

'FOUR CORNERS' FESTIVAL BELFAST:

Pope Francis and Justin Welby to speak.

I have previously written about Presbyterian minister, **STEVE STOCKMAN**, and his involvement with the '4 Corners' Festival' held annually in Belfast.

This year will mark its tenth anniversary and this is my Facebook post of 26th January –

**'FOUR CORNERS' FESTIVAL BELFAST:
Pope Francis and Justin Welby to speak.**

Shortly this ecumenical venture will celebrate its tenth anniversary and this link will take you to the blog of one of the organisers, Presbyterian Minister, STEVE STOCKMAN –

<https://stocki.typepad.com/soulsurmise/2022/01/pope-francis-at-4-corners-festival-2022.html>

I have previously written about STEVE STOCKMAN and this 'festival' as you can read on this link –

<https://www.takeheed.info/pdf/2018/February/steve-stockman-altar-of-correct-theology.pdf>

Truly we are living in days of dark and deep deception where 'The Gospel' and 'The Faith' are concerned.

In his blog, Steve Stockman mentioned the role played by DAVID PORTER in securing the participation of JUSTIN WELBY. Mr Stockman wrote –

Early on in our planning for our 10th Anniversary Festival we hoped and prayed that we might get the Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby as a speaker. David Porter Chief of Staff and Strategy to the Archbishop was a founding member of ECONI (Evangelical Contribution On Northern Ireland) at the height of our Troubles and knows our situation. He has indeed spoken at a previous Festival. David was our link and we are so thankful the Archbishop agreed to come over.

Back in 1995 I wrote and produced a little booklet called **'The "EVANGELICALS" of E.C.O.N.I.'** In it I wrote 'pen-portraits' of leading figures involved with this anything-but EVANGELICAL grouping. One of those I wrote about was DAVID PORTER and this is much of what I wrote –

'David Porter is a member of the "Steering Group" of E.C.O.N.I. In addition, he also holds the post of "Development Officer" for E.C.O.N.I. I have just considered Cecil Kerr and his ecumenical/charismatic grouping at Rostrevor and it is clear that no genuine EVANGELICAL would be in sympathy with the aims and practices of Mr Kerr's grouping. Mr Porter obviously does not find any problem with Rostrevor as he has over the past few years willingly participated in a number of events there such as "Healing Ireland's Hurts" (6th February 1993) and "Breaking Down Enmity" (5th February 1994).

Also mentioned on page 9 was the concept of "E.C.O.N.I. Sunday" which was launched on 9th November 1993. On 21st November I was scheduled to preach at a morning service and I felt led of the Lord to speak on worrying trends in so-called EVANGELICALISM.

As it was my intention to make specific reference to E.C.O.N.I. and individuals associated with it I phoned the Belfast YMCA where DAVID PORTER was working, on Tuesday 16th November, with the intention of informing him personally of what I would be saying about him and E.C.O.N.I. and how I would be questioning the validity of their claim to be "EVANGELICAL".

As it turned out, David was away all that week and so I did not get speaking to him until the following week – Monday 22nd November. Naturally he was surprised at my querying of the term "EVANGELICAL" being applicable to E.C.O.N.I. and himself and he asked me on what grounds I was basing my rejection. I went on to outline the following points to him.

- 1. During his time as a Baptist Elder, the church to which he belonged had promoted the ecumenical "March for Jesus". (During the "March" 'Father' Gerry Reynolds of Clonard Monastery had carried a banner at the head of a group of his parishioners).**

2. I referred to his public speaking engagements at the ecumenical/charismatic Centre in Rostrevor.

3. I mentioned specifically Cecil Kerr's willingness to share platforms with Roman Catholic priests.

4. I referred to the YMCA giving a platform to a Roman Catholic Priest (Cecil - from memory I'm fairly sure that it was Paul Symonds who will be mentioned later in this article) to lecture on the subject of "Justification by Faith".

5. I referred to the fact that the "Evangelical Protestant Society" was no longer allowed to hold meetings in the YMCA premises.

6. I referred to the "Worldwide Missionary Convention" held in Bangor in August 1992 where the E.C.O.N.I. stand was 'manned' one evening by a lady. In conversation with a girl 'manning' another missionary stand, this lady was asked "Are you a member of this church"? (Meaning Hamilton Road Presbyterian Church – the host church for the event). The E.C.O.N.I. lady's reply was "No. I'm a Roman Catholic".

This happened on the very evening that one of the speakers at the convention had outlined the efforts their group was making to reach Roman Catholics in Ireland for Christ – the speaker would never have guessed that there was a 'mission field' amongst the exhibitors in the adjoining exhibition hall.

David Porter confirmed to me that the lady in question was a fully practising Roman Catholic but he didn't find that a problem as he believed that the Roman Catholic church was a Christian church, albeit in error.

That is a view with which I would disagree but we must move on. Having outlined the reasons for my rejection of the right of E.C.O.N.I. and its officers to call themselves "EVANGELICALS", David Porter, in reply, fully defended the actions taken in the situations listed above. For that reason, it is once more, clear to me, that DAVID PORTER is not a true "EVANGELICAL" in the mould of Spurgeon and Ryle but is very much a "NEW-EVANGELICAL".

I said earlier in 'Point 4' that I would later make mention of the Roman Catholic priest called PAUL SYMONDS. He was a priest who for a long time was very much the 'spear-head' of Rome's 'ecumenical endeavours' here in Northern Ireland and also throughout the United Kingdom and indeed in much of Europe as I will demonstrate in an article that I will give the link for later.

PAUL SYMONDS took part in one of the public debates with my good friend, ROB ZINS, that I organised in the 1990's. I discovered in the wake of that debate that an official in E.C.O.N.I. had sought to help PAUL SYMONDS prepare for the debate. You can read about it by going to –

<https://www.takeheed.info/news-from-the-front-december-1996/>

and scrolling down to the heading '**E.C.O.N.I. Official Prepares Priest for Debate**'.

On the same link, and in the article preceding the one just mentioned, you can read of how Margaret and I received an invite to '**Parliamentary Ecumenical Prayer Breakfast**' and once more PAUL SYMONDS gets a mention concerning this ecumenical venture.

Further information concerning PAUL SYMONDS and his 'ecumenical wizardry', which DAVID PORTER and E.C.O.N.I. clearly 'bought into' can be gleaned from my article, and links in it, found on –

<https://www.takeheed.info/pdf/2018/May/Paul-Symonds-and-Glengormley-Presbyterian-Church.pdf>

This 'Four-Corners' Festival' clearly owes much to 'the vision' of ecumenists like E.C.O.N.I. and in particular DAVID PORTER who is once more involved in this 10th anniversary 'ecumenical shindig'.

I close with this picture of DAVID PORTER in his Church of England 'regalia' –



Cecil Andrews – ‘Take Heed’ Ministries – 27th January 2022