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## Child abuse report on former bishop is harrowing reading, Archbishop Welby



### Peter Ball, abuser and former bishop

The Archbishop of Canterbury has issued an unreserved apology after admitting the Church of England colluded and concealed the abuse committed by Bishop Peter Ball.

The Archbishop was responding to *An Abuse of Faith: The Independent Peter Ball Review*.

June 23

He said, “*Abuse of Faith* makes harrowing reading: the church colluded and concealed rather than seeking to help those who were brave enough to come forward. This is inexcusable and shocking behavior, and although Dame Moira notes that most of the events took place many years ago, and does not think that the church now would conduct itself in the ways described, we can never be complacent, we must learn lessons.

“I fully endorse the recommendations in the report and will ensure that the House of Bishops addresses how we can implement these as soon as possible, working with the National Safeguarding Team. For the survivors who were brave enough to share their story and bring Peter Ball to justice, I once again offer an unreserved apology. There are no excuses whatsoever for what took place and the systemic abuse of trust perpetrated by Peter Ball over decades.”

The report criticised former archbishops Carey and Williams to varying degrees. Lord Carey has issued a personal statement. He has been asked to stand down from episcopal duties.

The review was launched after Ball was sentenced in 2015 to 32 months' in prison after

June 23

admitting the abuse of 18 children between 1977 and 1992.

He was released from prison earlier this year having served half his sentence.

The review by Dame Moira Gibb found the Church failed to respond appropriately while the Archbishop of Canterbury at the time, Lord Carey, didn't listen to survivors of abuse.

In her foreword, Dame Moira said: "This report considers the serious sexual wrongdoing of Peter Ball, a bishop of the Church of England who abused many boys and men over a period of twenty years or more.

"That is shocking in itself but is compounded by the failure of the Church to respond appropriately to his misconduct, again over a period of many years.

"Ball's priority was to protect and promote himself and he maligned the abused. The Church colluded with that rather than seeking to help those he had harmed, or assuring itself of the safety of others."

Archbishop commissions independent review of Peter Ball case

June 23

<https://www.churchofengland.org/media-centre/news/2015/10/archbishop-commissions-independent-review-of-peter-ball-case.aspx>

Statement on sentencing of Peter Ball

<https://www.churchofengland.org/media-centre/news/2015/10/statement-on-the-sentencing-of-peter-ball.aspx>

## **US view of Queen honouring Ulster born hymn writer**

The Living Church, a leading US magazine, reports - Keith Getty, an Ulster-born hymn-writer whose “In Christ Alone” met with rejection by Presbyterian liturgists, has been honored by Queen Elizabeth II.

Getty, 42, now a resident of Nashville, was named an Officer of the Order of the British Empire during the Queen’s birthday honours. Hymn-writers rarely achieve such honours. Getty writes many of his songs with his wife, Kristyn, and Stuart Townend, a veteran British songwriter and worship leader.

When a committee considered “In Christ Alone” for a new hymnal of the Presbyterian Church

June 23



## **Kristyn Getty**

(U.S.A) in 2014, it asked Getty and Townend to revise its lyrics from “Till on that cross as Jesus died / the wrath of God was satisfied” to “Till on that cross as Jesus died / the love of God was magnified.” The songwriters declined, and the committee rejected the hymn on a 6-9 vote.

Sixty of their hymns are among the most popular in the United Kingdom and the United States.

## **Feast of talent at Belfast Cathedral Music Festival**

The 2017 Belfast Cathedral Music Festival brought a feast of talent into St Anne’s from June 13–18.

June 23

Opening night featured a recital by three NI Opera singers, Elaine Pelan, Sarah Richardson and David Howes, with Master of the Choristers David Stevens providing accompaniment.

There was a selection of solos and duets, featuring music from Britten, Monteverdi, Bizet, Mozart, Bellini, Massenet, Brahms and Mahler.

On the second day of the Festival St Anne's welcomed the Elder Glee Club from Ohio, USA, for a lunchtime concert. Featuring singers aged 15–18 from an all-male school, they sang for 45 minutes covering American gospel music and spirituals as well as folk music. Their repertoire also featured some Irish favourites including 'My Wild Irish Rose' and 'Danny Boy'.

That evening Conor Breen, a former Belfast Cathedral lay clerk, gave a wonderful recital. Conor created his performance around the thoughts that

June 23

come to poets and musicians when considering the idea of silence.

In his programme notes Conor led his audience through fear, insecurity, respect, communion, creativity, comfort, relief, sleep and death.

Once again David Stevens was the accompanist. Conor was joined for the longest piece, Britten's 'Canticle II,' by the soprano Laura McFall.

The tempo was upped for the third day of the Music Festival with a concert by the Ulster Youth Jazz Orchestra. This band, under the direction of Ken Jordan, is about to celebrate 25 years.

Pieces included 'You are the sunshine of my life,' 'Haven't met you yet,' and 'Here's to Life.' There was a smoothness to this jazz orchestra too, with soloists complementing the big band sound. This was a great addition to the Music Festival.

June 23

On the Saturday night, St Anne's welcomed the New Irish Arts choir and orchestra. As the setting was vital to this performance the Nave was cleared and rearranged so the audience was seated as close as possible to the singers and musicians.

The programme was received by an enthusiastic audience and included classics of the Christian musical repertoire to contemporary arrangements and compositions.

The 2017 Music Festival rounded off with a concert by the Steeton Male Voice Choir from Yorkshire. The concert also featured solos and duets by musical director of the Antrim based Clare Chorale, mezzo soprano Sheelagh Greer, and her soprano colleague Laura

The Steeton Choir provided a varied programme that suited the acoustic of St Anne's well, with a number of traditional pieces including 'Carrickfergus' while Pat



June 23

Jones, the accompanist, was later joined by three fiddlers.

Reflecting on the Festival, the Dean of Belfast, the Very Rev John Mann, extended his thanks to the organisers, and especially to the musicians, who, he said 'have made jazz to opera, folk to classical, liturgical to light-hearted come to life for us for a few days.'

## **Growth of Diocesan Readers in Down and Dromore**

The Diocese of Down and Dromore has a growing number of Diocesan Readers willing to serve in its parishes. It's a ministry that is a huge support to both the clergy and congregations.

In recent years the Diocesan Readers have met every six months to pray and encourage one another. Recently around 40 gathered in Hillsborough for Holy Communion and a fellowship meal. Some are still in training and for the first time the group included 15 new faces from the 2017 intake.

June 23



These get-togethers are a great opportunity to learn from one another and this will become especially significant over the next few years as the number of Readers in the diocese grows from 34 to around 70.

Speaking at the end of the night, the Warden of Readers, Revd Willie Nixon, highlighted the vital role of Reader ministry in parish life and thanked everyone for their commitment. He also thanked his 'co-warden' Revd Bryan Follis for hosting the evening and Andrew Brannigan for his role in administering the diocesan part of the course.

## **St. Luke's Douglas to lead RTE 1 service on Sunday**

The RTÉ 1 Service on Sunday, 23rd July, will be led by the Ven Adrian Wilkinson, Archdeacon of Cork, Cloyne and Ross, and will include

June 23

members of St Luke's Parish Church, Douglas.  
The Service will be broadcast at 11am.

Service on Sunday can also be viewed after  
broadcast on the RTÉ Religious Programmes  
website: [www.rte.ie/tv/religion/player.html](http://www.rte.ie/tv/religion/player.html)

## **British Methodist Conference gets underway in Birmingham**

A meeting of the governing body of the Methodist Church in Britain got underway at the National Exhibition Centre (NEC) in Birmingham on Thursday.

A policy to help safeguard children and vulnerable adults - by ensuring all ordained ministers undergo a supervision process - is among items on the agenda.

The latest figures concerning church membership and attendance will be presented. Statistics released last year revealed a drop of members from 600,000 in 1980 to 195,000 in 2016.

Speaking with Premier, President designate Rev Loraine Mellor said she did not want to be distracted by a declining membership.

June 23

She explained: "I want to think about all the good things that the Methodist Church does and also encourage people to be disciples and to talk about God and to talk about their faith, so that actually the church will grow.

"I believe the Methodist church has got an invaluable contribution to make to our society today."

Last year's figures reveal the Methodist Church is the fourth largest church in Britain. The global Methodist Church hosts more than 60 million committed members.

Referring to membership growth, Rev Mellor - who will be officially welcomed into her new role during the conference - said: "we could make that the priority this year for these conversations - which we will because it's a very important part of what we're going to be looking at.

"We have dipped under 200,000 - but that's one part of a huge range of things we'll be looking at."

Meeting at the NEC's Hilton Birmingham Metropole for eight days, leaders will also

June 23

discuss what it means for the Methodist Church to be "connectional".

## **Ugandan hospital trains Sudanese team**

A pioneering team of 49 healthcare workers from South Sudan has completed a new three-year at Mengo Hospital in Kampala, Uganda.

The course originally was to meet at the Institute of Health Sciences in Jonglei, South Sudan, but civil war forced its relocation to Uganda.

Dr. Anil Ninan Cherian, director of Christian Medical and Dental National, led the course. He asked the students to return to South Sudan and use the skills and knowledge there.

“You are going to find a health system which is yet to stabilize,” he said. “Let the conflict there not destabilize you.”

The Most Rev. Stanley Ntagali, Archbishop of Uganda, said his church decided to host the students to boost their courage and determination to overcome their nation’s challenges.

June 23

“As a country which hosts refugees from the South Sudan, we appreciate Mengo Hospital for training the students,” Ntagali said.

The programme is supported by the Catholic Organization for Relief and Development Aid, a Dutch nongovernment organization, and Anglican International Development U.K.

Mengo is the oldest hospital in Uganda and stands on Namirembe Hill. It was established by Albert Cook in 1897 and is now owned and operated by the Church of Uganda.

## **#Canada150 and #Resistance150**

Primate Fred Hiltz reflects on Canada’s sesquicentennial in his “Statement from the Primate on National Aboriginal Day 2017”:

“Like many other Canadians, I am mindful that within just a couple of weeks of observing National Aboriginal Day on June 21, we will be commemorating 150 years of Confederation on July 1. For many this will be a great celebration complete with flag raisings and fly passes, parades and concerts, races and regattas, feasts and fire works. For many, this will be a time of national thanksgiving, and rightly so, for among

June 23



**Turtle Island - within the Anglican Church of Canada. This year is Canada 150. The Primate, Fred Hiltz reflects on the anniversary and the treatment of the aboriginal people**

other things the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms [PDF] with the benefits we enjoy as Canadians. It will be a time for reflection on our place in the family of nations committed to peace and freedom for all peoples in the world.

“Yet for many #Canada150 will pass with much less of an air of celebration given the history of relationships between the First Peoples of this land and the Settler Peoples. For some, #Canada150 is now #Resistance150, as #Canada150 is a reminder that this country’s founding is inextricably linked to this relationship. This relationship is marked by an

June 23

imperial arrogance that became enshrined in a Federal Government Policy of Assimilation of the First Peoples [PDF] into the culture, social structures and governance established by colonial powers.

“Enforced by the establishing of the Indian Residential Schools, generations of Indigenous Peoples lost much of their language, culture, identity and spirituality. Through “the child taken and the parent left behind” there were so many years of lost love resulting in a devastating impact on people’s dignity and self-worth.

“The legacy of those schools lives on. It lives on even after the Government of Canada finally issued an Apology in the House of Commons on June 11, 2008 in Ottawa. It lives on after a number of the churches which ran the schools on behalf of the government — including our own — made formal apologies. None of us will ever forget the words of Archbishop Michael Peers, “I am sorry that we tried to remake you in our image. ...We failed you. We failed God. We failed ourselves” (August 6, 1993, Minaki, Ontario).”

**CNI**