

## Methodist church's Kirk House Wins Gold



***Sarah Penney (BCM Dementia Lead) and Andrea Selby (Kirk House Manager) celebrate winning the Gold Award***

Celebrations are taking place in Belfast Central Mission's (BCM) Kirk House Residential Home in east Belfast after they won the Gold Award in

Dementia Design for their newly adapted Memory Lane wing.

Providing high quality dementia care, Memory Lane provides accommodation where residents with dementia can live safely and with dignity.

The award comes from the Dementia Services Development Centre (DSDC) at the University of Stirling and Kirk House is the only non-purpose-built accommodation in Northern Ireland to currently hold the award and one of only two buildings in Northern Ireland to be currently accredited. The Gold Award is only given to those buildings which meet the DSDC's stringent criteria for dementia-friendly design.

*Sarah Penney, BCM's Dementia Lead said, "We are delighted with the news that Memory Lane in Kirk House has been awarded Gold by the University of Stirling for its dementia-friendly design. This recognises all the hard work and creativity that has made Memory Lane such a supportive home from home for the residents and is a great achievement for an existing building which has been remodelled. Combined with the fact that the staff won 'Staff Team of the Year' at the Dementia Achievement Awards, it means that Kirk House and Memory Lane can provide a level of care which will enhance the*

*lives of our residents, proving that it's possible to live well with dementia."*

Kirk House, which is owned by Choice Housing Association and managed by BCM has recently adapted part of the building into Memory Lane to provide high quality care for people living with dementia. Major changes have been made to residents' flats and communal areas, which combine a cutting edge approach to dementia design with a homely feel.

Everything is designed with the residents in mind. There are plenty of opportunities for reminiscing and sharing happy memories. A safe enclosed garden has been constructed so residents and their guests can enjoy all the benefits provided by spending time outdoors.

As part of the commitment to supporting those living with dementia, the staff team at Memory Lane completed the innovative DSDC '*Best Practice in Dementia Care*' development programme, and the changes they have made have improved the quality of life for the residents. All the staff at Kirk House are now in the process of completing this training.

The next stage in BCM's commitment to improving care for older people will be the planned flagship project - Copelands Dementia

and Nursing Care in Millisle, Co. Down. This development will provide specialist dementia and nursing care for people who are still physically active but require a safe and supportive environment. It will be constructed according to the University of Stirling's Gold Standard in dementia design. Copelands has recently been granted planning permission.

## **Belfast Cathedral to feature on Songs of Praise on Sunday**

St Anne's Cathedral will feature on Songs of Praise on Sunday July 5 on BBC1 at 5pm\*.

The Songs of Praise cameras visited St Anne's on March 25 to record a number of items for future programmes including a group of musicians made up of Jonathan Rea, piano; Rebekah Durston, violin; Martin Surginor, violin; Joanna Byrne, viola, and David McCann, cello.

Pomeroy singer Andrea Begley, who shot to fame when she won the second series of The Voice, was also recorded singing at the front of the Cathedral.

And the Cathedral Girls' Choir and Lay Clerks were filmed singing the Prayer of St Patrick.

\*Broadcast time may be subject to change.  
Please check press.

## **Church plaques reveal links to ‘the bravest man’ at Waterloo**

Sergeant James Graham, from Tirclooney, a few miles from Clones in Co. Monaghan returned home from the Battle of Waterloo and was hailed by the Duke of Wellington a hero.

Impartial Reporter - Wellington, the victor at the Battle against Napoleon’s army, described Sergeant Graham as “The bravest man at Waterloo.”

Yet few in Ireland have praised him until recently, as the nation commemorates 200 years since the victory in a Belgium field.

Plaques commemorating Sergeant Graham are erected in St.Tiernach’s Parish Church, at the Diamond in Clones where the rector is Archdeacon Helene Steed.

Among the parishioners in the Church of Ireland parish is George Knight, a local historian who has gathered considerable information about Sergeant Graham.



***George Knight, local historian walking down the steps of Clones Church of Ireland Church where the plaques to James Graham are situated.***

He said Sergeant Graham played a pivotal role at the Battle of Waterloo, not only keeping French soldiers at bay but rescuing his brother from a burning building.

Sergeant Graham was one of around 9,000 Irishmen who fought with the Duke of Wellington's army but Sergeant Graham did not enlist with the 27th Inniskillings or the 5th Royal

Inniskilling Dragoon Guards. James Graham joined the Coldstream Guards instead and events that took place during the battle resulted in him being one of the most decorated soldiers of the event. At one point, Sergeant Graham together with his commanding officer, Lieutenant Colonel James MacDonnell closed the gates of Hougoumont Farm to keep Napoleon's army out and this is considered one of the greatest achievements to help win the Battle.

The Coldstream Guards have never forgotten Sergeant Graham's heroics. As recently as 2004, they named a new Sergeants' accommodation block after him at Lille Barracks, Aldershot where they are based and where they describe him as "The bravest man in England."

George Knight said the soldier was older than many others to join up. He was 22 when he joined in 1813, just two years before the Battle of Waterloo and joined as a lifelong member for which he received a £20 bonus.

George said he joined what was then the elite foot regiment of the Army. After leaving the Coldstream Guards, Sergeant Graham later transferred to the Royal Lancers.

Sergeant Graham died in the Royal Hospital, Kilmainham, Dublin, a retirement home for in

1845 and buried with full military honours. A plaque was erected at the Royal Hospital and later transferred to St. Tiernach's Church where it remains now.

A ceremony was held at the Royal Hospital a few weeks ago to mark Sergeant Graham's heroics 200 years ago and to erect a new memorial plaque there. The Minister of State with special responsibility for the Office of Public Works, Simon Harris T.D., unveiled the new plaque at the Royal Hospital. He said: "It is fitting that the memorial is displayed at this iconic heritage site on the bicentennial of the Battle of Waterloo."

## **Methodist Church to make significant changes to safeguarding policies**

The Methodist Conference for GB this week (29 June) vowed to make significant changes to its policy and procedures in a move to make the Church a safer place for all. This follows the publication in May of an independent review of past safeguarding cases related to the Church from 1950 to 2014.



The Past Cases Review identified 1,885 past cases, which included physical, emotional, domestic and sexual abuse as well as cases of neglect. In approximately one quarter of these cases, church ministers or lay employees were identified as the perpetrators or alleged perpetrators.

The Conference discussed the findings of the Review and appointed an implementation group to take forward the report's 23 recommendations. Former Barnardo's Deputy Chief Executive Jane Stacey, who led the independent review, has been appointed as a member of the implementation group, which will be chaired by the Rev Gwyneth Owen.

"The Past Cases Review has undoubtedly been a wake-up call for the Church, and one we cannot ignore" said Rev Owen. "The recommendations of the report are many and wide-ranging but at the heart of it all lies the need to bring about significant cultural change.

"Safeguarding is not just something that is done by specialists. It cannot be reduced to criminal records checks and staff training programmes. Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility and each one of us has a duty to do what we can to make the Church a safe place for everyone."

The recommendations include improvements to record keeping and storage, a review of all current safeguarding training materials and the identification of further resources to support victims and survivors of abuse. One of the most urgent concerns highlighted by the recommendations is the need for greater levels of accountability and supervision, as well as a formal code of conduct, for ministers.

Additionally, selection criteria for senior church positions will be developed to include awareness of and ability to deal effectively with safeguarding issues. Until the Methodist Church has more robust accountability processes in place and fully operational, there will be an annual independent audit of progress on the recommendations.

\* Past Cases Review <http://www.methodist.org.uk/media/1683823/past-cases-review-2013-2015-fi...>

\* Report on implementation of the Past Cases Review <http://methodist.org.uk/media/1682971/conf-2015-48-Past-Cases-Review-Imp...>

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## **Archbishop of Canterbury response to US Episcopal Church Resolution on Marriage**

The Archbishop of Canterbury this week expressed deep concern about the stress for the Anglican Communion following the US Episcopal Church's House of Bishops' resolution to change the definition of marriage in the canons so that any reference to marriage as between a man and a woman is removed.

While recognising the prerogative of The Episcopal Church to address issues appropriate to its own context, Archbishop Justin Welby said that its decision will cause distress for some and have ramifications for the Anglican Communion as a whole, as well as for its ecumenical and interfaith relationships.

At a time of such suffering around the world, he stated that this was a moment for the church to be looking outwards. We continue to mourn with all those who are grieving loved ones and caring for the injured from the terrorist attacks in Sousse, Kuwait and Lyons, and from the racist attacks in Charleston.



He urges prayer for the life of the Anglican Communion; for a space for the strengthening of the interdependent relationships between provinces, so that in the face of diversity and disagreement, Anglicans may be a force for peace and seek to respond to the Lord Jesus' prayer that "they may be one so that the world may believe" (John 17: 21).

## **C of E Church House urged to kick out arms dealers**

A coalition of Christian campaigners have called for the Church of England (CofE) to stop

facilitating arms trade events. This follows the news that the conference centre owned by Church House, the administrative headquarters of CofE, will be hosting an event sponsored and attended by some of the world's biggest arms companies.

The RUSI Land Warfare Conference 2015, taking place in Church House Conference Centre, Westminster, on 30 June - 01 July will have a focus on land based conflict. A second RUSI Conference, the Chief of the Air Staff's Air Power Conference, will be held between 15 - 16 July.

The event will be addressed by the Secretary of State for Defence, Michael Fallon MP, and sponsored by a number of arms companies, including the world's biggest arms manufacturer, Lockheed Martin, and MBDA Missile Systems, which sold weapons to Colonel Gaddafi's Libya.\*

Pat Gaffney of Pax Christi said: "The CofE statement on ethical investment states that its investment bodies do not wish directly to profit from activities that are inconsistent with Christian values. How then is it comfortable to host and accept money from some of the world's biggest arms companies? "

Church House includes the administrative headquarters of the Church Commissioners, the

Archbishops' Council and other parts of the CofE. The Conference Centre is a subsidiary company of the Church House Corporation, whose president is the Archbishop of Canterbury.

Campaigners have been bolstered by confirmation that St Paul's Cathedral "will not accept bookings, or sponsorship of bookings, from any company involved in indiscriminate weaponry or any company that receives more than 10% of revenue from the sale or production of weaponry."

## **Walsingham launches 10 million renovation and expansion appeal**

The national shrine of Walsingham has launched a £10 million appeal to pay for new buildings and to expand its role in the Church.

The shrine, which dates back to the 11th century, is looking for £6 million to spend on upgrading buildings and accommodation. This would pay for a new cloister, refectory, conference and retreat centre, and new accommodation for the disabled.

Another £4 million would be spent on developing the work of the shrine. This would include a livestream of daily Mass and other events by a media centre provisionally called “Walsingham TV”.

Other parts of the plan include a national family pilgrimage and a pilgrimage for young people.

Mgr John Armitage, who became rector of the shrine last December, said: “When I was appointed it became clear to me we needed to improve accommodation and facilities.”

Mgr Armitage said he hoped to provide en suite twin rooms for pilgrims and to build a new cloister for the Slipper Chapel. He said his aim was to raise money from across the globe.

He said: “This is a national shrine, and we’re seeing how we can fund it nationally. But we get groups from all over the world, and in the past week we’ve had Melkites from the Middle East and the ordinariate on the same day, a Punjabi group from the Midlands and a group from the Caribbean.”

Mgr Armitage said the shrine had also received enquiries from the United States from people wishing to help.

Another part of the plan, he said, was to commission a canvas for a series of artworks depicting the history of England through the saints, which would be hung in the cloister.

The shrine hopes to raise the money in the next three years. Anyone wishing to donate should visit [walsingham.org.uk](http://walsingham.org.uk).

## **Dennis the Menace and the punk rock Rector**

A punk rocking Rector is hoping for chart success with the release of his band's new album named after Britain's favourite loveable rogue.

The Revd Philip Chew, who matches his dog collar with a Mohican when he sings on stage, is taking time out from his duties as Rector in Ruthin to launch his band's new album, called Menace, after the cartoon character, Dennis the Menace.

He's also using the time to write a book about his experiences as a priest serving in urban areas.



Punk music for Philip is another way of expressing his faith and engaging with people. His band is called Revisit – partly a play on the words Rev Is It? – and the album Menace is a compilation of songs with a social commentary and Christian undertone.

It will be launched on July 12 on Blackpool Promenade, as Philip and the other band members are all originally from Lancashire.

Philip, 52, who was ordained 17 years ago and has served in North Wales for the past five years in the Diocese of St Asaph, says, “The Album is a compilation of our own songs that we have written, produced and recorded. It is called Menace because a lot of the songs are ‘tongue in cheek’ comments on our own society. ‘Dennis the Menace and Me’ which is the lead single from the album is a typical example. Dennis the Menace is a character that most people from our generation and younger can relate to as a loveable rogue. Besides which our drummer is called Masher as opposed to Gnasher.

## **Media digest**

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<http://www.newsletter.co.uk/fewer-schools-but-ni-still-has-70-000-too-many-places-1-6823110>

## **Bishop ‘who loved man as teen’ backs gay marriage - Scotsman**

A Scottish bishop who has revealed he was once in love with another man as a teenager is calling for ministers to be given the right to marry gay couples.

The Right Reverend Mark Strange, Scottish Episcopal Bishop of Moray, Ross and Caithness, said he had decided to speak out about his own past to prove that “love was love” – whatever the circumstances.

[www.scotsman.com/news/scotland/top-stories/bishop-who-loved-man-as-teen-backs-gay-marriage-1-3811187&z=URRI6CGQU0BAPOPA](http://www.scotsman.com/news/scotland/top-stories/bishop-who-loved-man-as-teen-backs-gay-marriage-1-3811187&z=URRI6CGQU0BAPOPA)

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