



***Laura McCorry of Tourism NI and Alan Graham at launch of 82-mile walking trail joining Downpatrick and Armagh***

## **Camino style St Patrick's Way Pilgrim walk to link Downpatrick and Armagh**

A new pilgrim walking trail linking key Patrician and Christian heritage sites from Downpatrick to Armagh has been launched.

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Down Recorder - Supported by Tourism NI in conjunction with Down, Armagh, Banbridge and Newry and Mourne district councils, the trail offers an 82-mile pilgrim walk highlighting the life, landscape and legacy of St Patrick.

Seasoned pilgrim walker, Alan Graham, who has completed classic trails in the Alps and has frequently walked the Camino de Santiago in Spain, approached Tourism NI with a vision for a Pilgrim walk based on the theme of Saint Patrick. His dream was turned into a reality as he set off from Navan Fort to experience the route for himself.

Laura McCorry, Tourism NI's Director of Product Development said: "Tourism NI has been working closely with Alan and the local councils to capitalise on one of our unique assets, Saint Patrick, and develop an authentic trail which will bring a new pilgrim offer to Northern Ireland.

"The St Patrick's Way Pilgrim Walk will showcase the scenic beauty of the area and its reputation as an attractive tourist destination, whilst ensuring that pilgrims and visitors alike get the best from their activity," she said.

A Pilgrim's Passport which includes a map of the trail is available at Navan Fort and local

visitor information centres to guide walkers along the signposted route.

Martyn Todd, former board member of the Northern Ireland Tourist Board and Westminster candidate for the Alliance Party, said he was delighted to see this project come to fruition.

“I would like to congratulate Alan Graham and Stephen Bill of NITB for their vision and perseverance over many years in working to making this vision a reality,” he said.

“As a keen long distance walker, having walked 270 kilometers of the Camino de Santiago de Compostella last year, I know the huge tourism potential of authentic heritage and pilgrim routes.

“Over 250,000 people finished the Camino last year and the St Patrick’s Trail has the potential to bring many overseas visitors to experience the beautiful scenery and Christian heritage of South Down,” he said.

CNI - There is an overall plan to have a walk from Croagh Patrick to Downpatrick comprising - 1 Western Section Croagh Patrick, Mayo to Boyle, Roscommon

2 Middle Section Boyle – Drumshanbo-  
Ballinamore-Ballyconnell-Belturbet-Clones-  
Monaghan-Armagh

3 Armagh-Tandragee-Scarva-Newry-Rostrevor-  
Newcastle-Downpatrick, Co Down.

Facebook site for Camino Way of St Patrick -  
<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Camino-Way-of-St-Patrick/1511928949028445>

## **Ecumenical children's service marks World Day of Prayer in Crosshaven**



Holy Trinity Church of Ireland Church,  
Crosshaven, County Cork was full to capacity

with 200 school children their teachers, principals and many others for the World Day of Prayer Service on Friday, 6th March. The children's service was led by the children of Templebreedy National School, Scoil Bhríde and Scoil Chros tSeáin (the 3 primary schools) Fr. Pat Stevenson and the Reverend Isobel Jackson also took part.

## **Ballymena Library to mark 250 years of Moravians**

Ballymena Central Library is hosting an illustrated presentation to commemorate 250 years of the laying of the foundation stone of the Moravian Church at Gracehill on Thursday, March 19 from 6:30pm - 7:45pm. The Georgian architecture of the Gracehill settlement was the first place in Northern Ireland to be declared a Conservation area. For more information contact Ballymena Library on 028 2563 3950 or e mail: [ballymena.library@librariesni.org.uk](mailto:ballymena.library@librariesni.org.uk)

## **Belfast volunteering opportunities for over 50s**

Belfast Cathedral is organising an Over 50s' Taster Day for older people interested in volunteering in St Anne's.

This will take place on Tuesday June 9, and will begin with a welcome from the Rev Janice Elsdon, volunteer co-ordinator, at 10.30am, followed by a guided tour of the Cathedral. After a presentation on volunteering by Janice, participants will enjoy a light lunch.

Janice said: "Volunteering in the Cathedral is an opportunity to meet new people, to learn more about the heritage of St Anne's and to play a role in sharing the beauty of this place with others."

Anyone interested in joining in the Taster Day is asked to contact Janice on [Janice@belfastcathedral.org](mailto:Janice@belfastcathedral.org) before June 2.

## **A new tower for Westminster Abbey**

Sacred mysteries: soon visitors will be able to climb 70 feet to the medieval triforium with splendid views into the Abbey church - Christopher Howse writes in Daily Telegraph.

Westminster Abbey is to be rebuilt, I tweeted the other day, only half joking. For, though the Abbey is not going to be entirely rebuilt, it is to gain a new tower, the biggest addition since Hawksmoor's west towers of 1745.

The view of Westminster Abbey that most people have in their mind's eye is of that western entrance façade, or else of the north side, which faces central London. But the Abbey presents its east end towards Parliament and if you walk clockwise round that end – the long projection of Henry VII's chapel, with its panels of stone and glass in the Perpendicular style – towards Abingdon Green, where television crews interview politicians out of doors, you come to a pleasing view of the octagonal Chapter House almost detached from the end of the south transept.

It is here that the new tower is to be built: in the angle made by the south transept and the eastern chapels. It will be hidden from the south by the Chapter House. The best view of it will be from the east, where it will rise up above the flying buttresses of the Chapter House, obscuring the lower windows of the south transept (inside which is Poets' Corner). The new tower's conical roof will hide (from a viewpoint on the ground) the first two upper windows at the end of the south transept.

What is the new tower for? It will house a lift and stairs, making it possible for the public to visit the east triforium – the 13th-century gallery 70ft above the ground. The word triforium was





originally used only of the gallery in Canterbury cathedral, but 19th-century historians extended its use. The one at Westminster has a broad floor, with circular windows on the outside and a wonderful view into the Abbey through the arches on the inner side.



Over recent decades the triforium has been used for such things as storing bits of ancient masonry. The plan is to open it as an exhibition space, called the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Galleries. These will display such treasures as the cope that the Dean of Westminster wore at the Coronation of Charles II. I would like to see that, as it happens, but having long observed tourists in cathedral museums, I suspect that few will give it a second glance.

The new tower has been designed by Ptolemy Dean, since 2012 the Surveyor of the Fabric of Westminster Abbey, in succession to Sir Christopher Wren. He is a knowledgeable conservationist. So far, images of the new tower put out by the Abbey suggest that the tower will scarcely be noticeable. A wooden model (pictured) has been made, emphasising its sympathetic Gothic elements. In reality the tower will not be made of the same material as the neighbouring stone walls. It will be clad in lead with metal window frames.

I think it could look quite pleasing. But our age is the first which, quite correctly, fears to make additions in its own architectural style to beautiful buildings from the past. The new tower project will cost about £19 million – a modest

outlay compared with a far more ambitious scheme that has been shelved.

This was for a corona on the stump of a central tower where the transepts cross the nave. There had been talk of Lord Lloyd-Webber funding that undertaking. But even the energetic and affable Dean of Westminster, the Very Rev John Hall, has not been able to pull this one off.

Westminster Abbey is in truth an astonishing example of medieval architecture of the highest order, and a repository of sacred survivals. The poor old tourists who are assured that this is one of the things to see in London pay £20 each to traipse round chewing gum and jostling with one another. As in any wonder of the world, determination is required to find a quiet time to visit. I look forward in 2018 to ascending Mr Dean's lift to the triforium, as long as the museum additions do not hide the glories of the building itself.

More at -

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/comment/11465777/A-new-tower-for-Westminster-Abbey.html>

## **RSCM appointment to develop congregational singing**

A widely experienced church musician has been appointed with an eye and ear to the development of congregational singing in church and the use of instruments. The Royal School of Church Music (RSCM) has appointed **Miles Quick** as Head of Congregational and Instrumental Music. The educational charity has also appointed **Simon Russell**, an experienced freelance musician, as the charity's North of England Co-ordinator. He will oversee the work of about twenty-five RSCM northern area committees.

**Miles Quick** is based in Taunton, where he is Director of Music at St Mary Magdalene Church. He studied music at Durham University and the Royal Academy of Music. He was Director of Music at Queen's College, Taunton (a Methodist foundation) for seven years before deciding to concentrate on church work full-time. He has also served as Musician in Residence at Holy Trinity Anglican Church in Vancouver.

**Simon Russell** is Organist at St Mary's Parish Church in Nantwich and accompanist to both the town's Choral Society and the Jubilate Chamber Choir, based in Cheltenham. He is a regular organ recitalist and is also in demand as an organ, piano and theory tutor. As Organ

Scholar at St Catharine's College, Cambridge, he studied with Gillian Weir and the late Peter Le Huray. He has also been Assistant Organist at Chester Cathedral. Simon is currently President of the Liverpool Organists Association and an Examiner for the London College of Music.

These are the latest in a series of new appointments; a full time Head of Ministerial Training has also recently been made. Rosemary Field, RSCM Deputy Director of Education and Voluntary believes that, "these new roles broaden the RSCM's response to the whole church without in any way diluting its provision for choral training. The move to institute a post for ministerial support is central to our responsibilities to uphold reverent and inspiring worship, and the congregational/instrumental work is also a core need in today's church."

## **Media digest**

### **Irish Independent**

#### **SF denies 2006 enquiry**

Sinn Fein Justice Spokesperson Padraig Mac Lochlainn has dismissed reports that four senior party figures were involved in a 2006 inquiry into sexual and physical abuse by IRA men.

<http://www.independent.ie/irish-news/sinn-fein-denies-2006-abuse-inquiry-claim-31067956.html>

### **Royston Brady: 'Gerry Adams has more skeletons than the Titanic**

The ex-Fianna Fail councillor, who spectacularly fell from grace in 2004 following his failed European parliament election bid, said he was “disappointed” with how the former Taoiseach was treated by the media compared to the Sinn Fein leader.

“When you look at a politician like Gerry Adams in our country and look at a politician like Bertie Ahern and see how he was treated, it is disappointing.”

<http://www.independent.ie/irish-news/royston-brady-gerry-adams-has-more-skeletons-than-the-titanic-31067801.html>

### **Mairia Cahill: Sit up and notice before another child is abused**

<http://www.independent.ie/opinion/mairia-cahill-sit-up-and-notice-before-another-child-is-abused-31067421.html>

### **Sarah Caden: The bishop and God's little glitches**

Whether you believe in God or not, it was hard to recognise the God the Bishop of Elphin brought

on to the radio last Monday. In the context of the marriage equality referendum, and pressed by Chris Donoghue to explain whether he believes that gay people are born gay or become gay, the bishop said that "a very different kind of God to the kind of God that Christianity believes in" would make a person gay from birth. Or for that matter, see them born with spina bifida or Down syndrome.

<http://www.independent.ie/opinion/comment/sarah-caden-the-bishop-and-gods-little-glitches-31067385.html>

## **14 killed in Pakistan church blasts**

[sa=t&fd=R&ct2=us&usg=AFQjCNFI4jSBI0onYQfdJk5ryCrI8eTIMw&clid=c3a7d30bb8a4878e06b80cf16b898331&cid=52778771500066&ei=CsYFVenXD5CzmQLo0IHICA&url=http://www.independent.ie/world-news/14-killed-in-pakistan-church-blasts-31067587.html](http://www.independent.ie/world-news/14-killed-in-pakistan-church-blasts-31067587.html)

## **Irish Times**

### **Bishop of Elphin expresses regret over comments about gay parents**

[http://www.irishtimes.com/news/social-affairs/religion-and-beliefs/bishop-of-elphin-expresses-regret-over-comments-about-gay-parents-1.2140902?utm\\_source=dlvr.it&utm\\_medium=twitter](http://www.irishtimes.com/news/social-affairs/religion-and-beliefs/bishop-of-elphin-expresses-regret-over-comments-about-gay-parents-1.2140902?utm_source=dlvr.it&utm_medium=twitter)

## **Kenny SF questions to answer**

**Taoiseach Enda Kenny says Sinn Féin still has questions to answer** on the allegations of IRA

sex abuse made by Máiría Cahill and Paudie McGahon and the kangaroo court investigations into them.

[http://www.irishtimes.com/news/politics/kenny-sf-still-has-questions-to-answer-over-kangaroo-court-1.2140909?mode=sample&auth-failed=1&pw-origin=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.irishtimes.com%2Fnews%2Fpolitics%2Fkenny-sf-still-has-questions-to-answer-over-kangaroo-court-1.2140909%3Futm\\_content%3Dsf-man](http://www.irishtimes.com/news/politics/kenny-sf-still-has-questions-to-answer-over-kangaroo-court-1.2140909?mode=sample&auth-failed=1&pw-origin=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.irishtimes.com%2Fnews%2Fpolitics%2Fkenny-sf-still-has-questions-to-answer-over-kangaroo-court-1.2140909%3Futm_content%3Dsf-man)

## **Irish Examiner**

### **Bishop Doran regrets hurt caused by comments on gay parents**

<http://www.irishexaminer.com/breakingnews/ireland/bishop-doran-regrets-hurt-caused-by-comments-on-gay-parents-667636.html>

## **The Journal.ie**

### **Paudie McGahon's alleged abuser was on Gerry Adam's list**

The man alleged to have sexually abused Paudie McGahon was on a list of names given anonymously to Gerry Adams according to Sinn Féin. Adams made the claim in the Dáil last week and Martin McGuinness repeated it yesterday. McGuinness claims the Sinn Féin leader only



became aware of the name in the past two weeks.

[http://www.thejournal.ie/sinn-fein-abuse-claims-1993380-Mar2015/?utm\\_source=twitter\\_self](http://www.thejournal.ie/sinn-fein-abuse-claims-1993380-Mar2015/?utm_source=twitter_self)

**Daily Mail/Anglican News/BBC  
Pope says feels great pain over Pakistan  
church attacks**

[http://www.dailymail.co.uk/wires/reuters/article-2995669/  
Pope-says-feels-great-pain-Pakistan-church-attacks.html](http://www.dailymail.co.uk/wires/reuters/article-2995669/Pope-says-feels-great-pain-Pakistan-church-attacks.html)

[http://www.anglicannews.org/news/2015/03/twin-blasts-  
at-churches-in-pakistan-kill-10,-wound-55.aspx](http://www.anglicannews.org/news/2015/03/twin-blasts-at-churches-in-pakistan-kill-10,-wound-55.aspx)

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-asia-31894708>

**Telegraph**

**Lord Carey: Christians must not apologise at  
work for their beliefs**

Lord Carey, the Former Archbishop of Canterbury, says society is becoming "increasingly illiterate" about religion and Christians are being forced to hide their beliefs in the workplace.

He is urging people not to "apologise" but to speak up for their beliefs.

It follows a report commissioned by the Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) which asked people about any incidents in the workplace relating to their religion.

Writing in the Telegraph, he said: "Now, more than ever, we need Christian people to speak up for their faith, to articulate their beliefs in sensible and courteous ways. Our society needs a reminder of our foundational beliefs in honesty, faithfulness, right and wrong.

"Don't be intimidated by a hostile workplace, challenge the hostility with good humour."

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/religion/11472825/Lord-Carey-Christians-must-not-apologise-at-work-for-their-beliefs.html>

## **Guardian**

### **How Pope Francis fooled us all on LGBT issues**

<http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2015/mar/13/pope-francis-lgbt-issues-rights>

## **Independent**

### **Margaret Thatcher: A new book explores the Iron Lady's religious faith**

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/people/margaret-thatcher-a-new-book-explores-the-iron-ladys-religious->

[faith-and-reveals-how-she-modelled-herself-on-joan-crawford-10093611.html](http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/uk/article4382883.ece)

## **Times**

Report on re-burial ceremony of Richard III says his body will be received at the city's cathedral on Sunday in a compline service, where Cardinal Vincent Nichols, the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Westminster, will preach. Richard III's coffin will lie in public until the service of reinterment on March 26, in the presence of the Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby. It says the king, derided down the ages as a monster who slayed the "Princes in the Tower" will at last have his life celebrated with dignity by the kingdom he lost for a horse.

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/uk/article4382883.ece>

## **Mail/Star/Tel/Ind/Express**

Further reports on suicide bomb attacks on Christians at two churches in Lahore, Pakistan yesterday which killed 15 and left nearly 80 people wounded. They state in the aftermath, an angry mob quickly turned violent, blocking a major highway, burning cars, ransacking a bus terminal and setting two people suspected of involvement in the attacks on fire.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2995519/Explosions-near-churches-Lahore-leave-six->

[worshippers-dead-50-wounded-Taliban-splinter-group-claim-responsibility-attack.html#ixzz3UWpgw5Fd](http://www.dailystar.co.uk/news/latest-news/430890/Angry-Christians-lynch-men-believed-to-have-targeted-two-Pakistan-churches)  
<http://www.dailystar.co.uk/news/latest-news/430890/Angry-Christians-lynch-men-believed-to-have-targeted-two-Pakistan-churches>  
<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/asia/pakistan/11473317/Taliban-attacks-on-Pakistan-churches-kill-14-and-spark-riots.html>  
<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/middle-east/pakistan-14-killed-in-bomb-attacks-on-two-churches-in-lahore-10109049.html>  
<http://www.express.co.uk/news/world/564103/Lahore-churches-bombed-men-lynched-14-dead>

## **Mail**

Report that beacons will be lit from coast to coast, church bells rung and street parties held during a three-day commemoration for the 70th anniversary of the end of the Second World War in Europe after the general election. On Saturday May 9, communities are being encouraged to organise street parties and at 11am churches and cathedrals are being asked to ring their bells, as they did in 1945. It states on the Sunday, May 10, a service of thanksgiving will be held at Westminster Abbey, followed by a parade of Armed Forces personnel and veterans from the war.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2996452/Street-parties-1940s-concert-celebrate-VE-Day-long-weekend-commemorate-events-May.html#ixzz3UWhKsF67>

## **Eve Standard/Mail**

Report that Tony Blair has said young people need an education that will give them an "open-minded" view of the world. Speaking during a session on world education at the Global Education and Skills Forum in Dubai, he suggested that it is important that even if youngsters are taught in a faith school, that they learn about other religions and cultures.

<http://www.standard.co.uk/news/politics/youngsters-need-an-openminded-education-on-religion-and-faith-says-tony-blair-10109346.html>

[http://www.dailymail.co.uk/wires/pa/article-2995777/Blair-urges-teaching-tolerance.html?](http://www.dailymail.co.uk/wires/pa/article-2995777/Blair-urges-teaching-tolerance.html?ITO=1490&ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490)

[ITO=1490&ns\\_mchannel=rss&ns\\_campaign=1490](http://www.dailymail.co.uk/wires/pa/article-2995777/Blair-urges-teaching-tolerance.html?ITO=1490&ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490)