



## Irish and GBG news bulletins

### IRISH NEWS

#### Plan to build home for people with dementia



*A home for people with dementia could offer 24-hour residential and nursing care, with 64 ensuite rooms for people aged 65 and over.*

**Belfast Central Mission (BCM) is planning to build a Dementia and Nursing Care Home in Millisle.**

News Letter - The Methodist Church BCM will submit a planning [application](#) in the next few weeks for the project on the former Childhaven site.

The home is intended to offer 24-hour residential and nursing care, with 64 ensuite rooms for people aged 65 and over.

The project also aims to create 60 full-time equivalent jobs in a rural area of high unemployment.

A public consultation will take place on Thursday, January 30, from noon-7pm in Millisle Youth Forum.

BCM's Nicky Conway said the aim is to create "a genuine home" including "single-storey households of eight residents with their own front door".

## **LIVING WORSHIP COURSE CONTINUES**

**This short course in music and worship continues in Dublin on Saturday mornings 10 am to 12.30 pm, 25th January, 1st February. Mageough Hall, Cowper Road, Rathmines beside the Cowper Luas stop**

The popular Living Worship course is designed for musicians, worship leaders (clergy, lay ministers), choir members and all with an interest in the music of worship.

There are two more sessions, which participants certainly will enjoy, will find stimulating and where they will meet an interesting group of people. Practical skills are not required to take part

At the first session on 18th January, Mark Duley talked about the development of Schola Cantorum based in St Nicholas Church, Galway, and provided some useful advice and tips on encouraging people to sing. His emphasis on the value of unison singing for leading a congregation in song was particularly noted.

Next Saturday, 25th January: Peter Barley, director of music at St Mary's Cathedral, Limerick will focus on 'successfully introducing new repertoire'. Peter will give tips on teaching new material to a congregation, using material from the forthcoming supplement to *Church Hymnal*.

1st February: Aidan Greene will address the subject of 'gospel music within liturgy - an Irish perspective'. Aidan is a music teacher in second-level education and former director of Gardiner Street Gospel Choir. There will be an opportunity to learn new music and have a good sing.

## **Comedy Bible play axed after Evangelical Christians in DUP complain it mocks their religion**

**A comedy play based on the Bible has been axed from a Northern Irish theatre, after Evangelical Christians in the DUP complained it "mocked and slated" their religion.**

Belfast Telegraph - The Reduced Shakespeare Company was set to perform The Bible: The Complete Word Of God (abridged) at the Theatre At The Mill in Newtownabbey on Wednesday and Thursday next week.

But the show has been pulled from the schedule at the theatre, which is run by unionist-dominated Newtownabbey Borough Council.

[DUP councillor Billy Ball had demanded the production was cancelled](#), claiming the play makes a mockery of the Bible and Christianity.

"This is supposed to be a Christian nation and we are allowing the Bible to be mocked and slated," he said. "Our parliaments are sworn under it, the courts offer an oath on the Bible, if that's your religious choice.

"Christians can be slagged for their beliefs and I can take that, I don't mind that, but when it comes to the Bible that's different, it's sacred."

The council issued a statement on Thursday, saying the artistic board had, "with great regret", taken the decision to cancel the play.

It added: "In taking this decision, the board wishes to confirm its commitment to deliver on the agreed council's artistic policy 'to deliver the highest quality performing arts programme, offering a diverse, socially relevant and enriching experience to as many citizens as possible'."

The news has been met with ridicule on social networking sites.

See also - <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-25860816>

## **LIFE IN A BISHOP'S PALACE - CORK STYLE**

**The Irish time's Living Here interviewed Bishop Paul Colton at the Bishop's Palace in Cork -**

**It seems like a gift straight from heaven – a Georgian house on four acres right in the middle of the city - but living in a tithe house has some drawbacks too**

‘WE’VE BEEN LIVING IN THIS HOUSE FOR 15 YEARS, BUT BISHOPS HAVE LIVED HERE SINCE THE LATE 18TH CENTURY. WE HAVE ALL THE PORTRAITS FROM ALL THE BISHOPS HANGING UP IN THE DINING ROOM.

“The house was built in 1782 and the architect was Thomas Ivory. Originally, this was the town house and the main residence was in Bishopstown. It’s not our house – we are required to live in it as part of the job. Georgian living is very sensible and the light is one of my favourite things about it. The morning light comes in at the front and it moves to the rooms you move to as the day progresses.

“My study on the top floor is my favourite room. It looks straight across to the cathedral and has views of the city.

“On the ground floor there is a hall way and three main rooms and a small kitchen. We use five bedrooms, and there is a small chapel at the top and a basement, which we don’t use, but which would have been used by staff previously.

“I guess the drawback of the house is that on retirement we have to find somewhere to live for the first time on our own. So, you have to plan and that is one of the big challenges of living in a tithe house.

“When we move, my guess is we will go back to the sort of house I grew up in, in suburbia, which is a semi or detached home among other houses.

“Because the ceilings are so high here, the rooms are very hard to heat, and window cleaning is a challenge in a house so tall. Maintenance is a big challenge and the heating system is 60 years old and it is being surveyed with view to replacing it. It’s not the same thing as replacing the heating in an ordinary suburban house unfortunately.

“One of the things I love about here is the location. It is opposite St Fin Barre’s Cathedral, right bang in the middle of the city, within walking distance of everything. There are about four acres of gardens with it, which is rare in a house so central.

## Space for thinking

“There was some pressure to sell it in the 1970s and early 1980s, and while these things are under review from time to time, we have spent a lot of money getting this house up to spec. We do use the house for public functions and it is ideal for that and works very well when you have a big group in.

“I really like the dining room. All the ground floor rooms are lovely. They are comfortable and bright and there is space for thinking. The house is a perfect cube and each floor gets sequentially smaller in height. So, for example, on the ground floor windows we have five levels of glass, and then on the next floor there are four, ending up in two levels on the top floor.

“It has always been called the Bishop’s Palace. As a social media user, when I check in on Foursquare, that’s the name that comes up. It’s more of an honour name though. It’s not like we live in something akin to Versailles.

“There are very few houses like this that have been continuously used for the same purpose since their foundation. It will be a very hard house to let go of.”

In conversation with Brian O’Connell

## Ex-church treasurer 'stole £32k of funds'

**The former honorary treasurer of the Church of Ireland parish in Culmore on the outskirts of Derry has appeared in court charged with stealing £32,500 from church funds.**

News Letter, UTV - Lyndsey Bredin, 27, from Primity Crescent, Newbuildings, attended Derry Magistrates' Court on Thursday for a preliminary enquiry hearing.

She is alleged to have committed nineteen charges of stealing credit balances belonging to the parish on dates between 24 March, 2010 and 17 October, 2011.

The defendant said she understood the charges and her defence solicitor Paddy McDaid accepted that she had a prima facie case to answer.

Asked if she had anything to say in answer to the nineteen charges, the

defendant replied "not at this time".

She was released on her own bail of £500 to appear before the Crown Court for her arraignment on 13 February.

As part of her bail conditions, she must continue to reside at her home address.

## Murder victim's death 'a shocking why without an answer'

### **Hundreds attend removal of Tom O'Gorman at Castleknock church**

Irish News - Mourners holding candles lined the narrow road that led into the Church of Our Lady Mother of the Church in Dublin tonight as murdered Dublin man [Tom O'Gorman](#) was carried inside.

The crowd of hundreds followed the flower-laden coffin and packed out the small Castleknock church for the ceremony.

Mr O'Gorman, a minister of the Eucharist who was involved in a number of Catholic groups and campaigns, was found dead at his home in Castleknock in the small hours of Sunday, January 12th.

Fr John McNerney, chaplain of UCD where Mr O'Gorman had studied, said Tom's family and the whole community were "in total shock at this heartbreak".

"For us all, especially his family, Tom's own death has been a shocking why without an answer," he said.

Fr McNerney and Auxiliary Bishop of Dublin Raymond Field were among nine clergy on the altar, while other members of the clergy sat in the body of the church.

The chief mourners were Mr O'Gorman's brother and sister Paul and Catherine O'Gorman. Representatives of the Iona Institute, led by director David Quinn, were also in attendance, as was Senator Ronan Mullen and staff from the Catholic Communications Office.

A folk group sang *Ma Toute Belle* during the service, based on the Song of Songs from the old testament and harps accompanied *Sé an Tiarna m'aoire*,



based on Psalm 23. A bible was placed on Mr O’Gorman’s coffin and nearby a table bore a framed photograph of him.

Fr McNerney said Mr O’Gorman wanted to bring about the realisation of the Gospel “personally, socially and politically”. He worked with the Iona Institute, with young people and with the pro-life movement, as well as being a minister of the Eucharist, he said.

“Tom was given only 39 years to live, but in that one life he lived more than many of us would live in two lives,” he said.

He described Mr O’Gorman as “essentially a people person” and said the “inner thirst of his life was for the rich network of relationships he built with so many”.

“It doesn’t remove the deep pain we all felt at the horror of how we left us, but I think Tom himself would have suggested to us to see behind the horror, the horror of Jesus himself who experienced a death and psychological forsakenness which alone could match Tom’s own suffering,” he said.

The funeral Mass for Mr O’Gorman will take place tomorrow morning at 11.30am.

## GB NEWS

### NEW HYMN BOOK FROM AUTHOR OF *TELL OUT MY SOUL*

**Bishop Timothy Dudley-Smith, whose many hymns including *Tell out my soul* and *Lord for the years* have become hits with congregations all over the world, has just had a new hymn book called *A Mirror to the Soul* published by the Royal School of Church Music (RSCM). The thirty contemporary hymns in this collection are based on the psalms, and are set to both familiar and new tunes.**

Several of the new texts have been set to well-known hymn tunes such as *Wolvercote* and *Abbot’s Leigh*, but the music editor William (Bill) Llewellyn has also included some tunes especially written for Bishop Timothy’s texts, including one from the popular choral composer John Rutter. Other well-known composers represented are John Barnard, Cyril Taylor and Paul Edwards. Some hymns have a choice of tunes and the names of other familiar alternatives are suggested throughout.

Bishop Timothy Dudley-Smith, who has written more than 300 hymn texts, was awarded an OBE in 2003, and became a Fellow of the Royal School of Church Music (FRSCM) in 2011. His writings contained in *A Mirror to the Soul* reflect a range of moods to be found in the Old Testament book of Psalms; hence the title. This collection would suit any church seeking further opportunities for singing (rather than saying) the psalms during morning and evening services, as well as services of Holy Communion.

Writing in the Preface, Bishop Timothy refers to the lost art of chanting the psalms, and the value of metrical psalms as an alternative: "to congregations used to hymn singing they can offer something of the riches that singing (or saying) of the psalms can provide". Referring to this book he continues; "these hymns claim to be no more than 'based on' the psalm in question, and of course... in their own right they can be sung as hymns, regardless of their origin".

The new volume will be officially launched at Sarum College in Salisbury [on Thursday 20th March 2014, at 4.00pm](#), hosted by Sarum College Bookshop and the RSCM. There will be an opportunity to hear and sing some of the new hymns, and to meet Bishop Timothy and William Llewellyn. All are welcome to attend: please RSVP to [01722 326899](tel:01722326899) or [bookshop@sarum.ac.uk](mailto:bookshop@sarum.ac.uk).

More information about the book may be found at [www.rscm.com/shop](http://www.rscm.com/shop), where sample pages may be viewed.

***A Mirror to the Soul* may be purchased from RSCM Music Direct:**

Price: £6.95 (£5.21 RSCM affiliates)

ISBN: 978-0-85402-234-2

Tel: [0845 021 7726](tel:08450217726)

Email: [musicdirect@rscm.com](mailto:musicdirect@rscm.com)

Online: [www.rscm.com/shop](http://www.rscm.com/shop)

## **HOLOCAUST DAY IS NEXT MONDAY**

**Next Monday, 27 January 2014, will be the anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau, the largest Nazi death camp in the Second World War.**

Holocaust Memorial Day takes place on this same date each year now, and the occasion will be marked in Edinburgh, Scotland's capital, by a showing



of *Holocaust, A Music Memorial Film From Auschwitz* at the Lauriston Jesuit Centre.

For many prisoners in Auschwitz, music played a unique and precious role. Several orchestras and bands were set up, made up entirely of inmates. Amid all the horrors, music was a part of daily life: marches were played at the camp gates as labour gangs were led out to work each morning and musicians were called on at all times of the day and night to perform for the SS and Nazi officers.

*A Music Memorial Film From Auschwitz* provides a unique tribute to the millions who died in the Nazi genocide. It was produced by the BBC, with the collaboration of Polish television, ZDF, and the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, and was originally broadcast on BBC2 in 2005.

For the first time in its history, the museum at Auschwitz-Birkenau allowed a number of leading musicians from around the world to come to the camps and perform in a 90-minute film shot entirely on location.

A sequence of carefully chosen music, all connected in some way with the Holocaust, was interwoven with the powerful accounts of three survivors from the men's and women's orchestras.

## **ANGLICAN PRIEST FORCED OUT BY PARISH DRINKING CABAL**

News reports on Rev Simon Tibbs, priest in charge of St Faiths, Crosby (Liverpool Diocese) who was forced out after trying to challenge a cadre of churchgoers over their drinking habits. A visitation and subsequent report by the former Bishop of Hulme, Stephen Lowe found serious failings in the PCC and amongst the laity.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/religion/10592117/Priest-bullied-out-of-parish-for-challenging-binge-drinking-culture-among-worshippers.html>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-merseyside-25860897>

## **C of E TO STRENGTHEN SAFEGUARDING**

Report that bishops will have the power to demand that a priest undergoes a safeguarding risk-assessment under legislative changes coming before Synod.

<http://www.churchtimes.co.uk/articles/2014/24-january/news/uk/risk-assessment-for-clergy-tightened-up>

## SHAM MARRIAGE LOOPHOLE

Sham marriages are a "golden loophole" for people wanting to remain in the U.K. Illegally, according to a Home Office report. The article says that Church of England offers another loophole as priests are not required by law to alert the authorities to "suspicious" weddings.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2544794/Sham-marriages-golden-loophole-UK-borders-registry-offices-fail-report-suspicious-weddings.html>

**Lord God,  
you have called your servants  
to ventures of which we cannot see the  
ending,  
by paths as yet untrodden,  
through perils unknown.  
Give us faith to go out with good courage,  
not knowing where we go,  
but only that your hand is leading us  
and your love supporting us;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**