



Children and leaders enjoyed a week of fun and activities at St Mark's Armagh Holiday Bible Club

Gay scout leader pulled out of race for top role after receiving e-mail full of 'insinuations and threats'

Scout leader Kieran Gildea dropped out of the race for the position of Chief Scout after receiving a nasty e-mail that made insinuations about his private life and suitability for the role.



***Kiernan Gildea,
former Chief
Commissioner of
Youth Programme,
former Provincial
Commissioner of
Dublin and recent
candidate for the
office of Chief Scout***

The Journal.ie - The 58-year-old told [The Irish Scouter](#) website about the experience, saying it caused ‘a physical and mental breakdown’.

“Insinuations and threats were made in the email, which put into question my suitability to be an adult in Scouting.”

Gildea said he had always kept his sexuality ‘low key’ and the email triggered repressed guilt he had felt about being gay and threw him into a depression.

The message triggered a flood of bad feelings about myself and convinced me that I was letting everyone in my life down in the most

hurtful way and that the principles that I strive to live by were all a lie.

“I had no time to think straight – I had collapsed – and it was only a few hours to voting.”

Gildea also discussed how he had been depressed after the death of a colleague in Kenya in 1997 and the letter brought back some of those feelings:

All the years of repressed fear around being gay alongside a deep sense of guilt and responsibility for what happened in Kenya flooded over me.

However, he was quick to point out that he does not believe homophobia is widespread in Scouting in Ireland.

“I believe the overwhelming majority of people in Scouting are kind, decent people who believe in fairness, inclusivity and openness...there are clearly a small minority – a tiny minority – who do not”

Irish Scouter Interview with Kiernan Gildea
<http://wp.me/p4cQ3w-5C> via
[@wordpressdotcom](http://wordpressdotcom)



Methodist President visits Africa

The Rev, Brian Anderson, President of the Methodist Church in Ireland is currently on a Pastoral Visit to Africa. He is visiting Rwanda where the Leoni Family are serving with the Methodist Missionary Society. Ella Leoni is working in the local hospital and clinics as a physiotherapist, especially with children who have a disability, while her husband is working with homeless children.

While in Rwanda the President hopes to visit the Genocide Memorial Gardens seeking to understand the tragic events of 21 years ago

and to learn how the people have worked at reconciliation.

The President will move to Kenya where he will represent the British Methodist Conference at the 50th Anniversary Conference of the Methodist Church in Kenya. The theme of this Conference will be "*Making Choice*" based on Joshua 24:13-14. During the Conference the Rev Anderson has been invited to address the Ministerial Session as well as addressing the full Conference.

Commenting before he left Dublin Airport the President said "*I am looking forward to meeting Bishop Samuel Kaynamura and learnig from him about the Free Methodist Church in Rwanda. I am also looking forward to meeting with the Presiding Bishop of the Methodist Church in Kenya the Rev Joseph Ntombura and discover how as a Church they are witnessing to the people of Kenya.*"

The Conference ends on 27th August. and he hopes to visit some projects in Nairobi sponsored by the Church.

On his visit the President will be accompanied by his wife Lesley and his son and daughter Michael and Nicola.

PP warns only catholic parents can chose to divest schools

A prominent member of the Association of Catholic Priests in Ireland has lashed out at the “condescending nature of the orchestrated campaign” to force Catholic schools to divest to alternative patrons.

Writing in *The Western People*, Fr Brendan Hoban claims a heavy-handed approach is being pursued in order to “facilitate an ideological agenda by a vocal minority”.

The Co Mayo-based parish priest tackles what he sees as the “campaign being waged to force the Catholic Church to hand over half of its primary level schools to patrons with a different ethos” and to introduce ‘religion-less’ schools.

He warns that the real demand in Ireland is not for secular schools but for school places and providing adequate places is the responsibility, not of the Catholic Church, but of the State.

Though soundings from hard-pressed ‘Catholic’ schools in city areas struggling to retain a ‘Catholic’ ethos, seemed to indicate a willingness to divest, Fr Hoban highlights that



Fr. Brendan Hoban, PP, Ballina.

this has not been the case with schools elsewhere in the country.

He says the experience has been that parishes and generations of parents, after pouring their savings into buying sites, building schools, fundraising to develop facilities, have no intention of handing over their local school to anyone.

Another mistaken presumption of those pushing for divestment has been the belief that there is huge demand for a secular school system.

“Even though every effort was made to present this presumption as fact, the surveys conducted by the Department of Education indicated clearly that this was not the case,” according to Fr Hoban.

The support for secular schools ran at between 1% in rural and 8% in urban areas according to the surveys. “In other words the vast majority of parents want the present system retained,” Fr Hoban underlines.

Elsewhere in his article, Fr Hoban, who is a co-founder of the Association of Catholic Priests, says those supporting secular education and divesting made the mistake of believing that the Archbishop of Dublin or any other bishop could deliver the divesting programme through an edict from Maynooth.

“The truth is that only Catholic parents can make that decision,” he emphasises.

Another presumption, the parish priest takes issue with is that secularism could claim special status and presume special treatment because, unlike religions, it had no values-agenda or ethos.

“This is patently untrue,” he writes and adds, “Secularism is, effectively, a form of ‘religion’ in

that it has its values, its agenda and its ethos. Giving the secularist minority support in this debate is helping the tail to wag the dog.”

This is evident in the pretence that secularism and atheism inhabit some higher ground and unlike religion don't seek converts to their cause.

Catholic neighbour to preach at C of I rector's institution

Archbishop Michael Jackson will institute the Revd Ruth Noble as the new Rector of Crumlin and Chapelizod on Friday August 28 at 8.00 pm in St Mary's Church, Crumlin. The preacher will be Fr Michael Murphy, PP Mountmellick.

A native of County Wicklow, Ruth (nee Jackson) went to secondary school in King's Hospital, Dublin and graduated from Business Studies in Dublin City University. After a year in Birmingham, she moved to Northern Ireland as a member of the community at the Christian Renewal Centre, Rostrevor, County Down and then to the Queen's University Chaplaincy in Belfast.

Ruth was ordained in 2002 for a curacy in St Mark's, Portadown. In 2005, she moved to Blarney, County Cork and, while there,

completed a Masters Degree focusing on growing churches in the Republic of Ireland. She has been Rector of Mountmellick Group of Parishes since 2010. Ruth and her husband Alan (a native of Belfast) are looking forward to the move to Dublin in August.

Ruth loves growing vegetables, crochet, knitting and listening to podcasts.

She succeeds the Revd Adrienne Galligan who became Rector of Rathfarnham in January.

C of I Children's Ministry Harvest Newsletter

The Church of Ireland Children's Ministry has published its Harvest Newsletter. As many parishes prepare for the beginning of a new Sunday Club Programme the newsletter is full of useful ideas, programmes and resources which are recommended by the Children's Ministry Network and the Sunday School Society for Ireland. It also contains some Bible story telling ideas, a creative prayer idea and a craft. Any queries, please contact Lydia: sss@ireland.anglican.org.

To download the newsletter [please click here](#).



The Armagh Diocesan Board of Mission at the launch of the BCMS Crosslinks Sunday School resource

The Children's Ministry Network has organised a training workshop in Arklow on Saturday September 5. See their Facebook page for more details www.facebook.com/churchofirelandchildrensministry

The Bible's Unexpected Stories - Biblical Association AGM

The AGM of the Biblical Association for the Church of Ireland, open to all, will be held in St Patrick's Church, Greystones, on September 25

churchnewsireland@gmail.com

from 6.30 pm. The AGM Lecture, "*The Bible's Unexpected Stories*", will be given by Dr Brad Anderson, chair of the Irish Biblical Association, and the AGM to follow, "*BACI – the way forward*" will be chaired by Bishop Kenneth Kearon. Substantial refreshments will be served from 6.30pm with the lecture at 7.30pm. To be sure of your place and to help caterers email aamacfarlane283@gmail.com.

Celebration as major project in Derry parish is completed

A new roof is complete and the last ridge tile is in place in St Mary's Parish Church, Macosquin. With only guttering and down pipes to fit this week before the scaffolding is dismantled, the project which has generated a huge amount of effort and fund-raising in the Church of Ireland Parish of Camus-juxta-Bann since the beginning of 2015 is now coming to an end. It is a great achievement for the small parish, and a tribute to the generosity and loyalty of parishioners and the good will of many more friends and well-wishers, who between them have raised almost £35,000 towards the cost.



The final funding effort will be a Celebration Supper Dance in the Bushtown Hotel on Thursday October 8. Tickets will shortly be on sale to the public.

On Sunday 18th October there will be an Evening Service of Celebration and Thanksgiving in the Parish Church. Renaissance Chamber Choir from Belfast which helped launch the Appeal in January has been invited to return and lead the Music; Bishop Ken Good will give the address. People and charitable bodies who have contributed very generously to this effort will be invited, some of them from

distant parts of Ireland, and some from further afield, including one from China!

Thanksgiving for life of Marlene Jefferson, Londonderry's first female mayor

The funeral has taken place in St Augustine's parish church of Marlene Jefferson, MBE, the former Ulster Unionist councillor who created history 35 years ago by becoming Londonderry's first female mayor.

Mrs Jefferson, a mother-of-five, died peacefully in hospital on Monday. She had been predeceased by her husband, Jim.

The Rector of St Augustine's, Rev Malcolm Ferry, told mourners at her funeral service on Wednesday afternoon that the former first citizen had been "a woman of immense faith". In addition to being "a great family woman" she had been a community worker and leader who "had the capacity to see the solution to a problem long before many had even realised there was a problem". She had also been "an important member of and contributor to this church". She had been a Church Warden of St Augustine's and had served on its Select Vestry.

The congregation were told that despite being an active member of the Ulster Unionist Party and achieving much in her life, Mrs Jefferson had been “first and foremost a family person” – a proud mother and grandmother.

Rev Ferry revealed that before she had died, Ms Jefferson had laid out instructions for her funeral service, including some of the hymns she wanted, and placed them in a sealed envelope until after her death. Her remains were carried into church to the ballad ‘Danny Boy’, sung by soloist Denise O’Boyle to the traditional tune, the Londonderry Air.

The parish priest of St Columb’s Church in the Waterside, Fr Michael Canny, was invited to read from St Paul’s Letter to the Galatians (Chapter 5) and St Paul’s Letter to the Philippians (Chapter 2) in recognition of Mrs Jefferson’s strong, cross-community ethos.

During the service Mrs Jefferson’s granddaughter, Sam, read the poem ‘Do not stand at my grave and weep’ by Mary Elizabeth Frye, while her sister, Sylvia, read the poem ‘Not ‘til the loom is silent’, which had been presented to Mrs Jefferson at the time of the death of her son Tom.

“There was more to this woman than met the eye,” Mr Ferry said in his funeral address. “In my time here I was granted the job of visiting her in her home and visiting her in hospital and even in the last hours of her life, to see that her mind was still active, when no other words seemed possible, Marlene could recite with me the words of the Lord’s Prayer as we prayed together. She was a woman of immense faith.”

Remarking on “all the little touches” that the funeral service contained, and which Mrs Jefferson had asked for, Rev Ferry said, “Those touches speak of a life beyond, a recognition that there is something bigger than us all.”

At the end of the service the St Augustine’s choir sang the ‘Nunc Dimittis’ as Mrs Jefferson’s remains were carried from the church for burial at Altnagelvin Cemetery.

China honours Christian missionary and Olympic athlete Eric Liddell

British Olympic champion, devout Christian and prisoner of war Eric Liddell, who famously chose his faith over competing in a championship race,



has been honoured with a statue in his native China.

After refusing to run in the heats on a Sunday, for his favoured distance, the men's 100 metres, Liddell could still compete in the men's 400 metres at the 1924 Summer Olympics in Paris, which he won.

The British educated athlete who was nicknamed 'the flying Scotsman' and born in Tianjin, returned to China in 1925 to serve as a missionary teacher, where he mostly remained until his death in 1945, in a Japanese civilian internment camp.

On Monday, the marble sculpture of Liddell, captured in mid-stride, was unveiled in Tianjin, coincidentally the scene of two deadly explosions last week.

The statue was revealed in front of his daughters, the internment camp's remaining survivors and the actor Joseph Fiennes, who is due to play to play him in *The Last Race*, which has just finished filming in China.

Liddell's Olympic training and racing, and the religious convictions that influenced him, were first depicted in the Oscar-winning 1981 film *Chariots of Fire*, in which he is portrayed by fellow Scot Ian Charleson.

"It's one thing to preach Bible study or whatever, but it's another to actually live your beliefs under conditions like being in an internment camp," said Fiennes at Monday's unveiling.

"It's not just preaching, it's about watching someone in a set of beliefs in extraordinary circumstances, still believing those beliefs will carry him through," added Fiennes.

Liddell, who also played rugby for Scotland, took risks by smuggling medical supplies through the barbed wire to try to treat the 2,000 other citizens of Allied countries imprisoned with him. Survivors say that he dedicated himself tirelessly to breaking down cliques and educating internees, mirroring his earlier work as a teacher in Tianjin.

His wife left China for Canada in 1941 with the couple's daughters while she was expecting their third child, Maureen.

Patricia Liddell, 80, admitted at the unveiling that as a child she could not understand her father's decision not to join them, and came to reconcile herself with his decision only in later life.

"I remember travelling in a rickshaw with him, I remember having fun with him," she said. "Then we didn't have him during the war and we used to think: 'Oh, why aren't you with us?' It was years later when we met people who were the children in the camp that we understood there was a reason he did it."

She was not to see her father again, because Liddell died in the camp from a brain tumour in February 1945. His remains lie beside his new statue, his headstone carved from Scottish granite.

"I find it extraordinary that a statue has been raised - the Chinese don't really raise statues, maybe just for Mao Zedong."

"My father was multi-faceted, he didn't just appeal to religious people. He was born in China, he worked in China, he died in China.

He's their Olympic hero. He didn't leave the Chinese people when the going got tough."

Media digest

Irish Examiner - Cork priest recovers in no time after 'bikini hip op'

<http://www.irishexaminer.com/ireland/cork-priest-recovers-in-no-time-after-bikini-hip-op-348953.html>

Bishop wants Little Nellie exhumed

<http://www.irishexaminer.com/ireland/bishop-wants-little-nellie-exhumed-348764.html>

70% of Irish people are proud of the country's contribution to humanitarian relief

<http://www.irishexaminer.com/breakingnews/ireland/70-of-irish-people-are-proud-of-the-countrys-contribution-to-humanitarian-relief-691693.html>

Belfast Telegraph -

Gay Christian couple in battle to overturn same-sex marriage ban

<http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/northern-ireland/gay-christian-couple-in-battle-to-overturn-samesex-marriage-ban-31464443.html>

Landmark action as families to sue loyalist Elim church deacon and the state over murder of their loved ones

<http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/northern-ireland/landmark-action-as-families-to-sue-loyalist-church-deacon-and-the-state-over-murder-of-their-loved-ones-31464335.html>

Owner of house that inspired hymn 'All Things Bright And Beautiful' fined for renovation work

A property developer has been found guilty of illegal alterations to a mansion that inspired Londonderry poet Cecil Frances Alexander to write the hymn All Things Bright And Beautiful.

<http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/northern-ireland/owner-of-house-that-inspired-hymn-all-things-bright-and-beautiful-fined-for-renovation-work-that-included-using-childrens-gravestones-as-decoration-31461505.html>

Paralympic hero Kelly Gallagher in African visit as she champions kids' charity project

<http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/world-news/paralympic-hero-kelly-gallagher-in-african-visit-as-she-champions-kids-charity-project-31461961.html>

Fermanagh's Aghavea Glebe goes on sale for £1m: Country estate where two Cheltenham Gold Cup winners bred

<http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/northern-ireland/fermanaghs-aghavea-glebe-goes-on-sale-for-1m-country-estate-where-two-cheltenham-gold-cup-winners-bred-31441087.html>

Premier - Anti-Protestant graffiti in Northern Ireland

Graffiti threatening to kill Protestants has been found on a new housing estate in Northern Ireland.

<http://www.premier.org.uk/News/UK/Anti-Protestant-graffiti-in-Northern-Ireland>

News Letter - Donacloney minister and doctor caught up in Bangkok attacks

<http://www.newsletter.co.uk/donacloney-minister-and-doctor-caught-up-in-bangkok-attacks-1-6912824>

SDLP challenged on gay stance as SF readies new vote

<http://www.newsletter.co.uk/sdlp-challenged-on-gay-stance-as-sf-readies-new-vote-1-6913639>

Irish Times - New to the Parish: 'Every family in Syria has lost somebody'

<http://www.irishtimes.com/life-and-style/people/new-to-the-parish-every-family-in-syria-has-lost-somebody-1.2309960>

Irish Independent - It's time to abandon Fortress Europe and recognise the desperate plight of migrants

<http://www.independent.ie/opinion/columnists/martina-devlin/its-time-to-abandon-fortress-europe-and-recognise-the-desperate-plight-of-migrants-31448075.html>

Times/BBC/Cable.co.uk

Articles on how church towers fitted with radio transmitters are providing a network of web connections for fibreoptic broadband in communities. They say Ely Cathedral is at the centre of an internet network and the Diocese of Bath & Wells is conducting test projects in a cluster of churches in Ashbrittle and the Levels in Somerset in partnership with Wild West Net.

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/technology/article4532432.ece>

<https://www.cable.co.uk/news/hallelujah-somerset-churches-to-help-deliver-superfast-broadband-700000986/>

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-somerset-33986573>

Mirror & Tel

Reports on research by the University of York in partnership with the Children's Society which ranked English school pupils one of the lowest for overall life satisfaction, and with low scores for self-confidence and mental health. They state the 10-year study reveals they are among the world's unhappiest school children.

<http://www.mirror.co.uk/news/uk-news/schoolchildren-england-among-unhappiest-world-6281434>

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/women/womens-life/11812225/Our-children-should-happily-embrace-misery.html>

BBC

Report that Hereford Cathedral is celebrating the award of a £241,000 lottery grant that will help restore a 16th Century walkway. It says the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) will go towards the re-roofing and lighting of its historical covered Tudor walkway - St John's Walk – which links the cathedral with the College Cloisters.

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-hereford-worcester-33985290>

Mirror/BBC/Mail/Tel/Exp/Star/Guard

Various articles on the funeral service for Cilla Black yesterday. They say celebrities will pay

tributes and Sir Cliff Richard will perform the song *Faithful One*.

<http://www.mirror.co.uk/news/uk-news/cilla-black-funeral-full-order-6283065>

<http://www.bbc.com/news/entertainment-arts-33991635>

[http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3203697/Remembering-Cilla-Preparations-underway-ahead-entertainer-s-funeral-tomorrow-mourners-begin-arrive-Liverpool.html?](http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3203697/Remembering-Cilla-Preparations-underway-ahead-entertainer-s-funeral-tomorrow-mourners-begin-arrive-Liverpool.html?ITO=1490&ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490)

[ITO=1490&ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490](http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3203697/Remembering-Cilla-Preparations-underway-ahead-entertainer-s-funeral-tomorrow-mourners-begin-arrive-Liverpool.html?ITO=1490&ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490)

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/celebritynews/11813490/Sir-Cliff-Richard-to-sing-at-Cilla-Blacks-funeral.html>

<http://www.express.co.uk/celebrity-news/599468/Cilla-Black-Cliff-Richard-Tarback>

<http://www.dailystar.co.uk/news/latest-news/460205/Sir-Cliff-Richard-will-sing-Cilla-Black-funeral>

<http://www.theguardian.com/tv-and-radio/2015/aug/20/sir-cliff-richard-lead-tributes-cilla-black-funeral-liverpool>

Tel

Further article on Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn defending himself against critics. They state he has said he wrote to the church leaders defending the Revd Stephen Sizer's right to

discuss Middle East political issues before his controversial post on 9/11.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/politics/labour/11812730/Jeremy-Corbyn-denies-knowing-Muslim-firebrand-who-condones-killing-British-soldiers.html>

Mail

Report on discovery of 800-year-old cross with inscription in Hebrew unearthed by a man using a metal detector in Newport, South Wales.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/sciencetech/article-3203420/Stunning-800-year-old-crucifix-engraved-Hebrew-talisman-ward-fever-unearthed-Wales.html>

Obituaries

Times

Obituary report on Charles Jacob, former stockbroker and Methodist lay preacher, who was a founder of ethical investments.

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/opinion/obituaries/article4532350.ece>

Guard

Obituary report on John Scott, a cathedral organist, who was director of music of [Saint](#)

August 21

Thomas Church, Fifth Avenue, New York, and
before that of St Paul's Cathedral, London.
[http://www.theguardian.com/music/2015/aug/
19/john-scott](http://www.theguardian.com/music/2015/aug/19/john-scott)