



# CNI

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## **Christ Church dean apologises over poster depicting satanic imagery**

The dean of Christ Church has apologised after a poster was published advertising an event in the cathedral which contained satanic imagery and gay sex, the Irish Times reports

A poster for a techno event featured a horned goat, frequently used as an image for the devil. It also showed two men having sex in front of an image of the cathedral.

It was advertising the event hosted by Vision Collector, a record label and organiser of dance events both in Ireland and internationally. The event occurred on Friday, October 7th and was held in the crypt at Christ Church.

The dean of Christ Church Cathedral Rev Dermot Dunne issued a statement apologising for the poster.

He described it as “inappropriate” and in breach of the contract that the cathedral has with those who stage events in the crypt.

“In his instance, the organisers did not adhere to the contract and issued the offending poster. The cathedral contacted the organisers to explain their actions.

“The cathedral apologises unreservedly for any offence caused by these events and has committed itself to insuring that this does not happen again.”

Vision Collector founder Alexander Falconer said it was only after the event occurred that complaints were made. The image had been on its website for months previously for anyone to see.

He said it was a “shame” that anybody took offence to a poster which was “meant to inspire, not offend”.

He added: “We are deeply sorry to any one whom this poster may of caused insult, but in a world full of freedom and self expression, there

should be no boundaries, and art itself should never cause offence to anyone or any one thing.”

He said the purpose of the original poster was to create something that was “very real, intense, dark and sinister”, taking the work of Hieronymus Bosch as inspiration.

“We gave our graphic designer the freedom to create whatever she felt was appropriate for the event. It is only art and was not designed to offend,” he explained.

“We wanted to bring something new to the building, and make it relatable to a younger generation who may be one step removed from the church. We had no pretence towards the church and carried no stigma from it into the poster.

“The poster depicts everything it means to be human in a world full of judgment and horror. Love and romance of any kind may just prevail, the church could be representing that freedom.”

**CNI notes Clerical concern** - There have been concerns expressed by C of I clergy on social media. One states that the issue was mishandled

from the outset. He comments...”more worrying is the fact that Cryptgate is merely the latest in a series of appalling headlines which the cathedral has attracted. These include national coverage of alleged bullying, acrimonious employment relationships and the avoidance of High Court hearings only through undisclosed out-of-court financial settlements. How bad do things have to get before a root and branch reform of the cathedral's governance is initiated? One only hopes that this latest shocker is the last in the series and there are no other troubling revelations waiting in the wings.”

## **Tribute to Director of Veritas**

Bishop Brendan Leahy, Bishop of Limerick and President of Veritas, the publishing company of the Irish Catholic Bishops' Conference, has released the following statement on the retirement today of Ms Maura Hyland as Director of Veritas.

“On this milestone day for Veritas, I wish to acknowledge with gratitude Maura’s thirty-five years of selfless service as Head of Catechetics, Product Development Manager and, since 2000,

as our Director. Maura's work has been characterised by her love and deep knowledge of catechetics and, through Veritas publications, Maura's work has benefited hundreds of thousands of primary and post-primary school pupils, teachers and parents across the length and breadth of Ireland. Maura was the first lay director of Veritas and throughout her career has worked tirelessly to see the company develop in accordance with the evangelising mandate for which it was established. I look forward to our continued friendship in the years ahead and I pray God's blessing on Maura for a happy and healthy retirement."

## **Bishops' Appeal supports Christian Aid's Haiti response**

Bishops' Appeal is partnering with Christian Aid to respond to Hurricane Matthew, following the destruction which it has caused in Haiti. Hurricane Matthew swept through the south-west of the country on Tuesday 4th October but the effects of the storm are only now becoming clear.

The Rt Revd Patrick Rooke, Chairman of Bishops' Appeal, stated: 'We are encouraging

parishes to consider having a special collection to support the people of Haiti. They are unfortunately no strangers to disaster, with many still living in makeshift shelters following the 2010 earthquake. More than 1,000 people are known to have lost their lives and it is expected that this figure may increase as more areas become accessible. Sixty thousand people are living in temporary shelters, crops have been destroyed and livestock swept away, and there are growing fears of a cholera outbreak.'

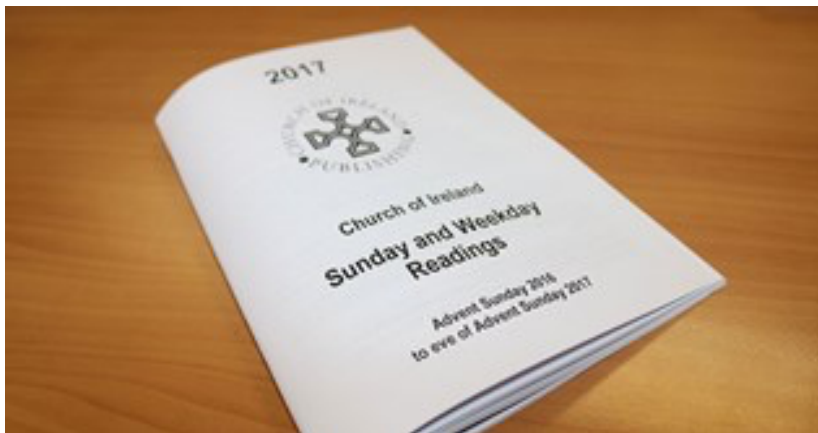
Having worked in Haiti for over 20 years, Christian Aid has been on the ground since the hurricane's landfall, assessing the damage and working out how to best help the people of Haiti to get back on their feet as soon as possible.

Christian Aid's initial response has involved providing the basics: food, clothing and shelter. For example:

- £17 / €19.29 could help to provide bedding required to accommodate people sleeping in emergency shelters;
- £28 / €31.77 could provide the hygiene essentials that a family needs in an emergency;

- £60 / €68.08 could supply the materials needed to rebuild someone's home. In the coming weeks and months, the response will involve helping people to rebuild sustainable livelihoods. Parish and individual donations can be sent to Bishops' Appeal, Church of Ireland House, Church Avenue, Rathmines, Dublin 6.

## **C of I Bible liturgy readings booklet available**



The Season of Advent begins on Sunday 27 November, and so starts a new liturgical year and a fresh cycle of daily Scripture readings. Church of Ireland Publishing has announced that *Sunday and Weekday Readings 2017* is now available.

This annual booklet is compiled by the Revd Ken Rue, who says: '*Sunday and Weekday Readings* is designed to help worship planners and lesson readers know the appointed readings for Sundays and weekdays. It is also beneficial for those who wish to follow a personal course of Scripture readings which is tied in with the Church calendar.'

The price is unchanged from previous years at £3/€4 per booklet and may be obtained from the following outlets:

- Richard Ryan at the Book Well, Belfast, email: [info@thebookwell.co.uk](mailto:info@thebookwell.co.uk); tel: 07581 143596
- Heather Jestin, Church House, Rathmines, Dublin, email: [heather.jestin@rcbdub.org](mailto:heather.jestin@rcbdub.org); tel: +353 (0)1 412 5621. For further information on Church of Ireland Publishing, [visit their website here](#).

## **GFS history of Belfast's listed police station**

One of the busiest police stations of the Troubles looks set to be listed due to its historical and architectural importance





Donegall Pass police station complex has emerged from behind a formidable set of security grilles that surrounded it throughout the Troubles.

The heavily fortified station was attacked several times, and on January 22, 1976 two police officers were killed inside the building when a booby trap bomb concealed in an abandoned shotgun exploded.

Inspector George Bell (54), from Lisburn, and Detective Constable Neville Cummings (37), from Belfast, died in the incident.

The station continued to operate until 2012, and the building is now up for sale. The oldest section of the complex located at 18 Donegall Pass has been proposed for category B2 historical listing.

It is comprised of an early 20th century brick faced reinforced concrete framed building which extends over three storeys with a former attic level and basement.

The building was originally purpose built for the Girls' Friendly Society - the oldest Church of Ireland organisation established for girls and women.

It provided accommodation for girls and women who had moved to Belfast from the surrounding countryside for work.

At that time other GFS hostels existed in Armagh, Londonderry and Rostrevor, although none of these were purpose built.

The building was constructed around 1906 to the designs of Birmingham-born architect William Roome using the patented 'Hennebique' structural system of reinforced concrete columns, beams and floor slabs.

Roome was responsible for introducing the new building method to Ireland with the construction of the Somerset Linen Factory at Marcus Ward Street in Belfast, built in 1904-05.

During the years 1897-1908 only six buildings were constructed in Northern Ireland in this style, making this a rare type.

## **BBC needs to promote religious literacy, Bishop of Norwich tells Peers**

*On 12th October 2016 the House of Lords debated a Government motion “that this House takes note of the drafts of the BBC’s new charter and the agreement between the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport and the Corporation.” The Bishop of Norwich, Rt Revd Graham James, spoke in the debate about the need for well-resourced and informed coverage of religion.*

[...] While there is a need for a distinctive service, the BBC has not invested sufficient resources, not least in its own religion and ethics department. I do not believe the BBC has any



sort of evangelistic task, but it has an educational one, and our increasing religious illiteracy as a nation does us no favours in our understanding of and relationships with the wider world, especially the world beyond Europe.

It is peculiar what now rates in this area as a news story. I was surprised last week by the scant reference in the BBC to the most reverend Primate the Archbishop of Canterbury's visit to Rome. Perhaps it is because Archbishops of Canterbury have been trotting to Rome so often in recent years. But for the Pope and the most reverend Primate to commission 19 pairs of Anglican and Roman Catholic bishops to engage

in joint mission together, some from parts of the world where religious division is deeply rooted, was surely worthy of more attention. Or have we become so cloth-eared or cynical that we do not see an imaginative, distinctive and creative religious act for what it is? The public purposes of the BBC cover news and impartiality, education and learning, creativity and diversity. There is no mention of religion anywhere in the BBC's public purposes. Perhaps the Minister will enlighten us where it actually fits.

Back in June, the most reverend Primate the Archbishop of Canterbury [drew attention in a speech](#) to the need for true diversity to pay proper attention to religion. The most reverend Primate quoted the historian Simon Schama, who said:

## **Venezuelan becomes new leader of the Jesuits**

Fr Arturo Sosa Abascal has been voted the next superior general of the Society of Jesus.

The Venezuelan becomes the 30th successor of Jesuit founder St Ignatius of Loyola and leader of the Catholic Church's largest religious order.

He is the Jesuits' first non-European leader and also the first superior general to be elected under a Jesuit pope.

He succeeds Fr Adolfo Nicolás, a Spanish priest who formally resigned this month aged 80.

The election took place in Rome this week.

Fr Sosa was born in Caracas on November 12, 1948. He is the Delegate of the General for the International Houses and Works of the Society of Jesus in Rome. He has a Political Science doctorate from the Universidad Central de Venezuela. He speaks Spanish, Italian and English.

## **News links to reports on faith, politics and education**

### **Archbishop of Canterbury: Anti-Slavery Service**

Archbishop Justin Welby gave an address at Westminster Abbey in a service marking the UK's commitment to combating modern slavery.



The service commemorated the work of William Wilberforce and marked the launch of the role of the Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner.

To read the text of Archbishop Justin's speech, [please click here.](#)

To listen to the service, [please click here.](#)

### **Pilgrim Course meeting discipleship needs**

The Pilgrim discipleship course has become the most significant series for Church House Publishing since Common Worship, selling 130,000 copies since its launch in 2013.

## **Times/Mail/Guard**

Reports that Whitehall officials have been accused of covering up allegations of misconduct made against Dame Lowell Goddard while she was chairwoman of the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse (IICSA). Dame Lowell, who resigned in August after 18 months, has overnight issued a statement saying the critical reports (of her comments and actions during her time as Chair) were a 'vicious campaign' (see *Guardian*). The Church of England is one institution being investigated by IICSA.

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/news/home-office-covered-up-racism-of-abuse-judge-cpct9clq3>

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2016/oct/14/lowell-goddard-child-abuse-inquiry-judge-denies-racism-claims>

## **Christian Today**

Reports that the challenges facing the CofE are remarkably similar to those facing another British institution, the Post Office. Paula Vennells, chief executive of the Post Office and who is also a non-stipendiary minister in the CofE, said there are many parallels between the Post Office and the Church. Speaking to the Christian Association of Business Executives at Lambeth



Palace, she said, "Both are highly valued, national institutions providing care, support and services to many communities right across the country."

### **Exp/Mail/Guard/BBC/Mirror/Metro**

Further reports that the 30 volunteer bellringers at York Minster were told this week that bellringing activity at the minster would cease with "immediate effect" while the management recruited a paid head bellringer, who would select new volunteers in 2017. Further comment from a spokesperson adds: "It is critically important to ensure that there is a consistent approach to health and safety, governance and risk management across all of our volunteer teams. In order to make these changes, we sometimes need to close existing volunteering roles so that we can move forward with the new processes. This is what has happened with our bellringers."

<http://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/720805/York-Minster-dismisses-volunteer-bell-ringers>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-york-north-yorkshire-37631061>

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2016/oct/13/york-minster-to-fall-silent-after-sacking-bellringers-for-whom-the-bell-tolls>

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3836377/York-Minster-s-bells-silent-Christmas-time-1361-sacks-bellringers-fell-Dean.html>

<http://www.mirror.co.uk/news/uk-news/york-minister-fall-silent-first-9040609>

<http://metro.co.uk/2016/10/13/world-famous-york-minster-bells-will-not-ring-this-christmas-for-the-first-time-in-655-years-6190867/>

## **Tel**

Reports that a judge has banned a widow from carrying out her husband's dying wish to place a headstone at his grave saying her epitaph to him is "over sentimental". Tom Scott, died last March. His widow had applied to the Diocese of Ely to fulfil his dying wish of being buried at St Andrew's Witchford near Ely. Anthony Leonard QC, Chancellor of the Diocese of Ely, in his role as a judge of the Consistory Court, has refused the request due to it "conflicting with church regulations".

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2016/10/13/judge-bans-widow-from-erecting-gravestonethen-ridicules-her-epit/>

## **Premier**

Further coverage of the special church service in Westminster Abbey, which reaffirmed the UK's

commitment to tackling modern slavery. The Prime Minister and the UK's two leading church leaders, the Archbishop of Canterbury and the Archbishop of Westminster, all made fresh pledges to tackle human trafficking and forced labour at a service in memory of abolitionist William Wilberforce. During the service Theresa May pledged to put Britain at the forefront of the fight to bring the perpetrators to justice.

<http://www.premier.org.uk/News/UK/Westminster-Abbey-service-affirms-British-fight-against-modern-slavery>