

Launch of North Belfast Centre of Mission



The Licensing of Karen Webb and Stephen Whitten. They were presented to the Bishop of Connor by Captain Neville Willerton, National Operations Manager for Church Army.

The Diocese of Connor and the Church Army launched the new North Belfast Centre of Mission at a service in St Anne's Cathedral, Belfast, on September 8.

The service included the Licensing by the Bishop of Connor, the Rt Rev Alan Abernethy, of Sister Karen Webb, Church Army, as Lead Evangelist and Stephen Whitten as Pioneer Evangelist.

The preacher was Canon Mark Russell, Chief Executive of the Church Army, and Karen and Stephen were presented by Captain Neville Willerton, National Operations Manager for Church Army.

The Cathedral's Chapel of Unity was packed with guests including family and friends of Karen and Stephen and clergy and parishioners from north Belfast.

Karen has been working with Church Army since 2004 as an assistant to Captain John O'Neill, a Church Army Evangelist based in Lisburn. In July 2013 she was commissioned by Church Army as a Church Army Sister. She now takes up her appointment as Lead Evangelist with the North Belfast Centre of Mission.

Stephen grew up in East Belfast and studied Environmental Science at the University of Ulster. He has been involved with Church Army since 2011 when he took part in the Xplore Intern Year Programme, and continued this involvement on a part time basis while at

university. He has been working in North Belfast as Pioneer Evangelist since early 2015.

Welcoming everyone to the service, Bishop Alan said it was a very special occasion for him personally, as the process had been in gestation for a number of years.

“Things are happening in Church Army,” Bishop Alan said. “It is a different way of doing Church. I don’t know what is going to emerge, but that is part of our journey of faith.”

In his address, Mark Russell expressed gratitude to Bishop Alan and his team in Connor Diocese. “We are delighted to share this journey with you into an unknown chapter. We love this city, Jesus Christ loves this city, and we want this city to love Jesus Christ.”

In his sermon, Mark said the image of water appears again and again in the Bible. He recalled how the reading earlier in the service from Genesis 26 spoke of ancient wells filled in. “Water no longer flowed, no longer blessed, these wells no longer enabled people to find life. The water simply didn’t flow,” he said

But in the reading Isaac reopened the ancient wells.

“I love this image of reopening the ancient wells. I have desperately wanted to work with Bishop Alan and do something new. We are calling on you to reopen the ancient wells.

“Karen and Stephen will work within a community, serve streets where the church has worked and served for generations. Tonight we recognise that history and we honour those who have served Christ in these communities,” Mark said.

Mark said that Isaac, in reopening the ancient wells, found a new well. “This is our prayer for this new Centre of Mission. Yes we pray we can reopen the ancient wells, but we pray God shows us new wells. New places where people can find Christ and his living water.”

To Karen and Stephen he said: “We thank God for you. We thank God that he has called you to his new ministry, and we rejoice in the fantastic gifts he has given you.”

He added: “Reopening wells is hard work. We pray that you don’t spend so much time doing things for Jesus that you don’t spend enough time with Jesus. Our best evangelism is not what we do, it is who we are.”

During the service, Karen and Stephen professed their commitment to Christ, their commitment to Evangelism, to service, to teaching and learning, and their commitment to worship.

PCI launches first digital prayer devotional

The Presbyterian Church in Ireland has launched *The Fruitful Church Prayer Journey*, its first digital daily devotional.

In what is hoped to be a series of devotionals, [*The Fruitful Church Prayer Journey*](#) has been designed for congregations to use together, or for individual personal devotions, to prompt and focus prayer around the collective theme of Fruitful Congregations.

Welcoming the new initiative, which has been spearheaded by the Church's Council for Congregational Life and Witness, Council Convenor, Rev. Dr. Graham Connor said, "*The Fruitful Church Prayer Journey* is a welcome development and a new way of stimulating and gathering prayer for every aspect of congregational life.

“Anyone can start the 28-day journey by signing up via www.presbyterianireland.org. Having chosen a personal start date that suits them, subscribers will receive a short daily devotional and prayer prompt directly to their mobile device or computer. Each includes a verse of Scripture, short reflection and prayer as a challenge and a reminder to pray in a focused way for aspects of Church life around eight specific themes,” Dr. Connor said.

The areas of church life covered in the Prayer Journey are:

- Fruitful congregations – Jesus’ plan for our congregation
- Following Jesus – Discipleship
- Learning to Follow Jesus – Leadership
- Coming to Jesus – Pastoral Care
- Centred on Jesus – Worship
- Together with Jesus – Church Family
- Going for Jesus – Outreach
- Seeing like Jesus – Global Mission.

The journey can act as a great way to start the new Church year in prayer as a congregation, or to use as a special season of prayer at any time.

Commending the new initiative, Presbyterian Moderator, Rt. Rev. Dr. Ian McNie said, “Jesus

called us to be fruitful saying ‘Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.’”

“If we are to be fruitful in the part of Ireland that God has placed us, or overseas and beyond, we need to look to Jesus, seeking Him through prayer, so that He can speak through us by how we live our lives as His witnesses. Without Jesus we can do nothing, so prayer must be central to our daily walk with Him. For this reason, our new prayer journey is a most welcome initiative,” Dr. McNie said.

Collections of £4,200 for Syrian Refugees in Lebanon from Down and Dromore Bible Week

On the last night of the Bible Week Bishop Harold Miller invited Jasper Rutherford (Church Army and Summer Madness) to share about his recent visit to Lebanon and the fundraising campaign he has run at this summer’s youth festivals. Jasper has helped lead the campaign which was put in place back in the spring,

focusing on Tearfund's support of Syrian and Iraq refugees entering Lebanon.

The offering lifted that evening totalled approximately £4,200. You can view Jasper's Lebanon film at this [link](#).

Introducing it, Bishop Harold says: 'At this summer's festivals I had the privilege of seeing the film that Jasper Rutherford made with Tearfund amongst the Syrian Refugees in the Bekaa Valley. I found it incredibly moving and it has become even more poignant in the light of the developing situation.

'I urge you to watch it and be ready to respond, inspired by the generosity of our young people and young adults. They have raised most of the current total of just over £50,000 for Syrian refugees in Lebanon who, without the legal right to work, struggle to pay for even their most basic needs.'

Today Lebanon bears by far the biggest burden of the Syrian crisis, proportionally: one in four people in Lebanon is now a Syrian refugee. Its economy is under severe strain from the huge influx of people and the conflict in neighbouring Syria constantly threatens to spill over the border. Life is extra hard for the refugees in

Lebanon. No formal camps are allowed, so they have to pay rent or work for free for the space they occupy.

While the refugee crisis has become topical recently, Tearfund and their partners on the ground have been working with refugees and the most vulnerable for a number of years in Lebanon.

Syria: Moderator calls for prayer and encourages practical support

The Moderator of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland, Rt. Rev. Dr. Ian McNie, has called the Church to prayer over the Syrian refugee crisis and also issued some practical guidance to congregations on how they can respond, both now and in the days ahead.

Further to his [public statement](#) last week, when he called on Church members to ‘welcome the stranger, love our neighbour and open our arms to those who come to our shores’; in his letter to all ministers, Dr. McNie said that he recognises the complexity of the on going situation, but asks that the Church be seen to bring ‘its own

unique, meaningful and powerful dimension of prayer to the fore’.

Dr McNie writes that ‘as a Church this is a responsibility stated in God’s Word that we cannot ignore if we are to remain true to our calling. God’s Word reminds us we are to:

Love our neighbour - our neighbours next door as well as our neighbours in our community, in our land and in our world.

Pray for the refugees who have lost family members, homes and possessions that they may know that their plight is not being ignored and that positive action is being taken to help.

Pray for those in authority, 1 Timothy 2:2, that they will seek the welfare and peace, not only of their own jurisdiction, but neighbouring communities and war-torn countries.

Pray also for specifically for the governments in London, Dublin and Belfast as they prepare to receive refugees into the UK and Ireland.

Pray that if our Churches have an opportunity to ‘welcome the stranger’, that they will not be behind the door in acting accordingly.’

In his letter the Moderator also recognises and appreciates the many timely and practical local responses that congregations have already been involved with. He also encourages Ministers to continue to respond to the immediate need of Syrian refugees arriving in Europe by supporting the Church's development partners, Tear Fund and Christian Aid in particular:

Should increasing numbers of refugees from Syria begin to arrive in Northern Ireland, the Moderator said that the Church's International Meeting Point in South Belfast will continue to offer a place of welcome for them, as it does for people of all nationalities who come to the City.

Powerscourt Parish School Collecting Hygiene Kits for Calais Refugees

A group of parents from Powerscourt National School in Enniskerry is organising a collection of male hygiene kits to be sent to refugees in Calais. They are appealing for donations of individually packaged male hygiene kits to be dropped off at the school this Friday evening, September 11, between 3.00 pm and 7.00 pm.



**ENNISKERRY
TO CALAIS
REFUGEE SOLIDARITY
MALE HYGIENE PACKS**



Suggested kit contents include: toothbrush, toothpaste, comb, shampoo/shower gel, razors, sponge or flannel, plasters, paracetamol, tissues, hand sanitiser and lip balm. Each kit should be packaged in a Ziploc bag.

The kits can be dropped off at the school, opposite St Patrick's Church, Powerscourt, on Friday evening and they will be delivered to Cork to be included in the convoy which leaves for Calais on September 30.

The organisers are happy to take other items needed in the Calais camps. There is a full list of items required on the Ireland Calais Refugee Solidarity Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/IrelandCalaisRefugeeSolidarity>

Further information on the Powerscourt appeal is available on the Enniskerry Calais Solidarity Facebook page at: <https://www.facebook.com/enniskerry.calaissolidarity>

Carlisle Memorial Methodist Church – ‘Unlovely and unloved’ no more

Recently, Methodist President the Rev Brian Anderson and Secretary of Conference the Rev Dr John Stephens were invited to view the transformed interior of Carlisle Memorial Methodist Church. In its former state of dereliction, the church – which ceased to be used as a place of worship in 1982 – had been described as ‘unlovely and unloved’, but this August, as Ms Fionnuala Jay-O’Boyle welcomed the Methodist visitors on behalf of Belfast Buildings Trust, this was clearly no longer the case.

Carlisle Memorial, once referred to as ‘the Belfast Cathedral’, was designed by W H Lynn and built in 1872-75 by James Carlisle, a local linen merchant and Alderman, in memory of his deceased children. In its day, it was home to one of the largest congregations in Irish Methodism, but it suffered the decline of many city centre churches – a problem exacerbated by its position at a major flashpoint during the Troubles – and was eventually sold to the Ulster Provident Housing Association for a nominal £1.



***The President of the Methodist Church in Ireland
with Ms Fionnuala Jay-O'Boyle, founder of the
Belfast Buildings Trust, inside Carlisle Memorial.***

In 2010 the building was placed on the World Monuments Watch, and two years later it was thrown a financial lifeline to buy time for local communities to come up with a strategy for its restoration. That restoration is now well under

way, with phase one of Belfast Buildings Trust's regeneration plan now complete. The transformed interior is ready to be used as a cross-community space for the people of north Belfast and will be open to the general public on European Days of Culture.

The Methodist President has voiced his appreciation of the trust's awareness of the building's Methodist heritage. 'They are keen to maintain links and seek to develop them,' Mr Anderson said.

Archbishop of Armagh Conveys Good Wishes to Queen Elizabeth II

Most Revd Dr Richard Clarke, Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of All Ireland:

'In the company of many other members of the Church of Ireland, I wish to extend congratulations and best wishes to the Queen on the landmark achievement of becoming the United Kingdom's longest-reigning monarch today (Wednesday, 9th September 2015).

'In marking this moment, it is an appropriate opportunity to express gratitude to the Queen for

her faithful life of service and for her dedicated witness to the Christian faith throughout her long reign.'

C of I Glen Community Church celebrates first anniversary

Glen Community Church, one of Down & Dromore diocese church plants, celebrated its 1st birthday at the end of the summer with a big bash in its usual meeting place, Londonderry Primary School, Newtownards.

A year to the day on Monday 24 August, 120 adults and a large group of children had an amazing night together. There were tonnes of desserts, great worship, kids doing their puppets and plenty of smiley faces!

The theme was 'Celebrating our relationships' and considering there were 22 people at the church's very first meeting, there was much to give thanks for. The regular church family, now 50–60 strong, turned out in force. They were joined by the rector and well-wishers from St Marks, Julie Currie, representing Bishop Harold Miller, local ministers and a great representation from local people.



Diane Price who brings her grandchildren along to church.

Community involvement has characterised the church from the start and so the 3 readings were given by the School Principal, a member of the Salvation Army and a representative from the Community Association.

Leader of the Glen Community Church, Stephen Doherty, said: "I was blown away by the celebrations. So many local people came through the doors with the children leading the way, bringing their parents with them. I think one of the keys to our growth is that we value and integrate the children and there's a very strong sense of family. One young Mum said to me, 'It's like worshipping God in your living room!'"

Concern at New Star Wars being filmed on historic Christian site in Ireland

Plans by Disney to film part of the new Star Wars film on the historic island of Skellig Michael have been strongly criticised.

The island off the south-west coast of Ireland has some of the best-preserved remains of early Christian monasteries. A world heritage site since 1996, it is seen by many as a place of peaceful contemplation.

Part of *Star Wars: The Force Awakens* was filmed on the island in July and August last year, and Disney are returning next week to film additional scenes.

[Irish Times columnist Fintan O'Toole](#) wrote that "Disney wants Skellig Michael. It decided that this fragment of an ancient imagination has a power that it can use in its Star Wars franchise. And it's easy to see why it does want it. Corporate culture has an insatiable desire to own everything it does not already have, to monetise all wonders, to reduce everything that

is genuinely, heart-stoppingly strange to the merely exotic.”

He accused the Irish government of giving in to Disney. “There’s nothing we won’t sell, no line we won’t cross, no aspect of our heritage that is not available for exploitation,” he wrote.

He is also critical of the non-disclosure agreements which Disney has forced everyone from staff at the Office of Public Works to local boatmen to sign.

Some believe that the island’s appearance in a Star Wars film would boost its publicity, bringing further tourism and revenue to the area.

But others disagree. Tourism to the island is already limited because of heritage preservation concerns.

“I’m shocked by what’s happening,” Waterford resident Peter Wright told the Irish Independent. “It’s akin to handing the Book of Kells to a major corporate brand for a weekend and saying do what you want with that. Local businesses are selling Star Wars T-shirts, it’s all wrong. It’s a real case of taking a short-term view to make a few euro and not considering the long-term consequences. The Skellig is absolutely

incredible, why would we disrespect it in this way?”

Vulnerable Adults Awareness Training

The Church of Ireland Board of Education (Northern Ireland) will run six seminars this autumn to inform clergy of the current legislation and policy in relation to vulnerable adults. These sessions will be delivered by Dr Peter Hamill (Secretary to the Board) and Margaret Yarr (Child Protection Officer), and will include opportunities to ask questions and also to input into how best parishes can be supported.

Each session will cover the definition of a vulnerable adult, legal requirements when dealing with vulnerable adults (including Access NI disclosures), and best practice for churches working with vulnerable adults.

CofE vicar wins Funeral Celebrant of the Year

A Church of England vicar was named Funeral Celebrant of the Year at the Good Funeral Awards.

The Revd Juliet Stephenson, was awarded the Funeral Celebrant of the Year, and was the only Church of England vicar among 11 nominees in the category.

The Revd Juliet Stephenson, vicar of the Church of the Holy Nativity, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, said:

"Being a vicar, a huge amount of my time is spent with families coming to terms with the loss of a loved one. I do just what every other Church of England vicar does; I get alongside, I listen, I help them celebrate and I help them cry. All of this is done whilst holding their story within the greater story of God and the hope of salvation.

"The fact that a regular vicar won Funeral Celebrant of the Year, highlights the deep respect the funeral industry holds for the Church of England. They are conscious of the importance of good relationships with local funeral directors, and also hugely aware of the great pastoral network that the Church of England offers."

During the evening, the Church of England presented the award for new Funeral Director of the Year to Anne Wardle of Bewley and Merrett from Corsham.

The Church of England hosted a pop-up GraveTalk event at the show - a national resource to help churches get people talking about death and dying - in a yurt. Author the Revd Belinda Davies led the session where people were able to start a conversation about death, dying and funerals using the GraveTalk questions.

Canon Dr Sandra Millar, Head of Projects and Developments said.

"The Church of England was a small presence at the weekend, where many funeral professionals met to see some of the new things happening in the funeral world, and also to celebrate all that is good. The Church of England has been alongside countless families for generations through dying, funerals and bereavement and continues to serve people throughout the country, wherever they are."

Pope issues major marriage annulment reforms

While a juridical process is necessary for making accurate judgments, the Catholic Church's marriage annulment process must be quicker,

cheaper and much more of a pastoral ministry, Pope Francis said.

Rewriting a section of the Latin-rite Code of Canon Law and of the Code of Canons of the Eastern Churches, Pope Francis said he was not “promoting the nullity of marriages, but the quickness of the processes, as well as a correct simplicity” of the procedures so that Catholic couples are not “oppressed by the shadow of doubt” for prolonged periods.

The Vatican released today the texts of two papal documents, “Mitis iudex Dominus Iesus” (“The Lord Jesus, the Gentle Judge”) for the Latin-rite church and “Mitis et misericors Iesus,” (“The Meek and Merciful Jesus”) for the Eastern Catholic churches.

The changes, including the option of a brief process without the obligatory automatic appeal, go into effect on December 8, the opening day of the Year of Mercy.

The rules for the Latin and Eastern churches are substantially the same since the differences in texts refer mainly to the different structures of the

hierarchy with Latin churches having bishops and Eastern churches having eparchs and patriarchs.

Pope Francis said the changes in the annulment process were motivated by “concern for the salvation of souls,” and particularly “charity and mercy” toward those who feel alienated from the church because of their marriage situations and the perceived complexity of the church’s annulment process.

The reformed processes were drafted by a special committee Pope Francis established a year earlier. Among the criteria he said guided their work, the first he listed was the possibility of there being “only one executive sentence in favor of nullity” when the local bishop or judge delegated by him had the “moral certainty” that the marriage was not valid. Previously an appeal was automatic and a declaration of nullity had to come from two tribunals.

Mgr Pio Vito Pinto, dean of the Roman Rota, a Vatican court, and president of the commission that drafted the new rules, told reporters Pope Francis asked for updates throughout the year, sought a review by four “great canonists” not involved in the drafting and in the end adopted

the changes with “great seriousness, but also great serenity.”

The changes made by Pope Francis, particularly the responsibility and trust placed in local bishops, are the most substantial changes in the church’s marriage law since the pontificate of Pope Benedict XIV in the mid-1700s, Mgr Pinto said. Even with the 1917 and 1983 new Codes of Canon Law, the process for recognising the nullity of a marriage remained “substantially unchanged,” he said.

“Putting the poor at the centre is what distinguishes the reform of Pope Francis from those made by Pope Pius X and Pope Benedict XIV,” Mgr Pinto said.

In fact, Pope Francis ordered that the “gratuity of the procedure be assured so that, in a matter so closely tied to the salvation of souls, the church — by demonstrating to the faithful that she is a generous mother — may demonstrate the gratuitous love of Christ, which saves us all.”

Cardinal Francesco Coccopalmerio, president of the Pontifical Commission for Legislative Texts, who also was a member of the commission,

insisted the Pope's new rules were not about "annulling marriages," but about recognising and declaring the nullity of a marriage, in other words, declaring that it never existed as a valid sacrament.

Although the new rules remove the obligation that a declaration of nullity automatically be appealed, he said, it does not remove the right of one of the parties to appeal the decision. However, he said, "and this is a great innovation," if the appeals court believes the appeal is "obviously a delaying tactic," the appeals court can issue a decree confirming the nullity of the marriage without a full process.

Mgr Alejandro Bunge, secretary of the commission and a member of the Roman Rota, said the new processes are motivated by recognition of the church as a "field hospital," as Pope Francis has described it. "For those who have special injuries — a marriage null from the beginning — we will have intensive care" in the form of more rapid annulment procedures.

While many marriage cases will continue to require time in order to arrive at the truth, he said, the longer procedure will be reserved to

those cases in which it is not obvious that the marriage was null from the beginning and in which the couple does not agree that a real marriage never existed.

Pope Francis makes it easier for Catholics to remarry - BBC Europe

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-34185559>

New Dean for Christchurch, New Zealand to succeed Dromore woman cleric

A new Dean has been appointed to lead Christchurch Cathedral in New Zealand; and despite the post being advertised internationally, a cleric from the cathedral's own diocese – Canon Lawrence Kimberley – has been appointed to the post.

Many of those seeking the post were drawn by the possibilities of leading “a new cathedral in a recovering city”, Bishop Victoria Matthews said. But Canon Kimberley's application had stood out partly because of his “passion for the

gospel, his passion for ministry – and his love for this diocese.”

The announcement of the Canon Kimberley’s appointment was made by Bishop Matthews at the transitional “cardboard” cathedral during the opening worship for the diocesan Synod last week; and was greeted with “a prolonged burst of applause”, the Anglican Taonga news service reports.

He will succeed the Revd Nick Mountfort who has been Acting Dean since the sudden death of Dean Lynda Patterson from Dromore, Northern Ireland, in July last year.

Media digest

Marriage annulment to be easy and cheap - Irish Independent

<http://www.independent.ie/irish-news/marriage-annulment-to-be-easy-and-cheap-31513061.html>

Maud Kells: Cookstown missionary to return to Congo - BBC News

A County Tyrone missionary who was shot by bandits in Africa plans to return to fight for justice for a man she says is "falsely accused".

Irish Daily Mail €1

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2015

Good Health 12-PAGE PULLOUT INSIDE

A headache that could be a brain tumour

Jab to help keep your teeth

Train your mind to be strong

Bishop calls for debate on married men and women as crisis looms

HALF OF PARISHES WILL SOON HAVE NO PRIEST

No limit to refugee numbers says Joan

Fury at yet another 'fake' story on X Factor

Majella: I'm not worried about Strictly man-eater

IRELAND 1 GEORGIA 0

By Darren Hassett

Association of Catholic Priests in Ireland. It's Sean MacDonagh of the Association and yesterday: "If we continue as we are, we will be without priests. Many parishes have two or three churches and unless there are priests a lot of them will be closing down. They'll go the way of post offices and Garda stations."

The Association called for a radical overhaul turn to Page 4

Joan Burton has insisted there will be no limit to the number of refugees the State will take - but said 5,000 is the likely intake for now. The Minister, though, said refugees would be allowed to bring in their families too. FULL STORY Page 6

HANNAH Marie Kilminster may have won X Factor with her tale of a simple farm girl, but it turns out she has a long history singing soprano - with links to Simon Cowell. FULL STORY Page 11

SEE PAGE THREE

FULL REPORTS AND ANALYSIS IN SPORT

In yesterday's Irish Daily Mail, priests revealed their fear for future of Church in Ireland as their numbers dwindle

Married priests would solve problem of priest shortages: Association of Catholics in Ireland - Belfast Telegraph

<http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/republic-of-ireland/married-priests-would-solve-problem-of-priest-shortages-association-of-catholics-in-ireland-31510756.html>

Disappeared: Post-mortem confirms bodies of Seamus Wright and Kevin McKee found in Co Meath - Independent

<http://www.independent.ie/irish-news/disappeared-postmortem-confirms-bodies-of-seamus-wright-and-kevin-mckee-found-in-co-meath-31510271.html>

New Orleans-style funeral in Belfast - Irish News

<http://www.irishnews.com/news/northernirelandnews/2015/09/08/news/video-new-orleans-style-funeral-in-belfast-256133/>

'Nothing is worth this loss' - Pastor named in Ashley Madison leak takes own life - Irish Independent

<http://www.independent.ie/world-news/americas/nothing-is-worth-this-loss-pastor-named-in-ashley-madison-leak-takes-own-life-31513370.html>

Ex-Bishop of Lewes Peter Ball admits abusing 18 young men - Belfast Telegraph

<http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/uk/exbishop-of-lewes-peter-ball-admits-abusing-18-young-men-31510749.html>

Pope Francis to allow priests to 'forgive' abortion - Irish Times

<http://www.irishtimes.com/news/social-affairs/pope-francis-to-allow-priests-to-forgive-abortion-1.2336167>

Insight - As Pope visit nears, U.S. Catholic Church faces financial strain - Reuters

<http://uk.reuters.com/article/2015/09/08/uk-pope-usa-finance-insight-idUKKCN0R80BC20150908>

BBC/Times/Tel/FT/Mail/Exp/Northern Echo

Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II becomes Britain's longest reigning monarch today (see *prayer above*). There is extensive coverage of her 63 year 217 day reign and its achievements. The Prime Minister will lead tributes in Parliament and there will be a River Thames salute. *Northern Echo* reports on service at Durham Cathedral tonight.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-34177107>

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/uk/royalfamily/article4551533.ece>

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/queen-elizabeth-ii/11852302/Queen-reflects-on->

a-remarkable-life-as-she-prepares-to-become-longest-reigning-monarch.html

[http://www.ft.com/cms/s/](http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/0f25f9b8-5640-11e5-a28b-50226830d644.html#axzz3lBCvC0d1)

[0/0f25f9b8-5640-11e5-](http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/0f25f9b8-5640-11e5-a28b-50226830d644.html#axzz3lBCvC0d1)

[a28b-50226830d644.html#axzz3lBCvC0d1](http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/0f25f9b8-5640-11e5-a28b-50226830d644.html#axzz3lBCvC0d1)

[http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/](http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3227071/Just-day-firm-record-breaking-Queen-Official-picture-released-day-reign-surpasses-Victoria-shows-monarch-hard-work.html)

[article-3227071/Just-day-firm-record-breaking-Queen-Official-picture-released-day-reign-surpasses-Victoria-shows-monarch-hard-work.html](http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3227071/Just-day-firm-record-breaking-Queen-Official-picture-released-day-reign-surpasses-Victoria-shows-monarch-hard-work.html)

[http://www.express.co.uk/news/royal/603890/](http://www.express.co.uk/news/royal/603890/Queen-Elizabeth-2-set-to-become-our-longest-serving-monarch)

[Queen-Elizabeth-2-set-to-become-our-longest-serving-monarch](http://www.express.co.uk/news/royal/603890/Queen-Elizabeth-2-set-to-become-our-longest-serving-monarch)

[http://www.thenorthernecho.co.uk/news/](http://www.thenorthernecho.co.uk/news/13654937.Queen_s_service__exemplary____Bishop_of_Durham/)

[13654937.Queen_s_service__exemplary____Bishop_of_Durham/](http://www.thenorthernecho.co.uk/news/13654937.Queen_s_service__exemplary____Bishop_of_Durham/)

Times/Guard/D Mail/Tel/BBC/Ind/Guard/ITV

Reports on conviction yesterday of former Bishop of Lewes and Gloucester, Peter Ball who pleaded guilty to two charges of indecent assault and one charge of misconduct in public office. Articles include ref to "unreserved apology" from Bishop Paul Butler, CofE's lead safeguarding bishop and all refer to Lord Carey, Archbishop of Canterbury at the time that Bishop Ball originally received a police caution in 1993.

[http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/uk/crime/](http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/uk/crime/article4550913.ece)

[article4550913.ece](http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/uk/crime/article4550913.ece) <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/>

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news/uknews/law-and-order/11850865/Ex-bishop-admits-sex-abuse-20-years-after-victims-complained.html
<http://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2015/sep/08/bishop-peter-ball-victims-accuse-c-of-e-police-and-cps-of-sexual-abuse-cover-up>
<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3226516/Ex-Church-England-Bishop-82-described-Prince-Charles-loyal-friend-admits-sexually-abusing-18-teenagers-young-men-thirty-year-period.html>
<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/law-and-order/11850865/Ex-bishop-admits-sex-abuse-20-years-after-victims-complained.html>
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-34184967>
<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/former-bishop-admits-to-sexually-abusing-18-young-men-10492268.html>
<http://www.itv.com/news/meridian/update/2015-09-08/former-bishop-admits-sex-attacks-on-young-men/>

Guard

Report about a group of doctors who have written an open letter in support of the Assisted Dying bill, which will be debated in the House of Commons on Friday. Last weekend, the Archbishop of Canterbury warned that the

proposed legislation would cross a legal and ethical Rubicon.

<http://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2015/sep/08/assisted-dying-law-is-dangerous-and-cruel-say-senior-doctors>

Exp

Reports hundred of refugees in Germany are converting to Christianity to increase their chances of asylum in the country.

Mirror/Exp

Reports that comedians Bobby Ball and Don Maclean are teaching vicars to tell jokes at the Christian Resources Exhibition at the NEC in Birmingham. The two are teaching everything from overcoming nerves to doing stand-up routines.

<http://www.mirror.co.uk/news/weird-news/vicars-taking-comedy-lessons-crackerjack-6405558>

<http://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/603848/Comedian-Bobby-Ball-church-sermons-comedy-clergymen-sense-of-humour>