



*A
peace
mural
in
Derry*

Art, Faith and Peace - The Bogside Artists: the Story Behind the Murals

A unique opportunity is being offered to learn about the story of faith and hope behind the city's well-known - but often little understood -

March 2

Bogside murals with artists Tom Kelly, Kevin Hasson and William Kelly and philosopher of art Dr Adrienne Chaplin. The event is on Wednesday 8 April, and the meeting point is Diversecity, 12-14 The Diamond, L/Derry

Participants can attend some or all of the sessions. This is a free event, but for catering purposes please register.

A free bus will be available from the Contemporary Christianity office in Belfast. It will leave at 12:30pm and arrive in time to allow participation in the walking tour and evening events. The bus should arrive back in Belfast by 11:00pm.

Please register at
info@contemporarychristianity.net

Programme -
12:30 Light lunch

1:00-2:00 Art, Faith and Healing: Adrienne Chaplin in conversation with Tom Kelly. Tom will talk about the role of faith in his work, and the potential of art and storytelling to promote healing and peace

2:45-4:45 Walking Tour of The People's Gallery. This tour will provide a unique opportunity to see the work of the Bogside Artists and discuss the purpose and implications of their work

5:30-6:30 Meet the Bogside Artists: Questions & Answers

6:30 Light evening meal

7:30-9:00 Art, Faith and Truth: A talk by Adrienne Chaplin with responses from the Bogside Artists followed by open discussion. Adrienne will explore how the murals, and other art throughout the ages, can disclose truth beyond words

Click [here](#) for more details:

<http://www.contemporarychristianity.net/website/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/artfaithpeace.pdf>

When words fail: religious literacy and post-multicultural possibilities - 2015 Catherwood Lecture

How do we reach out in compassion, and avoid a tabloid- type reaction to other faiths, whilst standing up for values that are important in our



Dr Jenny Taylor the 2015 Catherwood lecturer is a cultural analyst, journalist, and author.

society (values often derived from a Biblical faith)?

Dr Jenny Taylor is a cultural analyst, journalist, author and founder of Lapid Media, a consultancy specialising in religious literacy in world affairs. Jenny has reported from areas of conflict and poverty all over Asia and Africa, deciding to specialize in Islam and secularization. She speaks and writes on the connection between faith and culture, on which she has addressed parliamentary, Commonwealth and media gatherings. From 1988 to 1994 she was the editor of GO, the

magazine for Interserve. She co-authored the book Faith and Power (1998), along with Professor Lamin Sanneh of Yale, and Lesslie Newbigin. She is a member of the Evangelical Alliance's Theological Advisory Group.

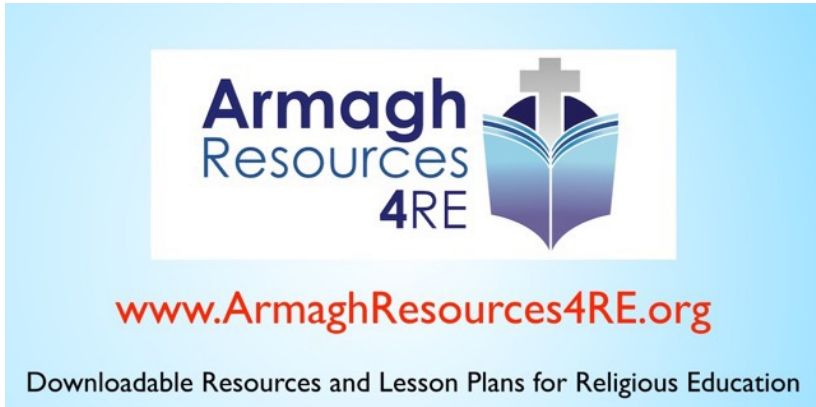
The lecture will be given on Thursday 16 April, at 8:00pm in The Agape Centre, 238 Lisburn Road, Belfast, BT9 6GF

Armagh Diocese launches new Web Site for Primary Teachers



Archbishop Richard Clarke at the launch of a new website by the Church of Ireland Diocese of Armagh

which provides resources for Primary School RE teachers



The Armagh Diocese of the Church of Ireland has launched a new web site to help Primary teachers plan Religious Education Lessons.

Teachers can download lesson plans, including work sheets, songs and art from the site and use them with their classes. The lessons are all linked to the Northern Ireland RE syllabus for grant-aided schools and have been compiled by professional teachers and writers.

To mark the launch of the site, the Church is running a competition with prizes for P1 and P2 children who submit pieces of their art work. Full details of the competition and how to enter can be found on the web site:

www.ArmaghResources4RE.org

PCI works with Access NI to develop new online system

The current application form for leaders (TCF2/14) will no longer be accepted after 24th April and there are now two new application forms for each applicant to complete – a PCI Application form for leaders which can be downloaded from www.presbyterianireland.org/takingcare and an online Access NI form which can be completed on the NI Direct website: www.nidirect.gov.uk

Deborah Webster, PCI's Taking Care Co-ordinator said, "We are delighted to have been able to collaborate with Access NI on developing and improving the system for Child Protection application.

"In order to explain how the new application process will work, Taking Care, the Presbyterian Church in Ireland's Child Protection Policy and Programme Service are hosting five Access NI Information Seminars that look at how the new system will work and answer any questions individuals may have. These seminars will take place this month in locations throughout Northern Ireland."

Deborah also explained that the Access NI form has to be completed online, while the PCI form needs to be downloaded and filled in, as the Designated Person needs to check I.D; approval from Kirk Session is also required.

Speaking about the new process, Tom Clarke, Manager of Access NI said, “Access NI is continually improving and modernising the service it provides. As part of this, from 1st April, applicants can make their application on-line, rather than having to complete a paper form. This will reduce the time taken to issue a certificate, improve the accuracy of applications, enable applicants and organisations to track the progress of applications and reduce costs.

“Access NI is grateful to the Presbyterian Church for the work they have undertaken alongside us to develop this system and for the enthusiastic way it has embraced and adopted the on-line service. We look forward to continue to work with the church to improve all aspects of our service in the future.”

For further information on how this new process will work is available on the Access NI Factsheet. www.presbyterianireland.org/takingcare

Moneyreagh church plant develops



Mervyn Jamison retired from his full-time job at the end of January and is excited and looking forward to what God has ahead for Moneyreagh Community Church (MCC) which is a church plant supported by Down diocese of C of I.

“At time of writing, we in MCC are feeling really blessed. Sunday services have around 50 regular attenders of all ages, however for some reason on our Bacon Buttie Sundays this increases to nearly 70!

“But it’s not all about numbers and I believe that God is at work transforming lives in our fledgling church. Recently a family joined us who I would describe as ‘de-churched’ and a number of our churchnewsireland@gmail.com

worshippers fall into that category. One man who now comes with his wife and never misses a service hadn't been to church in over 30 years.

“Our Friday night youth club is thriving, but the children's club on a Sunday afternoon didn't really catch on. After more prayer and research we have decided to launch an exciting Kids Club on Wednesday evenings. There is a real hunger for more time to explore the scriptures and our mid-week Bible/prayer meeting is growing with around 25% of the congregation coming along regularly. I'm grateful to John Beattie for his significant input.

“Our Honesty Box Friday Cafe began on 27 March, which in turn will lead to a Rural Pharmacy program. The local councillor has also pledged to have a drop-in clinic for social needs at this time. So we are excited. This new community and fellowship of believers would really appreciate your continued prayers and support.”

Cork Diocesan Secretary Retires After 42 Years Service

Wilfred Baker, Diocesan Secretary of the United Dioceses of Cork, Cloyne and Ross has retired

on 31st March, after 42 years service to the Diocese.

People from around the Diocese gathered at St Luke's Church, Douglas, Cork for Evensong during which Wilfred gave the address. The Service was conducted by the rector of the Parish, Archdeacon Adrian Wilkinson.

Afterwards the Bishop, the Rt Revd Dr Paul Colton, thanked Wilfred for his service to the Diocese, drawing on the Diocesan Reports, the Journals of the General Synod, and the Diocesan Magazine, to give some 'then and now' perspectives on Wilfred's time in office.

On behalf of the Diocese (clergy, parishes, people and former bishops and clergy who served in the Diocese in Wilfred's time in office) the Bishop presented Wilfred with an especially commissioned Cork solid silver Strawberry Dish from a typical 18th Century Cork design made by local silversmith, Sean Carroll. The dish, uniquely, has been emblazoned in gold leaf with the coat of arms of the Diocese, and engraved with a tribute to Wilfred as a mark of everyone's affection, gratitude and esteem. The Dean of Cork presented Wilfred with his second present: an aerial photograph of the Cathedral which, as the Bishop said 'is to be hung in your Waterford

house to remind you that your home is now in Cork!’

C of E Pastoral Letter for the General Election: study guide issued

A study guide designed to promote discussion about the House of Bishops' Pastoral Letter for the General Election has been issued by the Church of England.

The online document, aimed at individual and group study, includes a short summary of each section of the Pastoral Letter and offers questions for consideration and conversation.

The guide also suggest passages from the Bible for study included in the Letter and prayers for the General Election.

Who is My Neighbour? was issued at the start of Lent and is addressed to the People and Parishes of the Church of England.

To access the study guide see here

https://www.churchofengland.org/media/2206656/neighbour_studyguide_v3%20%282%29.pdf

New counselling service for clergy in Wales

Clergy are often turned to when people need help but now a new counselling service will support clergy when they face difficulties themselves.

From money worries to family crises or addictions – the new Cynnal Churches' Counselling Service was launched yesterday (April 1) to provide a free confidential counselling service available throughout Wales for all members of the Clergy and their families who might be facing challenging times in their personal lives.

Called Cynnal, the accredited service will be available to clergy of all church denominations and delivered by the charity CAIS (Cyngor Alcohol Information Service) through its subsidiary Living Room Cardiff. It will take over from the current Church Counselling Service which was set up 20 years ago.

Cynnal will be overseen by an advisory panel which will include representatives of church denominations and will meet twice a year. All the counsellors are qualified and trained and clergy will be able to refer themselves for help.

Clive Wolfendale, chief executive of CAIS, said the growth of the Living Room Cardiff as a centre for counselling made it a natural home for the new service for clergy.

He said, “Both CAIS and Living Room Cardiff have their roots in Welsh faith communities so it makes sense for us to assimilate the work of the Churches Counselling Service for Wales. Together we can ensure that ministers are supported across the country.”

Wynford Ellis Owen, chief executive of Living Room Cardiff, said, “Clergy are perceived as people who don’t have problems – they are the ones we go to when we have problems. But they are human like the rest of us and sometimes, under pressure, their problems – and those they are helping others with – can come to the fore. That can be particularly difficult for them because they work across the community.

“We can provide them and their families with a safe environment where they can seek help and support in confidence.”

The Archbishop of Wales, Dr Barry Morgan, said, “The Church in Wales welcomes this new service for the care and welfare of our clergy and is keen to support it. We wish CAIS and Living Room

Cardiff every success with the launch of Cynnal and we look forward to working together in the future.”

For more information, see the **Cynnal website** or call 029 20302101
<http://www.cynnal.wales>

Telecasts of the Easter liturgies of Pope Francis

Vatican Television Centre has released the following information for broadcasters regarding worldwide telecasts of events presided over by the Holy Father Pope Francis during Holy Week and Easter. Pope Francis will preside at the following liturgies:

- Friday, 3 April 2015, Good Friday, ‘Way of the Cross’ at the Colosseum, Rome. Celebration time: 19.15 – 21.00 approximately UTC/GMT,
- Sunday, 5 April 2015, Easter Sunday, Saint Peter’s Square, Vatican City. Mass of Easter Sunday followed by the annual message and blessing ‘*Urbi et Orbi*’ of Pope Francis in Saint Peter’s Square.

Scheduled celebration time: 08:15 to 10:30 UTC/GMT.

- All the events at which Pope Francis presides may be viewed on the portal www.news.va. The Pope App provides continuous information on the Holy Father's liturgies.

US Southern Baptists confront the past, look to the future

The Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) discussed its racist past during the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission's Gospel and Racial Reconciliation summit last week.

The two-day summit was held in Nashville, and included frank admissions of wrongdoing.

"Our heritage comes to us through a trail of blood, but not all of it is Christ's blood, and some of it cries out from the ground right now," the Commission's president, Russell Moore said.

"Racial reconciliation is going to take the courage of knowing who you are in Christ," he

continued. "We are not the state church of the Confederate States of America."

The denomination was formed in 1845 in support of slave owners, and during the Civil Rights Movement, Southern Baptist leaders were largely silent, or supported segregation. In recent years, the church repented for condoning racism, apologised to African-Americans, and announced efforts to attract minorities to their flock.

Although the denomination elected their first black president in 2012, SBC pastor Rev. Dwight McKissic **pointed out** that all other top executives and seminary presidents are white. In 2012, 20 per cent of the church's 51,000 congregations were nonwhite, but less than one per cent were multi-ethnic

At last week's summit, less than 30 of the nearly 550 attendees were black, according to the Religion News Service. Still, many felt the summit was a step in the right direction.

"I am thrilled to hear a white man, Russell Moore, stand up and preach the message he just preached," Missouri youth pastor Carlos Smith exclaimed.

"We need some of our white brothers and sisters saying that it isn't just race-baiters and people with a victimised mentality who believe these things. (Racism) is a real problem."

Missouri Presbyterian churches receive threats over acceptance of same sex marriage and ministers

At least four Presbyterian churches in the state of Missouri have received threats in response to the Presbyterian Church (USA)'s decision to embrace same-sex marriages.

Over 170 churches affiliated with the Presbyterian Church (USA), voted last month to change the wording of the denomination's constitution to allow same-sex marriages.

The new constitution now defines marriages as a commitment "between two people, traditionally a man and a woman."

The amendment will take effect this summer. According to the **St. Louis Post-Dispatch**, the First Presbyterian Church and the Westminster Presbyterian Church in Cape Girardeau, First Presbyterian Church in Jackson and First Presbyterian Church in Perryville

received anonymous letters that threatened their congregations in response to the Presbyterian Church (USA)'s decision.

The Dispatch said that the anonymous letters cite Scripture, prophesied that the churches would burn, and that pastors would be fired because of the change.

One Presbyterian leader expressed concern for the four churches, and condemned the threats as inconsistent with the teachings of Christianity.

"I was grieved and fearful for our pastors and churches," Anita Hendrix, leader of the Giddings-Lovejoy Presbytery told the Dispatch.

"I think this is not the way to deal with disagreement ... It's obviously someone who is not acting in a way that is consistent with what I would see as Christian values."

Hendrix asked for prayers for the safety of the four churches, as well as prayers for the anonymous author of the threatening letters.

"I just ask for people to pray for our churches and pray for the person who sent these letters that God might work in his or her life," Hendrix said.

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Media digest

Mail - Report that the Church of England yesterday published a prayer for the General Election that called on its congregations to vote for 'policies that sustain the poor'. It was published in a 'study guide' to the 'pastoral letter' on the election produced by bishops in February. It also says the new study guide from the Church's Mission and Public Affairs Division underlined the call for consideration of 'relationships among the nations of Europe who share a long history moulded by the Christian faith'. It says the guide was likely to plunge its relations with Tory leaders to a new low.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3020651/CofE-risks-Tory-row-prayer-poor-Church-urges-congregation-turn-backs-self-interest.html#ixzz3W1mMqOe>

BBC - Report that the Deputy Prime Minister Nick Clegg has defended the government's proposals to reform the House of Lords against a barrage of criticism from MPs on both sides of the Commons. Opening the first of two days of debate on the House of Lords Reform Bill at second reading on 9 July 2012, Mr Clegg said the upper house was "unsustainable" and "flawed". It outlines the reforms which include reducing the number of Church of England bishops in the Lords from 26 to 12.

http://news.bbc.co.uk/democracylive/hi/house_of_commons/newsid_9736000/9736277.stm?utm_source=Daily+Media+Digest&utm_campaign=6bff1a7148-&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_296e14724b-6bff1a7148-248597725&ct=t%28%29

Guard - Report that Archbishop **Desmond Tutu**, one of King's College London's (KCL) most well known former students, has intervened after the university rejected a demand from 1,400 staff and students to sell off its fossil fuel investments

<http://www.theguardian.com/environment/2015/mar/31/desmond-tutu-intervenenes-over-kings-college-londons-refusal-to-divest>

Mail - Further report that the Queen will undertake the pre-Easter tradition of handing out commemorative Royal Maundy coins tomorrow for the 60th time since her accession to the throne. It states each year, the Royal Mint produces a limited number of special coins for the service. This year the group of 89 men and 89 women from the Sheffield area will each receive two leather pouches, one white and one red, from the Queen during the Royal Maundy service at Sheffield's Church of England Cathedral.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/wires/pa/article-3020622/Queen-set-Royal-Maundy-day.html#ixzz3W1yWTIGi>

Guard - Leader column says reburial is one of the trends of 2015 since Richard III was reburied beneath Leicester cathedral last month, church wardens are reporting widespread interest from people wanting to dig up their ancestors in order to give them a grander last resting place.

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/opinion/leaders/article4398506.ece>

Guard/Sun - Articles that one of Britain's largest medieval cemeteries containing the remains of more than 1,000 people has been unearthed under part of the [University of Cambridge](#). The hospital cemetery was found during excavations beneath the Old Divinity School at St John's College.

They state historians had been aware of the existence and the location of the cemetery since the 1950s, but the scale of the burial ground was unclear until now. <http://www.theguardian.com/science/2015/apr/01/medieval-hospital-cemetery-poor-scholars-found-under-cambridge-university>

BBC - Report that a historic house in Worcestershire which was the former home of the bishops of Worcester has been bought by a preservation trust. It had been the home of the Bishop of Worcester for more than 1,000 years until 2007, when the Church of England decided to sell it. Hartlebury Castle Preservation Trust said the move would

secure the future of the building for visitors.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-hereford-worcester-32125657>

Guard - Review of religious programmes on TV in the run up to Easter looks at *The Dovekeepers* (Tuesday night on CBS at 9pm ET) telling the story of the only two women who survived the [siege at Masada](#) based on [the book by Alice Hoffman](#), when in 70 CE, a group of Jews, the Zealots, who had been expelled from Jerusalem sequestered themselves in this desert fort to fight off the conquering Roman army. It states the film is about faith and what one must do to hold on to it, espousing Christian ideals by looking at the lives of people who hold a religion different from theirs.

<http://www.theguardian.com/tv-and-radio/2015/mar/31/the-dovekeepers-latest-biblical-epic-goes-easy-on-the-tubthumping>

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