



## Irish Presbyterian input to major Bible publishing event

Yesterday saw one of the year's major Christian publishing events with the publication of the *New International Version Zondervan Study Bible*. Dr. Desi Alexander (above), a senior lecturer at the Presbyterian Church's Union Theological College in Belfast, is one of the associate editors.

The New International Version (NIV) is the world's most read modern English language translation

of the Bible. As one of the three associate editors of the new guide, Dr. Alexander was part of the original 2010 executive committee that looked at the shape and content of the publication. Chaired by Professor Don Carson, the Canadian-born academic and preacher, the group identified the 60-plus scholars of standing from a wide range of denominations who would work on its 3,000 pages.

Dr. Alexander also wrote the study guide's introductions to the Old Testament and Genesis, as well as a number of articles to accompany the 20,000 comprehensive verse-by-verse study notes, informative charts, photos and maps.

"This has been a major undertaking by all concerned. A study Bible must be accessible, making additional information available that informs the reader's understanding of the biblical text. This in turn helps us to interpret the text accurately," Dr. Alexander said.

"In a very readable way, the NIV itself conveys the essential meaning of the original Greek and Hebrew texts. Through the verse-by-verse notes, introductions and various articles and illustrations, the new study guide also draws out the many themes that flow throughout both Old

and New Testaments, which can so often be missed.

“I hope that this new publication will help readers to grow in their understanding of Scripture as God’s story is unpacked, first book-by-book, then as collections of biblical literature and finally by tracing the Bible’s complete witness to the Gospel,” Dr. Alexander concluded.

In commending the new study guide, Union Theological College’s Principal, Professor Stafford Carson said, “Dr. Alexander’s international reputation as a biblical scholar is well-established and his contribution to this new study Bible is highly significant.

“As well as a prolific writer, he is much appreciated by the students at Union College for his excellent teaching and I am sure that the impact of this new study Bible will be far reaching for those who want to understand more about God’s Word and His divine plan for humanity.”

Dr. Desmond (Desi) Alexander took up this appointment in September 2009, having been Director of Christian Training for the Presbyterian

Church in Ireland for 10 years. He had previously lectured for 18 years in Semitic Studies at the Queen's University of Belfast.

He has written and contributed to a wide variety of academic and reference books on the Bible, most recently *From Eden to the New Jerusalem*. His areas of expertise are the Pentateuch and Biblical Theology.

An elder in Fitzroy Presbyterian Church, he is married to Anne, and they have two adult children.

## **C of I Rector's son awarded USA meritorious service medal**

Royal Marine Lt.Col. Philip Kelly from Belfast, last month received the USA meritorious service medal for his work with the U.S. Navy combat operations in Afghanistan and Iraq

His citation praises his “unsurpassed, leadership ability, superb management skills and a complete understanding of tactical operations.

“His dedicated efforts resulted in the flawless execution of 4,900 sorties and 13,200 flight hours which concentrated on close air support for coalition ground forces engaged in Afghanistan and Iraq.”

The award was made by Second Sea Lord Vice-Admiral Jonathan Woodcock at a ceremony in Portsmouth Naval base. The citation goes on to say how his leadership and tactical experience were instrumental in the US Carrier Eight Air Wing’s success.

During the past few years the 44-year-old Ulsterman spent time on the USS Ronald Reagan, Harry S Truman and George HW Bush.

He is now the Strike Warfare Commander in the U.K.’s Carrier Strike Group which will be based in HMS Queen Elizabeth – his seventh aircraft carrier - and the largest warship ever in the Royal Navy.

The former fighter pilot served on HMS Ark Royal, Invincible and illustrious. He has flown F/A 18 Hornets.

He joined the Royal Marines 21 years of age and has reflected great credit upon himself and upheld the highest traditions of the Naval service. He is one of only two Royal Marine jet pilots.

Commenting on his current position, he said , “I always wanted to be a commando and pilot so I got the difficult one out of the way first. The discipline instilled as a commando allowed me to handle flying training and be effective in combat.”

Philip is a son of the late Canon Wilbert Kelly, formerly Rector of St Aidan’s Belfast. His mother lives in Lisburn where she is a member of the Cathedral Parish.

## **NI Secretary of State meets with faith leaders**

On Wednesday the Secretary of State met with the Northern Ireland church leaders and faith representatives to update them on the current talks progress

Following her meeting, Ms Villiers said:

"The involvement of Northern Ireland’s church leaders and faith representatives in the debate about Northern Ireland’s future is welcome. I



***Pictured above at Stormont House are (left to right) Revd Trevor Gribben, Clerk of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland and Joint Secretary to the Church Leaders Group; Rt Revd Dr Ian McNie, Moderator of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland; Revd Dr Donald Watts, President, Irish Council of Churches; Bishop John McDowell representing Archbishop Richard Clarke, Church of Ireland Archbishop of Armagh; Dr Saleen Tareen, Belfast Islamic Centre; Northern Ireland Secretary, Rt Hon Theresa Villiers MP; Dr Satyavir Singh, Secretary of the Indian Community Centre representing the Hindu community; Revd Brian Anderson, President of the Methodist Church in Ireland; Bishop John McAreavey representing Archbishop Eamon Martin, Catholic Archbishop of Armagh and Ali Khan, Belfast Islamic Centre.***

briefed them on the progress of the talks. I was also clear about the serious consequences if the parties fail to agree.

Finding a way forward will not been easy and I am therefore pleased the church leaders and faith representatives have committed to doing all they can to help. I also know that leaders from other areas of civil society in Northern Ireland are ready to offer similar support and I will remain in contact with them as this process unfolds."

## **Sligo to Kilmore walk for brick-making projects in India**

Brendan McCarthy on Facebook tells of an upcoming fund-raising effort -

Along with other (fool)hardy souls I shall be embarking on a 100km walk (between the cathedrals in Sligo and Kilmore) in aid of The House of Peace Orphanages in Tamil Nadu India between 24th and 26th October.

The idea is to establish and equip a brick-making factory that will ensure an income stream for the orphanage. It will also cut down on the orphanages' building costs and provide



employment. This can be achieved for the paltry sum of £10,000.

Any financial contributions (words of wisdom also accepted), however small, large or enormous can be made online at [https://www.idonate.ie/.../11256981\\_cathedral-walk-s-fundrais...](https://www.idonate.ie/.../11256981_cathedral-walk-s-fundrais...) .....off now to limber up by walking to the kitchen to make a cup of coffee.

## **Connor young people all set for Reveal 2015**

A day of fun, faith and fellowship for the young people of Connor Diocese is fast approaching.

‘Reveal,’ hosted by St Jude’s Parish, Muckamore, will take place on Saturday October 3. The event is once again supported by the diocese and Engage Connor Youth Council.

‘Reveal’ will run from 2pm until 9pm in Ballycraig Primary School, Muckamore, where as well as worship and teaching, there will be lots of activities throughout the afternoon, including mountain biking, crafts, inflatables, photo booth and much more!

In the evening there will be team games, a barbecue and more worship and teaching.

The organisers want to get as many young people from around the diocese together as possible, giving them the opportunity to get to know each other and enjoy some fellowship.

## **Launch of the Scottish Episcopal Institute**

Sunday 4 October sees the Launch of the Scottish Episcopal Institute and is being marked by a celebration in St Ninian's Cathedral Perth.

The Rev Canon Dr Anne Tomlinson, Principal of the Scottish Episcopal Institute says "We are encouraged and gratified by the large expected turnout at the service, and are especially delighted that so many ecumenical friends will be present: from the Methodist Church in Scotland, the United Reformed Church, the Church of Scotland and Place for Hope. Representatives of the Standing Committee, the General Synod Office and the Institute Council are also attending.

“The weekend will be a busy one for staff and students alike. The new academic year begins this Friday with a residential event at the Conforti Centre, Coatbridge, at which the main topics are Spirituality and Hermeneutics, interspersed by eight acts of worship and time for fellowship and community-building. Twenty four students make up this year’s cohort, drawn from four dioceses (Argyll, Glasgow and Galloway, Aberdeen and Orkney, and Edinburgh), candidates for ordination and Lay Readership in equal measure.”

Preacher: The Most Rev David Chillingworth, Primus. President: The Rt Rev Kevin Pearson, Convener of the Institute Council. Service commences 3.00pm.

## **Wolf Hall background to Belfast lecture**

On Monday, October 26th Dr Richard Rex of the University of Cambridge will deliver a lecture on John Fisher (c.1469–1535), bishop of Rochester, cardinal, and subsequent martyr. The paper is entitled “Wolf Hall: Saints John Fisher in Fiction and History”.

It will take place at 7.00p.m in Lecture Theatre OG-GO 29, Geography Building, Elmwood Ave, Queen's University Belfast. All members of the public are welcome to attend and admission is free of charge.

Richard Rex is a Fellow of Queens' College, Cambridge, where he is Director of Studies in Theological and Religious Studies. His research interests focus on the interaction between religion, politics, and ideas in early modern England and Europe. His main current project is an exploration of the emergence and impact of the theology and public persona of Martin Luther in the Imperial and European context of the early sixteenth century.

## **Bellringers Honoured at St Fin Barres' Cathedral, Cork**

On Sunday, 27th September, the Sunday closest to the Patronal Festival of St Fin Barre's Cathedral, Cork, special mention was made, and thanksgiving offered, during the Sunday Eucharist for the work of the bellringers at the Cathedral.

The preacher was Diocesan Reader, Wilfred Baker, who is himself a bellringer, having learnt



***Some of the bellringers of St Fin Barre's Cathedral, Cork demonstrate their art on a miniature ring of bells set up temporarily in the north aisle of the Cathedral.***

the art in his youth at St Fin Barre's Cathedral.

He spoke about the role of the Cathedral as mother church of the Diocese, and of the increasing awareness, in our time, of that role, in Cork, Cloyne and Ross.

He noted that the Cathedral is a place to treasure, to inspire and, through the excellence

and beauty of what it is, its music, its art and its bell-ringing to draw people into a greater engagement with the Christian faith.

There are twelve bells, all restored in 2008, in the north steeple of St Fin Barre's. Wilfred Baker referred to that magnificent sight, rare, if not unique, when all the bells of the Cathedral, following restoration, as well as the new bells which had been commissioned, were lined up along the nave aisle of the Cathedral for their naming and dedication at the time. Full information about the bells is to be found [here](#).

The bellringers of St Fin Barre's were present and afterwards some of them displayed their skills to the Sunday congregation on a miniature ring of bells which is currently set up in the north aisle of the Cathedral.

## Media digest

**Pastor James McConnell: Date set for trial over 'satanic Islam' broadcast - BBC News**  
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-34412329>

## **65 Northern Ireland schools have shut down since 2011 - Belfast Telegraph**

<http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/education/65-northern-ireland-schools-have-shut-down-since-2011-31572512.html>

## **Nobody came to help nuns attacked on way to Mass in Limerick - Irish Examiner**

<http://www.irishexaminer.com/ireland/nobody-came-to-help-nuns-attacked-on-way-to-mass-356816.html>

## **Seamus Mallon: 'Mistake' to allow Sinn Féin into government without decommissioning - BBC News**

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-34406343>

## **You're crazy, Pope tells family who drove 13,000 miles from Argentina to Philadelphia to see him - Irish News**

<http://www.irishnews.com/paywall/tsa/irishnews/irishnews/irishnews/news/worldnews/2015/09/29/news/you-re-crazy-pope-tells-family-who-drove-13-000-miles-to-see-him-276755/content.html>

## **Ind/TES/Schools Week**

Reports that a majority of state faith schools are failing to comply with rules governing pupil admissions, according to a survey, conducted by the British Humanist Association. The Revd Nigel

Genders, the CofE's chief Education officer is quoted as refuting the allegations of near universal non-compliance for Church of England schools.

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/education/education-news/faith-schools-are-failing-to-comply-with-pupil-admissions-rules-a6673566.html>

<http://schoolsweek.co.uk/report-finds-widespread-violations-of-admissions-code-among-faith-schools/>

<https://www.tes.com/news/school-news/breaking-news/nearly-all-faith-schools-abuse-admissions-system-british-humanist>

## **BBC**

Reports on the 'mothballing' of the SSI Steel Plant in Redcar with the loss of 1,700 jobs. The Archbishop of York is quoted .

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-tees-34407611>

## **Guard**

Reports that on the day that the minimum wage increases by 20p an hour, research suggests that the numbers on the statutory pay floor will double by 2020 from its inception in 1999. The Resolution Foundation's report predicts that



10% of the UK workforce, 3.2m people will be on the minimum wage in 5 years time.

<http://www.theguardian.com/society/2015/oct/01/number-of-uk-workers-on-minimum-wage-expected-to-double-by-2020>

## **Exp/Tel**

Reports that a wooden cross has been removed from the newly re-furbished Accrington Crematorium in case it offends non-religious mourners. Council officials say the cross can be re-instated for individual services if it is required. The Bishop of Burnley, Philip North, is quoted and Area Dean of Accrington, Reverend John Holland, said it is political correctness gone mad.

<http://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/609091/Outrage-cross-removed-crematorium-non-religious-mourners>

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/religion/11902123/Crematorium-cross-removed-to-avoid-offending-non-religious-visitors.html>

## **York Press**

Reports that the Archbishop of York will dedicate a new stained glass window in York. The window at All Saints Church in the Pavement commemorates the service of the British military in Afghanistan.

[http://www.yorkpress.co.uk/news/13793908.York Afghanistan Window to be dedicated today/?ref=rss](http://www.yorkpress.co.uk/news/13793908.York-Afghanistan-Window-to-be-dedicated-today/?ref=rss)

## **Tel**

Reports that Lloyds bank have been accused of losing several rare pieces of church silverware. A communion cup and other 16<sup>th</sup> century items were deposited with the bank many years ago. Now Veep Parish church in Cornwall want to put the items on display but the bank has been unable to locate them.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/newstopics/howaboutthat/11902159/Lloyds-Bank-accused-of-losing-rare-400-year-old-church-antiques.html>

## **Mirror/Guard**

Sir Ian Botham led tributes for the late Brian Close at the cricketer's funeral held at St Chad's church, Leeds yesterday. The 84 year-old, former England captain, died of cancer last month.

<http://www.mirror.co.uk/sport/cricket/ian-botham-leads-tributes-inspiration-6548926>

<http://www.theguardian.com/sport/2015/sep/30/brian-close-funeral-cricket-england>