

June 19, 2019



Solo show in San Francisco recounts C.S. Lewis' odd religious journey

Max McLean, star of "The Most Reluctant Convert," takes to the stage in the persona of author C.S. Lewis.

June 19, 2019

Lewis's candid recollections of his struggles are the subject of a one-man stage show starring actor Max McLean, who will be bringing his "The Most Reluctant Convert" show to San Francisco for two performances this week.

McClean, who has also mounted productions of Lewis' "The Screwtape Letters," is founder and artistic director of Fellowship for Performing Arts, a New York City-based producer of live theatre from a Christian perspective.

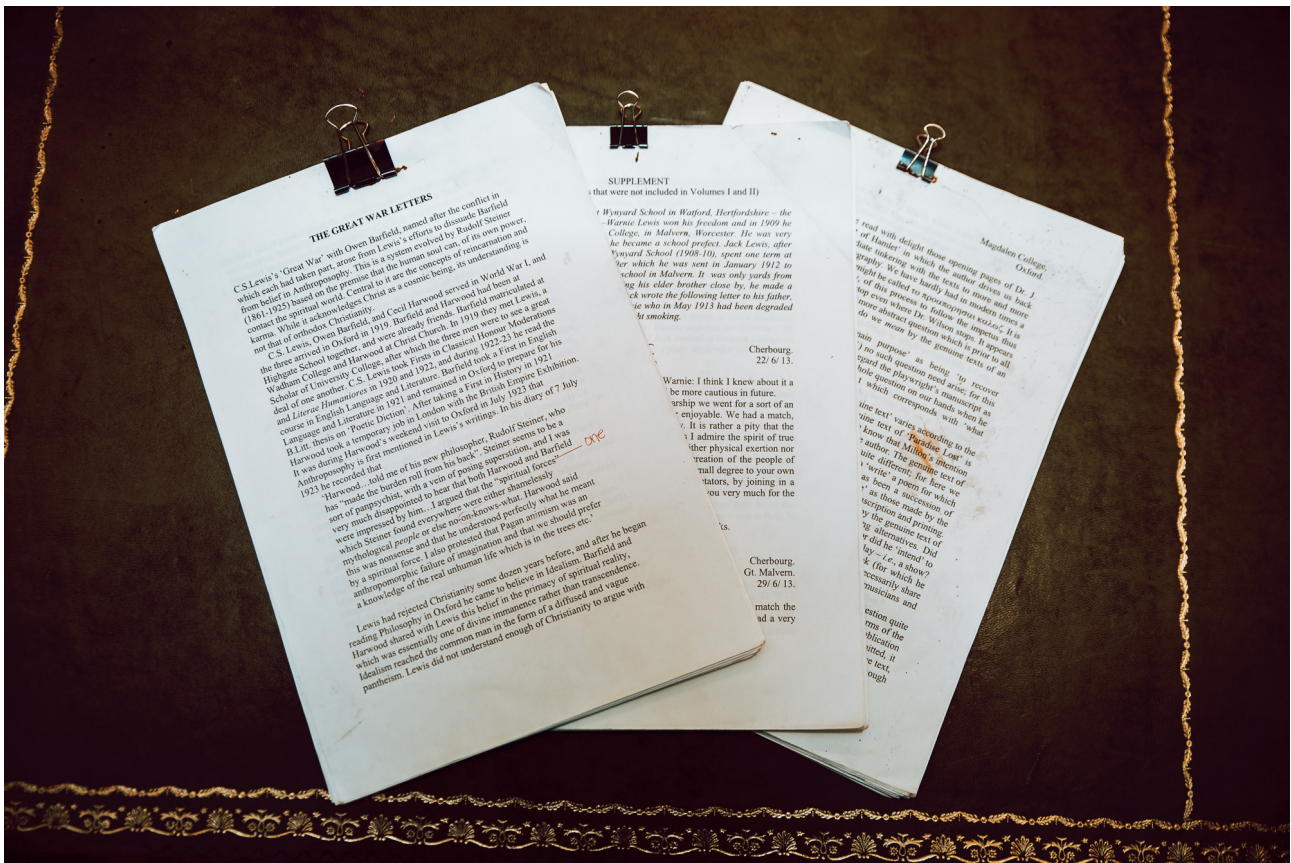
One of the more intriguing things about the life of famed "Chronicles of Narnia" author C.S. Lewis (1898-1963) is that he grew up in a religious family that attended the Church of Ireland but became, at age 15, a staunch atheist, most likely due to his conviction that prayers for his beloved mother, who died when he was 10, had fallen on either deaf or nonexistent ears.

But by midlife, he had returned to faith as an Anglican and become one of the most cogent apologists for Christianity, renowned for both his writings and his World War II radio broadcasts on the subject.

C.S. Lewis literary heritage to hit the auction block in Cavan

As part of their highly anticipated June sale, family-run Cavan auction house Victor Mee Auctions, has been given the opportunity to find the next owners of an exquisite series of draft letters and documents written by one of the great writers of the twentieth century, C. S. (Clive Staples) Lewis.

A Fellow and tutor at Oxford until 1954, Lewis spent the majority of his career as Chair of Medieval and Renaissance



English at Cambridge. He wrote more than thirty books, both popular and scholarly, including *The Chronicles of Narnia* series, *The Screwtape Letters*, *The Four Loves*, *Mere Christianity* and *Surprised by Joy* and his connection to the island of Ireland is evident through much of his work.

Over the years, Lewis penned his innermost thoughts and scholarly learnings into a series of letters and documents, drafts of which have now been acquired by Victor Mee Auctions. The pieces have been recovered from Rathvinden House in Leighlinbridge, Co Carlow, which for many years was the home of Lewis's stepson Douglas Gresham.

With a growing global audience the high-quality pieces that will feature in the upcoming Decorative Interiors and Garden Sale are helping to further establish Victor Mee Auctions as a leading auction house within Ireland. The Lewis letters are expected to be of significant interest to many scholars and

June 19, 2019

literary lovers from around the world, with the collection listed in two Lots - Lot 213A, estimated to sell from €600 - €1200 and Lot 213B, estimated to sell from €400 - €600.

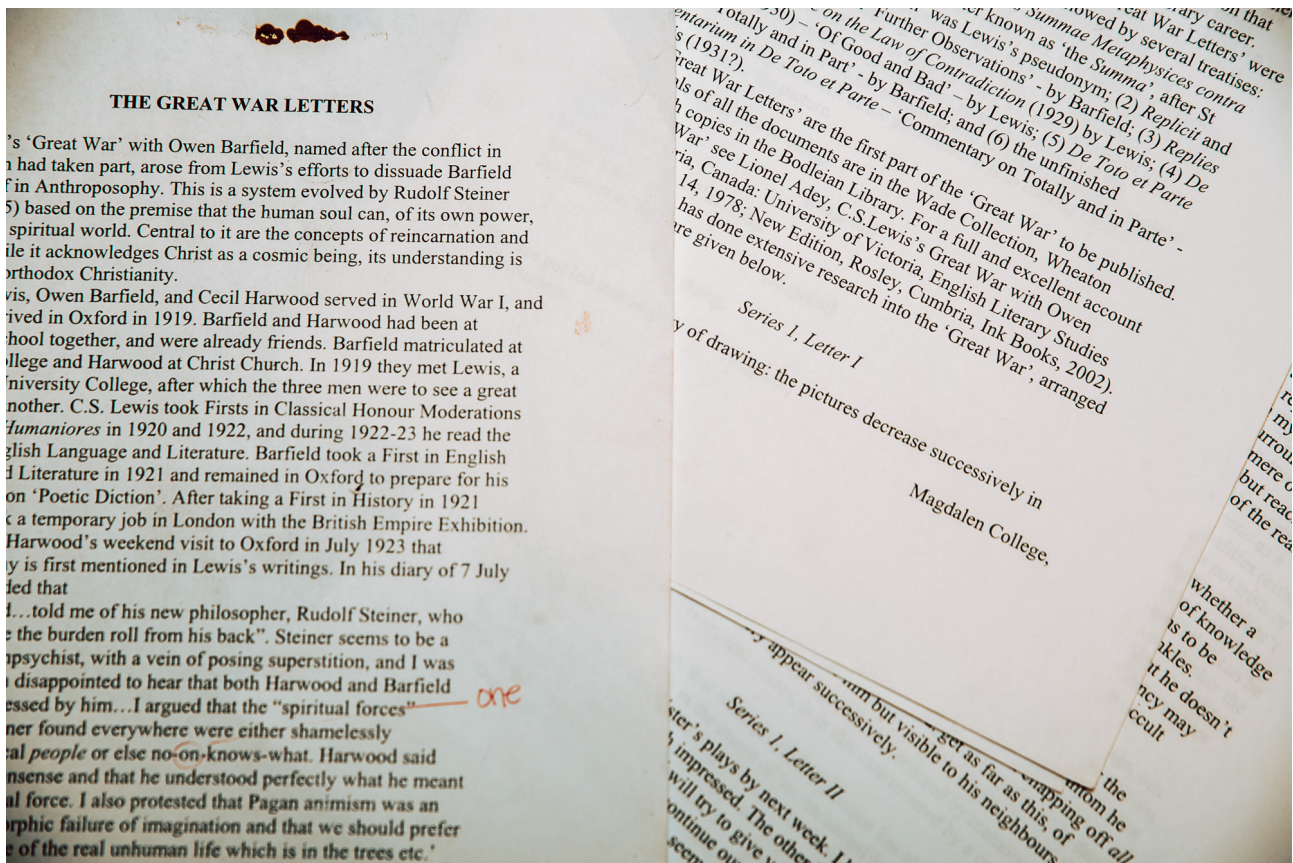
The culturally and historically significant documents will feature in Victor Mee's upcoming *Decorative Interiors and Garden Sale* which will take place on Wednesday 26th June. A *Vintage Sale*, which will feature a wide range of vintage cars, motorbikes, and vintage signage will also take place on Sunday 30th June.

Letters of C. S. Lewis

Put forward by the Graham family, recent sellers of Rathviden House, the Lewis documents have been safely kept since being discovered in 2012. Throughout his lifetime Lewis comprised a vast collection of intimate letters written to friends, family, and fans, spanning from his youth to the weeks before his death. The letters illuminate Lewis's thoughts on God, humanity, nature, and creativity and delve into particular detail around his conversion from atheism to Christianity as well as his philosophical thoughts on spirituality and personal faith.

Lewis's letters have been studied by many literary scholars over the years and developed into a series of books including *Letters of C. S. Lewis – 1975*, edited by Walter Hooper and *Collected letters of CS Lewis- VOLUMES I, II AND III*. Victor Mee Auctions has attained what are thought to be draft, unpublicised letters written by Lewis, typed by an unknown source. Dated from 1913 to 1949 Lot 213A includes original C. S. Lewis draft documents titled SUPPLEMENT, which the team at Victor Mee Auctions

June 19, 2019



believe may have been placed within Volume III of his *Collected Letters*.

The third volume begins with Lewis, already a household name from his BBC radio broadcasts and popular spiritual books, on the cusp of publishing his most famous and enduring book, *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*. Volume III also explores Lewis's relationship and marriage to Joy Davidman Gresham and includes personal letters written right up to his death on 22nd November 1963.

Lot 213B, titled THE GREAT WAR LETTERS contains Series one, letters one to seven and Series two letters one and two, 32 pages in total. These potentially unseen Lewis documents were written in approximately 1927 between C. S. Lewis and Owen Barfield about the 'Great War'.

“We are very excited to be able to offer these fantastic C.S. Lewis letters to interested bidders. With his links to Carlow, churchnewsireland@gmail.org

June 19, 2019

Oxford and Cambridge, we imagine there will be significant interest across the UK, Ireland and possibly further afield. As these are draft documents it is virtually impossible for us to confirm exactly where the pieces have come from within Lewis' collections, but they really do give a great insight in to Lewis' world," said auctioneer Victor Mee.

For more information on the upcoming June 26 *Decorative Interiors and Garden Sale* and the June 30 *Vintage Sale* at Victor Mee Auctions visit www.victormeeauctions.ie.

Catholic Church child protection watchdog sees 6% rise in notifications

The Catholic Church's child protection watchdog has said there was a slight increase in the number of allegations notified to it during 2018/19 compared to the previous year.

The National Board for Safeguarding Children in the Catholic Church in Ireland said the increase was from 135 in 2017/18 to 143 in 2018/19, an increase of 6%.

It also said that there was an overall decrease in allegations related to the sexual abuse of children from 108 in the previous year to 88 in the year being reported on, a decrease of 18.5%.

The figures are contained in the organisation's annual report, which details its work to the year ending 31 March 2019.

However, CEO Teresa Devlin said this data must be described as "under reservation".

June 19, 2019



There was a very joyful Trinity Sunday in a very full Cloyne Cathedral on Sunday when 17 young people were confirmed.

She said that: "Due to either the church authority not having complete information, or to them not fully completing the notification form, there are gaps in the data being reported in this section.

"Further, the implementation of the Data Protection Acts 2018 has affected the quality and amount of information that the Church authorities notify to the National Office."

Ms Devlin said that notifications that do not identify the person against whom the allegation has been made result in

June 19, 2019

her office being unable to establish whether this person has previously been notified.

She said this introduces the risk of double counting.

NI street preacher convicted of disorder

A street preacher who told a woman she should “burn in Hell” has been convicted of disorderly behaviour.

David McConnell, of Liswatty Road, Coleraine, appeared at the town’s Magistrates Court on Monday - his 62nd birthday - and he was also convicted of resisting a police officer in the execution of his duty.

The defendant, who has been preaching on the streets of the town for several years, had denied the offences.

Dr Mary Hannon-Fletcher, who works in the field of biomedical science, gave evidence in court and said she was in her wheelchair and was accompanied by her daughter and her daughter’s friend at Church Street in Coleraine on the afternoon of Saturday March 31 in 2018.

“This gentleman jumped out in front of me with a placard and asked me if I was a Christian. I answered ‘I don’t think that’s any of your business’.”

She said the defendant then became agitated and shouted that she would “rot in Hell”, that she was “evil” and that “people like you should burn in Hell”.

June 19, 2019



The President of the Methodist Church with C of I clergy when ordinations in the Methodist Church were celebrated in St Fin Barre's Cathedral on Sunday last

Dr Hannon-Fletcher said the shouting was very loud and others in the street could hear what the defendant was saying.

She added: "I was horrified, completely shocked that somebody could act so violently and viciously".

She said she was in shock that someone could tell a complete stranger that they should 'rot in Hell'.

Dr Hannon-Fletcher said she saw two police officers walking nearby and told them what happened.

June 19, 2019

Defence barrister Francis Rafferty said the defendant had asked the witness if she had “faith in God” and that McConnell had instructed that he didn’t say anything about going to Hell or that she was evil.

Mr Rafferty asked if it was possible she had misconstrued what had been said but Dr Hannon-Fletcher told the court: “I heard him very clearly”.

A police officer told the court he heard a “bit of commotion” whilst on foot patrol with a colleague and the defendant was shouting “religious things” at members of the public and looked “quite aggressive”, He said Dr Hannon-Fletcher approached and said she had been “verbally abused” by the defendant.

The officer said that when McConnell was arrested on suspicion of disorderly behaviour he replied after caution: “You don’t like Christians”.

The policeman said that when a police car arrived on the scene the defendant tried to pull away and four officers were needed to get him into the vehicle.

The officer’s body-worn footage was played to the court in which the defendant could be heard saying: “You can’t arrest me, I’m a Christian, I’m doing my Christian duties”.

As he struggled with officers he said: “God is the law, He is the Boss”.

June 19, 2019

Mr Rafferty said the defendant was classed as a “vulnerable adult with a certain degree of mental infirmity” who was annoyed at the attitude the police had taken.

Another police officer said the defendant regularly preached in Coleraine town centre.

Entering the witness box the defendant said he would not be swearing on the Bible and instead made an affirmation.

He said he had asked the witness if she believed in God and after being told to mind his own business he “said no more”.

The defendant said: “I’m serving the Lord for 40 years. God gave me love to share this love”.

He said he preached that people “will have to stand before God”.

The defendant said police had approached him “very wrong” and an officer caught him by the arm without telling him what he was being arrested for.

A prosecution lawyer said the defendant was advised several times why he was being arrested.

The defendant said he had been handing out tracts but couldn’t recall what his placard said.

Convicting the defendant of the offences of disorderly behaviour and resisting police, District Judge Peter King that Dr Hannon-Fletcher had been left “horrified” and “shocked”

June 19, 2019

and said anyone feeling that way while going about their day-to-day business deserved to be protected.

The judge said we live in a rights based society with has civil and religious freedom for all but he said rights were not absolute.

He told the defendant: “You do not have carte blanche to offend people” and act in a disorderly fashion.

In mitigation, Mr Rafferty said the defendant had a “minor” criminal record.

The prosecutor said because of what happened the injured party was now less likely to go into Coleraine town centre on a Saturday where the defendant still preaches.

Judge King said he would defer sentencing until the autumn and if the defendant avoided any further public order offences in relation to street preaching the case would likely be dealt with by fines but if there was “further abuse of your right to free speech and assembly” he could face a suspended sentence and an Anti-Social Behaviour Order banning him from Coleraine town centre on Saturdays.

The judge said Dr Hannon-Fletcher required a degree of protection from the defendant and he imposed a three year restraining order meaning he was not to pester or harass her.

Judge Kig asked the defendant if he was going to apologise to the injured party but he replied: “I apologise to God”.

June 19, 2019

New Bible resources for Gaelic speakers released

The Scottish Bible Society, the Gaelic Books Council and the Church of Scotland's Gaelic group have announced new resources to help Gaelic speakers engage with the Bible and practice their Christian faith.

The Scottish Bible Society and the Gaelic Books Council have released a modernised Gaelic version of the New Testament and Gaelic audio versions of the four Gospels, while the Church of Scotland's Gaelic group has employed a Gaelic development officer to progress the work of the Kirk's Gaelic Language Plan over the next year.

The work of the Gaelic Group was approved during the General Assembly of 2018, with their report advising that they would be “exploring a number of different opportunities to receive funding for this work, both internal and external to the Church.”

During this year's General Assembly the group announced they are delighted to have secured funding from Bòrd na Gàidhlig, an internal Church of Scotland grant, and from Action of Churches Together in Scotland (ACTS). The group also published a Gaelic version of the Thy Kingdom Come prayer diary.

A modern Gaelic translation of the New Testament

June 19, 2019

Members of the Kirk's Gaelic Group worked in conjunction with the Scottish Bible Society and the Gaelic Books Council to publish the newly translated version of the New Testament.

Rev John Urquhart, a Church of Scotland minister who is part of the team, said:

“It has been a decade since the Scottish Bible Society brought the translation team together to begin the New Testament project.

“Though we were drawn from different places and different churches, we all shared the same aim: that the Scriptures of the New Testament should be made available to Gaelic speakers in modern Gaelic, faithfully translated.

“Throughout our work, we kept our focus on fidelity to the Greek and the clarity of the Gaelic.

“The translators hope that putting the word of God into contemporary Gaelic will enable every person who reads it to hear God's voice speaking to them, and that through this they will come to know the peace and salvation that are to be found only through Christ.

“Our desire is that all praise, and honour, and glory, be given to God and to God alone.”

Previously released in old Gaelic, this new version of the New Testament is designed as a more modern translation and aims to put the Word of God into contemporary Gaelic, enabling every person who reads it to hear God's voice speaking to them.

June 19, 2019

The ecumenical team of translators who worked on the project over a 10-year period included representatives from the Church of Scotland, the Free Church of Scotland and the Roman Catholic Church.

Gifted, committed and passionate translators.

The New Testament was first translated into Scottish Gaelic by Rev James Stuart, minister of Killin, and published in 1767 – barely 20 years after the battle of Culloden. His son John, minister of Luss, was the main translator of the Old Testament, completed in 1801.

In recent years, the future of Gaelic in education and public life has received much attention as the language flourishes. However, the gap between everyday Gaelic in common use and the Gaelic in the most recent Bible edition continues to widen.

Elaine Duncan, Chief Executive of the Scottish Bible Society, said:

“It’s been our pleasure to support a group of gifted, committed and passionate translators throughout this project.

“Their faithfulness, love of the Bible and handling of the Greek and Gaelic languages have been essential to the success of this project.

“We are thankful for the partnership and support of the Gaelic Books Council, and we pray that God’s Word will be appreciated and understood more through providing the New Testament in the New Gaelic Translation.”

Alison Lang, Director of the Gaelic Books Council, said:

churchnewsireland@gmail.org

June 19, 2019

“We are proud of the translation team who have worked to produce this New Testament in modern Gaelic, and delighted to have been able to support the Scottish Bible Society with this project.

“It is appropriate that this new translation is being published in the UNESCO International Year of Indigenous Languages, and we hope that churches, schools and individual readers will enjoy this beautiful book.”

The work comes at a time of opportunity in the development of Gaelic. As the translators worked through the New Testament they were very much aware of the importance that this new translation will have for education and for the churches.

Alasdair Allan, MSP for the Scottish National Party welcomed the new translation in a motion lodged at the Scottish Parliament last month.

“The Parliament warmly welcomes the new translation of the New Testament, and praises the huge amount of work that has been put into this by Rev John Urquhart, Rev Ruairidh MacLean, Rev John Lincoln and the late Canon John Angus MacDonald over the course of ten years,” Alasdair said.

“The Parliament also considers that this new publication represents one of the many ways in which the Gaelic world will be celebrating the International Year of Indigenous Languages in 2019.”

June 19, 2019

The Gaelic NT New Translation is available to buy now online through [the Scottish Bible Society](#) and the [Gaelic Books Council](#), or by calling 0141 337 6211.

What's next for the Gaelic Group?

As a result of the new funding awarded by both the Church of Scotland and Bòrd na Gàidhlig, a Gaelic development officer has been hired on a consultancy basis for one year in order to progress the Gaelic Group's work including the Gaelic Language Plan.

Duncan Sneddon, the current co-editor of [Na Duilleagan Gàidhlig](#) (the Gaelic supplement to Life and Work magazine), will take up the role in October.

The next steps for the Gaelic Group include a national conference considering the needs and ways of promoting Gaelic ministry and mission, as well as offering support and encouragement to Gaelic speaking ministers and anyone using Gaelic within the Church context.

This follows [the Next Steps conference in 2015](#) which looked at the place of Gaelic in Scotland's churches.

Also currently in the works is a Gaelic audio version of the four Gospels, which is due to be released in the autumn.

ACTS awarded the Church of Scotland's Gaelic Group a £9,000 grant towards the development the audio resources, as well as translations for inclusion in the recent Thy Kingdom Come global prayer initiative, including [a Gaelic invitation recorded by Very Rev Dr Angus Morrison](#).

June 19, 2019

The project to develop the four Gospels into Gaelic has been managed by Nicola Thomas of the Gaelic College in Skye over the last nine months.

With voices sought from a wide range of Scottish church denominations, contributors are so far confirmed from Lewis, Skye, South Uist and Tiree.

The audio gospels are being recorded at Studio Ostaig, based at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig, the National Centre for Gaelic Language and Culture, and will be available in text format, audio, as well as for download as an audiobook.

More information on the audio translation project will soon be released on [the Scottish Bible Society's Gaelic website](#), which also features a Gaelic Scriptures mobile app (available for download on Android and iOS).

June 19 - Today in Christian history

June 19, 325: Bishop Hosius, a delegate at the Council of Nicea, announces the newly written Nicene Creed. Countering Arius, who taught that "there was a time when the Son was not," the creed describes Christ as "God from very God, begotten not made".

June 19, 1566: James VI of Scotland, who later became King James I of England, is born. He wrote treatises on the divine right of kings, witchcraft, biblical themes, and set into motion a translation of the Bible known as the King James Version (see issue 43: How We Got Our Bible).

June 19, 2019

June 19, 1623: Blaise Pascal, French mathematician and scientist as well as an apologist for Christianity and for Jansenism, is born (see issue 76: Christian Face of the Scientific Revolution).

June 19, 1834: Baptist preacher Charles Haddon Spurgeon, one of the greatest preachers and orators of the nineteenth century, is born (see issue 29: C. H. Spurgeon).

June 19, 1987: The U.S. Supreme Court strikes down a Louisiana law requiring public schools to teach creationism if they taught evolution.

June 19 - News briefs

+++ Independence Day concert at St Patrick's - Join in the July 4th ever popular Independence Day concert performed by the organists of Saint Patrick's Cathedral with music from SUPERMAN, STAR WARS, ET, INDEPENDENCE DAY & JURASSIC PARK! Free but registration required. <https://www.stpatrickscathedral.ie/event/the-wondrous-machine-movie-night-special/>

+++ Winnie the Pooh Exhibition - A light hearted Winnie the Pooh Exhibition will take place in Drummaul Parish Church Hall, Randalstown, from June 19-23. The items on display have been collected from charity shops over the past few years. Proceeds to TinyLife; The Lily Foundation and Fields of Life. More info at: <https://bit.ly/2WLAPaJ>

+++ Celebrating thirty years - A good congregation attended the 10.30am Service in St Polycarp's, Finaghy on

June 19, 2019



Sunday past at which the 30th Anniversary of the ordination of Revd Clifford Skillen, former rector (centre above), was celebrated. The guest preacher was Revd Canon John Budd.

+++ Green Flag for school with no grass - A big well done to pupils from Springfield Primary School, Belfast, who recently won a 'Green Flag'.

This is an amazing achievement for an urban school, which hasn't a single blade of grass. Great to see our young people taking such an interest in the environment.

June 19, 2019



Congratulations to Teacher, Mrs Andrews and her star pupils. William Humphrey MLA, pictured with the winning pupils, Mrs Andrews and Springfield PS Principal, Mr Osborne.

+++ Food for thought - "When they have really learned to love their neighbours as themselves, they will be allowed to love themselves as their neighbours." CS Lewis

June 19 News Links

[Catholic Church paves way for ordination of married men to priesthood](#)

Belfast Telegraph

Home › **News** › World. Catholic Church paves way for ordination of married men to priesthood ... "While affirming that celibacy is a gift for the Church, it is asked that for the

June 19, 2019

most remote areas of the ... some clergymen to leave the **Church of England** over the issue of women priests and join the ordinariate.

[Vatican signals shift towards ordaining 'elderly' married men to fix priest shortage - Independent.ie](#)

[Catholic Church could allow married men to become priests](#)

Irish Post

“While affirming that celibacy is a gift for the **church**, there have been ... In **Ireland**, the number of parish priests fell by almost 17% between 2004 and ...

[Roman Catholic church could allow married men to become priests - The Guardian](#)

[Northern Ireland couple transform derelict church into luxury Airbnb holiday let](#)

Belfast Telegraph

It was one of Strangford's most historic landmark **church** buildings which had been left to rot and fall into ruin until its new neighbours decided to ...

[Pope Francis' visit to Ireland saw a spike in allegations of clerical abuse](#)

[Independent.ie](#)

POPE Francis' visit to **Ireland** for the World Meeting of Families last August saw a spike in allegations of clerical abuse, the Catholic **Church's** ...

[Apologies are welcome but Irish women need answers](#)

Irish Times

A story of secrecy and shame, of a woman being treated appallingly by State institutions, with involvement from the Catholic **Church** – this is a ...

[Time of 'immense trauma' for Valerie French Kilroy's family, bishop says](#)

Irish Times

... of Valerie French Kilroy whose body was found at her home in Co Mayo last Friday, the **Church of Ireland** bishop of Cork, Cloyne and Ross has said.

[Consultation plans as three Armagh primary schools listed in latest report on pupil numbers](#)

Armagh i

The Drelincourt, a **Church of Ireland** run school, currently has less than 30 pupils and the Armstrong in excess of 500 on the roll books. The report ...

[It's time for Christians to speak out against Boris Johnson](#)

The Guardian

The Rev George Pitcher is a vicar in the **Church of England** ... I don't know if that's such a bad thing for the church, which surely ought to be apolitical.

[Investors Uneasy about Undisclosed Dam Safety Risks](#)

June 19, 2019

Claims Journal

LONDON — Investors with a combined \$12.5 trillion in assets, including the Swedish National Pension Funds and the **Church of England**, could ...

Churches now outnumber pubs but they are facing a raft of problems

Doncaster Today

12,500 of the **Church of England's** churches are listed by Historic England and almost half of the very best listed buildings - those listed at Grade I- are ...

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

+ Please share CNI with your friends
www.churchnewsireland.org

