



***Dean Victor Stacey, Dr Ray Refaussy, Andrew Smith, Nicky Ralston, Noelle Dowling, Susan Hood, Andrew Whiteside and Bryan Dobson.***

## **Hidden pages of World War 1 - successful seminar at St Patrick's Cathedral**

Archivists have been exploring hidden paper trails to build up personal pictures of individuals involved in World War One. They presented their findings, which aim to make the events of the First World War more accessible to people 100 years later, to a large crowd which filled the Lady Chapel of St Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin this week.

Entitled 'Hidden Pages from World War One', the seminar was a joint venture between St Patrick's Cathedral and the Irish Society for Archives. The speakers from a number of projects and exhibitions revealed their explorations of previously unknown archive material of soldiers and civilians.

Proceedings were chaired by RTE news anchor, Bryan Dobson, who following a welcome by the cathedral's Dean, the Very Revd Victor Stacey and the chairman of the Irish Association of Archivists, Dr Ray Refaüssé, explained that the event aimed to put a human face on the lives of those in the First World War.

"This will enable us in 2015 to have some context and understanding of those who went through this cataclysmic experience 100 years ago," he said, praising the archivists for their

vital role in sharing the information they had uncovered.

The first speaker, Nicky Ralston, National Library of Ireland, Curator of the 'Ireland and WW1' exhibition, gave a talk entitled 'Meeting Michael O'Leary'. While this was not the Michael O'Leary of budget airline fame who is so well known today, the Michael O'Leary who fought in World War One became very well known and was much featured in the press at the time. She focused on the way in which the National Library of Ireland uncovered the extraordinary story of Michael O'Leary's award of the Victoria Cross through the library's collection of newspapers and periodicals and used the narrative to put a personal face on the Cork man who became a symbol of Irish heroism.

Noelle Dowling, of the Catholic Diocesan Archives Dublin highlighted the extensive work archivists in the Archdiocese have done with the papers and diaries of Fr Francis Gleeson who was a chaplain at the front in World War One. In her paper 'From Templemore to the Rue de Bois: the Fr Francis Gleeson collection', she outlined Fr Gleeson's collection of diaries, brigade roll books and correspondence, which give an insight into life at the front, including letters he



***Members of the audience were invited to make contributions at the end of the seminar.***

received from the families of soldiers and gritty accounts of the hardship of life at war.

Andrew Whiteside, Archivist with Kilkenny College gave an account of his research into the life of 'Jack Salter of Skibbereen'. He explored the mystery of a past pupil reported to have been killed in action with the Royal Irish Rifles on the first day of the Battle of the Somme. However, within weeks of the official notification his parents received a chipper letter from their son, who was in a prisoner of war camp, requesting supplies and asking that his address be passed on to friends so that they could write to him.

Susan Hood of the Representative Church Body Library talked of 'Finding letters from the Western Front: a Church of Ireland parish story'. She focused on the 10 letters written to the Revd Arthur Barton, Rector of Dundela parish in East Belfast. The letters were found in a tea chest in the former Bishop's House in Kilmore where Barton was Bishop from 1930 to 1939 before becoming Archbishop of Dublin. She highlighted her subsequent efforts to find out more about the men who wrote the letters which were digitized as part of the RCB Library's Archive of the Month series and the story was subsequently picked up on by BBC Northern Ireland. Eight of the 10 letter writers were traced with the help of local historians.

Andrew Smith, Education Officer of St Patrick's Cathedral detailed the background of the 'Lives Remembered at Saint Patrick's Cathedral'. He spoke of the overwhelming response the exhibition had elicited from the public with over 10,000 messages being written by visitors from around the world in remembrance of those affected by war. He said they were now examining how to archive these messages as a social commentary for the future. Closing the seminar Bryan Dobson thanked the speakers for sharing their insights into the lives of people who were gone but not forgotten.

## **Ashers court action 'completely over the top' - incoming Presbyterian Moderator**

The incoming Presbyterian Moderator believes the Northern Ireland Equality Commission has “gone completely over the top” in taking the Ashers bakery to court on the company’s refusal to bake a cake with a gay rights message.



***Ashers has been taken to court over its refusal to bake a cake with a gay rights message***

News Letter - “The bakery had the right to take this decision on the basis of their Christian convictions. It’s a David and Goliath situation and my sympathy is with the Ashers company,” said the Rev Ian McNie.

“However, it is all about tolerance and the definition of tolerance from our different perspectives,” said Mr McNie, adding that lack of tolerance of Ashers bakery’s Christian viewpoint dismayed him.

The moderator-designate reiterated the traditional scriptural standpoint on marriage, being strictly a union between man and woman. He also expressed his opposition to the concept of “three-parent babies” approved in the House of Commons this week.

More at -

<http://www.newsletter.co.uk/news/regional/ashers-court-action-completely-over-the-top-1-6561730>

## **Stephen Fry is 'spiritually blind', head of Ireland's Presbyterian Church claims**

The incoming head of Ireland’s Presbyterian Church has accused Stephen Fry of "spiritual blindness" following Fry's comments on God.

Independent - Fry, a staunch atheist, [last week stunned television host Gay Byrne](#) in an interview for RTÉ One’s The Meaning of Life, when he explained what he would say if he was "confronted by God".

"Suppose it's all true, and you walk up to the pearly gates, and are confronted by God," asked Bryne. "What will Stephen Fry say to him, her, or it?"

The 57-year-old replied: "I'd say, bone cancer in children? What's that about?"

More at -

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/people/stephen-fry-is-spiritually-blind-head-of-irelands-presbyterian-church-claims-10024330.html>

<http://www.irishtimes.com/news/social-affairs/religion-and-beliefs/church-leader-feels-sorry-for-spiritually-blind-stephen-fry-1.2091130>

[http://www.huffingtonpost.co.uk/2015/02/04/atheist-stephen-fry-is-spiritually-blind-irish-presbyterian-head-rev-ian-mcnie\\_n\\_6612590.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.co.uk/2015/02/04/atheist-stephen-fry-is-spiritually-blind-irish-presbyterian-head-rev-ian-mcnie_n_6612590.html)

## **Video: New Presbyterian moderator pressed over women in top roles**

<http://www.newsletter.co.uk/video-new-presbyterian-moderator-pressed-over-women-in-top-roles-1-6560569>

## **Alan in Belfast - well established blogger's interview with Moderator elect**



<http://alaninbelfast.blogspot.co.uk/2015/02/rev-ian-mcnie-if-presbyterian-church.html>

## **Religious orders blame property crash for redress shortfall**

Religious congregations who have failed to make promised payments to cover their share of institutional redress costs have blamed the shortfall on fluctuations in the property market. The orders claim that their property assets have suffered a 30 per cent drop in value since 2009.

Irish Times - Correspondence between the congregations and the Department of Education, obtained by *The Irish Times* under the Freedom of Information Act, shows religious orders are taking a firm line against further contributions that would meet the Government's target of an equal sharing of redress costs.

The congregations have to date lodged €81.44 million in the [Residential Institutions Statutory Fund](#) through cash payments and proceeds from property sales.

A further €42 million of property has been transferred to State ownership, leaving the congregations more than €300 million short of pledged contributions.

To pay their half-share of the redress bill, as sought by the Government, the congregations will have to meet these existing commitments and come up with a further €245 million in cash or property.

The cost of the redress scheme for institutional child abuse is estimated to reach €1.45 billion.

The Daughters of Charity has in recent weeks made a further cash contribution of €1 million to the fund, but it is still €7 million short of its pledged contribution. According to the department, the order has said this would be difficult to meet “without serious damage to the future of the congregation”.

More at -

[www.irishtimes.com/news/social-affairs/religion-and-beliefs/religious-orders-blame-property-crash-for-redress-shortfall-1.2091752?utm\\_source=dlvr.it&utm\\_medium=twitter](http://www.irishtimes.com/news/social-affairs/religion-and-beliefs/religious-orders-blame-property-crash-for-redress-shortfall-1.2091752?utm_source=dlvr.it&utm_medium=twitter)

## **Kerygma Choir strikes a chord**

The idea of a ‘Good News Choir’ has certainly struck a chord in the diocese of Down and Dromore as almost 60 people from all over County Down came along to Kerygma’s first rehearsal on Saturday 31 January. Choir Director,

Lorna Palmer, was delighted with the response from singers of all ages.



“Running out of sheet music was a lovely problem to have! We all enjoyed ourselves – there was a great atmosphere and the choir made a very good start on the pieces we’re preparing for St Patrick’s Day.”

Kerygma will sing at the annual St Patrick’s Day Festival Service in Down Cathedral when the special guest will be the Archbishop of Canterbury. As part of the Year of Mission, two

further concerts are planned for the summer and before Christmas.

The choir has been formed at the invitation of Bishop Harold Miller with the charge of proclaiming the gospel through a variety of musical styles and genres. There are 5 more rehearsals between now and 17 March and, TENORS and BASSES, if you can make it for the next one on 7 February, you would be most welcome.

Are you a tenor or bass with a good ear who can sing in tune? Could you commit to five rehearsals on Saturdays: 7, 21 and 28 February, and 4 and 11 March?

Please email Lorna Palmer as soon as possible with your details and voice type ie. tenor or bass. Email: [lorna@palmer.gb.net](mailto:lorna@palmer.gb.net). Otherwise, telephone (028) 40 625 625 and leave a message.

## **Global Poverty and Our Response – Dublin and Glendalough Training Event**

Dublin and Glendalough is holding a diocesan training day on global poverty and the Church's response to it. Hosted by Archbishop Michael Jackson, facilitated by Lydia Monds from Bishops' Appeal (pictured) and funded by Irish

Aid, the event will take place on Thursday February 26 from 9.30 am until lunchtime in the Church of Ireland College of Education in Rathmines.



We are called to 'spend ourselves on behalf of the poor' (Is 58:10). Our response to those in need is a response to Christ. It is turning away from indifference and inward looking and moving towards an intentional effort to connect with others in self-giving. But sometimes our best

intentions can have negative effects. They can reinforce stereotypes of the powerful rich, saving the helpless poor. It can create dependency and actually achieve the opposite of what we set out to do, with increased disempowerment and voicelessness instead of life in all its fullness.

There are ways to engage with poverty issues both locally and globally that minimise hurt and damage in the process. Learning how to respond in this way allows us, and those we partner with, to glorify God together. So the course explores:

- How we understand ourselves and others, particularly those who are culturally different and how this affects our response.
- What is poverty? Our perspective, the poor's perspective, and the Bible's teaching.
- How to respond to dire need in a way that is not undermining, but is effective, sustainable and interconnected.
- How to bring this shift in perspective back to our parishes.

The day will get underway with tea, coffee and scones at 9.30 am, followed by the Eucharist celebrated by the Archbishop at 10.00 am and the workshop at 10.30 am finishing with lunch.

Those planning to attend should let Bishops' Appeal know by Thursday February 12 by emailing [bishopsappeal@ireland.anglican.org](mailto:bishopsappeal@ireland.anglican.org).

## **Dungarvan piano recital - a first**

One of Ireland's up-and-coming pianists, Daniel Kearney, Abbeyside native, is holding Dungarvan's first piano recital in Church of Ireland on Sunday March 1st at 3pm.

Waterford Today - Daniel said: "I get up at 7am every day to practice; I want this to be an amazing experience for everyone who attends".

Tickets are €7.50; in which all proceeds will go to the Church of Ireland Repair Fund. The church seats 200 and tickets are on sale in Kelly's Pharmacy, Abbeyside and David Walsh's, to keep both sides of the bridge happy!

The aspiring musician is sharing the limelight; he has asked VoiceOver choir to sing at the event, in which he will accompany the vocals of the choir. Established by Mary Lawless, a local experienced choral enthusiast, VoiceOver meets weekly in Dungarvan to fine-tune their sound under the guidance of Musical Co-Ordinator Cordelia Burke. The unique group's varied and

challenging repertoire ranges from popular to classical pieces.

The founder of VoiceOver, Mary Lawless, said; "The ladies of VoiceOver are very much looking forward to their guest appearance at Daniel Kearney's Recital."

Aula Maxima in University College Cork; aboard the Dunbrody Famine ship for the opening of the New Ross Piano Festival; RDS Dublin; Freemasons Hall, Dublin; Anaverna House, Ravensdale and National Concert Hall Dublin are just a few of the venues in which Daniel has previously played in.

Daniel is thrilled to play in the ornate and tranquil St. Mary's Protestant Church in March and hopes everyone enjoys the classical event.

## **Archbishop of Canterbury: Companies should pay 'fair share' of tax**

The Archbishop of Canterbury has spoken out about tax avoidance, saying Jesus Christ taught about the importance of people "paying what is due".





News Letter - The Most Rev Justin Welby said companies and people should pay their “fair share” in the country where they had made their money, but part of the problem was an “unbelievably complex” tax system.

The Anglican leader, a former oil executive, said business was important and should be supported but there was a temptation to misuse the power that came through wealth.

He told the BBC: “There has always been the principle that you pay tax where you earn the money. If you earn money in a particular country, the revenue service of that country needs to get a fair share of what you have earned.”

Highlighting the complexities of the international tax system, he said: “Someone said the other day that the tax system was of biblical proportions. Well, the Bible’s only a thousand pages – how many tax systems are only a thousand pages? They are several hundred times that.

“There needs to be simplification in tax so that people are responsible in the right place.”

He added that there was a “very basic principle” that “as a Christian we see that Jesus Christ spoke of, about the importance of people paying what is due”.

“The Bible speaks of it endlessly,” he said.

It is the Archbishop’s latest intervention on economic matters, having spoken out about inequality in recent weeks.

He stressed that “business is important”, adding: “We need to affirm the significance of those who generate and create wealth, but we also need to be realistic about the fact ... that with wealth comes power and with power comes a temptation to misuse power.

“There’s a reality of the human condition, of what Christians call sin, what the Bible calls sin, which

says don't misuse the power you have got through wealth."

More at -

<http://www.newsletter.co.uk/archbishop-of-canterbury-companies-should-pay-fair-share-of-tax-1-6561468>

[www.anglicannews.org/news/2015/02/archbishop-justin-welby-tells-firms-pay-your-taxes.aspx](http://www.anglicannews.org/news/2015/02/archbishop-justin-welby-tells-firms-pay-your-taxes.aspx)

## **Church launches event to promote Gaelic language**

A Conference to encourage the use of the Gaelic language in the Church of Scotland will take place in Glasgow on the 21 March.

The event is being supported by Rev Dr Angus Morrison, Moderator Designate of the 2015 General Assembly of the Church of Scotland. Speakers who have already been lined up include Margaret Mary Murray who is Head of Service at BBC Alba, Professor Donald Meek the well know Gaelic scholar, and Rev John Urquhart who has been developing contemporary and traditional Gaelic worship materials in partnership with Sabhal Mor Ostaig in Skye.



***Rev Dr Angus Morrison, Moderator Designate of the 2015 General Assembly of the Church of Scotland***

Dr. Morrison expressed the hope that the one day Conference will have practical outcomes which will further the mission of the Church and inspire 'new and imaginative thought about the use of Gaelic within and through the Church.'

He said, 'The Gaelic language is a rich part of our inheritance as a Church and nation. We are warmly inviting anyone with an interest in promoting the Gaelic language in practical ways that are supportive of the mission of the church to register their attendance at this event.'

The Conference will be held on Saturday 21 March in Glasgow: St George's Tron Church, in

Buchanan Street, from 10am to 4pm. Those interested in attending should email: [gaelic@churchofscotland.org.uk](mailto:gaelic@churchofscotland.org.uk). Alternatively, book online.

## Safer Internet Day 2015

Safer Internet Day 2015 will be celebrated globally on Tuesday 10th February with the slogan 'Let's create a better internet together'.

Rachel Arding, Mothers' Union, writes - Coordinated in the UK by the UK Safer Internet Centre, the day offers the opportunity to highlight positive uses of technology and to explore the role that everyone has to play in helping to create a better and safer online community. It calls upon young people, parents, carers, teachers, social workers, law enforcement, companies, policymakers, and wider, to join together in helping to create a better internet. Ultimately, a better internet is up to us!

At Mothers' Union we have long been engaged in considering the online protection of children and young people. Our **Bye Buy Childhood campaign** was launched in 2010, highlighting our concerns that childhood has increasingly become a marketing opportunity; and that

children are being targeted by and exposed to inappropriate sexualised media and marketing.

In March 2015 Mothers' Union will be launching the results of new research with parents in a new Bye Buy Childhood report, supported by an engagement pack for members to help equip parents, carers and grandparents to not only respond practically to the commercial pressures facing children and young people, but also with ideas to help members join in our campaigning work.

Our research shows that the evolving nature of technology sparks considerable concern among families, with many of those we spoke to making a strong link between commercialisation and technology and often understanding the two as intertwined.

This Safer Internet Day, Reg Bailey CBE, Chief Executive of Mother's Union, "As we unite in creating a better internet together, I'm really pleased to see the important work that the UKSIC is doing to encourage and support parents and carers in engaging with internet safety and supporting their children, as well as the activities, tips and resources to help young people develop emotional resilience and to make the most of the internet."

For more information on the activities taking place to celebrate Safer Internet Day, visit the **UK Safer Internet Centre website**.

## **Media digest**

### **BBC**

An edited video of the consecration service of Bishop Libby Lane is now available on the BBC website

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-31124836>

### **BBC/Tel/Guard/FT/Mail/Ind**

Reports on the Archbishop of Canterbury's lecture 'The Good Economy'. Reports state Justin Welby said companies should pay their "fair share" of taxes in the countries where they earn their revenues and that big business is not exempt from the Christian principle of "paying what's due". Reports also note he said this did not mean that "business is bad" and that it was important to "affirm" the role of wealth creation.

<http://www.bbc.com/news/business-31129728>

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/religion/11389070/Pay-your-taxes-Welby-tells-big-business.html>

<http://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2015/feb/04/archbishop-canterbury-firms-tax-havens-justin-welby>

<http://www.ft.com/intl/cms/s/0/e65a5c44-ac63-11e4-9aaa-00144feab7de.html#axzz3Qf2cbBdG>

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2939633/Jesus-want-people-pay-tax-says-Archbishop-Canterbury.html>

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/how-hedge-fund-superrich-donated-19m-to-tory-party-10024548.html>

<http://www.theguardian.com/politics/2015/feb/05/conservatives-bankrolled-hedge-fund-managers>

## **Tel/Times/Ind**

Reports on comments by the Archbishop of Canterbury coming to the defence of Stephen Fry who denounced God as "utterly evil" and "monstrous". Speaking at the launch of a new Religious Liberty Commission in the chapel of the Houses of Parliament, Justin Welby said that Stephen Fry had a God-given right to express his beliefs and should not be abused by Christians for doing so. The Archbishop was speaking about the suffering of Christians and other faiths around the world. Report also on that the head of Ireland's Presbyterian Church, The Rev Ian McNie, accused Stephen Fry of "spiritual blindness".

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/religion/11390652/Stephen-Fry-has-every-right-to-call-God-an-evil-monstrous-maniac-...-says-Archbishop.html>

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/faith/article4344756.ece>

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/people/stephen-fry-is-spiritually-blind-head-of-irelands-presbyterian-church-claims-10024330.html>



## **FT/Mail**

Reports that the Home Secretary, Theresa May announced that an investigation into historical abuse is to be chaired by a high court judge from New Zealand. Addressing the House of Commons on Wednesday, she reassured MPs she had found the right candidate after the two previous inquiry chairs stepped down over concerns about their links with the establishment. Justice Lowell Goddard - who conducted an inquiry into the police handling of child abuse in New Zealand - will arrive in the UK next week to look into how the government and institutions such as the church and the health service dealt with allegations of child abuse, going back at least four decades. They also state the current inquiry panel will be dissolved, in response to criticisms of its appointments procedures, and a new statutory inquiry will be established with different participants.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/96a10996-ac81-11e4-9aaa-00144feab7de.html#axzz3Qf2cbBdG>  
[http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2939478/Child-abuse-inquiry-SCRAPPED-seven-months-problems.html?](http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2939478/Child-abuse-inquiry-SCRAPPED-seven-months-problems.html?ITO=1490&ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490)  
[ITO=1490&ns\\_mchannel=rss&ns\\_campaign=1490](http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2939478/Child-abuse-inquiry-SCRAPPED-seven-months-problems.html?ITO=1490&ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490)

## **Tel**

Report on how a widow and some 300 mourners had to wait while grave diggers made a grave larger, after a coffin for Mr John Lacey would not fit. It states the vicar at the Nottingham Road cemetery in Chaddesden, near Derby, told his widow he could not stay until the hole was made larger because he had another funeral. Mrs Lacey said the vicar blessed the grave and left before the actual burial. A service for Mr Lacey, who died suddenly aged 77 had already taken place before the funeral cortege travelled to the cemetery.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/newstoppers/howaboutthat/11389113/Widow-watches-as-cemetery-workers-try-to-lower-husbands-coffin-into-too-small-hole.html>

## **Times**

Anecdotal comment about the Archbishop of Canterbury being allergic to garlic.

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/opinion/columnists/article4344584.ece>