



***From left, (standing) Paul Wallace and Dr Richard Clutterbuck; (seated) Dermot McCarthy and Ian Taylor. Dr Clutterbuck and Mr Taylor signed on behalf of the Edgehill Board of Governors, and Mr McCarthy and Mr Wallace on behalf of the ISE Trust.***

## **New Belfast home for Irish School of Ecumenics**

The Belfast campus of the Irish School of Ecumenics (ISE) is moving from its premises on the Antrim Road to space within Edgehill Theological College, Lennoxvale, in the south of the city, adjacent to the campus of Queen's University Belfast. The Irish School of Ecumenics, which has its main centre within Trinity College, Dublin, will use its new Belfast facility as a base for postgraduate teaching and research, especially in the field of conflict resolution and reconciliation studies.

Edgehill is the training centre for the Methodist Church in Ireland and its principal, the Revd Dr Richard Clutterbuck, commented: 'We are delighted to welcome the Irish School of Ecumenics as tenants of Edgehill. We share a commitment to accessible and rigorous study and we share the Christian values of peace and reconciliation. We hope that their programmes will flourish in this new environment and we look forward to getting to know our new neighbours.'

## **The Priests' new album will be out in October**

The much awaited fourth album from the singing sensation, The Priests, is due out in October.



Fathers Eugene O'Hagan, Martin O'Hagan and David Dalargy – collectively known as The Priests – were catapulted to fame when they signed with Sony BMG in 2008.

“It was all a bit of a whirlwind,” said Fr Eugene. “It was really accidental rather than by design. We went from obscurity to being very well known.”

For the first couple of years the men were very busy, trying to juggle ministry commitments with international concerts, road trips and recording time.

“The albums were released internationally which meant there was a lot of travel, which took us around the world. It was all very exciting,” Fr David Dalargy recalled.

Sony had invested a lot in the project. It was “very interesting and pleasant but very demanding and tiring as well”.

“We were trying to make sure all our duties in the parish were covered. After three albums, we decided it was time to reduce our travelling and spend more time in our parishes,” he added.

Coming from a background of the Troubles, the men have always believed in the healing and peace making power of music.

“Today’s world is topsy – turvy and there are still serious threats on the world stage. It’s a bewildering place for people. Music gives people a sense of calm, serenity and hope,” said Fr Eugene O’Hagan.

Their first album *The Priests* reached number one in Ireland and number 5 in the UK, scoring a platinum disc in both territories.

Their next album *Harmony* released in 2009, was also very successful reaching the top ten in Ireland and top 20 in the UK.

Speaking in advance of the release of *Alleluia*, due out on 7 October, Fr David said they were

delighted to have the chance to record a new album.

“The last one was 2010, so it’s been a while. The whole process of trying to identify suitable music and get the creative juices flowing and arrange it so that it’s suitable for us is very stimulating. It’s been very good fun to be back in the recording studio.”

The new album is a mixture of traditional sacred hymns like *Nearer My God To Thee*, *Cead Mille Failte Romhat*, *The Lord is my Shepherd* and *Be Thou My Vision*, and well known folk and pop favourites like *Morning Has Broken* and *Eleanor Rigby*.

It also has classical favourites like the *Halleluiah Chorus*, *Ave Verum* and the Bach/Gounod *Ave Maria*.

According to the group’s publicist, the classical music trio have more projects in the pipeline and are hoping that the release of their fourth album will be followed by a feature film, called *Raising the Roof*.

But Fr Martin is not so sure the project will go ahead.

*“Raising The Roof* is a distinct possibility, it is in the pipeline but pipelines can be extremely long!”

For now, the men are focused on their new album and upcoming concerts in November and December in the United States, Northern Ireland and the UK.

## **History making brothers are Canons of Derry**

History was made in St Columb’s Cathedral this week as Rev Malcolm Ferry was installed as a Canon of the Cathedral Chapter, joining his brother, David, who had been installed eleven years earlier.

It is only the second time since records began that two brothers have served simultaneously as canons in St Columb’s Cathedral. The service also included Mr David Bell being commissioned as a Diocesan Reader.

The Service was conducted by the Dean of Derry, Very Rev William Morton, who welcomed members of the Ferry family, including the new Canon’s wife, Carol. Members of the Canon’s



***Rev Canon Malcolm Ferry and his brother, Rev Canon David Ferry, at St Columb's Cathedral where they became only the second set of brothers to be installed into the Cathedral Chapter since records began. Photo: Lorcan Doherty.***

current parish, St Augustine's, and previous parishes were also welcomed.

The Preacher, Rev Mervyn Peoples, pointed out that the installation was happening on the Feast of the Birth of the Blessed Virgin Mary. He suggested that Canon Malcolm and David Bell had much in common with Mary; both of them had been entrusted with a priceless treasure.

“But such a treasure brings responsibilities and challenges,” he said.

Turning to Canon Malcolm, his brother Canon David, and other members of the Ferry family, on what he described as “a significant occasion”, the Preacher said he had no doubt that their parents, William and Sara, would be immensely proud if they had been alive today.

The Preacher also wished Dean Morton “God’s continued blessing” as he prepared to move to St Patrick’s in Dublin as Dean of our national cathedral. He thanked the Dean for his contributions to the United Dioceses of Derry and Raphoe, and to the city of Londonderry.

## **Installation of Canons in Lisburn**

A service of Installation of Canons in the Chapter of St Saviour, Diocese of Connor, took place in Christ Church Cathedral, Lisburn, on Thursday September 8.

It followed the retirement of the Rev Canon George Irwin, and during the service the Rev Derek Kerr, rector of Drummahaire, Duneane and





Ballyscullion, was installed as Prebendary of Cairncastle.

Those installed in new positions in the Chapter were: The Rev Canon George Graham – Chancellor; The Rev Canon John Budd – Precentor; and the Rev Canon Jim Carson – Treasurer.

The following positions within the Chapter remain the same: Dean – The Very Rev Sam Wright; Archdeacon of Connor – The Venerable Stephen McBride; Archdeacon of Dalriada – The Venerable Stephen Forde; Prebendary of Kilroot – The Rev Canon William Taggart; Prebendary of [churchnewsireland@gmail.com](mailto:churchnewsireland@gmail.com)

Rasharkin – The Rev Canon Chris Easton;  
Prebendary of Connor – The Rev Canon Peter  
Galbraith.

The service was well attended, and the preacher was the Dean Sam Wright, rector of Lisburn Cathedral.

## **Anglican Communion Task Group holds first meeting to “maintain conversation”**

The Task Group set up after the Primates’ Gathering and Meeting in January to “maintain conversation” has met for the first time and stressed its determination to work together. But it acknowledged the process would take time and could not be rushed.

The Primates asked the Archbishop of Canterbury to appoint the group to restore relationships, rebuild mutual trust, heal the legacy of hurt and explore deep differences. Archbishop Welby presented the group’s mandate to ACC16 in Lusaka in April where it was received and affirmed. This week seven



***Members of the Archbishop of Canterbury's task group including Archbishop Richard Clarke of Armagh gather at the Anglican Communion Office in London for their first meeting.***

members of the group have been meeting in London. An eighth joined in via video conferencing.

“What we are trying to do here is mirror what we desire for the whole Communion,” said the Coadjutor Bishop of Huron in Canada, the Rt Revd Linda Nicholls. “We are trying to practise in our engagement with each other here what we long for in the wider Communion.”

Archbishop Ian Ernest, from the Province of the Indian Ocean, said exchanges within the group had been frank and open.

“What has come out very clearly is the level of transparency that we have in the group. We have been able to be open and speak openly about our differences,” he said. “We also recognise the richness of the Communion. And we all love our Communion – that is what binds us together.”

The Moderator of the Church of Bangladesh, Bishop Sarker, echoed the same theme. “Our cultures and backgrounds are very different, and we express our spirituality differently but we are moving forwards together,” he said.

Reflecting on the diversity, Canon Rosemary Mbogo, the Provincial Secretary of the Anglican Church of Kenya, said there was no grouping within the Communion whose views would not be listened to.

“That is really needed if we are talking about healing and walking and working together in a unified Communion,” she said. Canon Rosemary added that she had been pleased at the progress made.

The Episcopal Church's Presiding Bishop, Michael Curry, acknowledged that finding solutions would take time.

"Quick fixes aren't long-term solutions," he said. "Long-term solutions require long-term work. We are talking about relationships. You don't build or renew or heal relationships overnight. So, we are going to take whatever time it takes – but we are going to do it.

"I was coming to London anticipating and hoping we would find ways to genuinely go deeper in our relationship with Jesus Christ. I believe the closer we draw to God in Christ, the closer we are going to draw to each other."

Asked if he felt there had been progress, Bishop Curry said, "Well, we are here and we are doing it!"

The Archbishop of Canterbury formally welcomed the group and prayed for them before talks began on Tuesday. He also attended the first session during which he stressed there was no pre-set agenda and that the group was to appoint its own chair.

The group is scheduled to meet annually with additional meetings electronically. The date of the next meeting is yet to be confirmed.

## **Archbishop's worldwide invitation: "Let's get together in calling out to God in prayer"**

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, is issuing an international call to prayer for evangelism leading up to Pentecost Sunday in 2017. The worldwide roll-out of the Thy Kingdom Come prayer initiative follows the success of a similar scheme this year when churches in the UK and around the world joined in what had been intended as a Church of England initiative.

In February, The Archbishops of Canterbury and York wrote to every incumbent in the Church of England asking them to take part in "a great wave of prayer across our land" in the week leading up to Pentecost Sunday on 15 May. Some churches responded with special prayer events while others focused on evangelism as part of the usual routine of worship.



## THY KINGDOM COME

But the scheme was picked up and promoted by other church leaders in the UK and around the world, including Cardinal Vincent Nichols, the leader of the Roman Catholic Church in England and Wales. He wrote to all his parishes asking them to join in.

“For me, that vigil of Pentecost had far deeper resonance in my own life and in my own prayer than ever before,” Cardinal Nichols said later in a live Facebook Q&A with Archbishop Justin.

“Maybe that’s just a little sign of our growing confidence of the presence of the Spirit . . . and the culmination of Christ’s passion, death and resurrection.

“The whole season ends at Pentecost and for me this time there was a real sense of new growth.” He told Archbishop Welby that the Catholic Church in England and Wales would adopt “a more systematic and structured approach” to next year’s event.

The success of this year’s event – and the knowledge that many people took part from churches across the world – has led to Archbishop Justin Welby extending the call to prayer globally. He has invited every province of the Anglican Communion to join in the period of prayer for more people to know the love of Jesus Christ.

Next year’s focus on prayer for evangelism will take place from 25 May to 4 June – between Ascension and Pentecost – and will again use the theme Thy Kingdom Come.

Already, the Catholic Bishops’ Conference of England and Wales has committed to playing a full part; and the Free Churches Group in England is actively encouraging all its member churches to get involved. Many Pentecostal churches and new churches in the UK will be participating, and several UK-based Eastern and



Oriental Orthodox churches have signalled their support.

Globally, every province of the Anglican Communion has been invited to join the wave of prayer, and the World Methodist Council is encouraging all Methodists across the world “to warmly receive and actively participate in it.”

In a video invitation – [available with a number of international subtitles](#) – Archbishop Welby says: “We are seeking to pray for people to know who Jesus is. We pray for the Holy Spirit to empower every Christian – all of us – to give us a passion for sharing and witnessing the Good News we have in Jesus Christ – that that sense of what He has done for us – how amazing it is to know that we are loved by Jesus, that there is salvation; when we turn to him in repentance we find forgiveness; when we turn to him in despair we find hope – just the most extraordinary miracle. . .

“Let’s get together in calling out to God in prayer, in whatever way we like, wherever we are. That our often lukewarm or cold hearts are set on fire with love for Jesus; that He is the answer to the fears, the despairs of all around.”

## Young people say 'no' to flashy worship, seek church that treats them 'like family'

Flashy worship services meant to attract millennials and teens are doing the opposite—turning them off instead.

That surprising revelation emerged from a recent in-depth study of more than 250 congregations in the United States and published in the book "Growing Young: Six Essential Strategies to Help Young People Discover and Love Your Church," the [Washington Post](#) reports.

The book's authors say today's generation is not interested anymore in things that church leaders consider "cool"—like flashing lights and rock-band atmosphere—during Sunday services.

Instead, today's young people are eager to feel some "warmth" inside their churches—congregations that "welcoming, accepting, belonging, authentic, hospitable and caring."

Those were the words used by many of the more than 1,300 young churchgoers, ages 15 to 29,

who were interviewed in the study when asked what kind of church they prefer.

In short, the book's authors—Kara Powell, Jake Mulder and Brad Griffin—say today's youth prefer "authenticity and connection" in choosing the church they want to belong to.

"Across the board in statistical analyses, this warmth cluster emerged as a stronger variable than any ministry program. Ironically, it is possible that your church might be working against warmth by offering myriad programs. Busyness doesn't equal warmth," the authors say.

The authors say that when they suggest that churches need to grow warmer, they don't mean that adult congregants should be nice to young people. "Nice does not cut it. And warmth is more than superficial community," they say. "It's 'like family' — as young people told us again and again during our interviews and field visits."

The authors shared some ideas on how a church can become a warmer community. Here are just three of them:

- Encourage worship among various generations. "Intergenerational relationships grow everyone young by breaking the silos of age- and stage-based ministry. Consider setting up mentorship pairings so teens and parent- or grandparent-aged people can learn from each other."
- Turn church into big family room. "Rather than lean into the allure of viewing the worship service like a trip to the theater, imagine it as a gathering in the family room. Whether you meet in a sanctuary filled with pews, a contemporary auditorium, a high school gymnasium or an actual house, envision your worship experience like a family room."
- Make tiny churches within the church. "While we can't tell you which small group format will work best for your community, we encourage you to consider how what you're doing fuels warmth through peer friendships and intergenerational connections."

## **News briefs**

**+++ Increased support for St Luke's Cork Memorial 5K run** - Launched last year, this was

the second time round for the St Luke's Home Memorial 5K and what an event it was! The numbers taking part increased from 320 last year to 463 this year and, despite a small bit of rain just before the start, everyone finished and seemed to really enjoy the occasion. Cork's premier runners lent their support, with Alan O'Shea winning the overall male category in a time of 15 minutes, 15 seconds and Sinead O'Connor the overall female in a time of 16 minutes, 39 seconds – very well done to them! The Run is all about remembering all associated with Saint Luke's Charity and Saint Luke's Home down through the years. It is a celebration of their lives and a commemoration of them in a positive and happy way. 100% of the entry fee goes to support the Therapy and Activity programme at Saint Luke's Home which relies on the fund-raising of Saint Luke's Charity.

**+++ Max Reger: The Chorale Fantasias** -This autumn Dublin-based organist David Leigh is marking the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Max Reger's death by presenting a series of recitals on the 1902 Willis organ of St Patrick's Cathedral. Each recital will feature one of the seven great Reger Chorale Fantasias alongside pieces that either influenced it or were influenced by it, most

notably music by J S Bach. David Leigh, Assistant Organist of St Patrick's Cathedral, is a renowned interpreter of Reger's music and this is a rare opportunity to hear all seven fantasias in one series. The series begins on 11 September at 20.00 with *Ein feste Burg* and runs weekly through 23 October. Tickets are free but advance registration is recommended.

**+++ Belfast Community Gospel Choir** - is to appear on a forthcoming Christmas album produced by the UK's most famous choirmaster - Gareth Malone.

**+++ Return of priest shot in South Africa** - Fr Kieran Creagh is expected to move back to his native north Belfast this month to minister in Holy Cross, Ardoyne.

**+++ Australian primate welcome same sex debate** - The primate of the Anglican Church of Australia, Archbishop Philip Freier, has welcomed a proposed referendum on whether the country should allow same-sex marriages, but expressed concern about the "tenor of the debate." Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull promised a referendum on the issue during his campaign in the country's general election in

July. As Turnbull leads the new coalition government, a referendum is expected, but the details have not been announced. Opposition remains in parliament to a plebiscite, even from supporters of same-sex marriage.

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

### Gay couple resign from church choir over text from religious activist

Irish Independent

A gay couple have resigned from leading a **church** choir after claims they came .

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<http://www.independent.ie/irish-news/gay-couple-resign-from-church-choir-over-text-from-religious-activist-35034550.html>

Irish Times

<http://www.irishtimes.com/news/social-affairs/religion-and-beliefs/activist-forced-lesbian-couple-to-leave-roles-in-church-choir-1.2785746?mode=sample&auth-failed=1&pw-origin=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.irishtimes.com%2Fnews%2Fsocial-affairs%2Freligion-and-beliefs%2Factivist-forced-lesbian-couple-to-leave-roles-in-church-choir-1.2785746>

## **Belfast city centre boss Irvine departs to become preacher**

Belfast Telegraph

<http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/northern-ireland/belfast-city-centre-boss-irvine-departs-to-become-preacher-35027964.html>

## **Historic records of Irish generations to be made available online today**

InTallaght (blog)

They will also be able to check out transcripts of all Roman Catholic and **Church of Ireland** baptism, marriage and burial registers for Dublin City.

## **Irish priest: Sex abuse victims lost to suicide 'could have been saved'**

National Catholic Reporter (blog)

One of Ireland's best known priests, who is one of six clerics in the **Irish church** censured by the Vatican in recent years, claimed that a number of ...

## **Eight new science and faith projects launched in churches.**

Scientists are to take vicars on tours of laboratories and address church services as part of a series of projects designed to foster better understanding between science and faith. The Bishop of Hertford, Michael Beasley, an adviser to the St Albans Diocese project 'Take Your Vicar



to the Lab' explains more about the launch of Scientists in Congregations in England.

<https://www.churchofengland.org/media-centre/news/2016/09/eight-new-science-and-faith-projects-launched-in-churches.aspx>

<https://soundcloud.com/the-church-of-england/scientists-and-vicars-stories-worth-sharing?in=the-church-of-england/sets/stories-worth-sharing>

### **Premier**

Reports the opening of the Crossroads Mission in Blackburn diocese, led by the Archbishop of York. Thousands of people are expected to attend 450 events across the weekend. The Bishop of Lancaster, Geoff Pearson is quoted and interviewed.

<http://www.premier.org.uk/News/UK/Bishops-get-together-in-Lancashire-to-spread-the-Gospel>

### **C Times/Premier**

Reports on the C of E's [latest financial giving statistics](#) (see above) which show a record level of giving. Dr John Preston, the Church's national stewardship adviser, is quoted.

<https://www.churchtimes.co.uk/articles/2016/9-september/news/uk/parishioners-give-more-but-not-enough-to-cancel-out-costs>

<http://www.premier.org.uk/News/UK/CofE-sees-record-amounts-in-collection-plates>

### **Christian Today**

Reports the launch of [eight new science and faith projects](#) by the C of E which have been awarded up to

£10,000 in the new *Scientists in Congregations* scheme. The project aims to help churchgoers engage confidently with science, raising the profile of Christians whose vocation is science-related.

### **Premier**

Report that Canon Jeremy Pemberton, the priest who lost a tribunal claim that he was discriminated against by the C of E after his permission to officiate was removed after he entered into a same sex marriage, has started his appeal. In November last year Nottingham Employment Tribunal dismissed all claims made by the vicar. He has now taken his case to the Employment Appeal Tribunal in London. The hearing is scheduled to last two days.

<http://www.premier.org.uk/News/UK/Gay-priest-Jeremy-Pemberton-set-for-appeal-tribunal-against-Church>

### **BBC/Mail**

Reports that the number of new civil partnerships in England and Wales has halved in a year according to official statistics. There were 861 formed in 2015 compared with 1,683 the year before. Civil partnerships have declined by 85% since 2013, a result of the introduction of marriage for same-sex couples in 2014. The Office for National Statistics said dissolutions of civil partnerships had risen as more couples swapped them for marriages. The *Mail* notes that same-sex couples over 65s were more likely to register partnership than those below pension age.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-37307459>

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3780826/Older-gay-couples-shun-marriage-average-age-civil-partnership-recorded-passes-50.html>

## **Exp**

Further coverage of the case at Teeside Crown Court of Giles Scott a lawyer and his wife Clare who have been found guilty of fraud and money laundering. Their victim was retired priest Jane Waugh who lost over £230,000. The Revd Waugh gave Mr Scott power of attorney over her affairs. His wife became her carer. The couple will be sentenced next month.

<http://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/708717/lawyer-and-wife-swindled-vicar-400-000-scam-face-jail>

## **Mail**

Reports that up to 50 pupils have been sent home for breaking new uniform rules after their trousers were judged to be 'too tight' and their hair 'too short'. Staff at the Magnus C of E Academy in Newark, Nottinghamshire, turned children away on their first day back at school because of the new code. The school's new Principal, Anna Martin is quoted.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3779289/Church-England-academy-sends-home-50-pupils-breaking-new-uniform-rules-trousers-tight-skirts-short-wrong-shoes-earrings.html>

## **Christian Today**

Further coverage of a letter signed by more than 130 members of the C of E's General Synod written to the College of Bishops urging them to make an "unequivocal" declaration in support of gay Christians at their meeting next week.

## **Comment**

**Guardian:** All the sex abuse victims must be heard.

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2016/sep/08/sex-abuse-victims-ignored-lowell-goddard-medomsley>

## **Times**

The life of David Jenkins, the former Bishop of Durham who died at the weekend, is recalled by Mike Gander in "A life remembered".

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/the-right-rev-david-jenkins-l25cwgj8z>

## **Blogs**

**CofE Comms:** 'So much of our lives is shaped by science, engineering and technology'

<http://cofecomms.tumblr.com/post/150074438407/so-much-of-our-lives-is-shaped-by-science>

**Law and Religion UK:** Cremation (England and Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2016

<http://www.lawandreligionuk.com/2016/09/08/cremation-england-and-wales-amendment-regulations-2016/>

**Picking Apples of Gold:** Top Tips for Starting #VicarSchool

<http://www.pickingapplesofgold.com/top-tips-for-starting-vicarschool/>

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September 10