FIVE LOCAL CHURCHES COME TOGETHER TO MARK REFORMATION ANNIVERSARY

A group of local church pastors are preparing to welcome each other's congregations through their doors over the next month. In a new venture, the churches are coming together to mark the 500th anniversary of the Protestant Reformation in Europe.

Revs. James Blair (Ballyclabber Reformed Presbyterian), Ross Collins (Ballywatt Presbyterian), Philip Dunwoody (Dervock RP), Philip Kerr (Ballyrashane PCI) and Scott Moore (Dervock PCI) will each be speaking at a fellow minister's church over the course of five Wednesday evenings in November. Each preacher will speak on one of the biblical convictions that the Reformation in Europe "recaptured", when Martin Luther began to reform the Roman Catholic Church in 1517.

The gatherings will take the form of a short worship service. Everyone is welcome to come along, and the pastors hope that the meetings will be particularly valuable for their own congregations, as they consider afresh the beliefs and legacy of the Reformation 500 years later.

Rev. Philip Dunwoody commented: "Protestant churches across the spectrum owe our very existence to the biblical truths that were rediscovered in the 1500s. Our coming together to mark the anniversary of the Reformation is a demonstration of our unity as Reformed and Presbyterian churches, an opportunity to show the wider community that we are in full agreement on the most important message of the Bible: that we are saved by grace alone through faith alone in Jesus Christ alone."

Martin Luther was a Roman Catholic monk from Germany, who drove himself almost mad trying to gain assurance that his sins could be forgiven by a holy God. Having found no answers from the traditions and doctrines of the Church in his day, Luther studied Scripture more closely and discovered the liberating truth of Romans 1:17: "... The righteous shall live by faith". Luther's convictions led to thousands of Christians across Europe and beyond severing ties with the Roman Church and seeking to preach and practice the Christian faith in line with the teaching of the Bible.

The five meetings planned for November will each deal with a foundational conviction of the Reformation. Everyone is welcome to come along to the meetings, which will all commence at 8.00pm. Full schedule below:

Wednesday 1st November: "Scripture Alone", Dervock Presbyterian Church. Preacher: Rev. James Blair.
Wednesday 8th November: "Faith Alone", Ballyclabber Reformed Presbyterian Church. Preacher: Rev. Scott Moore.
Wednesday 15th November: "Grace Alone", Ballyrashane Presbyterian. Preacher: Rev. Philip Dunwoody.
Wednesday 22nd November: "Christ Alone", Dervock Reformed Presbyterian. Preacher: Rev. Ross Collins.
Wednesday 29th November: "For God's Glory Alone", Ballywatt Presbyterian. Preacher: Rev. Philip Kerr.