



Chairman of the board of Temple Carrig School Garrett Fennell, An Taoiseach Enda Kenny, Archbishop of Dublin, the Most Revd Dr Michael Jackson and principal of Temple Carrig School Alan Cox.

Irish Premier tells Church of Ireland school pupils to "dream big dreams"

Taoiseach, Enda Kenny, has told pupils at the first Church of Ireland voluntary secondary school to open since the formation of the state to "dream big dreams." Mr Kenny told the 400-strong student body of Temple Carrig school to "be what you want to be." He was at the school, in Greystones, County Wicklow, to officially open the school this morning.

"This is a beautiful building, but it's just a building," he said. "It is the pupils, their parents and teachers and the staff that make it an educational facility. All of you will make your mark," Quoting the words of US President, Barak Obama, he told the students: "Dream big dreams. To the children of Temple Carrig, you can be what you want to be. You can be the person you see 10 or 20 years out. There is nothing that can hold you back if you believe in what you want."

As the Prime Minister opened the school, the Archbishop of Dublin, Dr Michael Jackson, was on hand to dedicate the building in the presence of the students, teachers, government ministers, local members of the Irish parliament, and other public representatives.

"This is the first Church of Ireland secondary school in the voluntary model to be established since the foundation of the State," a diocesan spokeswoman said. "While it is under Church of Ireland management, Temple Carrig School provides education for the whole community in the Greystones and Delgany area. This makes the school unique in an Irish context in that while it is run by a minority faith, just 20 per cent of the students are from a Church of Ireland background."

In Ireland, around 60 per cent of secondary school pupils are served by voluntary schools. These are owned and managed by religious communities; but part-funded by the state. The government provides 90 per cent of teachers' salaries and 95 per cent of other costs. In contrast, comprehensive schools are fully-funded by the state and run by local management boards.

Prime Minister Kenny said that the opening of the new school was an important day in everyone's lives. He noted that while it was a historic day for the Church of Ireland, the school catered for people of diverse beliefs and attitudes. He told the students that they were living in a world of rapid change but said that the nation could be proud of the quality and confidence of the children of the Republic of Ireland.

Archbishop Jackson said that this day had been "highly anticipated" by pupils, staff, the headmaster, the board and parents and that this anticipation had been shared with the wider community that is the lifeblood of Temple Carrig. He paid tribute to those who put together the application for patronage and those, including the chair of the Board of Management, Garrett Fennell and the principal, Alan Cox, who had brought the project to fruition.

"From the outset, this school has been positive and progressive in being three things: faithbased; Christian in ethos; within Church of Ireland and Anglican patronage.

"In no way has this cluster of values and principles been seen as anything other than the desire to serve the community of membership and the community of extension in this part of County Wicklow.

"It can therefore without inconsistency describe itself as welcoming of children of all faith

traditions and of none. It comes as a surprise to many, but this has ever been the Church of Ireland way. It is always our concern to see that a school under Church of Ireland patronage is open and inclusive," the Archbishop stated.

Chairman of the board of management of the school, Garrett Fennell, said that Temple Carrig represented "an interesting model of education provision" in Ireland. "In a context where much of the popular focus is on moving away from faith based education, here is a brand new faith based school, run by a minority religion which is catering for the educational requirements of a diverse and broad community," he said.

"Part of what makes this school so unique and special is that our school community is comprised of people from many different faith groups and none – the school is a real reflection of the diverse and vibrant community that we live in."

He added: "Temple Carrig also demonstrates that faith based schools are inclusive and embracing of difference and diversity. Much of the current debate around patronage in Irish education is very polarised and fails to recognise that diversity and tolerance comes in many shapes and ways. Indeed schools under Church of Ireland patronage have been models for inclusive multidenominational education for decades".

First Church of Ireland secondary school since State's foundation opens - Irish Times

http://www.irishtimes.com/news/education/first-church-of-ireland-secondary-school-since-state-s-foundation-opens-1.2821002

New religious-run school says it caters for all RTE.ie

Taoiseach Enda Kenny will later today formally open the first **Church of Ireland** privately-run but State-funded secondary school to be established ... https://www.rte.ie/news/2016/1007/822075-temple-carrigwicklow-school/

Moderator praises Coleraine project

Presbyterian Moderator, Rt. Rev. Dr. Frank Sellar, has praised the work of the Ballysally Integrated Nurturing Project in Coleraine, saying that he was "incredibly taken by the dedication and vision of all those involved in this amazing partnership." Dr. Sellar visited Ballysally as part of his week-long tour of the Church's Presbytery of Coleraine and Limavady.



Presbyterian Moderator Dr. Frank Sellar on his Coleraine and Limavady Presbytery Tour with members of the Ballysally Integrated Nurturing Project. (Left to Right) Rev. Dr. John Coulter, Minister Ballysally Presbyterian, Lynn Coulter, Aaron Dunlop and Dave Caldwell, Ballysally Presbyterian Youth and Community Workers, Brendan Patterson, Manager, Focus on Family, Dr. Sellar, Geraldine Emerson, Principal, Ballysally Nursery School, Joanne Reid, Ballysally Presbyterian Youth and Community worker, Geoff Dunn, Principal of Ballysally Primary School and Irene Peden Ballysally Presbyterian Youth and Community worker.

Funded and supported by the Department for Communities (formerly the Department of Social Development), Ballysally Presbyterian Church, Ballysally Primary School and Focus on Family brought their various strengths and expertise together five years ago to form the Ballysally Integrated Nurturing Project. Ballysally Nursery School joined the Partnership a few years later, adding a further element to the work being done.

Rev. Dr. John Coulter of Ballysally Presbyterian said that he wanted to show the Moderator the positive contribution the project was making to the local area and what can happen when the local church rolls up its sleeves, partners with others and gets its hands dirty.

"At the start we all saw the same needs, but were able to bring different strengths and input to the project, which was why we came together in 2011. I wanted to show Dr. Sellar what working together has achieved," Dr. Coulter explained.

"As partners we all have different connections to the community, yet we all share the same simple aim of improving the quality of life on the estate. We do this through specialised nurturing provision in education, parenting support, youth work and other areas that can lift people's health and general well-being.

"As a church, we work closely with the primary school in a project helping P7s in transition to second level education. Another project supports young people at risk of suspension at post-primary level. In our nurturing provision for families we come alongside those affected by depression, poverty, crime and addiction, perhaps signposting specialised help, or something as simple and practical as just sitting with and listening to a mum and her worries," Dr. Coulter said.

With a population of around 2,500 people, unemployment on the estate is twice the Northern Ireland average, as is the number of lone parents with dependent children. Falling in Northern Ireland's top 10% of most socially deprived areas, the number of people with no qualifications is also higher than the average.

Speaking about his visit, Dr. Sellar said, "At the outset, one of the aims of my Presbytery tour was to encourage what is being done on the ground by local churches, learn new things

myself, hear their stories and see how God is using them in the community.

"As they deal with so much hidden pain, I see equal amounts of hope that they are bringing. This is a wonderful example of the local church working out of their desire to bless people, bearing witness to Jesus Christ by demonstrating God's love for people.

"On meeting the partners involved in this project, I was incredibly taken and humbled by their dedication and vision, enabling this amazing partnership to support and improve opportunities for those living in the area.

"I understand that the work over the last five years has contributed to a decline in anti-social behaviour and crime on the estate. At the same time, the nursery is now oversubscribed and numbers at the local primary school keep on increasing, as people want to go there. I also understand that there is a waiting list for houses on the estate.

"The quality of what is being done on the ground in Ballysally is reaping rewards, but there still seems to be much work to be done. Thankfully the partners are there for the long haul. The compassion demonstrated by them for the people of the area touched me very deeply."

Launch of new 'God's Justice Bible' at Stormont



Lindsey Holley, Biblica's Exective Director for Europe, is pictured with the Rev David Campton of Belfast South Methodist church at the launch of the new *God's Justice Bible* in Parliament Buildings last week. Featuring contributions from over 50 scholars and theologians from all corners of the world, the *NIV God's Justice Bible* pairs

the full text of the Bible with study notes and introductions on the theme of God's passionate concern for justice. Attendees at the event were each given a copy of the ministry edition of the Bible that has been developed by Compassion UK and Biblica Europe.

Annual meeting of Roman Catholic and Irish Anglican Bishops

The sixth annual meeting of representatives of the Irish Episcopal Conference and of the Bishops of the Church of Ireland took place in Dublin on 29 September.

As always, discussions were rooted in an atmosphere of prayer and mutual warmth. Among the many matters of common interest addressed by the Bishops, particular attention was paid to the likely practical and pastoral implications of Brexit for Churches whose ministry has always been conducted on an all-lreland basis. There was also very fruitful sharing of insight concerning developments in theological training and formation in both our traditions, particularly with regard to ordained ministry.

These meetings are held in the context of the recommendation of the International Anglican Roman Catholic Commission for Unity and Mission (IARCCUM) that Roman Catholic and Anglican Bishops in individual countries should meet regularly to consider matters of common concern and shared witness. A further meeting has been scheduled for autumn 2017.

Participating bishops at this year's meeting were: *Church of Ireland*

The Most Revd Pat Storey (Bishop of Meath and Kildare)

The Rt Revd Harold Miller (Bishop of Down and Dromore)

The Rt Revd Michael Burrows (Bishop of Cashel, Ferns and Ossory)

The Rt Revd Patrick Rooke (Bishop of Tuam, Killala and Achonry)

The Rt Revd Kenneth Kearon (Bishop of Limerick and Killaloe)

Roman Catholic

The Most Revd Diarmuid Martin (Archbishop of Dublin)

The Most Revd John McAreavey (Bishop of Dromore)

The Most Revd John Fleming (Bishop of Killala)

The Most Revd Denis Nulty (Bishop of Kildare and Leighlin)

The Most Revd Kevin Doran (Bishop of Elphin)
The Most Revd Tony Farquhar (Auxiliary Bishop
Emeritus of Down and Connor)

Belfast Dean says Mervyn Gibson welcome despite opposition to Catholic canon

THE Dean of St Anne's Cathedral has said Rev Mervyn Gibson remains "very welcome" to preach there despite the senior Orangeman's insistence that he will not attend any service involving its new Catholic canon, the Irish News reports

Rev John Mann also welcomed public support from the Presbyterian minister for lifting an Orange Order ban on members entering Catholic churches.

The order's Assistant Grand Master said in a radio interview this week that he would not attend any service at St Anne's in Belfast involving its newly-appointed ecumenical canon Fr Edward O'Donnell.

He said he was opposed to the installation of Fr O'Donnell, who last month became the first Catholic priest to serve on the Church of Ireland cathedral's governing chapter.

Speaking yesterday, Dean Mann said Rev Gibson has preached twice at St Anne's in the past five years and was "very welcome to do so again".

"Everyone is welcome to attend services in St Anne's Cathedral and indeed members of the Orange Order are regularly with us," he said.

"Inevitably we are going to disagree on a few things but I believe that our brotherhood in Christ is real."

The Dean also backed Rev Gibson's support for lifting the ban on Orangemen entering Catholic churches, which has seen senior unionists face disciplinary action in the past for attending funerals.

"I feel his public support for the lifting of a ban on members of the Orange Order attending Catholic Church services, including weddings and funerals, is extremely positive," Rev Mann said.

Orange Order's inertia is not sufficient excuse for putting off decision on attending Mass

Belfast Telegraph

Ruth Dudley-Edwards writes... after the death of Douglas Hyde, who had been President of Ireland, during his funeral service in St Patrick's **Church of Ireland** Cathedral, all but one ...

http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/northern-ireland/orange-orders-inertia-is-not-sufficient-excuse-for-putting-off-decision-on-attending-mass-35107750.html

United Methodists in USA push back against LGBT clergy

Religion News Service reports that 1,500 United Methodists have formed the Wesleyan Covenant Association in response to the election of Bishop Karen Oliveto, who is openly lesbian, and ordination of LGBT ministers. The association meets this week in Chicago and asserts that its intent is not to leave the United Methodist Church, but try to reverse its "acts of covenant-breaking." The association intends to express their views to a denominational commission that will be appointed to develop a plan that addresses issues of sexuality in the UMC.

"A plan that requires traditionalists to compromise their principles and their understandings of Scripture, or that allows for varieties of beliefs and practices within the global communion of the church, isn't acceptable to most evangelicals,' said Jeff Greenway, lead pastor of Reynoldsburg United Methodist Church in Ohio and a member of the WCA's board of directors."

The commission's work is timely:
Oliveto's election has touched off a crisis in the
12.4 million-member United Methodist Church
worldwide, where defiant clergy are refusing to
abide by what they regard as unjust prohibitions.

More than 140 LGBT clergy came out in May, according to the Reconciling Ministries Network, a Methodist advocacy group. In addition, 820 Methodist clergy have pledged to officiate samesex weddings even though church rules prohibit them.

Last May, the General Conference of the UMC declined to vote on proposals to revamp policies, deferring instead to the new commission to find a solution that can pass muster with progressives and conservatives alike. Among the possibilities:

repeal policies regarding homosexuality, restructure the church to allow for varying practices or separate into different denominations.

On Wednesday, the Executive Committee of the UMC's Council of Bishops said it had invited 29 individuals (eight bishops, 13 clergy and eight laity) to join the commission. Invitees were asked to respond within a couple of days. The commission is expected to begin its work later this fall.

Catholic assembly: EU must be more democratic to avoid break-up

The European Union must be more democratic and less centralist if it is to avoid other disgruntled member states following Britain out of the bloc, Catholic justice and peace groups have said.

The EU is in "bad shape" and needs urgent reform to avoid disintegration, said a statement by the General Assembly of the Conference of European Justice and Peace Commissions.

The group, which represents 31 Catholic justice and peace commissions throughout Europe, said trust in the European Union project was waning and would not be restored simply by "declarations, road maps and speeches." Instead, "substantial results" in the creation of jobs and security were required along with reforms that better recognised the national sovereignty of member states, said the statement, issued after a meeting of the assembly.

The restoration of trust "will require more transparent and democratic procedures," the statement said. "It will necessitate more respect for national, regional and local traditions."

The statement said that "gloomy prophecies often predict the economic and demographic decline of Europe in the course of the 21st century." It added: "A possible break-up of the EU would certainly accelerate this process. Improving the EU and bringing it ever closer to its citizens are the best way to prevent it."

The British government will activate Article 50 of the Lisbon Treaty by March 2017, triggering a

two-year process that will make the country the first to leave the European Union.

This follows a June 23 referendum in which more than 17 million Britons voted for Brexit, largely amid concerns of mass migration and diminishing security because of open borders.

Many voters were also motivated by a dislike of EU structures, which they held to be largely undemocratic and unaccountable and resistant to reform.

Ecumenical Service for Prison Week

Prison Week begian yesterday on Sunday 9th October and runs through to Saturday 15th October 2016. An Ecumenical Service for Prison Week will be celebrated in St Patrick's Church, Donegall Street, Belfast, on Wednesday 12th October at 7.00pm

Prison Week is a week of prayer of all those involved in prison life. An invitation is extended to all those involved with prison life, those working with victims of crime and all those family

members who have been affected by family members in prison.

The Prison Week Prayer

Lord, you offer freedom to all people. We pray for those in prison. Break the bonds of fear and isolation that exist. Support with your love prisoners and their families and friends, prison staff and all who care. Heal those who have been wounded by the actions of others, especially the victims of crime. Help us to forgive one another, to act justly, love mercy and walk humbly together with Christ in his strength and in his Spirit, now and every day. Amen.

News briefs

+++ The wandering singers - Peregryne, will sing Compline at 5.30 pm on Friday 14 October in St Werburgh's, Werburgh Street; on Saturday 15 October in St Catherine's, Meath Street; and on Sunday 16 October in the Chapel of Our Lady, St Patrick's Cathedral. Anthems by John Taverner and Robert Wylkynson. *All are most welcome*

+++ 17 new cardinals named - Pope Francis named 17 new cardinals Sunday from Asia,

Africa, North and South America, Europe and Oceania. Thirteen of them are under 80 and thus eligible to vote in any conclave to elect his successor.

+++ Dublin & Glendalough Diocesan Synod - will meet in Templecarrig School, Greystone, on Tuesday, when the Bishop of Spain and the Bishop of Portugal will be guests.

+++ Down & Dromore Clergy Conference -

The bi–annual Clergy Conference will take place from 10–13 October in the Central Hotel, Co Donegal. This year Bishop Harold Miller has invited the following speakers: Dr Stephen Peay, Dean of Nashotah House, Wisconsin, Professor Stephen Williams, lecturer in Systematic Theology, Union Theological College and Pastor Alan Wilson, part time associate tutor at Belfast Bible College and a visiting tutor at the Irish Baptist College.

+++ Belfast Phoenix Choir in concert in Annalong - The Belfast Phoenix Choir will present a concert in Kilhorne Parish Church Hall on Friday 14 October at 8.00 pm. The choir, formerly known as the Belfast Ormiston Choir, has had recent coverage on the BBC and is well

known for both secular and sacred pieces. Under the direction of renowned conductor Mark McGrath, the Phoenix Choir is guaranteed to put on a remarkable performance not to be missed. Annalong's very own Leonard Shields will be compere and will keep everyone entertained throughout the evening. Refreshments will be served at a mid–session interval. The concert is in aid of Kilhorne Parish Church's Rectory Building Fund. Tickets are priced at £10 and can be obtained by calling either Linda Moorehead on 07708773329 or Shiela Shields on 028 437 68479. Tickets can also be purchased in Faith Mission Shop, Kilkeel.

News links to reports on faith, politics and education

DUP councillor has urged all Protestants to "avoid attendance at any mass"

News Letter - Following calls for the Orange Order to review its ban on members attending Catholic church services, a DUP councillor has urged all Protestants to "avoid attendance at any mass".

http://www.newsletter.co.uk/all-protestants-should-avoid-the-act-of-blasphemy-dup-councillor-1-7619680

If this doesn't outrage us what will?' - Family anger as murdered conservationist laid to rest

Irish Independent

... Michael McCoy (inset) into St. Maelruain's **Church of Ireland** in Tallaght. ... his funeral mass in St. Maelruain's Anglican Church in Tallaght yesterday.

http://www.independent.ie/irish-news/news/if-this-doesntoutrage-us-what-will-family-anger-as-murderedconservationist-laid-to-rest-35114358.html

Michael McCoy had a 'strong sense of right and wrong' - Irish Times

http://www.irishtimes.com/news/politics/oireachtas/michael-mccoy-had-a-strong-sense-of-right-and-wrong-1.2822393

Mail/ITV

Report that some of Britain's most senior religious figures, including former Archbishop of Canterbury Dr Rowan Williams, have united to urge Prime Minister Theresa May to allow nearly 400 refugee children into the UK before the notorious Jungle migrant camp in France is demolished. The letter has been organised by Citizens UK.

http://www.dailymail.co.uk/wires/pa/article-3828922/Let-Jungle-camp-children-Britain-clerics-urge-PM.html#ixzz4MZVyiEGZ http://www.itv.com/news/ 2016-10-09/religious-figures-urge-may-to-take-inchildren-from-calais-jungle-camp/

Tel

Report that the Church of England is to revive traditional terminology in some of its services to help Alzheimer's sufferers, hoping that familiar texts of prayers and passages of scripture, often learnt by heart in childhood, could help trigger memories. Article notes the CofE's Liturgical Commission, the body responsible for any changes to the Church's official service style, is calling in experts to help it plan "dementia friendly" services. (*Also see CofE comms blog below*).

http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2016/10/08/prayer-book-services-to-help-dementia-sufferers/

Tel

Sacred Mysteries column: Christopher Howse on BBC Radio 3's *Choral Evensong* which celebrated its 90th birthday last week as the longest-running outside broadcast.

http://www.telegraph.co.uk/opinion/2016/10/08/sacred-mysteries-the-longest-running-outside-broadcast-on-the-bb/

Mail

Report that *The Crucifixion Of Mankind*, by sculptor Connor Barrett, has been removed from a library wall in Colchester, Essex, where it has been since the 1980s, because one of the portrayals, of a baby impaled on a sword, upsets parents and children. Article includes comment from a range of people including Canon David Banting, a vicar in Colchester diocese and Andrea Williams of Christian Concern.

http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3828814/PC-zealots-blasted-banishing-biblical-carving-library-40-years-case-upsets-children.html#ixzz4MZUHCRZF

BBC/Mail/Premier/Sky

Further reports that the Archbishop of Canterbury and the Pope have met to mark half a century of closer ties between their two faiths (see above). Pope Francis welcomed the Archbishop to the Vatican, after holding a joint service in Rome on Wednesday. The leader of the Catholic Church called the meeting "a beautiful sign of fraternity". David Moxon, director of the Anglican centre in Rome, said it marked "the writing of a new chapter in the history of the Christian Church." The *Mail* says the men would work together to help the poor and protect the environment despite their differing views on some issues. http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-37572590 http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3823886/Pope-

Anglican-leader-vow-joint-action-poverty-

environment.html

http://www.premier.org.uk/News/World/Church-of-England-and-Catholic-Church-should-be-one-says-Pope-Francis-and-Justin-Welby

http://news.sky.com/story/pope-francis-and-the-archbishop-of-canterbury-push-for-closer-ties-10607407

Ind/Mail/ITV

Reports that the plight of Syrian people in Aleppo is "demonic" and "absolute contempt for the human spirit," the Archbishop of Canterbury has said in an interview with ITV news. Speaking during his visit to the Vatican in Rome, Archbishop Justin described the Syrian conflict as being "as bad as anything we've seen in the last century and there have been terrible atrocities." On the subject of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad, the Archbishop said, "His stepping aside would be the most heroic thing he could do in his life and the best decision he'd ever taken."

http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/middle-east/violence-aleppo-demonic-archbishop-of-canterbury-syria-rome-justin-welby-a7349606.html
http://www.dailymail.co.uk/wires/pa/article-3826091/
Slaughter-Aleppo-demonic-evil-says-Archbishop-Canterbury.html

Mail

Diary item that Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby is advertising for a new Head of Media Relations (Scroll down)

Times

Short diary item about some of the social engagements of the Archbishop of Canterbury while in Rome (Scroll down)

http://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/mod-takes-it-on-the-chin-8lj2t83t0

Tel/BBC/Guard/Mail

Reports that Archbishop Desmond Tutu has said he does not want to be kept alive "at all costs" and maintains his right to decide when to depart from this world. He was writing in the <u>Washington Post</u> on the occasion of his 85th birthday.

http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2016/10/07/archbishop-desmond-tutu-asks-for-the-right-to-an-assisted-death/http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-37587290http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3826848/Desmond-Tutu-celebrates-85th-birthday-Cape-Town-cathedral.html

https://www.theguardian.com/society/2016/oct/07/desmond-tutu-assisted-dying-world-leaders-should-take-action

Christian Today

Mark Woods on 'Bishops: Who Gets To Choose Who They Are, And Why?' - article includes ref to the theological review of the Crown Nominations Commission announced yesterday (see above).

FT

Feature on architect Ptolemy Dean who is behind Westminster Abbey's first major addition since 1745 - an 80ft freestanding tower. The architect is interviewed on site as work begins on the project.

https://www.ft.com/content/

471dd040-8590-11e6-8897-2359a58ac7a5?

FTCamp=engage/CAPI/webapp/Channel_Moreover//B2B

Eve Stand

Feature on a group of faith leaders in London (including Bishop of London Richard Chartres) who are backing the paper's campaign to redistribute surplus food to those in need

http://www.standard.co.uk/news/foodforlondon/food-for-london-a-rabbi-a-bishop-and-imam-walk-into-a-shop-it-s-no-joke-they-re-helping-to-feed-a3364051.html

BBC

Report that a new strategy is needed to tackle homelessness in Scotland, according to Rev Dr Russell Barr, Moderator of the Church of Scotland, who will address the Scotlish Churches Housing Action event today.

http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-37577464

Times

Review of England's Cathedrals by Simon Jenkins. http://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/englands-cathedrals-by-simon-jenkins-pkqxbt8fn

Ind

Report that a Muslim and a Christian have made a new translation of the Quran to underline the similarities between their two religions. The book is part of a project by Bridges to Common Ground, an organisation that aims to reduce Islamophobic attitudes among Christians. http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/americas/koran-quran-friends-translated-book-christianity-islam-a7350361.html

Christian Today

Report the findings of a Freedom of Information Request, which shows that under two per cent of Syrian refugees admitted to Britain under the Government scheme to take 20,000 are Christian, compared to 97.5 per cent that are Muslim. The paper points out that before the civil war began, 10% of the Syrian population were Christian. John Pontifex, head of information at Aid to the Church in Need is quoted.

Blue and Green Tomorrow

Reports that prominent church investors have been invited to a conference in London to highlight the challenges and barriers to scaling up investments in clean energy and other climate solutions. Richard Cheetham, the Bishop of Kingston and member of the C of E's Environmental Working Group, is the keynote speaker. Bishop Richard is quoted.

http://blueandgreentomorrow.com/2016/10/06/ sustainable-investments-church-investors-urged-changethinking/

Ex

Column on the six favourite books of Revd Richard Coles (as he publishes *Bringing in the Sheaves*,); they include NIV New Testament and Psalms and *A month in the Country*, by LJ Carr.

http://www.express.co.uk/entertainment/books/718360/ The-Communards-star-Richard-Coles-favourite-books Blogs

C of E Comms:

It feels like we celebrate Harvest every week http://cofecomms.tumblr.com/post/151379914017/it-feels-like-we-celebrate-harvest-every-week

How and why to embrace those living with dementia in your church

http://cofecomms.tumblr.com/post/151339742952/how-and-why-to-embrace-those-living-with-dementia

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