

Down and Connor safeguarding efforts praised

A new child safeguarding report has recognised the “enormous efforts” made by the Diocese of Down & Connor in ensuring the safety of children in all aspects of diocesan activity.

The Irish Catholic - The Devaney Report 2013, undertaken by Dr John Devaney of Queen’s University Belfast, also praised the “strong leadership” of the Bishop of Down & Connor, Noel Treanor.

The report finds that there is “clear evidence within the diocese of strong leadership, the growing spread of a culture of safeguarding across all aspects of the work of the Diocese, and an openness to considering how the progress to date can be both sustained and developed”.

However, it notes that the next period will be challenging for the diocese as it moves to develop arrangements to protect and safeguard vulnerable adults.

The focus of the review was the arrangements in place regarding safeguarding structures at both diocesan and parish level, working arrangements with the statutory sector, and the implementation of policies and procedures to safeguard children and vulnerable adults.

One of the report’s key observations was that “enormous efforts” had been made by the diocese in recent years in “setting up



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systems, developing policies, providing training and implementing procedures in line with the standards within the Catholic Church and the wider civil requirements”.

“Safeguarding within the diocese of Down & Connor has come a long way in a relatively short space of time.

“Within the diocese there is clear evidence of an overarching commitment to keeping children safe in all aspects of diocesan activity and clear leadership by Bishop Treanor,” the report states.

Prayer for Today

Eternal God, in Christ you make yourself our guest. Amid all our cares and concerns make us attentive to your voice and alert to your presence, that we may prize your word above all else; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen



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- See more at: <http://www.irishcatholic.ie/article/dc-safeguarding-efforts-praised#sthash.3dR4qhVB.dpuf>

Christmas tree festival marks parish 350th anniversary

***'For trees are jolly good fellows'* is the message at Hillsborough Parish Church, which celebrates its 350th Anniversary this year.**

To mark the occasion, the church is holding a Christmas Tree Festival from Friday 29 November (when Bishop Harold will officially open it) until Sunday 1 December (see opening times below).

The parish also looks forward to welcoming the Right Reverend Ferran Glenfield, Bishop of Kilmore, Elphin and Ardagh, and former Rector of St Malachy's Church, as the visiting preacher at the three services on the Anniversary Sunday (December 1). After the evening service the village Christmas tree lights will be switch on and mince pies served.

Festival

More than 40 decorated trees will be on display, all donated and prepared by parish

organisations, local businesses and friends of the church. The decorations each tell visitors what Christmas means to the contributor.

To entertain visitors as they browse the exhibition, there will also be performances of music, poetry and readings.

Visitors to the church will be welcome to sit and listen to the performers.

Church Opening Times for the Tree Festival are Friday (29th) 12 noon–9.00 pm; Saturday (30) 10.00 am–7.00 pm, and Sunday (1) 2.00 pm–5.00 pm.

And there's more! On the Saturday of the Festival Weekend, there will be 40 stalls, offering a great shopping opportunity, at the church's Annual Christmas Fayre in the Downshire Centre (inside the church grounds).

Tea and coffee will be available in the Barry Gallery (upstairs at the Centre) and the popular Cake Stall will offer a wide variety of home-baked goodies, breads and jams. Opening times for the Fayre are 10.00 am–3.30 pm.

[Click here](http://www.downanddromore.org/events/2013/11/Hillsborough-Parish-Christmas-Tree-Festival-and-Annual-Fayre#.UpDHeZFG5s5) for more details of the musical programme.

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Presbyterian Church met Oireachtas Committee on Good Friday Agreement

A delegation from the Presbyterian Church in Ireland was invited to address the Oireachtas Committee on Implementation of Good Friday Agreement.

The meeting took place last Thursday in Leinster House.

The Presbyterian Church was represented by former Moderators, Dr. Norman Hamilton and Dr. Roy Patton along with Clerk Designate of the General Assembly, Rev Trevor Gribben.

On the agenda was 'Challenges in urban Belfast' and the Church was invited to give its views and opinions on this issue including topics such as community relations, protests and education.

Dr. Norman Hamilton says, "We greatly welcome this invitation from the Committee. Both for the Committee and ourselves this is a first... the first time to have had a structured and reflective conversation together on how the Belfast Agreement is working out on the ground after 15 years in some of the most troubled areas of Belfast as well as on some wider issues such as education that affect not only the city but also wider society. We expect both to be challenged and to challenge - in a shared spirit of seeking the welfare of all our people as envisaged in the Good Friday Agreement."

The Committee, in which MPs from Northern Ireland have speaking rights, offers an opportunity to foster better links and dialogue between parliamentarians from both sides of the border with the stated role of informing debate on key areas of mutual interest.

Choral Evensong

Choral Evensong on BBC Radio3, tomorrow, Wed 27th November is live from Norwich Cathedral

Introit: A Hymn of St Columba (Britten)

Responses: Aston

Office Hymn: Rejoice, the Lord is King (Gopsal)

Psalms: 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131

(Garrett; Turle; Grote; Garrett; Turle after Purcell; Willcocks) First Lesson:

Jeremiah 31 vv1-9

Canticles: Norwich Service (Richard Allain) (First broadcast)

Second Lesson: Matthew 15 vv21-31

Anthem: Let all the world (Vaughan Williams)

Te Deum: Collegium Regale (Howells)

Organ Voluntary: Psalm Prelude Set 2, No. 3 (Howells)

Ashley Grote (Master of Music)

David Dunnett (Organist)

(no Sunday repeat)

Celebrating a clerical musician

Last Wednesday the Irish Traditional Music Archive launched *Tunes of the Munster Pipers 2. Irish Traditional Music from the James Goodman Manuscripts* with a recital-lecture on Canon James Goodman and his music manuscripts by uilleann piper Peter Browne and ITMA director Nicholas Carolan.

James Goodman (1828–96) was a son and a grandson of the rectory, his father having been Rector of Dunurlin in Co. Kerry and his grandfather Rector of Kemerton in Gloucestershire. After TCD, where he won the Irish scholarship in 1847, he was ordained in 1852 for the curacy of Creagh and after a further curacy in Berehaven was appointed Vicar

of Abbeystrewry in 1867 when he remained until his death. There he oversaw the rebuilding of the parish church in Skibbereen, to the plans of the Cork architect, W.H. Hill, and was commemorated in an entrance gateway to the church.

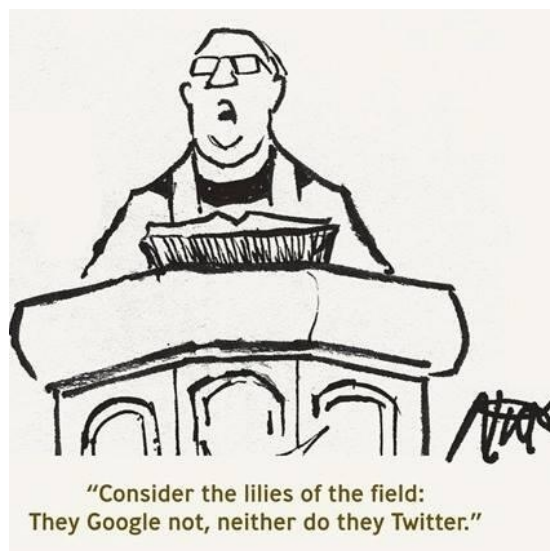
Other recognition came his way – Prebendary of Island in St Fachtna's cathedral, Ross, a member of the Senate, Professor of Irish in TCD, and today he is memorialised by a statue in Skibbereen. But he is best remembered for his musical collections and this book, and its predecessor volume, are fitting tributes to a neglected figure in the Church of Ireland's pantheon. *Tunes of the Munster Pipers 2*, edited by Hugh & Lisa Shields, is available from the Irish Traditional Music Archive, 73 Merrion Square, Dublin 2, (www.itma.ie) at €35 (hardback) and €25 (paperback).

Rector explains theology behind Mass celebrated with Catholic priest

A [Church of Ireland](#) rector who concelebrated the controversial 2006 Easter Sunday Mass in Drogheda with three Augustinian priests has, for the first time, given his theological reasons for doing so.

Irish Times - The Mass at St Peter's Augustinian Church was concelebrated by Rev [Michael Graham](#), Fr Iggy O'Donovan, Fr [Richard Goode](#) and Fr [Noel Hession](#).

Rev [Graham](#) told worshippers then it was "the first public celebration in Drogheda of the Eucharist by a Catholic priest of the Anglican tradition in a [Catholic Church](#) of the Roman tradition since the Reformation".



Fr O'Donovan welcomed "members of our sister Church of Ireland" there and later described the event as "the most meaningful Eucharist I ever celebrated".

Within a month a statement from the Augustinian congregation said Fr O'Donovan, [Fr Goode](#) and Fr Hession had written to the Catholic Primate [Cardinal Brady](#), the papal nuncio and the prior general of the Augustinian Order in Rome, apologising "for the ill-considered celebration". Fr O'Donovan was dismissed from his annual six-month teaching stint in Rome.

Last month Fr O'Donovan, who moved to [Limerick](#) in September, was awarded the Freedom of Drogheda.

In a book *The History of Religious and Cultural Integration in Drogheda*, published earlier this month, Rev Graham explains his understanding of differences between Anglicans and Catholics on the Eucharist.

"People would say 'you don't believe in transubstantiation' as an Anglican. We believe in the Real Presence. Christ is really present at the Eucharist in the elements of bread and wine. It's not symbolic.

"The only difference is (that) the [Roman Catholic](#) tradition defines how Christ is present in the bread."



Children of Athy parish enjoy Messy Church

and Anne Lodge, Principal of The Church of Ireland College of Education.

Everyone is invited to come and join in the singing of favourite carols and seasonal songs.

Dublin dates

The International Christ Carol Service of Nine Lessons and Carols takes place in St George's and St Thomas's Church, Cathal Brugha Street, Dublin 1, on Sunday December 8 at 11.00 am. The readings will be given in nine different languages and the Archbishop will deliver a Christmas message. The service will feature the St George's Brass Band.

The annual charity Carol Service in aid of Peata Therapy Dogs will be held in Christ Church Cathedral on Tuesday 10 December at 1.15 pm followed by tea and mince pies.

The Annual Ecumenical Carol Singing on the steps of the Mansion House, organised by the Diocesan Council for Mission and the Archdiocese Office for Evangelisation & Ecumenism, will take place on Saturday December 14 at 2.30 pm. This year the singing will be led by "Teenspirit", a group from the Archdiocese.

There will be seasonal readings given by The Lord Mayor, Miriam O'Callaghan of RTE, Dublin footballer Gerard Brennan

UK church leaders call on rich nations for food security

Archbishop of Wales Barry Morgan and Bishop of Derby Alastair Redfern have written to the U.K. Government to press their political Australian counterparts to ensure that a priority for the G20 in Brisbane next year will be ending the scandal of 1 billion people going hungry every day.

Morgan and Redfern, who is the Church of England's spokesperson on international development, have written to Prime Minister David Cameron on behalf of the Anglican Alliance, which brings together development, relief and advocacy across the Anglican Communion.

Food security is a priority for the Anglican Alliance which supported the work of Anglicans in responding to the famine in the Horn of Africa in 2011, and to the food crises facing communities in Asia and the Pacific.

In their letter, the two leaders said that progress had been made at the 2013 G20 Summit, with the St. Petersburg Development Outlook giving priority to food security, with a focus especially on smallholder and family farmers, and the empowerment of women, who are the majority of small scale farmers.



“We in the Anglican Church, which is present in many of the world’s poorest countries, have as a key part of our mission to overcome poverty and injustice, a commitment to ensure that no-one has to go hungry in a world of such plenty. We see it as a priority that the world’s 20 richest nations should do everything in our power to overcome the hunger that still affects so many of our fellow human beings,” they said.

The Australian Government takes over the presidency of the G20 next month from the Russians. It has not yet announced its priorities for the year.

The Anglican Alliance is a charitable company and part of the world-wide Anglican Communion with 88 million members in over 160 countries, including a major presence in 13 of the G20 countries. About half of all Anglicans are in Africa, including in some of the poorest countries where hunger and poverty are major problems.

Bishops support White Ribbon Campaign

More than 60 bishops around the UK wore a white ribbon this Monday to support the campaign dedicated to stamping out gender-based violence.

Many will be visiting local projects and taking to twitter to raise awareness.

The Bishop of Aston, the Rt Revd Andrew Watson, chair of the Panel for World Mission and the Anglican Communion, said he was delighted that so many bishops had taken up the challenge.

To mark the day Bishop Andrew visited the Birmingham and Solihull Women’s Aid, meeting and talked with victims of abuse and those who support them. He also spoke last weekend at a celebration event for the charity Asha, which for 25 years has been empowering women to make a difference to their lives and communities in the slums of Delhi.

The White Ribbon campaign, originally started by a group of men, is being supported by a number of Christian organisations in this field. The Mothers’ Union has produced an action pack (downloadable from their website) and the organisation ‘Restored’ has developed its ‘First Man Standing’ campaign.

Canon Janice Price, World Mission Adviser for Archbishops’ Council, said it was vital to be standing in solidarity with the rest of

the Anglican Communion on an issue which affects women in every culture.

A spokesman for the White Ribbon Campaign said: "Silence is not an option. Silence excuses violence against women. WRC needs men to swear the pledge, wear the ribbon and share the issues by becoming an ambassador and speaking out. To have senior church leaders speaking out is a wonderful start in ending abuse."

In a Church of England interview <https://soundcloud.com/the-church-of-england/white-ribbon-campaign>, Bishop Andrew speaks about the White Ribbon Campaign and explains how he had been approached by colleagues from the worldwide Anglican Communion who are concerned about gender violence.



Press Review

Irish Independent

Archbishop Diarmuid Martin of Dublin has rebuked those in the Catholic **Church** who were "all too slow" in recognising the extent of the "criminal abuse of ...

Churchnewsireland@gmail.com

<http://www.independent.ie/irish-news/churchs-response-to-abuse-victims-was-too-slow-says-archbishop-29781472.html>

Sun

Girls are to be allowed to sing in the choir of historical Canterbury Cathedral for the first time in 900 years, with 40 auditioning over the weekend to be in the 20-strong girls' choir of the Cathedral.

<http://www.thesun.co.uk/sol/homepage/news/5284107/Hymn-and-hers-girls-in-cathedral-choir-for-first-time.html>

Sun

Calum Macleod, a church elder in the Free Church of Scotland has been banned for one month after transporting his rams on a Sunday.

<http://www.thescottishsun.co.uk/scotsol/homepage/news/5283799/Kirk-elder-ban-over-Sabbath-rams-trip.html>

Times

The Revd. Niall Weir who is Rector of St. Paul's in Hackney, is hoping for Christmas chart success with a 60-strong choir which includes the homeless, recovering drug addicts and others who use the Stoke Newington Church Hall as their meeting place, the Cantignorus Chorus. Revd. Weir is hoping to repeat a similar chart success in 1991 when he raised £30,000 for charity.

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/faiht/article3931042.ece>

Tel

Pope Francis has displayed for the first time bones purported to be those of St. Peter - which for

many years were kept in a shoebox - at a ceremony to mark the end of the Roman Catholic Church's "year of faith."

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/europe/italy/10471075/Pope-Francis-shows-St-Peters-bones-to-public-for-first-time.html>

BBC

A Bay Psalm Book, a book of psalms believed to be among the first books ever printed in what would now be called the United States Of America, has gone on sale at Sotheby's in Boston with a price tag of up to £18.6 million. The book is one of just 11 surviving copies of psalm books published by the first Puritan settlers after they left England in the 1630s.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/magazine-25045283>

Express

Churches ditch a traditional Christmas, favouring Karaoke-style carols and installing giant screens that rely on iPhone apps to guide the congregation through worship.

<http://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/444943/Churches-ditch-a-traditional-Christmas-Hymns-books-are-shelved-for-karaoke-style-carols>

Mirror/Sun

The Revd. Paul Flowers, the Methodist minister and former Co-op Bank boss who was filmed last weekend apparently buying hard drugs, has reportedly said he believes he is the victim of a tabloid sting.

Churchnewsireland@gmail.com

<http://www.mirror.co.uk/news/uk-news/paul-flowers-disgraced-former-co-op-2848491>

<http://www.thesun.co.uk/sol/homepage/news/5283423/Co-op-sex-and-drugs-Rev-Paul-Flowers-says-Im-the-victim.html>

Express

Paul Flowers tried to set up a union for clergy, to protect them against allegations of abuse.

<http://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/444849/Revealed-How-drugs-Methodist-Paul-Flowers-planned-to-set-up-union-for-clergy>

Mail

Harvard University's student Christian magazine, the Harvard Ichthus, is at the centre of an anti-semitism row after a contributor wrote that the Jews deserved 2,000 years of suffering for killing Jesus.

http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2512946/Anti-Semitic-article-published-Harvard-student-publication-says-Jews-DESERVE-suffering-killing-Jesus.html?ITO=1490&ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490

Guard

The Whitechapel Bell Foundry, Britain's oldest manufacturing firm and a significant maker of church bells, is launching its first online store.

<http://www.theguardian.com/business/2013/nov/24/whitechapel-bell-foundry-swedish-tictail>

BBC

A baptist church in Walthamstow has opened its doors to an HIV testing clinic in order to tackle the high rate of

infection in the local community.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-london-25078597>