



***The Republic of Ireland's Presidential Commission has signed its same-sex marriage bill into law.***

## **C of I 'will not dig itself into a hole' as Ireland's same-sex marriage bill passes final hurdle**

The Republic of Ireland's same-sex marriage bill has been signed into law by the Presidential Commission.

It became the first country in the world to introduce [same-sex marriage by popular vote in May](#), when over 60% of voters supported the referendum.

The Bill passed through the upper house of the Irish parliament, the Seanad, last week.

With the presidential endorsement, the bill has cleared its final hurdle.

Last week, justice minister, Frances Fitzgerald, said the first same-sex marriages in the country would take place from the middle of November.

Senator Katherine Zappone, who had long campaigned for her Canadian marriage to her wife to be recognised in Ireland, called it "a defining moment".

"It is a deeply emotional moment for those of us who have campaigned for so long,"

"This victory truly belongs to the nation, it is a moment for us all."

In a memorable moment that unfolded live on national television after the referendum result was announced, Senator Zappone proposed to

her wife Ann Louise Gilligan to re-marry her under Irish law.

Canon Charles Kenny, from the Church of Ireland's gay rights group Changing Attitude Ireland, welcomed the news, saying love "shouldn't be confined to people of different sex".

Mr Kenny said he does not think the issue of gay marriage will split the Church of Ireland.

"I think people in the church realise they have to give a bit," he said.

"Of course you get some alarmist talk when people are frightened, but on the whole, the church recognises that we're living in a different world to our grandparents.

"It would be terrible if it dug itself into a hole over the issue as the Catholic Church did, but I don't think it will."

Evelyne Paradis of the International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Intersex Association paid tribute to Irish politicians, saying all the main political parties "put aside their partisan differences, to campaign for the greater goal of equality".

## Methodist Church thanks Corrymeela on its 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary



The President of the Methodist Church in Ireland, the Rev Brian Anderson has issued the following Statement on the 50th Birthday of Corrymeela:

On behalf of the Methodist Church in Ireland I want to give thanks to God for the work of the Corrymeela Community and its work of peace building. The vision cast by its founder the Rev. Ray Davey, was a prophetic one, that foresaw the need to build a community that would help all ages with the struggles of fractured and hurting communities in the province. While its name can have several meanings "The Hill of

Harmony" resonates with the contribution the community has made to the building of trust and understanding in Northern Ireland.

We wish the present Community Director Padraig O'Tuma and the other staff members, wisdom and direction as we build a Northern Ireland that lives well together, as Methodists would say "to be friends of all and enemies of none"

## **Rome Synod provides ‘manifesto’ for Irish Church renewal - Archbishop of Armagh**

Archbishop Eamon Martin has said the Synod of Bishops on the Family has provided the Church here with a “manifesto” for the renewal of the Faith.

Dismissing the need for further consultation within Irish dioceses and parishes, Archbishop Eamon Martin told *The Irish Catholic* he would be “disappointed” to return to Ireland from Rome for another series of “talking shops”.

Dr Martin was amongst almost 300 bishops in Rome who backed a plan that is expected to

usher in a significant pastoral shift in the Church's approach to families.

The synod is asking the Church to help people in practical ways to get married and to stay married, and calls for special outreach to those who have suffered the collapse of marriage and family, helping to heal and integrate them in the life of the Church.

"I think there is enough in this synod to be establishing family support systems, support structures for marriage preparation, for the initial years of marriage and for families in difficulty.

"I see a very joined up thinking of family catechesis, family support, the new evangelisation and the establishment of parish pastoral councils throughout Ireland which are actively involved in pastoral ministry to other families," he said.

Noting that the synod was a "fantastic resource" for the Church in Ireland, Archbishop Eamon said the assembly would act as a "springboard" for preparations for the World Meeting of Families in Dublin in 2018.

The archbishop said he planned on putting “some very concrete initiatives emerging from this synod” into place ahead of the key meeting of families which Pope Francis may attend in three years’ time.

“I think that the World Meeting of Families gives us a goal. It would be lovely for [the Pope] to see that we have taken some of the ideas of this synod, which is obviously very dear to him, and tried to make something happen,” he said.

The Primate of All-Ireland also revealed plans to establish a “network of families”, insisting that he was “convinced” that the agents of the Church’s ministry to families in the future “will be other families”.

“We somehow need to find ways of empowering young couples, with their young families to become agents of the new evangelisation and family support for other families.

“There is loads there for us to be getting on with and we ought to hit the ground running,” he said.

## **C of I's New Student Readers Commissioned at Theological Institute**

Nine student ordinands were commissioned as student readers by the Archbishop of Dublin in the Church of Ireland Theological Institute on Wednesday evening (October 28).

Lindsey Farrell (Clogher), Sean Hanily (Kilmore, Elphin and Ardagh), Derek Harrington (Derry and Raphoe), Alison Irvine (Clogher), Andrew Irwin (Down and Dromore), Berni McEvoy (Down and Dromore), Ian Mills (Derry and Raphoe), James Price (Connor) and Trevor Sargent (Cashel, Ferns and Ossory) were commissioned during the Community Eucharist in the Chapel of CITI for the Feast of St Simon and St Jude. They were presented for licensing by the Director of the Institute, Canon Dr Maurice Elliott and Lecturer in Missiology, the Revd Dr Patrick McGlinchey.

In his sermon, Archbishop Michael Jackson, said the readings for the Feast Day of Simon and Jude [Isaiah 28.14–16; psalm 119.89–96; Ephesians 2.19–22; St John 15.17–27] went beyond imagery and fantasy to construction. He





***The newly commissioned student readers with Canon Dr Maurice Elliott, Archbishop Michael Jackson and the Revd Dr Patrick McGlinchey.***

added that the Collect for the day stated that foundations lead to corner–stone and corner–stone lead to temple. The Collect’s description is of the church built on prophets and apostles with Jesus as the chief corner–stone.

The Archbishop compared being commissioned to an invitation to contribute and belong to the Kingdom of God.

“The Kingdom of God is what this movement and this community is called: it is more than an idea – it is an activity; it is more than a group of people together – it is a team; it is more than something

inside the church – it is part of the life of the world to which God belongs and which belongs to God and is loved by God; it is more than a word – it is a way of life. It is to this that you who today are commissioned are invited to contribute and to belong. It is this Kingdom that binds the rest of us here today to you,” he said.

The Archbishop added that everyone had the same opportunity to be part of the Kingdom of God. Some took the opportunity and others turned their back on it but the invitation continued even when people did not respond.

Commissioning was a strengthening and building up and out of the faith and goodness already present and a protection against evil, he said. “Evil is a reality in today’s world and that is why we who are sent need to build on the foundation of prophets, apostles and Jesus Christ,” the Archbishop stated.

## **Methodist Mission’s green initiative visited by Mayor of Belfast**

The Going Green Group at the East Belfast Mission’s homeless project Hosford relaunched its Community Garden on 28 October. The event



was attended by Belfast's Lord Mayor Arder Carson who congratulated the Group on developing the Garden's recycling centre and setting up its new polytunnel.

Rev Margaret Ferguson welcomed the guests, and Hosford's Manager Aiden Byre provided an update on the Going Green's progress.

## **Historians trace grandson of Western Front letter writer**

A Belfast man whose grandfather's letters from the Western Front during World War One are now housed in the RCB Library in Dublin has met historians researching the wartime letters. Kenny McKeague, a trainer and member of the



***RCB historian Dr Susan Hood met Kenny McKeague, grandson of WW1 soldier William James Millikin in Belfast recently.***

backroom staff with the first team at Linfield Football Club, is the grandson of William James Millikin.

A collection of letters written by William and nine other soldiers who were all parishioners of the Parish of Dundela in East Belfast was the subject of an [online exhibition](#) and [short film](#) put together

by the RCB Library following the discovery of the letters, which tell a very human story.

While various letters written from the front are found in other repositories and in private custody, the survival of a collection in a parish context is rare.

Subsequent collaboration between the Library (where the letters are now in permanent safekeeping) and local historians from the East Belfast & the Great War Project has confirmed these are the only such letters known to survive relating to soldiers from East Belfast.

Now, thanks to the ongoing research work of the team and in particular the painstaking efforts of historian and genealogist Dr Hilary Kennedy, the stories of what happened to each of the 10 letter writers (all of whom returned to Belfast at the end of the War) have been tracked, and in a few cases living descendants have been traced.

Kenny McKeague is one of those contacted by the team. Now in his 80s, Kenny continues to live in Belfast and like his grandfather is a parishioner at Dundela. William's poignant letter, written in France on February 12 1918, specifically thanked his rector, the Rev Arthur

Barton, for the pastoral care he was giving his family at home.

William's concern for his wife and young children was clearly assuaged by the knowledge that Barton as rector paid them regular visits, so as well as thanking Barton and the parishioners of St Mark's for their gifts, he specifically acknowledged the rector 'for your own kindness to my wife and children as the letter I get from home from my wife says that you are very attentive ...' The content of the letter, an image of William in full military uniform and his meticulously-researched family history which links him directly to his grandson Kenny (compiled by Dr Hillary Kennedy) will be available on the new online presentation available at this link – [www.ireland.anglican.org/library/archive](http://www.ireland.anglican.org/library/archive) – from November 1 2015.

## **C of E says no problem with election of Revd Andrew Foreshow-Cain to General Synod**

The Church of England says it is not aware of anyone who has been elected to the General Synod in contrary of eligibility rules.



It has clarified the position of Revd Andrew Foreshew-Cain, a vicar elected to the Church's ruling body despite having defied teaching and entered a gay marriage.

There had been calls for him to be removed from the Synod.

At the time Andrea Williams, chief executive of Christian Concern, said his "ongoing activism should no longer be tolerated".

She called for him to be "swiftly removed from church leadership" and claimed his election to the Synod "cannot be allowed to stand".

But in a media briefing ahead of the first meeting of the new Synod in November the Church said it

was unaware of any newly elected members who were not eligible.

The Secretary General of the Synod, William Fittall, said questions about eligibility were addressed before any voting took place and at a diocesan level.

He added that any questions surrounding the suitability of a candidate was for the electorate to decide.

## **Christian Aid funds to help victims of Afghanistan-Pakistan quake**

Christian Aid has sent £50,000 to help meet the mounting needs of victims in both Afghanistan and Pakistan following the earthquake on 26 October.

More than 382 people are reported dead, mostly in Pakistan, after the magnitude 7.5 earthquake hit north-eastern Afghanistan. At least 2,000 people were injured and the casualty figures will continue to rise as rescuers reach more remote areas.



Madara Hettiarachchi, Head of Humanitarian Programmes for Asia and the Middle East at Christian Aid, said: “In the worst affected areas, most families have been left homeless. Christian Aid is working with partners in Afghanistan and Pakistan to deliver food, hygiene items and emergency shelter. We will also distribute blankets to protect them from the approaching bitter winter months, when temperatures plummet to below freezing.”

She added: “From experience, we know that disasters such as earthquakes have a long-term impact on people. An earthquake of this magnitude is likely to cause large scale damage, such as landslides and the destruction of homes and crops, and we are preparing to deal with the bigger picture once the full extent of the damage is assessed and meet the needs of the most vulnerable.”

Aid has started to reach the Badakhshan province in Afghanistan, the epicentre of Monday morning’s earthquake.

However, some routes to affected communities remain blocked, making it hard to assess the full extent of the damage. It will take days to reach

these communities by road and communications appear to have gone down in the worst-affected areas.

Despite this, teams from Christian Aid partner Community World Service Asia (CWSA) are on the ground, assessing needs and the level of damage in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province in North West Pakistan.

They report widespread destruction. In many districts, most houses have been damaged and are not safe to live in and almost a third totally destroyed.

Aid workers estimate 1.5 million people have been affected in Pakistan alone, statistics for Afghanistan are harder to estimate due to the difficulty in accessing some areas.

Several districts near the epicentre of the 7.5 magnitude earthquake in Afghanistan are also affected by conflict, adding to the difficulties of getting help to people.

However, Madara Hettiarachchi explains:  
“Christian Aid has worked in Afghanistan for over 40 years.

We've been able to reach the most vulnerable families and have done it under various circumstances over the years by working with experienced local partners. We will look to lean on that local knowledge as we gear up to respond to the current crisis."

\* Christian Aid <http://www.christianaid.org.uk/index.aspx>

## Media digest

### **BBC/Tel/ITV**

A retired Church of England priest, Vickery House, has been jailed for six and a half years for carrying out sex offences against a boy and three men while working in Exeter and Chichester dioceses. He was convicted earlier in the week ([see statement from Diocese of Chichester](#)). The reports mention House's link with Bishop Peter Ball and notes the CofE has launched a review into how allegations against Ball were originally handled.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-34670570>

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/crime/11964619/Ex-Bishop-helped-cover-up-abuse-by-colleague.html>

<http://www.itv.com/news/2015-10-29/retired-priest-jailed-after-being-found-guilty-of-historic-sex-attacks/>

### **BBC**

The UK may not be prepared for the number of Syrian refugees the government plans to accept. The Home

Affairs Committee describes plans to take in 20,000 people by 2020 as a "huge change in scale". Chairman Keith Vaz says the committee is "concerned about our real level of preparedness and ability to increase capacity to manage such numbers at short notice".

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-34666386>

### **Times/Guard/Exp/Tel/Even Stand/BBC**

Thousands paid tribute to Howard Kendall, Everton FC's most famous player and manager at his funeral yesterday in Liverpool cathedral. Supporters lined the streets around Goodison Park as the funeral cortege travelled around Everton's home ground before making its way to the cathedral, which was filled to capacity with almost 1,000 people watching the two-hour service on television screens outside.

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/sport/football/clubs/everton/article4599835.ece>

<http://www.theguardian.com/football/2015/oct/29/howard-kendall-funeral-liverpool-cathedral-everton-peter-reid-bill-kenwright>

<http://www.express.co.uk/sport/football/615681/Everton-legend-Howard-Kendall-Liverpool-Anglican-Cathedral-funeral>

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/sport/football/teams/everton/11964068/Howard-Kendall-funeral-Wayne-Rooney-and-Sir-Alex-Ferguson-among-those-paying-respect-to-Everton-legend.html>

<http://www.standard.co.uk/sport/football/sir-alex-ferguson-and-jamie-carragher-join-hundreds-of-everton-fans-to-mourn-howard-kendall-at-a3102616.html>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-34669784>

### **Mail/Tel**

A commemoration service to mark the 600<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the battle of Agincourt has taken place at Westminster Abbey. Henry V's outnumbered army defeated the French in October 1415. The king's sword, normally kept in a museum, was placed on the High Altar as part of the service.

[http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3296207/Stirring-salute-Henry-V-s-happy-Rousing-service-Westminster-Abbey-marks-600th-anniversary-Battle-Agincourt.html?ITO=1490&ns\\_mchannel=rss&ns\\_campaign=1490](http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3296207/Stirring-salute-Henry-V-s-happy-Rousing-service-Westminster-Abbey-marks-600th-anniversary-Battle-Agincourt.html?ITO=1490&ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490)  
<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/11963765/Hundreds-gather-at-Westminster-Abbey-to-remember-Agincourts-happy-few.html>

## **Ind**

Reports a Church Times advertisement seeking a Vicar for the Ascension Islands. The British territory, in the South Atlantic, is one of the most remote parishes in the world, but does boast a warm climate and sandy beaches.

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/ascension-island-exotic-and-remote-british-territory-searches-for-a-new-vicar-a6714051.html>

## **Ind/Mirror/Mail**

A couple who married 'at first sight' as part of a television programme, have had their marriage annulled after 8 months. A judge ruled that the groom, Jason Knowles, had "wilfully" refused to consummate the relationship. The couple were paired by a panel including a CofE priest on a Chanel 4 programme in February 2015.

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/married-at-first-sight-couple-have-marriage-annulled->

[eight-months-on-from-meeting-on-channel-4-a6714176.html](http://www.mirror.co.uk/tv/tv-news/married-first-sight-couple-jason-6727699)  
<http://www.mirror.co.uk/tv/tv-news/married-first-sight-couple-jason-6727699>  
[http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3295080/Married-Sight-couple-marriage-nullified.html?](http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3295080/Married-Sight-couple-marriage-nullified.html?ITO=1490&ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490)  
[ITO=1490&ns\\_mchannel=rss&ns\\_campaign=1490](http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3295080/Married-Sight-couple-marriage-nullified.html?ITO=1490&ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490)

## **BBC**

Report on claims that a review announced by the Bishop of Rochester in January 2015, into what went on at a CofE Children's Home (now closed), Kendall House, in Gravesend, Kent, during the 1970s and 80s, has stalled. Former residents, including Teresa Cooper who has previously reached an out of court settlement with the Church, say they were forcibly drugged. In a response, the Diocese of Rochester said the bishop's "genuine concern" was that "any review be conducted thoroughly and properly rather than in haste". It said former residents had received a letter of apology but it "would not be helpful for the Bishop of Rochester to speculate" on the review's outcome.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-kent-34660628>

## **Times**

Nearly one million people have applied for asylum in Europe and other western industrial countries this year. Applications in Europe have more than doubled in a year as migrants flee the conflict in Syria and elsewhere. The majority are from Syria, Afghanistan and Iraq with a large number are coming from Albania. The UK government has said it aims for about 1,000 Syrian refugees to have arrived by Christmas as part of the plan to relocate 20,000 people from camps neighbouring Syria by 2020.

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/uk/article4599183.ece>

## **Tel**

First person account of life in Syria written by British doctor David Nott. During medical missions to Aleppo he operated on the innocent victims of the country's civil war. As a peace conference gets underway in Vienna starting tomorrow, Dr Nott calls on all the major powers to secure a safe haven in Syria, from Aleppo northwards, free from air attacks and allow humanitarian access via corridors which can be policed by the UN or by a western coalition with the Gulf states and Turkey.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/middleeast/syria/11961574/I-have-seen-the-horrors-of-Syria.-This-Friday-we-can-end-them.html>

## **Comment**

**Huff Post:** Bishop of Portsmouth writes that tax credit cuts are 'punishment' for honest families

[http://www.huffingtonpost.co.uk/2015/10/28/tax-credit-cuts-punishment-for-honest-families-says-bishop-of-portsmouth\\_n\\_8407054.html?utm\\_hp\\_ref=uk](http://www.huffingtonpost.co.uk/2015/10/28/tax-credit-cuts-punishment-for-honest-families-says-bishop-of-portsmouth_n_8407054.html?utm_hp_ref=uk)

**The Spectator:** Osborne prepares to face 1922 Committee as Tory anger builds at peers

<http://blogs.new.spectator.co.uk/2015/10/osborne-prepares-to-face-1922-committee-as-tory-anger-at-peers-builds/>

**Independent:** Andreas Whittam Smith hails the courageous few who stand up against injustice. The Bishop of Portsmouth is cited.

<http://www.independent.co.uk/voices/all-hail-the-courageous-few-who-stand-up-against-injustice-as-conservative-mp-heidi-allen-did-to-a6712381.html>

**Guardian:** The Lords is a ludicrous affront to democracy and accountability.

<http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2015/oct/28/house-of-lords-democracy-accountability-reform>

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