



Bishops' tributes to Sir Anthony Hart

The sudden death took place in a London hospital yesterday of Sir Anthony Hart. Sir Anthony died after a severe heart attack. He was a well known and respected high court judge in Northern Ireland who, in his retirement, led the Historical Institutional Abuse Inquiry with professionalism and sensitivity.



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On learning of the death of Sir Anthony Hart, the Bishop of Clogher, the Rt Rev'd John McDowell said "I heard of Sir Anthony's death with shock and great sadness. A very proud son of County Fermanagh he acted as Chancellor of this Diocese for 25 years, offering successive bishops advice and counsel on a wide range of affairs. He was at the end of the phone at all hours of the day and night and as a person of wide experience, deep legal knowledge and unshakable integrity his advice was beyond price.

"I had the enormous privilege and advantage of having Sir Anthony as a parishioner in St Mark's, Dundela in the Diocese of Down where he was a member of the Select Vestry and a Trustee, where his support and encouragement were invaluable. Above all I remember and give thanks for a life of public service, great commitment, love of family, tremendous fun, and a deep but unshowy devotion to God and His Church.

"The prayers of Sir Anthony's many friends and colleagues in the Diocese are with Lady Hart and the whole family circle".

He was also Chancellor of the Diocese of Down and Dromore, and assessor at the most recent Diocesan Synod on 20 June.

The Bishop of Down and Dromore, the Rt Revd Harold Miller, said: "It was a pleasure and privilege to know Tony. He served the Lord, the church and the community with faithfulness and integrity, with humility and firmness. He will be greatly missed. Our comfort is in knowing that he is in the closer presence of his Lord."

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Northern Ireland's longest-serving deaconess retires after more than 30 years at Ballymena Presbyterian church



The longest-serving deaconess in Northern Ireland has retired after more than three decades.

Phyllis Linton has stepped down at West Presbyterian Church in Ballymena.

She is the longest serving deaconess in a Protestant church here.

Mrs Linton, who is originally from Newry, began serving the Christian community in 1988.

Before taking up her position she worked as a civil servant in Stormont for eight years.

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A gathering was held to give thanks to Phyllis and the contributions she has made throughout her service.

The evening was described as warm and emotional, with Rev Daniel Kane of West Church Ballymena and close friends and colleges attending.

As a gift for her contribution, she was presented a cheque for a substantial amount.

When asked about her retirement, Phyllis said: "It excites me because I feel that this is just a new chapter in my life.

"I will miss the day to day things of ministry, particularly visiting people at home and in hospital.

"Those relationships are very special and precious."

Giving particular thanks to Rev Kane, she said: "Daniel has been the best boss any deaconess could ever have. He is a great man of vision but more than anything he enables staff to grow."

She also paid tribute to her husband David, saying: "The best thing that ever happened in my life was marrying David. He has become a real partner, not only as my husband but in the ministry as well."

The immaculate transaction comes to York Minster

Contactless collection plates have been used in York Minster for the first time, as the Church of England General Synod met last Sunday for a service delivered by both the Archbishop of Canterbury and Archbishop of York.

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At the Cathedral and Metropolitan Church of St Peter in York, better known as York Minster, four bronze digital plates were offered to the congregation before, during and after the morning worship, attended by hundreds.

It offered the worshippers the opportunity to give to the Church in denominations of £5 and £10 by simply swiping a contactless card on the receiver, alongside their typical offerings of cash.

The official launch of the plates, designed in bronze metal to resemble traditional offertory, follows a wider roll out of contactless payments across English churches, which has led to 97 per cent more donations. Similar technology has also increased charitable revenue at institutions like the Natural History Museum in London.

Church of Ireland: Disestablishment and beyond

This half-day Royal Irish Academy conference is produced in partnership with the Church of Ireland as part of the Church's [National Programme](#) commemorating the 150th anniversary of the Disestablishment of the Church of Ireland.

It will be held on Thursday, February 27, 2020 (1.15pm–6pm) in Academy House, 19 Dawson Street, Dublin 2

Concept

The conference will commence with an introduction to and discussion of the concepts of 'Establishment' and

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‘Disestablishment’ and the transition between the two, to contextualise the subject and the subsequent panel discussions.

Consequences: the first hundred years 1869–1969

While the legislative act of Disestablishment was an event, the process of adapting the newly Disestablished Church to the social, political and cultural changes of late 19th century Ireland was much more complex. Panel two’s discussion of the hundred years between 1869–1969 will include themes such as the Church of Ireland and politics; church life, organisations and worship; cross–border factors, church–state relations; contributions to Irish life; the ecumenical landscape; and the Church of Ireland and the wider world.

Challenges: since 1969

Panel three will focus on the church–state interface since 1969 and looking to the future, both North and South, with particular emphasis on the contributions and challenges of the Church of Ireland. The discussion will cover themes

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The Archbishop of Canterbury said yesterday, “It’s always inspiring to catch up with MothersUnion and hear about the extraordinary, vital work they are doing around the world – bringing Christ’s hope, healing and transformation to those in desperate need. Honoured to have Sheran Harper (right) and Bev Jullien with us at Synod.”

such as education; the roles of church and state and how they relate to each other; health; and secularisation.

Panel chairs

Professor Raymond Gillespie, MRIA

Ms Áine Lawlor

Revd Trevor Sargent

churchnewsireland@gmail.org

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Panellists

Senator Ivana Bacik

Dr Marie Coleman (Queen's University Belfast)

Dr Ian d'Alton (Trinity College Dublin)

Professor Alan Ford (The University of Nottingham)

Professor Jacqueline Hill, MRIA (Maynooth University)

Professor Alvin Jackson, MRIA (The University of Edinburgh)

Revd Professor Anne Lodge (Dublin City University)

Dr Martin Mansergh, MRIA

Dr Miriam Moffitt (St Patrick's College, Maynooth)

Dr Andrew Pierce (Trinity College Dublin)

Steering Committee

Andrew Power (Chair), Vice-chair of RIA Ethical, Political, Legal and Philosophical Studies Committee

Daniel Faas, RIA Social Sciences Committee

Raymond Gillespie, MRIA

Susan Hood, Church of Ireland RCB Library

Caoimhe Leppard, Office of the Archbishop of Dublin

Philip McKinley, DCU Chaplain

Pauline McNamara, RIA Programme Manager

Ida Milne, RIA Historical Studies Committee

Dáithí Ó Corráin, RIA Historical Studies Committee

Tickets

Full Price €15 Concession (student, retired, unemployed

€10 Members: email info@ria.ie Registration with

refreshments is at 1.15pm, with the conference commencing at 1.50pm. There will be a wine reception following the closing of the conference at 6pm.

Click [here](#) to download the programme

Please click [here](#) to book tickets

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Ebola crisis – Christian Aid and partners deliver emergency response

Christian Aid is scaling up its emergency operations in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) as the Ebola outbreak continues to escalate, spreading disease, death and further devastation amidst ongoing armed conflict.

The epidemic in eastern DRC – the country’s 10th Ebola outbreak – began in August 2018. To date, it has [infected more than 2,200 people and claimed more than 1,400 lives](#), making it the second largest in history.

The affected regions – North Kivu and Ituri – are also battling high levels of insecurity and armed conflict, which together have caused a protracted and complex humanitarian crisis that has displaced millions.

With concerns that the Ebola crisis could escalate at any moment, Christian Aid is [appealing for extra funds](#) to scale up its emergency work in high-risk parts of North Kivu.

Christian Aid’s Acting Country Manager for the DRC, Esperant Mulumba, said:

“This is a crisis of grave proportions, and time is running out. The Ebola virus has overwhelmed our fragile health infrastructure, in a country where more than 12 million people already desperately need humanitarian aid. To make matters worse, the epidemic has hit a region blighted by

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instability, armed violence, widespread displacement and food shortages.

“For a range of reasons, there has been denial about the existence of Ebola among some communities, leading to widespread mistrust in the health system and resistance to health workers – even attacks, in some cases. This has made it incredibly difficult for agencies, including our own Ministry of Health, to run an effective Ebola operation. All these factors have seriously undermined efforts to curb the outbreak.

“That is why the response to this epidemic cannot be limited to health work. It is critical that we work alongside communities – and through trusted local figureheads like faith leaders and traditional leaders – to combat widespread fear and distrust about the disease and its causes.”

Mr Mulumba continued: “The Ebola virus is having an impact far beyond the medical realm. For instance, people

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The Moderator of the Presbyterian Church visited Scripture Union outreach projects this week. He said, “My involvement with CSSM when I was a young leader had such an impact upon my life and learning as a follower of Jesus. So pleased to see so many active and capable

young leaders still involved as we called with a couple of teams”

fleeing the outbreak are adding to the already high numbers of internally displaced populations, who need aid to survive. This displacement, as well as the epidemic itself, has interrupted agricultural activity, making food insecurity a growing concern.

“During 2018, more than 1.8 million people were newly displaced across the DRC, many of them in North Kivu. In

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June this year, UNHCR (the UN Refugee Agency) reported that an additional 300,000 people had been forced from their homes in the northeastern provinces of Ituri , North Kivu, and South Kivu. These people have staggering needs, both those displaced and the already stretched communities hosting them.

“Agencies like Christian Aid and our trusted local partners are doing what we can to slow the spread of the virus and alleviate the suffering of people whose lives are at risk. However, the need is incredibly vast: with more resources, we could do more. That’s why we are appealing to the public for more funds, so that we can help those caught up in this terrible situation.”

Using a € 282,000 grant from Irish Aid, Christian Aid’s local partner Bureau Œ cuménique d’Appui au Développement (BOAD) has mounted an emergency operation in the Lubero territory of North Kivu, where people are at high risk of infection.

This work focuses on building latrine blocks and water sources, running hygiene promotion campaigns, offering therapy to help people manage the psychological impacts of the epidemic, and engaging with communities to build trust and dispel myths about the epidemic. These are all areas highlighted by the World Health Organization as current gaps in the Ebola response.

BOAD is running community engagement campaigns targeting 40,000 people. These are promoting life-saving health messages that encourage people – including traditional healers – to commit to behaviours that could

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prevent the virus from spreading. The campaigns also aim to reduce resistance to health and aid workers, and encourage communities to participate in, and take ownership of, decisions relating to the Ebola response.

Mr Mulumba said: “We believe communities must not be excluded from the battle against the epidemic. That’s why our partner BOAD is setting up community-based ‘response committees’ in North Kivu. Faith leaders will be a key part of these committees, alongside representatives from women’s organisations , traditional leaders and civil society groups.

“From Christian Aid’s experiences of the supporting the Ebola response in Sierra Leone a few years ago, we know that faith leaders play a distinctive – and often unsung – role in responding to emergencies such as these. They are trusted and respected members of their community: in the midst of confusion, fear and panic, people often turn to them for guidance. Yet, in Sierra Leone many humanitarian agencies were too slow to involve faith leaders in the response. We are working in DRC to put the lessons learned in Sierra Leone into action.”

Christian Aid’s emergency response in the DRC also seeks to address the deep-rooted psychological, emotional and social damage Ebola has on individuals and families. Christian Aid’s partner BOAD is offering psychosocial support to 200 of the most vulnerable individuals: this includes people suspected of having the virus, Ebola survivors and healthcare workers, as well as their immediate families. These will be complemented by 40 community therapy sessions.

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July 10 - Today in Christian history

July 10, 1086: Canute IV, the king of Denmark, is killed by his subjects. Though Denmark was already nominally Christian when he became king, he went to great lengths to revitalize the faith. He built and restored churches and monasteries and created laws protecting the clergy. But his "new order," which included higher taxes and mandatory tithes, led to a revolt. Canute was reportedly killed in front of the altar of St. Alban's Priory in Odense, and he was declared a martyr and saint in 1101.

July 10, 1509: French Protestant reformer John Calvin is born in Noyon, France.

July 10, 1863: Clement C. Moore dies. In 1819 he established the General Theological Seminary, where he taught Greek and Hebrew Literature for 28 years. He also authored "A Visit from St. Nicholas" ('Twas the Night Before Christmas . . .) in 1823.

July 10, 1925: The Scopes "Monkey Trial" begins in Dayton, Tennessee, as John Scopes is tried for teaching evolution to his students. Though William Jennings Bryan, acting as prosecuting attorney, won the courtroom battle, the creationists lost where public opinion was concerned. Chagrined, fundamentalist Christians largely withdrew from American culture

July 10 - News briefs

+++ Down and Dromore Bible Week - Rt Revd Harold Miller, Bishop of Down and Dromore, is the speaker at Bible

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Week 2019. When: Tuesday 27–Friday 30 August at 7.45pm. Where: Shankill Parish Church, Lurgan. Bishop Harold will say ‘Farewell’ to the diocese with four encouragements from scripture.

– Tuesday 27 August: A New Generation of Leaders (Deut 32:44–52 & Deut 34)

– Wednesday 28 August: An Anointing for the Future (2 Kings 2:1–15)

– Thursday 29 August: A Message for the World (Mark 16:14–20)

– Friday 30 August: A Farewell Charge (Acts 20:17–38)

It’s the 13th Bible Week and only the second time that Bishop Harold has been the speaker. He says: “I’ve had the privilege of serving as Bishop in the Diocese of Down and Dromore for over 22 years and I very much look forward to this opportunity to share words of encouragement from four

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farewell passages in the scriptures.” For further information please contact: Mrs Annette McGrath
Diocesan Communications Officer, Down & Dromore 07840
006899

dco@downdromorediocese.org

+++ Training opportunities in Dublin - The Church of Ireland Youth Department (CIYD) will begin the third year of training for the Aurora Youth Ministry Certificate in September. Meanwhile, CIYD and the Children’s Ministry Network are also launching the Aurora Children’s Ministry Certificate at the same time.

Aurora Youth is a youth ministry training course designed by St Peter’s College in the Diocese of Sheffield. It meets the needs of volunteer youth leaders who have busy lives and no formal youth work qualifications. The ecumenical course is delivered by CIYD and anyone aged 16 or over from any Christian youth work setting is welcome.

Aurora Children is a children’s ministry course from St Peter’s College. It is made up of three modules: Children’s Ministry and the Children’s Leader, Understanding Children and Children’s Ministry Practice and Managing the Ministry.

Six training sessions will run in the Church of Ireland Theological Institute in Dublin and a certificate in Youth or Children’s Ministry from St Peter’s College will be awarded on completion.

Sessions will run monthly on a Saturday from 10am to 4.30pm at the Church of Ireland Theological Institute, Dublin.

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The dates for next academic year are:

21 September 2019

2 November 2019

7 December 2019 1

8 January 2020

29 February 2020

18 April 2020

The cost of the course is €300 (discounts or bursaries may be available). To register interest, please

visit: www.auroratraining.org.uk/eire

Fliers for both courses, for leaders in Ireland, are available below:

Youth Ministry Certificate

Children's Ministry Certificate

July 10 News Links

[Northern Ireland church leaders raise concerns over amendments that could allow same-sex ...](#)

Premier

Rev Trevor Gribben, General Secretary of the Presbyterian **Church** in **Ireland**, told Premier: "Well basically the amendments that are going to be ...

[Abuse inquiry chairman Sir Anthony Hart dies after heart attack](#)

Irish Times

Church of **Ireland** Bishop of Down and Dromore, Reverend Harold Miller ... "He served the Lord, the **church** and the community with faithfulness and ...

[Tributes as chair of abuse inquiry Anthony Hart dies](#)

ITV News

... School in Bangor said he was "very saddened" at the **news** of his death. ... **Church** of **Ireland** Bishop of Down and Dromore, Reverend Harold Miller said: ... "He served the Lord, the **church** and the community with faithfulness and ...

[Sir Anthony Hart: Historical abuse inquiry chairman dies](#)

BBC News

Sir Anthony Hart, the retired judge who chaired the biggest child abuse inquiry ever held in the UK, has died. The Historical Institutional Abuse Inquiry ...

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Northern Ireland couple facing terror charges were preparing for 'doomsday scenario', court hears

Belfast Telegraph

A defence lawyer said there had been a sermon a number of months ago at a **church** in the Ballymena area "about a doomsday scenario" in which ...

SDLP states openness to 'new union of Ireland'

Irish Times

The SDLP is open to the idea of a "new union of **Ireland**" rather than a ... that conversation in pubs or in **church** halls or in Orange halls I would say, ...

Northern Ireland's longest-serving deaconess retires after more than 30 years at Ballymena ...

Belfast Telegraph

Phyllis Linton has stepped down at West Presbyterian **Church** in Ballymena. She is the longest serving deaconess in a Protestant **church** here.

The story of Portrush's original golfing superstar

National Club Golfer

At the age of 27 May Hezlet married the reverend AE Ross, the **church of Ireland** minister at Portrush and as Mrs Ross, represented Ireland one last ...

Emigrating from Northern Ireland 60 years ago, the Johnstons celebrated at Wangoom.

Warrnambool Standard

news, latest-**news**, **ireland**, australia, immigration, diamond anniversary, ... "The Presbyterian **Church** brought us over here along with a lot of other ...

Monks and nuns to be recognised by the Church of England for first time since Reformation

Telegraph.co.uk

"It does seem ironic that after 150 years of religious life in **England**, the **church** has chosen a time when we are in terminal decline to regulate and ...

Stephen Hance named as new National Lead for Evangelism and Witness for the Church of England

The Church of England

His appointment emphasises the importance the Church attaches to our ... "The **Church of England** is committed to sharing the good **news** of Jesus ...

Dean Hance to help 'motivate the million' as evangelism lead

Church Times

The **Church of England** is a diffuse organisation. ... this post, and Synod's recent commitment, is this idea of motivating the million (**News**, 1 February).

Plans to bring Methodist Church and Church of England closer together move forward

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Premier

The **Church of England's** governing body has backed steps to unite it with the ... In a world of fake **news** there's never been a greater need for quality ...

[Sex assault-accused ex-archdeacon Granville Gibson was "revered"](#)

BBC News

The 83-year-old is also accused of indecent assault on a junior clergyman in the 1980s while at the **Church of England's** General Synod. He denies ...

AN INVITATION
to get Twitter leads from CNI
Just a click on the Twitter logo on
the CNI home page

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