



The prize-winning Youth Plucked String Orchestra of North Rhine-Westphalia will round of an Irish tour with a special concert at Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin, on October 11 at 8.00 pm. See report later.

Relationships, economics and creating a just society - PCI conference today

A conference in Belfast today will look at the relational dimension of major economic issues and explore 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 is the fourth in the Presbyterian Church in Ireland's (PCI) Church in the Public Square series and is organised in association with the Cambridge-based Christian social reform think-tank, the Jubilee Centre.

Dr. Michael Schluter, founder of the Jubilee Centre said, "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 we explore these issues together, as a sympathetic outsider, I will suggest that if we are
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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 will also suggest that new initiatives need 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. 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.

With 100 people from the public, private and voluntary sectors attending the conference, the Jubilee Centre’s Dr. Paul Mills, a former UK Treasury official, will also address delegates. Discussing the issues raised during

the conference will be a [distinguished local panel](#) that includes 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.

Looking forward to 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 to consider the role that Christians and the Church can play in wider community life.

"I hope that today's conference will prove to be stimulating and thought-provoking, as the speakers challenge us, our attitudes and society's traditional approach to economics. The Bible has much to say about money, materialism and caring for the poor, so I am looking forward to exploring some of the ideas being put forward by the Jubilee Centre as to how changed relationships could lead to a more just society," Dr. Hamilton said.

Leading discussion on Northern Ireland at the University of Wyoming

Two Northern Ireland government and religious leaders will discuss the challenges of building community amid differences during a brown-bag presentation Friday, Oct. 16, at the Teton County Public Library in Jackson.

The Rev. John Dunlop and Dr. Tom Frawley are the key speakers at an event this day week, October 16, hosted by the Center for International Human Rights Law and Advocacy at the University of Wyoming.

They will discuss “Building Community Across Difference: Lessons from Northern Ireland” in the library’s Ordway Auditorium. The event is free and open to the public.

Attorney and mediator Bill Schwartz will moderate the discussion. “The dialogue will explore the challenges associated with any community where there are differences of perspective, identity and power,” organisers say. “Ultimately, the presenters and moderator will explore what lessons can be drawn from a place



The Rev. John Dunlop, left, and Tom Frawley like Northern Ireland that can be of tangible use to other community leaders and advocates in other settings.”

The event is sponsored by the UW College of Law, the UW Department of Political Science through the Simpson Fund, the UW Center for Global and Area Studies, the UW International Programs office, the UW Center for Global Studies and Interconnections 21.

Dunlop has received multiple national and international honours for his service to community relations. A graduate of Queen's University in Belfast and the University of Edinburgh, he was the minister from 1978-2004 of Rosemary Presbyterian Church in North Belfast. With the support and encouragement of the congregational leadership, he has exercised a wider ministry in efforts to improve relations between Protestants and Roman Catholics, encouraging each community to better understand the other's culture and history.

Dunlop -- the recipient of honorary degrees from the Presbyterian Theological Faculty of Ireland, Trinity College Dublin, the University of Ulster and Queen's University Belfast -- in 1993 received the "Cultural Traditions Award" recognising his contribution to debate on cultural diversity within Northern Ireland. He received the E.H. Johnston Memorial Trust award in 2002 from the Presbyterian Church in Canada.

Frawley is the assembly ombudsman and Northern Ireland commissioner for complaints. He is the longest-serving ombudsman since the office was created in 1969. Following graduation from Trinity College in Dublin in 1971, he joined the National Health Service and, in 1973, was

appointed unit administrator at the Ulster Hospital, Dundonald.

His career in health services later took him to North and West Belfast and Lisburn. In 1981, he became chief administrative officer in the Western Health and Social Services Board, at the age of 31, the youngest person in the United Kingdom to be appointed to such a post. In 1985, he was appointed as the board's general manager.

A series of fellowships led to health care study visits to the United States, Australia and New Zealand. In 1994, he led a Northern Ireland project team that advised on the development of the health service system in Zimbabwe.

Frawley received an honorary degree from the University of Ulster, where he served as a visiting professor of leadership in business and accounting. In 2006 and 2010, he was elected as the vice president of the World Board of the International Ombudsman Institute. In 2008, he was awarded the title of Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire by Queen Elizabeth in recognition of his contribution to public service in Northern Ireland.

Youth Plucked Orchestra on Irish tour

The prize-winning Youth Plucked String Orchestra of North Rhine-Westphalia (the Jugendzupforchester) are completing an Irish tour.

Comprised of some of Germany's top young mandolin and guitar players, the Jugendzupforchester have a totally unique approach to programming and performance, bringing together arrangements of Baroque works with specially-written music from contemporary composers across the world.

Their Dublin concert will include new works written by Irish composers David Bremner and Eoghan Desmond.

David Bremner said, 'When I heard some recordings of this orchestra, I became fascinated by the unique sonority of this combination of instruments, the crispness of the mandolins over the mellowness of the guitars, like a cake covered with icing! With this in mind I aimed for harmonies that couch dissonant material over a

bed of more consonant guitar chords. I wished for a fusion of ambiguity and definiteness, by means of placing a sequence of complex, hard-to-grasp, chords in a comparatively repetitive form, so that a sense of recognition gradually grows. I had in mind a forest-like profusion of sonorities with subtle similarities. The prevailing quiet dynamic level adds to this effect, and suggested the title.'

- David Bremner

Tour dates:

6 Oct, 8pm Astra Hall, University College Dublin

8 Oct, 1.10pm Riverstown Hall, NUI Maynooth

9 Oct, 8pm St. Nicholas Collegiate Church, Galway

11 Oct, 8pm Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin, Tickets

€10 (€5 conc.) available from the door

HEA to investigate college chaplain appointments

The Dublin Minister for Education Jan O'Sullivan has asked the Higher Education Authority to investigate the appointment of chaplains at third-level institutions across the country.

RTE News - In a first step, the HEA has written to the colleges asking for information on how they employ and fund chaplaincy services.

Documents received by the organisation Atheist Ireland under Freedom of Information provisions show most of the country's Institutes of Technology have no public appointment or tendering procedure for the employment of chaplains.

In total the Institutes spend around €800,000 annually on chaplaincy salaries. Most of the money is paid directly to the Catholic Church for chaplains appointed by them.

The HEA has acknowledged that it does not know the detail of how appointments are made. It acknowledged that there are "anomalies" around the funding and that clarity is needed.

The documents also indicate that in some cases the moratorium on public appointments may be being breached in relation to the employment of chaplains. The HEA declined to comment on this, saying it needed to know more.

The HEA said it appreciated the valuable work college chaplains did in supporting students.

Read more at -

<http://www.rte.ie/news/2015/1008/733283-education-chaplains/>

<http://www.irishtimes.com/news/social-affairs/inquiry-into-way-public-funds-used-to-pay-third-level-chaplains-1.2382881>

Former terrorist, father of DUP's newest MLA, serves as a steward at St Anne's Cathedral

The convicted loyalist terrorist whose daughter Emma Pengelly has just been co-opted by the DUP as its newest MLA at Stormont is employed as a steward at St Anne's Cathedral in Belfast.

And this week Noel Little, who was a leader of the Ulster Resistance movement Belfast Telegraph - in the 1980s, was meeting and greeting visitors to the historic Cathedral in Donegall Street.

Belfast Telegraph - He's one of a number of volunteer stewards who operate a rota system to welcome people to Belfast Cathedral and to help them with any queries they might have.

But few of the tourists are aware of Little's terrorist past.

He was arrested in Paris in April 1989 along with two other Ulstermen, a South African diplomat and an American arms dealer, who were meeting in a hotel in the French capital.

A court later heard that the loyalists were trying to procure arms from South Africa in return for missile technology from Northern Ireland, where a model of one missile and parts of another one had gone missing from a Territorial Army depot in Newtownards and from a Short factory in Belfast.

The court was told that Little, from Co Armagh, was the main instigator of the plot.

All three loyalists were given suspended sentences and received fines of up to 50,000 francs.

A year before the French arrests, a massive consignment of arms was smuggled into Northern Ireland from South Africa and the weapons were divided between Ulster Resistance, the UDA and the UVF.

A large number of the weapons have been recovered, but the whereabouts of many of Ulster Resistance's guns are still a mystery.

Several years ago Little, who had been photographed in 1986 with a red-bereted Peter Robinson after one of Ulster Resistance's first rallies in Portadown, denied to a British newspaper that he had been involved in the first gunrunning plot.

But he added: "I would deny it even if I was (involved)."

Last week his daughter Mrs Pengelly, formerly Emma Little, said her father's arrest had had a profound effect on her family, who were living in Markethill at the time.

She denounced paramilitary activity in Northern Ireland and said her father "was very much on that page".

She added "He says people of his generation had a past but they need to change."

Last year her father was pictured wearing a church robe on St Anne's official website after the launch of a new visitor experience at the cathedral.

But his name was listed as John Little and not Noel Little.

It is understood he reverted to using his first Christian name after he moved from his home in Co Armagh to live in Belfast.

He is also listed as an official of St Columba's Church of Ireland in east Belfast, where he is described as "premise's convenor".

Read more at -

<http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/northern-ireland/terrorist-father-of-dups-newest-mla-emma-pengelly-works-as-steward-at-st-annes-cathedral-31592183.html>

Church Scout hall where leader abused boys is demolished

A victim of one of the worst sexual abuse cases in Northern Ireland says he hopes his darkest demons will disappear with the razing of the Scout hall he was molested in.

Belfast Telegraph - The derelict Co Armagh building became a symbol of the suffering at least four young boy scouts went through for years at the hands of Colin Finnegan.



Richard O'Shea outside the former Scout hall in the grounds of St Peter and St Paul's Church, Bessbrook, which is now being knocked down after a campaign by Colin Finnegan's victims

Scout leader Finnegan, now 46, was sentenced to 11 years at Belfast Crown Court in November 2013 for 59 sexual assaults on four men. The abuse started when they were around nine and lasted to their mid-teens.

He was a youth member of the Bessbrook unit of the Catholic Boy Scouts of Ireland in the 1980s and 1990s and used his position of trust to molest the boys.

Yesterday workmen appeared at the hall - which has lain unused for years in the grounds of the Church of St Peter and St Paul in Bessbrook - to remove the roof ahead of the demolition today and tomorrow.

Richard O'Shea from Bessbrook gave up his anonymity to lobby the parish to destroy the building, even offering to pay the cost of demolition himself. Last night the brave father-of-three spoke of his relief and his hopes for the future.

He said: "I have not been in that building since 1993 when I was last abused by Finnegan and I felt a great sense of relief when I stood in the hall yesterday.

"My darkest demons will be taken down as well in this hopefully, and I'm confident that I will get the peace and closure that I need."

The victims endured three separate harrowing trials to bring Finnegan to justice.

After he was jailed, they campaigned for the Archdiocese of Armagh to tear the building down as they could not face going near the church or its graveyard for family occasions

Read more at -

<http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/northern-ireland/scout-hall-where-leader-abused-boys-is-demolished-31592025.html>

Clergy hospital visits hampered by 'red tape'

“Red tape gone mad” is now preventing priests and other religious ministers making hospital visits from finding out if any of their parishioners have been admitted.

Irish Catholic - Traditionally clergy could access a ‘religious list’ at hospital receptions which gave patients’ names, addresses and religions so that they could ascertain if any parishioners had been admitted. Over the last number of years hospitals across Ireland have begun to withdraw this service because of data protection concerns.

Fr Mark Mohan, parish priest of Ballivor-Kildalkey in Co. Meath was refused access to the list in Navan hospital last week.

“It’s red tape gone mad,” he told *The Irish Catholic*. “I found out afterwards that a local man of 85 was in hospital and I could have visited him if I had seen the list.

“It’s a disgrace that they are preventing priests from visiting parishioners in hospital.

“I try to go to hospital once a week as a way of contacting those who might like to see a priest when they get sick. People so much appreciate that parish priests can visit during the working day.”

It is believed that Our Lady’s Hospital in Navan is one of the last hospitals to introduce the new procedures, which a spokesperson for the HSE said was as a result of “data protection legislation”.

Read more at-

<http://www.irishcatholic.ie/article/clergy-hospital-visits-hampered-%E2%80%99red-tape%E2%80%99#sthash.1hGLJAHe.dpuf>

Café style church at Church on the Hill

One of the Down and Dromore Year of Mission initiatives at the Church on the Hill, Maghaberry, is ‘Bring a Friend Sunday’ held for the first time last weekend. The service was café style and proved very popular with almost 130 attending. The new puppet ministry also had its debut at the service and went down a treat.



There's quite a bit going on at Church on the Hill between now and Christmas and first up will be a Network Course commencing next Wednesday October 14 at 7.15 pm for three weeks.

Dublin Protestants: The Easter Rising and After

The Church of Ireland Historical Centenaries Working Group along with the Unionist Centenaries Committee will present an event

exploring the attitudes of Dublin Protestants at the time of the Easter Rising and today at Willowfield Parish Church, Woodstock Road, Belfast on Thursday 15th October 2015 at 7.30pm.

The event is part of the Church of Ireland's contribution to marking the 'Decade of Centenaries' and is devised to spark conversations in advance of 2016 anniversaries. The evening will feature presentations from two lively speakers, Dr Ian d'Alton and Philip McKinley, along with a specially commissioned new piece of drama based on the speakers' thoughts, developed by Belfast-based theatre company Partisan Productions.

'Is there anybody goin' with a tittther o' sense?' will provide an insight into the lives of Southern Irish Protestants and how they might have related to their surroundings and the State during the First World War and on the eve of the Easter Rising in Dublin, and into the ordinary lived experience of a Southern Irish Protestant today, 100 years later.

Dr Ian d'Alton, a renowned historian whose work has focused on Southern Irish Protestantism, will enlighten us on the past while Philip McKinley, a member of the Church of Ireland from Dublin in

his 30s, will give his own personal thoughts on the present.

Admission is free and refreshments will be provided.

Media digest

Mail/Times/Ind/Mirror/Tel/Guard/BBC/ITV/Even Stand

Reports on the jailing of Peter Ball, the former Bishop of Gloucester and Lewes, for 32 months on a conviction of misconduct in a public office between 1977 and 1992 and two counts of sexual assault on young men in their late teens. Many of the reports highlight the support, which Mr Ball received from establishment figures when accusations arose against him in 1993. The *Times* and others report an apology by the former Archbishop of Canterbury, Lord Carey of Clifton for granting Mr Ball permission to officiate in 1995.

[http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3263475/Bishop-abused-young-priests-naked-prayers-got-away-two-decades.html?](http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3263475/Bishop-abused-young-priests-naked-prayers-got-away-two-decades.html?ITO=1490&ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490)

[ITO=1490&ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490](http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3263475/Bishop-abused-young-priests-naked-prayers-got-away-two-decades.html?ITO=1490&ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490)

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/uk/crime/article4579517.ece>

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/faith/article4579523.ece>

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/prince-charles-denies-using-influence-to-protect-bishop-from-sex-crimes-prosecution-a6685366.html>

<http://www.mirror.co.uk/news/uk-news/prince-charles-denies-supporting-former-6593169>

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/crime/11916405/Ex-bishop-Peter-Ball-sexual-abuse-sentence.html>

<http://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2015/oct/07/bishop-peter-ball-escaped-charges-mps-royal-family-intervened-court>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-34466842>

<http://www.itv.com/news/meridian/2015-10-07/a-30-year-cover-up-how-a-leading-bishop-evaded-justice-for-three-decades/>

<http://www.standard.co.uk/news/crime/disgraced-exbishop-peter-ball-forced-novices-to-pray-naked-behind-the-cloak-of-religion-old-bailey-a3084841.html>

Editorial on above

Guard

A true conspiracy of silence

<http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2015/oct/07/the-guardian-view-on-the-peter-ball-abuse-case-a-true-conspiracy-of-silence>

BBC

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 'overhouse' the village.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-gloucestershire-34466510>

Mail/BBC

Reports that the Vicar of St Giles' Wrexham, the Revd Dr Jason Bray, has found a first edition of the King James Bible while conducting a stock take of the church. The book, over 600 years old, is one of only 200 first editions in the world.

http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3264271/Vicar-discovers-forgotten-edition-King-James-bible-1611-clearing-cupboard-church.html?ITO=1490&ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-wales-north-east-wales-34462030>