms, declaring Martin Luther an outlaw. Luther had powerful friends among the princes of Germany, one of whom was his own prince, Frederick the Wise, Elector of Saxony. He arranged for Luther to be seized on his way from the Diet by a company of horsemen, who took him to the castle of Wartburg.

During this period of hiding for his safety, Luther was still hard at work upon his celebrated translation of the Bible. While translating, Luther

would go into the nearby villages and listen to people speak, so that he could put his translation of the Bible into the vocabulary of the common people.

Luther is also known to have befriended William Tyndale, and helped him develop the Bible in English. Indeed, the number of books attributed to Martin Luther is quite impressive. Luther's books explain the settings of the epistles and show the conformity of the books of the Bible to each other. Luther also wrote about church administration and wrote much about the Christian home.

Although his stay at the Wartburg kept Luther hidden, he received letters from his friends asking for his views and advice. Luther's friend, Philipp Melancthon, wrote about the charge of reformer's neglected pilgrimages, fasts and other forms of piety.

Luther replied: "If you are a preacher of mercy, do not preach an imaginary but the true mercy. If the mercy is true, you must therefore bear the true, not an imaginary sin. God does not save those who are only imaginary sinners. Be a sinner, and let your sins be strong, but let your trust in Christ be stronger, and rejoice in Christ who is the victor over sin, death, and the world."

Luther's work contains a number of statements that modern readers would consider rather crude. He initially preached tolerance towards the Jewish people, convinced that the reason they had never converted to Christianity was that they were discriminated against, or had never heard the Gospel of Christ. However, after his overtures to Jews failed to convince Jewish people to adopt Christianity, he became intolerant against that faith.

A man with a temper and flaws who struggled with finding truth gives us a Disciple always willing to find out more about God. His acceptance of the sacramental union of the body and blood of Christ present physically in Holy Communion show him as a man who struggled with problems of theology that other reformers gave thought to during the reformation. A man who accepted the challenge of taking up his cross and following Christ.

Martin Luther escaped martyrdom, and died of a stroke in his home town on February 18, 1546, a father of six children.

My favourite quote attributed to Luther is - "Even if I knew that tomorrow the world would go to pieces, I would still plant my apple tree." A quote that gave the German Confessing Church hope during the time of Nazi persecution.



# Liverpool hosts Grand Council



Senior Sir Knights, including Sovereign Grand Master, Millar Farr (sixth from right), pictured at the June meeting of Grand Council, held in Liverpool. Others in attendance included (from left) Raymond Adams, Imperial Grand Chaplain; Robert Dane, Imperial Deputy Grand Registrar; Alan Goody, Imperial Deputy Grand Master; William Scott, Imperial Grand Registrar; Edward Stevenson, Grand Master of the Grand Orange of Ireland; William Baillie, Assistant Sovereign Grand Master; Albert Hindley, Honorary Imperial Deputy Grand Master; Ian McCaffrey, Imperial Grand Lecturer; Ron Bather, Grand Master of the Grand Orange Lodge of England; David Livingstone, Imperial Grand Treasurer and Gareth Campbell, Imperial Deputy Grand Treasurer.

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**DEADLINES FOR THE NEXT ISSUE OF THIS MAGAZINE:**

**Spring 2018 Edition – Deadline for reports and photos Friday 23rd February 2018.**



# Cancer charity says 'thank you' for generous support

**M**acmillan Cancer Support has expressed its appreciation to the Imperial Grand Black Chapter for its charitable endeavours.

The Institution raised in excess of £100,000 for the leading cancer charity, having chosen the organisation as the benefactor of its designated charity appeal.

An initial £95,000 was formally presented to Macmillan earlier this year, prior to other donations being received, including £7,000 on behalf of the City of Belfast Grand Black Chapter.

In official correspondence to Brownlow House, the cancer charity formally acknowledged all preceptories and districts for their generosity.

"Thanks to generous supporters like you, we can continue to improve the lives of the two million people in the UK living with or beyond cancer," Macmillan said.

"Your donation will help us fund more Macmillan nurses and other specialist health and social care professionals, provide grants and benefits advice, build new cancer support and information centres and campaign for improvements to cancer care."

Speaking at the time, Sovereign Grand Master, Millar Farr, praised the "magnificent" fundraising endeavours of members, stating such selflessness would greatly help others across society in their time of need.

He said: "Cancer is an insidious disease which unfortunately knows no boundaries. Macmillan does invaluable work in our community, offering specialised assistance and support to patients, and their families, often at the most difficult and challenging of times."

"As a Christian organisation with a track record of raising money for charity, our members and supporters have once again demonstrated remarkable compassion and kindness."

Members of the Institution have a distinguished record for charitable outreach, raising nearly £700,000 for various good causes on a biennial basis since 2002.



Sir Knight from the City of Belfast Grand Black Chapter present £7,000 to a representative from Macmillan Cancer Support.



Killyman District Chapter No 1 present £6,000 to Imperial Grand Treasurer, David Livingstone, towards the Grand Master's appeal for Macmillan Cancer Support. The amount was raised from various events organised by each preceptory and from the annual District carol service.



Portadown Royal Black District Chapter No 5 present a cheque for £1,531.50 to the Sovereign Grand Master's appeal. Pictured (, A , , ; , ; , (, , ) , District Master; and Everett Browne, District Treasurer.



Worshipful Master of Tempo Star & Garter RBP 197, Raymond Clarke, and Sir Knights present a cheque for £200 to County Fermanagh Grand Master, Robert Dane, towards The Sovereign Grand Master's charity appeal.



## Thousands enjoy Last Saturday

- Continued from Page 1

sacrifice during the First World War, and recognised the bravery of today's security forces and emergency services amid the ongoing threat posed by terrorism.

"In uncertain and dangerous times within history, men and women came forward to play their part in the defence of our democratic way of life. I have no doubt this will be the case in the future, if the need arises."

Meanwhile, speaking in Comber, Assistant Sovereign Grand Master William Baillie challenged those in attendance to "uphold the Biblical, political, social and moral values" of the Institution.

"Our Province faces very uncertain times – politically, economically, socially and morally," he said.

"Our community and our traditional values are coming under attack from many quarters. Our Institutions are critical in maintaining the values and traditions of our communities – don't assume someone else will be there to do it."

He added: "I urge you to stand together for these principles, to commit yourselves to God and to one another in the hope that this great Institution may flourish for many generations to come."

Other principal speakers on the day included Past Assistant Sovereign Grand Master, Ivan Kelly, in Omagh; and Imperial Deputy Grand Master, Rev William Anderson, in Antrim.

**See pages 18 - 25 for full coverage of the Last Saturday Demonstrations.**

# Service marks 150th anniversary of Omagh District

**S**ir Knights from Omagh District and Omagh Olive Branch RBP 185 jointly marked their 150th anniversaries with a special service in County Tyrone.

The act of worship took place at St Columba's Church in Omagh on August 13, and was conducted by Rev Ian Linton.

Among the senior Sir Knights in attendance were Richard Emerson, County Tyrone Grand Master, and County Tyrone Grand Chaplain, Rev Alan Irwin.

The anniversary parade took place ahead of the Last Saturday demonstration in Omagh.



(Gilchrist (District Letcurer) Sir Knight Ivan Clements (Deputy District Master), Sir Knight Woshipable District Master Stanley McFarland, Sir Knight Rev Alan Irwin (District Chaplain), Sir Knight County Grand Master Richard Emerson, Sir Knight Joe Crozier (District Treasurer), Sir Knight Edward Stevenson (County Grand Master of Cermonies), Sir Knight Fred Gilchrist (County Grand Lecturer), Sir Knight Alan Rennie (District Sensor) and Sir Knight Jonathan Stevenson (District Reg), pictured at Marking the 150th Anniversary of Omagh Olive Branch RBP & Omagh District Royal Black Chapter No. 4 before making its way to St Columba's Parish Church



Proceeds from the gospel concert are presented to Billy Scott, Imperial Grand Registrar, and David Livingstone, Imperial Grand Treasurer, by John's wife, Jenny, and son, Jal. Also pictured are Sir Knights from Lily of the Valley RBP 89.

## Concert in memory of Sir Knight John Richardson

**A** gospel concert, which was the brainchild of a late Sir Knight, has raised over £3,000 for charity.

The fundraiser for Macmillan Cancer Support, organised by Lily of the Valley RBP 89, was held following the death of Sir Knight John Richardson.

As previously reported in this magazine, John gave freely of his time and energy fundraising for worthy causes, including raising £5,000 for the Hospice through a sponsored

cycle ride to Orange halls throughout Tandragee District, and £12,250 for MacMillan nursing by completing a 24-hour lecture tour.

A RBP 89 spokesman said the gospel concert "was the outstanding success which [John] had been confident that it would be, and was undoubtedly a fitting memorial to one man's devotion and steadfastness".

The total sum of £3,100 was raised for the Imperial Grand Black Chapter's nominated charity.

## Banner for Ballymacreely



Ballymacreely Chosen Few RBP 356 unfurled a new banner during the summer. Pictured with the Sir Knights of Ballymacreely are the Sovereign Grand Master, Millar Farr; Assistant Sovereign Grand Master, William Baillie; and County Down Grand Master, Brian Hunter, who is also the preceptory registrar. On return to Ballymacreely Orange Hall after the unfurling, long service medals and bars were presented to a number of Sir Knights, including Trevor McCoy (40 years); Ian Brown and Brian Hunter (30 years) and Sam McFarland (20 years).

to Richard Walker and Robert Smith.

## EMIGRATING?

**Please contact Headquarters for details of overseas jurisdictions.**

**Telephone 028 3832 2518 or e-mail [info@royalblack.org](mailto:info@royalblack.org)**



# Forthcoming Events 2017

October 28 Luther Lecture in Dromore High School at 10.30am - Invitations will be extended to each District, Preceptory / Lodge in County Down requesting it to nominate one member to attend (Maximum 400).

## **County Londonderry Grand Orange Lodge, City of Londonderry Grand Orange Lodge and County Londonderry Grand Black Chapter "Luther" DVD starring Joseph Finnes about the life of Martin Luther**

October 29 St Eunan's Cathedral, The Diamond, Raphoe G93 YK40 at 3.30pm.  
First Garvagh Presbyterian Church, BT51 5LR at 3.30pm.  
Kilcronaghan Parish Church, Tobermore BT45 5QJ at 3.30pm.

October 19 East Tyrone R.B.D.C. No. 5 and R.B.P. 259 – Service in Bonn Orange Hall at 8pm. Service conducted by Rev. Trevor Boyd.

October 27 Aghnacloy R.B.D.C. No. 3 – Aghnacloy High School at 8pm.

October 29 East Tyrone R.B.D.C. No. 5 and Cookstown Orange – Service in Derryloran Parish Church at 7pm. Service conducted by Canon Porteus.

October 29 Killyman R.B.D.C. No. 1 – Killyman Orange Hall at 8pm.

## **City of Belfast Grand Black Chapter in partnership with the County Grand Lodge**

October 1-31 Exhibition in the Linen Hall Library

October 29 Joint Service in Townsend Street Presbyterian Church at 3pm in partnership with County Grand Lodge and ABOD

## **County Armagh Grand Black Chapter and County Armagh Grand Orange Lodge**

### **Joint Festival of Flowers to celebrate Luther 500 in Armagh Orange Hall:**

October 6 Opening Service at 7pm (opening times 3pm – 10pm).

October 7 Opening Times 10.30am – 9pm.

October 8 Opening Times from 2pm with closing service at 7.30pm.

*All Brethren, Sir Knights and their families and friends are all very welcome to attend.*

## **Provincial Grand Black Chapter of England – Luther 500 Exhibitions**

October 19 Whitburn.

October 20-22 R.B.D.C. No. 2 & Liverpool Provincial Grand Orange Lodge.

October 27-29 R.B.D.C. No. 6 & Bootle Free Protestant Church.

November 7 North West Synod U.R.C. Manchester Cathedral.

November 17 Sir Knight Alan Goody.

November 19 P.G.B.C. of Scotland – Shotts.

## **Blackskull Star of Liberty RBP 95 Series of Special Meetings to celebrate the Reformation in Blackskull Orange Hall at 8pm with special singers each night**

October 26 Speaker Robert Campbell

October 27 Speaker Rev. Nigel Reid

October 31 Speaker Raymond Adams

November 5 Ballyclare Royal Black District Chapter No. 6 Service of Thanksgiving – Templepatrick War Memorial Orange Hall at 3pm (meet at hall) – speaker Rev. David McCarthy, County Chaplain.

November 12-19 Primatial Royal Black District Chapter No. 4 in conjunction with the Orange Districts of Armagh, Killylea and Keady - Luther's Heritage in Armagh Orange Hall.

November 17 Luther 500 Exhibition Rising Star of Paisley, R.B.P. 457, Orange Hall, Castle Street, Paisley PA1 2JP

**DEADLINES FOR THE**  
**NEXT ISSUE OF THIS MAGAZINE:**

**Spring 2018 Edition**  
**Deadline for reports and photos**  
**Friday 23rd February 2018.**



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Members of the preceptory present an inscribed stone tablet to the local Causeway lodge.



Sir Knights from RBP 375 at the Quigg statue in Bushmills.

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# Belfast RBP honours Sergeant Robert Quigg

Sir Knights from a Royal Black Preceptory in Belfast have paid tribute to an Ulster war hero.

Earlier this year, members of Sons of Ulster RBP 375 from the Shankill Road in the city travelled to the graveyard of Billy Parish Church, Bushmills, to pay their respects to Sergeant Robert Quigg VC.

Sir Knights were joined by the brethren of Giant's Causeway LOL 1195 to lay a wreath at the grave of the late soldier. Invited guests included Sir Knight Ivan Kelly, Past Assistant Sovereign Grand Master and Worshipful Brother Christopher Elliott WDM, Bushmills.

Born in north Antrim, Quigg was a member of the Royal Black Institution with the William Johnston Memorial RBP 559. He was also an Orangeman and played in the flute band.

The Bushmills man signed the Ulster Covenant in 1912 and was active in the pre-war Ulster Volunteer Force. He enlisted in the 12th Battalion, Royal Irish Rifles, one of the service battalions of the 36th (Ulster) Division, in September 1914.

Rifleman Robert Quigg was awarded the Victoria Cross for "Most Conspicuous Bravery" at the Battle of the Somme, July 1, 1916.

Quigg's unit had been posted to the French village of Hamel, located on the north bank of the River Ancre. During the advance, they encountered fierce resistance from heavy machine-gun and shellfire. Quigg's platoon made three advances during the day, only to be beaten back on each occasion by German fire. The final assault left many hundreds of the 12th Battalion lying dead and wounded in "No Man's Land".

In the early hours of the next morning, it was reported that Lieutenant Harry Macnaghten, the platoon commander was missing; Robert Quigg volunteered to go out into "No Man's Land" to try to locate him. He went out seven times to search for the missing officer, without success. On each occasion, under machine gun fire, he managed to return with a wounded colleague. The last man he dragged in on a waterproof sheet from within a few yards of the enemy's wire. After seven hours of trying, exhaustion got the better of him; Robert Quigg was so exhausted that he had to give up. The body of



Sir Knights at the grave of Somme war hero Robert Quigg.

Lieutenant Macnaghten was never recovered and he is commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial.

Quigg received his Victoria Cross from King George V, at York Cottage, Sandringham. Upon his return to Bushmills, the people of the town and district turned out in force to welcome him home, including the Macnaghten household. Lady Macnaghten presented him with a gold watch in recognition of his bravery in attempting to find and rescue her son.

Robert Quigg reached the rank of sergeant before retiring from the army in 1926. Later, in 1953, two years before he died, he met the newly crowned Queen Elizabeth II. Robert Quigg died on May 14, 1955 at Ballycastle, County Antrim. He was buried in Billy Parish Churchyard, with full military honours.

In June 2016, Queen Elizabeth II, unveiled a statue of him in Bushmills.

The remembrance ceremony was carried out with reverence and respect which reflected the dignity in which Sir Knight and Brother Sergeant Robert Quigg VC is held. An opening prayer from Sir Knight Norman McKeown, Chaplain began the proceedings followed by a scripture reading by Sir Knight Laurence Bingham.

Sir Knight Matthew Gilmore, Worshipful Master, then laid an Orange and Purple floral wreath and Sir Knight McKeown recited the Exhortation.

A musical tribute – "I Vow To Thee My Country" by Gustav Holst was then played by two members of Shankill Road Defenders Flute Band.

The Sir Knights and Brethren then travelled to Aird Orange Hall, Giant's Causeway where Sons of Ulster RBP 375 presented a memorial tablet in



The commemorative tablet marking Quigg's bravery on the front line.

honour of Sgt. Robert Quigg VC, kindly donated by Sandy Close and his grandson Jonathan Ingram of Woodvale Funeral Services to Giant's Causeway LOL 1195, Worshipful Master Mark Neill.

Refreshments were provided for all present at the Causeway Hall before the Sir Knights left for their Installation of officers ceremony at The Memorial Hall, Londonderry.

Earlier Sir Knights and Brethren had stopped in Bushmills for photographs at the Quigg statue.

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The Last Saturday in **Comber**  
P18 & 19



The Last Saturday in **Antrim**  
P20 & P21



The Last Saturday in  
**Aughnacloy & Omagh** P22 & P23



The Last Saturday in **Lisburn**  
P24



The Last Saturday in **Castledawson**  
P25



The 13th July in **Scarva**  
P26 - 30



Parade in **Bangor**  
P31



Parade in **Fermanagh**  
P32



Luther 500 Rally in **Portadown**  
P34 - P39



# The Last Saturday in Comber



Pipers on parade



A young drummer showcases his skills



A wreath is laid at the town's war memorial



Waringsford Golden Star RBP 51 making their way through Comber



Castlewellan District Black Chapter on parade



Sir Knights come into view



Brunswick Accordion Band in Comber



# The Last Saturday in Comber



The head of the County Down parade stepping out in Comber



Senior County Down Sir Knights ahead of the main parade in Comber



A young boy turned out in regalia and a bowler hat



# The Last Saturday in Antrim



Antrim Royal Black District Chapter No 3 pictured at the Last Saturday demonstration in Antrim.



Sir Knight Alan Donnelly with his sons Sam and Billy George.



Elijah's Chosen Few RBP No 535 (Portglenone) pictured at the Last Saturday demonstration in Antrim.



Stepping out in style.



Volunteers RBP 286 lodge.



# The Last Saturday in Antrim



Sir Knight John Burleigh (Imperial Deputy Grand Master and Imperial Past Grand Registrar) pictured with his son David and grandson Andrew at the Last Saturday demonstration in Antrim.



Sir Knights Charles Hamilton (Antrim District Master), Kenneth Hull (County Grand Master), Ronnie Nelson (County Grand Standard Bearer) and Rev William Anderson (Imperial Deputy Grand Master and Imperial Deputy Grand Chaplain) pictured at the Last Saturday demonstration in Antrim.



# The Last Saturday in Aughnacloy



Preceptories and bands on parade in south Tyrone



A female drum major leading from the front



A young marcher dressed to impress



Sir Knights from County Cavan on parade



Sir Knights enjoying their day out



Up to 80 preceptories took part in the Aughnacloy demonstration



Killyman District stepping out



Israel's Guiding Star RBP 1001



# The Last Saturday in Omagh



Sir Knights from RBP 58



A smile to the crowd from a member of RBP 1101



Mountjoy 'Burning Bush' RBP No 220



A member of RBP 76



'Guiding Star' RBP No 76





# The Last Saturday in Lisburn



Dunmurry Protestant Boys band members Madison McDowell (10) and Debbie Smith (8) enjoying an ice cream.



Sir Knts Christopher Cunningham (City Grand Registrar), William Elliott (City Grand Master) and Alan McIntosh (City Grand Chaplain) pictured at the Last Saturday demonstration in Lisburn.



City of Belfast Grand Black Chapter held their demonstration in Lisburn



Sir Knights Nelson Jordan and Edward Totten



Sir Knights from Sandy Row District



RBP 229 pictured at the Last Saturday parade in Lisburn.



Sir Knights Michael Cunningham, Dale Hall, Paul Perryman and John Wilson



# The Last Saturday in Castledawson



Darryl Hewitt (right), Edenderry RBP 80, Portadown, with Danny Robinson, 1 1 , 21 2 1 21



A young bandsman taking part in the parade



, 2 1 21



John Park, Articlave RBP 439, Coleraine, with Daisy the poodle



Sovereign Grand Master Millar Farr, who was the guest of honour



The Royal Black parade included 35 preceptories





Parading at Scarva.



King William (John Adair) puts King James (Colin Cairns) to the sword in the annual Sham Fight.



Sir Knt Robert Campbell (Deputy Grand Chaplain) pictured giving the religious address.



Sir Knights from RBP 133 stepping out in Scarva.



# Scarva welcomes thousands for annual Sham fight



Boarding the train at Scarva for the short journey back to Portadown.

**M**assive crowds enjoyed one of the largest cultural events in Northern Ireland's calendar as Scarva once again played host to its annual Sham Fight.

The annual clash between King William and King James and the massive procession through the quaint village – hosted by Sir Knight Alfred Buller Memorial RBP 1000 – is now firmly established as a major tourist attraction.

Sovereign Grand Master of the Royal Black Institution, Millar Farr, said: "The annual Sham Fight at Scarva is truly a day like no other. It is a wonderful occasion packed with music, pageantry, culture and history – a day the whole family enjoy and an event that unfailingly attracts tens of thousands of spectators from across Northern Ireland and beyond.

"It is amazing such a large-scale re-enactment and parade is organised on a yearly basis by a small team of volunteers, and I pay tribute to the members of RBP 1000 who deserve to be commended for their ingenuity and commitment.

"Due to their sterling efforts, the Sham Fight is rightly regarded as one of the flagship events of the summer and the parading season."

This year, the event had an added and new dimension, with the provision of a cultural field, showcasing Lambeg drumming, highland dancing and other activities for the many visitors to enjoy.

Chairman of The Royal 13th organising committee, and



Sovereign Grand Master Millar Farr.

Worshipful Master of RBP 1000, Sandy Heak, said: "We know people keep coming back every year to sample the unique and family friendly atmosphere, so we are delighted to introduce the concept of a cultural field for the first time with the hope of further expansion.

"This additional facility showcased the cultural heritage of Northern Ireland with visitors able to enjoy Lambeg workshops and highland

dancing performances, among other activities and entertainment.

"We believe such a cultural experience not only enhances our annual celebrations, but also creates greater understanding of the traditions of the Loyal Order fraternity."

The Sham Fight at the Demesne is the only remaining one of its kind in Ireland. At the top of the field where the re-enactment is staged, is the

chestnut tree where King William tied his horse on the way to the Battle of the Boyne and where his troops rested.

King William was played by John Adair and King James by Colin Cairns. The main protagonists were accompanied by soldiers in period costume and a number of horses.

The Sham Fight was preceded by a large parade, with up to 90 preceptories and as many bands taking part in the procession through the village. Approximately 4,000 members of the Royal Black Institution stepped out, accompanied by a wide selection of music, including flute, pipe, accordion and brass bands.

The main procession left the assembly field on the Gilford Road at and proceeded through the village to the Demesne. Tens of thousands of spectators lined the one-mile route to witness the spectacle.

Poignantly earlier in the day, members of Scarva Royal Black Preceptory laid a wreath at the village memorial to local members of the security forces who were murdered during the Troubles.

This year's event was held in partnership with the British Heart Foundation in Northern Ireland (BHF NI), raising funds for research into and awareness of heart disease.

Members of the Institution have a distinguished record for charitable outreach, raising nearly £700,000 for various good causes on a biennial basis since 2002. Earlier this year, the Loyal Order presented £107,000 to Macmillan Cancer Support.





A young lady has a go on the Lambeg drum at the



Sir Knt Jim Lindsay (Past Master of Abraham's Chosen Few RBP 1107) pictured with his grandson Sebastian.



Tens of thousands descended on Scarva for the annual Sham Fight.



Drum Major David Mercer (Dunloy Accordion Band) pictured receiving the 'John Hanna Memorial Cup' from Sir Knt Alfred Buller. The cup was presented by the Scarva Sham Fight Committee for best band on parade. Included is Sally McBriar, sister of the late John Hanna, who donated the cup.



One of a number of pipe bands taking part in Scarva.





Pictured outside Scarvagh House are (from left) Rev John Batchelor, County Armagh Grand Chaplain; William Baillie, Assistant Sovereign Grand Master; Millar Farr, Sovereign Grand Master; Alfred Buller, RBP 1000; David Livingstone, Imperial Grand Treasurer and Billy Scott, Imperial Grand Registrar.



Members of RBP 1000 pay their respects at the village memorial prior to the main Scarva parade.



A Sir Knight waves at the camera.



DUP leader Arlene Foster MLA watching the parade.



RBP 1000

## 2017 RESOLUTIONS

### ***Faith***

We, the Sir Knights of the Royal Black Institution believe that, if our nation is to have a new Reformation for our day, it must begin, just as it did in 1517 by rediscovering the Gospel Truth of the Old and New Testaments. We therefore call upon all our members to seek that Reformation in their own lives by repenting of their sin and coming to a living faith in Jesus Christ and then to seek to establish the Gospel of Jesus Christ throughout our land for the glory of God alone.

### ***Loyalty***

As Royal Black Knights, it is our privilege to reaffirm our loyalty to our longest reigning Monarch, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, who this year attained her Sapphire Jubilee.

The Queen, through her outstanding leadership, is a wonderful role model and true inspiration to the nation and Commonwealth. We all owe to Her Majesty an immense debt of gratitude for her continuing extraordinary sense of duty and service.

We also acknowledge His Royal Highness, the Duke of Edinburgh, as he prepares to reduce his public commitment and give thanks for his steadfast support as the longest serving royal consort in British history. We wish Her Majesty and the Duke of Edinburgh good health and God's richest blessing in the future.

### ***Constitutional***

In this decade of centenaries, the Royal Black Institution pays tribute to, and remembers with pride, our members and others who made the supreme sacrifice in the service of King and country during the First World War.

We recall those who served in the 36th (Ulster) Division and 16th (Irish) Division, fighting together in the cause of freedom, in the Battle of Messines 100 years ago. We also remember those Sir Knights and other servicemen from Canada who lost their lives at Vimy Ridge; and pay tribute to servicemen who fought and died during the Battle of Passchendaele. Amid an increasing threat from extremists following recent terrorist attacks in London and Manchester, we prayerfully commend to God's protecting grace all those who continue to serve and protect the nation in the uniformed services.





Foot soldiers taking part in the Scarva Sham Fight.



A Sir Knight puffs on his pipe during a break.



King William and King James face off ahead of the Sham Fight.



Sir Knights in jovial mood on parade.



# Brilliant Bangor Day for Lurgan Sir Knights



**M**ore than 250 members of Lurgan District No. 2 took part in their annual July 13 parade in Bangor.

The traditional procession included 12 preceptories and nine bands. The main parade proceeded from Castle Park Avenue, making its way through the seaside town along Dufferin Avenue, Grays Hill, Queens Parade, Bridge Street, Main Street and Hamilton Road.

The principal speaker during the religious service was Canon Will Murphy, Imperial Grand Chaplain.

Members of Lurgan District taking part in their annual parade in Bangor.



A Sir Knight and clergyman on parade.



Final preparations are made ahead of the Bangor parade.



A Royal Black member offers some words of reassurance to a young boy.

Photos by Pacemaker





Co.Fermanagh Grand Black Perceptory during their Twelfth Celebrations in Lisnaskea.

# Fermanagh Sir Knights on parade in Lisnaskea

**T**he annual County Fermanagh demonstration was held in Lisnaskea in early August.

Approximately 30 preceptories, accompanied by as many bands, stepped out in the Lakeland County to commemorate the 1689 Battle of Newtownbutler.

Sir Knights from three local districts were joined by visiting members from neighbouring Cavan and Monaghan. A number of preceptories from Tyrone and Antrim were also in attendance. This year's parade was hosted by Lisnaskea True Blues RBP 183.

Among those taking part were Sovereign Grand Master, Millar Farr; County Fermanagh Grand Master, Robert Dane; and other senior members of the Loyal Order.

The service of worship was conducted by Canon Mark Watson. The preacher was Rev William Anderson, Imperial Deputy Grand Master.

In his remarks from the platform, Rev Anderson spoke of how the simple act of Martin Luther nailing



Sir Knights Niall Hassard, David Ferguson, Alan Hassard and Stuart Hassard, RBP 465.

his 95 Theses to the church door in Wittenburg, Germany, 500 years ago, set a flame alight across Europe for the extension of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Sir Knight Anderson stated that, while much had been gained by Luther's stand at that time, today much of that ground is being eroded with matters of faith now being seen as a lot less important.

This drift towards a secular

society must challenge our churches as well as our Institution to take its stand as Luther did on the principles of the Reformed faith and, most importantly, on the Word of God itself, he said.

Rev Anderson continued: "For us to declare today that we stand behind Luther's Reformation, then we must, as our faith resolution states, be open to a new Reformation.

"No longer can we allow matters

of faith to be declared or realigned by a need to be popular. They must and can only be declared by rediscovering the truth of the Word of God in its entirety."

In his concluding remarks, Rev Anderson reminded those present that Joshua, in Joshua Chapter 24 v15, challenged the people to "choose this day whom they would serve".

"That same question is being asked of us today - 'Whom do you serve?'. Let our response be a clear, resounding repeat of Joshua's direction - 'as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.'"

"If our churches were again to declare allegiance to the Word of God, our Institution to openly campaign for a return to the faith as discovered by Luther then the impact of secularism on our land would be greatly reduced."

He added: "The answer lies with a great revival by our people repenting of their sin and coming to a living faith in Jesus Christ and then to seek to establish the Gospel of Jesus Christ throughout our land for the glory of God alone. Nothing less will do!"





Sir Knights Joe Morrison, RBP 465 and George White, RBP 197, Past Master taking a well earned rest during the Co. Fermanagh Royal Black Chapter Parade in Lisnaskea.



Sir Knight Kenneth Irvine, RBP 845 keeping in the shade.



Sir Knights taking part in The Co. Fermanagh Grand Black Perceptory Parade.



Zoe McElhinney and Isla McGonigle, members of Moyne Pipe Band taking part in The Co. Fermanagh Grand Black Perceptory Parade in Lisnaskea.

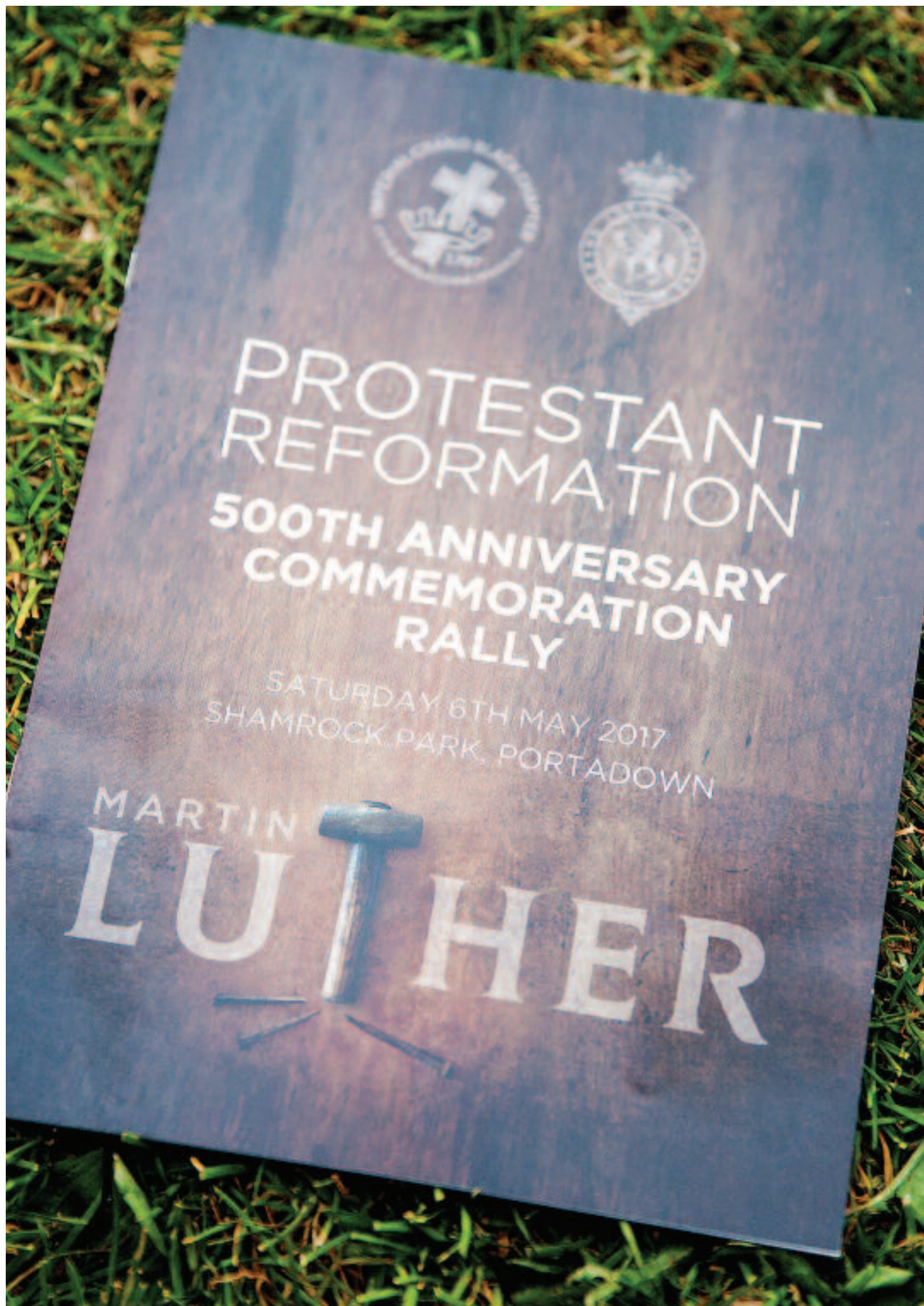


Sir Knights with RBP 132 enjoying the taking part of The Co. Fermanagh Grand Black Perceptory Parade.



Sir Knights with RBP 549, taking part in The Co. Fermanagh Grand Black Perceptory Celebrations.









Imperial Grand Chaplain Rev Nigel Reid speaking from the platform.



Sovereign Grand Master Millar Farr.



Canon Will Murphy, Imperial Grand Chaplain.



Senior Sir Knights from Belfast on parade.



Members of the Royal Black Institution from England in attendance.



Colin Cunningham, County Down Deputy Grand Master.



The bannerette of Banbridge Royal Black District.



# Loyal Order leaders hail 'awesome' Reformation Rally

A spring rally marking the 500th anniversary of the Protestant Reformation has been described as an 'awesome expression' of the Christian ethos of the Loyal Orders.

Upwards of 10,000 participants took part in the Portadown gathering, which included a major parade through the Co Armagh town.

The religious service at Shamrock Park on Saturday, May 6 was jointly organised by the Royal Black and Loyal Orange Institutions.

Millar Farr, Sovereign Grand Master of the Royal Black Institution, said: "Our religious service and parade was the flagship event of our Luther commemorations throughout 2017. The large numbers in attendance was a public manifestation of our shared core values and beliefs, and our commitment to them."

"We are always proud to proclaim the truths of the Reformed Protestant faith, and even more so now, as we celebrate such a significant evangelical landmark in this notable decade of centuries."

Grand Master of the Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland, Edward Stevenson, added: "This was our landmark event of the year and certainly has the makings to be one of the most significant and larger public gatherings in Europe marking the significance of this quinqucentenary."

"The massive scale of the commemorations was a fitting tribute to Martin Luther and the other great Protestant reformers. Like them, 500 years earlier, we are gratified to once again take a stand for the Gospel."

As well as members of the Royal Black and Orange Institutions, representatives from the Apprentice Boys Association, Loyal Orange Women of Ireland, Independent Orange Institution, Grand Royal Arch Purple Chapter and Junior Association participated in the open-air religious service.

The parade, incorporating upwards of 60 marching bands from across Northern Ireland, was billed as the flagship event of the Luther 500 project, organised by the Loyal Orders.

The rally took place ahead of the actual 500th anniversary of the start of the Reformation later this year.

In October 1517, Martin Luther nailed his '95 Theses' on the castle door in Wittenberg in Germany - an act widely seen as the beginning of the Protestant Reformation, which spread throughout



Sovereign Grand Master Millar Farr (right) and Grand Master of the Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland, Edward Stevenson, at the Reformation rally at Shamrock Park, Portadown.

Europe.

A number of banners either portraying Luther, or depicting an event from Luther's life, were carried as part of the procession.

The parade, which proceeded from Edenderry to Shamrock Park, momentarily paused at the Bann Bridge as a wreath was laid to commemorate those Protestants killed in the 1641 Portadown massacre.

Later, the Grand Masters of the Royal Black and Loyal Orange Institutions paid their respects at the town cemetery in memory of those who lost their lives during two World Wars and in service of the British Crown.

The main address was delivered by Robert Campbell, Royal Black Imperial Deputy Grand Chaplain.

He said: "Northern Ireland is viewed as a 'religious place', a 'Christian country'. But what does that mean? Is it a statement of fact, a historical comment, or optimism for the future? Does our religious attachment cut deep, or does it go no further than weddings and funerals, Christmas and Easter?"

"If we claim religious adherence to anything other than belief and trust in Jesus and an acceptance of what Jesus achieved on the cross, then that belief is neither Protestant nor Christian."

"Martin Luther made an appeal for a return to the gospel. So, like him, my appeal this evening is for the gospel, for the unsearchable riches of Christ and His exceeding glory. Luther's desire was for a simple and Biblical understanding of what the gospel is and what it is not. Luther emphasised that personal acceptance of the gospel message was crucial, and it still is."

"You can trust whatever you like:

church, culture, history, politics, good works, free-will offering, whatever - but if you don't trust in Jesus you are aiming in the wrong direction; you are clinging to a vain hope."

He continued: "The Reformation was about change - traditionalism, institutionalism, and works-righteousness gave way to the gospel. The Reformers got a hold of Pessimistic Nihilism, Augustinian Trinitarianism, Puritan doctrine, the 'covenantal' relationship between creator and creature, or the simple fact: Jesus loves me this I know, for the Bible tells me so."

"Yet pre-eminent in all the changes was a return to the Scripture as found in the original languages. The reformers wanted, and many died for, a Bible in the languages of the people - one that was easily understood by ordinary and working-class people."

"Do we invest our time, our talents and our money in the maintenance of our denominations and groupings whilst having no thought for the extension of Jesus' kingdom? We gather in holy huddles and judge others by their conformity or lack thereof, to me and us we lay down the Bible, the only rule of faith and practice, and pick up traditions. A tribal, Christless, self-righteousness is no Christianity. In fact, it stinks in the nostrils of the Almighty! It is God's gospel not our possession; His Word will go forth with us or without us."

He continued: "We live in a different age from Martin Luther; we recognise that he was a man who had faults. But we can learn from him by emulating his desire to glorify Christ about all else, while avoiding the unsavoury. So, having said all of this, what is the way forward?"





"Firstly, our faith, your faith, must centre on Jesus Christ alone. There are epic lessons from history but Jesus is the only Saviour! Without exception, our faith must be in Christ.

"For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast."

"Secondly, it is the story of the gospel that we must retell over and over again. Evangelicalism loves to circle the wagons – we know who we are against and who we are really against. Instead we need to know what we are for and how to graciously tell others. Cheap shots, friendly fire and sucker punches shame the reformed faith.

"Thirdly, 'Luther 500: rediscovering the gospel,'

'Take 5: a new look at old truths' or helping to build mission hospitals in Africa demonstrates what can be achieved when there is a will. I say this because I've a terrible fear that after this year we will head back to the safety of the simple. Do not allow this evening and this vast crowd to be the end; rather let it be the beginning. Do not allow this glorious opportunity to be lost."

Mr Campbell added: "Why was Luther and the Reformation so important? Because they focused on the message that Jesus came to seek and to save that which was lost. Will you leave this ground trusting in Jesus and having repented of your sin? And if you are a believer go home encouraged and rejoicing Jesus 'paid it all'."



Sovereign Grand Master Millar Farr (right) and Orange Order Grand Master Edward Stevenson lay a wreath at Portadown's war memorial in memory of those who paid the supreme sacrifice and in service of the British Crown.







# Reformation rally aids Asian Bible outreach

The word of God will be made more accessible to the people of Indonesia courtesy of the Loyal Orders' Reformation rally.

Wycliffe Bible Translators received €12,500 from the proceeds of a collection at Shamrock Park, Portadown.

The charity's vision is to give people from around the world, including south east Asia, access to the Bible in a language which they understand. According to Wycliffe, at least one-and-a-half billion people do not have the full Bible available in their first language. Over 160 million people still don't have any Scripture in their mother tongue.

Millar Farr, Sovereign Grand Master of the Royal Black Institution, said: "Wycliffe, through their translators, do invaluable work in ensuring scripture is accessible to the widest possible global audience. Through their pioneering work, people are discovering the Bible in a language they now understand."

"The word of God is a story everybody needs to read and hear, and we are delighted to play our part in a significant way to this fantastic project."

Grand Master of the Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland, Edward Stevenson, said: "As organisations with a strong Christian ethos at their core, it is particularly fitting the offering from our Luther rally should be supportive of a charity which does so much to promote the word of God on a worldwide



Sovereign Grand Master Millar Farr (left) and Orange Order Grand Master Edward Stevenson present the proceeds of the Reformation rally to Ricky Ferguson, Wycliffe Bible Translators.

basis. "At a time of growing secularism, the evangelical outreach of Wycliffe is perhaps even more essential and deserving of such good will. We are proud to support such a worthy cause."

Ricky Ferguson of the Wycliffe Bible Translators in Northern Ireland expressed appreciation for the "generous" charitable gesture.

He said: "This gift will be used to support Bible translation among the Ara people of Indonesia. There are 90,000 Ara people

speaking 15 different languages across the Ara Islands.

"This generous gift of €12,500 will be of great benefit to this project as they seek to engage with God's word in the language they understand best. The project team would greatly value your prayers as they seek to make this possible with God's help."

For more information about the work of Wycliffe Bible Translators, visit their dedicated website [wycliffe.org.uk](http://wycliffe.org.uk) or call 028 9073 5854.





Sovereign Grand Master Millar Farr and Grand Mistress of the Women's Association, Joan Beggs, on parade.



Sir Knights joined with Orangemen for the Portadown procession.



Sandy Heak, worshipful master RBP 1000



A Sir Knight on parade.



A young Sir Knight on parade in Portadown.



Paul Clydesdale, RBP 402.



Sir Knights among those participating in the religious service.



The act of worship at Shamrock Park.



# Banner dedication service



Star of the East RBP 251, encamped at Ballymartin, recently unfurled a new banner in south Down. Members of the preceptory are pictured at the dedication service with senior Sir Knights, including Sovereign Grand Master, Millar Farr, and Assistant Sovereign Grand Master, William Baillie.

## Sir Knights in Kirkintilloch

The Provincial Grand Black Chapter of Scotland annual Relief of Derry demonstration was held on August 12 in Kirkintilloch.

The platform proceedings, at Woodhead Park, were conducted under the chairmanship of the Provincial Grand Master of Scotland, James G MacLean, who welcomed all Sir Knights, band members and friends to the public meeting.

A special welcome was extended to Imperial Sovereign Grand Master, Millar Farr, and the Grand Master of the Grand Orange Lodge of Scotland, Jim McHarg.

The religious service was conducted by Grand Chaplain Rev Tom Greig, assisted by Rev Jason Lingiah, also a Grand Chaplain.

A new bannerette for William Ettles Memorial RBP 125 was also dedicated and unfurled.



Pictured at the Kirkintilloch demonstration (from left) are Jim McHarg, Grand Master of the Grand Orange Lodge of Scotland; Millar Farr, Sovereign Grand Master; and James G MacLean, Provincial Grand Master of Scotland

## Castlederg regalia



Castlederg Royal Black District Chapter No 6 recently held their anniversary service and parade in Derg Parish Church, Co Tyrone. During the service, new

Pictured (from left) are Jim Emery, Lay Chaplain; Day Vaughan, Treasurer; Steven Bogle, Deputy District Master; Robert McKelvey, District Master; Harry Monteith, Registrar; and Steven Patterson, Standard Bearer.

## Red Cross Presentations



40, Co Down. Seated (left to right) are Robert Hanna, District Lecturer; Alistair Woods; Jack Stevenson; Ryan McCracken; Jonathan Maxwell, Worshipful Master; and John Quinn, District Lecturer. Back row (left to right) Jeffrey Spiers, Deputy Master; Samuel McConnell, Chaplain; Billy Maxwell, Registrar; John Smyth, past County Master; Geoffrey Bradford; Hugh John Stevenson; and David Herron.



# Long Service Medals



Sir Knights from RBP 34, Annalong, recently received their 50-year jewels and are pictured along with the County and Deputy County Grand Masters as well (3 . . . .) ( 4 . . 3 . 4 4 ( (50 years); Sir Knight William Maybin (50 years); Assistant Sovereign Grand Master Worshipful Sir Knight William Baillie; Worshipful Master of RBP 34 Sir Knight William Pue (50 years) and Worshipful District Master, Sir Knight Edward Graham. Back row (from left) Deputy County Grand Master, Worshipful Sir Knight Colin Cunningham; Sir Knight Alexander Hill (50 years); Sir Knight John McKibbin (50 years); Sir Knight Annett Gordon (50 years) and County Grand Master, Right Worshipful Sir Knight Brian Hunter



Killyman Temperance RBP 511 honoured its longest serving member, Sir Knight David Blair, by presenting him with his 70-year membership jewel. Seated (from left) Sovereign Grand Master, Millar Farr; David Blair and Worshipful Master, Thomas Douglas. Back Row (from left) Richard Emerson, County Grand Master; Morris Wilson, Treasurer; Uel Eakin, Deputy Master; and Kenneth Mullan, Registrar



At Kinallen Orange Hall in April, 50-year membership jewels were presented by Sir Knight Thomas Smyth, County Grand Treasurer; alongside Sir Knight Ross McNeill of Kinallen Temperance RBP 1013 to Sir Knight George Dickson, Sir Knight William McIlroy and Sir Knight Denis Moreland



Sir Knight Gilbert Pierson of Pride of Richhill RBP 133 (left) was presented with his 40-year jewel by Markethill Deputy District Master, James Steenson, ahead of the annual Scarva demonstration on July 13



Sir Knight Ian Donnell was recently recognised for his 25 years service as District Master of Strabane Royal Black District No 2. Front row (from left) Derek McDermott District Master; Richard Emerson, County Grand Master; Ian Donnell, Past District Master; Harold Erskine, Deputy County Grand Master; William Abernethy, Imperial Deputy Grand Master. Back row (from left) Jonathan Colhoun, District Treasurer; Richard Reid, County Grand Registrar; James Emery, Deputy County Lay Chaplain; David Colhoun, Deputy District Master; Ivan Buchanan, District Registrar



Sir Knight Roy Gamble, Worshipful Master RBP 1, Tandragee, and Sir Knight Keith Ratcliffe, Deputy Master pictured at the presentation of 50-year medals to Sir Knight Fergus Shepherd, Sir Knight John Redpath, Standard Bearer and Sir Knight William Vennard, Past Master on July 13 2017

**DEADLINES FOR THE NEXT ISSUE OF THIS MAGAZINE:**

**Spring 2018 Edition – Deadline for reports and photos Friday 23rd February 2018.**





## Notes from England & Scotland



# New banner unfurling in Kinning Park

**K**inning Park Chosen Few RBP 673 recently unfurled and dedicated a new banner.

The biblical picture is Moses with the Ten Commandments and the theme is Keep the Charge of the Lord the God. On the other side of the banner is the Relief of Londonderry - the picture is of the Rev George Walker watching the three ships breaking the boom across the River Foyle.

In his address, the Worshipful Master, Sir Knight Alex McIver, spoke of the momentous occasion of the unfurling. The Chaplain, Sir Knight Graham Kelly, spoke of a proud day for the preceptory. Emphasising the Biblical theme, he focused on the symbolism that the banner was an illustration that the Institution is founded and built on Holy Scripture. In conclusion, he challenged the members to remember the name of the Lord our God, as the banner was unfurled in His name.

The banner was officially unfurled by the Worshipful Master and dedicated by the Chaplain.

The Preceptory, accompanied by the WM



**Sir Knight Alex McIver, WM unfurling the banner.**

and Sir Knights of Lilly Among Thorns RBP 236, Carrickfergus, paraded the new banner in Govan and at the Annual Black Saturday Demonstration in Kirkintilloch.

RBP 673 is encamped in the Orange Halls, Lorne Street Glasgow and is part of Govan Royal Black Chapter No7.



**The banner portraying Moses and the Ten Commandments.**

## Thomas H Blair – A Sir Knight held in high esteem

**A** service of thanksgiving for Sir Knight Thomas (Tommy) H Blair of Kinning Park Chosen Few RBP 673 was held last year in his hometown of Hamilton, Scotland.

Without fear of contradiction, out-with Tommy's family, his Orange and Black family were extremely important to him and played an enormous part in his life. Thomas H Blair was a proud Orangeman, yet he was a prouder member of the Royal Black Institution. While he was an Orangeman held in high esteem, Tommy was a Sir Knight, held in higher esteem.

He was a member of Boyne LOL 30 in Govan, who firstly joined the Church, before contemplating his membership as an Orangeman. In Tommy there was no bitterness or ingrained intolerance towards anyone's creed or colour. He believed in the principles and ideologies of the Reformation and his only goal within the Loyal Orders, was to maintain the faith and promote the true Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Tommy was ordained as a Church of Scotland Elder in 1979 and served as Presbytery Elder for Hamilton South Church for a number of years, both roles that he took seriously. His faith in



Christ was invaluable to him and it was this saving faith in Christ that he wanted to share and make known with his Orange and Black family.

Within LOL 30 he was a PM, serving as WM from 1969 to 1977, a lecturer from 1964, a member who held various other offices for 54 years of faithful, loyal and unbroken service and dedication, within Orangeism.

Yet Tommy's true love was for the Royal Black Institution. A PM of Kinning Park Chosen Few RBP 673, encamped in Govan. A PDM of RBC No7 and Past Grand Lecturer holding that office for an amazing 23 years.

He was also an Imperial Officer serving as a Deputy Imperial Grand Lecturer and was proud to be proposed and elected by his home jurisdiction to serve as a Deputy Imperial Grand Master in 2008.

Tommy was a Brother and Sir Knight of Goliath proportions, whose legacy and standard of lecturing will continue to live on in our Institutions well into the future.

Along with Sir Knight Evans Hamilton, he was instrumental in forging strong bonds of fellowship between Kinning Park Chosen Few RBP 673 and Lilly Among the Thorns RBP 236 encamped in Carrickfergus. The preceptories have enjoyed a reciprocal friendship at the Scottish and Antrim Black demonstrations spanning a period of 30 years.

Sir Knight Blair was a key contributor and well-known face at both the Scottish Lecturers' Conference and International Lecturers' Conferences. He considered it a great privilege to be a member and servant of the Imperial Grand Black Chapter of the British Commonwealth.

He is survived by his wife, Rae, of 56 years, his two sons who are members of LOL 30 and RBP 673, his two daughter-in-laws and two grandchildren.



## Luther's legacy on display in Manchester

**T**he Luther 500 exhibition was on show at Alkington United Reformed Church, Middleton, Manchester, as part of the church's Holy Week festivities.

The exhibition was the result of co-operation between Stanley Lang Memorial RBP 98, Earl of Roden LOL 184 and Alkington and Providence United Reformed Church.

The exhibition was supplemented by display cards featuring information on many of the lesser known figures from the Reformation. There was also a display entitled 'The Burning Martyr's Tree' which had on it stars depicting the names of over 100 of those who lost their lives at the hands of 'Bloody Mary Tudor'.

Visitors to the exhibition were able to enjoy tea, coffee and homemade cakes whilst watching a film on the life of Martin Luther.

Those visiting the exhibition included members of the Lutheran Church in South Manchester. The weekend was deemed a great success with over 140 people with no connection with the Loyal Orders viewing the display.





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