



## Salvation Army under investigation by the Charity Commission

The Salvation Army is facing a probe by the charity regulator after it failed to pay bills worth thousands of pounds to suppliers on time.

The Charity Commission is investigating the Christian organisation after a digital accounting system introduced in April couldn't punctually process payments.

A Salvation Army spokesman told the Mail on Sunday: "We want to take this opportunity to unreservedly apologise for the delay in some of

our suppliers receiving payment for invoices and the added pressure this has had on some of our officers and staff."

A source from the Salvation Army told the newspaper workers had received hundreds of court demands and final pay demands because the unpaid bills were in their names - despite it being the charity's responsibility to pay them.

She reported: "Red letters are arriving every day. The officers are being pushed to the edge by the sheer stress of the situation.

"Some are so fed up with the financial pressure they are being put under that they even are thinking of leaving the Salvation Army."

The Charity Commission said it had been alerted to a "serious incident" and would investigate in order to establish whether regulatory advice or "other action" was required.

In a leaked email sent to workers last month, Salvation Army trustee Lieutenant-Colonel Alan Read apologised, adding he was "horrified" to learn of disruption caused by the new accounting system.

The Salvation Army spokesman continued: "We recognise that as we strive for stringent accounting processes across the country, there have been issues that have slowed us down but we remain committed to accountability and fair business and we want to reassure people that we are taking all actions necessary to ensure smooth operations going forward."

Lieut-Col Read also revealed two senior Salvation Army finance officers had resigned on 11th August.

In the UK and the Republic of Ireland, the Salvation Army has 50,000 members, 4,000 employees and 1,000 officers (full-time ministers).

## **Cork bishop 'deeply shocked' at death of homeless woman near his home**

The Church of Ireland Bishop of Cork said last Friday that he is "deeply shocked" at the death of a young homeless woman in Cork not far from St Fin Barre's Cathedral, in the neighbourhood in which he lives.

The woman in her 30s is the third homeless person to have died last week alone.

Right Reverend Dr Paul Colton, said that the death has challenged the foundations of our society, highlighting the wider issue of homelessness in Ireland.

"We are all deeply aware of the complex challenges of homelessness in our community and country. Somehow, that this death has happened near the very place where our city of Cork was founded, seems, in its own symbolic way, to strike at, and to challenge, the emotional and moral foundations of our society," he said.

"In spite of the fact that our very small Church of Ireland community in Cork has its own housing projects, and that we work in partnership with and support of those who have the greatest insights and experience in this area, it is clear that more needs to be done and that across many sectors of society we need to pool our efforts," he added.

The woman was discovered in Gilabbey Park in the south west of Cork city at around 2am on yesterday.

Cork North-Central TD Mick Barry has said the Dáil should be recalled early to tackle the issue.



**Tents pitched at Gillabbey Park, off Connaught Avenue, near UCC where a woman was found dead.**

A 30-year-old man was found dead last week under the old taxation office in Chancery St in Dublin.

On Thursday, a mother of two was found dead in a hotel room in Co Kildare.

The 26-year-old woman, who was from the south Dublin area, had been living in the hotel with her two children.

A spokesperson for Dublin City Council expressed their condolences before adding that

the woman had been offered permanent social housing recently.

Gardaí have said that they are not treating her death as suspicious.

The Irish Examiner have reported that the government is to convene an emergency housing summit next week in the wake of the deaths of homeless people.

## **Investigation needed into HSE plans to exclude C of I from community hospital, Donegal Councillor**

A Donegal Councillor has said that there should be an investigation into HSE plans to exclude the Church of Ireland from new plans at St Joseph's Hospital, Stranorlar, reports Donegal Now.

Cllr, Patrick McGowan, has said that an investigation must be held after the news that Rev Adam Pullen hadn't received information that the HSE had excluded Church of Ireland services in the new plan for the hospital.



Cllr McGowan said “Following Rev Pullen and Fr. John Joe Duffy questioning the HSE today on radio, it is time for this whole sorrow saga to be investigated by an independent investigator.

“We need to get the whole truth. No one has any confidence in the HSE or Government the way they are spinning everything.

“I believe it is time for people to take to the streets and let the HSE, Government spokespersons know that their handling of St Joseph’s Hospital long term future is nothing short of disgraceful.”

Cllr McGowan added “Where has the Minister of Health been hiding while his Ministers of State have been issuing statements in the Dail over the

last two years, they were at the same time stating the opposite to the media in Donegal.”

“The public in Donegal are being treated with contempt whether it is the constant problems facing University Hospital in Letterkenny or local Community hospitals like St Joseph’s,” concluded Stranorlar area Councillor Patrick McGowan.

## **Money Course for students in Belfast church**

The CAP Money Student Course is being facilitated by East & South Belfast churches. It is being held on 6–7 September at Willowfield Parish Church Halls, 290 Woodstock Road, Belfast. It begins at 7.30pm and ends at 9.00pm.

CAP (Christians Against Poverty) Centre Manager, James Myles, writes introducing the CAP Money Student Course -

The transition from school to university can be one of the most challenging any young person will face in their lives, especially when it comes to them realising that they now have financial independence. Shifting from managing weekly ‘pocket money’ to handling lump sums in their





**CAP (Christians Against Poverty) Centre  
Manager, James Myles**

thousands would be a challenge for anyone, never mind a student. The CAP Money Student Course is designed to help with that transition.

The CAP Money Course is a money management course that teaches budgeting skills and a simple, cash-based money system that really works. Students face one of the biggest budgeting challenges out there: an irregular income of termly loans/grants, long summer holidays with no guaranteed income,

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**Starting:** Wed 6 - Thu 7 September 2017  
**Time:** 7.30pm - 9.30pm

**Venue:** Willowfield Church Hall, 290 Woodstock Road, Belfast

**Book by calling:** James on 07599 379839 or login to capmoney.org  
**Run by:** Local CAP Money Centres, for those starting university/college in Sep/Oct 2017

capmoneycourse.org

house and bills sharing, negotiating student loans and overdrafts. There are also a lot of temptations vying to help part them from their money.

The CAP Money Student Course is a short and practical course that will help students keep control of their finances while they are at university. It teaches the CAP Money

Management System alongside vital information about student debt. It also provides information on choosing the best student bank account, how to work out and live on a budget, reducing expenditure, cost-saving tips and planning for the future. Those who attend the course also get access to the invaluable on-line CAP budgeting system, which will enable them to manage their finances and flag up any potential dangers for the duration of their student lives.

This is the second year the course has been run in the Diocese. Some comments from those who have attended the course before include:

*“The nicest part of learning the CAP Money course is that I finally feel like I am in control of the money rather than it being in control of me. The three account system made it so much easier to work out what was going on, and because of it, I have been able to half my student loan!” – (N)*

*“The best thing about the CAP Money Course is the ease of which it will help me to keep track of where my money is going; this will enable me to manage my money which is vital when you are a student!” (L)*

*“The course has encouraged me to assess my finances more honestly. The CAP budgeting*

*system will be invaluable in the years to come.” (P)*

*From a parent: “It was the best thing my daughter did before going to Uni. She even has money left after her first year!” (E)*

The CAP Money Student Course is being facilitated by East & South Belfast churches. It is being held on 6–7 September at Willowfield Parish Church Halls, 290 Woodstock Road, Belfast. It begins at 7.30pm and ends at 9.00pm.

It is important that those attending are available for both evenings. To register please log into: “[www.capmoney.org](http://www.capmoney.org)” select “UK” & input postcode “BT6 8PR”. The course is FREE.

For further information, please contact: James Myles: [jamesmyles@capuk.org](mailto:jamesmyles@capuk.org) or 07880 874965

## **Samaritans Belfast are looking for volunteers**

Samaritans are looking for volunteers for a range of roles. The service offers round-the-clock emotional support for anyone feeling down, depressed, anxious or unhappy.

The confidential service is offered by phone, email, text, letter and face-to- face.

The branch is holding two information events in its **Belfast centre** on Monday, September 4 at 2pm and on Wednesday, September 6 at 7pm to encourage anyone interested in becoming a Samaritan listening or support volunteer.

Sue Cunningham, Director of Recruitment in Belfast branch said: “There are a wide range of roles available to suit people with different skills - from taking calls to our helpline, to providing administrative and IT support or organising fundraising activities for the branch.

“By working together to support people struggling to cope, our branch is a rewarding place to spend your time, as not only do we offer expert training but there are plenty of social activities too!”

## **C of I ordinations in four dioceses yesterday**

Yesterday afternoon in St Columb’s cathedral, Londonderry, the Bishop of Derry & Raphoe ordained Derek Harrington and Stuart Reid to

the diaconate to serve in the parishes of Castlederg and Faughanvale respectively.

The Bishop of Down & Dromore held a service of ordination in Ballyholme parish church where Andrew Irwin for the parish of Donaghcloney, Maithre White–Dundas for Ballyholme and William Jeffrey for Carryduff, were made deacons.

In St Macartan’s cathedral, Clogher, Lindsey Farrell and David Moses will be ordained to the diaconate by the Bishop of Clogher to serve in the parishes of Rossory and Monaghan respectively.

All will serve as deacons intern for a year during which time they will work in parishes and continue with studies in the Church of Ireland Theological College, where their principal task will be the production of a dissertation.

In St Fethlimidh’s cathedral the Bishop of Kilmore ordained the Revd Richard Beadle, the Revd Richard Waller and the Revd Simon Scott to the priesthood. They will serve as curates to the bishop in the Cloonclare, Kildallon and Kildrumferton groups of parishes respectively.

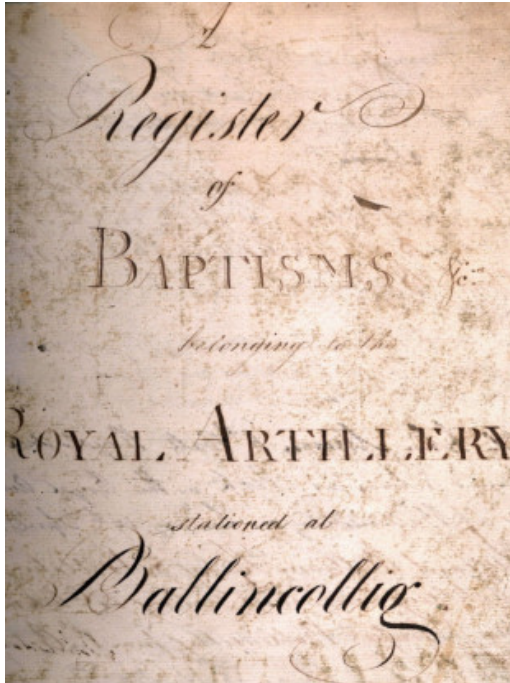
## How a century's worth of stories from a Cork community made it online

A notorious escape artist, a young man who drowned trying to impress his mates, and the odd deserter or two – all of these stories from a British military garrison chapel in Ballincollig, Co Cork, during the 1800s and early-1900s are now available online.

The [latest archive of the month](#) on the Church of Ireland website, Ballincollig Military Men & Their Families 1810-1922 features records of 2,187 people – soldiers and their families – that were painstakingly transcribed over the past few years.

Doing that work was local historian Anne Donaldson, who told *TheJournal.ie* that it was an “amazingly hard task”.

“I started doing it before all this information was available on the internet,” she said. “Before then it was almost impossible, but it was still hard to do with it. It’s like climbing Everest. If you want to do it, you’ll just go for it.”



This Himalayan effort involved poring through thousands of records of baptisms, burials and marriages, and then using primary sources to link up and tell the stories of the people involved, over the course of 112 years.

“Take Private Elstob Dryden, or Cavalry Jack Shepherd as they called him,” she said. “He was a notorious escape artist, who was stationed there in 1948.

There was a lot of desertion at the time but he was always escaping from custody. He was



forever rolling out another ruse – picking locks, putting stones in locks. He'd be getting brought from one barracks to another, and then disappear along the way. The enthusiastic Donaldson said that the development of Ballincollig was tied up with the army barracks there during the 19th century.

“Ballincollig is now very much a modern town around six miles from Cork city,” she said. “But in the 1700s it was a very rural place. When they started making gunpowder in the latter part of the century, the army came in and stuck around.”

So what was it like for the people who came to live at the barracks in Ballincollig?

“These poor divils were coming to live in horrible conditions very far from home,” the local historian said. “It was a very sociable area to be sure, but there were an awful lot of avoidable deaths.”

A high infant mortality rate and an excessive number of people being drowned were features identified by Donaldson as she was transcribing the histories and learning more about each person.

She said: “There was one group of fellas that came down. Soldiers – all of them were fairly new.

They went down to the Hell Hole – you won’t find that on any map but it’s a spot down by the river there. There was one who couldn’t swim, and they were all saying ‘jump in, jump in’. So he did. One of the others tried to jump in to save him, but they couldn’t. Anne is pleased to have been able to get the data online, and hopes people will use it to discover bits about their past they may not have known about.

“There’s such a rich history here. I’m glad I was able to tell these stories,” she said.

Coinciding with the publication of Donaldson’s Ballincollig records, the Church of Ireland is launching a new parish centre on the site of one of the old gun stores in the town. “All of these lads came over,” she added. “They may have been to war, they have been about to head to war. It must have been horrible.”

## **Down and Dromore Bible Week struck a celebratory note**

The final night of the Down and Dromore Bible Week struck a celebratory note as the event finished on the glorious words of Romans 8.

It was the culmination of four nights of excellent teaching by Greg Venables, Bishop of Argentina and Primate of South America.

Bishop Greg's short series in Romans chapters 5–8 had the title, *Accept No Imitations*, and that message came through loud and clear. He urged listeners to base their lives on the reality of what God has done in Christ as revealed through the Word of God.

It was a message for the church, when members fail to read, study, believe and obey the Bible. Relativism and pluralism, he contended, would not see members through dark days, nor give any lasting joy. They are poor imitations of the gospel truth so powerfully described in Paul's Letter to the Romans.

Bishop Greg was accompanied by Sylvia, his wife of 47 years and they have spent almost 40 of those years as missionaries in South America. Sylvia had an opportunity each night to share how they had lived that gospel truth through some difficult experiences, including being robbed at knife point in their home in 2014.

Concluding, Bishop Greg stressed that God is about mission. We are secure; we are renewed; we are in Christ and not under the law. It's done.

“Now,” he said, “the only thing that matters is if we get out there and do something. Be salt and light. God has no plan B!”

## Lidl cross removal angers shoppers

Lidl has digitally removed crosses on top of an iconic Greek church from its food packaging, causing a stir among some shoppers.



The German supermarket giant erased the symbols on the roof of the Greek Orthodox building in Santorini from products in its own-label Greek food range.

The frozen ready meal is part of Lidl's Eirdanous collection of Greek food which also includes meatballs and Greek style yoghurt.

Eirdanous has been on sale in stores across Europe for more than ten years and marketing designs have undergone a number of changes in that time.



In a statement, Lidl UK commented "We are extremely sorry for any offence caused by the most recent artwork and would like to reassure our customers that this is not an intentional statement."

Concern was raised last week when a shopper noticed the edited image on a pack of moussaka in Belgium. The lady contacted RTL, a French-language television station, to express her anger.

Research by Premier has revealed the distorted image has appeared on products available in the UK, including Eirdanous Halloumi with Basil. The image was additionally found on a three-litre Lidl container of olive oil in Germany.

One Twitter user reacted: "I find the removal of the cross offensive", while another asked: "Why use churches if you take away the cross? Idiomatic!"

A third Twitter user asked: "Lidl, since when is a picture of a Greek church provocative or disturbing? It only becomes that if you erase the cross!"

The firm signalled a willingness to bow to customer concerns, saying: "We will ensure that all feedback is taken into consideration when redesigning future packaging."

One of the Cyclades islands in the Aegean Sea, Santorini's blue-domed churches are among the key factors behind its popularity among tourists. Hundreds of thousands of people visit each year.

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