



Austin Branagh as Older Tom Moore and Gwen Scott as Siobhan O'Hara

New play based on wartime experiences of Rev Ray Davey founder of Corrymeela

Gladys Ganiel reviews *After Dresden*, a new play based on the wartime diaries of Rev Ray Davey, founder of the [Corrymeela Community](#).

Its first performances concluded on Saturday last after a short run at the Belvoir Playhouse. Written by Philip Orr, the play sold out each day on its Thursday-Saturday run.

The play is set in 2004, at the 40th anniversary celebrations for the 'Community of the Rock,' the name given for Corrymeela in this fictionalized account. It is framed around the story of a former volunteer at the community, artist and teacher Siobhan O'Hara, whose brother was murdered during the Troubles.

Siobhan's story, which includes disappointment and disillusionment when she and her mother attempt to reach out to the 'other side' after her brother's death, is juxtaposed to Rev Tom Moore's (the name given to Davey's character) experiences as a Prisoner of War in Germany during the Second World War.

Moore/Davey was based in a POW camp in Hohnstein, about 15 miles away from Dresden. Here, he strikes up an unlikely friendship with Frau Klein, a woman whose son has died in the war and whose husband has recently been drafted – despite his age. Klein has excellent English, sings in the local church, and says that when she prays her prayers include those who are held in the POW camps.

In many ways Klein is the most fully-developed character in the play, as she reveals aspects of her life before and after the Nazis came to power and expresses anger about how even before the war the Hitler Youth attempted to indoctrinate her children.

In the post-show discussion after Friday's performance, Dr Duncan Morrow from Ulster University remarked that this was a story 'worthy of Hollywood', as who would expect a padre from the British Army to have been wandering about behind enemy lines, drinking tea with an English-speaking German woman who showed so much humanity and compassion?

Apart from Davey's unpublished wartime diaries, Frau Klein also makes an appearance in his book, *Take Away this Hate*, where his affection for her and the German civilians is abundantly clear. One wonders how these experiences made Davey question the boundaries between friend and enemy and strive to find common ground when he returned to Northern Ireland after the war.

Moore/Davey himself narrowly escapes being in Dresden during the bombing. He had been in the city visiting POWs, and asked for permission to stay overnight so that he could visit a gravely ill

Scottish soldier in hospital the next day. But a German bureaucrat sent him back to Hohnstein, most probably sparing him his life.

The play depicts Moore as distraught during the bombing, while a British major enthusiastically cheers it on. Moore is thinking of his Scottish soldier and other POWs, and is horrified that the allies are destroying the city so close to what everyone seemed to know was the end of the war. In *Take Away this Hate*, Davey remarks how while previously the fire-storms brought by mass bombings had been an unintended consequence of the raids, now they were a deliberately strategy – meant to terrorize as much as to destroy military targets.

In *After Dresden*, Philip Orr has brought to life again the story behind the origins of the Corrymeela community – one that has often been forgotten and is perhaps even unknown to many who are involved with Corrymeela today. The Belvoir Players production, directed by Trevor Gill, was sensitive and professional. The production deserves a wider airing and a longer run across these islands.

More at -

<http://sluggerotoole.com/2015/05/04/after-dresden-review-of-new-play-based-on-story-of-rev-ray-davey-corrymeela/>

Christ Church Cathedral to Celebrate IDAHOT Day

Christ Church Cathedral will celebrate IDAHOT Day, the International Day against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia, with a special Choral Evensong at 3.30 pm on Sunday May 17.

The Independent Senator Dr Katherine Zappone (pictured) will address the congregation and the address will be in the context of IDAHOT Day. The Senator is a member of the Irish Human Rights Commission and a Co-Director of The Centre for Progressive Change – an organisation which promotes an ethical vision that puts community at the heart of public life.

IDAHOT Day was created in 2004 to draw the attention of policymakers, opinion leaders, social movements, the public and the media to the violence and discrimination experienced by LGBTI people internationally.

In under a decade, May 17 has established itself the single most important date for LGBTI communities to mobilise on a worldwide scale.

The Day represents an annual landmark to draw the attention of decision makers, the media, the public, opinion leaders and local authorities to

the alarming situation faced by lesbian, gay, bisexuals, transgender and intersex people and all those who do not conform to majority sexual and gender norms.

May 17 is now celebrated in more than 130 countries, including 37 where same-sex acts are illegal, with 1600 events reported from 1280 organizations in 2014. These mobilisations unite millions of people in support of the recognition of human rights for all, irrespective of sexual orientation or gender identity or expression.

The International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia is not one centralised campaign; rather it is a *moment* that everyone can take advantage of to take action.

The date of May 17 was specifically chosen to commemorate the World Health organization's decision in 1990 to declassify homosexuality as a mental disorder.

The service will be sung by the Cathedral Choir and music will include Moore responses, Kelly's Evening Service in C and Tippett's By and By from Five Negro Spirituals.

All are welcome to attend.

C of I clergy oppose views of Bishops of Cork and Cashel on sexuality

In this week's Church of Ireland Gazette two letters object to the stances taken by the Bishop of Cork and the Bishop of Cashel on the referendum regarding same sex marriage.

One letter is from office bearers of four different groups all of which would claim for themselves an "evangelical" stance and commitment. They include C of I Evangelical Fellowship, Reform and New Wine.

The other letter is from a group of over thirty clergy of a somewhat similar outlook. The greater majority of the signatories of both letters are from the northern dioceses of the church. In brief, the bishops have been accused of adopting a stance which is contrary to a statement of the General Synod. A claim is made that obedience to synod is requisite.

The signatory for New Wine is Archdeacon David McClay who recently has been tasked by the Bishop of Down to assist in resolving the situation in Knocknamuckley Parish where there

is a dispute involving the rector who is also active with New Wine.

More pressure on Sinn Fein over 'sectarian' election literature

Pressure has continued to mount on Sinn Fein after its election literature in North Belfast was labelled “blatantly sectarian”.

The republican party produced a pamphlet in support of Westminster candidate Gerry Kelly showing the religious breakdown for constituents in the area.

Nigel Dodds of the DUP said the literature – quoting figures from the 2011 census showing a slight majority of Catholics over Protestants – indicated “lazy sectarianism which concludes that someone’s voting preference can be assumed from their religious background”.

The DUP deputy leader, who is one of six candidates contesting the seat, said: “Sinn Fein like to talk about equality in public, but privately they make it clear that equality is nothing more than a Trojan Horse to break unionists.

“When confronted about their use of census figures instead of any electoral evidence, Caral Ni Chuilin made the ludicrous claim that the Electoral Commission prevented them from using the results of previous elections.”

Mr Dodds added: “Having been forced to apologise for that deliberate misinformation, Sinn Fein should now publicly step back from their sectarian electioneering in North Belfast.”

The latest criticism comes after a rising star within Sinn Fein, who is a brother of MLA Megan Fearon, lambasted his party over the pamphlet – calling it “absolutely disgraceful” and going on to say, “it is our duty to denounce this tripe”.

Writing on his Facebook page Sean Fearon, who last year was chairman of Sinn Fein at Queen’s University, said: “In short, this is an absolute disgrace. The very antithesis of what republicanism represents at its very core: citizenship blind to religion, secularism, citizen duties and equality – not how many bloody Catholics and Protestants live in an area and assuming they’ll vote on ethno-nationalist lines as a result.”

Despite the depth of feeling displayed in his online statement, by yesterday Mr Fearon had removed the post from his timeline.

The controversial pamphlet showed a bar chart comparison of the Protestant population (45.67%) and Catholics (46.94%), with the slogan 'Make the Change Make History'.

More at -

<http://www.newsletter.co.uk/news/regional/more-pressure-on-sinn-fein-over-sectarian-election-literature-1-6725041>

Sinn Fein hit by storm of anger in 'sectarian headcount' leaflet row

<http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/general-election-2015/sinn-fein-hit-by-storm-of-anger-in-sectarian-headcount-leaflet-row-31195067.html>

Silence of the Shinnerbots – and Shame of the Media

<http://eamonmallie.com/2015/05/silence-of-the-shinnerbots-and-shame-of-the-media-by-jane-de-courcey/>

Roy Fisher and the Gerry Kelly flyer

<http://eamonmallie.com/2015/05/roy-fisher-and-the-gerry-kelly-flyer/>

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'I felt history on my shoulders when I laid Richard III to rest' - interview with Ulster born Dean of Leicester

Joanne Sweeney of the Belfast Telegraph talks to the Dean of Leicester Cathedral about growing up in Co Fermanagh, his religious calling and burying the last Plantagenet king.

Q. So how come a Co Fermanagh man ended up burying a king of England?

A. It's a great mystery to me as well how this has happened. I came to England to university and I never properly went back to Northern Ireland as I trained for ordination here and ended up as Dean of an English cathedral, which just happened to be where Richard III was buried right across the road.

Q. A case of being in the right place at the right time?

Q. Can you describe your early life as a boy [growing](#) up in Co Fermanagh?

A. I grew up in Irvinestown, which is about 10 miles from Enniskillen. I went to Irvinestown Primary School and was involved in the local Church of Ireland. I went to Derryvullan North Parish Church, the Boys Brigade and the local youth group in the town.



Q. What about [your family](#), any other clergy there?

A. While lots of my family are farmers or teachers, my father Malvern worked for Fermanagh District Council, and my mum Molly worked for the tax office in Enniskillen. I'm the eldest of four - two boys and two girls. My brother, Maurice, and I went to Portora Royal in Enniskillen. My sisters are Sandra and Lynda, but Sandra died in her thirties. Maurice now works as a house master at Rugby School, and Lynda lives in Enniskillen with her family. She works for Irish Central Border Area Network Ltd, which helps with rural economic development projects.

Q. When did you discover that you had a religious calling?

A. Well, I was always involved in the Church. When I went away to Durham University, I read Zoology. However, I still attended church regularly and dabbled a bit in attending theological lectures. I gradually got more involved with this in university.

Q. Was there a pivotal moment that finally made up your mind?

A. When Marie Wilson died in the 1987 Enniskillen bomb, that was a significant moment for me as her father, Gordon, spoke about forgiving the IRA for the murder of his daughter. That was the moment that I saw with real clarity that the Church could be good news for the world and not merely a part of the problem of the world. That really provided me with the opportunity to pursue my sense of vocation further. One of the good things that emerged out of it was the creation of the integrated primary school in the town some time later.

More at - <http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/debateni/david-monteith-i-felt-history-on-my-shoulders-when-i-laid-richard-iii-to-rest-31191962.html>

Atlantic Way pilgrimage for marriage equality

A group are completing the Atlantic Way as a 'pilgrimage for yes' to raise awareness regarding the forthcoming referendum.

The Atlantic Way Pilgrimage for Yes began on Friday morning in Donegal. Copies of a letter



Centre - Dr Richard O'Leary

were distributed outside St Eunan's cathedral Letterkenny after the 10am mass. According to Dr Richard O'Leary of Faith in Marriage Equality (FiME) who attended the mass and afterwards distributed the 'faith for yes' letter outside the cathedral "There was a good response from church goers to the letter. Some people told me they were glad to see 'faith for yes' material to help them make up their minds as the only material available inside the church was Vote No leaflets".

The letter from Dr Richard O'Leary of Faith in Marriage Equality commences, "Today Friday 1st May is the beginning of a six day pilgrimage along the Atlantic Way, from Donegal to Cork. The pilgrimage begins at St Eunan's Cathedral, Letterkenny. The journey includes Lough Derg,

the basilica at Knock and cathedrals in Sligo, Galway, Ennis, Limerick and Killarney. It will conclude at St Mary's Cathedral, Cork where as a teenager I made my confirmation. The journey will be made by public bus.

“Sometimes in life we have to take a step into unfamiliar territory. I feel apprehensive about sharing my personal story, especially among other people of faith. I was fortunate to experience a loving, committed, faithful relationship with my partner Mervyn for 25 years until I was widowed on 2nd August 2013. In those years I learned that marriage is based on the values of love and commitment, whether we are heterosexual or gay. Now that I've lost him I am compelled to embark on my own on this pilgrimage for Yes to marriage equality.

“Mervyn had a strong faith and he helped me understand that all couples are loved by God. He said our faith leaders should not seek to marginalise or exclude people rather they should promote equality and inclusion. “

The letter concludes, “I'm named after grandfather Richard Furniss, whose mixed marriage was not approved of by the faith leaders in his generation. In my generation some faith leaders disapproved of my same sex

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relationship with Mervyn. However, I am encouraged by Dr Paul Colton, the Church of Ireland Bishop of Cork who has said "*I certainly support civil same sex marriage*".

"If you have not already done so I encourage you to begin your journey towards acceptance and equality for the lesbian and gay people you know.. I hope that when you read this letter and reflect on our experience you will choose not to deny couples like Mervyn and me the freedom to marry."

Faith in Marriage Equality www.fime.ie

Moderator climbs Ben Lomond in aid of Nepal

Donations keep climbing for the Moderators' Munro Challenge in support of Christian Aid's emergency relief effort in Nepal. More than \$8,500 has been raised so far to help victims of the earthquake that destroyed homes and buildings across Nepal and has left thousands in need of food, shelter and medical assistance.

Church of Scotland Moderator, Rt Rev John Chalmers, led a climb of Ben Lomond last Saturday accompanied by the Moderator of the



Rt Rev John Chalmers and Rachel Hutcheson with the Christian Aid banner on the summit of Ben Lomond

Church of Scotland's Youth Assembly, Rachel Hutcheson and other supporters.

The climb was originally organised in conjunction with Christian Aid to celebrate its 70th anniversary. Following last week's devastating earthquake the Moderators decided all proceeds should benefit those most in need in Nepal.

"The Munro Challenge was a way for us to highlight the exceptional work of Christian Aid and to help raise some much needed extra funds in this the 70 year since their foundation. But,

tragically this very week in the mountains of Nepal a dire emergency has arisen and our good intention has now become an urgent cause. All the funds raised this Saturday on Ben Lomond are going directly to Christian Aid's Nepal Earthquake Appeal."

Rt Rev John Chalmers said "This has been an extraordinary response to a terrible tragedy. I would like to express my thanks to everyone who has taken part and to the people who sponsored the walkers. Their generosity has exceeded all expectations."

Donations can be pledged at <https://70munros.everydayhero.com/uk/rt-rev-john-chalmers>, as well as the DEC appeal.

The Moderator's feat is inspiring a Highland school to create their own 'mini Munro' challenge. Head teacher Iain Grandison and the pupils of Croy Primary School plan to raise funds for Christian Aid's relief efforts in Nepal by building a cairn, (or mini-Munro) and inviting the community to contribute.

The effort will kick off Friday 8 May with a lesson on Christian Aid's work over the last 70 years. After the lesson Mr Grandison and the pupils will begin building the cairn in the school playground near the school garden. During Christian Aid

week pupils, members of the local Church of Scotland congregation and members of the local community will be invited to add a stone to the mini-Munro and make a donation to the work of Christian Aid and/or use this as a focus for prayers for all affected by the earthquake in Nepal.

The pupils and staff of Croy hope that other schools will join them in this mini-Munro challenge and build their own cairns while also contributing their prayers and donations to Christian Aid's work in Nepal and around the world.

Church life will never be same again - Dean of Nepal

The following report from the Anglican Dean of Nepal was written on May 2.

Very Rev Lewis Lews writes - It has been a week since the 7.8 magnitude earthquake hit Nepal. Today the churches in Nepal meet to worship but it will never be the same again. Many have lost their loved ones, friends, colleagues, classmates, and fellow acquaintances. Today also marks the last day of search-and-rescue efforts. All those still buried under rubble will be presumed dead.

Today is a very sad day for the Anglican Church in Nepal and for our Diocese as we mourn the death of 78 Anglican members in the district of Dhading (this number will rise, as many are still buried under rubble). The report we have just received also stated that in the fourteen villages of the Dhading district, thirteen Anglican church buildings have been destroyed, 30,000 villagers have been displaced, with more than 5,000 families affected. They are without shelter, food and aid. Many are having to brave the cold wet nights of the monsoon season. Some villagers have woken up to find their young children dead from exposure to the extreme cold.

The people in the mountains are cut off from aid and supplies due to severe damage to roads and mountain tracks. We thank God for brave souls like young Pastor Beg who, despite the dangers, have been trekking the mountains the last 4 days to check on the well-being of his Tamang people.

The current death toll in Nepal has exceeded 6,200 as of this morning, with more than 20,000 injured, and many thousands more still unaccounted for. Let us unite our hearts to pray for God's mercy for Nepal and let us extend our help in whatever ways we can to assist those

who are badly needing shelter, food and supplies.

Four man choice for US Presiding bishop election

Four bishops have emerged in the final stage to elect a Presiding Bishop for the US Episcopal Church.

The Joint Nominating Committee for the Election of the Presiding Bishop has announced the names of the bishops it will nominate this summer to succeed Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori.

The four names will be formally submitted to the General Convention during a joint session on June 26, the day prior to the day set for the election by the House of Bishops of the 27th presiding bishop. The nominees are:

The Rt. Rev. Thomas Breidenthal, 64, [Diocese of Southern Ohio](#)

The Rt. Rev. Michael Curry, 62, [Diocese of North Carolina](#)

The Rt. Rev. Ian Douglas, 56, [Diocese of Connecticut](#)

The Rt. Rev. Dabney Smith, 61, [Diocese of Southwest Florida](#)

The Episcopal Church's new leader will begin a nine-year term on Nov. 1

The Episcopal Church has more than 2 million members in over 100 dioceses in 17 countries.

World Council of Churches new websites on Justice and Peace

The World Council of Churches has launched two new interactive websites for reflection and resource sharing on the Pilgrimage of Justice and Peace.

One is a blog featuring personal reflections on the pilgrimage theme and how it relates to the lives of Christians in various parts of the world. The other is a platform where study groups and individuals can find and contribute ideas and resources (including documents, videos and audio material) on what it means to be a pilgrim of justice and peace.

The new websites were launched at an event of the Ecumenical Institute Bossey, near Geneva, Switzerland last week.

WCC has since called on member churches and partner organisations to help publicise the two sites. They have also appealed for content.

Media Digest

GENERAL ELECTION

Politician's controversial remarks leave children of gay Irish couple in tears

George Clarke, from Newtownards, Co Down, says his children Leo, 11, and Tobyn, 9, feared their married fathers would be sent to jail following Mr Robinson's controversial remarks about homosexuals and the law on the BBC's The View programme.

<http://www.independent.ie/irish-news/news/politicians-controversial-remarks-leave-children-of-gay-irish-couple-in-tears-31193712.html>

The investigation of Jim Wells is the behaviour of a police state

<http://anglicanmainstream.org/the-investigation-of-jim-wells-is-the-behaviour-of-a-police-state/>

REFERENDUM

God's love is not diminished by one's sexual orientation

To say a gay person is in any way less a human being, less perfect or moral, is totally wrong, writes Fr Tony Flannery

<http://www.independent.ie/opinion/comment/gods-love-is-not-diminished-by-ones-sexual-orientation-31191224.html>

It doesn't take much to be branded a bigot these days

Campaigners for same sex marriage are giving a master class in how to turn certain victory in the referendum into defeat, writes Eilis O'Hanlon

<http://www.independent.ie/opinion/comment/it-doesnt-take-much-to-be-branded-a-bigot-these-days-31190982.html>

Backlash as bishop threatens to refuse civil part of weddings

The leader of the Catholic Church in Ireland sparked a backlash when he again suggested priests could refuse to conduct the civil part of a wedding ceremony if the same-sex marriage referendum is passed.

<http://www.independent.ie/irish-news/politics/backlash-as-bishop-threatens-to-refuse-civil-part-of-weddings-31195144.html>

No, Archbishop, a 'yes' vote will not change the definition of marriage

<http://www.irishexaminer.com/viewpoints/columnists/fergus-finlay/no-archbishop-a-yes-vote-will-not-change-the-definition-of-marriage-328639.html>

Commissioner reminds gardaí to be 'apolitical' after photo controversy

http://www.irishtimes.com/news/politics/oireachtas/commissioner-reminds-garda%C3%AD-to-be-apolitical-after-photo-controversy-1.2199802?mode=sample&auth-failed=1&pw-origin=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.irishtimes.com%2Fnews%2Fpolitics%2Foireachtas%2Fcommissioner-reminds-garda%25C3%25AD-to-be-apolitical-after-photo-controversy-1.2199802%3Futm_source%3Ddlvr.it%26utm_medium%3Dtwitter

Same-Sex Unions and the European Court of Human Rights

http://www.thepublicdiscourse.com/2015/05/14848/?utm_source=The+Witherspoon+Institute&utm_campaign=12db744607-RSS_EMAIL_CAMPAIGN&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_15ce6af37b-12db744607-84102557

HERITAGE

Pilgrimage to the Holy

The May 2015 online exhibition at the RCB Library via the Archive of the Month slot focuses on the topic of pilgrimage to the Holy and a specific library connection. Featured is the churchnewsireland@gmail.com

digitized copy of a journal written in 1962 by a member of the diocese and lay reader, Patricia Ledbetter (now Smyth). As a young student Patricia travelled to Jerusalem and environs, via Holyhead, London, Frankfurt and Beirut, in September of that year, and this unusual journal records her travels and their impact.

Through the centuries, the Holy Land has drawn millions of pilgrims of the three Abrahamic faiths of Judaism, Christianity and Islam. They visit the holy places central to their beliefs – connecting them to their respective faiths in a physical and personal way, and we previously demonstrated one such visit during the late 19th century, with the digitization of a collection of lantern slides that commenced at sea off the coast of the town of Jaffa, available at this permanent link: <http://ireland.anglican.org/about/136> Each visit is distinctive and for every person fortunate enough to go on such a journey, it can be a life-changing experience.

www.ireland.anglican.org/library/archive

Tuesday's Media Coverage

Times

Opinion article criticizing the Church Commissioners investments in 6,900 hectares of commercial forestry. It states moving the funds means they will be invested in 'an asset class that is driven by tax avoidance and much of whose product goes into an even dirtier form of energy than burning coal.'

http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/opinion/thunderer/article4430567.ece?CMP=OTH-gnws-standard-2015_05_04

FT

Report that more than 10,000 people have signed a petition calling on ABP, the Dutch pension fund, to drop its holdings of oil, gas and coal stocks. It says the movement against fossil fuels is gaining momentum, as last week, the Church of England decided to blacklist coal and tar sands investments in what was seen as a victory for campaigners.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/6ee5672e-edb0-11e4-987e-00144feab7de.html?siteedition=intl#axzz3ZEmla2DE>

Times/Mail/Tel/Ind/Guard

Articles discussing the name of the new princess, announced yesterday as Charlotte Elizabeth Diana. Papers say the name honoured two of the most significant women in Prince William's life, his mother and the Queen. They

say the baby will be formally known as Her Royal Highness Princess Charlotte of Cambridge.

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/uk/royalfamily/article4430757.ece>

<http://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2015/may/04/royal-baby-is-named-charlotte-elizabeth-diana>

[http://www.dailymail.co.uk/wires/ap/article-3067286/Gun-salutes-fired-London-honor-Britains-new-princess.html?](http://www.dailymail.co.uk/wires/ap/article-3067286/Gun-salutes-fired-London-honor-Britains-new-princess.html?ITO=1490&ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490)

[ITO=1490&ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490](http://www.independent.co.uk/news/people/princess-charlotte-other-royals-who-have-shared-her-name-10224046.html)

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/people/princess-charlotte-other-royals-who-have-shared-her-name-10224046.html>

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/princess-charlotte/11581853/Bryony-Gordon-After-the-Great-Kate-Wait-thank-goodness-its-Charlotte-not-Tulisa.html>

BBC

Item on five new cygnets born at the Bishop's Palace in Wells, Somerset, being monitored via a new 24-hour webcam. It states a "state-of-the-art" infra-red webcam was installed to follow progress while the female swan was building a new nest. The medieval palace has been home to the bishops of Bath and Wells for 800 years.

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-somerset-32581742>

Monday's Media Coverage

Mail/Tel/Times

Articles on the birth of the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge's daughter talk about focusing on what really matters and debate the choice of her name. They also mention the Rev Jonathan Riviere, rector of St Mary Magdalene church, Sandringham, who said he only referred to the Princess as "a little girl" because he did not know her name.

[http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3066728/DOMINIC-SANDBROOK-hope-ll-focus-minds-matters.html?](http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3066728/DOMINIC-SANDBROOK-hope-ll-focus-minds-matters.html?ITO=1490&ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490)

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/royal-baby/11581051/Meet-the-grandparents-Kate-Middletons-family-are-first-to-the-party.html>

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/uk/article4429836.ece>

Times

Article on the Church of England's investments says it is the biggest private owner of commercial forests in Britain and that it has stepped up its investment in forests compared with 2013, when two per cent of its investment portfolio was in woodland. It states the Church Commissioners have allocated four per cent of their £6 billion investment portfolio to sustainable forestry in the UK and overseas.

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/business/industries/banking/article4429700.ece>

Ind

Report that Ed Miliband and Nick Clegg will be urged by religious and business leaders to ensure every UK worker earns at least the Living Wage, at an event today in London where voters will question party leaders on what they plan to do to improve social justice. It states Citizens UK has created its own manifesto for social justice, which political leaders will be urged to sign. It mentions the Archbishop of York, John Sentamu, talking about the living wage.

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/generalelection/general-election-2015-ed-miliband-and-nick-clegg-to-be-tackled-over-living-wage-plans-10223072.html>

Times

Article on VE Day celebrations states the Queen will light the first of a series of beacons spanning the nation on Friday at the beginning of a weekend of celebrations to mark the 70th anniversary. Three days of events will include a service of remembrance at the Cenotaph in Whitehall and a service of thanksgiving at Westminster Abbey when the Archbishop of Canterbury will give an address. It states on Saturday the country's cathedrals will ring their bells at 11am in celebration of the end of the

Second World War, just as they did 70 years ago.

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/uk/article4429660.ece>

Guard

The Revd George Pitcher writes on clergy and employment rights following the case of the Revd Mark Sharpe, who lost his case at the appeal court. He says clergy don't need employment rights as they work for God, not church management.

<http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2015/may/03/lord-works-in-mysterious-ways-boss-clergy-employment-rights-god>

Metro

Article about feelings on being asked to be a godparent.

<http://metro.co.uk/2015/05/03/13-joys-and-struggles-you-only-understand-if-you-are-a-godparent-5179121/>

BBC

Report that an appeal has been launched to raise money to refurbish one of the largest stained-glass windows in Wales honouring casualties from World War One. The 1920s window at St Paul's Church in Grangetown, Cardiff, depicts air, sea and land battles alongside religious images and trench scenes. It

states the church says the masonry around the window must be replaced.

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-wales-south-east-wales-32517323>

Sunday

Times

Report that a senior judge will decide whether Peter Ball, a retired Church of England bishop, is well enough to stand trial for alleged sex offences, the Old Bailey was told yesterday. A provisional trial date has been set for October.

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/uk/crime/article4428822.ece>

Guard

Report that the growing involvement of the world's religious organisations in the fight to slow down global warming took, what the paper describes as, "a significant step forward on Friday" when the Church of England for the first time **decided that climate change was an ethical reason** and withdrew £12m of investments from companies mining the thermal coal used in power stations and into tar sands.

<http://www.theguardian.com/environment/2015/may/01/church-of-england-wields-its-influence-in-fight-against-climate-change>

Ind

Further report on the £12m divestment with a look at where the Church invests its money with information from the Church Commissioners annual report. Also includes ref to previous investment in Wonga. Short news report in Metro.

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/business/news/church-of-england-pulls-out-of-fossil-fuels-but-where-does-it-invest-its-cash-10219386.html>

<http://metro.co.uk/2015/05/01/the-church-of-england-is-going-green-5177280/>

Mail

Report that Bishop of Salisbury, Nick Holtam, lead bishop on the environment, has been criticised by Synod member Andrea Williams for saying climate change is the biggest moral issue affecting the world. The bishop was speaking out in support of a Vatican statement on climate change earlier in the week. The article also notes criticism of this week's CofE divestment decision with an economist describing it as 'It is a political gesture of trivial environmental impact.'

[http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3064906/Church-England-Bishop-provokes-anger-saying-biggest-moral-issue-affecting-world-CLIMATE-CHANGE.html?](http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3064906/Church-England-Bishop-provokes-anger-saying-biggest-moral-issue-affecting-world-CLIMATE-CHANGE.html?ITO=1490&ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490)

<http://www.mailonsunday.co.uk/debate/article-3064923/PLATELL-S-PEOPLE-women-know-t-spend-don-t-earn.html>

Tel

Report that a VE day Service of Thanksgiving will be held next Sunday (May 10) at Westminster Abbey. It will be led by the Dean of Westminster and will include thanksgiving for reconciliation and unity, and prayers for peace with an address from the Archbishop of Canterbury. Article notes that short services of thanksgiving were held every hour in Westminster Abbey on VE Day in 1945 from 9am to 10pm and attended by approximately 25,000 people.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/history/world-war-two/11513053/VE-celebrations-what-is-happening.html>

Mail

Report that Maryland bishop Heather Cook, (US Episcopal Church), accused of fatally striking a bicyclist while driving drunk in Baltimore has resigned, and her credentials have been revoked, according to officials.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/wires/ap/article-3064679/Episcopal-bishop-accused-drunken-driving-death-resigns.html#ixzz3Yxt6GM00>

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