



**Jonathan Pryke is listed as a senior minister at Jesmond Parish Church**

## **Church of England investigates appointment of rogue bishop in sign of conservative breakaway**

The Church of England is investigating a rogue conservative cleric in Newcastle who has been consecrated a bishop without permission.

Rev Jonathan Pryke's ordination is a sign of a traditionalist faction splintering from the main CofE with evangelical churches being given the option of pledging allegiance to the new breakaway movement.

A senior minister at Jesmond Parish Church, Pryke was consecrated by a bishop from the deeply conservative Reformed Evangelical Anglican Church of South Africa in a special service last Tuesday.

The move caught Church officials by surprise and the Bishop of Newcastle is looking into what happened.

Motivated by fears of a liberalising trend within the CofE over sexuality, one conservative grouping, GAFCON UK, are threatening to plant a 'missionary bishop' to oversee evangelical parishes in the UK.

But Pryke's appointment appears to be something different with GAFCON's head, Archbishop Peter Jensen, denying they were responsible.

'This is not exactly parallel to the GAFCON initiative, and indeed is entirely independent of it.

But it does show, I think, that the situation in England is becoming very difficult for those who want to hold the traditional and biblical view,' he told [Anglican.Ink](http://Anglican.Ink).

Pryke is a member of Anglican Mission in England – another conservative breakaway movement – but his consecration as bishop was not under their authority.

'We can confirm that the consecration of the Revd Jonathan Pryke was a gospel decision taken independently of AMiE. His consecration was never discussed at our Executive meetings,' a statement read.

'Jonathan is a valued member of the AMiE Exec and we are thankful to God for his abundant gifts and wisdom. We will be praying for him in this new season of his ministry.'

Details of the consecration have yet to be made public but Jesmond Parish Church has long been antagonistic to the wider CofE body.

Long running disputes over homosexuality led to fall outs with previous Bishops of Newcastle and they are declared as in 'impaired communion', with their official Church superiors.



## **Methodist President, we are becoming an ageing and decreasing church**

In his last President's Letter to be published in the June issue of the *Methodist Newsletter*, the President, the Rev Bill Mullally said that his

travelling round Ireland during his presidential year gave him a 'helicopter' view of the Connexion that allowed him to truly think about the Church as a whole and the way that it functions.

“In his opinion we are becoming an ageing and decreasing church. We are practising a 19<sup>th</sup> century model of worship and service.

“We have been protective of old structures. We have been investing too much in our buildings.

“We have over-emphasised the fellowship within rather than the mission without. He was left wondering, what would Jesus think of the Church we have created and how well does this fit with his mission to the world?

“However, his prayer for the Church is that we will not lose hope and we will remember that Jesus is the founder and perfecter of our faith.

“The Church will never die because it is Christ's Church and we are encouraged.

“The President was not calling for change for the sake of change but transformation for the sake of Christ,” the Magazine comments.

## Wide range of church activities and views in May issue of Presbyterian Herald

This month's cover story reflects a subject that is very much on the radar at the moment, dementia. In her article 'Dementia & faith', Suzanne Hamilton looks at the difficulties that a fading mind causes for those living with the condition, as well as their carers. She also explores the challenge that this presents to the Church, of how to support those living with dementia and their families.

Continuing this theme, in 'My story...Deep memories', Niall Lockhart reveals the heartache of watching a loved one suffer from dementia. He describes the journey with his dad: "Amidst his confusion there are moments when the fog clears and his deep memories of what it means to be in Christ tell him that this stretch of the journey is not the end."

'A safe space in Ards' is this month's congregational story. Karen Glass, a member of Regent Street Presbyterian, recounts how the congregation is reaching out to young people in Newtownards. Since September 2015 the church has been running Safe Space, a drop-in

centre for any year eight students (or first formers if you're of a certain age!) attending school in the town or returning home to Newtownards from schools further away.

The congregation's mission is 'Living and sharing God's Good News', so with the support of the kirk session, Safe Space was agreed as part of this community outreach plan.

Amy Chambers, Youth Support Worker, describes the impact of Safe Space, "...These young people may have little or no connection or relationship with the church, but through Safe Space we have seen growth in our relationship with them, with their families and the wider community... We have been able to show a different side of the church."

Throughout 2017 the fifth and final 'Fit for Purpose' theme, 'a community of global concern' has unfolded and been welcomed by the Church. In 'Envisioned. Equipped. Engaged.' Mark Welsh asks where that journey of reflection has taken us in the past year – in particular, what has our own personal and our congregation's missional journeys been like?

Have you heard of the 'Billy Graham rule'? In 'Tea for two' Ruth Sanderson explores what this rule is and how she feels about what it suggests



**Faith &  
a fading mind**

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<b>IS THE REFORMATION STILL RELEVANT?</b> Thoughts on the 500th anniversary	<b>TEA FOR TWO</b> Is the 'Billy Graham rule' a good thing?	<b>DISCIPLES AND THEIR HOBBIES</b> Faith in relation to recreational activities
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and the possible implications – concluding that if we all follow Christ's example then there is no need for 'the rule'.

Mission Connect for May offers mission news from Sadie McCullough, deaconess in Whiteabbey; Laura Mulligan serving in Spain; and Naomi Keefe serving in Brazil. We also hear from Ken Doherty, chaplain at the Mater Hospital; Linzie Cobain, Nightlight team leader based along the Golden Mile in Belfast; and Charlotte du Toit who is a member of Fermoy



Presbyterian Church. A daily prayer diary, covering various aspects of the work of the Church, is also provided as a guide for our prayers for the month.

In this month's Talking Point entitled 'Stateside views', Norman Hamilton reflects on a recent trip he made to Washington DC and shares some American opinions on politics in Ireland, north and south.

'Disciples and their hobbies' is the title of an article by Andrew Conway, in which he discusses how our faith should impact our recreational lives. He reminds us that as God rested on the seventh day, Scripture clearly shows us that we need rest as part of our regular pattern, and for many of us part of this rest will be a leisure pursuit. Furthermore, Andrew highlights the indirect mission potential in our hobbies.

"Woodwork has brought me in touch with some people I might not otherwise know and given me some opportunity to be the aroma of Christ around them," he said.

Last month the Herald recounted the story of Katharina von Bora, whose marriage to Martin Luther made her a significant figure in the Reformation. This month in 'Relevant?',

Jonathan Boyd looks at how the Reformation has established and shaped church as we know it today.

In August this year, PCI's Special Assembly, 'Everyday disciples', will take place at Ulster University in Coleraine. Lisa Skinner had the opportunity to chat to Randy Pope, who will be one of the keynote speakers at the event, and to ask him about discipleship – what it means and why it's important.

PCI missionaries in Nepal, Peter and Valerie Lockwood and Stephen and Laura Coulter, reflect on how the devastating earthquake that hit the country two years ago has affected their work and the country itself in 'Nepal two years on...'. .

The Herald also brings our regular and popular columns: 'As I see it...' with Peter Lynas, and 'Life Lessons' with Rev. Eric Borland, minister emeritus of Burnside Presbyterian. We also have Betsy Cameron's reflection in 'Many voices' and 'Let your light shine' by Arthur Clarke.

The letters, news and 'Life in PCI' pages are also there to be enjoyed, and for some reading and viewing suggestions, why not turn to the reviews pages? And for those attending the General Assembly this year, you can find information on

the programme for the week on page 12 and on the PCI website: [www.presbyterianireland.org/generalassembly2017](http://www.presbyterianireland.org/generalassembly2017)

## **New editor of the Church of Ireland Gazette**

The Revd Earl Storey is to be the new editor of the Church of Ireland Gazette, the weekly independent paper. On 1 June he will succeed the Revd Canon Dr Ian Ellis who is stepping down from his sixteen-year tenure with the Gazette.

The Chairman of Church of Ireland Press Ltd, the Revd Canon John R Auchmuty, said: “I am delighted to welcome the Revd Earl Storey as the new Editor of the *Gazette*. He brings many personal, professional, and spiritual gifts along with immense experience of our church in both jurisdictions to the *Gazette* as Editor.

“The *Gazette* has an important role to keep our church family connected one to another and now needs to explore new ways to provide support, blessing and encouragement to its current readers and new subscribers through its pages. The Revd Earl Storey brings both a fresh

vision and enthusiasm to the *Gazette* and I wish him God's richest blessing in his work.”

The Revd Earl Storey was ordained in 1982 and has served as Rector in parishes in Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland. He is the husband of the Most Rev Pat Storey, Bishop of Meath and Kildare who is also chairperson of the C of I Communications board.

## Morning of prayer in Belfast

A morning of prayer for Divine Healing Ministries will be held in Townsend Street on Friday, May 12 (10am–1pm).

Most of the prayer will be in silence, with topics being displayed on the wall.

David Jardine of Divine Healing Ministries said: “I have always found these silent times of prayer very powerful, with a deep sense of peace in the prayer room.

“You are invited to join us for at least part of the prayer time. And if you live too far away and are not able to be there, maybe you could still say a prayer for DHM on Friday?  
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Hospitality will be provided throughout the morning.

## **Parish history of Donegore re-published**

A new edition of A History of St John's Church, Donegore, in Connor diocese, by Margaret Bell has just been published.

Mrs Bell, a long time parishioner of Templepatrick and Donegore and former Churchwarden of St John's, has completed an update to the book that she first produced in 1988.

This new edition brings the story of St John's up-to-date and also, as all copies of the previous edition had sold out, allows the story to be shared with a new generation of regular worshippers in St John's.

Many visitors to St John's are also interested to learn more about the church as they are struck by its beauty and distinctive spirituality. The history of St John's is also of interest to local historians who believe the Christian history of Donegore goes right back to the 6th century and the spiritual history goes back even further.

The book was launched at the parish's regular Community Soup and Cheese Lunch during Holy Week and was attended by Margaret's family and others with an interest in the history of St John's.

The Rev Andrew Ker, rector of the parish, spoke of how the book came from Margaret's deep love for St John's. "My hope is that through the pages of this new edition those who worship there now, and many others, will find a deeper connection with the place where they connect with God," Andrew said.

Copies of the book are priced at £7.50 and are available from The Book Well (<http://thebookwell.co.uk/donegore>) or from the Templepatrick and Donegore Parish Office, 926 Belfast Road, Templepatrick, Ballyclare, BT39 0AT.

## **New rector installed for Clogher group of parishes**

The institution of the Revd Colin McConaghie, as Rector of the Grouped Parishes of Carrickmacross, Magheracloone and Ardragh in Co. Monaghan took place on Friday, 28th April

by the Bishop of Clogher, the Rt Revd John McDowell, in St. Finbarr's Parish Church.

The Revd Colin McConaghie, originally from Lurgan, had been serving as Curate-Assistant in the Dunboyne Group of Parishes in the United Diocese of Meath and Kildare.

Prior to his ordination, Revd McConaghie worked for Craigavon Borough Council for many years, latterly at Oxford Island Nature Reserve where he was in charge of educational visits and events with event management being his background.

He was ordained Deacon in 2011 and served in his year as Deacon Intern in Seagoe Parish, Portadown in the Diocese of Down and Dromore.

He was appointed Curate to Drumglass Parish, Dungannon, in Armagh Diocese in 2012 before moving to become Curate in Dunboyne and Rathmolyon Group of Parishes in Meath and Kildare Diocese in 2014.

The Bible readings during the service were by Margaret Babington, Gina Breaden and George Merrin. The Revd McConaghie was presented to the Bishop by the Archdeacon of Clogher, the Venerable Brian Harper.

Hymns during the service included: “Guide me, O thou great Jehovah,” “Here is love vast as the ocean,” “Jesus, all for Jesus,” “Lord, you give the great commission,” “Faithful One, so unchanging,” “Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord!” and “Lead us, heavenly Father, lead us.”

The congregation joined the new Rector and other clergy for refreshments in the Jackson Memorial Hall after the service. Revd McConaghie, looking ahead to ministry in his new group of parishes as Rector, said: “My passion in ministry would include prayer, building of relationships in church and community, children’s and youth ministry, social outreach and pastoral.”

## **Archbishop of Canterbury denies endorsing Tory mantra**

The Archbishops of Canterbury and York has denied claims his letter to Church of England clergy and parishes over the weekend was an endorsement of Tory mantra.

Most Rev Justin Welby and the archbishop of York, Dr John Sentamu's note called on



Christians to set aside "apathy and cynicism" and draw new inspiration from the ancient Christian virtues of "love, trust and hope" during this election period.

Rev Welby said "stability" should be a key reference point when people considered how to vote, which worried some clergy and other Christians who feel the word has become synonymous with the Conservative leader Theresa May.

Speaking to the Guardian and Christian Today, Rev Welby said: "Was the letter a shift to the right? Absolutely not."

He added that the word stability had been a watchword of Christianity for centuries and the use of it should not be limited to a political campaign.

In an open letter to the Archbishops, signed by Rev Al Barrett, the clergy say the connotations are too strong to ignore.

"We appreciate the word's Benedictine roots, and the critical contemporary challenge of 'living well with change'.

"However, words also acquire meaning from their common usage in the present, and it is impossible to escape the fact that the leader of one of the major political parties competing in this General Election has used the phrase "strong and stable" almost as a mantra throughout the election campaign thus far.

"For your pastoral letter to focus so positively on such a politically freighted word seems to us, at best, as a case of desperate political naivety, and at worst, an implicit endorsement of one party in this election."

## **Pope Francis to make acting debut in Christian film**

Pope Francis can now add 'actor' to his CV.

He has a cameo and plays himself in a new religious-themed feature film called *Beyond The Sun*.

It's about four young children from different cultures trying to following teachings of Christ. The project be launched at the Cannes Film Festival on the 17 May.



The producers said this is the first time in the history of the Roman Catholic Church that a Pope has agreed to play a cameo role in a film.

They also said Francis inspired by the move. He reportedly asked producers to make a movie with the purpose of communicating the message of the Gospels to youth.

Andrea Iervolino, one of the co-founders of AMBI Pictures, the company which made the film, told The Telegraph: “Our excitement and gratitude toward His Holiness, Pope Francis, participating in this film is beyond words.

“This is not just a movie for us, it’s a message, and who better to have on your side to deliver an important societal and spiritual message than the Pope.

“We are honoured and inspired by the level of collaboration from the Vatican.”

According to The Telegraph, profits from the film will be donated to two charities in Argentina that help disadvantaged children.

## Today in Christian History, May 10

**May 10, 1310:** In Paris, 54 Knights Templar are burned alive. The catholic church created the Templars to protect Holy Land pilgrims from bandits, but the knights' quick rise in power and wealth made them unpopular. Philip the Fair of France hit them with trumped up charges of blasphemy and homosexuality to convince Pope Clement to disband the order and persecute its members.

**May 10, 1886:** Karl Barth, the most important theologian of the twentieth century and opponent of theological liberalism and political fascism (especially under Hitler), is born in Basel, Switzerland. When asked in 1962 (on his one visit to America) how he would summarise the essence of the millions of words he had published, he replied, "Jesus loves me. This I know, for the Bible tells me so"

## See this week's events diary on CNI

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