



***Emmalee Wray will help Her Majesty light the first in a chain of 1,000 beacons to mark the Queen's 90th birthday.***

## **NI army cadet representative at Queen's birthday celebration**

Emmalee Wray, a teenage parishioner of St Patrick's Parish Church, Broughshane, will share a leading role in the Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday celebrations.

The 17-year-old from Carnlough has been selected to help Her Majesty light the first in a chain of 1,000 beacons that will be burn across the world to mark her milestone. Emmalee will represent Northern Ireland's cadets at Windsor Great Park alongside cadets from England, Scotland and Wales.

Emmalee says: "It's a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for me and I am absolutely thrilled to be taking part.

Emmalee joined the cadets five years ago and was chosen for her achievements in the organisation, as well as completing her Bronze and Silver Duke of Edinburgh Awards alongside gaining 8A\* and an A grade in her GCSEs.

Emmalee said: "They told me I had excelled and I had shown good qualities so I was chosen to represent them at a special programme for the 60th anniversary run by the cadets and then from there, I was chosen for this.

"It's great to represent the cadets because I enjoy being involved so much. They've given me so many opportunities like I've been on an exchange to Canada and this is just another once-in-a-lifetime opportunity."

The Ballymena Academy pupil will fly out with her proud parents on Thursday morning and will have a day of rehearsals ahead of the ceremony at 7pm where Emmalee will stand alongside the monarch.

Emmalee said the excitement was mounting. "My uniform has never been more carefully cleaned and pressed!" she said.

"I'm not quite sure what to expect, but I know it will be a wonderful day and I will be very proud to represent Ballymena at the Queen's 90th birthday party!"

See also -

[http://www.u.tv/News/2016/04/20/NI-teen-to-join-Queen-for-birthday-beacon-lighting-57771?utm\\_source=UTV+feed&utm\\_medium=twitter](http://www.u.tv/News/2016/04/20/NI-teen-to-join-Queen-for-birthday-beacon-lighting-57771?utm_source=UTV+feed&utm_medium=twitter)

## **Bishop Willie Walsh to launch his memoirs in his native Roscrea**

The retired Bishop of Killaloe, Bishop Willie Walsh, will launch his memoirs in his native town of Roscrea in Co Tipperary next week.

The book which is titled 'No Crusader – Willie Walsh' was inspired by a near death experience the Bishop had in 2013.



This prompted him to reflect ever more deeply on his own life, his faith and his ministry for over fifty years.

Speaking about the publication of his memoirs on local radio, Bishop Walsh said that he “had no intention of ever writing a book”.

He added, “Over the past 15 or 20 years I have written a certain amount for religious magazines. I don’t see myself as a literary person. It is said

that everybody has a story to tell but I didn't see my story as being significant."

"When I retired I was approached by a number of publishing companies but I told them that I had no intention of publishing a book. In November 2013 I had a very close to death experience, the reality is that I nearly died. It took me up to five months to get over that and some of that time was the blackest of my life. That forced me to reflect on my own beliefs."

"That was the turning point, the first thing that I did was to write about those experiences and it sort of flowed from there."

A native of Roscrea Bishop Walsh was ordained in 1959 in Rome at the age of 24. After ordination he completed his studies in Canon Law at the Pontifical Lateran University in Rome.

On his return to Ireland he taught for a year at Coláiste Eínde, Galway and joined the staff of St Flannan's College, Ennis in 1963.

In 1988, he was appointed curate at Ennis Cathedral and became administrator there in 1990.

He became Bishop of Killaloe in 1995 after a short term as Coadjutor bishop and served until

2010 when he was succeeded by Bishop Kieran O'Reilly.

By his own admission, Willie Walsh would be more comfortable wielding a hurley than a pen. In the book, which combines memoir with deep personal reflection, his conversational style guides the reader through the story of an ordinary man from an ordinary family.

According to the publishers, Columba Press, this is no rose-tinted view of Ireland, the Catholic Church or the world.

“Willie Walsh is not afraid to ask the difficult questions – questions that will need to be faced by the institutional Church if it is to try and regain the credibility lost in the late twentieth and early twenty-first century.”

Neither does he shy away from the difficult questions of faith and what it means to be a Catholic in an increasingly secular Ireland.

The extent to which faith is questioned through Bishop Walsh's personal journey might surprise some.

Bishop Walsh's book launch takes place in Damer House in Roscrea on Thursday 28 April at 7.30pm.

## **Hlgh turn out for Dublin synod on boundary changes**

An extraordinary meeting of the Diocesan Synods of Dublin and Glendalough took place in Athy on Wednesday evening (April 20). St Michael's Church, Athy, was full for the meeting which had been called to discuss the proposals by the Commission for Episcopal Ministry and Structures to alter the boundary of the United Dioceses of Dublin and Glendalough.

The proposals are being brought to the General Synod of the Church of Ireland in May and, if agreed by General Synod, would see six parishes from Glendalough being transferred to the Diocese of Meath and Kildare.

The parishes included in the proposal are: Leixlip and Lucan; Celbridge and Straffan with Newcastle–Lyons; Blessington and Manor Kilbride with Ballymore–Eustace and Hollywood; Donoughmore and Donard with Dunlavin; Narraghmore and Timolin with Castledermot and Kinneigh; and Athy, Kilberry and Fontstown with Kilkea. The change, if approved by General Synod, would come into effect at a date to be determined – but not before the General Synod of 2017.

In his Presidential address, the Archbishop said that the people of Dublin and Glendalough were meeting at a “highly critical and potentially destructive time for our United Dioceses”.

He continued: “This year, in 2016, we mark 800 years of united diocesan life. This unity has survived the Reformation and the ravages of Oliver Cromwell. Our shared faith and communal respect for one another across the United Dioceses are the lifeblood and the springboard of our witness to the Gospel. The question that undoubtedly is on the lips of everyone gathered here now is: Will it survive for the remainder of 2016 and into 2017?”

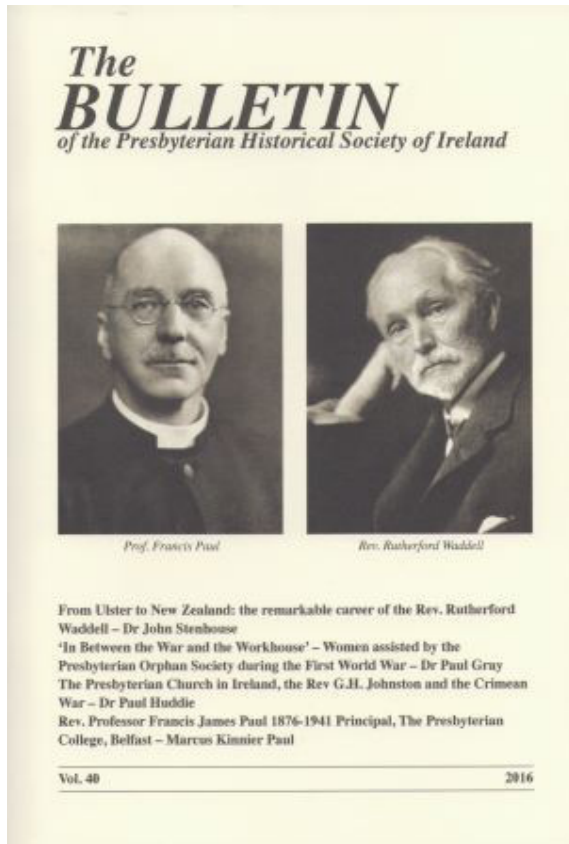
The text of the Archbishop’s address is at -

<http://dublin.anglican.org/news/2016/04/Huge-Turnout-For-Extraordinary-Diocesan-Synod-to-Discuss-Proposed-Dublin-and-Glendalough-Boundary-Changes>

## **Presbyterian history focus on New Zealand, Crimean War, Women, war and workhouses**

The most recent Bulletin of the Presbyterian Historical Society of Ireland has been published. Articles include:





From Ulster to New Zealand: the remarkable career of the Rev. Rutherford Waddell - by Dr John Stenhouse

'In Between the War and the Workhouse' - Women assisted by the Presbyterian Orphan Society during the First World War - by Dr Paul Gray

The Presbyterian Church in Ireland, the Rev G.H. Johnston and the Crimean War - by Dr Paul Huddie

Rev. Professor Francis James Paul 1876-1941  
Principal, The Presbyterian College, Belfast  
- by Marcus Kinnier Paul

There are book reviews on:  
Presbyterianism in Ulster, 1613-C.1865 by  
James Robinson with Heather Walker and Janet Taylor.

Anne Jane Carlile, 1775-1864, Temperance Pioneer - by Leslie McKeague

Enquiries about purchasing *The Bulletin* may be made to the Librarian by email to [phsilibrarian@pcinet.org](mailto:phsilibrarian@pcinet.org) or by telephone to 028 9072 7330.

## **Father Peter McVerry's new book 'The God of Mercy, The God of the Gospels' launched in Derry**

Father Peter McVerry has spent many years working with, and advocating for, homeless people.



In 1979 he set up a hostel for homeless boys. Four years later he established the Arrupe Society, now known as the Peter McVerry Trust, to provide accommodation and support for homeless people.

The book, **'The God of Mercy, The God of the Gospels'** which is published by Veritas, was launched by Maura Hyland, Director of Veritas, in the Derry shop. It is to celebrate 2016 being declared the Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy by the Vatican. Peter McVerry has written an incisive and impassioned exploration of mercy as presented in the four Gospels.

Father Peter has written a number of books for Veritas on the subject of social justice including 'The Meaning in the Shadows' (2003) and 'Jesus: Social Revolutionary' (2008).

Fr McVerry grew up in Newry, Co. Down and was educated at the Abbey Christian Brothers' Grammar School in Newry and at the Jesuit school at Clongowes Wood College in Co. Kildare. In 1962, he entered the Jesuit Order and was ordained in 1975.

From 1974 to 1980, Fr Peter worked in the Inner City in Dublin and there he came into contact with young people who were sleeping on the streets because of their home situation.

Now based at Peter McVerry Trust's Open Access Centre in Upper Sherrard Street, Father Peter's ongoing work with and campaigning on behalf of troubled young people has made him one of the most prophetic voices in Ireland today.

## **Irish Quaker Records Now Available Online**

Over 1.5 million Irish Quaker records are now available online on the website Findmypast. This

is the first phase of a major project to digitise all surviving Quaker records for Ireland.

The collection consists of both transcripts and scanned colour images of original births, marriages, burials, congregational records, school records and migration records held by the Historical Committee of the Religious Society of Friends in Ireland Archives.

Spanning over 350 years of Ireland's history from 1654 to the present day, the collection contains over 1.5 million names and, when complete, will cover all 32 counties of Ireland.

The records form an invaluable resource for those with Quaker ancestors, allowing them to trace their family's origins right back to the emergence of the faith in Ireland. Despite their relatively small size, the Quaker community left prolific information and have kept the most complete set of records of any denomination in Ireland from the 1660s to the present day.

The collection includes 232 Pedigrees documented by Thomas Henry Webb in the early 20th century to record of ancestry of 232 Irish Quaker families, applications for membership,

Disownments, Removals and lists of those who refused to pay tithes to the established Church.

The origins of Quakerism in Ireland can be traced back to the early 1650s when English soldiers, farmers, and merchants who arrived in Ireland after the English Civil War (1641–1651) settled and established communities. These immigrants converted to the new religion from a variety of other nonconforming Protestant faiths and, by 1750, there were over 150 Quaker meetings being held across Ireland within the provinces of Ulster, Leinster, and Munster.

Large numbers of Irish Quakers fled to North America to escape religious persecution and today the region is home to 32% of all Quakers worldwide. The inclusion of the Irish Society of Friend's migration records makes the collection of special significance to those looking to trace their families Quaker origins back across the Atlantic.

Noel Jenkins, Research Assistant at Friends' Historical Library, Quaker House, Dublin, says: "Quaker records are continuous, dating from 1654 to the present, and pre-date the Williamite wars of the late 17th century. They provide a rare

snapshot of what Irish records could have been if they had not been destroyed in the Four Courts in 1922. This release is a momentous occasion as researchers from all over Ireland and beyond will now be able to readily access these records in their own homes.”

Brian Donovan, Irish records expert at Findmypast, says:

“The Quakers were a small, but very active community in Ireland from the 1650s. They were fiercely independent in religious and all other matters. They were also extraordinary record keepers documenting every aspect of their lives in meticulously kept minutes dating back to the 17th century. They emigrated in large numbers to north America and this migration is often documented. They also recorded their “sufferings” at the hands of the state, the expulsion of members who failed to follow their moral code, the monthly and annual meetings that governed their community, births, marriages, burials, schools, and much more besides.”  
For further information or to register interest for access to the collection please contact:

Niall Cullen, email: [ncullen@findmypast.com](mailto:ncullen@findmypast.com) Tel: +353 (0)86 0833380 [www.findmypast.ie](http://www.findmypast.ie)

## Cathedral and choral



**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 an 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](mailto:kpc-office@inbox.com)



**Chorum Meum Concert – 23/04/16 - 8.00 pm.**  
**In Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin.** Brian Hennessey (1988-) is a Lay-Vicar Choral in the Cathedral Choir. He started his musical career with RTE's Cór na n-Óg in 1996 as a boy treble. Since then he has barely stopped singing. Brian has sings with choirs including Enchiriadis, New Dublin Voices, Dublin Bach Singers, and Lassus Scholars. In 2011 he graduated from Trinity College with an honours degree in music, where he specialised in composition. Chorum Meum is a celebration of Brian's original sacred compositions as well as arrangements of well-known folk songs from around these isles. The choir is mainly made up from other Lay-Vicars Choral and Scholars from Christ Church Cathedral and promises to enterain! Tickets €15/€10 available on the door on the night

On Thursday 5th May 2016 (Ascension Day)  
**South Derry Choral Festival Service** (under the auspices of the Cookstown Clerical Society). Choral Eucharist, Saint John's Church, Ballinderry (The Diocese of Armagh) at 8.00pm.

**A Sequence for Ascension** - Joining with the choir of St Anne's Cathedral, Belfast, David Stevens will direct a festival service for Pentecost. The event organised by RSCM

Ireland, is open to affiliates and non-affiliates. This is a 'come and sing' type event so advanced preparation of music will not be required. The cost for the event is £12.50/£10. Please complete the booking form available [here](http://www.rscmireland.com/events/). <http://www.rscmireland.com/events/>

**Sing for Life Choir hits right note** - Irish News - Camaraderie, stress relief, improved lung function, relaxation and confidence boosting. These are some of the benefits members of the Belfast-based Sing For Life choir have experienced. The community choir, developed in partnership by Cancer Focus Northern Ireland and The Crescent Arts Centre, was set up in September 2012 for anyone affected by cancer. The choir, which meets for a weekly two-hour practice in Belfast, provides an opportunity for members to share time together in a supportive and friendly environment and learn new skills in...

<http://www.irishnews.com/lifestyle/2016/04/20/news/belfast-cancer-choir-sing-for-life-hitting-the-right-note-490392/>

Canon WEC Fleming's latest publication, called **'On the Hill of Armagh – In and Around the Cathedral'**, was launched by the Keeper of Armagh Public Library, the Very Revd Gregory [churchnewsireland@gmail.com](mailto:churchnewsireland@gmail.com)

Dunstan. The Keeper, who is also the Dean of Armagh, welcomed a large group to the Library and thanked Canon Fleming for his support to the Cathedral in this way. All proceeds from the sale of the book will be given to the Friends of Armagh Cathedral to help the Cathedral. Books are on sale in the Cathedral Shop.

## News briefs

On Sunday afternoon there will be a commemoration of the 200th anniversary of the death of the greatest poet of the Ulster Scots, **James Orr (1770-1816), Bard of Ballycarry**. Event starts at 2pm with piping and reading of Orr's works at the memorial in Templecorran Cemetery. All welcome.

Undeterred by the recent arson attack, the congregation of **Cairnshill** is continuing to maintain life as close to normal as possible thanks to help from the local community and from circuit churches. On the Friday evening, for example, the annual GB display went ahead in Knockbreda Methodist. The minister of Cairnshill, the Rev Louise Donald, asks for prayers that the church would be totally back in action by mid-July so as to facilitate CSSM

week. Earlier in the day, first minister Arlene Foster and local MLA Emma Pengelly visited the church to show their support. The President, the Rev Brian Anderson, the Rev Louise Donald, the Rev Ruth Patterson and church representatives were also present.

A meeting for **Kilmore, Elphin and Ardagh** (KEA) Diocesan Members of General Synod and KEA Diocesan Council Members will take place in the Bush Hotel, Carrick on Shannon, on Tuesday 26th April at 8pm. Members will be briefed on matters to be discussed at General Synod, including diocesan boundaries.

The new building of **St Andrew's National School in Lucan** will be dedicated and officially opened by Archbishop Michael Jackson on Thursday April 28 at 11.00 am.

A short service was held in **Randalstown Parish Church** on Thursday April 21 at 11.30am to give thanks for the life, witness and service of HM the Queen and to mark her ninetieth birthday. Rector and 'Royal enthusiast', the Rev Derek Kerr said the Readings and Prayers spoke of the true leaders being servants and of the duty to pray for those in authority. At noon, the church bell

was rung 90 times and the service ended with the prayer that is The National Anthem.

Yesterday, **Bishop Paul Colton**, as President of St Luke's Charity, Cork, gave a short address of welcome on the subject of '**Dementia and Spirituality**' at the start of the annual conference of our Northridge House Education Centre at St Luke's. This year's theme was 'Living Well with Dementia: Person Centred Approaches.' The Keynote speaker was Professor Brendan McCormack, Head of the Division of Nursing/ head of QMU graduate School, School of Health Sciences, Queen Margaret University, Edinburgh.

**Second public consultation on Holy Island development plan.** Tourism and community representatives are being invited to an upcoming public consultation on the preparation of a Visitor Management and Sustainable Tourism Development Plan for Holy Island on Lough Derg. Clare County Council will facilitate the event, the second such consultation to take place on the proposed plan, at Mountshannon Community Hall at 7.30pm on Wednesday, April 27th. In June 2015, Clare County Council acquired 41 acres on Holy Island which, together with the

2 acres already in the ownership of the Office of Public Works (OPW), resulted in the entire island being brought into public ownership for the first time. Dating back to the 7th century, the island is one of the most important historical and ecclesiastical sites in Ireland, and it has important links to Brian Ború. Buildings on the island include a 24-metre high Round Tower, an Oratory, and a number of churches. Holy Island is on the UNESCO world heritage site tentative list for Ireland as an early medieval monastic site along with Clonmacnoise, Durrow, Glendalough, Kells and Monasterboice. For further information on the upcoming consultation, please contact Chris Chapman on 087 243 3691 or the Solearth Architecture office on 01 4005790.

One of Ireland's largest cemeteries, **Mount St Lawrence Cemetery in Limerick City** has been expanded with the addition of 675 additional grave spaces. Councillor Jerry O'Dea, Mayor of the Limerick Metropolitan Area was joined by **Bishop of Limerick Brendan Leahy and Dean of Killaloe Rev. Gary Poulsen** for the official opening of the cemetery extension, which also includes public car parking and a cemeteries office and store. As part of the official opening

ceremony, Bishop Brendan Leahy blessed the memorial stone, which was erected in the cemetery by the Limerick Diocese to commemorate all babies buried in Mount St. Lawrence Cemetery.

Located in the South Liberties, the cemetery has been the primary place of burial in Limerick City for all strata of society since its opening in the mid 19th century. Its development was initiated as burial ground capacity elsewhere in the city was placed under pressure following cholera epidemics in the 1830's and the Great Famine in the 1840's. An extension to Mount St Lawrence was opened in 1960. The management of the cemetery was transferred from the Church to the Limerick City Council in 1979.

The cemetery contains many fine monuments including the Manchester Martyrs Memorial (1887) and the high Cross of the Republican Plan (1934). One of the most prominent features of the cemetery is the late Victorian Mortuary Chapel where bodies were once housed there before funerals. Limerick City and County Council, in partnership with Limerick Civic Trust, recently carried out emergency repairs to the mortuary chapel. The Local Authority and Limerick Civic Trust, supported by Community Employment (CE) Programme workers, is also

carrying out conservation works to old headstones.

## **News links to reports on faith, politics and education**

### **25% more Northern Ireland students apply to Republic of Ireland universities**

BBC News

There has been a rise of almost 25% in the number of Northern Irish students applying for university places in the Republic of Ireland in 2016.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-36092678>

### **Principal faces teacher boycott at Belfast's crisis-hit De La Salle school**

Belfast Telegraph BBC News

Some teachers at De La Salle College in west Belfast say they will no longer co-operate with the principal.

<http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/northern-ireland/principal-faces-teacher-boycott-at-belfasts-crisishit-de-la-salle-school-34645947.html>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-36094162>

### **O'Dowd launches independent investigation at De La Salle College**

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-36099191>



## **Bible verse Brexit mural appears in north Belfast**

Belfast Telegraph

<http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/eu-referendum/bible-verse-brexit-mural-appears-in-north-belfast-34644160.html>

## **Mail/Guard/Premier**

Reports that MPs voted unanimously last night for a motion declaring that Islamic State violence against Yazidis and Christians in Syria and Iraq was genocide, and urging the government to do more to bring IS fighters to justice.

[http://www.dailymail.co.uk/wires/reuters/article-3550344/UK-parliament-condemns-Islamic-State-violence-genocide.html?](http://www.dailymail.co.uk/wires/reuters/article-3550344/UK-parliament-condemns-Islamic-State-violence-genocide.html?ITO=1490&ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490)

<http://www.theguardian.com/politics/2016/apr/20/mps-unanimously-declare-yazidis-victims-of-isis-genocide>

<http://www.premier.org.uk/News/UK/MPs-overwhelmingly-vote-to-recognise-IS-actions-as-genocide>

<http://www.premier.org.uk/News/UK/MPs-overwhelmingly-vote-to-recognise-IS-actions-as-genocide>

<http://www.premier.org.uk/News/UK/MPs-overwhelmingly-vote-to-recognise-IS-actions-as-genocide>

## **BBC**

Report that Rev Graham Sawyer, a survivor of abuse by Bishop Peter Ball has said he will not cooperate into the independent review of the Church's handling of the case, chaired by Dame Moira Gibb, because "bullying and silencing" were not in the terms of reference. A CofE spokeswoman is quoted saying that Archbishop Justin has publicly said it is a matter of deep shame and regret that a bishop in the CofE committed these offences and that the review will provide the Church as a whole with an opportunity to learn lessons which will improve safeguarding practice and policy.

[churchnewsireland@gmail.com](mailto:churchnewsireland@gmail.com)

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-sussex-36092227>

## **TES**

Reports that Education Secretary Nicky Morgan has countered criticism of the Government's academisation plans by stressing that schools will still be able to work with local authorities and that no academies will be forced to join academy chains. The two memoranda of understanding, released by the Department for Education regarding Church Schools are cited.

<https://www.tes.com/news/school-news/breaking-news/nicky-morgan-attempts-reassure-schools-over-academisation-plans>

## **Lichfield Live**

Reports that young Palestinian artists will create new religious paintings for Lichfield Cathedral. The students from the Bethlehem Icon School will take part in residential visits over the next two summers before their completed work goes on display in the Nave. The new icons will include the Archangel Gabriel and St Chad. The Dean of Lichfield Adrian Dorber, says, "This is a really exciting and creative project."

<http://lichfieldlive.co.uk/2016/04/20/palestinian-artists-to-create-new-religious-icon-art-for-lichfield-cathedral/>

## **ITV**

Report that Derby Cathedral says it wants to the cheapest space on the board when the city's version of Monopoly is produced. Designers say they would like to see the building in the Mayfair slot. But some of the staff say the cathedral, which is 943 years old, is more like Old Kent Road as it is accessible to everyone. The Dean of

Derby, John Davies, will be discussing the proposition with designers.

<http://www.itv.com/news/central/2016-04-20/derby-cathedral-campaign-for-old-kent-road-on-citys-new-monopoly-board/>

## **Sun**

Reports that the Chancellor of the Diocese of Durham has ordered that a football-themed headstone must be removed from Quarrington Hill church yard, County Durham. The Consistory Court said Christine Dalby did not have permission to erect the memorial decorated with a red-and-white Sunderland FC scarf and the club crest. The headstone commemorated Christine's son Shaun who was killed in a car accident in 2010.

<http://www.thesun.co.uk/sol/homepage/news/7090358/Grieving-mum-told-to-remove-football-themed-headstone-from-crash-death-sons-grave.html?redirect=true>

## **Mail**

Report on preparations in Stratford-upon-Avon for celebrations to mark the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the death of William Shakespeare where attention will be focused on Holy Trinity church on the banks of the River Avon. Church records show that Shakespeare was baptised there on April 26, 1564 and buried there on April 25, 1616, two days after his death. The vicar the Revd Patrick Taylor is quoted.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/wires/ap/article-3549790/Stratford-Upon-Avon-marks-400-years-Shakespeare-died.html>

## **Letters**

Guardian: Is Jerusalem suitable as England's national anthem?

<http://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2016/apr/20/is-jerusalem-suitable-as-england-national-anthem>

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