



Liz Doherty (Co-op Funeral Care), Emma Jackson (Job Club Manager) and Sharon Orr (Co-op Funeral Care).

Co-op support for East Belfast church's job club

Staff at the Christians Against Poverty (CAP) Job Club based in Willowfield Parish Church were delighted to receive a donation from Co-op

Funeral Care that's set to be of real benefit to local job seekers.

“Being unemployed is really tough and trying to find a job can prove difficult,” explained job club manager Emma Jackson. “CAP Job Clubs provide a unique personal service, which gives people both practical and emotional support. And we work really hard to help members find work, supporting them in whatever way we can. And that's why this donation from the Co-op is so fantastic. Looking for a job requires a range of skills and resources and now as well as improving people's skills, we can support them with free stationery, envelopes and other resources, which can be really costly if you are applying for lots of jobs.”

Willowfield is one of four churches of different Christian traditions across Belfast running a CAP Job Club, as they work together to positively impact the communities around them in East Belfast, Finaghy, Cavehill and the Shankill. The job clubs meet weekly to offer a range of services to members and a supportive community where they feel welcomed and valued.

“When we heard about the work of our local CAP Job Club, we really wanted to be part of the great work they are doing to support local job seekers,” Liz Doherty from Co-op Funeral Care Knockbreda told us. “The support they are providing people with really does work and people are getting back to work which is fantastic – not just for them, but their families and their local communities.”

CAP works with individuals to meet their personal needs. Sessions cover practical topics such as identifying strengths, CV writing and interview techniques. Staff, who have all been trained, can provide assistance in filling out daunting application forms, volunteering and work experience opportunities and guidance on returning to education.

Emma went on to tell us, “We have particular experience in working with people who face additional challenges to finding work like mental ill health or literacy difficulties; people who are not sure where to even begin with looking for a job. We help to build people’s confidence, find out what their skills and talents are and help them to be able to communicate these to prospective employers. Like Annie, who has

recently started working for a local charity after completing our Steps to Employment course.”

Willowfield CAP Job Club meets every Friday at 9.30 am in Willowfield Parish Church, My Lady's Road, Belfast.

To find out more about CAP Job Clubs or to book your place visit www.capjobclubs.org or telephone 0800 328 0006.

Church Life Conference programme outlined

Publicity material for our *Church Life Conference* will be posted out to churches during the first week in September, organisers of the conference have announced.

They state - The conference day is packed with inspiration for those involved in Church life!

[Imagine Church](#) with Neil Hudson (LICC)
[22 Free Seminars](#) on a wide range of topics
60 Exhibits to visit in the Resource Exhibition Hall
Church & Community Projects to view

[Sugarcraft Demonstrations](#) to enjoy!

Online Booking for all presentations and seminars is now available. [CLICK HERE](#)
www.churchresourcesonline.com

For further details contact Paul Scott on 0799 078 0453 or info@churchresourcesonline.com

Position of UK government faith minister ‘quietly minimised’

The government position of faith minister has been quietly minimised in an ongoing trend of minimising the prominence of religion in senior roles, Harry Farley writes in Christian Today.

Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth is the new minister with responsibilities for “faith and integration” after Theresa May became Prime Minister in July.

But far from being a senior government position, Bourne is a junior minister in the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG). Alongside his responsibilities for religion, he also oversees community cohesion, race equality,

troubled families, domestic refugees, travellers policy and is in charge of the Syrian Refugees Programme.

But as well as a minister in DCLG, Bourne's time is split with the Wales Office where he is also Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Wales. A former leader of the Welsh Conservatives, his brief covers responsibilities for energy, environment, defence, local government, localism, education and law and order in Wales.

The thinly spread junior minister symbolises a trend away from placing the faith "brief" with a senior government figure.

French Archbishop to move on canonisation of martyred priest

The Archbishop of Rouen is preparing to launch the Cause of Fr Jacques Hamel and waive the rule which states that five years must pass before a Cause is opened, [according to la-croix.com](http://la-croix.com).

Following the murder of the Catholic priest by Islamic extremists in Northern France last month, Archbishop Dominique Lebrun announced that

he is ready to initiate the canonisation process having “carefully preserved evidence about Father Jacques.”

Because Fr Jacques is considered a martyr, there will be no need to wait for a miracle in order for his canonisation to be approved.

Archbishop Lebrun said: “The death of Father Jacques Hamel is the ultimate testimony of his faith in Jesus, he affirmed to the end.

“The holiness of recognition procedure (...) can not begin until five years after the death of the person. Formally, it is the bishop of the person’s place of death to initiate the procedure. There is a local phase with a careful survey of the life and death of the person. Then the case is sent to Rome where she studied before the Pope’s decision. ”

Pope prays for exploited women on the Feast of the Assumption

Celebrating the feast of the Assumption just three days after visiting a group of young women

rescued from the sex trade, Pope Francis prayed for all exploited women and girls.

“The Lord bows down to the lowly in order to raise them up as is proclaimed in the Magnificat,” Mary’s hymn of praise to God, the Pope said yesterday.

“Mary’s canticle leads us to think of many painful situations today and particularly those of women overpowered by the burdens of life and the drama of violence, women who are slaves of the abuse of the powerful, girls forced into inhuman work, women forced to surrender body and spirit to the greed of men,” Pope Francis told thousands of people gathered to pray the Angelus with him.

The Pope prayed that exploited women soon would be able to live “a life of peace, justice and love in expectation of the day they finally will feel held by hands that do not humiliate them, but tenderly lift them and lead them on the path to life.”

Pope Francis also prayed on the feast day that Mary would intercede to bring “compassion, understanding and agreement” to the many

places in the world experiencing war and violent conflicts.

“My thoughts particularly go to the inhabitants of North Kivu, in the Democratic Republic of Congo, recently struck by new massacres,” he said, referring to reports that suspected rebels killed 42 people in the town of Beni on Saturday.

Such massacres, he said, have been occurring for months in “shameful silence.”

Cathedral and choral: Dublin cathedral carol service tickets on sale

The blurb from Christ Church Cathedral admits “It's only August but they do sell out quickly...” It continues - We are delighted to announce that tickets for our *Carols by Candlelight* concerts are available on our website.

There's no better way of getting in the Christmas spirit. Come along to the stunning surroundings of Christ Church Cathedral with family, friends or colleagues and enjoy a wonderful festive evening.



Carols by Candlelight - advice from the man - book now!

We look forward to welcoming you to the Cathedral on

Tuesday 6th December - Buy tickets for Tuesday [here](#)

Wednesday 7th December - Buy tickets for Wednesday [here](#)

Thursday 8th December - Buy tickets for Wednesday [here](#)

News briefs

+++ Vicar uses King of Rock n Roll to draw people to King of Kings -

A vicar in England has adopted an unusual method of evangelism – he impersonates the singer Elvis Presley.

Dubbed the *King of Rock n Roll*, Elvis died 39 years ago today and a candle-lit vigil took place overnight at his Graceland home in Memphis, Tennessee. Elvis is buried in the grounds of Graceland, which has become a shrine attracting tens of thousands of visitors every year; with some commentators describing Elvis' followers as being devotees to a new religion. But the Revd Ravi Holi, the Elvis-impersonating vicar of Wye in the Church of England's Diocese of Canterbury, sees no conflict between Elvis and Christianity "because the whole point is connecting with people where they are and Elvis is a figure that people of all ages, cultures, every kind of person you can imagine, likes Elvis," he [told BBC Radio Four's *Sunday programme*](#) at the weekend. "The very upper-middle-class ladies at my last church and the school kids at my local school now both respond equally positively to me dressing up as Elvis and to Elvis in general."

+++ Australian churches renew call to end refugee detention on Nauru -

An ecumenical group of churches has renewed its call for Australia's refugee detention centre on Nauru to close after revelations of sustained abuse – including the alleged cover-up of a rape. The *Guardian* newspaper last week published a swathe of official documents that detail years of abuse at the centre. The Archbishop of Melbourne, Philip Freier, [described the revelations](#) as “shocking” and “saddening”. Now, the country's Churches' Refugee Taskforce has accused the government of completely ignoring the allegations. “They were a horrific red flag to the scale of abuse and the Government did nothing,” the taskforce's executive director, Misha Coleman, said. The Nauru Files, as the documents [published by the Guardian](#) have been called, corroborate previous allegations submitted to the Government as far back as 2014, she said.

+++ Applications accepted for Episcopal Church digital evangelist -

The Episcopal Church is accepting applications for the new full-time position of digital evangelist, a member of the presiding bishop's staff. Duties for the digital evangelist include strategizing efforts for the

building of relationships, creating community, and fostering an aspirational online social presence by managing and implementing the Episcopal Church's growing digital evangelism ministry. The position works in a team setting, is part of the Office of Communication, and reports to the presiding bishop's canon for ministry within the Episcopal Church. Detailed position information and application instructions are available [here](#). Deadline for applying is Aug. 29. For more information contact a member of the Episcopal Church Human Resources Team at hrm@episcopalchurch.org.

News links to reports on faith, politics and education

Domestic violence, mental illness and drug abuse: The tragic lives of children in care who died

The Journal

Reports published yesterday gave details of the lives of a number of young people known to the child and family agency who took their own lives.

<http://www.thejournal.ie/children-in-care-deaths-2930945-Aug2016/>

Life after the Leaving: 'The results are not important in the grand scheme'

churchnewsireland@gmail.com

Irish Times

It was Protestant and Catholic, mixed sex and overseen by the parish priest and local **Church of Ireland** minister. You were treated as an adult and ...

<http://www.irishtimes.com/news/education/the-results-are-not-important-in-the-grand-scheme-1.2756797>

Community outraged after Salterstown Orange hall destroyed in arson attack

Belfast Telegraph

The **Church of Ireland** Primate, Dr Richard Clarke, said his thoughts and ... a family oriented rural lodge, with close ties to Ballinderry Parish Church

<http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/northern-ireland/community-outrage-after-salterstown-orange-hall-destroyed-in-arson-attack-34968893.html>

Overnight fire at Orange Hall in Co Derry started 'deliberately'

the Irish News

The attack was also condemned by Fr Peter Donnelly, parish priest at ... Fellow cleric, the Most Reverend Dr Richard Clarke, **Church of Ireland** ...

<http://www.irishnews.com/paywall/tsa/irishnews/irishnews/irishnews//news/2016/08/16/news/orange-order-calls-for-no-retaliation-after-latest-hall-attack-653490/content.html>

Biggest annual religious event in Ireland gets under way at Knock

Irish Times

The most popular **religious** event of the year, which can attract more than 100,000 people, began at Knock shrine in Co Mayo at midday yesterday and ...

<http://www.irishtimes.com/news/social-affairs/religion-and-beliefs/biggest-annual-religious-event-in-ireland-gets-under-way-at-knock-1.2756238>

Premier/Yorkshire Post

Reports that the Archbishop of York appeared to have stayed up into the early hours watching the Rio Olympics as he tweeted after every GB gold medal on Sunday. Archbishop Sentamu was jubilant after Andy Murray, Justin Rose and Jason Kenny all won gold medals, with gymnast Max Whitlock winning two gold medals - becoming the first ever British Olympic gymnastics champion in the process.

<http://www.premier.org.uk/News/World/John-Sentamu-goes-Rio-Olympics-mad-on-Team-GB-Super-Sunday>
<http://www.yorkshirepost.co.uk/news/opinion/yp-comment-left-behind-on-devolution-deal-1-8068497>

Tel

Interview with Revd Clive Larsen, who resigned last month from his parish in Manchester diocese to marry his partner John Marcombe. Article notes the couple married on July 25 at a registry office in Stockport, two days after completing a ceremony of commitment at St Agnes, in front of 200 well-wishers and eight members of clergy.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/men/relationships/the-bishop-made-clear-to-me-that-there-would-be-consequences-mee/>

Christian Today

Report that four historic churches around Leicester have become the latest target of roofing lead thieves within the past fortnight, in what appears to be a spike in the crime across the UK in recent weeks. Article says this raises the issue of the rules from Historic England that mean church roofs must be replaced by lead 'like-for-like' and quotes a CofE spokesperson: "The key point is that lead is the best roofing material and replacement is the default, but where there is a great risk of repeated theft, alternatives might be considered."

Letters

Guardian (Mon): Housing Act is deeply damaging legislation. Amongst the signatories is Adrian Newman, Bishop of Stepney

<https://www.theguardian.com/society/2016/aug/14/housing-act-is-deeply-damaging-legislation>

Blogs

Future Shape of Church: Crisis in the church?

<http://www.future-shape-of-church.org/2016/08/crisis-in-church.html>

Psephizo: Does growth need management?

<http://www.psephizo.com/life-ministry/does-growth-need-management/>

Law and Religion UK: Asylum seekers and immigration officers

<http://www.lawandreligionuk.com/2016/08/15/what-colour-is-the-bible-asylum-seekers-and-immigration-officers/>

August 17

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