



## **Portadown Presbyterian minister has welcomed the ‘yes’ vote**

The Rev Christina Bradley of Armagh Road Presbyterian Church – in giving a personal view to the Portadown Times – has described the 62 per cent majority as “inclusive and compassionate, thus aiming at ending possible

discrimination, and starting to treat everyone the same, whatever their sexual orientation”.

Her response is in contrast to reactions from the main churches in Portadown. High-ranking Methodists, Church of Ireland people and Roman Catholics back official statements from their all-Ireland leaders. But Mrs Bradley disagrees with the Presbyterian Church in Ireland (PCI) which is “deeply disappointed at the result (of the referendum).<sup>2</sup>

A statement from ex-Moderator Norman Hamilton said, “The Constitution (of the Republic) will no longer reflect the historic – and Christian – view of marriage that it is exclusively between one man and one woman, which is the position the PCI upholds and maintains.”

Mrs Bradley said, “The referendum wasn’t a debate on the institution of marriage as the basis of human society as we know it, but about ending discrimination.

“Who is the state and who is the church in a democratic society? It is the people. The people (of the Republic) have voted by an overwhelming 62.1 per cent majority to be inclusive and compassionate.

“This warm-heartedness is good to see in a world which often is a cold place as much for women in leadership as it is for gay and lesbian people in churches. I welcome the yes vote.”

But other local church leaders are disappointed. Kenneth Twyble is the leading lay reader of the Methodist Church in Ireland. He is second in line to the president, the Rev Peter Murray, who said, “The referendum result is not compatible with what we recognise as the basis of Christian marriage, which is between a man and a woman. Our practice remains that no minister has the authority to conduct the marriage of same-sex partners.”

Mr Twyble commented, “I agree whole-heartedly with the president’s statement. It is based on the Scriptures, and is released with compassion and understanding.”

Portadown Parish Rector, Canon Jim Campbell said, “The Scriptures are clear in their opposition not only to homosexuality, but also to adultery and fornication. It is true that the Church of Ireland is divided north and south on same sex marriage, with at least one bishop from the Republic confirming that he voted yes. But these difficulties will have to be faced.”

## **Knocknamuckley rector regrets dropping traditional service**

As tearful scenes heralded news that Rev Alan Kilpatrick was moving his unconventional service and causing a split in the congregation, the under-fire cleric spoke to Una Brankin of the Belfast Telegraph his regrets at the unholy row.

The controversial minister behind the split at a rural Church of Ireland parish near Portadown has admitted it was a mistake to drop traditional services entirely since he took over in 2013.

Scottish-born Rev Alan Kilpatrick (47) is moving his contemporary Pentecostal-style service from St Matthias Church in Knocknamuckley to the cross-community Goodyear Sports and Social Club in Craigavon from Sunday.

The congregation was informed of the decision by the Church on Wednesday night, leading to tearful scenes as people realised they would be leaving lifelong friends and the place they had worshipped in for years.

The move follows a long list of objections to Rev Kilpatrick's more unconventional ministry and



***Church-goers filing inside for a meeting to discuss the congregation's divisions over the rector***

association with the Californian Bethel Church of Supernatural Ministries.

Approximately 60 parishioners - around half the congregation - are expected to follow him to his new place of worship, much to the dismay of those who will continue to attend traditional services at St Matthias under the newly-appointed Rev Moore.

"On reflection, I should probably have started a traditional service earlier in my incumbency," Rev Kilpatrick said last night.

"Do I feel my style of ministry was too modern for the congregation? When I came here, I had a conversation with the nominators, who made it clear that the parish had to move forward in order to grow and to connect with those outside the church.

"I want to see healing come to the parish now and this move offers the best opportunity for that to happen. I believe God called me to Knocknamuckley and I still feel called to minister in the Craigavon area."

Rev Kilpatrick, who has four studs in his left ear, and wears jeans and an open-necked shirt in church, apart from at funeral services, stressed that he was not asked to move to another congregation but "chose to do so".

"I have been hurt by the way events have been played out in the newspapers and on social media when I believe the issues could have been resolved in a more private and less divisive way," he said.

"I have always been, and remain, an evangelical Christian who loves the scriptures and who longs to see lives changed by the power of God." ....

...Meanwhile, the Knocknamuckley Concerned Parishioners Group, formed to oppose the minister, feel that the Rev Kilpatrick's new 'missional congregation' services in Craigavon will further deepen divisions in the close-knit parish and further deplete dwindling church attendance, a growing problem readily acknowledged by the Church of Ireland authorities.

"It has caused big upset and the split has been exacerbated by the decision to place Rev Kilpatrick's service on our doorstep, less than two miles away," one one group member said. "If he'd been moved further, the congregation may have been able to pull together with prayer and goodwill, and survive after he'd gone.

"Instead, there was no consultation with the parishioners; just a meeting in which we were given no choice.

"Our grievances have been ignored. We've been split into two sides. Some will go to Alan's services and that includes a personal friend of mine whom I've known since school. She said to me straight, if Alan goes - I go." More at -

<http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/northern-ireland/maverick-rector-alan-kilpatrick-regrets-modern-style-of-sermon-31262531.html>

## **Presbyterian General Assembly to take place next week**

The General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland begins next week with the installation of the new Moderator on Monday evening. Business commences at 9.30 am on Tuesday 2nd June and will conclude on Thursday 4th June.

A guide to General Assembly procedure and Assembly reports is available at -  
<https://www.presbyterianireland.org/Resources/General-Assembly>

A live stream will operate during the week at -  
<https://www.presbyterianireland.org/Resources/General-Assembly/General-Assembly-2015/2015-General-Assembly-Live-Stream?ID=7689>

## **Cleric warns over occult ‘Charlie Charlie’ internet game**

**A Derry based priest has warned against the dangers of dabbling in the occult following reports children in the north west are taking**



## **part in an 'demonic' internet game known as Charlie, Charlie.**

News Letter - Fr. Michael Canny said that such dabblings as the new internet craze - which has gone viral around the world and involves children trying to summon a Mexican demon called Charlie - could prove extremely damaging.

Local Sinn Fein Councillor Sandra Duffy meanwhile has warned that local families have expressed deep concerns over the prevalence of the game, which involves a simplistic ouija board type set up. There have also been reports that schoolchildren in Derry have been told by teachers over recent days that they must not play Charlie, Charlie.

When contacted about the issue, Fr Canny told the Derry Journal: "I am not familiar with the new internet craze called 'Charlie, Charlie' which involves the summoning of a Mexican demon called Charlie.

"When I hear of such phenomenon I am reminded of the words of the Christian author C.S. Lewis who once compared people who get involved in this activity as entering into a 'swampy jungle'. In other words - a very dangerous place.

“Sometimes people get involved innocently in the web of séances. Children may decide to play it on a rainy day; sometime teenagers may get curious to ‘see what will happen’, or to see if there is anything in it’. Sometimes the results are weak, something moves slightly. Sometimes the curiosity slides into a habit, a regular gathering, even an obsession.”

Laying out the religious guidelines in relation to such matters, Fr Canny said: “The Catholic Church teaches that: It is not lawful to assist at any spiritualistic meetings, conversations with spirits, or manifestations of spirits. It matters not whether a medium is present or not, nor whether the meeting seems to be above board and apparently conducted from religious motives.

“A Catholic may not be present at such meetings, even as an onlooker; let alone asking questions of departed spirits and listening to their supposed replies.

More at -

<http://www.newsletter.co.uk/cleric-warns-over-occult-charlie-charlie-internet-game-1-6767855>

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## Down & Connor Theology of the Body formation initiative

Father Peter O’Kane PP of Strangford & Kilclief, County Down, leads the TOB Team that just launched a [diocese-wide Theology of the Body formation initiative](#).

Fr O’Kane has written a guest post for the Christopher West Cor Project. The project was inspired by Pope John Paul II “Theology of the Body”. He states

“When Pope John Paul II visited Ireland in 1979 (Sept. 29-Oct. 1), he had already given the first four of his Wednesday audiences on the Theology of the Body (TOB) in the preceding weeks. A few days after his departure from Shannon Airport for his first visit to the United States, I started my studies for the priesthood at our diocesan seminary in Belfast. Looking back over the years, I wish I had known during my seminary formation and later in priestly ministry what I now know about this amazing gift that John Paul gave to the church and to the world.

“Many years later, as my interest in John Paul II’s TOB and the desire to share it with others increased, I started to look for a course that



***Father Peter O’Kane with members of the TOB team***

would help me to help others catch the fire of this teaching that seeks to answer two of the most fundamental human questions: *What does it mean to be human?* and *How can I live my life in a way that will bring true happiness?*

“My search brought me, in August 2013, to one of Christopher West’s Head and Heart Immersion courses at Quarryville, Pa., organized by the Theology of the Body Institute. After a grace-filled week of study, prayer and sharing in the company of fellow students of all states of life from around the world, I returned to my parish more convinced than ever that everybody ought to have the opportunity to know the TOB and the hope it gives for personal and relational healing, renewal and transformation....”

More at -

<http://corproject.com/guest-post-re-evangelizing-ireland-using-the-theology-of-the-body/#sthash.tWvaxTao.dpuf>

## **Entertainment and Evensong to celebrate Guinness restoration of St Patrick's**

An evening of entertainment will be held in Celebration of the Guinness Restoration of St Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin, in 1865 on Saturday 6 June at 6.30pm featuring the Guinness Choir and Evensong to commemorate and give thanks for The Guinness Restoration of the Cathedral in 1865 on Sunday 7 June at 3.15

## **Orangefield welcomes a new rector**

The Revd Ross Wilson has been instituted as rector of St John's, Orangefield, Belfast by the Bishop of Down and Dromore, Rt Rev Harold Miller. The preacher at the service was Archdeacon David McClay, rector of Willowfield, where Ross has served as curate for the past 3 years.

Welcoming the new rector on behalf of the Select Vestry, Barabara Lomas pointed out that it was something of a homecoming for Ross as his grandparents, aunts and uncles and even his mother had strong connections with the parish.

Ross is married to Sonia and they have 3 girls aged between 9 and 15. He was brought up in Bangor and then Ballynahinch before going to university in Bath where he met his future wife. They married and worked in business around London for a few years before joining a Christian charity called Viva Network.

About 10 years ago the family moved to Thailand with Church Mission Society to help develop a social action project. Tragically, within 6 months of their arrival, their leader died suddenly and the slum where they worked was destroyed by fire. They began working for an Anglican church in the city-centre instead and loved it!

“During this time, we became convinced that God was asking me to get ordained, as a life-calling to encourage people in faith,” says Ross. “So after 6 years in the Far East, we returned to England for theological training in Bristol before moving back home to Northern Ireland – to Willowfield Parish – where we have enjoyed 3 very happy years.”

Ross loves sport but particularly enjoys watching football (Nottingham Forest fan) and rugby (Ulster season ticket holder). Sonia loves movies and chocolate!

Of their move to Orangefield, Ross says: “We are really excited to be part of what God wants to do in and through His church at St John’s, Orangefield. We have already met a number of amazing people who are part of the church here, and are looking forward to getting to know many others in the church and in the neighbourhood. We are praying that God will grow things in St Johns....grow our faith together, grow the number of people we are helping to engage with God and grow our impact together on the community around us.

“As we begin to minister on the Castlereagh Road, please pray for the transition and settling-in period – that we would build good relationships with the people of Orangefield Parish and that together we will be fruitful for God.”

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## **Yeats 150 - C of I Archives record key events of the poet's life**

Yeats2015 <http://yeats2015.com/> is a year-long event to celebrate nationally and internationally the life and work of William Butler Yeats, who was born 150 years ago on 13 June 1865. Entering into the spirit of this particular commemoration, the RCB Library in Dublin, which is the main record repository of the Church of Ireland, presents online significant evidence of the poet's life and connection with places in Ireland (his baptism and burial) that may not have been viewed by the public before as June's Archive of the Month.

Both Yeats' baptism in Donnybrook parish church, Dublin, a month after his birth, on 12 July 1865, and the re-interment of his remains at the graveyard in Drumcliffe, County Sligo, on 17 September 1948 (which took place some nine years after his death at Menton, France, on 28 January 1939) are underpinned by his Church of Ireland identity.

William Butler Yeats was born into an extraordinarily talented artistic family: his father John Butler Yeats, a lawyer by profession, but whose real interest was the arts, gave up the law



soon after being called to the bar in Dublin to devote himself to artistic studies, becoming a renowned portraitist. Yeats's sisters Susan (Lily), born in 1866, and Elizabeth (Lolly), born in 1868, would become innovative craft-workers and printers, while his brother Jack born in 1871 became one of Ireland's most celebrated painters. Their mother Sarah Pollexfen was from the well-established business family of Pollexfens and Middletons in Sligo, who married John Butler Yeats on 10 September 1863 in St John's parish church, Sligo. The family would move between Dublin, London and Sligo while Yeats was growing up but it was in Sligo where Yeats and his siblings would spend much of their youth which he regarded as his spiritual home.

It was here in the little parish churchyard at Drumcliffe (where Yeats' paternal great-grandfather, Revd John Yeats had been rector between 1811 and 1846) that the poet was finally laid to rest in September 1948. In the latter years of his life Yeats and his wife spent a good deal of time in the south of France, where he died at the Hôtel Idéal Séjour, in [Menton](#), on 28 January 1939. It had been his express wish that should he die in France, he was to be buried quickly (and temporarily) with a minimum of fuss, having advised his wife: "If I die here bury me up there [at Roquebrune] and then in a year's time

when the newspapers have forgotten me, dig me up and plant me in Sligo”.

After a protracted period of almost a decade, complicated by the intervention of the Second World War, and in accordance with his wishes, Yeats' body was finally returned to Ireland and his spiritual home in Sligo. On 17 September 1948, a simple Church of Ireland burial service conducted by the then rector of the parish, the Revd James Wilson, and assisted by the bishop of Kilmore, Elphin and Ardagh, the Rt Revd Albert Hughes, was attended by hundreds of people from all walks of life, as well as his family. The record of burial was subsequently entered onto the parish burial register.

The RCB Library's online exhibition will feature the baptismal and burial entries, together with other illustrative material documenting his Church of Ireland roots.

See - [www.ireland.anglican.org/library/archive](http://www.ireland.anglican.org/library/archive)

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## Over 180 new clerical abuse allegations reported in past year



184 allegations of historical clerical abuse have been brought to the attention of a national watchdog organisation in the last year.

[journal.ie](http://journal.ie) - The allegations relate to physical, emotional and sexual abuse committed by members of the clergy between 1950 and 2006, according to an annual report published this week by the National Board for the Safeguarding of Children in the Catholic Church in Ireland.

In the year under review, 58 new abuse allegations were made against Diocesan clergy while 126 concerned religious priests, brothers and sisters.

The allegations, which were all raised during the 2014-15 year ending 31 March, have now been passed on to the Gardaí or PSNI and, if necessary, to Tusla or the Northern Irish Health and Social Care Trusts, the Board said.

In a statement, Teresa Devlin, CEO of the Board, said the past year has seen “a high level of compliance with the Church’s safeguarding standards” and that the requirement to promptly report allegations is now fully complied with.

More at -

[http://www.thejournal.ie/184-clerical-abuse-allegations-reported-2130556-May2015/?utm\\_source=twitter\\_self](http://www.thejournal.ie/184-clerical-abuse-allegations-reported-2130556-May2015/?utm_source=twitter_self)

## **Pope Francis: Marriage and family facing ‘serious cultural crisis’**

Pope Francis told Dominican bishops in an audience this week that they must “continue to present the beauty of Christian marriage” since

the family is “going through a serious cultural crisis.”

The pope emphasized to the bishops that families are affected by the “great challenges of our time,” urging them to “reinforce the faith and the identity of all the members of the Church.”

“Marriage and the family are going through a serious cultural crisis. But this does not mean that they have lost importance, but that their need is felt all the more. The family is the place where one learns to live together in differences, to forgive and to experience forgiveness, and where parents transmit values to their children and, singularly, the faith,” he said.

Speaking about the upcoming Jubilee of Mercy, the pope urged the bishops to “not fail in the work of matrimonial and family reconciliation, as a good of peaceful coexistence.”

“Let us continue to present the beauty of Christian marriage: ‘to be married in the Lord’ is an act of faith and love, in which the spouses, through their free consent, become transmitters of the blessing and grace of God for the Church and for society,” he said.

## Media digest

### Ind/Tel

Further reports that the UK's Methodist Church is to make a public apology after an investigation uncovered nearly 2,000 reported cases of abuse - including 914 allegations involving sexual abuse. The independent inquiry looked at the Church's response to complaints and allegations dating back to 1950. <http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/methodist-church-apologises-for-decades-of-abuse-10281824.html>  
<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/religion/11634966/Methodist-Church-apologises-for-failing-to-protect-children-from-sexual-abuse.html>

### Mail & Exp

Articles on Buckingham Palace garden parties includes photos and mention of the Queen greeting the first woman bishop, the Bishop of Stockport, Libby Lane, with her husband George. <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/femail/article-3101206/The-Queen-Princess-Anne-Princess-Beatrice-welcome-sunshine-array-bright-colours-greet-guests-Buckingham-Palace-garden-party.html#ixzz3bVAX1vnl>

<http://www.express.co.uk/news/royal/580677/Princess-Michael-Palace-garden-party>

### Mail/Express

Report that a mother has criticised Reverend Tim Hayes at St John's Church in Dunkinfield, Manchester (Chester Diocese) after he refused to baptise her nine-month-old son because she is not married to the baby's father. It states Heather Lawrence and her partner Jonathan, tried to arrange a service with, but were told they could only have a blessing. The Revd Hayes, who has been the vicar at St John's for 21 years, said that this had always been the policy at his church.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3100602/Christian-mother-hits-vicar-refused-baptise-nine-month-old-son-isn-t-married-father.html#ixzz3bUyldUsm>  
<http://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/580622/Vicar-refuses-baptise-boy-parents-not-married>

## **Guardian**

Lyse Doucet wins Sandford St Martins award.

<http://www.theguardian.com/media/2015/may/28/bbc-lyse-doucet-sandford-st-martin-awards>

## **Guard**

Report that Norway's decision to dump all coal-focused investments from its \$900bn sovereign wealth fund could unleash a wave of divestment from other large funds, according to investment experts. The fund, the largest in the world, is one of the top 10 investors in the global coal industry. It mentions the Church of England among

organisations that have cut or curbed coal investments recently.

<http://www.theguardian.com/environment/2015/may/28/norway-fund-could-trigger-wave-of-large-fossil-fuel-divestments-say-experts>

## **Ind/Mirror**

Item on 30th anniversary of the Heysel disaster when 39 fans died waiting to watch a European final between Liverpool and Juventus. It states Ian Rush, who played for both clubs, will attend a commemorative mass at the church of the Gran Madre di Dio in Turin, while the Liverpool club chaplain the Rev Bill Bygroves will lead a private memorial ceremony at Anfield's Heysel memorial where Phil Neal, club captain that night, will lay a wreath.

<http://www.independent.co.uk/sport/football/news-and-comment/heysel-disaster-30th-anniversary-liverpool-have-seen-too-much-tragedy-to-forget-fateful-day-in-belgium-10283160.html>

<http://www.mirror.co.uk/sport/football/news/liverpools-1985-squad-attend-heysel-5780541>

## **London Eve Standard**

Report that Graham Gregory, 79, has been sentenced to three years in prison for indecently assaulting a young girl from his south London congregation more than 40 years ago, while he was a curate in a Wandsworth church. It states



Gregory, of Brockfield Park Drive, Huntington, has also worked in Hastings, Chichester, York and the Isle of Man as a vicar, and police are appealing for anyone he abused there to contact them.

<http://www.standard.co.uk/news/crime/paedophile-vicar-jailed-40-years-after-indecently-assaulting-girl-from-south-london-congregation-10281980.html>

## **Mail**

Report behind the scenes at Westminster Abbey looking at work to transform the 13th century Triforium into a new public viewing and gallery. It states the £19million space will exhibit a number of historical objects from the church - including royal funeral effigies, silverware and stonework - and give visitors impressive views down over its buildings.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3101246/Behind-scenes-Westminster-Abbey-s-new-19million-facelift-Work-continues-clear-priceless-artefacts-13th-Century-Triforium-ahead-transformation-new-public-gallery.html#ixzz3bVBWUaaH>

## **FT/Guard**

Further reviews of new play *Temple* by Simon Waters at Donmar Warehouse in London, which is based on what happened at St Paul's

Cathedral during the Occupy protest camped outside.

[http://www.ft.com/cms/s/](http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/82250224-052d-11e5-8612-00144feabdc0.html?siteedition=intl)

[0/82250224-052d-11e5-8612-00144feabdc0.html?](http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/82250224-052d-11e5-8612-00144feabdc0.html?siteedition=intl)

[siteedition=intl](http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/82250224-052d-11e5-8612-00144feabdc0.html?siteedition=intl)

<http://www.theguardian.com/stage/2015/may/28/the-temple-review-simon-russell-beale-donmar-warehouse-st-pauls>

## **And finally...**

### **Ind**

Residents from a village in Somerset will hold a funeral for their local duck, Desmond Drake, who was eaten by a fox, after spending more than 25 years at the village pond in Compton Martin. It states the village church's flag will be lowered to half-mast and a wake for Desmond Drake will be held at the pub, The Ring O'Bells, although a date has not yet been decided.

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/funeral-to-be-held-for-local-duck-in-somerset-village-10281556.html>