



## Another new chapter in Titanic Quarter's Dock Church

Chris Bennett, chaplain at the Dock Church writes: "All my worlds collided rather beautifully on Sunday morning – I got to simultaneously be a Dock Cafe barista, a Dock Chaplain and a Wee Tram conductor!"

“The event was the very moving launch of Lagan Search and Rescue, a brand–new purpose–built emergency response group for the Belfast Harbour area. We’ve had informal links with these guys ever since Dock Cafe (in its very, very early state) provided a base for an emergency response operation back in early 2012 – but it was a huge privilege for the Dock Chaplaincy team to be asked to be the on–call Chaplains to the Lagan Search and Rescue team as they now become an official entity.

“Speaking at the launch ceremony on the beautiful Titanic slipways on Sunday morning, Dock Chaplain Wes told of how his own Father was saved from drowning – and offered the support and time of the Dock Chaplains not just for those high–intensity situations when the Search and Rescue team would be called out, but also the quieter (but also possibly more difficult) days in between when the team need to process and talk about some of the things they’ve seen.

“As the service finished the rain started to pour – so it really was perfect that we’d planned for the whole gathering to be transported to Dock Cafe by Wee Tram! Everyone piled on board and we tootled off own the Queens Road to a waiting cuppa at The Dock.

“And so to our wonderful shabby–chic sanctuary of a cafe, where the coffee and the conversation flowed. Amongst many others I got to share a cuppa with Belfast’s Lord Lieutenant Finnouala Jay O’Boyle, meet some Lagan Dragons and meet some of the guys running the new Urban Sports park beside T13.

Another fantastic day, another link in the chain of the ever–growing but also ever–connecting world of the Titanic Quarter. Another opportunity for the Dock Chaplains to play their part in this new community – in its darker days as well as its joyful ones.”

## **Outgoing Mothers' Union chief executive looks back on evolving ministry**

“All good things must come to an end” and never has a truer word been spoken than for Mothers’ Union Chief Executive, Reg Bailey CBE, who leaves the organisation after 17 faithful years.

The last 17 years have seen much change to the organisation; there was a re-branding exercise to

update the organisation's image, the introduction of the Church & Community Mobilisation process in overseas work, the creation of projects and programmes such as Away From It All holidays and Loving for Life, the creation of Mothers' Union enterprises (MUe) and an increasing emphasis on individual fundraising to ensure financial stability for the charity.

A lot has been going on, but as Bailey points out "whilst there is a single family out there that needs to know about the love of our relational God, we still have work to do". So whilst it is an end of an era, the organisation will continue to push forward and evolve.

Undoubtedly one of the highlights of his career with Mothers' Union was the influential Bailey Review which he undertook on behalf of the UK government.

The Review looked at the sexualisation and commercialisation of childhood and gave recommendations for industries going forward – many of which have now been successfully implemented. The Mothers' Union will continue its advocacy for the cause, highlighted with the publishing of the [Bye Buy Childhood 2015 Report](#) in March.

Bailey has also overseen the increase of membership overseas, for example in places such as Tanzania where membership has doubled. However he admits his frustration at the lack of uptake in membership across the UK and Ireland. He says; “We are not simply a cosy group; our members are involved to be salt and light to the earth”.

One of his wishes for Mothers’ Union as he leaves is that membership becomes more confident in what they can achieve and as such is revitalised and energised in the important work that they are carrying out in communities throughout the world.

When looking back on his time with Mothers’ Union, Bailey is very clear that it is the people he will remember and miss the most. At his last General Meeting at the end of June, he told the audience about a Mothers’ Union Member in Uganda, Jolly, who had adopted the nine children of her neighbours that had succumbed to AIDS:

“I asked her ‘why would you adopt them?’ ‘But why wouldn’t I’ she responded ‘I am a Christian’. And then she said something that will always remain with me as it chimes with everything that we stand for in Mothers’ Union; ‘I want to enable

them to become complete men and women who can be blessings to the world in the way they live their lives”.

And so as Bailey takes his leave, Mothers' Union [is] left [not only] with his legacy of all that he has achieved for the organisation but also with his challenge to turn faith into action - making a difference and supporting families throughout the world.

## **Archdeacon of Cashel - a time of change**

The Reverend Canon Bob Gray has been appointed as Archdeacon of Cashel, Ferns , Waterford and Lismore in succession to the Venerable Chris Long who retires at the end of July.

Mr Gray is currently rector of the Ardamine, Kilnamanagh and Monamolin Group of parishes.

In his current monthly letter Bishop Michael Burrowes pays tribute to his former archdeacon Ven. Chris Long. Bishop Michael writes -

I want to devote much of my personal space in this issue to paying a very warm and grateful

tribute to Archdeacon Chris Long who retires on 27th July.

While it is his parishioners in Enniscorthy and Monart Union who will be best placed to testify to the quality of his pastoral care, his close work with me as archdeacon over the last seven years gives me some special insights of my own which I would wish to share.

Chris came to Co. Wexford and re-entered parochial ministry after long and very distinguished service (concerning which he is typically modest) in chaplaincy work with the Royal Air Force in Britain. He reached in that ministry the kind of level of seniority which made his overall portfolio more than comparable to that of any Irish bishop! ... He travelled extensively and lived in the midst of a rich variety of cultures. Yet, when the time came to move on from that world, he saw his coming to Enniscorthy as a new adventure... A move to a new jurisdiction, a resumption of parochial life with all its attendant realities like fund-raising and building maintenance and school management, an adjustment to pastoral work largely rooted in an agricultural community.

For over a decade now he has shown his capacity both to flourish and to achieve much in

his new context. In some ways the only relic of his former world is his elderly, distinctive and cherished motor car which has always travelled with him. His former training made him clearly a leader among people, someone who gets things done and brings people confidently and unitedly with him. That capacity to lead (exercised of course in collaboration with others) led for example to the completion of the wonderful new rectory in Enniscorthy at St John's, and to the restoration at last of the Church Institute in the town following its damage by fire... Now it is a comfortable and up-to-date gathering point for the whole community.

Conscious of his leadership skills I was delighted to appoint him as archdeacon first of Ferns, and no bishop could have had a more loyal or effective colleague in that role. The process which led to our becoming truly a single diocese two years ago was in very large measure guided by him... He gave to it many hours and much attention to detail, and never for a moment lost faith that it would one day come to pass. With the completion of the single diocese project it became possible to spread the work of our two archdeacons more evenly and so when his long term colleague and collaborator archdeacon Murray retired in the spring of last year, Waterford, Lismore and most of Cashel were

added to Chris's archdeaconry. Even in the short time he has had that additional responsibility he has taken trouble to acquaint himself with for example the practicalities of rectory life in parts of Waterford and Tipperary

Chris is someone of dedication and vision whose ministry touches all ages and whose integrity is plain to see. I have been impressed to observe (again it goes back to his former ministry) how for example young adults warm to him and find wisdom in his presence. He has great experience of life; he faces honest questions; he does not do clichés... And he is fun! For me Chris and Linda have become very special friends. Linda is her own woman, with many skills which she has shared with us especially in the realm of education. I often think that in the intelligence of their conversation together and their obvious devotion to each other Chris and Linda are a couple who in many ways remain essentially young. So it is in some ways hard to believe that they are actually retiring, but we are glad that this time a house move for them will not involve a long journey and we look forward to their continued presence among us in Rosslare. And may I say it has been a real joy for me to pen this little tribute to a wonderful archdeacon.

## Tribute to Irish GFS leader

Val Gribble paid the following tribute to Irish GFS leader Olein Gyles who died last month -

It is with great sadness that we learn of the death of Olein who was known to so many GFS members around the world. Olein lived in the beautiful village of Clara in Ireland and was the President of GFS Ireland for two terms, attending a number of World Councils including Sierra Leone in 1990 and the 1993 Council New Zealand as the Senior Delegate for Ireland.

Olein was a compassionate, loving person, who truly lived out the GFS motto. She had a deep faith and willingly shared this with others. Olein was a prominent and very active member of her parish and was always supported by her loving husband, Robert.

For many years Olein has suffered from Parkinson's disease and her strength and determination to live life amidst this crippling disease was an example to many others.

Olein and I were good friends and I have had the privilege of visiting Olein and Robert on two occasions and experienced their wonderful hospitality. Over many years we shared our joys

and concerns and our GFS lives. We say farewell, Olein, we thank you for your service to GFS and may your soul rest in peace with Our Lord whom you have so faithfully served.

## **Bishops seek to turn 5,000 churches into ‘missionary parishes’**

### ***Cardinal Nichols launches appeal for every parish to set up an evangelisation team***

Catholic bishops in England and Wales hope to establish evangelisation teams to transform about 5,000 churches into “missionary parishes”.

However, there will be no place for proselytising, “door-stepping” or “cold calling” in an attempt to win converts, said Cardinal Vincent Nichols of Westminster, president of the Bishops’ Conference of England and Wales.

“Proselytising is a one-way street,” Cardinal Nichols told a press conference. “It is saying, ‘I have got something you must have, and I’m going to make you receive it whether you like it or not.’ Evangelisation is essentially an invitation, and it is an invitation which will draw people

closer together in their humanity, in their human experience.

“We don’t go in for doorstep evangelisation because it is impossible without a relationship, and you don’t begin to form a relationship of lasting quality if it stays on a doorstep,” the cardinal said.

“What we want is to do is show something of our own life and to let that speak for itself,” Cardinal Nichols said.

The invitation to parishes to set up the teams will be made formally at the National Catholic Evangelisation Conference in Birmingham on Saturday. Some 850 delegates from English and Welsh dioceses will attend workshops focusing on the questions of how to create a vision and strategy for parish evangelisation, how to evangelise young people, how to reach out to those who have no experience of the Church, how to share testimony in one-to-one evangelisation, how to reach out to Catholics who do not attend Mass, and how to make prayer the foundation of the missionary parish.

Speeches, interviews and testimonies from the event will then be collected into an online “legacy document” which will be made available

to the evangelisation teams in late September so they can develop and improve their own strategies within their parishes.

Auxiliary Bishop Nicholas Hudson of Westminster, who has responsibility for the evangelisation conference, said he expected the process to “surprise us” by unlocking huge potential for the growth and life of the Church.

“The call will be for every single parish to do this,” Bishop Hudson told the press conference. “We envisage every parish coming together and beginning to access what is available online, coming together ... for a series of evenings when they sit down and look at one of the videos and see what it says to them about their evangelisation initiative in the parish.”

Cardinal Nichols added that the success of the initiative, “Proclaim 15”, would not be measured by “quick returns” or a sudden increase in the numbers of people attending Mass.

“This is not a managerial exercise to get people into pews,” Cardinal Nichols said. “This is genuinely a deep, deep desire to share something immensely precious, immensely life-giving and what I believe is very much needed in our world today.”

## **Queen Appoints Professor David Fergusson to Chapel Royal**

The Queen has appointed a distinguished Church of Scotland minister as one of her personal chaplains in Scotland.

Professor David Fergusson, the Principal of New College at Edinburgh University, was named one of the Queen's 10 Chaplains-in-Ordinary on the 1st of July.

"It's a great honour to be appointed and I'm looking forward to serving in this capacity," he said. "As a person who teaches students from all over Scotland I think I have a sense of the issues faced by ministers across the breadth of the Church and I am delighted and honoured to serve The Queen in this capacity."

Dr Finlay Macdonald, a former Principal Clerk of the General Assembly was appointed as an Extra Chaplain (a retired post) as an expression of The Queen's gratitude for his previous service.

Professor Iain Torrance, Dean of the Chapel Royal in Scotland, said:

"This is a wonderful recognition of David's many outstanding contributions to the Church and to



***Professor David Fergusson***

Christian scholarship. David is a person who writes much admired theology for his professional colleagues but is also able to write with warmth and great lucidity for the person in the pew.

"If becoming Moderator is the most important institutional role to which a minister may be called, appointment as a Chaplain to The Queen is the greatest personal honour. In each case in which The Queen makes such an appointment it is an indication of her trust in the person she is honouring".

The role of Chaplain to the Monarch dates back to the 15th century in Scotland and is today a

largely ceremonial honour. Chaplains to the Queen take part in formal state occasions and conduct services at significant national events.

A renowned theologian and expert on religious history, Professor Fergusson has written and edited numerous journal articles and books, including: 'Creation' in 2014 and 'Faith and Its Critics: A Conversation' in 2009. His lecture tours have taken him to Oxford and Princeton, Montreal and Hong Kong, to name just a few.

Professor Fergusson's ministry began more than 30 years ago. He was ordained at St Mungo's in Cumbernauld where he served as associate minister while working as a part-time lecturer at Glasgow University.

From there he then went on to lecture at Edinburgh University. He also spent 11 years at Aberdeen University before returning to Edinburgh University in 2000.

"Teaching remains one of the best aspects of my work," he said. "It is a privilege to be involved in the formation of future ministers in the Scottish churches, as well as the education of many other students from across the UK and other parts of the world."

## **Situation in Athens 'incredibly worrying' as Greek debt crisis continues**

Churches and charities are unable to help relieve the suffering being experienced by the Greek people as the financial crisis escalates, because their own bank accounts have been frozen.

Church Times - The Senior Chaplain of St Paul's, Athens, Canon Malcolm Bradshaw, said that the situation was "incredibly worrying. Everyone is full of anxiety and fear. . . Charities and churches who work with the elderly and the poor are struggling to find money themselves. Our own bank accounts have been frozen.

"There is nothing here, no money coming in - we have been completely cut off. We can't do much at all to support those in financial hardship."

The banks have been closed for a week, and a limit of €60 per day has been imposed on customers taking money from cash machines. Pensioners were unable to collect their pensions on the usual day, Tuesday; but, on Wednesday, the government announced that pensioners

would be able to take out €120 to last them the week.

The government has called a referendum on Sunday to enable the public to vote whether to accept the terms of a bailout deal offered by their creditors, who are led by Germany.

But the referendum document, Canon Bradshaw said, was four pages long, and contained complex details, and information about the EU.

"Many people did not understand it, and might well say: "We have a government that supports Greece, and we will vote in the way they want, which is to vote no."

Canon Bradshaw said that, although he and his wife could leave for Britain, he would not go. "It would be like the captain leaving the sinking ship. I am here to represent the Archbishop of Canterbury. He has written this week to the Archbishop of Athens to express his concern at the situation."

He asked for prayer. "I would ask people to pray that wisdom may prevail in Brussels and in Greece. I know we have many supporters who will want to help us to help those who are suffering, when the banks are open again. But

will they open again? And, if they do, will they be empty?"

Welfare provision is in near collapse, it has been reported. The number of people using a homeless shelter in Athens has more than doubled in five months.

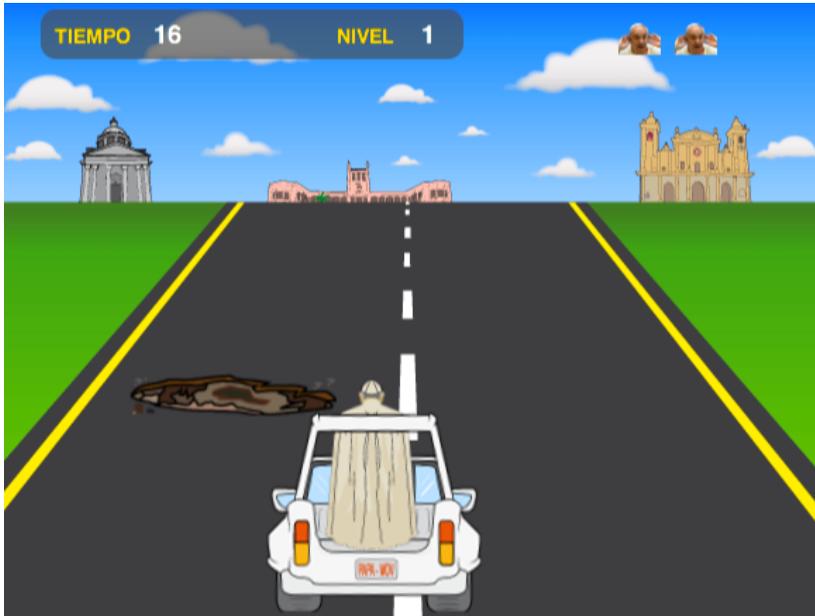
The charity Médecins du Monde was set up in Athens to treat sex workers and drug addicts, but is now spending most of its time and resources helping ordinary Greeks with emergency health-care.

## **Pope Francis computer game released ahead of Paraguay visit**

An online computer game has been created to celebrate Pope Francis's visit to Paraguay.

In **the game**, which is called Papa Road, players control the popemobile as Francis travels through the country's capital Asuncion.

The vehicle passes city landmarks including the government palace, the Pantheon of Heroes and the cathedral but has to avoid potholes.



The game was inspired by the repair of Asuncion's streets, which began in June, in preparation for the pontiff's visit. He is scheduled to arrive in Paraguay on Friday, the final stop on his tour of Latin America.

According to AFP, the producer of the video game, Joes Manuel Gonzalez, said that Papa Road is a way of poking fun at the country's government as the city prepares to host the pope.

He said: "Potholes that are like lunar craters, people offering to wash windshields, roving

vendors and motorcycles that appear out of nowhere are just some of the obstacles you have to confront (in the game).

“When the pontiff hits something, the face of Paraguayan President Horacio Cartes appears on the right of the screen, squealing and holding out a sign that says, ‘keep going.’”

Francis will leave Asuncion and return home to the Vatican on Sunday.

## **Media digest**

### **News Media UK**

Continuing coverage of the visit made by the Archbishop of Canterbury to News UK on Tuesday. Speaking on the 10th anniversary of the 7/7 London bombings, the Archbishop talked about his faith and how in the darkest of times even he had questioned how a God could allow awful things to happen.

<http://www.newsmediauk.org/Latest/the-archbishop-of-canterbury-visits-news-uk>

### **Times/Tel/Guard/Mail/BBC/Ind/Mirror**

Extensive coverage of the Budget and in particular George Osborne's announcement of the introduction of a compulsory living wage. This will be paid to over-25s. It will start at £7.20

and rise to £9 an hour by 2020. The announcement is worth about £2,000 a year above the current minimum wage,

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-33456160>

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/politics/article4492264.ece>

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/finance/budget/11727751/Budget-2015-George-Osborne-slashes-welfare-but-gives-Britain-a-pay-rise.html>

<http://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2015/jul/08/george-osborne-budget-minimum-wage-rise-12bn-welfare-cuts>

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3154139/Fearless-George-slays-dragons-Osborne-puts-Left-sword-9-living-wage-taking-9bn-axe-bloated-tax-credit-hammering-high-earners-pensions-super-rich-too.html>

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/business/news/budget-2015-live-osbornes-living-wage-will-leave-60000-job-cuts-says-obr-10375495.html>

<http://www.mirror.co.uk/news/uk-news/budget-2015-george-osborne-tries-6030101>

## **Comment on the Budget**

Times/Ind/Guard

*Guardian* refs the Church saying Living Wage campaigners cannot yet put down their placards

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as higher pay for the poorly paid means little if tax credits are cut too.

<http://www.theguardian.com/society/2015/jul/08/living-wage-campaigners-cannot-put-down-their-placards-yet>

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/opinion/columnists/article4491938.ece>

<http://www.independent.co.uk/voices/comment/budget-2015-george-osborne-seeks-to-be-a--progressive-but-hes-still-in-thrall-to-thatcherism-10376214.html>

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/business/comment/hamish-mcrae/budget-2015-you-think-youll-be-paying-less-tax-think-again-10376421.html>

## **Ind**

Reports that Isis has killed four children as it destroyed a church in the Iraqi city of Mosul. Differing reports have named the church as St Mary's and the 'Mother of Aid'. The children were standing close to the building.

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/middle-east/isis-kills-four-children-as-it-destroys-ancient-church-in-iraqi-city-of-mosul-10376301.html>

## **Mail**

Report of trial (ongoing) of former theological student and youth leader, Timothy Storey, who

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denies raping two teenage girls he knew and grooming a third. The alleged offences took place through youth work in a diocese of London church and a Christian camp.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3153934/Oxford-church-youth-leader-forced-schoolgirl-perform-sex-act-ordered-home-watch-Gladiator-eat-takeaway.html>

### **Guard**

Editorial focusing on Yvette Cooper, the Labour leadership contender. The article notes the support of Helen Goodman, MP for Bishop Auckland who has commented in her blog, that as a working mother, Ms Cooper faces challenges which fall much harder on mothers than fathers who work.

<http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2015/jul/08/the-guardian-view-on-motherhood-not-a-basis-for-judgment>

### **Spectator**

Review of A. N. Wilson's new book " The book of the people: How to read the Bible", by Jonathan Aitken.

<http://www.spectator.co.uk/books/9575902/has-a-n-wilson-reached-the-last-port-of-call-on-the-tempestuous-sea-of-faith/>

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