

**Body of
tragic
Ulster-born
cleric to be
brought
back from
New
Zealand**



Lynda Patterson in 1996 at Mansfield College, Oxford

**Two separate
funeral
services are to
be held on
different sides
of the world for
a tragic**

**Ulsterwoman who died whilst serving as Dean of Christchurch
Cathedral, New Zealand**

Adam Kula in News Letter- The father of Anglican cleric Lynda Patterson said that her first funeral service is to be held in the city of Christchurch today.

There had previously been uncertainty about where her final resting place would be, amid suggestions that she had wanted to be buried in New Zealand.

However, Cedric Patterson yesterday confirmed that her body will be returned to the Province following today's service.

He said: “She’ll have a funeral service without a committal in Christchurch, and she’ll have the funeral service with the committal in Dromore Cathedral, at a date yet to be determined.”

Mr Patterson said that it had still not been officially determined how his daughter, aged 40, had died.

Lynda – who was described as one of the “all time greats” of the University of Oxford’s Mansfield College, where she had both studied and taught – did not turn up for Sunday service on July 20 and was later found dead at home.

It is believed she suffered a heart attack, but Mr Patterson said yesterday they are still awaiting a death certificate.

He expects this will arrive in Northern Ireland along with her body.

Mr Patterson said he is hopeful of having her returned by the weekend, but at time of writing he could not be sure.

He and wife Evelyn will not be flying out to New Zealand for today’s 1pm service because of the length of time it would take to get there.

“We have to get her home and we have to get her buried,” he said.

He added that the bishop of Christchurch, Victoria Matthews, will be travelling over to Northern Ireland in due course.

A superb student, upon arriving in New Zealand she had set about learning Maori; the language of native New Zealanders, deemed a necessary skill by the church.

She was praised by a former tutor at Mansfield, who said as soon as he met her he realised he had “struck gold”.

Rev John Muddiman told the News Letter that she not only knew the Bible intimately, but was also a voracious reader of literature.

He described her as a “Lynda, the polymath, (who) could tackle any problem thrown at her from whatever discipline”, adding that she was “the most provocative, thoughtful and often hilarious preacher I have ever heard”.

Despite attaining remarkable success at a very young age, she had faced trials in her life as well.

Rev Muddiman concluded: “But she came through it all with great courage and resilience. And now we have lost her – at such a young age. May she rest in peace.

“She was and will remain one of Mansfield’s all-time greats.”

<http://www.newsletter.co.uk/body-of-tragic-ulster-born-cleric-to-be-brought-back-from-new-zealand-1-6205391>

Archbishop’s Call to Pray for the People of Mosul, Iraq

The Most Revd Dr Richard Clarke, Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of All Ireland has made the following request -

Recent reports of the forced expulsion, violence and intimidation against the Christian population in Mosul in northern Iraq by ISIS militants is deeply distressing. There are accounts that numbers of people have died and been threatened with death for their faith. At this time, we ask people here across our land who enjoy religious freedom and liberty to remember before God the suffering people of this ancient city where Christians and Muslims have lived together for many centuries.

We remember those who are working selflessly for healing, peace and restoration between peoples in these most difficult of circumstances and pray that by God’s Holy Spirit light will replace the present darkness that many are experiencing.

See CNI yesterday for three prayers for Mosul issued by the C of E.

Scotch-Irish pioneer cleric marked by Blue Plaque

A Presbyterian minister dubbed the ‘Moses of the Scotch-Irish’ has been honoured at his former church in Co Londonderry with a Blue Plaque.

News Letter - James McGregor was born in Tamlaghtard near Magilligan Point in 1677 and ordained as the clergyman at Aghadowey in 1701.

He preached in the Irish language for many years but in 1718 - when the effects of the religious persecution of non-Anglicans, bad harvests and soaring rents caused great hardship - he led up to 1,000 immigrants on to five ships bound for Boston, America.

The new arrivals were not welcomed by the English settlers already there so Rev McGregor led his flock to Nutfield, New Hampshire where they founded the first Ulster Presbyterian settlement on the continent.

The plaque commemorating the achievements of the pioneering minister was unveiled yesterday at Aghadowey Presbyterian by the US Consul General for Northern Ireland, Gregory S Burton, and the current clergyman Rev Robert Kane.



A Blue Plaque to James McGregor (1677-1729) is unveiled at Aghadowey Presbyterian Church by the U.S. Consul General for Northern Ireland, Gregory S. Burton and the Minister of Aghadowey Presbyterian Church, Rev. Robert Kane

Rev McGregor is reputed to have brought the potato to America where it was cultivated by the new settlers and, having put down roots at Nutfield, the Ulster-born congregation members were granted permission in 1722 to change the town's name to Londonderry.

The Blue Plaque tribute is the result of collaboration between the Ulster History Circle and the Ulster-Scots Agency.

Author and historian Rick Holmes and his wife travelled to Aghadowey from Londonderry, New Hampshire for the unveiling,

Ulster History Circle chairman Chris Spur described James McGregor as a "man who saw and made history".

Mr Spur said: "In the Siege of 1689, he is believed to have signalled the relief of Derry; in 1718 he led the great migration, and in 1722 he founded Londonderry. The 'Moses of the Scots-Irish' brought his people to a new beginning."

Ian Crozier, CEO of the Ulster-Scots Agency, said "The Ulster-Scots Agency is delighted to be able to highlight the contribution to another Ulster-Scot who has made a huge difference to the religious landscape of New England and global Ulster-Scots diaspora."

US Secretary of State John Kerry, who ran against George W Bush for the presidency in 2004, is a descendant of Rev McGregor.

The Massachusetts senator, on his mother's side of the family, is a 6th great grandson of the renowned clergyman with a sense of adventure.

To date, the Ulster History Circle - which is funded by donations from individuals and various organisations - has erected a total of 178 Blue Plaques across every county in Northern Ireland.

<http://www.newsletter.co.uk/news/scotch-irish-pioneer-marked-by-blue-plaque-1-6205374>

Christian Aid publishes new paper examining the theology of gender

Being made male or female should be a gift of God, not a weapon of oppression says a new paper by Christian Aid, [*Of the Same Flesh: exploring a theology of gender.*](#)

The paper examines how global poverty affects women more than men and explores how Christian theology can provide a positive vision of gender which can make it a blessing not a curse.

Author Rev Dr Susan Durber, Christian Aid's Theology Advisor, said many Christian Aid partner organisations in developing countries are transforming the way in which gender is lived in their communities through engaging in theology and working with church leaders.

She said: "Christians believe that our being made 'male and female' is a gift of God, and should be experienced as joy for humankind. It is a scandal then that our gender is so often experienced not as joy, but as a place of oppression.

"When it becomes a source of persecution and fear, this is a distortion of God's intention for creation. From machismo cultures that skew masculinity, to the striking evidence of the poverty and exclusion of women, there is a sense that the world is not as it should be in relation to gender. This is the common tragedy of humankind, but it is also the particular pain of the most poor and vulnerable."

The statistics on the plight of women are stark. Women comprise half of the world's population but the majority of those living in absolute poverty today. In South Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa, more than 80 per cent of women work in vulnerable employment and globally, time spent on unpaid care work by

women can be more than ten times that of men. Women are only 22 per cent of the world's parliamentarians, though they as much as men are subject to the decisions that parliaments make. **In addition**, 35 per cent of women around the world will experience sexual violence or violence perpetrated by a partner.

The paper begins with what Christian Aid's partner organisations **say** about how gender is experienced in the world and its connection with poverty, but then engages this experience with the Scriptures and the Christian tradition. Dr Durber highlights key scriptural texts that, though written into biblical cultures in which gender injustice was the norm, emphasise that men and women are both made in the image of God, and are of the same flesh, both with dignity and value. She finds, again and again in the Christian tradition, a radical re-imagining of gender that confounds what usually happens in human cultures and communities.

She said: "Turning to the Scriptures to shape a theology is not a straightforward process and interpretation should never be simplistic and naive. We need to read with care and learn how to become interpreters who can find the blessing within, behind or even sometimes apparently against the grain of the text."

With the Church of England celebrating women bishops legislation earlier this month and **the recent** Girls' Summit in London discussing FGM and forced marriage, the issue of gender is increasingly on the global agenda.

Dr Durber said: "Theologians and church leaders have key voices in shaping the way that gender is understood, experienced and lived out in communities across the world. The Bible says that God made humankind in God's image, male and female. This is not a generalised banality about an abstract 'sameness', but a radical celebration of a difference that should be strongly rooted in equality and justice."

The full report can be accessed here: <http://www.christianaid.org.uk/images/of-the-same-flesh-gender-theology-report.pdf>

Pope acknowledges Catholic complicity in persecution of Italian Pentecostals

Pope Francis has fulfilled a request of the Italian evangelical community by recognising the complicity of some Catholics in the fascist-era persecution of Italian Pentecostals and evangelicals.

“Among those who persecuted and denounced the Pentecostals, almost as if they were crazies who would ruin the race, there were some Catholics. As the pastor of the Catholics, I ask forgiveness for those Catholic brothers and sisters who did not understand and were tempted by the devil,” Italian news agencies quoted the Pope as saying during his visit to in Caserta, southern Italy, earlier today.

Giovanni Traettino, a Pentecostal pastor and longtime friend of Pope Francis, welcomed the Pope, who he described as “my beloved brother,” to his partially built church in Caserta.

Pope Francis said he knows some people were shocked that he would make a special trip outside of Rome to visit a group of Pentecostals, “but I went to visit my friends.”

The Vatican had described the visit as “strictly private” and, except for Vatican media, reporters were kept on the roof of a nearby apartment building. In the new worship space of the Pentecostal Church of Reconciliation, still under construction, Pope Francis met with about 200 people, including members of Traettino’s congregation, other Italian evangelicals and representatives of Pentecostal ministries in Argentina and the United States, the Vatican said.

Traettino told the Pope his visit was “unthinkable until recently,” even though, he said, “even among evangelicals there is great affection for you. Many of us pray for you, every day. Many of us, in fact, believe your election as bishop of Rome was the work of the Holy Spirit.”

Pope Francis told the Pentecostals that “the Holy Spirit is the source of diversity in the Church. This diversity is very rich and beautiful. But then the same Holy Spirit creates unity. And in this way the Church is one in diversity. To use a beautiful Gospel phrase that I love very much, reconciled diversity” is the gift of the Holy Spirit.

The Pope and Traettino first met in Buenos Aires, Argentina, in the late 1990s when Traettino was establishing ties between charismatic Catholics and Pentecostal Protestants. The then-Cardinal Jorge Bergoglio and Traettino also appeared together at a large ecumenical charismatic gathering in Buenos Aires in 2006. Traettino was present June 1 in Rome’s Olympic Stadium when Pope Francis spoke to an international gathering of Catholic charismatics. MORE AT - <http://www.catholicerald.co.uk/news/2014/07/28/pope-acknowledges-catholic-complicity-in-persecution-of-italian-pentecostals/>

Press Review

Tel

Report that the Archbishop of Canterbury has written to Pope Francis to prevent the ordination of women bishops from derailing plans for the eventual reunification between the Anglican and Roman Catholic churches. It states in a letter to the Pope and other global church leaders including leading orthodox patriarchs, Justin Welby asked for prayers for the Church of England, telling them: "We need each other." The letter argues that there is more that unites the churches than divides them and that they should not let differences over issues like women bishops prevent them standing together on major global questions.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/religion/10993921/Welbys-unity-plea-to-Pope-Francis-over-women-bishops.html>

BBC

Report that the Church of England has dismissed claims that transferring oversight for the Channel Islands from one diocese to another could cost more than the figure initially reported, due to extra legal costs. It states a leading lay member of the Church in Jersey has suggested it has cost £645,000, rather than the £190,000 originally estimated. A spokesman for the Diocese of Winchester said: "The figures were inaccurate and it was a serious matter to put invented figures into the public domain." The Bishop of Dover, Trevor Willmott, is also quoted saying: "As far as I am concerned, as bishop responsible for both Jersey and Guernsey now, we will keep the cost for the national church as low as possible. Although people may make statements, I have to say they really do not know the reality of the situation."

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-jersey-2851051>

FT

Report on how the Church of England's indirect investment in Wonga, seemed to have been resolved after the church finally sold its stake in the company, roughly 12 months after the archbishop of Canterbury - unaware the church had exposure to Wonga - accused payday lenders of being "morally wrong". It states the saga provided many learning points for the church's investment board, but for other large investors it presents one significant lesson: the importance of knowing what you are invested in.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/205a0b94-1275-11e4-a581-00144feabdc0.html?siteedition=intl#axzz38jublddg>

Ind

Report that the Greek Orthodox church of St Porphyrios has become a small

www.churchnewsireland.org

refuge in the heart of the Israel-Gaza conflict. It states around 2,000 people, the vast majority of them women and children, including infants, gathered at the Greek Orthodox church in Zaytun, where families sleep on mattresses in the corridors and rooms of the church and adjoining buildings, meals are provided, and doctors from a nearby private hospital have been providing medical care.

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/middle-east/israelgaza-conflict-greek-orthodox-church-of-st-porphyrrios-becomes-a-small-refuge-in-the-heart-of-gazas-bloodletting-9631777.html>

Ind

Columnist, Stefano Hatfield calls for complete dis-establishment of church and state not only in this country, but in all countries. He argues that this is obvious in the face of the many inequalities that accompany "establishment".

<http://www.independent.co.uk/voices/comment/the-quest-for-meaning-and-the-desire-for-tribalism-9631503.html>

Ind

Report that Temple Church in London is holding a service today, as Monday 28 July, is arguably the real centenary of the start of WW1. Representatives of the Austrian and Serbian embassies will be among those attending a public service at the church, built in the 12th century for the Knights Templar. They will commemorate the initial declaration of war by Austria-Hungary against Serbia that ultimately led to all the other declarations of war by the other great powers.

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/church-to-mark-real-centenary-of-the-start-of-first-world-war-9631887.html>

BBC

Report that a special church service has been held in Frenchay Parish Church to remember and celebrate a South Gloucestershire village's links with the recently closed Frenchay hospital. Frenchay village was home to the hospital which closed in May as part of a move to Southmead in Bristol. Reverend Judith Lee said: "There seemed to be a real sense of loss in the community once the main hospital moved on in May."

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-bristol-28511042>

Mail

Report that a war memorial featuring the details of the first British officer to be killed in the First World War has been restored. Joseph Gedge, 36, was among 150 men killed on August 6, 1914 when their ship, HMS Amphion, struck mines laid by the enemy in the Thames Estuary. It states a £14,000

project has been completed to revive the Portland stone memorial in St Mary's Church, Swanley, Kent, which has links to Staff Paymaster Gedge's family.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/wires/pa/article-2707327/WAR-MEMORIAL-RESTORATION-COMPLETED.html#ixzz38jq6xvaM>

BBC

Report that a church in Gloucester which recently celebrated its 50th year is set to close by December. St Aldate's in Finlay Road has seen congregations fall over the past few years, which has led to the decision. The Reverend Mike Parsons said: "The congregation is very fragile, elderly, and there are no church-related activities held at the church." Sunday services will stop but people can join the neighbouring St Barnabas or St Oswald's in Coney Hill.

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-gloucestershire-28510032>

Mirror

Report that the founder of ultra-right Britain First has quit the group over its "unchristian" paramilitary-style "mosque invasions". Former church minister and British National Party member Jim Dowson told the Mirror the raids are "provocative and counterproductive". He added that they were attracting "racists and extremists" to the organisation, which has taken over from the British National Party and the English Defence League as the biggest far-right threat in the UK.

<http://www.mirror.co.uk/news/uk-news/britain-first-founder-quits-over-3923810#ixzz38jirKloK>

Tel

Report that a secular church without God is finding its niche in Nashville, Tennessee - often described as the "Protestant Vatican". It states the Sunday Assembly, which was started in London in January 2013 by a pair of British stand-up comedians, offers a church experience but without the 'God part' and, according to organisers, it is starting to catch on in America.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/northamerica/usa/10991353/Inside-the-church-without-a-God.html>

Mail

Report that hundreds of police took down a church's cross in eastern China early on Monday amid a crackdown on church buildings in a coastal region where thousands of people are embracing Christianity. Evangelist Qu Linuo, who belongs to another church, said authorities told the church the cross violated building height limits.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/wires/ap/article-2708007/Police-China-remove->

[churchs-cross.html#ixzz38jhldfYl](#)

And finally...

Tel

Article on how 'Google' has become people's most trusted friend and confidant? It states, that where once we saw the internet as the equivalent of an encyclopaedia, and search engines as librarians, now we treat them as our closest confidants. It cites an internet service provider tracking the searches of a customer: over a matter of weeks, which went from "pregnancy vitamins" to "relationship counselling" to "abortion clinics".

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/technology/10981092/Are-you-there-Google-How-the-internet-became-our-most-trusted-friend.html>

Blogs - Guard

Andrew Brown: There are as many atheisms as there are gods

<http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/andrewbrown/2014/jul/27/atheism-gods-religion>

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