



***Moderator: Link between Kirk and Church of England embedded in DNA of both***

## **Scottish Episcopal Church was like a ghost at the party - Primus Chillingworth on the C of E's Columba Declaration**

Following the approval by the Church of England General Synod this week of the *Columba Declaration and Growth in Communion – Partnership in Mission Report* the Most Rev David Chillingworth, Primus of the Scottish Episcopal Church says:

“People expect churches to work together. In the Scottish Episcopal Church, we are keen to work whole-heartedly with the Church of Scotland. Our histories are intertwined with one another and with the history of Scotland. Much of that history has been painful and difficult. So it is important that the new chapters which we write together are positive and creative.

“The tasks which we need to address together are very clear to me. We are living through a time of change in Scotland. Nobody knows where Scotland’s journey will end – but Scotland is on a journey. Faith communities need to focus on Scotland and the way in which faith is represented and shared in this changing context. We also need to work together on new understandings of how we can share in local mission across the whole of Scotland. We need to support one another and work together. None of us can do this on our own.

“I watched the debate in which the Columba Declaration was approved by the Church of

England with a sense of unreality. The Scottish Episcopal Church was like a ghost at the party – often referred to and talked about but not present. Concerns which have been voiced within the Scottish Episcopal Church about the Columba Declaration focus significantly on the Church of England. The Church of England and the Scottish Episcopal Church are partner-Provinces in the Anglican Communion. We are the presence of the Anglican Communion in Scotland and we expect the Church of England to respect that. The concerns are that the Columba Declaration places the Church of England in a compromised position in relation to the Scottish Episcopal Church.

“The Church of England approved the Columba Declaration. But it was clear that many people in the General Synod were uneasy – aware that something about this is not quite right but not quite sure what. Ecumenical matters are usually carried through by churches without significant debate. Yet here 50 people voted against and 49 abstained.

“This tells us that we all have work to do. The desire of the two churches to get approval for the Columba Declaration has inhibited their ability to have real dialogue with us about its implications for our future relationships. Now

that it has been approved, the time for that has arrived. We welcome the opportunity for a real dialogue with both partners and pray that out of that will come a healing and renewal both of our relationships and of our shared mission.”

The Primus was interviewed on BBC Radio Scotland John Beattie programme on 17 February, the interview can be heard [here](#)

See also

<http://www.thenational.scot/news/church-of-england-synod-agrees-closer-links-to-kirk.13836>

[http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/14281224.Moderator\\_Link\\_between\\_Kirk\\_and\\_Church\\_of\\_England\\_embedded\\_in\\_DNA\\_of\\_both/](http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/14281224.Moderator_Link_between_Kirk_and_Church_of_England_embedded_in_DNA_of_both/)

[http://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/news\\_and\\_events/news/recent/moderators\\_address\\_to\\_the\\_general\\_synod\\_of\\_the\\_church\\_of\\_england](http://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/news_and_events/news/recent/moderators_address_to_the_general_synod_of_the_church_of_england)

## **Job losses at Bombardier bring major uncertainty, Bishop Miller**

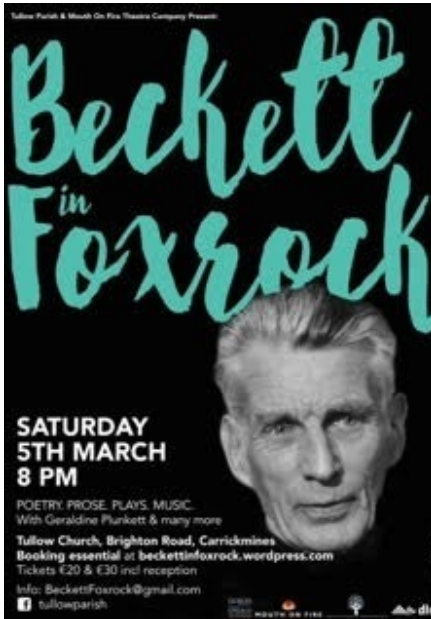
In a statement Rt Rev Harold Miller, Bishop of Down and Dromore, which includes East Belfast, highlighted the uncertainty the redundancies would cause.

The statement reads - The announcement that around 1000 jobs will be lost at Bombardier is a real challenge for the people of Northern Ireland and especially of East Belfast. Bombardier is the largest employer in the province, and offers many highly skilled jobs which are critically important for the health of our community at this time. The First Minister has pledged to do all in her power to help in this situation, but it makes us very aware of our vulnerability to the multi-national factors that affect many large employers.

It is important to remember that every job lost has a profound effect on a person and often on a whole family. Losses may well be inevitable at this point in time, but the uncertainty and pain they bring need to be acknowledged. My thoughts and prayers are with those whose lives may be profoundly changed by this announcement.

Looking ahead, I hope that we can purposefully build a creative and entrepreneurial culture in Northern Ireland where a new generation of able and gifted young people will find fulfilling and meaningful work.

## Beckett in Foxrock



Tullow Church is hosting a unique evening of drama, poetry and prose to recognise and honour Samuel Beckett. The Nobel Prize winner for Literature and one of the world's most influential writers was born and brought up in Foxrock and the area and many of its residents feature in his work.

'Beckett in Foxrock' in Tullow Church on March 5 will give a taster of his poetry, prose and plays performed by Mouth on Fire Theatre Company with actors such as Geraldine Plunkett (Mary [churchnewsireland@gmail.com](mailto:churchnewsireland@gmail.com))

in Glenroe) and Marcus Lamb (Padraig Pearse in *Rebellion*). Feargal Whelan will talk about the local postman and station master who made such an impression on the young Beckett.

Members of the Beckett family will attend this special event and will unveil a plaque in the church to Samuel who used to worship there. A reception will follow and a photographic exhibition with many rarely seen images will be on view.

The evening gets underway in Tullow Church, Brighton Road, Carrickmines at 8pm. Tickets cost €30 and €20. Space is limited and booking essential at [Beckettinfoxrock.wordpress.com](http://Beckettinfoxrock.wordpress.com) or via [Tullow.anglican.org](http://Tullow.anglican.org)

## **Lambeg Parish honours former rector and family**

Lambeg Parish said farewell to the Rev Canon Kenneth McReynolds and his family at a social evening on Friday February 12.

Canon McReynolds retired as rector of Lambeg on January 31 after serving there for almost 26 years. Before coming to Lambeg he served his curacy in Ballymena prior to being appointed rector of Rathcoole Parish.



***The McReynolds family at the special evening to say farewell to Canon Kenneth McReynolds who retired on January 31 after almost 26 years as rector of Lambeg Parish.***

During his time in Lambeg he presided over arrangements for the major renovation of the parish church including the extension of car park facilities in the church grounds as well as an extension to the parish graveyard. Under his guidance the Hilden Centre was built and it is



now a centre for worship and outreach in the Hilden/Glenmore area of the City of Lisburn.

The evening on February 12 included entertainment and supper and Canon McReynolds and his wife Dorothy were the special guests. They were accompanied by their son Garry and his wife Barbara with their two children, and their daughter Nicola and her husband Leigh with their two children.

More than 200 parishioners attended and were entertained by individuals and members of parish organisations in a full and varied programme. For the parish it was a bitter/sweet evening as they bade farewell to their beloved rector and his family and for Canon and Mrs McReynolds it was an evening of nostalgia as they recalled the generations with whom they had served.

## **New Irish Methodist drama resource and training survey**

In the March *Methodist Newsletter* Gillian Gilmore and Stephen McCann share the results of IMYC's recent survey of the training and resourcing needs of children and youth leaders throughout Irish Methodism. The issue also

brings a ready-made drama resource from ‘Play it by Ear’.

*Snapshots* is a punchy, five-minute sketch covering the key moments in the Easter story from the point of view of the main characters. It requires a minimum of two performers, with scope to include more. The March magazine will be out next week allowing plenty of time for youth leaders to cast and rehearse it before Easter.

## **Church restoration appeal launched in Dunfanaghy**

Holy Trinity Parish in Dunfanaghy has launched a Restoration Appeal to pay for repairs to its historic 140-year-old church building in north west Donegal. The total cost of the work is estimated at €200,000, although the first phase – to re-point the church exterior – will cost around €80,000.

The church, which was designed by the celebrated architect Sir Charles Lanyon, has been subject to consistent repair work since it opened in 1874. The Rector, Rev David MacDonnell, says the building is in “broadly good



structural condition”, although it is experiencing high levels of internal dampness. The problem will get worse unless it is tackled soon, Rev MacDonnell warns. “Our greatest fear is that dampness will affect the roof structure.”

The Church Restoration Appeal was launched at a service in Holy Trinity on Sunday morning. The preacher, the Bishop of Derry and Raphoe, Ken Good, urged parishioners to think about their legacy. He said Holy Trinity Church had a legacy of itself with the memories parishioners had in their hearts. “There are some joyful memories – baptisms, weddings, celebrations, anniversaries – but there are also some sad and poignant

memories, really difficult ones that you thought you would never be able to cope with or endure, but it was here that you found God's presence in all of those times.

“This building is part of your legacy. Some others have left it here for you and now the challenge is for you to leave it for others who come after you, and that may well be an important part of your legacy.”

Bishop Good asked the congregation to take seriously what God might be calling them to do during this Year of Opportunity, which has generosity as one of its themes. “There is right here, right now, an opportunity for our generosity. Maybe in generations to come it will be referred to as a significant moment in the Parish of Holy Trinity: 2016, when this project was embarked upon and significant things happened, spiritually as well as financially, that the whole community was part of it, and benefitted from it.”

The Select Vestry has commissioned a full conservation report and appointed conservation architect, Frank Keohane, to oversee the restoration project. The cost of the report and architect's fees have been covered by the Heritage Council.

## Spotlight director pays tribute to ‘inspirational’ abuse survivor Peter Saunders

The director and co-writer of Spotlight, the Hollywood film about the Boston Globe’s investigation into the cover-up of clerical abuse in the Archdiocese of Boston, paid tribute to British abuse survivor Peter Saunders while accepting an award at the recent Baftas ceremony.

Tom McCarthy and his co-writer Josh Singer, who was not in attendance, won the Bafta for best original screenplay.

During his acceptance speech, McCarthy said Saunders, [who recently refused a request](#) to “take a leave of absence” from the Pontifical Commission for the Protection of Minors after a vote of confidence, was “an inspiration”.

In his short speech, McCarthy commended “the courageous survivors (of abuse) who came forward and shared their stories with us and the world.”

“They continue to do that now, continue to put pressure for change,” he said.

“I’ll give a shout out to Peter Saunders, a UK citizen and survivor and the great work he is doing now in this country and at the Vatican. You are an in inspiration to us all, quite truly.”

Earlier this month, after the vote of no confidence by the the Pontifical Commission, Saunders described the decision as “outrageous”.

At a press conference in Rome, he said: “I was asked to consider what my role should be with the commission. I did not make a decision to take or accept any decision on a leave of absence. I said I would reflect on what I would do. I may well have been back in the meeting shortly.

“I then heard that the Vatican had made a statement about my taking a leave of absence. I was never told in advance of any such statement and I find it outrageous that I was not told, much less that the statement occurred before I had had any time to reflect on what I might do next.” Set in 2001, Spotlight focuses on the Boston Globe’s team of investigative journalists as they reported on numerous cases of abuse by priests and the subsequent cover-up by the archdiocese. The film has been nominated for best picture at the Oscars.

[Speaking to the Catholic Herald last month](#),  
McCarthy said he was not seeking to  
“sensationalise” the subject matter.

“It’s a sensitive issue and part of our approach was to not sensationalise or be gratuitous,” he said.

“It’s not just a question of a newspaper going after the Church but also a larger question of societal complicity and deference, in this case towards the Church, but also in general.

“What did people know and was it just the power of the Church stopping them from speaking out, or was there more to it? I hope this is a universal movie that transcends this particular case and speaks of other institutions where bad things are happening.”

## **News links to reports on faith, politics and education**

### **Man accused of stealing £22,000 from Presbyterian church over six years**

Belfast Telegraph

[http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/northern-ireland/  
man-accused-of-stealing-22000-from-presbyterian-  
church-over-six-years-34463279.html](http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/northern-ireland/man-accused-of-stealing-22000-from-presbyterian-church-over-six-years-34463279.html)

## **First Minister of NI speaks of role 1916 played in recent Troubles**

Irish Times

Northern Ireland First Minister Arlene Foster does not believe the reference in the 1916 Proclamation about cherishing all the children of the nation equally included the people she and her party represents. “Sometimes Sinn Féin quote that [phrase] to ...

<http://www.irishtimes.com/news/social-affairs/religion-and-beliefs/first-minister-of-northern-speaks-of-role-1916-played-in-recent-troubles-1.2538851>

## **1916 Rising: Arlene Foster attends Dublin debate**

BBC News

First Minister Arlene Foster has attended a Church of Ireland event in Dublin this evening to mark the centenary of the Easter Rising. The event, in Christ Church Cathedral, featured a debate on the Rising. It included contributions from historians ...

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-35600868>

## **First Minister calls time on Sinn Fein’s attempt to rewrite recent history**

News Letter

We have witnessed over the last decade a deliberate and malignant attempt by republicans to re-shape the understanding of the events of the Troubles for future generations.



<http://www.newsletter.co.uk/arlene-foster-republicans-must-not-be-allowed-to-shift-blame-1-7212954>

## **Ulster Teachers' Union says schools seeing child abuse cases 'surge'**

BBC News

Schools in Northern Ireland are struggling to cope with a new "surge" in child abuse cases, a teachers' union has claimed.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-35602482>

### **Tel/Guard/Christian Today**

Reports of the Renewal and Reform debate at General Synod and comments made by John Spence, the CofE's head of the Finance Committee of the Archbishops' Council. *Telegraph & Guardian* focus on comments on growth in attendance while the *CT* reports the launch of a "digital evangelism" campaign to reach out to the one million school leavers. The Revd Arun Arora, Director of Communications for the Archbishops' Council is quoted in all articles.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/religion/12161845/No-growth-for-30-years-Church-of-England-predicts.html>

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/feb/17/church-of-england-attendance-decline-30-years-general-assembly>

### **Premier**

Reports the impact on sanctions on benefit claims debate in Synod yesterday, which included in its motions, that the Government has been urged to initiate a "full independent review" into the impact of benefit sanctions. Synod passed the Leeds motion unanimously.

<http://www.premier.org.uk/News/UK/Synod-calls-for-full-independent-review-of-benefit-sanctions>

## **Mail/Times**

Report that bell ringers want their hobby reclassified as a sport. The editor of *Ringing World*, says the pastime is great fun as well as being a healthy physical and mental workout. Identification as a sport would encourage more people to join teams. However, governing body the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers opposes the idea.

[http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3452194/Bell-ringers-want-called-sport-pull-one-Enthusiasts-say-reclassification-raise-profile-attract-youngsters.html?ITO=1490&ns\\_mchannel=rss&ns\\_campaign=1490](http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3452194/Bell-ringers-want-called-sport-pull-one-Enthusiasts-say-reclassification-raise-profile-attract-youngsters.html?ITO=1490&ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490)  
<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/uk/article4693138.ece>

## **Mail**

Diary item written by Ephraim Hardcastle centred on the General Synod motion, citing the the Bishop of Carlisle, calling on Christians to donate their blood and organs.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/debate/article-3452157/EPHRAIM-HARDCASTLE-Bishop-Carlisle-sure-remind-Queen-moral-duty-organ-donor.html>

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