



Lisa Sharon Harper to speak at Church's Ministry of Healing event

International speaker, author and activist Lisa Sharon Harper (pictured) will speak in Christ Church Cathedral on Saturday, 6 June 2015. The title of the talk is *Forgive Us: Confessions of a Compromised Faith*, taken from her most recent book of the same name. In *Forgive Us*, she and her co-authors call for a Nehemiah-style

corporate confession of the ways the evangelical church in America has injured the very people it should have been serving. Although the book is written from an American perspective, bookseller Richard Ryan thinks it has something to say to an Irish audience, too, calling it ‘a brave, important, hard-hitting book which examines our failings and urges our forgiveness’.

Harper is the Senior Director of Mobilising for Sojourners, a Christian, nonpartisan organisation in the US committed to social justice. She has written extensively on tax reform, immigration reform, health-care reform, poverty, racial justice, and transformational civic engagement. Her faith-rooted approach to advocacy and organising has activated people across the U.S. and around the world to address structural and political injustice as an outward demonstration of their personal faith.

Beginning at 2.00 pm in the cathedral’s spacious Music Room, Harper will draw from Genesis 1, focusing on the significance of the image of God and God’s kind of governance, leading to ‘God’s kind of peace’.

Harper is speaking at the invitation of The Church’s Ministry of Healing: Ireland. ‘I’m very mindful that the difficult conversations

surrounding the marriage referendum will still be fresh,’ said Ministry Coordinator Jessica Stone, ‘And I’m also thinking about the Homeless Jesus sculpture now on the grounds of the cathedral, drawing our attention to people it’s often more comfortable to ignore. I expect Lisa to challenge us—in what ways have we failed to honour the image of God in each other? And I expect she’ll inspire us also—how can we participate in God’s healing mercy? How can we further “God’s kind of peace”?’

Admission to the event is £15/€20, and there will be a reception following the talk. The Book Well will be making copies of Forgive Us along with some other selections available for purchase. Booking is essential and can be made by emailing hello@ministryofhealing.ie.

After the reception, participants are welcome to join in celebrating CMH: Ireland’s Annual Thanksgiving Service at 4.15 pm in the cathedral, a Service of Wholeness & Healing with Holy Communion.

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70 mile pedal for Christian Aid – before 11am service!



Making a brief stop for a photocall in Carnlough are Joanne Cochrane, the Rev Jonny Campbell-Smyth, Alex McClenaghan, Helen Brown, Alan Nesbitt and Ian Cochrane.

Pedal pushers from St Patrick's Parish Church, Jordanstown, and Whiteabbey Presbyterian who cycled 70 miles before church on May 10!

The riders set off from Jordanstown at dawn on at the start of Christian Aid Week, making their

way through Carrick and Larne, along the Antrim coast road to Carnlough before heading inland to Broughshane, on to Doagh and finally back to Jordanstown – in time for the 11am services in their two churches.

The cycle was organised by St Patrick's parishioner Alex McClenaghan, who said it was all about raising awareness of Christian Aid Week and encouraging people to donate when the Christian Aid envelope comes through their door.

She said that the idea behind the dawn start was to “create a bit of empathy with people who have to get up very early every day and do something that's a struggle – walking miles just to collect firewood or water – just to survive.”

Among the group was the Rev Jonny Campbell-Smyth, who had no option but to make it back to Jordanstown before 11am as he had to get his breath back to take part in the service in St Patrick's.

Children's Praise Party proves popular

Down and Dromore Youth and Children's Department hosted a bumper Children's



Praise Party on Saturday 16 May with 310 kids and 97 leaders plus volunteers filling St John's Parish Centre in Moira.

This year's theme was *Get Connected* ('one body many parts', 1 Corinthians 12) and the speaker was Nick Harding – who was guest at the very first diocesan praise party in 2012.

Nick is the Children's Ministry Adviser for the Diocese of Southwell and Nottingham and provides advice, resources, consultation and

training to churches on all matters relating to children's ministry. "He is in high demand so we were privileged to have him with us, not just on Saturday but for the whole weekend", said a diocesan spokesperson.

And the rest of Julie's team? Christine and Mark compered, Laurence lead the worship, Tammi helped engage in prayer, Tim got messy and Angela was creative with puppets.

Dublin clerical appointment

The Revd Ruth Noble has been appointed as Rector of Crumlin and Chapelizod. She will take up the position in August.

A native of County Wicklow, Ruth (nee Jackson) went to secondary school in King's Hospital, Dublin and graduated from Business Studies in Dublin City University. After a year in Birmingham, she moved to Northern Ireland as a member of the community at the Christian Renewal Centre, Rostrevor, County Down and then to the Queen's University Chaplaincy in Belfast.

Ruth was ordained in 2002 for a curacy in St Mark's, Portadown. In 2005, she moved to

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Blarney, County Cork and, while there, completed a Masters Degree focusing on growing churches in the Republic of Ireland. She has been Rector of Mountmellick Group of Parishes since 2010. Ruth and her husband Alan (a native of Belfast) are looking forward to the move to Dublin in August.

Ruth loves growing vegetables, crochet, knitting and listening to podcasts. Unfortunately, despite growing up on a dairy farm, she discovered a few years ago that she has a non-life threatening allergy to dairy and soya products, and so always brings the desert to social gatherings.

She succeeds the Revd Adrienne Galligan who became Rector of Rathfarnham in January.

Pope Francis: Faithful don't need bishops ordering them around

Pope Francis has told bishops to act more like pastors than “pilots” telling the faithful what to do.

Bishops must have “ecclesial sensitivity,” being bold in denouncing cultural trends that offend human dignity, but should also trust their lay



faithful to fulfill their vocations in the world, Pope Francis, who is bishop of Rome, told the other bishops of Italy yesterday at the opening their annual general assembly at the Vatican.

“In reality, laypeople who have an authentic Christian formation do not need a ‘bishop-pilot’ or a ‘monsignor-pilot’ or clerical input to assume their responsibilities at every level from the political to the social, from the economic to the legislative. Instead, they need a ‘bishop-pastor’,” the Pope explained.

“Ecclesial sensitivity” involves taking on “Christ’s attitudes of humility, compassion, mercy, concreteness and wisdom,” the Pope said,

before adding that part of “ecclesial sensitivity” is “reinforcing the indispensable role of the laity willing to take on the responsibilities that belong to them.”

During their meeting, which will run until May 21, the bishops will discuss how their faithful have received Pope Francis’s apostolic exhortation, *The Joy of the Gospel*, and look at ways to implement its teaching.

Pope Francis told them, “At this moment of history when we often are surrounded by discouraging news, by local and international situations that make us experience affliction and tribulation — in this framework that truly is not comforting — our vocation as Christians and as bishops is to go against the tide.”

Bishops, and all Catholics with them, are called “to be joyful witnesses of the risen Christ in order to transmit joy and hope to others.”

“It is awful,” he said, to meet a bishop, priest or religious who is “beaten down, unmotivated or exhausted. He is like a dry well where the people cannot find water to quench their thirst.”

First English Dominican given consultor role in Pontifical Council

Dominican priest Fr Timothy Radcliffe has been appointed as a consultor of the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace, Vatican Radio has reported.

Fr Timothy was ordained in 1971 and served as Master of the Dominican order from 1992 to 2001. He is the only member of the English Province of the Dominicans to have held the office since the Order's foundation in 1216.

Fr Timothy currently works as director of the Las Casas Institute of Blackfriars at Oxford University which is dedicated to promoting of social justice and human rights. He is also an honorary doctor of divinity at the university.

He is the author a number of books including What is the Point of Being a Christian? and Why Go To Church?

Media digest

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Report on research into attitudes about death and dying for Dying Matters Week (a coalition of 30,000 members including the CofE). Includes reference to CofE's launch of Gravetalk resources.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/religion/11611621/Faith-no-more-Britons-no-longer-consider-turning-to-God-in-death.htm>

Times/Guard

Report that Britain's biggest payday lender, Wonga is targeting millions of "hard working" people who would not have thought previously of using its services with a marketing campaign. They state politicians, trade unions and the Archbishop of Canterbury have railed against the lender, which charged annual interest rates of as much as 5,853 per cent.

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/business/industries/banking/article4444253.ece>

<http://www.theguardian.com/business/2015/may/19/wonga-relaunch-targets-hard-working-people-1509-percent-apr-brand-to-stay>

Mail

Opinion column by a doctor on the hidden problem of anxiety, which praises Katharine Welby-Roberts, the daughter of the Archbishop of Canterbury, for talking publicly about her mental health problems and her struggle with anxiety.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/health/article-3084035/THE-MIND-DOCTOR-MAX-PEMBERTON-Divorce-damaged-children-waiting-room.html#ixzz3aYgqf4gg>

FT

Report that Sir Hector Sants has been appointed to review the competitiveness of British banks on behalf of the industry. It states he has been chairman of the Archbishop of Canterbury's task force on promoting responsible savings and credit.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/7079fab0-fda9-11e4-9e96-00144feabdc0.html#axzz3aStbziKs>

BBC

Video on Birmingham Cathedral's entry at Chelsea Flower Show

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-birmingham-32782608>

Tel

Reports on clergy having [professional stand-up comedy training session](#) to help liven up their sermons at this year's Christian Resources Exhibition (CRE). *Telegraph* says a poll of a panel of 1,800 regular churchgoers across the UK churchgoers found clergy in East Anglia least likely preach a sermon with a joke or something that made them laugh, according to findings by Christian Research, commissioned by the CRE. But it states congregations in Yorkshire and the Humber region have the most entertaining services, just ahead of London.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/religion/11611457/East-Anglia-damp-fens-but-dry-sermons.html>

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/uk/article4444277.ece>

FT/Guard

Articles that the University of Oxford is to shun direct investments in coal and oil sands companies in a move hailed as a victory by fossil fuel divestment campaigners. It mentions various organisations plans, including the [Church of](#)

England's, to sell or cut holdings in coal companies, and in some cases oil sands groups.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/b2b48296-fd82-11e4-9e96-00144feabdc0.html#axzz3aStbziKs>

<http://www.theguardian.com/environment/2015/may/18/oxford-university-rules-out-investing-in-coal-and-tar-sands>

Civil Society

Report on salary paid to Church Commissioners Director of Investments following publication of their annual results

http://www.civilsociety.co.uk/finance/news/content/19678/church_commissioners_investment_director_gets_18_per_cent_pay_rise_to_409000