



# Created out of tragedy 20 years ago, Irish Youth Choir's celebrates in Nashville church concert

A terrorist bombing 20 years ago in his hometown inspired an Irish man to do something that helped promote peace everywhere he could, Terry Bulger reports from WSMV in Nashville. The Irish choir Darryl Simpson created chose Nashville as the place to celebrate that anniversary 20 hours later.

Simpson grew up in a small Irish town with a population around 20,000.

An IRA terrorist attack killed 29 of his neighbors.

The horror of that prompted him to do the only thing he knew how - sing.

Behind the swimming pool at their Nashville vacation hotel, 40 teenagers from Ireland rehearsed, on tour promoting peace and reconciliation.

"Our hometown had the worst terrorist atrocity of the troubles in Northern Ireland 20 years ago," said Simpson.

Simpson created a choir to dilute that ugly attack with beautiful.

"When people hear the choir, they just smile and enjoy and embrace what's going on in front of them," said Simpson.

Past trips included singing in New York, Washington, DC, Chicago and New Orleans.

"The next natural step for me was Nashville because it's Music City," said Simpson.

They're all Euros, but they can quickly convert to Cash, Johnny that is.

The Irish Choir is made up of Protestants and Catholics. It plays on Friday at the Lindsley Avenue Church of Christ, on Saturday at the Old School Farm to Table Restaurant and

Sunday morning's church service at Unity of Nashville on Franklin Pike. It's a donation-optional event.

Listen to the choir at - http://www.wsmv.com/story/ 38754593/created-out-of-tragedy-irish-choir-celebrates-20years

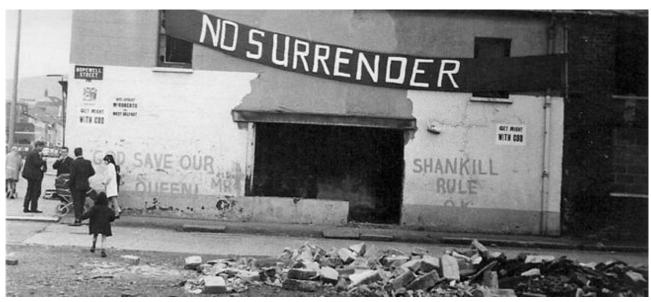
## Probe over Quaker charity donations to terror-linked group

The Charity Commission has demanded answers from the Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust after it was reported the Quaker group gave £275,000 to a group linked to a banned terrorist organisation in Northern Ireland.

According to the Times, the regulator is investigating the claim that the trust gave the funds to Teach Na Failte, which supports prisoners and ex-offenders but was also founded by the Irish Republican Socialist Party - the political wing of the Irish National Liberation Army (INLA).

The Charity Commission on Friday ordered the York-based trust to "explain and justify" why it gave funding to a group whose offices were raided this year by anti-terrorism police investigating sex-trafficking, violent intimidation and "paramilitary-style attacks".

The INLA was formed in 1974 during the Northern Ireland conflict and has been linked with bombings and shootings in Northern Ireland and London, including the killing of shadow Northern Ireland secretary Airey Neave in Westminster in 1979.



The Times reported that the Rowntree charity has been giving money to the unregistered charity Teach na Failte since 2014.

A spokesperson for the Rowntree trust told the newspaper it "rejected all violence" and supports "equality, rights and reconciliation". The spokesperson also defended providing funds to Teach na Failte because it was "committed to non-violence".

They went on to describe Teach na Failte as a "support group for prisoners and ex-prisoners" who were associated with the INLA, which declared the end of its armed campaign back in 2009.

## Graveyards move into digital age in Mountnugent area

Sean McMahon of the The Anglo-Celt reports on an interchurch community initiative - Those going in search of their ancestors in the Mountnugent area will find the task much



The details on the gravestones in Mountnugent have been stored digitally.

easier, courtesy of a cross-community project that has digitised the location and detail on the headstones in all three graveyards in the parish of Mountnugent/Ballinacree.

The information relating to Kilbride, Killeagh and St Bride's Church of Ireland in Mountnugent village is now available online at <u>graveyards.ie</u>. Numbers appear before all the names on the database and these correspond to a specific plot on a map of the graveyard.

The information board also features the maps and some relevant historical information. The actual digitisation was carried by a firm called Irish Graveyards with Michael Durkin at the helm in County Mayo.

Richard Moeran was one of those on the committee. He said that they examined the records from St Bride's Church of Ireland in the village going back 150 years and these were transcribed.

"I must say that the funding has, from a community perspective, brought all churches together on a similar project," he said, adding that everyone has learned something about the history of their own community in the process.

Mr Moeran further explained that there is a crypt in the graveyard at St Bride's Church and it contains Nugent family members going back around 200 years. Sir Oliver Nugent who commanded the Ulster Division in World War 1 and was the longest serving general in World War 1. He is buried beside the church. The graveyard dates back to the year 1804.

Another member of the group is Richard Kilroy, the Church of Ireland Warden for the Parish. He told *The Anglo-Celt* that his particular interest was Killeagh Mixed Graveyard and members of his family are buried there. He is hopeful that the exercise can be repeated in other parishes across the county and nationwide. He pointed out that Killeagh graveyard was overgrown with briars some years ago and a lot of people have worked hard in the interim to put it right.

Tess Brady told *The Anglo-Celt* that it was a wonderful being involved with such lovely project and commended Seamus and Bernard Smith who did Trojan work in the Kilbride graveyard to unearth what was written on the various headstones.

Noel Connell said that funding was provided by Cavan County Council to assist the project, while the local community also did a lot of fundraising for the initiative.

Meath County Council also came on board and provided funding for various aspects of the project in the Killeagh graveyard, including the sign, work on the trees and for the future restoration of the gate.

Seamus Smith told The Anglo-Celt that there was a derelict church in Kilbride in 1609.

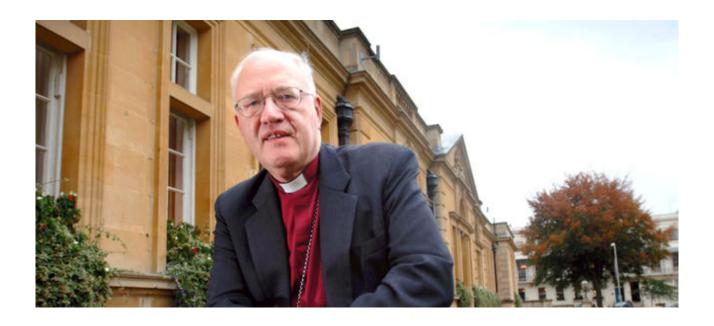
He added that, in 1539, the agents of Henry 8th took over the Abbey in Kells and a lot of the lands. They then gave the lands to a man called Gerard Fleming who was based in Cabra, the old name for Kingscourt. It was Fleming who donated the book of Kells to Trinity Collage.

The earliest headstone in the Killbride Graveyard is 1729 and the earliest headstone in Killeagh is 1709.

"In Killeagh there were three churches – a Catholic one which was taken over in 1539 and was knocked in the mid 1600s and then re-built; then the Protestant church was built there in the early 1800s," said Mr Smith. It is understood that it was closed for worship around 1939 and was later demolished.

Richard Kilroy says that the Church of Ireland section of the graveyard in Killeagh is still being used for burials.

### Allowing former Archbishop of Canterbury back to ministry 'further distressed abuse victims'



The decision to return Lord Carey, who was criticised over his handling of the case of a disgraced bishop, to ministry is regrettable and has caused abuse victims further distress, the Church of England's safeguarding lead has said.

Lord Carey, former archbishop of Canterbury, resigned as honorary assistant bishop in the Diocese of Oxford after a damning review last year found that senior Church of England officials colluded with Peter Ball, who abused young men.

Bishop Peter Hancock, the Church of England's lead safeguarding bishop, said he was not consulted on the decision to grant Lord Carey Permission to Officiate (PTO) - allowing him to preach and give communion in his

ownchurch - earlier this year, and would have advised against it.

He told BBC Radio 4 programme Sunday: "My understanding is the national safeguarding team were not consulted, I'm sure that's right.

"I think both I and the national safeguarding team would have advised that that was not the right action to take."

He added: "I regret it (the decision to grant the PTO) not because I want to intervene in matters that relate to another diocese, but just because what I hear from those I speak to, which are the victims, the survivors, those who are particularly troubled by thechurch's actions, that see this, perceive this and believe this to be something which has caused them more distress and it's for that reason particularly."

Ball, who was the subject of a five-day case study last week by the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse (IICSA), was jailed in 2015 for sexually abusing 18 young men over three decades.

Lord Carey told the IICSA the church had failed Ball's victims, saying that during his tenure the "cumbersome" institution was sometimes "behind the curve" when it came to addressing allegations of abuse.

On Friday, Bishop of Oxford Dr Steven Croft, who granted the PTO, said he will be reviewing the decision with Lord Carey in light of the inquiry's latest hearings.

