



***Revd Colin Hall-Thompson, Dame Mary Peters, Robert Ferris (Chairman Mission to Seafarers NI), Peter Fitzsimmons, Stuart Cooper and Johan Temink.***

## **New Seafarers Centre opens in Warrenpoint Port**

Seafarers in Warrenpoint Port now have the option of relaxing in a comfortable, welcoming space after Mission to Seafarers NI opened their new facility on 7 August. Patron, Dame Mary Peters, and Warrenpoint Harbour Board Chairman, Mr Peter Fitzsimmons, cut the ribbon

on the transformed former potato inspection shed where seafarers will now be able to use WIFI, watch TV, read and relax. Local Church of Ireland rectors Revd Colin McCormack and Revd Gerald Macartney also attended the opening.

The centre is open 24/7 and reports indicate that it is already being very well used and appreciated. Honorary Lay Chaplain, Johan Temink, along with his assistant, Stuart Cooper, will supervise the facility and make ship visits as part of the practical, emotional and spiritual support that the mission offers to seafarers around the world.

The centre is a tribute to the vision and drive of a large group of people, including the Senior Chaplain, Revd Colin-Hall Thompson, port staff and authorities, and generous help from local businesses and the community. Mission to Seafarers NI is also very grateful to the Shipping Agents for their support in this project and for passing on the information to the crews arriving into Warrenpoint.

## **Knocknamuckley minister formally quits**

Parishioners at Knocknamuckley Church of Ireland outside Portadown have told of their



relief their controversial minister Reverend Alan Kilpatrick handed in his written resignation.

News Letter - The row at rural St Matthias's Church saw Scottish-born Rev Kilpatrick step down in May.

He made the decision after a series of meetings were held by churchgoers who were divided over his style of ministry, which involved him only rarely donning traditional robes or preaching from the pulpit.

Following his departure, the congregation was split into two groups – one remaining in St

Matthias Church, and a new missional congregation formed by Rev Kilpatrick.

After meeting in accommodation in Craigavon for several months, the missional congregation has found a new temporary home in a farm building in Bleary.

A Church of Ireland spokesman said: “The Revd Alan Kilpatrick has completed a Resignation of Benefice form, saying that he will be resigning from the incumbency of Knocknamuckley on September 30, 2015.

“This means that the parish will be vacant on October 1, 2015.

“Until the parish is vacant, its representatives are not in a position to look for a new minister, and when it becomes vacant they will have to work through the usual processes.”

His resignation came days after concerned parishioners penned a letter – which has been passed to the News Letter – to senior figures in the Church of Ireland voicing their concern that Rev Kilpatrick had not offered a written letter of resignation, among other issues.

A long-standing member of Knocknamuckley Church said news of Rev Kilpatrick's resignation "means we can start to build bridges".

He said there was concern that "because it [his resignation] was not in writing, he could rescind the offer".

He added: "He has been in Knocknamuckley for around two years and within a short time concerns about his preaching were raised.

"It would be great to see us returning to the normal Christian church we always were and to be able to plan for the future."

Another parishioner added: "This is a weight off our shoulders and it has put many members of the congregation through many sleepless nights."

## **Windsor organ scholar wins NI International Organ Competition**

Alexander Hamilton, organ scholar at St George's Chapel, Windsor, won the senior category of the fifth Northern Ireland International Organ Competition (NIIOC), which was held in St Patrick's Church of Ireland Cathedral in Armagh between 24 and 26 August.



***David Graham, Alexander Hamilton, Erwan le Prado, and David Hill***

The 19-year-old wins a £1,000 cash prize and a range of recording and concert engagements (including recitals at Trinity College Cambridge, Westminster Abbey, St Anne's Cathedral, Belfast and Christ Church, Dublin).

Laurence Long (Royal College of Music), came second in the senior class and won the Stephen Corry Award for a stand-out performance of any piece except Bach. Yanis Dubois

(Caen Conservatoire) came third and won the Bach Prize, while Henry Brearley (Stockport Grammar School) was highly commended.

Matthew Breen won the intermediate class of the competition. Thomas Maxwell won the junior class, in which Niall Barrett was highly commended.

Erwan Le Prado (Caen Conservatoire) chaired the judging panel, which was completed by David Graham, Professor of organ at the Royal College of Music, and David Hill, chief conductor of the BBC Singers. They praised the standard and musicianship of the competitors and the variety of their programmes.

Richard Yarr, chair of NIIOC, said: 'We are recognised as the go-to competition for organists aged 21 and under. Our previous four winners are ambassadors for NIIOC and have begun accomplished careers in music. Alexander Hamilton is set to be another.'

Previous winners include Andrew Forbes (2014), Richard Gowers (2013) and Benjamin Bloor (2012). [www.niic.com/](http://www.niic.com/)

## **'Of what earthly use is the Bible?' - Belfast Cathedral course**

Due to popular demand, a third course led by the Rev Brendan McCarthy will take place in St



Anne's Cathedral, Belfast, beginning on September 23.

The course, titled: 'Of what earthly use is the Bible?' explores the nature, interpretation and application of the Bible.

Whether you are totally new to looking at the Bible or have considerable skill navigating your way through this book, this course will have something to enlighten, challenge or inform you. There will be genuine exploration with no opinions out of bounds!



The course takes place over seven sessions as follows:

### **Part One – Making the Bible**

1. How the Books were written
2. How the Books were chosen

### **Part Two – Interpreting the Bible**

3. Understanding the different types of literature in the Bible
4. The historical and cultural context of the Bible's books

### **Part Three – Applying the Bible**

5. The Bible; “Word of God” or “witness to God?”
6. The Bible and Faith: “Road Map” or “Travel Companion?”
7. The Bible and Ethics: “Rule book” or “Work Book?”

Sessions take place in the Board Room at St Anne's Cathedral. Early registration is advised as places are in high demand. Please contact [admin@belfastcathedral.org](mailto:admin@belfastcathedral.org) for times and fees.

Brendan McCarthy has a primary degree in divinity as well as Master's degrees in theology, history and human rights law and a doctorate in

Christian Ethics. He is an ordained Anglican Priest and is currently the Church of England's national adviser on Medical Ethics and Health and Social Care Policy.

## **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 visited 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 then moved to Kenya where he is representing the British Methodist Conference at the 50th Anniversary Conference of the Methodist Church in Kenya. The theme of this Conference is "Making Choice" based on Joshua 24:13-14. During the Conference the

Rev Anderson was 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 learning 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 today and he hopes to visit some projects in Nairobi sponsored by the Church.

On his visit the President he is being accompanied by his wife Lesley and his son and daughter Michael and Nicola.

## **Rose of Tralee is a Lourdes volunteer**

The new Rose of Tralee is a St Jean Baptiste stagiaire and volunteered with sick pilgrims in Lourdes as recently as July.



***Elysha Brennan, the 2015 Rose of Tralee, pictured on stage with Daithi O'Se.***

Twenty-two-year-old Elysha Brennan from Bettystown is a medical student at the Royal College of Surgeons.

A past pupil of Franciscan College Gormanston in Co Meath, she graduated with a student of the year medal.

She was diagnosed with Hodgkin's Lymphoma, a form of leukaemia in 2012, while re-sitting her Leaving Certificate.

She decided to put her hat into the ring for the Rose of Tralee following her successful battle against cancer. Elysha Brennan is now over two years in remission.

When she was first diagnosed, her mother began a novena to St Therese of Lisieux, whose

signature symbol is a rose, and this inspired Elysha to put the Rose of Tralee on her 'to do' list for when she got better.

"I have great faith and I wanted to give something back and to give thanks," she explained of her commitment to the sick in Lourdes.

The Hospitalité Notre Dame de Lourdes (HNDL) is a Catholic religious confraternity under the spiritual authority of the Bishop of Tarbes and Lourdes.

A period of service with the Hospitalité Notre-Dame de Lourdes is known as a 'Stage'.

The name 'Stage' comes from the French for 'work experience'. Those on Stage are often known as 'stagiaires' or more recently 'hospitaliters auxiliaries'.

Ahead of her selection as the 2015 Rose of Tralee, Elysha Brennan explained that she had been involved with musical theatre from an early age, and had a passion for song and dance.

She has also taken part in the Olympia Theatre Dublin Christmas pantomimes and a Michael Jackson tribute show.

“I made a bucket list two years ago and am slowly ticking things off, including visiting the Statue of Liberty in New York, Greek island hopping and now becoming the Meath Rose,” she said.

## **Derry clergy abseil challenge helps raise 5K for Parkinson's**

Last month's charity 'Abseil Challenge' at St Columb's Park, in which Bishop Ken Good took part, has raised more than five thousand pounds for the local branch of Parkinson's UK.

The Bishop was one of three local clergymen who participated in the abseil, along with other friends and supporters of the Foyle Branch. The challenge involved scaling the 15 metre climbing wall at the new Foyle Arena - the only full-size, internationally-recognised climbing wall in Northern Ireland. The participants wore safety harnesses and protective headgear for the ascent.

Each of the climbers was sponsored by family, friends and colleagues. In total they raised £5,028.12. On Tuesday afternoon, the event organiser, Liam Crawford, presented the proceeds to the Treasurer of the Foyle Branch,



Ann Todd, at a ceremony in the Belfray Inn near Londonderry.

The Foyle Branch Chairperson, Jack Glenn, said he was staggered at the amount raised and grateful to all those who had contributed for their generosity. He had a special word of thanks for the climbers, all of who had come through the challenge unscathed.

Bishop Good said he found his abseiling experience “thrilling” but, more importantly, was delighted to be able to help such a deserving charity. “It’s estimated that one person in every 500 in the UK has Parkinson’s,” the Bishop said. “That’s around 127,000 people, including hundreds in our diocese. I am thankful that the

Foyle Branch of Parkinson's UK is here to provide support and friendship to those who live with the condition, their families and carers.”

## **Appeal to churches on farming safety issues**

The Health and Safety Executive Northern Ireland is appealing to parishes and congregations to raise awareness of farm safety issues and pray for farmers and their families.

Dr Bryan Monson, Deputy Chief executive of the HSENI, is urging churches to consider highlighting farm safety at a Harvest Thanksgiving service or other specific date in the year.

He asks that farming families be remembered in prayers for safety, for healing for those who are injured and comfort for those bereaved.

“Farming remains a major and important part of our community in Northern Ireland, however, the sector continues to be one of the most dangerous to work in, with seven fatalities and hundreds of serious injuries over the past year,” said Dr Monson.



“This, along with many other pressures on farmers highlights the need to continue to support those in the sector.”

Dr Monson said that over the past year a number of rural church groups have held meetings or events to highlight farm safety to their members. “I and my colleagues in the Farm Safety Partnership would be keen to assist churches and church groups by offering speakers or materials to any who are interested,” he said.

Any church interested in finding out more can contact Dr Monson at the HSENI on 028 9054 6835 or by email: [bryan.monson@hseni.gov.uk](mailto:bryan.monson@hseni.gov.uk).

## **Belfast Healing services recommence**

Divine Healing Ministries Monday evening healing service in St Anne's Cathedral will start on August 31st, and the Tuesday evening service in St Finnian's on September 1st. St George's continues as usual every Monday at 1pm.

## **WCC general secretary reflects on 75th anniversary of Taizé Community**

A message focusing on the theme “Ora et labora”, meaning “pray and work”, was shared by the World Council of Churches (WCC) general secretary Rev. Dr Olav Fykse Tveit, at the 75th anniversary of the Taizé Community, commemorating the life of the community’s founder Brother Roger.

Tveit addressed the event titled “New Solidarity”, was held on 16 August in Burgundy, France.

Founded in 1940, Taizé is an ecumenical monastic order centred in Taizé, Saône-et-Loire, France, which brings together young people from around the world for reflection, prayer and community living.

The WCC general secretary called the anniversary commemoration a “poignant moment”: “Taizé is a village, it is a religious community, but more than that it is a spiritual home – a precious station on life’s journey and a meeting point with others together on the way,” said Tveit.



***WCC general secretary Olav Fykse Tveit (in the middle) at the “New Solidarity” event of Taizé Community in France.***

Admiring the vision of peace and community life promoted by Taizé, Tveit said, “The experience of life in community is a compelling reflection of the interdependence of human beings.”

“It is vital for us today to cherish the deep spiritual truth that we belong together as one human family and that we are part of the entire web of life. The recognition of our interrelatedness is the beginning of the mutual trust and solidarity needed to change and transform the ambivalent reality.”

Tveit called the concept of a pilgrimage “defining quality of the ecumenical movement”. He said that the Taizé Community’s call for a “Pilgrimage of Trust on Earth” resonates well with the invitation of the WCC 10th Assembly in Busan 2013 calling to embark on a [Pilgrimage of Justice and Peace](#).

“Speaking of a pilgrimage that combines spiritual dimensions of prayer and worship and practical action for justice and peace, we are reminded that Christian life and identity are part of something greater than ourselves, something which binds us together in solidarity with each other as an expression of God’s grace and love,” said the WCC general secretary.

Tveit paid a profound tribute to the life and works of Brother Roger, founder of the Taizé Community, a Swiss Christian leader, who welcomed thousands of young pilgrims, until his death in 2005, when he was stabbed by a mentally ill participant in a worship service at Taizé.

“Brother Roger demonstrated the joy and pain of discipleship through his life and witness. His life journey helps us to see the deeper meaning of being one in the body of Christ in prayer and practice. His reflections on faith in Christ in the

middle of Nazi terror and war and finally the tragedy of his death keep us focused on the cross of Christ. We are reminded of Christ's uniting, reconciling and self-sacrificial love to the world and the gift of new life in the Eucharist," Tveit added.

## Media digest

### **Irish Independent - Sinn Féin cannot simply wish the Provos away**

<http://www.independent.ie/opinion/columnists/mandy-johnston/sinn-fin-cannot-simply-wish-the-provos-away-31472519.html>

### **Irish Times - Claims IRA has gone away a 'blatant lie', says Austin Stack**

<http://www.irishtimes.com/news/politics/claims-ira-has-gone-away-a-blatant-lie-says-austin-stack-1.2328371>

### **Mail**

Article on tributes to Bradford's 'Jesus Man', George Brindley, who has died aged 88. It states he was a well known Christian man who dressed in a brown robe and sandals and walked the streets after leaving his job and living in a cave. The Bishop of Bradford, Toby Howarth, is quoted saying many were grateful for his life.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3210270/Bradford-s-Jesus-Man-lived-cave-walked-city-s-streets-brown-robe-sandals-50-years-died-stroke.html#ixzz3jtbQr5ku>

## **Ind**

"Independent Voices" article about applying 'love thy neighbour' to migrants. The writer Matthew Norman explores whether Germany has risen to the challenge of accepting refugees more than the UK.

<http://www.independent.co.uk/voices/we-might-not-like-to-admit-it-but-germany-has-the-moral-high-ground-over-us-after-the-migrant-crisis-10471595.html>

## **Exp**

Article about coverage of the migrant crisis in Europe, which mentions the BBC's *Songs of Praise* from Calais and says left wing media are biased in their coverage of the issue.

<http://www.express.co.uk/comment/expresscomment/600688/Ross-Clark-left-wing-migrant-crisis>

## **Mail**

Daily Mail article examines new research on a manuscript which is said to hint that Jesus was married. Despite the document being widely declared a fake, researchers at Columbia University are said to have conducted new tests on the ink used on the papyrus.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/sciencetech/article-3209217/Is-Gospel-Jesus-Wife-REAL-Study-ink-used-ancient-papyrus-suggests-authentic.html>

## **Tel**

Article on potential dangers of burning incense mentions its use in Eastern religions, as well as the Roman Catholic Church and some Anglican denominations. It states the practice may need to come with a health warning.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/science/11824105/Incense-may-need-a-health-warning-over-toxic-smoke-claims-research.html>

## **Mirror**

Report about a police presence at the funeral of Paul Massey at St Paul's Church in Salford near the Ordsall estate. It says Armed police are on stand-by for the funeral as underworld figures from across the country are expected to attend.

<http://www.mirror.co.uk/news/uk-news/paul-massey-funeral-armed-police-6320294>

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