

## The Pope and the pizza



**Pope Francis blows a candle on a 13ft pizza to mark his 81st birthday during a private audience with children in the Paul VI hall at the Vatican on Sunday.**

## Moderator officially opens new Garvagh home

With a 42-strong choir from Garvagh Primary School and local harpists making it a special Christmas celebration, Presbyterian Moderator Rt. Rev. Dr. Noble McNeely has officially opened Trinity House in Garvagh, the Presbyterian Church in Ireland's (PCI's) newest residential care home.

The official opening follows a £1.5 million 17-month redevelopment and refurbishment programme, which also saw 20 residents from PCI's former care homes – Ard Cluan in Londonderry and York House in Portrush – relocate to Trinity House in October.

Dr. McNeely said, "With the founding of First Garvagh in 1658, there has been a strong Presbyterian witness in the town, and together with our congregation in Main Street, Trinity House will also bring a very special social witness to the area, which is also a demonstration of God's love for people.

"As Christians we are called to reflect that love and it is no coincidence that the name chosen for the new home symbolically reflects this love

and the coming together of the three homes into one, while marking it with a distinct Christian identity. This love for others is also illuminated in the special signage in the reception area, which proclaims in large letters: 'People Matter To God'."

Like all PCI homes, Trinity House welcomes residents from all denominations and seeks to provide care in a specifically Christian ethos and environment. The Council for Social Witness has overall management responsibility for the residential care homes and its other services, including Trinity House. The new home has 50 en suite rooms on one level, which increases the Church's overall residential care provision for older people in the northwest. It also has 16 rooms available for people living with a dementia and a dementia-friendly sensory garden, the third of PCI's residential care homes to have one.

Three residents took part in the official opening with the Moderator, two former residents from Ard Cluan and York House, and one who has just made Trinity House her home. Margaret Bell, who lived in York House for 13 years and helped to cut the ribbon said, "I have settled in well and the carers are all very kind," she said. "The big difference is that York House is at the seaside

and Trinity is in the country, but it's a very good clean modern place and everything is lovely."

Linda Wray, PCI's Residential and Supported Services Manager, said that she was delighted that the staff and residents who had relocated, and the new staff and residents had settled in well. "There is a strong sense of community in Garvagh, and Trinity House, alongside our two congregations who have been a part of that community for many years, will play unique part in the life of the town.

"This has been a long journey for us since we announced in May last year that we were to open here in Garvagh. As a care provider we are committed to improving the standard of our facilities and with Trinity House we have also been able to increase our overall residential care capacity. This also includes providing for people living with a dementia in a specially designed 16 bedroom unit that opens onto a secure shared sensory garden," she said.

The official opening was attended by ministers from the two local Presbyterian Churches and other ministers in the area, along with business people and guests from the local community and resident's family members. Minister of First Kilrea and Boveedy and convener of the

Council for Social Witness, Rev. Dr. Trevor McCormick said that the opening marked a new beginning.

“This is a new opportunity for us as a Church to provide much needed residential care and specific care for people living with dementia. It wouldn’t have been possible without the hard work and dedication of so many people, from architects Knox and Markwell and contractor P J McKeague, to all the dedicated PCI staff involved in getting us to this stage today.

“We have also appreciated the extensive support of local people and the many volunteers, including the local Boys’ Brigade, who helped in so many practical ways, especially in the final weeks of preparation, to welcome residents to their new home. Trinity House will be a welcoming and caring home and I hope and pray that all who come to live and work here will be very happy indeed,” he said.

Dr. McCormick also thanked the celebrated artist and sculptor Ross Wilson, who had been commissioned to create a number of features in the home. These included specially designed window motifs in the chapel and engraved Presbyterian bushes, which appear on two windows.

## **Sculpture and service honours inspirational Co Down missionary**

A Co Down missionary who spent most of her life working in India was honoured with a special celebration service in Bangor last Saturday to mark the 150th anniversary of her birth.

Amy Carmichael from Millisle founded an orphanage mission which saved hundreds of young girls in Dohnavor in southern India from being forced into prostitution.

In recognition of her achievements, a bronze sculpture of Amy was unveiled on Saturday at a private ceremony at Hamilton Road Presbyterian Church. The sculpture, created by artist Ross Wilson, will now be on permanent display in the small garden outside the church.

In a special service at the church , the story of Amy's life was presented through words and music, in a new work specially written for the occasion by Etta Halliday. It also featured a closing reflection from Jonathan Clarke – the current pastor of the Welcome Evangelical Church – on Amy's legacy today.



**A bronze sculpture of Amy Carmichael created by Coleraine artist Ross Wilson was unveiled by Margaret Bingham, wife of the late Derek Bingham.**

**Pictured are members of the Bingham family with left, Rev David Johnston, minister of Hamilton Road Presbyterian Church, councillor Bill Keery, Lesley Stewart from Bangor Worldwide Missionary Convention, Ards and North Down Mayor Robert Adair, Margaret Bingham and Ross Wilson. Also pictured far right is Valerie Elliot Shepherd, daughter of Elisabeth Elliot who wrote a biography of Amy Carmichael.**

Amy was born on December 16, 1867 in Millisle and later moved to Japan and then India to serve as a missionary. In 1901 she set up the Dohnavur Fellowship to provide a safe home for young girls and the organisation still exists today providing care and education for around 120 children as well as 60 senior citizens.

Those that grew up in Dohnavur stay on to look after the next generation so there are currently between 250 and 300 people in the family, as they like to refer to the residents.

The compassion Amy had for the Indian children meant that she never returned to Northern Ireland again and died in India on January 18 1951.

Bangor Worldwide Missionary Convention has a strong link with Dohnavur Fellowship and donations were sent from as early as the 1940s.

The idea for the sculpture came from conversations that started years ago between the evangelist Derek Bingham and artist Ross Wilson to recognise Amy's life.

Mr Wilson said: "The sculpture celebrates the childhood beginnings and the spiritual



inspiration that helped inform Amy's young heart.

"It portrays Amy in the 10th year of her life looking out from below her hat towards a purposed future that would be filled with devotion to others, a serving life, a giving heart that would impact generations of children to come.

"I found the process of translating the life of one of my Christian heroes a profound experience, visually reshaping a life, its personality and identity is a deep responsibility.

"In the sculpture Amy is holding her diary where she recorded her dreams, her hopes, her future. Because of Amy Carmichael's vision countless children were given the hope of a new beginning, were given a future."

Tom Clarke, chairman of Bangor Worldwide and clerk of session in Hamilton Road Presbyterian Church, said Amy remains an inspiration to those who want to serve God in other parts of the world.

"Her tireless obedience to God's call remains as new generations read her writings and the work that continues through the Dohnavur Fellowship

today,” he added. “We hope that the many children and people who see the sculpture will be challenged by Amy’s story and selfless sacrifice.” Report courtesy the News Letter.

Pastor Jonathan Clarke from the Welcome Evangelical Church has put together a PowerPoint presentation, simply called “Lasting Legacy - 150 years” which is an appreciation of the life and ministry of Amy Carmichael. This presentation and talk is suitable for any church groups throughout 2018 that are interested in the story of Amy Carmichael. Pastor Jonathan can be contacted for a booking at his email address [reborn86@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:reborn86@hotmail.co.uk) or by mobile on 07817 543 085.

The Presbyterian Historical Society of Ireland and the Presbyterian Church in Ireland will be having a special celebration event to mark the life and work of Amy Carmichael and her lasting legacy on Thursday 19 April 2018 in Millisle Presbyterian Church.

# CNI

## Christmas cheer comes to a former Belfast parades flashpoint

A north Belfast interface once synonymous with sectarianism, anger and violence played host to Santa Claus, reindeer and a funfair over the weekend.

A seasonal goodwill message of “move forward together” was delivered to hundreds of people at the first cross-community Christmas tree light switch-on and carol service on the Crumlin Road, where the Twaddell-Ardoyne Shankill Communities in Transition (Tascit) event took place.

For the past eight years a small carol service has been held in the area, but this was the first family fun day backed by the nationalist and unionist communities.

The area has previously been a flashpoint for serious public disorder, with a loyalist protest camp set up in 2013 after the Parades Commission refused to allow a return leg of an Orange march to pass a section of the Crumlin Road close to nationalist homes.

A range of talks aimed at ending the impasse, which over the years cost about £25 million to

police, had all ended in failure until last year, when a deal was brokered by businessman Jim Roddy and Rev Harold Good to end the dispute.

On Saturday there were funfair rides, live reindeer, Santa's grotto, hot chocolate and candy floss to enjoy ahead of a carol service, supported by the Salvation Army band.

Teenagers from the Our City programme, involving the Hammer Youth Club from the Shankill and Ardoyne Youth Club, shared a common prayer and messages of hope and inspiration for those gathered.

Luighseách McMaster (16) was one of the young people involved and said it was "amazing getting everyone together from both communities and having fun and joy".

"The Our City programme has really helped me understand other people from other communities," she said. "I only started in September, and I tell you what, it's the best thing I have ever done."

"People associate Ardoyne and Twaddell with the parades and all the issues around it so it's great to have people and their children from all those areas mixing and having a great time," he said.

## A place for goodwill

Fr Gary Donegan led the carol service and a blessing that also involved Presbyterian, Methodist and Church of Ireland ministers.

“The idea is that the community had claimed this place for goodwill over Christmas,” Fr Donegan said. “This community quite often gets adverse publicity, but they are incredible people so this is saying ‘This is what we should be getting publicity for.’ ”

Rev Good said it was a significant day and part of “a journey that these folks have been on for some 18 months, a journey to a new understanding, a new relationship, getting to know each other”.

“What better way than to bring your children, have fun together, drink hot chocolate together and sing together,” he said.

Winston Irvine from the Twaddell Woodvale Residents Association said it was “a hugely important, symbolic day for both communities, given where we have come from”.

“In the end we have to heal relationships in the area and rebuild the community, and that sense

of community renewal is what people see as the way forward.”

Alex Trainor, who lives beside the Ardoyne Ambulance Station where the event took place, said: “It’s absolutely fantastic, what it symbolises. It’s great to see both communities coming together. It has been a long time waiting.”

Politicians in attendance included SDLP MLA Nichola Mallon, Sinn Féin MLAs Gerry Kelly and Carál Ní Chuilín and DUP councillor Brian Kingston.

Ms Mallon said communities celebrating Christmas together was a positive step while Mr Kelly said it was good to see people had reached out to each other.

“We are right on what used to be the interface, and I enjoy actually saying that – used to be – as I hope it is now a thing of the past,” he said.  
Report courtesy the Irish Times

# CNI

## **Nurse, civil servant and the most senior ordained woman in Church of England**

Compassion, service and faith have long underpinned Bishop Sarah Mullally's career path - from serving in the NHS to becoming the most senior woman in the Church of England.

The new Bishop of London, who is a trained nurse, senior civil servant and priest, said she has "one vocation, to follow Christ and make him known", a belief she has held since the age of 16.

The Bishop of Crediton was born Sarah Elizabeth Bowser to father Michael and hairdresser mother Ann, who almost influenced a teenage Mullally to follow in her footsteps, until the prospect of becoming a nurse enticed her.

Raised and educated in Surrey and London, she is no stranger to making history.

She took on several leadership positions, culminating in her appointment as chief nursing officer for England in 1999, a move which she once said "caused a bit of a stir".



At the time, she was the youngest ever to take on the role.

As the Government's chief nurse, she advised senior civil servants and then prime minister Tony Blair on NHS policy.

Her proudest achievement, she said, was introducing "the first patient survey in Europe" and igniting a culture change in the NHS "in trying to understand patients' experience". She was ordained in 2001 but took on ministry full time in 2004.

The following year she was made a Dame Commander of the British Empire for her outstanding contribution to nursing and midwifery.



In 2015, the senior civil servant was appointed Bishop of Crediton in the Diocese of Exeter, before rising to the top ranks of the Church.

On her leadership style, the Anglican bishop said she was "frisky, agile, vulnerable and irritating" like a flea - a concept introduced by philosopher Charles Handy in *The Elephant and the Flea*.

But the bishop, who "reads a lot of theology" also counts the works of Archbishop Desmond Tutu and writer William P. Young as sources of inspiration, as well as Mary Seacole, a mixed-race businesswoman and nurse who treated British soldiers in the Crimean War.

A "proud" mother to Grace and Liam, both in their twenties, Bishop Sarah said her two children give her stability and, with her husband, have been "very supportive".

She once said in an interview with the *Church Times* that she "couldn't do what I do without them".

Her appointment is likely to send shockwaves through the diocese of London, which has become divided over the issue of women priests and bishops.

The previous Bishop of London, the Rt Rev Lord Richard Chartres, chose not to ordain women in an attempt to appease traditionalists.

But the ongoing tensions over tradition are unlikely to faze Bishop Sarah, who put diversity and inclusion - of gender, race and sexuality - at the heart of her first address as the 133rd Bishop of London.

She said that she was "very respectful of those who cannot accept my role as a priest or bishop", but also suggested that for the Church to say relevant, it had to represent the communities of which it is at the heart.

"That means increasing churches that are led by priests that are women, who come from black, Asian and minority ethnic groups," she said as she delivered her speech at St Paul's Cathedral.

As a member of the Church of England's National Safeguarding Steering Group, Bishop Sarah said she would "continue to see that we have a culture which is safe, where there is no place for abuse", in the church.

Some things you might not know about her.

### **1. She's an avid tweeter**

Research by Premier earlier this year revealed that Bishop Sarah tweets more often than any other bishop with an average 165 tweets sent every month. She was also the runner up for the Premier Digital Conference tweeter of the year.

### **2. She's a trained nurse**

She became Chief Nursing Officer for England in 1999, the youngest person to be appointed to the post. She was also made a Dame Commander of the British Empire in 2005 in recognition of her outstanding contribution to nursing and midwifery.

### **3. She's only been a bishop since 2015**

She was appointed her as the Bishop of Crediton two and a half years ago becoming one of the first women to be appointed to the senior role. Her latest appointment marks a rapid rise within the Church of England.

### **4. She's familiar with London**

She was ordained in 2001 in the capital and served her curacy in St Saviour's Battersea Fields, initially as a self-supporting minister, before leaving her Government post in 2004.

## **5. She is a novice potter.**

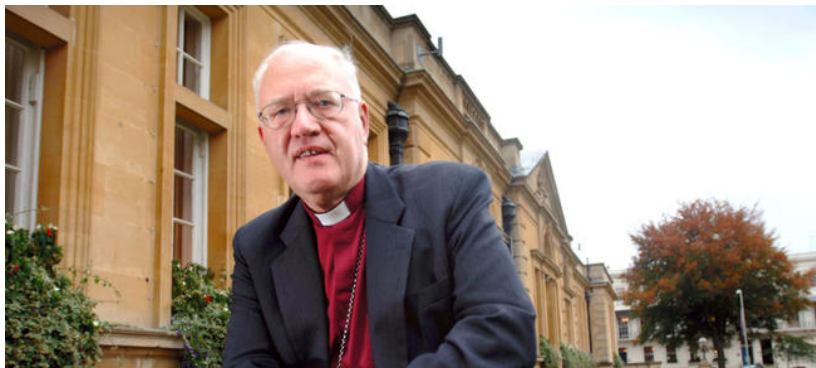
As is customary with Downing street appointments - the hobbies of a bishop are revealed. Walking normally features highly but pottery was named for Bishop Sarah.

## **Lord Carey slams Archbishop Justin Welby over abuse report reaction**

The former archbishop of Canterbury has hit out at his “unjust” successor, the Most Rev Justin Welby, saying that he will be judged for sacking him over the way he dealt with a sex scandal.

In a Christmas letter to friends, Lord Carey of Clifton has spoken out for the first time about his treatment by Archbishop Welby, who “insisted” that he stand aside from his post in the Church over his handling of allegations against the former bishop Peter Ball.

The comments come days after Archbishop Welby was criticised over his handling of the sex assault allegations against George Bell, the former bishop of Chichester, whom he refused to clear despite an independent review concluding that he was besmirched by the Church of England.



Although it is understood that the comments by Lord Carey on his own treatment were written in November, they were not sent out until this weekend at the end of a turbulent week for the Church.

In the letter “Greetings from The Careys 2017”, seen by *The Daily Telegraph* and the *Guardian*, Lord Carey updates his friends about developments in the year. He writes: “Less desirable has been the shocking insistence by the Archbishop that I should stand down from ministry ‘for a season’ for mistakes he believes were made 24 years ago when Bishop Peter Ball abused young potential priests. His decision is quite unjust and eventually will be judged as such.”

A spokesman for Lord Carey, 82, who was archbishop of Canterbury from 1991 to 2012 and was succeeded by Lord Williams of

Oystermouth, refused to comment on the criticism of the Archbishop in relation to the Bishop Bell case, over which he had previously called for a public inquiry. In a letter to Bishop Bell's niece last year Lord Carey said that he was "frankly appalled by the way the Church authorities have treated his memory".

A damning independent public inquiry by Lord Carlile last week found that the Church of England had "rushed to judgment" and destroyed the reputation of the respected bishop, naming him as a paedophile on the say-so of a single accuser almost 60 years after his death.

Archbishop Welby faced calls to apologise after issuing a statement in the wake of the report in which he pointed out Bishop Bell was "accused of great wickedness" and said sorry only "for the failures of the process".

It comes just six months after Lord Carey was forced to stand down from his last formal role in the church as honorary assistant bishop in the diocese of Oxford in June after a separate inquiry criticised the Church's handling of the Ball case.

The Archbishop took the unprecedented step of asking him to "carefully consider his position"

after he was criticised for involvement in a cover-up of allegations of grooming and sex assault against Ball, who was later jailed for 32 months.

Lord Carey also uses his festive missive to lament the fact that they did not send a letter last year as “Mark, our son, had just been falsely accused of historic charges of abuse dating back nearly 40 years to when he himself was a young teenager. It was always ridiculous but it was a very painful and difficult time.” He noted that Mark, for whom it was a “cruel, brutal and humiliating” experience, has now been exonerated and installed as vicar of Christ Church, Bridlington. Despite his criticism of Archbishop Welby, Lord Carey concludes: “Just as well, then, that we are surrounded by a large and wonderful family who give us great support and pleasure.”

A spokesman for Lord Carey would only say that he “does not comment on private correspondence intended for friends”. A spokesman for Archbishop Welby added: “We would not comment on private correspondence, but the independent inquiry into Peter Ball’s case was quite strong in its recommendations.”

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