

Church News Ireland

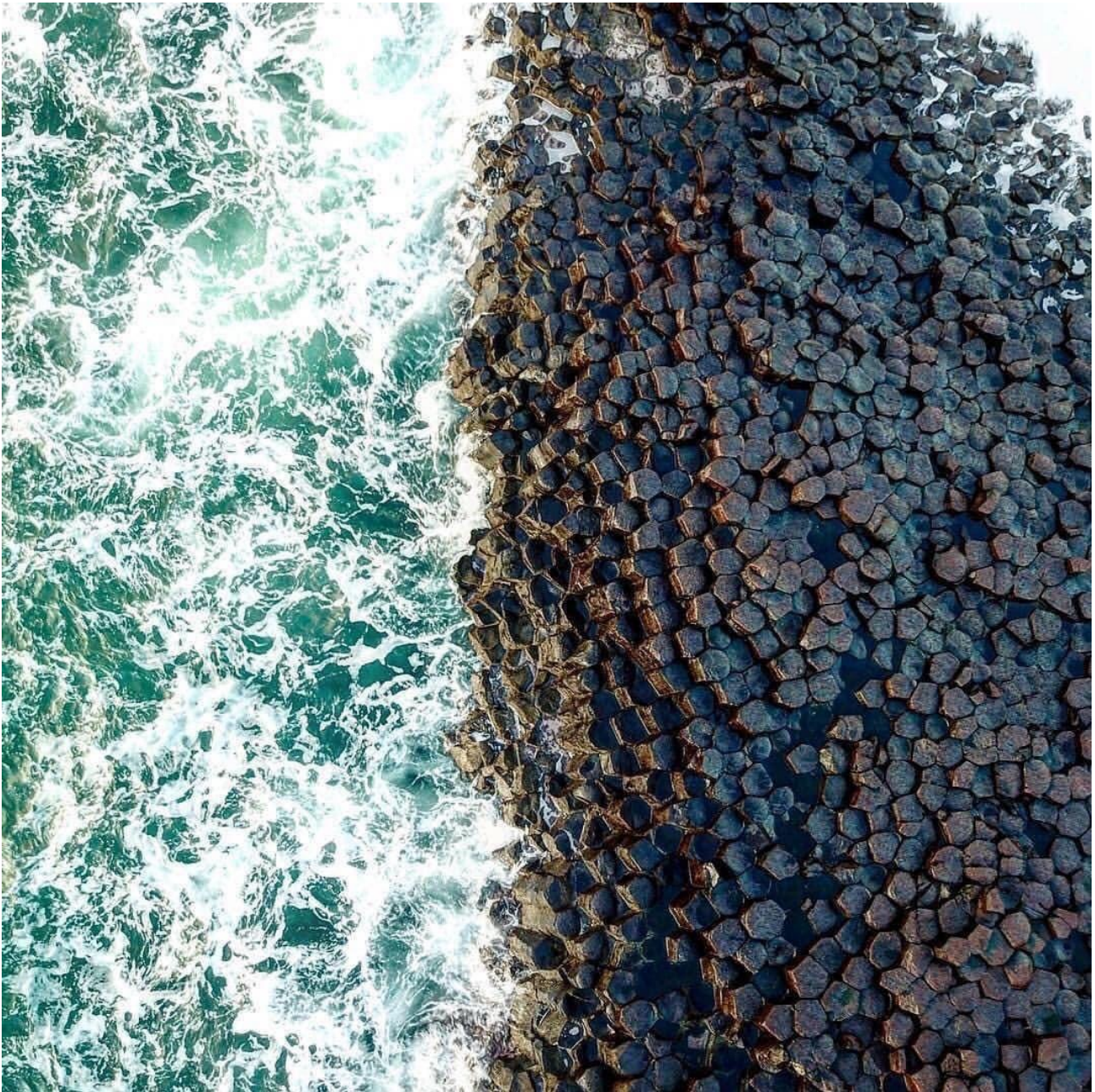


Image of the day - The Giant's Causeway

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Image of the day - The Giant's Causeway

From above it looks even more impressive! The 40,000 basalt columns of the Giant's Causeway – a UNESCO World Heritage Site – are one of Northern Ireland's most instantly recognisable places. The story goes that the giant, Fionn mac Cumhaill, tore up chunks of the Antrim coastline as he made his way to pick a fight with Scottish big man Benandonner. Or, if you prefer the science, these stones were formed by a volcanic eruption 60 million years ago. Photo courtesy of Top 10 Places to Visit in Ireland and @markt128

People and places

New Pentecost: Moving to the Edges theme for Ecumenical Bible Week

Preparations are currently underway for Ecumenical Bible Week 2022. Now in its ninth year Ecumenical Bible Week, led by the Archdiocese of Dublin and the United Dioceses of Dublin and Glendalough in collaboration with many other Christian traditions will run from Pentecost to Trinity Sunday [5–12 June 2022].

The overall theme for this year's event is 'A New Pentecost: Moving to the Edges'. 'Peter was still speaking when the Holy Spirit came upon all who listened to the word.' Acts 10:44

As in previous years EBW 2022 will have opening and closing prayer events. There will be a Theological Symposium on the afternoon of Thursday 9 June where the



theme will be 'Listen to the Word'.

That evening in Thinking Allowed, a panel of Faith leaders will each give their 'Personal Vision of a New Pentecost'. A new event being introduced this year will focus on the experiences of the 'new' Irish.

Check out the Ecumenical Bible Week's Website for further information and to register for the events which will be online.

<https://www.bibleweek.ie/>

You can also follow and share Ecumenical Bible Week's online posts on Facebook and Instagram:

<https://www.facebook.com/bibleweekie/>

https://www.instagram.com/ecumenical_bible_week/



Service will celebrate 40th anniversary of ordination of women in the Non-Subscribing Presbyterian

Rev. Lena Cockcroft has been celebrating 40 years since being ordained the first female minister in the Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Church of Ireland (NSPCI). Rev. Cockcroft was ordained in 1982 and has served as minister to Cairncastle & Glenarm (1982-2016), Ballymoney (1982-97), Downpatrick (1999-2003), Dunmurry (2012-14), and Holywood (2019-20). Now retired, she has been enjoying celebrations within the NSPCI to mark the anniversary.

The denomination will be holding a Service of Thanksgiving and Reflection celebrating the 40th Anniversary of the ordination of Rev. Lena Cockcroft, and 40 years of women being ordained into the NSPCI as ministers of religion. This service will be held at The Travel Lodge in the grounds of

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The Lodge Hotel in Coleraine at 4pm on Sunday 6 March 2022. Further information at -
[[<http://nspresbyterian.org/news/123-invitation-service-of-thanksgiving-and-reflection-celebrating-40-years-of-ordaining-women-ministers.html>]]



Seek to appoint a Youth and Community Pastor (Full-Time) *

Salary Scale: £20,000-£25,000 p.a. depending on experience

Purpose

- Develop a vibrant Youth Ministry in the community of Ballylesson
- To build a Community Hub for all ages at Ballylesson Church
- Develop and advance intentional God centred discipleship programmes through relationship building with young people and their families.
- To empower and develop church volunteers, building and equipping a team committed to seeing lives transformed in the Ballylesson community
- To develop new leaders from within our youth to serve the church family and local community

Key Duties: General Responsibilities shall include:

Youth

- In the context of this role, it is a genuine occupational requirement that the person appointed to this post would be a passionate Christian who is fully committed to the ethos and Vision of the church
- Engage with the youth and local community through relationships, understand their needs and the needs of the community and adapt practises to meet their needs.
- Communicate effectively and creatively the Vision and Values of our church to our young people and families.
- Develop training programmes for all existing and new volunteers, equipping them to lead creatively and relationally, ensuring we have strong child protection and health and safety policies that are followed.

Community

- Lead and manage a person-centred community hub for our local young people and families to serve the community; this for example will include after school's drop-in club and sports clubs.
- Develop a Christ centred discipleship ministry
- To plan, run and co-ordinate small group discipleship classes such as Confirmation Classes, Youth Alphas, Cell Groups, or similar initiatives
- To further strengthen our evangelical and discipleship presence in the nearby community and schools
- The ability to also lead in-church services.

*We may consider reduced hours.

THE CLOSING DATE FOR COMPLETED APPLICATIONS

FRIDAY 25th FEBRUARY 2022 at 5pm.

An expression of interest for a full application pack should be emailed to

holytrinityballylesson@btinternet.com or telephone 07606461669

www.holytrinityballylesson.com



Find us on

Facebook@htbdrumbo

News reports

How a plot of unused church land helped families priced out of the housing market

A piece of land provided by a church has kickstarted the building of more than 40 affordable homes in an area where many local people are priced out of the housing market.

St John's Anglican Church in Keswick in the Lake District made half a hectare of land next to its graveyard that was too stony and waterlogged for burials available to the town's then newly-formed Community Housing Trust.

The land now has 11 three-bedroomed houses and the trust has gone on to build a further 30 homes in the town on other plots. The latest four - three, three-bedroomed houses and one two-bedroom house - were built on land provided by the Methodist Church on the site of a demolished church hall.

Around half the homes built by the trust are for shared ownership and the other half are let out at rents that are truly affordable in perpetuity - measured in relation to local earnings, not market rents.

Bill Bewley, the Chair of Keswick Community Housing Trust, believes that up to 200 people have been housed as a result of the trust's work so far with further potential plots of land for housing being explored.

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"We are a community organisation but there is no doubt in my mind that if it had not been for the impetus from Keswick St John's we would not have gone on to build the houses that we have done," he said.

The trust was formed originally after the lack of affordable homes in the area emerged as a key concern in consultations held by Keswick Churches Together, the group of churches of all denominations in the area.

Local estate agents were reporting that more than half of the properties they sold were for second homes or holiday lets.

"Back when we first discussed this, around a decade ago, we knew that the average house price in Keswick meant that you needed an income of £75,000 a year. This was way beyond the means of most people working in Keswick," he said.

"The problem we have, particularly since lockdown, is that house prices have gone up in Keswick."

In the media

Controlled schools 'can't support' integrated education bill

Belfast Telegraph

The chief executive of the Controlled Schools' Support Council has launched a defence of the sector and said he remains opposed to the Integrated Education Bill progressing through the Assembly.

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The Private Member's Bill from Alliance MLA Kellie Armstrong passed the latest consideration stage after a lengthy session which caused division after division, spread across three days of debate in the chamber...

... Opposition has also come from the Council for Catholic Maintained Schools (CCMS).

[<https://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/education/controlled-schools-cant-support-integrated-education-bill-41322074.html>]

How many sick and elderly people are living at home and waiting for a visit?' – Pope Francis

Catholic bishops Ireland

Bishop Michael Router welcomes World Day of the Sick Message by Pope Francis

<https://www.catholicbishops.ie/2022/02/07/how-many-sick-and-elderly-people-are-living-at-home-and-waiting-for-a-visit-pope-francis/>

Family of Jean McConville hoping to sue Sinn Fein

Belfast Telegraph

The daughter and son-in-law of IRA murder victim Jean McConville are hoping to sue Sinn Fein for millions of pounds in compensation and to freeze the party's assets.

Helen McKendry and her husband Seamus last month launched an online fundraiser for £10,000 to finance a civil

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action against the party over the killing and secret burial of the mother-of-ten in 1972.

[<https://m.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/sunday-life/news/jean-mcconvilles-family-raise-funds-to-sue-sinn-fein-41316819.html>]

You may wish to support this Go Fund Me campaign from the family of Jean McConville, who was brutally kidnapped, murdered and secretly buried by Provisional IRA terrorists.

Link to GoFundMe page:

<https://www.gofundme.com/f/justice-for-jean-mcconville/donations>

Public appeal to solve 300-year-old 'Shandon Mystery'

RTE

Today, the Church of Ireland Bishop of Cork, the Right Reverend Dr Paul Colton, launched a public appeal to help track down and solve the ...

[<https://www.rte.ie/news/munster/2022/0206/1278169-shandon-cork/>]

Germany's Synodal Assembly votes for Catholic women deacons by large majority

National Catholic Reporter

The Synodal Path of the Catholic Church in Germany wants laypeople to be able to participate in choosing bishops and wants the church to have women deacons.

The third Synodal Assembly to bring about reforms to the Catholic Church ended Feb. 5 with the first concrete

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decisions of the process. Most German bishops signaled they are prepared to support far-reaching change in the Catholic Church.

For three days, nearly 230 delegates — lay and clerical — discussed reforms based on texts that had been drawn up in four working forums and reflecting theological arguments they hope to present to Rome in 2023, at the end of the Synodal Path process.

<https://www.ncronline.org/news/vatican/germanys-synodal-assembly-calls-change-deacons-bishops-selection>

Webinars, music, resources, broadcasts, and books

Ears to hear - discipleship in the local church

Listen, linger, learn and lean into shapes and rhythms enabling discipleship that stimulates faithful and fruitful following of Jesus as we emerge from the pandemic.

'Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches'.

The Lord Jesus to the seven churches in the Book of Revelation.

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Ears to hear is an unfolding and ongoing attempt to open and deepen a denomination wide conversation to enable reflection, renewal and reshaping of congregational life and witness as the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic and its restrictions continue to recede.

As a first step, Ears to hear mornings offer gatherings to explore together with others a variety of aspects of being the church.

In each area of ministry or mission, time and space for conversation will be facilitated to allow participants to:

- * linger with our shared experience over the past two years;
- * listen together for what God seems to be saying through it;
- * learn how that begins to shape questions with which we will need to grapple in the life and witness of the Presbyterian Church and Ireland;
- * lean into how this conversation translates into your own congregation.

When: Tuesday 29 March 2022

Time: 10.30am-12.30pm

Place: Assembly Buildings, Belfast

This event is free and open to all, however spaces are limited and early registration to secure a place is essential. Express your interest and confirmation of your registration will follow.

To book your place click here.

<https://www.presbyterianireland.org/Events/Ears-to-Hear.aspx>



Archbishop of Canterbury's address to Belfast Four Corners Festival

You are invited to listen to the Archbishop of Canterbury's superb address given at St Peter's Cathedral for the final evening of the 2022 Belfast Four Corners Festival. See

<https://www.facebook.com/4cornersfestival/videos/991776511431100>

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Also featuring the powerful singing of Dana Miller and Tony Macaulay's evocative reflection.

Archbishop Justin Welby's address begins at minute 38.

Webinar
Link will be forwarded after registration.

Exploring how a Synodal Church can be a listening Church

22 February 2022 | 19:00 CET

REGISTER TODAY: administrator@anglicancentre.it

This Webinar aims at exploring how Synodality manifests itself practically in our respective Communion. It will also honour the commitment of Pope Francis to listen and to learn from each other. The desired conversations for this online event should bring about the desired expectations and the experience of women in positions of leadership in the Roman Catholic Church and the Anglican Communion respectively.

PANEL

- The Most Revd Linda Nicholls**
 - 14th Primate of the Anglican Church of Canada
 - Has an extensive experience in Ecumenical dialogue both internationally and in Canada
 - Has a particular interest on sustaining unity in the face of moral and theological differences in congregational life
- Prof Dr Myriam Wijlens**
 - Full Professor of Canon Law at the Faculty of Catholic Theology, University of Erfurt, Germany
 - Member of the Faith & Order Commission of the World Council of Churches and Consultant to the Anglican Roman Catholic International Commission (ARCIC III) on behalf of the Pontifical Council for the Promotion of Christian Unity
 - Member of the Pontifical Commission for the Protection of Minors
 - Consultor to the Synod of Bishops
- The Right Revd Dr Vicentia R. Kgabe**
 - Bishop of Lesotho
 - Former Chairperson of the Board for HOPE Africa - the Social Development Programme for the Anglican Church of Southern Africa
 - Co-Chair of Makhanda (Grahamstown) Circle of Unity and also a Deputy Chairperson of Rhodes University Council
 - Research Fellow in the Desmond Tutu Centre for Religion and Social Justice
- Sr Nathalie Becquart**
 - French religious of the La Xaviere Congregation, Missionnaires du Christ-Jésus
 - Undersecretary of the Synod of Bishops - Vatican
 - Member of the Dicastery for Communication
 - Author of numerous publications on synodality and synods, young people and youth ministry, vocations and religious life, church and mission

MODERATOR

- Revd Dr William Adam**
 - Deputy Secretary General of the Anglican Communion
 - ACR Governor

MORE INFO: www.anglicancentreinrome.org T: +39 06 678 0302 A voluntary contribution will be greatly appreciated.

Exploring how a Synodal Church Can be A Listening Church

ACR invites you to join the webinar:

Exploring how a Synodal Church

Can be A Listening Church

Register today : administrator@anglicancentre.it

[https://app.newsletter.co.uk/full_page_image/page-18-1115/content.html]

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Belfast City Council Jewish Culture Cafe on-line Zoom event

Wherever you are in the world, join members of the Belfast Jewish community and its diaspora as we celebrate our faith, culture, music and cuisine - and 150 year history in Belfast.

Belfast City Council Jewish Culture Cafe - an on-line Zoom event - Wednesday 16 February 2022, 12pm

Presenters June Coppel, Amanda Jackson, Michael Black and MC Steven Jaffe.

Free Zoom event! Click here to register:

<https://plannd.co.uk/peaceivfebruaryculturecafe/>

Strangford and Lecale can apply for a free tree pack today

Schools, youth groups, community groups and landowners in the Strangford and Lecale AONB are invited to apply for a free tree pack.

Trees will be available for collection by prior arrangement from Delamont Country Park week beginning 21st of February. All the details on this scheme can be found here <https://www.strangfordlough.org/press-releases/free-trees-for-biodiversity-communities-invited-to-spruce-up-the-landscape-with-the-gift-of-free-trees.html>



**Walking Tour: Hewitt returns to Cliftonpark Avenue
with Tony Kennedy**

Time: 11.00am – 1.00pm

Where: Girdwood Community Hub

Tickets: £5 – book in advance

Book now: northbelfastfestival.com



John Hewitt, the renowned poet, art historian, collector and political activist, was born in and spent his early years living at 96, Cliftonpark Avenue, North Belfast, where his father was principal of the local Agnes Street National School.

Tony Kennedy, Chair of the John Hewitt Society, will take you on a walking tour retracing Hewitt’s childhood journey from his home to the primary school while reading the poetry of his life and times, both as a boy and young man, and discusses the continuing relevance of his writings today.

For more info: northbelfastfestival.com

Perspective

Baroness Hoey - Action, not words, is needed to resolve the Protocol threat

Just how much of a risk to Northern Ireland's place in the UK should Unionist politicians be expected to take?

Recent events in Northern Ireland could mean the end of devolved Government for the foreseeable future. The pro-Union population has grown tired of being fobbed off with empty promises, while their status as full citizens in the United Kingdom continues to be eroded. The Protocol was agreed by a Government which did not take seriously the many warnings about instability resulting from this fracturing of the Belfast (Good Friday) Agreement.

Sadly, the Government and the EU were influenced by Leo Varadkar, then Taoiseach, and his cynical claims about the threat of terrorism, should there be the merest hint of a trade border at the frontier between the UK and the Republic of Ireland.

The British government's response was to judge where the biggest threat of violence came from and appease it by putting a border down the Irish Sea, splitting the UK instead. Would any other country in the world have offered to divide its sovereign territory and leave part of it under the jurisdiction of a foreign court?

Unionist politicians, including the Nobel Laureate and architect of the Agreement Lord Trimble, no longer feel able

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to prop up a solemn undertaking that has been bent out of all recognition.

Unionists are invited to swallow the spurious claim that the Protocol is needed to honour the Agreement when it blatantly ignores the cross-community consent principle at its very heart. Many wonder: just how much undermining of Northern Ireland's place in the UK should they be expected to take?

The decision by DUP agricultural minister Edwin Poots to order checks to stop at the Irish Sea border was no maverick idle action. It was taken following legal advice from the former Northern Ireland Attorney General John Larkin after initiation of legal proceedings off the back of court rulings that significant or controversial matters must obtain cross-community approval. The ongoing checks had never been approved by the executive so Poots put forward a paper, which Sinn Féin refused to allow on the agenda.

Poots then ordered the illegal checks to cease. Department officials delayed for more advice and, 24 hours later, an unidentified member of Sinn Féin and another individual were granted leave to seek a judicial review of the minister's decision.

A High Court judge confirmed that inspections on goods entering Northern Ireland from Great Britain must continue, pending the outcome of a full hearing in March. It is very unusual for a Justice at a preliminary hearing to order a remedy supporting the applicant.

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First Minister Paul Givan has since resigned in protest at the failure to resolve the Northern Ireland Protocol.

The latest furore over a Protocol that subjugates the Acts of Union and effectively creates the conditions for an economic united Ireland, has caused untold resentment in the pro-Union community.

They feel abandoned and betrayed by their own UK government, while the Irish government constantly backs up nationalists. Northern Irish citizens have effectively become second class in their own country. The street protests will be back and the pause on protest rallies lifted.

As one young activist said: “Unionism will never accept the Protocol – we will frustrate it, impede it, undermine it and relentlessly seek to destroy it.”

For months many of us have warned the Government that it cannot have both the Belfast Agreement and the Protocol. The time has now come to choose. Urgent action, not words, will be needed to restore Northern Ireland to its full place in the United Kingdom.

Baroness Hoey is a member of the House of Lords

Poem for today

In Memory of My Mother
by Patrick Kavanagh

I do not think of you lying in the wet clay
Of a Monaghan graveyard; I see

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You walking down a lane among the poplars
On your way to the station, or happily

Going to second Mass on a summer Sunday
You meet me and you say:
'Don't forget to see about the cattle – '
Among your earthiest words the angels stray.

And I think of you walking along a headland
Of green oats in June,
So full of repose, so rich with life –
And I see us meeting at the end of a town.

On a fair day by accident, after
The bargains are all made and we can walk
Together through the shops and stalls and markets
Free in the oriental streets of thought.

O you are not lying in the wet clay,
For it is a harvest evening now and we
Are piling up the ricks against the moonlight
And you smile up at us – eternally.

Speaking to the soul

Short reading and prayer daily on this site

Church News Ireland

The publication of Church News Ireland is overseen by Very Rev Dr Houston McKelvey OBE, QVRM, TD. He may be contacted at houston.mckelvey@btinternet.com
