

Elvis has C of I roots



Elvis Impersonators at 2014 Elvis Roots Festival

A small Irish town Just Can't Help Believin' the news the King of rock 'n' roll has roots there.

The Irish Mirror reports - Few would have thought Elvis Presley was referring to Hacketstown, Co Carlow when he sang of the Green, Green Grass of Home - but a local

historian has proved the Presley family were originally Irish.

The second Elvis Roots Festival takes place there last weekend, with well over 4,000 fans expected to slip on their blue suede shoes.

Local festival chairman Harry Kenny spoke to the Irish Sunday Mirror to explain the connection between Carlow and the King.

He revealed: "It was discovered in America about 20 years ago. A genealogist over there had been doing a bit of detective work and he first discovered the link.

"He eventually contacted Michael Purcell, a very well-known historian from Carlow about it.

"Michael began his own research, he even travelled over to Graceland to investigate.

"He was able to prove beyond doubt that Elvis' ancestors came from Carlow.

"We are at present working towards opening a museum and memorial garden and, if possible, to twin with Tupelo, the birth place of Elvis, and make our town a place to be proud of in the future. "We have baptismal certs dating back to 1701 from Hacketstown. They were found in the Aghowle Church of Ireland.

"That was for Arthur Presley and his father, who eventually bought land in Hacketstown. Arthur had a son called William, who had to emigrate in around 1775 because of a dispute over the land. He went to New Orleans.

"There are some who say that their origins were Scottish, not Irish, but that's only because in them days you couldn't go directly from Ireland to America. You had to go to Scotland or England first.

"So they emigrated in around 1775 and ever since then the original Presley name has carried through."

Almost 140 years later, in 1913, William's greatgreat grandson, Jessie married Minnie May. Their son, Vernon, married Gladys Love Smith in 1933 and in January 1935 Elvis Aaron Presley was born.

It is hoped the Elvis Roots Festival will become an annual pilgrimage for fans of the King.

First Cork 5K Memorial Run for St Luke's Home



Runners at the start of the first ever St Luke's Home 5 km Memorial Run.

On Thursday, 10th September over 300 runners gathered in Mahon, Cork to support the first St Luke's Home Memorial 5K Run. The St. Luke's Home Foundation wanted to introduce an event to its calendar that embraced community, health, fitness and fun. Everyone involved in the charity is delighted that the event lived up to these expectations. It was also an opportunity to remember past residents and to involve people of all ages, all families, volunteers, supporters, staff, and indeed all who have an involvement, however small, with the Home.

The main sponsor was large local employer RCI. They have been a great support from the beginning; they funded the race, provided 20 stewards on the night and entered around 30 participants, and, of course, they put up the fantastic 1st prize of european holidays for the fastest male and the fastest female. There was also support from other companies in the community in terms of participation, with newcomer to Mahon, Ronan, Daly Jermyn, Solicitors, showing up in great numbers.

Oonagh O'Driscoll, Director of the St Luke's Home Foundation said:

Support for St Luke's Home and the great work that goes on here was palpable when over 200 participants stayed for the post-race refreshments and applauded the winners. We are confident that this is the first of many Memorial Runs for the Home!

Worldwide appeal to Pope on clustering of parishes - "it is a business model not a pastoral one"

Representatives of reform Catholics in Ireland and elsewhere around the world have written to



Fr Tony Flannery

Pope Francis asking him to help them keep their parishes open.

The Open Letter, signed by Fr Tony Flannery, as well as other leaders of reform groups in America, Austria, Germany and Australia, calls attention to the widespread policy of merging, clustering and closing parishes as a way of countering the shortage of priests.

The letter tells the Pontiff that hundreds of parishes have been merged or closed in New York City, Philadelphia, Boston, Cleveland and beyond.

As Pope Francis prepares for his papal visit to the US, members of FutureChurch, a national coalition of parish centred Catholics in the US highlights how more than 70 parishes have been merged or closed in the Archdiocese of New York, often in the face of opposition from parishioners.

Deborah Rose-Milavec, Executive Director of FutureChurch, which provides resources and support to parishioners who want to keep their churches open said that, "When the Pope visits Our Lady Queen of Angels (OLQA) School in East Harlem in just a few weeks, he will learn that the Church was tragically closed in 2007 amid protest."

She said that in the years that followed, two funerals, one for Carmen Gonzalez and the other for Carmen Villegas, both courageous leaders working to keep OLQA open, had to be held on the sidewalk in front of the closed Church when the bishop refused to unlock the doors.

"It is the story of these faith-filled women and the rest of the community working to keep their parish alive, meeting the unrelenting indifference of those who are supposed to pastor that will break your heart," said Rose-Milavec. Today, OLQA parishioners still gather for prayer services.

"I hope the Pope will meet with parishioners from Our Lady Queen of Angels, Our Lady of Peace Church in Manhattan, St Peter Claver in Philadelphia, St Francis X. Cabrini in Scitaute and other closed parishes," said Rose-Milavec.

"If he wants to learn about the devastation of faith life and the human cost of these corporate policies, he should sit with the many courageous Catholics who have been working for years to keep their parishes intact, and listen their stories."

The petition also calls attention to similar problems that parishes face world-wide.

Fr Tony Flannery, founder of the Association of Catholic Priests, warns that "the problem we have in Ireland is clustering of parishes, leading to added pressure on aging priests, and inevitable amalgamation, and formation of bigger, more impersonal, units."

"Clustering is a way of trying to keep the show going with older priests but it will inevitably lead to where the Americans are at now which is the wholesale closure of parishes, particularly in the archdiocese of New York," he warned. Fr Ian McGinnity, Chairman of the National Council of Priests points out, "In Australia, which is a vast land with the tyranny of distance, many rural communities do not have resident priests and only have access to the Eucharist on a monthly basis."

"In our populous urban areas, parishes have had to be amalgamated due to the shortage of priests which has not only placed additional burdens on an already overworked pastor, but also has subsumed some churches unique identity and community."

Fr Helmut Schüller, spokesman for the Pfarrer-Initiative in Austria, points out that the Catholic Church is at a crossroads and that those in leadership must provide the necessary priests or develop new forms of community leadership.

He notes how Bishops' conferences are keeping to their defensive administrative strategy of merging independent parishes into vast, impersonal parish associations stating, "That is pretty much the most unimaginative thing one can do."

According to the reform leaders the policy of closing and merging parishes that relies on a corporate model of Church rather than a pastoral one is widespread and is slowly extinguishing

the richness of the body of Christ in the world today.

Kate Kuenstler, a canon lawyer who helps parishioners who want to use the appeals process to keep their parish communities intact suggests, "The parish reconfiguration process used by dioceses most often has a business mentality, caught up with management, statistics, plans and evaluations whose principal beneficiary is not God's people, but the church as an institution."

The Open Letter petition can be found at http://action.groundswell-mvmt.org/petitions/pope-francis-help-us-build-the-church-by-keeping-our-parishes-open

New report to churches reveals changing shape of Britain's families

A new study has raised questions about the common concept of 'family'.

Through a range of surveys, interviews, consultations and research, a new collaborative study, by the Consultative Group on Ministry among Children and the

Methodist Church, has found that church family workers are engaging with a growing range of family types.

The 'We are Family' research was released at the family ministry conference of the same name which took place on 11 to 12 September at Liverpool Hope University. Along with the launch of the study, the weekend saw attendees participate in a new Core Skills for Family Ministry training course and partake in discussions, seminars and an interview with Carrie Longton, co-founder of Mumsnet.

In addition to encouraging a greater emphasis on diversity in understanding what is meant by 'family', the study promotes a deeper level of ministry that embraces variety and offers support to both church going families and those outside of the Church.

Gail Adcock, Families Ministries Development Officer in the Methodist Church, said "Our understanding of family needs to go beyond the concept of the nuclear family to encompass a diversity of relationships. Once we recognise this, we can adopt more inclusive language and respond more effectively to minister and support families in the contexts that they are in.

"If we are to be effective family workers we can't just presume all families are the same. We must treat each family as unique and provide relevant support to them in the circumstances that they are in."

Penny Fuller, moderator of the CGMC, added "Family ministry across the UK is growing, with many new projects starting. It's not just happening on a Sunday, but is taking place in a range of different contexts, engaging with a great diversity of families. In this growing area of ministry, it is essential that the Church provides suitable training and support. Our biggest challenge now is how we enable an intergenerational engagement in all areas of our ministries and not segregate them into silos."

Out Now: September's edition of the Presbyterian Herald

This month's front cover story considers a subject that is very much in the news at the moment. Everyday our television screens display images of Syrian migrants fleeing their homes to seek refuge in other countries, so in her article Noreen Erskine looks at the rising levels of

persecution in the Middle East – a key factor in the issue.

In the first of a series of three articles, Professor Stephen Williams considers the implications of the Ashers case to the church and our society in 'Ashers and beyond'.

All of us will experience sadness and loss at some time and in some form during our lives, yet often we don't know how to respond to someone else when they are grieving. Betsy Cameron explores the subject of grief in all of its complexity, from the view of individuals who have personal experience to those who offer support and comfort to the bereaved.

In a reflective article, Norman Hamilton discusses the powerful moment in Barak Obama's presidency when he took the initiative in an address to 5,000 people at a funeral service to sing a verse of Amazing Grace.

This is just a small selection of the subjects highlighted by the Herald this month. Other features include the Moderator's reflection on this year's Fit for Purpose theme 'A Caring Fellowship', the importance of Child Protection

and a tribute to former Moderator, Very Rev. Dr. Victor Lynas.

"The Herald also brings our regular and popular columns: 'As I see it...' with Chris Kennedy, Minister of Dun Laoghaire Presbyterian Church, and 'Life Lessons' with David Allen, Dean of Ministerial Studies and Development at Union College," editor Sarah Harding said.

With this and more, the September issue has much to stimulate thought and interest. To download this edition, or to see how you can subscribe, visit the Presbyterian Herald section of the website.

St. Patrick's, Millisle, gets a makeover

St. Patrick's, Millisle was built in 1953 as a daughter church of Donaghadee Parish, but in the late 60's became the responsibility of the Rector at Carrowdore and so the grouped parishes of Christ Church, Carrowdore and St. Patrick's, Millisle, were formed.





Before and after

Although the smaller partner in the Group, St. Patrick's has always had very close connections with its community and village and a strong desire and willingness to be God's kingdom there along with the other denominations.

As a building it was very much a product of its time, and was very easily mistaken for a village hall by those passing through and certainly not obviously a church.

Part of the parish Mission 2015 initiative was to raise the profile of the Church and so the concept of a 'makeover' was born. For many years parishioners had been looking at making the building more useful to the church and community and they are still exploring the possibility of extending to provide additional room and proper kitchen and better toilet facilities.

However, they also thought of a large "St. Patrick's Church" sign across the top of the building so people would know where they were. Meanwhile, in early 2014 the local Community Association were talking about 'turning Millisle pink' as part of a breast cancer awareness initiative in conjunction with Asda. This happened in May of that year and St. Patrick's joined in by allowing the front of their building to

be painted a light shade of pink. So the makeover process began.

Further discussion with "The Garage", youth community forum explored the possibility of a joint project whereby the young people could, with guidance, paint a graffiti style "St. Patrick's Church" above the front windows. This idea was developed further and so in early 2015 three or four ideas for the mural concept were presented to the Select Vestry and a combination of these ideas were agreed.

The project was funded for the Forum by Ards Borough Council PCSP (before the 'super' councils began) and the work carried out by Blaze FX and the young people from The Garage youth forum. It took a couple of stages to complete and was eventually finished in early August when an official 'unveiling' took place with representatives from all the stake holders and other community members.

Many people have said they weren't aware where the Church of Ireland in Millisle was. That will no longer be the case!

No, it still doesn't look like a traditional church, but then it never did. It will attract people's attention rather than looking like a village hall and many have remarked that it brightens up the village and its good to see a happy and friendly mural. In reality the parishioners know it won't be everyone's 'cup of tea' but they hope that it is a more colourful and uplifting facade for their simple church as they seek to be part of God's Kingdom in Millisle.

Cathedral talk focus on Famous Notorious Trial

Dr John Stannard from the School of Law at Queen's University, Belfast, kicks off Belfast Cathedral's 2015 Autumn Talks series by looking at the trial of the Rev Harold Davidson by the Ecclesiastical Courts on charges of immorality.

The talk on Wednesday September 16 begins at 12.45pm and lasts 45 minutes. Refreshments served at 12.15pm. Suggested donation £5.

New Year Begins at C of I Theological Institute

Next Friday, September 18, an introductory weekend begins for new ordinands in the Church of Ireland Theological Institute in Braemor Park, Dublin. There will be a series of introductory sessions from the Director, Canon Maurice Elliott

and his staff, Canon Patrick Comerford, Dr Katie Heffelfinger and the Revd Dr Paddy McGlinchey and what may prove to be an invaluable introduction to community living from Canon Comerford and the Senior Student, Stuart Moles, who will also preach at the concluding Eucharist.

There will be supplementary inputs from the Archbishop of Dublin, the Revd Dr William Olhausen who is the Archbishop's theological advisor, and the Revd Bruce Pierce, Director of Education at the St Luke's Home Education Centre, Cork. The students will meet staff in Trinity College, where some of their teaching will take place, and visit both the TCD Library and the RCB Library, and to provide some balance there will also be a programme for spouses and families.

There will nine new ordinands in the Theological Institute this year and they will be joined later in the month by eleven second year students and twelve final year students who have been ordained as deacon interns. The Foundation Course, which is a pre–requisite for ministerial training, currently has eighteen students.

Schumann Quartet, Rathgar Methodist Church

Featuring Mia Cooper (violin), Anna Cashel (violin), Joachim Roewer (viola) and William Butt (cello). Sunday, 20 September, 2015 - 20:00. Rathgar Methodist Church, Brighton Road Dublin 6

Haydn: Op 27 no 1, Philip Glass: 'Company', Barber: String Quartet (including the famous

Adagio), Beethoven: Op 95 'Serioso'

Tickets €15 (concessions €10, children under 12 free). Available from tickets.ie. Free parking. Refreshments.

Email: committee@musicatbrightonroad.com

Website with Further Details: https://www.facebook.com/musicatbrightonro

Belfast service for International Day of Peace

Monday 21st September is UN International Day of Peace. Christian Aid is marking this in Belfast with a 24 hour time of prayer, action and giving for peace at Redeemer Central Church to pray for those caught up in conflict in Syria, Iraq, Afghanistan, DR Congo and Colombia and for those who are forced to flee their homes due to violence, conflict and disaster.

"As well as praying we will encourage participants to take action by writing to their local MP and to give as a tangible way of supporting those suffering the impact and aftermath of conflict around the world" said a spokesperson.

The prayer will take place from midnight to midnight, but the venue will be open to the public from 07:00am - midnight on 21st September.

Monday, 21 September, 2015 (All day). Redeemer Central Church, 101 Donegall Street, Belfast, BT1 2FJ.

Email: <u>belfast@christian-aid.org</u> Website with Further Details:

https://www.facebook.com/events/744926758986358

The Future of NI - Dr Duncan Morrow

Belfast South Methodist at the Agape Centre is launching a series of public discussions on current issues of concern. The inaugural discussion will feature Dr Duncan Morrow on the

topic 'Beyond Despair – the Future of Northern Ireland: What does hope look like?' Following Duncan's talk there will be good opportunity for discussion. No charge. Tea and coffee available. All welcome.

Event Date: Monday, 21 September, 2015 - 19:30. Venue: Agape Centre, Belfast South Methodist Church, 238 Lisburn Road, Belfast. Email: reception@agapecentrebelfast.org

Centering Prayer: Divine Therapy

The Churches' Council for Health and Healing in Ireland has issued an open invitation to Centering Prayer: Divine Therapy - A seminar on the practice of prayer, on Wednesday, 23 September, 2015 - 09:30 to 12:30

The speaker is - The Reverend Diane Clutterbuck The venue: Cairnshill Methodist Church, Saintfield Road, Belfast, BT8 6WU.

Email: rev.louisedonald@cairnshillmethodist.org

Safer Social Networking Masterclass

Safer Social Networking (SSNAP)
Masterclass training sessions in Belfast this
Autumn and Winter.

The two dates are 24th September and 8th December and the venue for both is Stranmillis University, BT9 5DY. Each masterclass is limited to 21 delegates each due to the workshop environment, so please book early to avoid disappointment.

This interactive workshop helps safeguarding professionals understand children's use of social media.

It places CSE, grooming, sxting, bullying and indicators regarding isolation, poor self esteem and potential self harm in the context of young people's lives.

The workshop highlights tools and tactics that professionals can use to engage and empower young people, as well as safety audits and activities they can use in group or one to one sessions to help them identify and mitigate risk.

Who should attend:

 Teachers and school staff responsible for safeguarding, pastoral care or ICT.

- Statutory and voluntary youth service staff, including offender management teams.
- Police officers and staff who engage with schools, children and parents or those involved in investigating crimes against them.
- Children's social workers.
- Foster carers and others working with and responsible for looked after children.

Learning Outcomes:

- Identify young people's use of contemporary platforms.
- Demonstrate a greater understanding of safeguarding in the context of social media.
- Develop enhanced awareness of offender behaviour & how they use new technology.
- Recognise & manage online risks.
- Formulate tactics & interventions.

Event Date:

Thursday, 24 September, 2015 - 09:30

Venue:

Stranmillis University, Belfast, BT9 5DY

Church or Organisation:

ineqe Group

Email:

enquiries@inege.com

Website with Further Details:

https://ineqe.com/ssnap-masterclass-collective/

Leading in the Local Methodist Church Seminar

This seminar, a collaboration between Edgehill and Irish Methodist Youth and Children's Department, is open to ordained ministers, probationers, and to lay workers employed in any capacity in the life of the Church.

Attendance at the seminar may be used to count towards the 20 hours (pro rata) of courses/ training/profesional development which ordained ministers and lay workers are required to undertake during each Connexional year.

Morning coffee and lunch will be provided. Please advise of special dietary requirements. A nominal charge of £5 will be requested on the day to cover catering costs.

To facilitate catering arrangements you are asked to register for seminars in advance.

Event Date: Thursday, 24 September, 2015 -

10:00 to 16:00

Venue: Edgehill Theological College, 9

Lennoxvale, Belfast BT9 5BY,

Email: ministry@edgehillcollege.org

Reconnecting the Disconnected

People leave their local church for a variety of reasons....

What are we doing to bring them back?

You are invited to attend the presentation - Reconnecting the Disconnected

To allow as many as possible to attend, the 2-hr presentation will be delivered 3 times on Thursday 24th September 2015:

10.30 am - 12.30 pm

2.00 pm - 4.00 pm

7.00 pm - 9.00 pm

Please note: The same content will be delivered at each session.

The cost to attend Reconnecting The Disconnected is £10 per person. This cost includes a Delegate Information Pack on the day, plus Tea / Coffee.

Venue: Ramada Hotel, Shaw's Bridge, Belfast Email: <u>info@churchresourcesonline.com</u> Website

with Further Details:

http://www.churchresourcesonline.com/

Media digest

News Letter - Thousands of Belfast users affected by adultery website leak

http://www.newsletter.co.uk/thousands-of-belfast-users-affected-by-adultery-website-leak-1-6953968

Belfast Live - £150million put aside to carry out amnesty for Troubles killers

A total of £150million has been put aside to oversee the Government's amnesty for Troubles killers.

A group of academics will be in charge of the process in a bid to deal with the past and the money will be paid out over a five-year period. More at -

http://www.belfastlive.co.uk/news/belfast-news/150million-put-aside-carry-out-10039567

Irish Times - McGuigan and Davison killers 'low-life criminals', says McGuinness

http://www.irishtimes.com/news/politics/mcguigan-and-davison-killers-low-life-criminals-says-mcguinness-1.2349083

Irish Times - No news of Gerry Adams's decommission date

http://www.irishtimes.com/news/politics/no-news-of-gerry-adams-s-decommission-date-1.2349097

Irish Examiner -Adams 'younger than Pope' so he won't step down, jokes McGuinness

Sinn Féin has laughed off suggestions its long-standing leader Gerry Adams could soon step aside and that his ongoing predominance is preventing the party from reaching out to new voters who have been turned off by republican violence in the past.

http://www.irishexaminer.com/ireland/adams-younger-than-pope-so-he-wont-step-down-jokes-mcguinness-353427.html

Irish Independent - Taoiseach refuses to commit to an abortion referendum ahead of General Election

http://www.independent.ie/irish-news/politics/taoiseach-refuses-to-commit-to-an-abortion-referendum-ahead-of-general-election-31519938.html

Tel

Report says the Archbishop of Canterbury had a private meeting with the Prime Minister David Cameron last week. The article says the issue of Syrian Christian refugees was discussed.

http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/religion/11860902/ Archbishop-warns-Cameron-over-Syrian-refugees.html

Guard

Article about Syrian refugees in the camp at Calais mentions the makeshift church built with plastic sheeting.

http://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/sep/13/calais-refugees-fear-uk-focus-on-syria-will-worsen-plight

Mirror/Sun

Further coverage of the Assisted Dying Bill which was rejected by MPs in the House of Commons on Friday. Columnists discuss the issue.

http://www.mirror.co.uk/news/uk-news/right-die-dignity-mercy-dont-6431283

http://www.thesun.co.uk/sol/homepage/suncolumnists/lorrainekelly/6634444/Right-to-die-could-improve-quality-of-life-sick-have-left.html
http://www.thesun.co.uk/sol/homepage/news/politics/6635055/MPs-called-out-of-touch-for-throwing-out-Assisted-Dying-Bill.html

Sun Times/Mirror (scroll down)

Sunday Times interview with a survivor of abuse by Bishop Peter Ball, former Bishop of Lewes and Gloucester, who last week admitted two charges of indecent assault and one charge of misconduct in public office. Nigel Nelson column in the *Mirror* criticises the Church of England and says justice should have been served sooner. http://www.mirror.co.uk/news/uk-news/nelsons-column-tax-legalised-drugs-6432920

Mail on Sunday

Article about a food bank in Warwickshire and run by the Trussell Trust, where it's claimed people are selling food they are given to buy drugs.

http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3232321/The-food-bank-users-selling-handouts-raise-money-drugs-Nuneaton-residents-say-practice-despicable-abuse-trust.html

Sun Times

Article about how Radio 4's *Woman's Hour* will have guest editors this week. The Bishop of Gloucester, Rachel Treweek, will be among those taking charge of the programme.

http://www.thesundaytimes.co.uk/sto/culture/film_and_tv/article1604750.ece

Times/Ind/FT/Tel/Mail/Exp

Reports on the debate and subsequent vote in the Commons yesterday on the Assisted Dying Bill, which was defeated by a two to one majority. Articles include ref to contribution by the Church of England including: <u>comment</u> after the vote by the Bishop of Carlisle, James Newcome, speech by Caroline Spelman, Second Church Estates Commissioner during the debate and previous comment by Archbishop of Canterbury. http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/politics/ article4554913.ece http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/mpsoverwhelmingly-reject-plans-to-legalise-assisted-dyingfor-people-with-terminal-illnesses-10496918.html http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/f791f80c-58a0-11e5-9846de406ccb37f2.html?FTCamp=engage/CAPI/webapp/ Channel Moreover//B2B#axzz3lW0CCNca http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/assisteddying/11859504/Assisted-dying-campaign-sets-sightson-courts-after-Commons-defeat.html http://www.standard.co.uk/news/uk/assisted-dving-billmps-vote-down-controversial-legislation-as-protestrages-outside-parliament-a2945541.html http://www.dailvmail.co.uk/news/article-3230837/Shockright-die-terminally-ill-law-overwhelmingly-defeated-MPs-highly-charged-four-hour-debate.html http://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/604529/Assisted-Dying-Bill-right-to-die-rejected-MPs-House-Commons-

Ind

debate

Interview with Rev Dr Emma Percy, Chaplain of Trinity College, Oxford, headlined "why I refer to God as a 'she'.

http://www.independent.co.uk/news/people/rev-emma-percy-interview-why-i-refer-to-god-as-a-she-10497478.html?origin=internalSearch

BBC

Report that one of the largest chapels in England

- the St Nicholas' Chapel in King's Lynn, Norfolk
- is reopening after a £2.7m restoration project. The year-long restoration, by the Churches Conservation Trust, was part-funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund.

http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-norfolk-34209673

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