



Speakers and panellists at the PCI's conference. Seated (left to right): Jubilee Centre's Dr. Paul Mills, Rosamond Bennett, CEO of Christian Aid Ireland, Ellvena Graham, Independent Chair of the Economic Advisory Group in Northern Ireland and Jubilee Centre founder Dr. Michael Schluter. Back Row (left to right): BBC's Mark Simpson who facilitated the Q&A sessions, Peter Bunting, Assistant General Secretary of the Irish Congress of Trade Unions, Very Rev. Dr. Norman Hamilton, Convenor of PCI's Council for Church in Society, economist and commentator, Alan Bridle with the Director of the Law Centre NI, Glenn Jordan.

PCI conference presents biblical roadmap for economic hope

Over 100 people from the public, private and voluntary sectors attended a groundbreaking conference in Belfast on Saturday that looked at the relational dimension of major economic issues and explored a roadmap for tackling them in a way that can create a more just society.

Entitled '*Economic Hope: A biblical roadmap for a just society*,' the one-day event was the fourth in the Presbyterian Church in Ireland's (PCI) Church in the Public Square series and was organised in association with the Cambridge-based Christian social reform think-tank, the Jubilee Centre.

Dr. Michael Schluter, founder of the Jubilee Centre told senior economists and political representatives, "Christianity is a relational story about a relational God and His relationship with humanity. God's concern for healthy relationships is the underlying theme that can inform our understanding and application of the essence of the Bible's teaching, in that, everything in it is about the quality and strength of our relationship with Him or our neighbour.

"This idea is very much counter-cultural, even alien, in today's society and global economy. We

are used to thinking of ourselves as individuals with rights and freedoms, rather than our responsibilities to others. Our financial systems and corporate structures are built on individualism, which is destructive to building a relational society. Even our pensions need to be redesigned so that we know where our money is going and what it is being used for. As a sympathetic outsider, in keeping with our relational theme, I also suggested that if we are to build prosperity in Northern Ireland, first and foremost, we need mechanisms that can overcome inbuilt relational tensions between communities and between rich and poor.”

Dr. Schluter also suggested that new initiatives needed to be explored that get to the heart of organisational culture and individual lifestyles. These could include, for example, capping pay differentials within the public and private sectors so that the salary of the highest paid employee is no greater than 20 times the lowest; even if it takes some time to achieve this. Tackling unemployment through micro-credit and social enterprise would be another example, as would looking at education differently. Relationships need to be measured if they are going to be managed well.

“By using the biblical roadmap and viewing all of life through a relational lens, which pursues just means to achieve a more relational society, we can develop a new economic framework in a way that reflects God’s intentions for our personal and national life,” Dr. Schluter said.

The Jubilee Centre’s Dr. Paul Mills, a former UK Treasury official, addressed delegates on a range of issues including our personal and national addiction to debt and how debt continues to grow. He argued that the true nature of debt was ‘relationally dangerous’. Discussing this and other issues raised during the conference where a [distinguished local panel](#): Ellvena Graham, Independent Chair of the Economic Advisory Group in Northern Ireland, Peter Bunting, Assistant General Secretary of the Irish Congress of Trade Unions, Rosamond Bennett, CEO of Christian Aid Ireland, Glenn Jordan, Director of the Law Centre NI and economist and commentator, Alan Bridle.

Reflecting on the conference, the Convener of PCI’s Council for Church in Society, Very Rev. Dr. Norman Hamilton said, “Our Church in the Public Square conferences bring together leading thinkers in the UK and Ireland to consider the

role that Christians and the Church can play in wider community life.

“Exploring the ideas being put forward by the Jubilee Centre on how changed relationships can lead to a more just society was stimulating and thought-provoking, They challenged us and our attitudes to society’s traditional approach to economics,” Dr. Hamilton said.

Removal of Legion standards from Newry church was against ruling of Bishop

Following newspaper reports, a statement was issued by the Diocese of Down and Dromore regarding Newry Parish -

“The Revd Kingsley Sutton, rector of Newry, has acted against the clear instruction of the bishop in removing Royal British Legion flags from St Patrick’s and St Mary’s churches. In light of this he has been asked by the bishop to step back from ministry for a period of time as every attempt is made to find a resolution.

“The diocese will be holding the rector, the parishioners and all concerned in prayer over this difficult time.”

A second statement was issued by the Diocese of Down and Dromore on behalf of Revd Kingsley Sutton, Rector of Newry Parish -

“In the Belfast Telegraph, Friday October 9 and Saturday October 10, it was stated that the Revd Kingsley Sutton has barred Loyal Orders from holding services in either of his churches. This is not the case.”

<http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/opinion/editors-viewpoint/rector-should-be-building-bridges-not-burning-them-31597013.html>

The removal of Royal British Legion flags at a Newry church has been branded “a sad state of affairs” by a councillor.

<http://www.newsletter.co.uk/newry-legion-flag-removal-a-sad-state-of-affairs-1-7003638>

Archbishop responds to tragic South Dublin fire

Commenting on the fire in Carrickmines, Dublin in which ten members of the travelling

community perished including a six month old child, Archbishop Michael Jackson stated -

“The devastation caused by the tragic fire on the Glenamuck Road, Carrickmines, has left everyone shocked and saddened for those who now mourn the loss of loved ones and friends whom they never expected to lose in such circumstances.

“The prayers and solidarity of members of the Church of Ireland community in Dublin and Glendalough are with those who are traumatised by grief and loss.

“Our prayers and solidarity are also with all members of the emergency services who came to the scene of sadness and human devastation.

“I encourage all those who conduct worship tomorrow, Sunday, to remember in prayer those who carry loss and grief in their hearts.”

Varied programme to open new organ recital series at Armagh

The new organ recital series in St Patrick's Church of Ireland Cathedral, Armagh will continue on Sunday 25 October 2015 at 4.15pm,

when the recitalist will be the Cathedral's Assistant Organist, the Revd Dr Peter Thompson.

Peter will play works by Bach, Whitlock, Walton, Sumsion and Widor. When asked about his choice of music for the recital, he explained, “J S Bach's Prelude and Fugue in E flat is one of his grandest and largest scale compositions for the organ. Musicologists have long speculated over the symbolism of the number three in this composition - three flats in the key signature, three principal themes in the prelude, a triple fugue. It is quite possible that this is where Bach's music and theology fuse together as he expresses the doctrine of the Trinity in music of great glory and grandeur.

Three twentieth century English composers each cast a different light on the instrument. Percy Whitlock's Five Short Pieces show not just his skill as an improviser and composer, but also subtly hint at his other musical life, as a cinema organist. William Walton's music from the film ‘Richard III’ fuses the music of the twentieth century with that of the fifteenth, while Herbert Sumsion exemplifies all that is best of the early twentieth century pastoral composers.

Charles-Marie Widor is famous for the great Toccata, from the fifth Symphonie, but deserves to be remembered for much more. The finale from the 2nd Symphonie provides a dramatic climax to the recital.”

The Very Revd Gregory Dunstan, Dean of Armagh, said, “Dr Peter Thompson serves as a very faithful accompanist of the choir at Evensong on Sunday afternoons. He is also a gifted leader of congregational singing. This recital will allow him to show the Cathedral organ as the very fine instrument that it is, with a range of pieces from the repertoire.”

As with all the recitals in this series, admission is free, with a retiring collection towards the further endowment of the Cathedral Choir through the Archbishop’s Choir Fund.

Belfast cathedral’s choristers take to the stage in ‘Turnadot’

Choristers from St Anne’s Cathedral’s Girls’ and Boy’s choirs will be singing in the Opera Northern Ireland production of *Turandot* by Puccini at the Grand Opera House at the end of October.

The Cathedral choirs' involvement came about when Master of the Choristers David Stevens suggested to the Director and Conductor of *Turandot* that the show really needed both boys and girls.

They took this suggestion on board, and the Conductor came to listen to the choirs sing in the Cathedral before the summer holidays.

The show runs from October 30–November 1, and while the St Anne's choristers appear on stage for just a few minutes, they are now immersed in rehearsals as opening night approaches.

“This is a popular Puccini opera, including the famous aria ‘Nessun dorma’, but this is a new, modern production which is quite provocative,” said David.

C of I college members meet the Pope in Rome

The Church of Ireland Theological Institute was represented at a general audience with the Pope recently. The Revd Nigel Pierpoint and Daphne Metcalfe conveyed greetings from the Church of



The Revd Nigel Pierpoint and Daphne Metcalfe are pictured with Pope Francis.

Ireland and the Archbishop of Dublin following the general audience with Pope Francis in St Peter's Square at the end of August.

Back in November 2014 it was decided that the Church of Ireland Theological Institute would undertake a field and study trip to Rome in August of this year. Nigel, who was then senior student (he is now Intern Deacon with Taney Parish in Dublin), spoke with the director of the

Institute, Canon Maurice Elliott and Archbishop Michael Jackson asking them if it would be appropriate and acceptable to write to the Vatican requesting an audience with Pope Francis.

Nigel then corresponded with the Vatican Offices, the Papal Nuncio and the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Dublin, Dr Diarmuid Martin, enquiring as to the possibility of attending a general audience with the Pontiff in St Peter's Square. This request was facilitated by the offices of Archbishop Martin in Dublin and Monsignor John Kennedy in Rome.

Unfortunately the group was not scheduled to arrive until after the general audience so Nigel and the secretary to CITI, Daphne Metcalfe, travelled to Rome ahead of the main group.

On the day of the audience, Monsignor Kennedy met the duo at the gates of the Vatican offices and escorted them through the private offices of the Pontiff providing a commentary as they progressed to their seats beside the dais.

Following the prayers and Papal address Pope Francis met a small number of invited guests, including Nigel and Daphne.

Nigel conveyed Christian greetings from Archbishop Jackson and from the Church of

Ireland. Pope Francis was very pleased that members of the Anglican Church in Ireland were present at the audience and asked Nigel to pray for him. Nigel replied that he would pray for him and asked in return that the Pope pray for us in the Anglican Communion, to which he readily agreed. His Holiness thanked Nigel and Daphne for being present and wished them every blessing.

Derry parish goes to sea for week of prayer

The Parish of Christ Church, Londonderry, Muff, Culmore and St Peter's Londonderry marked the end of their week of prayer in style this weekend, taking to the waters of Lough Foyle to ferry the 'Year of Prayer' book onto their neighbouring parish, Moville, Greencastle, Donagh, Culdaff and Cloncha.

When the Diocese's Year of Prayer was launched last February, parishes were encouraged to be "imaginative" and this was certainly true of this week's passing of the torch. In splendid autumn sunshine, the Diocesan Pastoral Director, Rev Katie McAteer, clambered into a small boat on the lough shore, below Thornhill Convent, for a symbolic send-off from the spot where St Columba reputedly last set foot on Irish soil.



The Archdeacon of Derry, Ven. Robert Miller, and a number of parishioners gathered on the shore to wave Rev McAteer off on her short journey to Culmore Point, on which she and her crewmates were accompanied by two other small boats. At Culmore, she disembarked, to complete the rest of the journey by more orthodox means – in a car.

Parishioners from the Inishowen parishes gathered on Merville Pier to await her arrival and see the Year of Prayer book formally handed over to their Rector, Rev Terence Kerr.

Local church-members laid on generous hospitality in the picturesque and tranquil surroundings of River House, next to the pier, to

welcome their visitors from Derry. The Week of Prayer in Moville will last until next Saturday, when Fahan Upper and Fahan Lower take over.

By February 10, next year, all 48 parishes in Derry and Raphoe Diocese will have celebrated a Week of Prayer for their own communities and for the wider diocese.

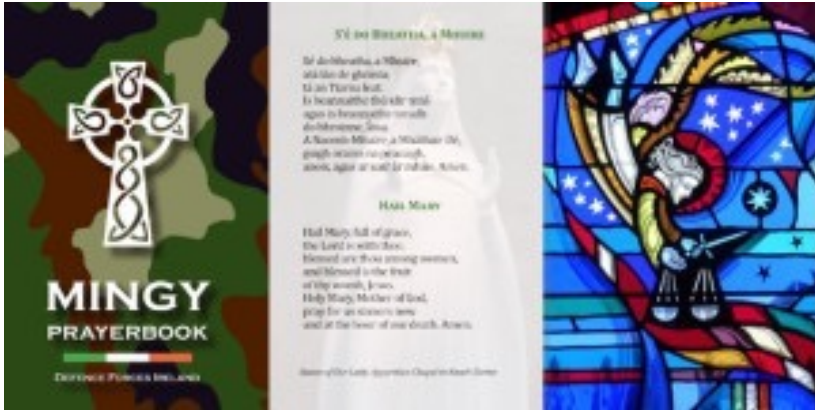
New prayer book app for Irish defence forces

The chaplaincy service for the Irish Defence Forces this week launched a new prayer book app for military personnel entitled the 'Mingy Prayerbook'.

The original Mingy Prayerbook was published in the early 1990s to provide personnel with prayers and reflections during training, and for various occasions through work and life.

The prayerbook was designed to fit in a soldier's pocket of wallet.

Speaking about the new prayerbook app, Fr Robert McCabe of the Chaplaincy Service in Gormanstown Army Camp in Co Meath said, "The app contains multi-denominational prayers and reflections for army personnel and their



families and colleagues whom we serve overseas.”

“Indeed military personnel serving overseas in Lebanon, on the Golan Heights, in Mali and in the Mediterranean have been provided with the new Mingy Prayerbook in recent months.”

Fr McCabe added, “The prayers in the Mingy Prayerbook have developed through moments of prayer, conversation and sacraments which chaplains have shared with their personnel. Moreover two of the prayers which are included have recently been promoted by Pope Francis. These are ‘Our Lady Untier of Knots’ and ‘Prayer for Our Earth’.”

Explaining how the prayerbook originally got its name Fr McCabe said, “Mingy is a unique

Defence Forces word which grew up in the Congo on the first UN mission overseas.”

“The Irish soldiers would be patrolling the markets and would hear the word mingy, mingy, mingy, meaning we have plenty of fruit or sculptures. Mingy speaks to every member of the Defence Forces who have been overseas and their families.”

Two of Evie Hone’s windows from St Patrick’s Garrison Church in Cathal Brugha Barracks, Dublin and from St Michael’s Garrison in Collin’s Barracks in Cork City are featured in the prayer app.

The Mingy Prayerbook App is available at present in the iTunes store. The android version of the App is still at development stage with a view to being launched in the coming weeks.

Cardinal who supports LGBT radicals is moderator of English-speaking Synod group

Vincent Cardinal Nichols, Archbishop of Westminster, has been elected as moderator of the one of the four English-speaking circuli



minores (small groups) at the Ordinary Synod on the Family. The moderator has extensive influence on the direction of the discussion and thus on the content of the final report of the small group.

Cardinal Nichols's approach to human sexuality has caused the pro-life, pro-family movement grave concern for many years. Serious questions have been raised about his approach to issues as diverse as abortion, contraception, the rights and status of the embryo, sex education, homosexual unions and the reception of Holy Communion for the "divorced and remarried".

Cardinal Nichols publicly supports radical activist group LGBT Catholics Westminster, which publicly rejects Catholic teachings on homosexuality. A Mass for “LGBT Catholics” in the Archdiocese Westminster was first established in 1999. In 2009 Archbishop Vincent Nichols (who was made a cardinal by Pope Francis in January 2014) succeeded to the See of Westminster and continued the policy of official support for LGBT Catholics Westminster. In January 2013 the group moved to the Jesuit church of the Immaculate Conception, Farm Street, from which they continue to run their ministry of dissent.

Media digest

BBC/Mail/Times/Exp/Guard/Tel/Ind

Papers just released suggest that due to a lack of space, initial plans by the CofE for the Falklands Memorial Service would have excluded the Prime Minister, Margaret Thatcher.

The papers, from the Margaret Thatcher Archive Trust at the Churchill Archive Centre in Cambridge, show that the decision was subsequently reversed and the Prime Minister was amongst those who attended the unveiling by Her Majesty the Queen at the 1985 ceremony. <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-34487389>

http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3267226/See-immediately-Heseltine-Maggie-s-blast-Falklands-minister-tried-stop-going-memorial-service.html?ITO=1490&ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490
<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/politics/article4581770.ece>
<http://www.express.co.uk/news/politics/611113/Margaret-Thatcher-Falklands-memorial-service-exclude-ban>
<http://www.theguardian.com/politics/2015/oct/10/margaret-thatcher-anger-falklands-memorial-michael-heseltine>
<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/politics/margaret-thatcher/11923302/How-Lady-Thatcher-fought-the-church-for-her-place-at-Falklands-memorial-service.html>
<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/people/margaret-thatcher-told-by-press-secretary-bernard-ingham-that-public-thought-she-had-dictatorial-a6688636.html>

Mail/Western Daily Press

Reports that the Bishop of Gloucester, Rachel Treweek, has been sent 'hate mail' over plans by the diocese to sell 35 acres of land in the Cotswolds. Bishop Rachel attended a public meeting about plans on Tuesday. Campaigners fear that as many as 450 new homes will be built on the site in the village of Willersey. Bishop Rachel has said that no deal has been signed yet and that she did not want to 'over-house' the village.

[http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3266654/Britain-s-senior-female-bishop-sent-ROTTEN-MEAT-hate-mail-](http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3266654/Britain-s-senior-female-bishop-sent-ROTTEN-MEAT-hate-mail-churchnewsireland@gmail.com)

[plans-build-hundreds-homes-church-land-unspoilt-Cotswold-village.html?
ITO=1490&ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490
http://www.westerndailynews.co.uk/undefined-headline/
story-27948572-detail/story.html](http://www.westerndailynews.co.uk/undefined-headline/story-27948572-detail/story.html?ITO=1490&ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490)

Ind

Feature on WW1 British nurse Edith Cavell, a committed Anglican, who helped the wounded on both sides of the conflict and was executed for treason by German soldiers 100 years ago. Her anniversary this Monday (Oct 12 – see commemorative resources above) will be marked at ceremonies across the UK.

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/people/edith-cavell-100th-anniversary-to-mark-death-of-belgian-world-war-i-nurse-revered-in-britain-a6688616.html>

Times

Reports the development of an ‘arts church’ in Birmingham. The Revd Tim Hughes, an author of praise songs and former director of worship at Holy Trinity Brompton, is overseeing the conversion a derelict gasworks in the city centre. The project, part of a £2 million mission to the city, will not be completed until January and so the first meeting of the church will take place tomorrow in the Jongleurs comedy club.

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/faith/article4581686.ece>

Ind

Reports that thieves are using sophisticated methods, including drones, to survey church targets before stripping tonnes of lead. 200 churches including 12 in Suffolk have been attacked in a two-month summer period. Report says police, church leaders, insurance and security experts will meet later this month at Althorp House in Northamptonshire to discuss the problem.

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/sophisticated-gangs-using-drones-to-target-church-roofs-for-their-lead-a6688611.html>

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