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LGBT protest at Christian conference for those with ‘sexual temptations’

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Campaigners for LGBT rights have held a protest outside a Christian conference claiming to offer support to people experiencing “same sex temptations”.

The day-long event in Windsor Baptist Church in Belfast was organised by the True Freedom Trust.

Demonstrators held a peaceful picket outside the church, branding the conference a form of gay conversion therapy.

But the True Freedom Trust said the protesters had misunderstood its message.

It insisted it did not provide therapy or counselling, rather “pastoral support” for Christians who find themselves attracted to members of the same sex but who want to adhere to the Biblical definition of sex as between a married man and woman.

Around 25 to 30 people gathered outside the church in south Belfast on Saturday morning to highlight their opposition. They waved rainbow flags and held placards proclaiming that “love needs no cure”.

The demonstration was largely silent, with no songs, chants or speeches. A number of police officers maintained a low key presence, monitoring the event from the other side of the road.

The protest was organised by LGBT health advocacy group the Rainbow Project.

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Campaigners for LGBT rights holding a protest outside Windsor Baptist Church in Belfast.

Rainbow Project director John O'Doherty said the conference was engaging in "quackery".

"The True Freedom Trust is a reparative therapy organisation that believe that there is something wrong with being gay and people should move away from being gay," he said.

"We will always stand opposed to this type of quackery in Belfast, we will always protest these events.

"The actions of all reparative therapy and conversion therapy groups are the same - they believe that there's

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something wrong with being gay and they seek to support people in moving away from being LGBT.

“We don’t believe that’s the case, we believe that sharing that message is homophobic, we believe that the sharing of that message - particularly within faith groups - has caused huge harm to our community, including substantial loss of life [through suicide].

“We will always stand opposed to it because this message is harmful to our community and LGBT people deserve to know that they are equal to anybody else within society and their identity is something to be celebrated, not something to be shameful of.”

The Belfast conference is one of a series being held by the True Freedom Trust across the UK. In promotional literature, the trust said the event was “aimed at Christians who experience same-sex temptations”.

Stuart Parker, the director of True Freedom Trust, said he respected the protesters’ right to disagree, but he urged respect for his right to hold to his Christian beliefs.

“The True Freedom Trust is an organisation for Christians, we have been going since 1977, and we seek to encourage those, particularly those who have same-sex attractions and believe in an orthodox understanding of what the Bible says about sexuality, just seek to encourage them in their faith and their walk with God,” he said.

“It’s very clear in our policies and on our website that we don’t point people toward conversion therapy, we are not a

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**True Freedom
Trust director
Stuart Parker
outside
Windsor
Baptist Church**



therapeutic organisation. We are a pastoral ministry, so we look to point people to what the Bible says, to encourage people in their Christian walk.

“We might point people towards a good quality counsellor but not one who wants to direct people to a certain outcome, so we just encourage good quality ethical counselling, but we are not a counselling organisation ourselves.”

He added: “Our interpretation of the Bible, which is the mainstream orthodox position of the church in the UK, is that sexual behaviour, God has made it for the marriage for a man and a woman.

“That is the traditional orthodox position and that’s what we would encourage people to believe. We are not out there to change other people’s minds, we are just here to support and minister to those people who agree with that position.”

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Asked what message he had for the LGBT protesters, Mr Parker said: “They are very welcome to believe what they want to believe but I think they have misunderstood what we are about - we are not a therapeutic or counselling organisation, we are not here to push our views on other people who disagree with them.

“We respect other people’s right to believe whatever they want, we just ask that they would respect our right to hold to an orthodox position on the Bible.”

Crosslinks summer meeting In Lisburn

Crosslinks in Ireland is holding a summer meeting on Friday June 7 in Lisburn Cathedral. Doors open at 6.30pm for 7pm start.

Guest Speaker is new Crosslinks Mission Director John McLernon. John will be speaking from 2 Corinthians 4 and his theme is ‘God’s Glory to the Nations.’

This meeting will inspire and challenge you to consider God’s plans for the nations and how you can play your part. With stories and snapshots from various aspects of Crosslinks activity, it will show how individuals and churches can partner with Crosslinks in taking God’s word to God’s world.

This is a great chance to meet John as well as other Crosslinks supporters, members, mission partners and

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staff. Book your free place today at www.crosslinks.org/events

To learn more about the summer event, email ireland@crosslinks.org
or telephone 028 9079 6028

CMS Ireland Annual Members' Day

CMS Ireland hosted their Annual Members' Day and AGM, / Shine/, on Saturday March 30 in the Emmaus Renewal and Conference Centre in Swords, Dublin.

More than 50 CMSI members and staff came together to hear the latest news and updates from global partners and parishes, as well as holding the Annual General Meeting with the election of new members for the CMSI Board of Trustees.

The members present were representative of the entire island of Ireland with people travelling from Coleraine and Cork to take part in the day.

CMSI Stars stand 'in the margins' with their global partners.

The programme included uplifting worship, prayers and reflective readings. Staff and volunteers shared stories highlighting CMSI's 2019 annual theme, 'In the Margins.' Members heard how the global church in South Sudan, Nepal and Burundi is reaching out and meeting the needs of people /in the margins/.

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Carla Campbell from Comber parish, shared her experiences of being part of a Peace and Reconciliation Team to meet with global partners from across South Sudan who are currently refugees in Uganda. She painted an inspiring picture of partnership and the impact that personnel connections with those they met has had on her life as well as the beginning of 'life-long friendships.' She shared her hopes for the growth of partnership links between Comber parish and the church in Maridi.

Billy Smyth from Moira parish and a former CMSI Mission Partner, shared his recent experience of visiting Yei Diocese, South Sudan at the invitation of Bishop Hilary in February. Billy shared his insights into the current peace situation and his desire to continue to support the diocese as it strives to be a place of hope and practical help for the local community. Billy is due to return to Yei later in April for the reopening of the Vocational Training College.

CMSI Chairperson the Rev Adrian Dorrian led the AGM after lunch. Addresses from Adrian and Mission Director, Jenny Smyth, gave the membership great insight into the thought-through and well-developed plans that the CMSI staff work to, highlighting that the current strategic plan is a document used by all departments.

Former Trustee Olwen Laird gave a comprehensive financial report and shared some encouraging highlights from the patterns of giving from individuals and parishes over the last year.

New Trustees were elected to join the Board, members are Prof Frank Dobbs (Agherton Parish, Connor), Mr Will Grier, Mr David Reynolds, Mrs Maureen Clarke, Rev Adrian

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Dorrian (Chairperson), Mrs Lou Talbot- Beirne, Ms Gracious Nyamupachitu, and Mr Norman Jackson. / (The Rev Captain Geoffrey Walmsley and Mr Niall Manogue were not present.)

Walk and Lunch at Tullyveery House for Brainwaves NI

The Friends of Down are organising a Walk and Lunch at Tullyveery House on Sunday 28th April in support of Brainwaves NI.

An 8 mile ramble from Tullyveery House Weddings by Killyleagh, on minor roads, past Killyleagh Castle, along the shore of Strangford Lough, through the Delamont Estate and back to Tullyveery. There will also be a shorter version walk of around 3 miles.

The aim is to promote awareness for Brainwaves NI and in doing so to raise substantial funds to support all those affected by brain tumour.

The walk will be followed by a lunch at Tullyveery House, accompanied with music played by the Ulster Youth Orchestra.

Brainwaves NI will also run a ballot on the day, with amazing prizes including a week in Barbados at a 5 star beach villa for six, a week at a County Donegal cottage and much more....

Tullyveery House are generously hosting the event, with Jane's Kitchen and many local suppliers. If you would like to

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join us or would like to give a donation, however small or large please see all details:

www.justgiving.com/fundraising/friendsofdownwalkforbrainwaves

As part of the fundraising programme there is one week in an exclusive Barbados penthouse for up to six people up for grabs! Bids are invited from £900 over on Ross's Auctioneers & Valuers.

Please see the following link;

<https://www.rosss.com/lot-details/barbados-beach-front-villa/139896/>

Top school choirs of year announced

The top senior and junior school choirs in the BBC Radio Ulster School Choir Of The Year have been announced.

They are Ebrington Primary School and Thornhill College, both in Londonderry.

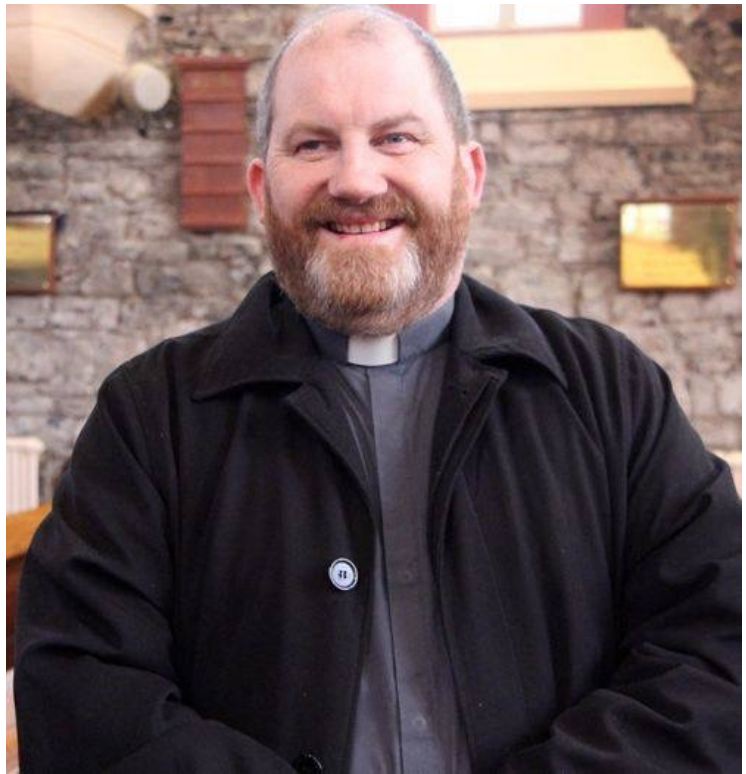
The final was broadcast from the Ulster Hall in Belfast. Sixty-two schools took part in the competition, with six schools making it to the final - three primary and three secondary schools.

The awards were presented by guest judge Carrie Grant, a vocal coach.

News briefs

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+++Appointment to Kingcourt Union of Parishes - Rev. Martin O'Kelly who has been Curate of Christ Church, Bray since 2016. He assisted in St. John the Evangelist, Coolock and All Saints Raheny. Previous to that, he completed his Deacon Intern year in the Edenderry Union of Parishes.



+++Institution in Fermoy - Yesterday afternoon, at a special Service in Christ Church, Fermoy, the Bishop of Cork, Cloyne and Ross, Rt Rev Paul Colton, instituted the Reverend Gary Paulsen as Rector of the Parish.

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**+++PCI Belfast
Young Adults**

gathering - Any young adult living or working within Belfast is welcome to Great Victoria Street on the second Tuesday each month. The



next gathering is Tuesday 9th April at 6.30pm. Come share a meal, spend some time together with other Christians and join with a community who would make you very welcome.

+++Belfast Hub seeks interns - Every year the staff and students at the Hub are joined by a group of passionate young adults who have a desire to grow in their faith, live in Christian community, and be a part of God's ministry on the campuses of Belfast city. If that sounds like you, The Hib would love you to apply for our internship programme. For more info and to apply visit <https://www.thehubbelfast.org/interns/>

+++Would you like to sing hymns with over 9000 people at the SSE arena? Join Keith & Kristyn Getty for the Sing! Belfast tour on 15 June 2019 @ 7.30pm. 1000 voices of the New Irish Arts. Plus a special devotional from pastor John Piper! Hurry - tickets are selling fast!

+++Holy Week and Easter at Belfast Cathedral - The recently retired Bishop of Aberdeen and Orkney, the Right

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Rev Dr Bob Gillies, will be guest preacher at two key services in St Anne's Cathedral, Belfast, during Holy Week.

+++Food for thought - "We have a strange illusion that mere time cancels sin...The guilt is washed out not by time but by repentance and the blood of Christ: if we have repented these early sins we should remember the price of our forgiveness and be humble." CSLewis - The Problem of Pain

Today in Christian history

April 8, 1378: Bartolomeo Prignano is elected Pope Urban VI. Mired in political controversy even before his election (threats from masses of violent demonstrators helped drive his election), his violent demeanor did little to contradict rumors that he was insane. His electors conspired to leave Rome and name a new pope (Clement VII), starting the Great Western Schism.

April 8, 1546: At its fourth session, the Council of Trent adopts Jerome's Latin translation of the Bible (called the Vulgate), completed in 405, as the only authentic Latin text of the Scriptures. It became the official Bible of the Roman Catholic Church.

April 8, 1857: A small group of Dutch immigrants, meeting in Zeeland, Michigan, organize the Christian Reformed Church.

April 8, 1901: After nearly 30 years of successful church planting in New Guinea, Presbyterian missionary James Chalmers (accompanied by missionary Oliver Tomkins, who

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had just arrived in the field) sets out to explore a new part of the islands. No one ever saw the two again. A rescue party learned the men had been clubbed to death and eaten by cannibals. When London preacher Joseph Parker heard the news, he exclaimed, "I do not want to believe it! Such a mystery of Providence makes it hard for our strained faith to recover. Yet Jesus was murdered. Paul was murdered ... I cannot but feel that our honored and noble-minded friend has joined a great assembly.

April 7, 1199: England's King Richard I, the "Lionhearted," dies at age 41. Richard, as one of the three leaders of the Third Crusade, negotiated Christian access to Jerusalem.

April 7, 1498: Franciscan friars arrange an "ordeal by fire" in Florence to settle the dispute between reforming preacher Jerome Savonarola and Pope Alexander VI. Alexander had excommunicated Savonarola for preaching against papal corruption; Savonarola responded by calling for the pope to step down. If Savonarola's friend Fra Domenico could walk safely between two walls of fire, God was supposedly on the Florentine city-manager's side. But Savonarola never sent Domenico out. The crowd rioted, Savonarola's power crumbled, and he was soon arrested, tortured, and executed.

April 7, 1541: On his thirty-fifth birthday, Francis Xavier, cofounder of the Society of Jesus (Jesuits), sets sail from Lisbon, Portugal, for Goa, India. The first Roman Catholic missionary there, he also traveled to Japan, Sri Lanka, and other countries in Asia. It is hard to say how many people Xavier, the Roman Catholic patron saint of all missions, converted; the figure goes as high as 1 million, but modern

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scholars peg the number around 30,000. Jesuits claim 700,000.

News Links

[Alf McCreary in conversation with Brother David Jardine of the Society of St Francis](#)

Belfast Telegraph

Later he worked as assistant **Church of Ireland** chaplain at Queen's and was a chaplain at Crumlin Road Gaol from 1975 to 1985. In 1973, he joined ...

[Archdiocese postpones vote on patronage of Dublin schools, citing 'confusion' about Church ... thejournal.ie](#)

The group was formed in Dublin in 1978, and is currently the patron of 84 primary and 13 second-level schools around **Ireland** with a total of 28,000 ...

[LGBT activists protest at so-called gay conversion therapy church event](#)

ITV News

Protesters gathered outside Windsor Baptist **Church** in south Belfast. ... is a Christian organisation, set-up in 1977 and based in the UK and **Ireland**.

[Irish parents turn their backs on traditional Holy Communion by hosting non-religious events instead](#)

Irish Mirror

Tony, 43, who's a Dublin-based IT specialist, was himself raised a Catholic - but became disillusioned with the **Church** following the revelations ...

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Woman's petition to stop child abuse records being sealed for 75 years

Extra.ie

Ian Elliott, safeguarding consultant and first chief executive of the National Board for Safeguarding Children in the Catholic **Church** in **Ireland**, said he ...

Priests 'abused so many children they don't even know their names' – Archbishop Diarmuid Martin

Extra.ie

Senator Michael McDowell takes a forensic look at how the Catholic **Church** influenced **Ireland** for close to a century in the new RTE documentary.

'Dublin must now come clean on Republic of Ireland support for PIRA'

Belfast Newsletter

Yesterday's **News** Letter detailed how Gearóid Ó Faoleán spent his Phd at the ... His new book 'A Broad **Church**' is based on much of his thesis.

Irish cult of relics a case of the head vs the heart

BBC News

But for believers, they are priceless **religious** treasures that provide physical links to saints and martyrs. BBC **News** NI dissects some of **Ireland's** ...

Sea of change get IGT wildcard

WicklowNews.Net

The all women **choir** Sea of change have made it to the **Ireland's** Got Talent ... Judge Denise Van Outen broke the **news** to the woman by phone.

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[Christians stage Trafalgar Square rally against deadly violence](#)

Premier

A rally staged by Christian groups and **churches** to highlight the blight of violent ... **Churches** Together in Britain and **Ireland** (CTBI) and Southwark Diocese. ... to providing the **Church** with the most up to date and relevant **news** from a ...

AN INVITATION
to become a
FACEBOOK FRIEND
of CNI
and get headlines of the CNI daily
news magazine...
...Just a click at
<https://www.facebook.com/Church-News-Ireland-261305103892998/timeline/>

+ Please share CNI with your friends
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