

Major plan to redraw C of I diocesan boundaries withdrawn

Recently the Commission on Episcopal Ministry and Structures lodged with the Honorary Secretaries for the consideration of the General Synod in May 2016 a Bill to alter provincial and diocesan boundaries.

The Commission announced yesterday (5 May 2016) that it intends to withdraw this Bill. The Commission has worked over the past four years.

In brief, the Bill proposed a union between the dioceses of Tuam and Killala and Limerick and Killaloe, with Achonry joining with Kilmore, Elphin and Ardagh, and six cures moving from Dublin and Glendalough to Meath and Kildare. No boundary changes were to come into effect until after the General Synod meeting in 2017.

If passed, the Bill would have resulted in a church of eleven dioceses rather than twelve, six in the Province of Armagh and five in the Province of Dublin. The Archbishops had indicated their consent to the changes in provincial boundaries.

Along with recommendations on episcopal election procedures in a separate Bill, the proposals in this Bill were “the culmination of a

long process of prayer, reflection, analysis, study and consultation throughout the church.”

The statement continues - “Members of the Commission had unanimously agreed that they represented the best way forward to equip the Church of Ireland for mission and pastoral oversight in the 21 st century and we remain convinced that that is so; the Booklet circulated to General Synod members explains how we came to that conclusion, guided by our statement of vision, principles and guidelines.

“The Commission acknowledges that General Synod asked that a final scheme and Bill with those agreed features should be brought in 2016 and we deeply regret that we now feel unable to do so. After much heart-searching and consideration of all the implications, however, it is our judgment that the time, the circumstances and the atmosphere are not right for this to be presented and discussed as we envisaged.

“It is not in the best interests of the church to have divisive and acrimonious debate and it has never been our wish to engage in confrontational argument, attacking and defending, “winners” on one side and “losers” on the other.

“We are all seeking diocesan arrangements that further the mission of the church, and we must support each other in our common calling, give thanks for all our blessings and share our resources with generosity and grace. That is what the church expects of us all and we believe we can reach those aims, if not through this Bill then in other ways. With that confidence, as we withdraw this Bill, we hope instead to put forward a Motion encouraging those most likely to be directly involved to work together in considering how these proposals could be taken forward by agreement in their respective dioceses for their mutual benefit and to meet the needs of the wider church. A committee along the lines of the Implementation Committee proposed in the Bill could assist and support them. We suggest that the outcome of those deliberations should be reported to the General Synod in 2017.

“This was a very difficult decision for us, following four years’ work. We know that our disappointment at withdrawal of the Bill will also be felt by those bishops, clergy and lay people who have responded positively to our work, showing they are willing to face uncomfortable realities and make sacrifices and changes in the interests of the wider church. We thank everyone for their expressions of support and their prayers

during our term of office and especially over the past few weeks. We trust that a way forward will be found that enables the Church of Ireland to provide episcopal ministry and structures adequate for its needs, compatible with its resources and fit for its mission.”

The statement is signed by Ethne Harkness, Chairman, on behalf of the members of the Commission on Episcopal Ministry and Structures.

The members of the Commission are: Mrs Ethne Harkness (Chairman) Ven Gary Hastings Mr Wilfred Baker Mrs Hilary McClay Mrs Brigid Barrett Rt Rev Harold Miller Rt Rev Michael Burrows Most Rev Donal Murray (RC Church in Ireland) Mrs June Butler Rt Rev Patrick Rooke Ven Andrew Forster Very Revd Victor Stacey Revd Winston Graham (Methodist Church in Ireland) Mr Edward Hardy Mr Roy Totten Mr Sam Harper Revd Gillian Wharton Consultants to the Commission: Revd Stephen Farrell (Episcopal Elections) Ven Robin Bantry White (Constitution)

Reaction from C of I clergy on social media -

“Sorry that four years of work has hit the buffers...presumably debate based on their work will take place and it will not all be lost. Having

said all that, I didn't agree with their suggestions and thought the Bishop in the West would have an impossible job.”

“A real face saving exercise, albeit dressed up in reasonably gracious language. Very glad it has been withdrawn as without proper consultation it would not have advanced the mission of the Church at all. Sanity has prevailed; however, the right decisions will have to be made at some stage in the future by the grace of God.”

“That statement reveals quite a lot really. I do wish they had taken a more creative and supportive approach to ministry in the West though. Had they done that we might have been in a very different place. The 'carve it up and lump it together' approach was never going to cut the mustard on the creative front or the supportive one.”

“I was hoping the dioceses would be known as The Dioceses of the Wild Atlantic Way. So it's not going to happen anytime soon:’ (I really do have great sympathy for those who have worked so hard and given of their time”.

Jayne Ozanne to speak at Synod week Changing Attitudes seminar

Jayne Ozanne, the well-known Evangelical Anglican speaker and leading Church of England figure will speak at a Changing Attitude Ireland seminar on Friday May 13 at 1.00 pm, taking place during the lunch break of the General Synod in Dun Laoghaire. The seminar will be held in the Methodist Church, Northumberland Road, Dun Laoghaire which is approx. 100 yards from rear entrance of Royal Marine Hotel

Jayne has been a member of the Archbishop's Council, one of the Coventry Cathedral Reconciliation Team, a member of the Trinity College Bristol Steering Committee and a leading organizer of charities as well as a lay reader/ leader and prominent member of General Synod. In secular life she is also a top international marketing manager whose clients have included the BBC.

Last year Jayne 'came out' after 20 years struggling to come to terms with her own sexual orientation.

In January she coordinated a letter to the Archbishops of Canterbury and York signed by over 100 senior Anglicans regarding the



Church's treatment of LGBTI Christians, which resulted in a full apology by Archbishop Justin at the 2016 Primates Meeting.

Her current commitment, along with working for the poor and marginalized as a member of General Synod, is modelling “good disagreement” between those who differ on the sexuality issues that threaten to split the Church.

Jayne will tell her own story and share her journey. She also looks forward to hearing other people's stories and their views, wherever they may stand on the issues. This meeting is about learning truly to listen across the conservative – liberal divide, as mandated by the C of I Select Committee on Human Sexuality in their recent publication “The Guide”. All are welcome. Tea, coffee and sandwiches will be available.

Changing Attitude Ireland (C.A.I.) is a Church of Ireland organisation with ecumenical friends, heterosexual and gay, lay and ordained, working for the full affirmation of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) persons within the Churches in Ireland. C.A.I. is dedicated to celebrating and maintaining the traditional inclusivity and diversity of the Anglican Communion. See - <http://changingattitudeireland.org/about/>

Hopes raised for new post-primary Catholic schools

Hopes have been raised that some of the nine new post-primary schools opening next year and in 2018 will be entrusted to Catholic patrons.

Le Chéile's Education Officer Eilis Humphreys told *The Irish Catholic* the trust was "considering" tendering for one or more of the schools but insisted that "no decision" had been made yet.

"Other Catholic patron bodies will I'm sure be looking at it as well. It would be nice to think that if we don't, some other Catholic patron body will go for some of the new schools. I think it's great



to see the vibrancy in the Catholic patrons sector,” she said.

Le Chéile, a Catholic schools trust, is responsible for Ireland’s first new Catholic secondary school in 30 years, Chéile Secondary School Tyrrelstown, which opened its doors in September 2014.

Ms Humphreys said Le Chéile’s board had held “preliminary discussions” on the matter of tendering for the new schools.

“We wouldn’t rule it out but we’re not ruling it in either. We have been looking at the areas and to see where it might be a possibility,” she said.

Ms Humphreys also explained that the Association of Trustees of Catholic Schools would ensure that Catholic trusts wouldn’t be “competing” against each other in the process of tendering for new schools.

Of the nine new schools, six are due to open in September 2017 in Carpenterstown/ Castleknock, Dublin 15; Malahide/Portmarknock, Swords and Lucan, all Co. Dublin; Limerick city and environs (south-west) and Portlaoise, Co. Laois.

The remaining three schools are due to open the following September serving Limerick city and environs (east); Dublin south city centre and Firhouse, Dublin 24.

UK’s day of prayer for the media

Churches across Britain are being asked to pray for the media this Sunday on what has become an annual call for a day of prayer for journalists and news organisations by the ecumenical charity, the Church and Media Network.

“The British media continues to be under scrutiny,” the charity says. “Illegal and unethical practices by some journalists have combined with tough economic times and pressures from new technology to make these challenging times for everyone working in the media. As Christians, we want to affirm the media’s vital role in our society.

“At its best the media gives a voice to the voiceless, holds the powerful to account, highlights unjust practices, calls for justice, keeps people informed, brings us strong opinions to challenge our own [and] tells stories to entertain us.

“We want to give our backing to the vast majority of people working in the media as they strive for integrity and truth.”

The Church and Media network says that working in the media is an “honourable profession”, adding: “We want to encourage Christians and other people of faith and goodwill to consider it as a calling. We want to support all those working with the media in our churches; church leaders and communications officers who help to portray and interpret the Church’s role in our society.”

The extent of the challenge facing British journalism can be seen by the closure of the national newspaper New Day. Launched by Trinity Mirror Group just weeks ago, the owners announced yesterday that today's edition would be its last.

The original idea for the day came from the Revd Peter Crumpler, the Curate of St Leonard's Church in Sandridge, St Albans; who was the Church of England's communications director before he left to become an ordinand.

He wrote one of several prayers for the day which can be found on the website

pray4media.co.uk

Companion link sees US bishop take assisting role in Liverpool

A companion link between the US-based Episcopal Church's Diocese of Virginia and the Church of England's Diocese of Liverpool took a step further this week when the Suffragan Bishop of Virginia was commissioned to serve also as the Assisting Bishop of Liverpool.

The Bishop of Liverpool, the Rt Revd Paul Bayes, was at the Shrine Mont Retreat Centre in Orkney Springs, Virginia, for the history-making churchnewsireland@gmail.com

event this week. With the blessing of the Archbishop of York, John Sentamu, and the Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church, Michael Curry, Bishop Bayes presented letters commissary to the Bishop of Virginia, the Rt Revd Shannon S. Johnston, confirming Bishop Susan Goff's new appointment.

Bishops Bayes and Johnston prayed over Bishop Goff "while the room spontaneously rose to its feet with applause, love and affection," a spokesman for the Diocese of Liverpool said.

Bishop Goff will continue to reside and minister in Virginia but will make trips to Liverpool for her new role. Her first responsibilities in Liverpool will include sharing with Bishop Bayes in the ordination of priests in June and speaking at the diocesan clergy conference in July.

Cathedral and choral

Come and Sing - Joining with **RSCM Ireland** and the choir of **St Anne's Cathedral, Belfast**, David Stevens, Director of Music at Belfast Cathedral, will direct *A Sequence for Ascension – a Festival Service for Pentecost* Saturday 21 May 2016 in St Anne's Cathedral, Belfast. The event is open to all singers – individuals and churchnewsireland@gmail.com

choirs alike – and you do not have to be an RSCM affiliate. It's a 'come and sing' type event so advanced preparation of music will not be required. Music will include pieces by Stanford, Finzi, Ives and Elgar. Cost per person: £12.50/£10 (concession). *Registration is at 1.30 pm and rehearsal starts at 2.00 pm sharp.* A performance will follow the rehearsal and refreshments. **[Download a booking form here](#)** and return to confirm your place.

Discovery Gospel Choir is Ireland's leading intercultural choir, singing songs of hope from all over the world. Described by Archbishop Desmond Tutu as "a fantastic choir", they will be performing at this event organised by Templepatrick Presbytery to raise funds for PCI missionaries Gary and Mary Reid's digger project in Kenya. Cost: £10

Date: Saturday 21st May 2016 at 7.30pm.

Location: Assembly Buildings, 2-10 Fisherwick Place, Belfast. Contact: tel. 07713 273027 or email kpc-office@inbox.com

German Choir in concert at Marist Church, Dundalk - Music lovers are in for a treat on Sunday 15 May when Clermont Chorale presents an afternoon concert at the Marist Church at 5pm where they will welcome Chor

Levantate from Ulm, Germany for their first visit to Dundalk.

Irene Barr, musical director of Clermont Chorale explained how the collaboration came about. “One of our choir members, Brian McIvor, has a long-standing friendship with a member of Chor Levantate and when the choir was planning a trip to Ireland, a concert with Clermont in Dundalk was suggested.

“Since last August we have been working on the arrangements for the concert in the Marist Church where each choir will perform their own programme and will then join together for a selection of Irish/German pieces including The Parting Glass, The Sally Gardens and Der Lindenbaum.”

Formed in 1984, **Chor Levantate is based in Ulm in Southern Germany** about an hour from Munich. The choir supports humanitarian projects and organisations through performances and has travelled to Japan, Chile, Portugal, Spain and the USA. Clermont Chorale is delighted to welcome 45 members of the choir to Dundalk and we look forward to our visit to Ulm in October this year for a performance in their concert hall. Joining them in the Sunday 15 May concert in the Marist Church is the

traditional Irish music group, Distillery Lane. Comprising renowned uilleann piper Darragh Ó Héiligh, fiddle player and singer Noreen McManus, and Melissa Hayes who plays a variety of instruments.

This group is based in Dundalk and has been entertaining audiences with a unique blend of styles and sounds. “We are really looking forward to a wonderful afternoon of music-making on Sunday May 15th at 5pm in the Marist Church,” said Brian.

Tickets €12 and €10 concession are available from any Clermont member: from Brendan Marmion’s on Clanbrassil St or at the door. Enquiries 086-8513742. Proceeds from the concert will go to the Maria Goretti Children’s Respite Centre, Lordship.

Ireland's biggest gospel music festival coming to Ennis - The seventh annual Gospel Rising Music Festival - Ireland's biggest gospel music festival - returns to Ennis next weekend (13-15th May 2016) with choirs from all over Ireland and beyond performing in venues throughout the Clare County Capital.

Leading Irish and international choral experts will facilitate workshops in gospel music,

performance and singing for choir and non-choir members throughout the Festival. The festival also will feature a Sunday morning church service that will be broadcast live on RTE Radio at 11am on Sunday 15th May.

This year's workshop facilitators are drawn from all over Ireland and abroad and include Ruth Waldron, an internationally renowned Gospel Vocal instructor and Choir Director; and Shelley Bukspan, an American/Israeli singer, songwriter and performer.

Irish contributors include Kathleen Turner (singer/songwriter and vocal tutor at the Irish World Academy of Music and Dance), Carmel Reilly (Musical Director of Virginia Gospel Choir), Eimear Crehan (music facilitator, singer and choral director) and Claire Crehan (music teacher, composer and musical director)

This year's Gospel Rising Music Festival is hosted by The Really Truly Joyful Ennis Gospel Choir, and is supported Failte Ireland and the Shannon Region Conference and Sports Bureau.

"We are expecting a large gathering of gospel choirs and music lovers who are interested in this growing genre of music in Ennis next

month," said Lindsay Rountree of the Gospel Rising Music Festival.

"One of the most popular elements of our festival is the workshops for big and small groups, covering choir harmony singing in gospel styles, different solo singing styles and levels, choreography and big group singing. The gospel choirs in attendance also will be participating in impromptu performances and in organised gigs throughout the town," he added.

Fiona Walsh of The Really Truly Joyful Ennis Gospel Choir described the Gospel Rising Music Festival as a "social, educational and fun event which brings together lovers of gospel music from all over the country to learn from each other and form networks and friendships."

"With more than over 350 people attending every year, the Festival brings new workshop facilitators to the fore and offers choirs a wonderful opportunity to come together and share their music with each other and the wider public," said Ms. Walsh.

Karen Brosnahan, General Manager of the Shannon Region Conference and Sports Bureau called on gospel music enthusiasts to visit Ennis

and to celebrate the continued "rising" of gospel music in Ireland.

She continued, "The increasing popularity of gospel music is reflected in the number of new choral groups being established throughout the country. Importantly, the festival also gives non-choir members the opportunity to get that inside look and feel of what happens when they are part of a choir."

The three-day festival will feature daily workshops including a series of master-class style workshops on Saturday focusing on a range of themes including Choral Choreography, Vocal Percussion, Being Your Best Soloist Self, Harmonising, Acapella, and Praise & Worship. Spaces are limited and advance booking is advisable.

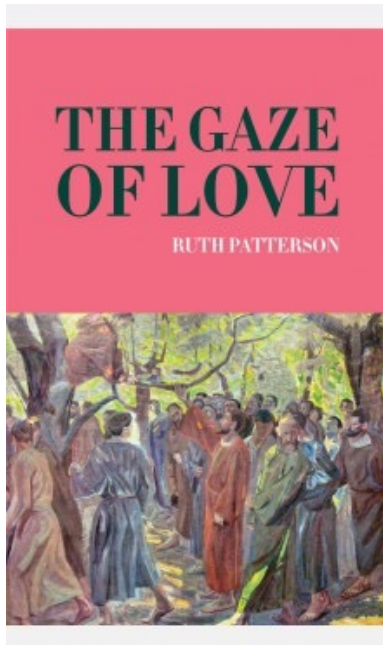
Tickets and booking of workshops are available through the Gospel Rising Music Festival website, www.gospelrising.com.

Holy Family Church in north Belfast is hosting a Concert of Sacred Music and Vespers featuring the acclaimed **University of Notre Dame Folk Choir**. The choir will sing 10 pieces followed by sung vespers. Admission is free and

May 7

there will be a retiring collection in aid of parish funds. Refreshments will be served. The concert will take place on Monday May 23 at 7:30pm.

News briefs



“The Gaze of Love” by the Reverend Ruth Patterson was published the week by Veritas. “What if God’s gaze of love was upon us before we were born, and remains so throughout our whole lives? How would we accept and engage with this truth on our spiritual journey?”

Ruth Patterson examines these pivotal questions by inviting us into a deeper exploration of scriptural passages, from both the Old and New Testaments, and the lives of those who were transformed by the gaze of love. By understanding our intrinsic value and allowing ourselves to surrender to God's love, which is without judgement or limitation, we can transform our hearts and minds, as well as those of others. Written in a heartfelt and engaging style, *The Gaze of Love* implores us to affirm our relationship with God with open hearts and minds, and to connect with the One who has loved us from the very beginning.

Paperback, 212 pages. ISBN13: 9781847306791. 14.95
<http://www.veritasbooksonline.com/the-gaze-of-love.html>

Le Chéile Together Lecture - The annual Le Chéile Together Lecture will take place at St Mary's University College, Belfast, on Tuesday May 10. **Owen Dudley Edwards**, Honorary Fellow in American and Commonwealth History at the University of Edinburgh, will deliver a lecture entitled How Catholic was the Easter Rising?

A Journey Through the Bible Exhibition - You are warmly invited to view an exhibition of Bible

Stories entitled “In The Beginning – A Journey Through the Bible.” In **St. John’s Parish Church, Rathfriland** from Friday 27 May – Sunday 5 June 2016. A spokesperson says, “Our exhibition will lead us on a journey through the Bible from Genesis to Revelation and each display will demonstrate the glory and the beauty of God’s Kingdom and Word. Displays are being created by our own church organisations and surrounding churches in our community.” Exhibition dates and times: Friday 27 May: 12.00 to 6.30 pm. Opening service at 7.30 pm with **Archbishop Richard Clarke**; Saturday 28 May: 10.00 am – 10.00 pm; Sunday 29 May: 2.00 pm – 9.00 pm; Friday 3 June: 10.00 am – 10.00 pm; Saturday 4 June: 10.00 am – 10.00 pm; Sunday 5 June: 2.00 pm – 6.00 pm. Closing service 7.00 pm. Group bookings are available from Monday 30 May through to Thursday 2 June 2016 by prior arrangement. Please contact Shirley on 07762 337991/028 4063 1741 or Roberta on 7753 345092/(028) 4063 1829. Admission is free but any donations will be greatly received in aid of our Church Hall refurbishment. Light refreshments will be available during the opening hours of exhibition in the exhibition’s tearoom at Rathfriland Regeneration Building located in Church Square, Rathfriland.

News links to reports on faith, politics and education

Fine Gael refused to back down on abortion convention in Independent talk

Irish Times

<http://www.irishtimes.com/news/politics/fine-gael-refused-to-back-down-on-abortion-convention-in-independent-talks-1.2637608>

Real progress achieved by Catholic Church on child protection

Irish Times

<http://www.irishtimes.com/opinion/editorial/real-progress-achieved-by-catholic-church-on-child-protection-1.2636815>

What future is there for Catholic schools in Ireland, asks Sarah Mac Donald

The Tablet

There are currently two watchwords in Irish education and the **Church in Ireland** is coming under fire on both counts: divestment and diversity.

<http://www.thetablet.co.uk/features/2/8353/what-future-is-there-for-catholic-schools-in-ireland-asks-sarah-mac-donald>

Cork Bishop asks where Irish Water customers now stand

Irish Times

The **Church of Ireland** Bishop of Cork, Cloyne and Ross, Dr Paul Colton revealed that he was unsure what he should do having paid his water charges ...

<http://www.irishtimes.com/news/ireland/irish-news/cork-bishop-asks-if-irish-water-customers-should-pay-bills-1.2636031>

McArthurs praying for final day in court

News Letter

The Christian family behind the so-called gay cake case have said they are praying for next week to be the final time they will ever have to be in court.

<http://www.newsletter.co.uk/we-pray-that-we-will-soon-see-our-final-day-in-court-say-mcarthurs-1-7367251>

Ireland urged to lead fight to save persecuted Christians

Irish Catholic

Irish lawmakers have been urged to take the lead in pushing for Islamist persecution ... Fianna Fáil foreign affairs spokesperson Brendan Smith told The Irish Catholic that ... With the media reporting daily on the horrors being inflicted on ethnic and religious groups in Syria and Iraq, he said: ...

<http://www.irishcatholic.ie/article/ireland-urged-lead-fight-save-persecuted-christians>

Yorks Post

Report that the Archbishop of York will visit Castle Howard on May 15 and lead an outdoor Pentecost service (see above). The Revd Anne Freestone, Castle Howard's Chaplain said, "It is wonderful to welcome the Archbishop of York to Castle Howard as he nears the

end of his diocesan pilgrimage, especially on the day of Pentecost." Archbishop Sentamu's pilgrimage across the Diocese of York is due to finish at York Minster on May 22.

<http://www.yorkshirepost.co.uk/news/archbishop-holds-service-at-castle-howard-1-7894967>

Mail

Parliamentary sketch focusing on yesterday's Questions to the Second Church Estates Commissioner, Caroline Spelman, during which Ms Spelman said that the CofE might use the Government's apprenticeship levy in part to fund thousands of curates.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3576112/Ha-Leftie-tax-business-spent-trainee-vicars.html>

Engaged Investor

Reports that the Church Commissioners are one of only two UK investors to appear in the Top 12 of sustainable global climate change investor institutions. Since 2011, an NGO, the Asset Owners Disclosure Project (AODP), has undertaken an assessment of the world's 500 biggest institutional investors examining how well they manage climate risk within their portfolios. Portfolios held by the top 12 have on average outperformed their benchmark returns over the past five years, demonstrating that managing climate risk is compatible with securing returns, according to the AODP.

<http://www.engagedinvestor.co.uk/home/-are-trustees-doing-enough-to-tackle-financial-risks-posed-by-climate/14746986.article>

[Christian Today](#)

Further coverage of the breakthrough in embryo research by scientists at Cambridge University. For the first time ever researchers have kept an embryo in a lab alive beyond the point it would normally be implanted in the womb. The Revd Dr Brendan McCarthy, the CofEs national adviser on medical ethics, is quoted.

Exp

A background and briefing article on the repression of Christians in the territories controlled by Isis. The article's headline predicts that Christianity could be extinct in "parts of the Holy Land within months".

<http://www.express.co.uk/news/world/667534/Christianity-EXTINCT-parts-of-HOLY-LAND-within-months-thanks-to-ISIS>

[Christian Today](#)

The 'Homeless Jesus' statue, planned for the pavement outside Methodist Central Hall Westminster but banned by Westminster City Council, is "a statement about what's happening in London", according to its sculptor Tim Schmalz. The statue depicts a life-sized figure sleeping on a park bench, covered with a blanket, his exposed feet bearing nail marks of crucifixion. Westminster City Council rejected the request on the grounds that it would "fail to maintain or improve (preserve or enhance) the character or appearance of the Westminster Abbey and Parliament Square Conservation Area".

BBC

Reports that the heaviest bombing raids on Hull during World War Two are being commemorated in a series of events in the city. During the raids on 7-8 May and 8-9

May 1941 more than 400 people were killed in the East Yorkshire port. A service has been held at Holy Trinity church and the vicar Canon Dr Neal Barnes is quoted.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-humber-36212234>

BBC

Reports that Holy Trinity Church in Theale, West Berkshire celebrated long-awaited repairs to its roof with a special concert - at the top of its tower on Ascension Day. The vicar, the Revd Ann Templeman is quoted.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-berkshire-36213221>

Comment

Guardian: Giles Fraser, "Brexit recycles the defiant spirit of the reformation".

<http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/belief/2016/may/05/brexit-recycles-the-defiant-spirit-of-the-reformation>

GET CNI HEADLINES EACH DAY

Facebook and Twitter

Click on logo at CNI Home page

www.churchnewsireland.org

+ Please share CNI with your friends

www.churchnewsireland.org