



## **The essential daily brief on the Irish churches**

### **Church of England to have women bishops**

The General Synod of the Church of England has given its final approval for women to become bishops in the Church of England.



The vote in the General Synod on the measure was carried by the required two-thirds majority in the three constituent parts of the Synod: the House of Bishops, the House of Clergy and the House of Laity.

The voting results were as follows:

House of Bishops: Yes 37 No 2 Abstentions 1  
House of Clergy: Yes 162 No 25 Abstentions 4  
House of Laity: Yes 152 No 45 Abstentions 5

This means the first woman bishop could potentially be appointed by the end of the year.

The vote comes 18 months after the proposal was last voted upon in November 2012 when the proposal failed to achieve the required two thirds majority in the House of Laity.

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, said:

"Today is the completion of what was begun over 20 years with the ordination of women as priests. I am delighted with today's result. Today marks the start of a great adventure of seeking mutual flourishing while still, in some cases disagreeing.

The challenge for us will be for the church to model good disagreement and to continue to demonstrate love for those who disagree on theological grounds. Very few institutions achieve this, but if we manage this we will be living our more fully the call of Jesus Christ to love one another. As delighted as I am for the outcome of this vote I am also mindful of those within the Church for whom the result will be difficult and a cause of sorrow.

My aim, and I believe the aim of the whole church, should be to be able to offer a place of welcome and growth for all. Today is a time of blessing and gift from God and thus of generosity. It is not winner take all, but in love a time for the family to move on together."

The Archbishop of York, Dr. John Sentamu, said:

"This is a momentous day. Generations of women have served the Lord faithfully in the Church of England for centuries. It is a moment of joy today: the office of Bishop is open to them.

To those who ask "what took you so long?" my answer is that every decision has a cost and there will be those within our body who will be hurting as a result of this decision. Our answer to the hurting should not be "get over it" but rather "we will not let go until you have blessed us."

We move slowly because we move together. But in moving together we achieve not only what is just but also model what is right. As the African Proverb says: "Whoever walks fast, travels alone. Whoever walks far, walks in the company of others."

The legislation approved today includes a House of Bishops declaration, underpinned by five guiding principles and a disputes resolution procedure. Following the vote on the measure which enables women to become Bishops, the Synod voted on enabling legislation (Canon) and also rescinded existing legislation (Act of Synod) as part of a package of measures being proposed.

Following yesterday's vote the measure moves to the Legislative Committee of General Synod and then to the Ecclesiastical Committee of the Houses of Parliament where the legislation will be considered. Subject to Parliamentary approval the measure will return to the General Synod in November of this year where it will come into force after its promulgation (legal formal announcement).

Today's vote follows a process which began at the 2013 July Synod which

created a steering committee on women bishops, chaired by the Bishop of Rochester James Langstaff, with a mandate to draw up a package of new proposals. Bishop James opened the debate on behalf of the steering committee and responded to the debate urging synod members to vote for the proposals.

## **Summer School on Understanding Protestantism, Unionism and Loyalism**

**Irish School of  
Ecumenics students  
participated in a  
summer school on  
“Understanding  
Protestantism,  
Unionism and  
Loyalism,” 10-12 July 2014.**



The school featured lectures by Dr James Wilson, a freelance consultant and lecturer, on the historical development of Orangeism and PUL cultures and understandings, as well as contemporary issues like the flags protests and the controversies around the Parades Commission. It also included a film and discussion with ISE's Dr David Tombs, field trips to a bonfire and the Belfast parade, and discussion with ISE's Dr Gladys Ganiel on the structure, symbolism and meaning of parading.

Dr Wilson served in the security forces during the Troubles, and later in corporate counsel in London. In 1998 he facilitated the historic accommodation between the Apprentice Boys and the Bogside Residents. His doctorate was on the origins of the Orange Order, and his most recent research was a case study of the 2012/13 loyalist flags protest.

## **Trio to drive from Dublin to Mongolia in '99 Nissan Micra for charity**



**Paddy Thunder, Lorcan Smith and Diarmaid Keane, all 25, are undertaking the drive of a lifetime to raise money for the Fr. Peter McVerry Trust.**

Three Irishmen will embark on a journey across the globe this month - all travelling in a '99 Nissan Micra.

The men are participating in an event called the Mongol Rally, a charity rally that involves driving over 15,000 kilometers across 18 countries.

Fittingly, their team name for the rally is 'Micra Management'.

As per the rules, there will be no support vehicles, no GPS, and for about one third of the journey there will be no roads.

Leaving Dublin on the 18th July, the men will pass through countries like Iran, Kazakhstan and Russia, with just the bare essentials to survive for the four week journey.

Team Micra Management will be keeping followers updated along the way, via Twitter and video posts.

Having spent the last six months organising the trip, Paddy said they have been “overwhelmed” by the response from people and companies who have helped make it possible.

To make a donation, visit [www.facebook.com/micramanagement](http://www.facebook.com/micramanagement)

- See more at: <http://www.independent.ie/irish-news/trio-to-drive-from-dublin-to-mongolia-in-99-nissan-micra-for-charity-30430025.html#sthash.Ei5l3PyP.dpuf>

## **Down and Dromore C of I is looking for more diocesan evangelists**

**A statement reads - Down and Dromore is a missional diocese seeking to recruit people with a heart to reach the lost, a commitment to work hard and a willingness to learn how to witness more effectively.**

We are currently training twelve Diocesan Evangelists through a two year course. This autumn we will be holding interviews for a new intake of students for a new harvest.

Here's what some of our current students are saying:

“The Evangelists’ course was certainly a leap of faith in the right direction for me. We have a lot of reading and assignments to do which have been a challenge but also a good chance to gain new knowledge about Christian and church history as well as developing critical viewpoints within theological discussions. I know God is working within each of us in the group as we meet and learn together.”

*Simon Henry (Diocesan Evangelist in training)*

“I’m enjoying the practical side of the course, building up a portfolio, and our monthly get-togethers for prayer and encouragement.”

*Janet Fleming (Diocesan Evangelist in training)*

“It’s an excellent opportunity to gain a deeper understanding of God’s word.”

*Kyle Harris (Diocesan Evangelist in training)*

An overview of the course:



- The course costs £2,500 per person and half of this amount is being met by the Church Planting Fund. It is anticipated that the other half will be shared between the parish and the individual.
- The course is accredited by St John's College, Nottingham with the practical elements facilitated by 'Through Faith Missions'.
- The course is distance learning based, taken over a 2 year period.
- The time commitment will require a full day (not a set day, but a day of your choice) per week.
- The course is taught by evangelists and will equip participants with skills in evangelism.
- Included in the course is a core unit on "The Life of the Evangelist" providing contact between students and some of the best evangelists in the UK and Ireland.
- Interviews will be held in October 2014 and successful candidates will commence the course in January 2015. The diocese will attempt to help find concurrent voluntary, or paid placements for evangelists in the diocese of Down & Dromore.

[Detailed information is available to download as a PDF here.](#)

What to do next

Send Mary in Bishop Harold's office ([mcoles@diocoff-belfast.org](mailto:mcoles@diocoff-belfast.org)) an email outlining your experience and role in ministering to others and include the contact details for two referees. Also attach a copy of your recent CV.

Please also ask your rector to write you a personal reference which he or she should send direct to Mary

The deadline for applications and receipt of the requested information:  
FRIDAY 12 SEPTEMBER 2014

## **Inquiry 'would have led to Kincora'**

**Conservative MP Zac Goldsmith has welcomed the decision of Lady Butler-Sloss to step down as the head of an inquiry into child sex abuse.**

Mr Goldsmith claims her brother, former attorney general Sir Michael Havers, wrote the terms of reference of an inquiry into Kincora Boys' Home.

He said the inquiry focused only on social workers and staff, excluding visitors to the east Belfast home.



Three senior staff at Kincora were jailed in 1981 for abusing 11 boys.

*The Kincora Boys' Home in east Belfast was at the centre of a child abuse scandal*

Lady Butler-Sloss stood down on Monday as chair of the newly-established child abuse inquiry that was set up to examine how state institutions handled their duty of care to protect children from paedophiles.... (More here)

....Amnesty International last week called for the remit of the Westminster inquiry to be widened to include Kincora.

"Allegations have persisted that paedophilia at Kincora was linked to British intelligence services, with claims that visitors to the home included members of the military, politicians and civil servants, and that police investigations into abuse at Kincora were blocked by the Ministry of Defence and MI5," said its Northern Ireland director Patrick Corrigan.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-28300654>

## **Mental health charity to start up support group in Rathcoole**

**Aware Defeat Depression is in talks to open a Rathcoole support group as increasing numbers of people in the area seek mental health care.**

## Newtownabbey Times

- The charity, whose head office is in Duncairn Gardens, already runs programmes catering for all age groups in the Newtownabbey area.

These include a Mood Matters programme for young people at Hazelwood College, youth clubs at St Mary's on the Hill Parish, and an upcoming initiative at Newtownabbey Community High School. In addition, the group works with Newtownabbey Senior Citizens' Forum, and has run a Later Years programme for the elderly in New Mossley.



*Aware Defeat Depression is in talks which could lead to the establishment of a Rathcoole support group.*

Aware's spokeswoman Michelle Byrne explained: "Depression affects one in four people at some stage in their lives. We have a tailored approach to different age groups, from young people aged 14-18 in schools to later years programmes. We also offer help for mothers with post natal depression.

"Our biggest initiative in Rathcoole is working with Mental Health Matters and we are hoping to get more information out so that people can come along and find out what help there is.

"Depression is an isolating illness and people don't know where to turn or who to talk to. If the information is readily available they will get the courage to seek the help they need."

Aware has been tackling depression across Northern Ireland since 1996, and increasing numbers of people are accessing their services as the stigma surrounding depression lifts and outreach initiatives bear fruit. There are currently 23 support groups throughout the Province.

She revealed: "Official statistics show there has been a 3.1 per cent increase over the last five years in people being diagnosed with depression. In the Northern Trust area, 12.6 per cent of people were diagnosed as having depression by their GP. That's the joint second highest rate in Northern



Ireland behind the South Eastern Trust. we have delivered 297 courses in that area in the last three years.” More at -

<http://www.newtownabbeytoday.co.uk/news/local-news/mental-health-charity-to-start-up-support-group-in-rathcoole-1-6167586>

## Being a priest comes first, says YouTube star



**Singing priest Fr Ray Kelly has said he will sign a record deal within a fortnight - once he's satisfied touring commitments won't compromise his vocation.**

The Irish cleric, who became a global sensation after his version of the Leonard Cohen hit Hallelujah went viral on YouTube, has been in lengthy talks with three major labels over the past six weeks.

Independent - But the 60-year-old, who's been headhunted by heavy-hitters Sony and Universal and a smaller independent label, said he is finally ready to agree terms with one of the three industry players "in the next week or two".

However, he said he will only sign on the dotted line once he's convinced he'll be able to maintain his work rate in his parish and his commitments to his parishioners in Oldcastle, Co Meath. He said: "We're still in talks at the

moment, but we're very close to a deal with one of the labels. I thought we might have signed last week, but it looks like it's going to happen in the next week or two.

"As I've said before, first and foremost I'm a priest and I need to make sure I'm not pinned down to something that won't allow me to carry out my duties in the parish. I celebrated 25 years as a priest last month. It's a lifelong commitment, I love the parish and I never want to give that up. My situation is different to most people in the industry in that I won't always be in a position to drop everything and go on tour."

- See more at: <http://www.independent.ie/entertainment/music/being-a-priest-comes-first-says-youtube-star-30427010.html#sthash.VW2o3UEc.dpuf>