



***From Clondehorkey to the Caribbean - Rev Chris Pierce Helps Out in his Former Parish***

## **Raphoe rector seeks support for his former Caribbean storm hit diocese**

Rev'd Christopher Pierce, Rector of Clondehorkey with Cashel and Mevaghy Union, (Derry & Raphoe diocese) found an outlet for his communication talents during a visit to his former place of ministry in the Caribbean last month. He and his wife, Stacy, spent most of June in the

Diocese of the North Eastern Caribbean & Aruba, one of the eight dioceses that comprise the Province of the Church of the West Indies.

The diocese the Pierces returned to could hardly be more different from Derry and Raphoe. The Diocese of the North Eastern Caribbean and Aruba is spread over 13 islands and several political jurisdictions. And with temperatures ranging from the mid-seventies in the winter to the mid-eighties in the summer, Antigua is a far cry from the couples home in Port-na-Blagh in north Donegal.

However, the Rev'd Pierce's background in radio and media in the USA came in useful, enabling him to help his former colleagues with their new diocesan radio station, DNECA Anglican Radio, which is based in the Bishop's Lodge building in Antigua's capital, St. John's. It broadcasts via a terrestrial transmitter allowing people throughout the rest of the Province to listen online. A generous benefactor provided all the equipment needed to bring the station up to professional broadcast standards.

DNECA Anglican Radio was launched in August 2014 and only one of its staff members has any previous broadcasting experience. Rev'd Pierce

was able to provide advice – and hands-on support – to the broadcasters. Those who listen online at [www.dnecaanglicanradio.com](http://www.dnecaanglicanradio.com) might recognise his voice leading Morning & Evening Prayer, or making station ID announcements and top of the hour time-checks.

After several days of meetings and consultations on Antigua, the Pierces travelled on to the island of Dominica, where the Raphoe clergyman filled in on locum duty. He also gathered information to aid in fund-raising for repairs to St. George's Church, in the nation's capital city of Roseau, which was badly damaged by Tropical Storm Erika a year ago. Eleven inches of rain fell on the island in a matter of hours, claiming many lives and knocking out infrastructure. Many roads and bridges on Dominica still bear the scars of Storm Erika.

Anyone wishing to contribute towards the repairs to the church in Dominica can contact Rev'd Pierce at [clondehorkey@gmail.com](mailto:clondehorkey@gmail.com).

## **Archdeacon of Limerick appointed**

Bishop Kenneth Kieron has announced the appointment of The Rev'd Simon Lumby as Archdeacon of Limerick Ardfert and Aghadoe



with immediate effect. Bishop Kenneth writes: "I'm delighted that Simon has agreed to undertake this important responsibility in the diocese. He brings a wealth of experience to this role. His installation as Archdeacon will take place in St Mary's Cathedral, Limerick during Evensong on Sunday 18th September next at 5 pm."

## **Schedule of Pope's Assisi pilgrimage released**

More details have been released about Pope Francis' upcoming pilgrimage for the eighth



centenary of the Franciscan feast of the “Pardon of Assisi.”

On 4 August, the Pope will make a private pilgrimage to Assisi, a small medieval town in the Italian region of Umbria known for being the birthplace of the Franciscan Order. While there, he will pray in the *Porziuncola* chapel, where the feast of the “Pardon of Assisi” originated.

According to new details released on the local website for the Franciscan order, the Holy Father will arrive in Assisi by helicopter at 3:40pm. At 4.00pm, he will arrive at the Basilica of Our Lady of the Angels, inside which the small Porziuncola chapel is located. There, he will take a moment

of silent prayer in the chapel, before offering a reflection on the Gospel of Matthew 18:21-35.

Afterwards, Pope Francis will meet with Franciscan bishops and superiors, and then will greet pilgrims gathered in the piazza outside the basilica.

At 6.00pm, the Pope will be taken by car to the Migaghelli sports field, before travelling back to the Vatican via helicopter.

## **Mary Robinson : Ethiopia facing worst drought in decades**

Former President Mary Robinson has called for a global response to climate change following a recent visit to Ethiopia.

As a UN Special Envoy for El Niño and Climate, earlier this month Mrs Robinson completed a three-day trip to Africa with Concern Worldwide, Catholic Aid Agency Trocaire and Goal Global. “The international community is distracted by other world events while over 10 million Ethiopians suffer the worst drought in 50 years,” the former head of state said.



Speaking to the *Irish Post* newspaper in London she said “I think we have to understand the need to factor in the reality for millions of people, particularly children, of climate change in general but in particular when aggravated by El Nino followed by La Nina effect. I don’t think that this real impact of El Nino aggravated by climate change has received the attention that it should have from the international community, not only early enough but substantive enough.”

Ethiopia is currently facing its worst drought in decades with over 10.2 million people in need of food aid. Across the country, the global weather

phenomenon that is the El Niño effect has caused the worst drought in 50 years, wiped out crops and devastated livestock. According the Concern Worldwide, over 10 million people are running out of food and require urgent assistance. An estimated 458,000 children are in need of treatment from severe acute malnutrition and more than 2.5 million children, and pregnant and lactating women are in need of supplementary feeding. Water shortages have given rise to hygiene issues, leading to water-related public health concerns, including scabies.

Concern Worldwide has been working with the Government of Ethiopia and international partners to respond to the drought since last year when the need for emergency-assistance became apparent. It has since scaled-up its response from 10 to 32 of the most affected districts in Amhara, Tigray and SNNPR, as well as providing ongoing support to refugees in Gambella.

While in Ethiopia Mrs Robinson visited the Irish Aid program, the Integrated Watershed Management Programme, where she planted a tree as well as Concern Worldwide Ethiopia's Community Management of Acute Malnutrition



programme and the Women's Cooperative Grain Bank programme.

## **Cathedral and choral: Long lost WW1 Gaelic Bible discovered at St Giles, Edinburgh**

A beautifully preserved Gaelic Bible dating back to the First World War has been discovered at St Giles Cathedral in Edinburgh.

The red hard-backed tome, which bears the white Royal Naval Ensign on the first page, appears to have been produced to provide comfort and inspiration to seamen.

The text reads: "Presented by the National Bible Society of Scotland to..... on active service 1917.

"Be strong and of good courage for the Lord Thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest".

It is understood that the Bible was a spare and never handed out because there is no name on the presentation page.

St Giles Cathedral visitor services manager Sarah Phemister said the unexpected discovery



***St Giles Cathedral is hosting an art exhibit, "Mapping Remembrance" by renowned artist Alison King that commemorates the contribution made by former Moderator of the General Assembly the Very Rev Dr James Black, chaplain to McCrae's Battalion – the 16th Royal Scots.***

was very topical given an exhibition about the role McCrae's sporting Battalion played in the Battle of the Somme in northern France in 1916 is on display in the building until August 2.

"We stumbled across the Bible in the minister's office when we were creating a catalogue of some of the documents that we have in St Giles," she added.

“I think it is very special, interesting and topical.”

The exhibition on display at the back of the Cathedral consists of a large painted textile titled “Mapping Remembrance”.

It is a very personal tribute from renowned artist Alison King and commemorates the contribution made by former Moderator of the General Assembly the Very Rev Dr James Black, chaplain to McCrae's Battalion – the 16th Royal Scots.

He preached the sermon, which inspired this work, in St Giles Cathedral at the unveiling of the monument to McCrae's Battalion – a unit named after its colonel Sir George McCrae and made up of players from football clubs including Hearts, Raith Rovers, Hibs, Falkirk and Dunfermline and fans.

On the 17th December 1922 the last remnants of McCrae's men sat and listened to the words from the pulpit from "one who was there with them" at the terrible Battle of the Somme in July, 1916.

Dr Black, who ministered at what is now St Andrew's and St George's West Church in Edinburgh, described how he had lost count of the times he had been asked "Where minister is

my consolation? Where is the good, why did he die?

“As one who was there, I would only say this. It was God and country took us out to France but it was loyalty to our pals that made us fight.

“And so my consolation lies in knowing that these men died for their friends and with their friends, keeping each other company like good comrades in death and in life.”

The large mixed media piece was inspired by the question posed in the sermon and some of the words are reproduced on the panels.

The design of the work is based on Dr Black's trench maps, inherited by his grandson, the artist's husband.

## **Nominations sought for British Choral Director award**

The Association of British Choral Directors has opened nominations for its chair's award for choral leadership.

The organisation is inviting its members to nominate a choral director who has made an

outstanding contribution to choral music and/or the work of abcd.

Only abcd members can submit nominations, and only members can be nominated. Choirs with more than one abcd member may only make one nomination.

The panel will look for someone whose achievements clearly mark them out and set them apart from other choral leaders. Their work can be in any genre or field related to choral singing; they may be national figures, key people within the region, or well-known only within their own community or choirs.

Nominations should be submitted to [Leslie East](#) by 1 August, with a supporting citation of no more than 200 words describing the nominee, what they have done and why their contribution is outstanding and merits recognition. The recipient of the award will be announced at the 2016 [abcd convention](#).

## News briefs

### **+++ Clogher ordinations to the priesthood -**

On Sunday next, 24 July 2016, the Diocese of

Clogher will celebrate the ordination to the priesthood of two of its deacons – Rev Stephen Duffy and Rev Kevin Malcolmson. The ordination liturgy will take place in Saint Macartan's Cathedral, Monaghan, commencing at 3.00pm. The ordaining prelate will be Bishop Liam MacDaid, Bishop of Clogher. Rev Stephen Duffy is from Ballybay and has completed his formation at the Pontifical Irish College in Rome. While there, he also studied philosophy and theology at the University of Saint Thomas Aquinas (the Angelicum). Rev Kevin Malcolmson is from Aghabog parish. He undertook his formation at the Pontifical University of Saint Patrick's College, Maynooth, where he too studied philosophy and theology. Both Stephen and Kevin, who were ordained to the diaconate in 2015, have undertaken postgraduate studies in areas of pastoral theology. The ordinations on Sunday will bring to four the number of new priests ordained for the Diocese of Clogher during the past three years. There are currently two other seminarians preparing for priesthood for service in the diocese of Clogher. The first Masses of the newly ordained priests will take place in Ballybay and Aghabog churches on Monday 25 July at 7.00pm.

### **+++ Drumcondra and North Strand institution**

- Archbishop Michael Jackson will preside at the Institution of the Revd Garth Bunting as incumbent of the Parishes of Drumcondra, North Strand and St Barnabas in North Strand Church on Friday August 3 (Eve of The Transfiguration) at 7.30 pm.

### **+++ Muckamore Parish Summer Festival - St**

Jude's Parish Church, Muckamore, (County Antrim/Connor diocese), ran a week of family activities for the community of Ballycraigy in the days leading up to the lighting of the huge Eleventh Night Ballycraigy bonfire. Organised by Muckamore Parish Development Association, and focused on the Ballycraigy Estate, the Ballycraigy Summer Festival included football coaching every morning, with evening activities such as a car treasure hunt, an all age sports night and an outdoor movie night. On Thursday July 7, there was a parade from the bonfire site to open the Ballycraigy Road Arch, led by members of the Ballycraigy Old Boys Flute Band with local Orange Order members involved in the parade. The Summer Festival closed with a fireworks display on Friday July 8. The rector of Muckamore, Killead and Gartree, the Rev William Orr said people came from far and wide to watch

the Ballycraigy bonfire burn. “The local church and local community have been very involved in trying to ensure that the bonfire becomes an all age family thing. Local people have been very happy that the church has been involved in the Festival Week,” he said. Paul Dunlop, vice chairman of the MPDA, organised the children’s football coaching which took place all week in Ballycraigy Primary School. Coaching was by Soccer Society, and 20-25 girls and boys attended each day. “They all enjoyed themselves and on the Friday morning received a medal and certificate so they all went home happy,” Paul said. Paul, who came on board MPDA as a community representative, said planning for next year’s summer festival would get underway as soon as this year’s ended. “I would say to anybody who is interested to come on board and support their local church,” Paul said.

**+++ C of E children’s home abuse** - Former residents of a Church of England run children’s homes were drugged, straight-jacketed, locked in isolation, physically, emotionally, and sometimes sexually abused in an institution that “normalised” cruelty, a harrowing report into its practice and governance has found



## **News links to reports on faith, politics and education**

### **There are 11,519 children waiting over a year to be seen in an Irish hospital**

An analysis by [TheJournal.ie](http://www.thejournal.ie) of data shows the average number of children waiting over 12 months on the inpatient list over the last two years is 1,605% higher than in the two years before that.

<http://www.thejournal.ie/children-waiting-lists-2885000-Jul2016/>

### **Education agencies and colleges left with no board or chair for years in some cases**

Irish Examiner

<http://www.irishexaminer.com/ireland/education-agencies-and-colleges-left-with-no-board-or-chair-for-years-in-some-cases-411528.html>

### **BBC/Oxford Times**

Reports that the new Bishop of Oxford, Steven Croft, has officially taken his seat in the House of Lords. Bishop Steven, formerly Bishop of Sheffield, was appointed in April and was confirmed as Bishop of Oxford earlier this month - he will start in the diocese at the end of September.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-oxfordshire-36843849>

### **Christian Today**

Reports that a group of conservative Anglicans have expressed their "lack of confidence" in the C of E's shared conversations on human sexuality, held last week for all General Synod members. A statement published on the conservative blog *Anglican Mainstream* was signed by 32 members of the Synod. Article refers to the CofE statement following the conversations, which includes a message to Synod members from the Archbishop of Canterbury.

### **Kent online**

Reports that a week after a critical review was published into abuse at Kendall House, a C of E children's home in Kent which closed in the 1980s, three former residents have been speaking about their experiences.  
<http://www.kentononline.co.uk/gravesend/news/some-of-us-tried-killing-99324/>

### Christian Today

Report that the Bell Group continue to call for a re-examination of the evidence which led to the settlement of a legal civil claim regarding sexual abuse against the late Bishop Bell. Author Andrew Chandler, a member of the Group said he was not saying Bell was not guilty, just that his guilt had not been proven. Article includes full quote from a C of E a spokesperson and refers to a blog published last week explaining more background to the case.

### **Metro/Mirror**

Reports that a man was sprayed with an aerosol can and set on fire as he walked through the grounds of a church, after a group of men questioned him about his sexuality. The victim, aged 20, had been walking past Holy Trinity

church in Stockton-on-Tees when four men stopped him and started asking him personal questions about his sexual orientation. A police spokeswoman said, "Officers are treating this as a homophobic hate crime."

<http://metro.co.uk/2016/07/20/man-set-on-fire-in-homophobic-hate-crime-in-durham-6019411/>  
<http://www.mirror.co.uk/news/weird-news/man-set-fire-walked-through-8460073#ICID=nsm>

## **Ind**

Review of BBC 4's *The Search for the Lost Manuscripts: Julian of Norwich*. Julian of Norwich – who took her name from the church of St Julian she lived in – came up with the rather modern idea of a humane, loving God, as summed up in the celebrated quote: "sin is behovable, but all shall be well, and all shall be well, and all manner of things shall be well".

<http://www.independent.co.uk/arts-entertainment/tv/reviews/the-search-for-the-lost-manuscripts-julian-of-norwich-bbc-four-tv-review-an-interesting-tale-but-not-a7144636.html>

## **Tel**

Review of the Gospel Prom at the Royal Albert Hall. "The sheer number of choirs and performers for this 75-minute show was astonishing: no sooner had one group given us a number than it was hustled away to make room for another, each announced by Michelle Williams of US girl group Destiny's Child," writes Ivan Hewett.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/music/what-to-listen-to/gospel-prom-was-almost-too-packed-with-riches--review/>

## **Comment**

**Guardian:** Theresa May and German Chancellor Angela Merkel are both children of religious ministers. Could the strong moral compass and ferocious work ethic be the key to their success?

<http://www.theguardian.com/politics/shortcuts/2016/jul/12/politicians-clergy-connections-theresa-may-angela-merkel>

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