



Scottish Episcopal Church to vote on same sex marriage

Representatives from dioceses across Scotland will vote on a proposal to change the Scottish Episcopal Church's Canon on Marriage at the annual meeting of the General Synod toDAY(10 June).

The proposal would remove the doctrinal clause which states that marriage is between a man and a woman and add a conscience clause for those who would not want to conduct a same-sex marriage. This is the first reading of the proposal. If it is approved, there will be a further debate in 2017 when a two-thirds majority in each house of Bishops, Clergy and Laity would be required.

Preparing for General Synod the Most Rev David Chillingworth, Bishop of St Andrews, Dunkeld & Dunblane and Primus of the Scottish Episcopal Church said, “We are considering an issue which is profoundly challenging for all churches. Over the past two years we have been engaged in a series of discussions in our province, dioceses and congregations. People have been courageous and open in expressing and listening to the diversity of views on same sex marriage which are held within the Scottish Episcopal Church.

“We now come to the point where we must make a decision about the way forward for our church. We do that in all humility seeking the will of God and attempting always to sustain our unity in the midst of our diversity.”

The synod, which is being held from 9-11 June at St Paul's and St George's Church in Edinburgh, is discussing a range of issues. These include Scotland's role within the worldwide Anglican Communion, and the Scottish Episcopal Church's response to the 'Growth in Communion, Partnership in Mission' Report produced by the Church of Scotland and Church of England. There will also be discussion on the wider engagement of the Church with society in areas such as climate and poverty. The Synod will also be invited to back a motion calling on the UK government to cancel the renewal of Trident.

The increase in the number of candidates coming forward for training for ministry will be highlighted and Synod will hear from some of the students currently undertaking training for ministry.

Live video coverage of the meeting will be available on the Scottish Episcopal Church website, <http://www.scotland.anglican.org/who-we-are/organisation/the-general-synod/general-synod-live-video-stream/> together with online updates of the proceedings and decisions of General Synod 2016.

Dunboyne School presents the “€20,000 Drop”

On Thursday, June 23rd St Peters National School, Dunboyne brings the hugely popular “€20,000 Drop” to Westmanstown Conference Centre. The show is similar to The Million Pound. Contestants are drawn from ticket sales and each contestant will play for €2500. Contestants will be asked eight questions and must place their cash on the correct answers. If some cash is placed on an incorrect answer, it is lost and contestants go on to the next questions with the remaining money. The aim is to reach question eight and have some cash left. The show is fully computerised with lifelines to help contestants along the way. The questions and four possible answers are displayed on two 8ft x 6ft screens, one at each side of the stage.

This incredibly successful show, which is provided by Pallas Marketing Ltd., is being run by St Peter's National School, Dunboyne to assist in fundraising for their School Development Fund. The school is currently on a leased site in temporary accommodation, on the Maynooth Road, awaiting a site for a permanent school.



Rev Colin Mcconaghie, George Williams, Pip O' Brien, Maeve Swindell, Joy Smith, Elysha Brennan, Rev Janice Aiton, Anita Prole, Brian O' Neill

The launch night for the show was held in Dunboyne Parish Centre on Tuesday May 31st and a large attendance included Nadine Watters from PwC (one of the main sponsors) and Tom Shanahan from Pallas Marketing (show providers). The first ticket for the event was purchased by Elysha Brennan, The Rose of Tralee. We spoke to Joy Smith, the school's principal about the show at the launch night who advised as follows:

“We are all looking forward to a great night on the 23rd as the show is really hi-tech and offers a superb night’s entertainment. The show is timed to start at 8.00 pm and we would encourage people to come early to ensure a seat” said Mrs Smith. “We would also like to say a particular word of thanks to our major sponsors, PWC, Stanley McAdam, Mercers Property & Investment, Goodwins Builders Providers, Hutton & Meade, Kidology Childcare, Rennick Solicitors, Maxol M3 Motorway Services, Mulhuddart and Ralphs Eurospar, Dunboyne and to all of those who have taken out advertising at the show”, she continued.

There is still some large screen digital advertising space available for the show, please contact stpeters20kdrop@gmail.com for further information.

Tickets for “€20,000 Drop” are available from the school, any member of the 20k Drop Team or at the door on the night. Numbers are limited – anyone wishing to attend should call 085 8213986

Retirement of long-serving Lay Treasurer of Methodist church



Stanley Graham and his wife, Rosemary, are pictured following a lunch to thank Mr Graham for his faithful service as Lay Treasurer of the General Purposes Fund for the past 32 years – a position which has required countless hours of work in relation to connexional expenses.

The Lay Treasurer is also the ‘Circuit Steward’ for the Secretary of Conference and is responsible for secretarial expenses and the manse.

Over the years, Mr Graham has fulfilled this role with five Secretaries of Conference and all have spoken appreciatively of his support, wisdom and care for them and their families. The current Secretary of Conference, the Rev Dr John Stephens, along with the President, the Rev Brian Anderson, and two former Secretaries of Conference were amongst those present at the meal today in Mr Graham's honour.

Mr Graham will stand down from his position at next week's Methodist Conference, when he will be wished a long and happy retirement.

Cathedral, choral and musical

First Minister Arlene Foster MLA, Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant for Belfast Mrs Fionnuala Jay-O'Boyle and Belfast's new Lord Mayor, Alderman Brian Kingston, were among the honoured guests at a celebration **Evensong for Her Majesty the Queen's ninetieth birthday in St Anne's Cathedral, Belfast**, on June 8.

Also in attendance were Sir Nigel Hamilton, Her Majesty's Deputy Lord Lieutenant for Belfast, Lady Ballyedmund, Honorary Counsul for Chile, the Counsul General of China, representatives of



The Dean of Belfast with HM Lord Lieutenant for Belfast

the Royal Navy ,Army, RAF, PSNI, and Army cadets and MLAs.

The service opened with the singing of the National Anthem and later Cathedral organist Ian Barber, Master of the Choristers David Stevens, and the Choir presented a rousing version of the popular coronation anthem, Parry's *I was glad*. There were special prayers and hymns suitable for the occasion. The lessons were read by Sir Nigel Hamilton and by the Lord Mayor, Alderman Kingston.

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Two events will be held in **St Patrick's Church of Ireland Cathedral, Armagh** to celebrate the 150 anniversary of the birth of one of Armagh's famous sons, **Charles Wood**, who was born on 15 June 1866 in 11 Vicars' Hill.

On **Sunday 19 June 2016**, the Cathedral Choir will sing **Choral Evensong** at 3.15pm, which will feature music by Charles Wood, including the anthem 'O Thou the Central Orb,' Wood's setting in D of the Evening Canticles, and hymns with tunes written by Wood, for example, 'Emain Macha' and 'Armagh'. Both organ voluntaries for the service have also been composed by Wood.

Following Evensong, at 4.15pm, the **monthly Cathedral recital** will be given by the choristers and young men of the Choir. Director of Music, Dr Stephen Timpany said, "Members of the Choir will perform a variety of vocal, choral and instrumental solos, including a recitation. Some of the choristers will perform pieces for which they were awarded prizes at the recent Portadown Music Festival. The boys will sing pieces, including Handel's 'Art Thou Troubled?' and 'Silent Worship'.

The Very Revd Gregory Dunstan, Dean of Armagh, said, “Visiting schools in and around the City, Dr Timpany has more than doubled the number of boys in the Cathedral choir this year. They have brought with them talents on the ‘cello, saxophone, piano and other instruments. As the choir looks forward to a break after an intensive and successful year, we look forward to this celebration of their achievements.”

As with all the recitals in this series, admission is free, with a retiring collection towards the further endowment of the Cathedral choir through the Archbishop’s Choir Fund.

A final organ recital in this year’s series will be held on Sunday 3 July 2016 at 4.15pm with organists, Nicole Keller and Timothy Olsen, from America.

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New entrance to St Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin - Until recently, visitors to Saint Patrick’s Cathedral have entered through the southwest porch, coming in to the nave towards the west end of the Cathedral. With both individual visitors and groups using the same single door, the area around the entrance was very crowded during busy times.

To make the entry process easier for visitors, a new entrance has been introduced on the north side of the building. Walk-up visitors can now enter the Cathedral grounds through a gate on Patrick Street. Group visitors can continue to enter through the southwest porch, giving them easy access to the Cathedral from the parking for coaches. This entrance also gives skip-the-line access to individuals who purchase advance admission via our website.

The new entrance has the added benefit of opening up the side of the building closest to Saint Patrick's Park, a beautiful public green space popular with visitors and locals alike. People enjoying the sunny weather in the park are now able to enter the Cathedral without walking around the west side of the building.

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St Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin new web site -
you are invited to visit
<http://www.stpatrickscathedral.ie/>

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Saint Bartholomew's Dublin - the annual summer concert featuring the combined choirs of Saint Bartholomew's Church performing Vivaldi's Gloria and a selection of other items

from the choral repertoire. The concert will be followed by sparkling wine and canapés in the church grounds. Sunday, 12 June 2016 from 6:00 to 8:00 pm. Saint Bartholomew's Church - Clyde Road, Dublin, Ireland

News briefs

St Pauls Garvagh wear your Northern Ireland tops - Sunday 12th June at 11am Children's Day in St Pauls Garvagh. The Rector, Rev Paul Whittaker, a keen football fan, says, "it's also Northern Ireland's first game in the European Championships so wear your Northern Ireland tops at church, I'll be wearing mine or wear something green. Should be a great day."

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Taney Parish Fete, Dublin, takes place this Saturday June 11 from 1-4pm.... A traditional fete with lots of stalls and games.

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On Sunday 12th June 2016, **Rev. James O'Reilly** will be ordained to the Priesthood for the **Diocese of Down and Connor** at a ceremony to be held in Christ the Redeemer Church, Lagmore, Belfast, by Most Rev. Noel Treanor. All are welcome to attend and join in this diocesan and parish celebration. 3:00 pm Christ the Redeemer Church, 81 Lagmore Grove, Dunmurry, Belfast, Lisburn BT17 0TD

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The Church of England's Diocese in Europe has opened a new parish in central France. The new church of St Alcuin of York will serve an English-speaking congregation in the Touraine. It will meet in two separate buildings: *l'Eglise Protestante* in Tours and the Roman Catholic *l'Eglise St Michel* in Savigny-en-Véron. The Bishop in Europe, the Rt Revd David Hamid, licensed the new priest in charge, the Revd John Neal, at a special service last weekend which was attended by both the pastor of the *Eglise Protestante* and the vicar general of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Tours, as well as the Baptist pastor from an English speaking independent church in the area.

News links to reports on faith, politics and education

NI political leaders support threatened north Belfast priest

News Letter

Stormont's leaders have vowed to stand shoulder to shoulder with a north Belfast priest who has been issued with a death threat by dissident republicans.

<http://www.newsletter.co.uk/leaders-vow-to-stand-shoulder-to-shoulder-with-threatened-priest-1-7422376>

BBC News

A Catholic priest from north Belfast who was threatened by a criminal gang meets with the first and deputy first ministers at Stormont Castle.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-36482689>

Northern Bishops warn of Brexit impact

Irish Catholic

The withdrawal of Britain from the EU could undermine peace in Ireland and beyond, the northern bishops have said. In a statement issued ahead of the June 23 referendum on the Britain's membership of the EU, the bishops warned against the impact of a 'Brexit' on the on-going peace process.

<http://irishcatholic.ie/article/northern-bishops-warn-brexit-impact>

Irish Times

<http://www.irishtimes.com/news/social-affairs/religion-and-beliefs/catholic-bishops-warn-of-brexit-consequences-1.2676961?mode=sample&auth-failed=1&pw-origin=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.irishtimes.com%2Fnews%2Fsocial-affairs%2Freligion-and-beliefs%2Fcatholic-bishops-warn-of-brexit-consequences-1.2676961>

Pressure on Catholic schools to ban Amnesty International

Irish Catholic

Catholic schools are coming under increasing pressure to ban Amnesty International from addressing their

students, given the organisation's support for a liberalisation of Ireland's abortion laws.

<http://www.irishcatholic.ie/article/pressure-catholic-schools-ban-amnesty-international>

Tel

The Archbishop of York writes a first person comment article under the headline, "Our commitments to our European partners cannot be lightly cast aside – that's why I'll be voting to Remain." Archbishop Sentamu says, "We should ... consider what is likely to lead to mutual flourishing and to encourage peace. Not all decisions should be made purely on the basis of "What's in it for us?"

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2016/06/08/our-commitments-to-our-european-partners-cannot-be-lightly-cast/>

Tel/Ind/Guard/Christian Today/Exp

Further coverage of comments made by the Archbishop of Canterbury in response to questions by the Home Affairs Select Committee. He criticised remarks made by UKIP leader Nigel Farage about sexual assaults by migrants as "legitimising racism". Mr Farage has rejected the Archbishop's criticism in an interview on ITVs *Good Morning Britain*. *Express* reports on comments by the Archbishop (also at the Committee) supporting the Pope's criticism of Donald Trump in his stance over immigrants and Muslims.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2016/06/08/nigel-farage-claims-archbishop-of-canterbury-is-turning-a-blind/>

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/nigel-farage-defends-sex-attacks-comments-refugees-have-different-attitudes-to-women-a7070206.html>

<http://www.theguardian.com/politics/2016/jun/07/farage-calls-migrant-sex-attack-comments-tiddly-issue-in-eu-referendum-campaign>

<http://www.express.co.uk/news/world/677860/>

[Archbishop-of-Canterbury-launches-attack-Donald-Trump-Muslim-comments](#)

Mail/Christian Today/Northern Echo/ITV

Further coverage that the former Archbishop of York, Lord Hope, is under police investigation for a possible offence of misconduct in public office over his handling of the case of Robert Waddington, the late Dean of Manchester. Articles notes the current Archbishop of York, Dr John Sentamu, set up an inquiry led by Judge Sally Cahill, into the case when it was brought to his attention and her report was published in 2014.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3632404/Police-investigate-former-Archbishop-York-claims-covered-paedophile-colleague.html>

<http://www.itv.com/news/calendar/update/2016-06-08/former-archbishop-of-york-faces-investigation-over-child-abuse-claims-against-fellow-clergyman/>

Times/Christian Today

Further coverage of the publication of a paper '[Thinking Afresh About Welfare](#)' prepared by Dr Malcolm Brown, Director of the Mission and Public Affairs Division (Archbishops' Council), which was endorsed by the May meeting of the House of Bishops. Articles focus on parts of the paper which they say show that the Church has changed its view on Margaret Thatcher; *Times* notes

comment from an official who said that in opposing her welfare policies in the 1980s, the Church failed to recognise the “moral vision” underpinning her social reforms.

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/perhaps-thatcher-was-right-after-all-church-admits-fl96xp9bf>

Christian Today

The Prime Minister has said it is "clearly ludicrous" for a college Christian Union to be banned on the grounds of the government's counter-extremism strategy. Mr Cameron was asked about a case at PMQs where a CU was banned purportedly on the basis of the government's anti-terrorism legislation. This is believed to be the first case of a Christian group being targeted under the Prevent strategy, which was introduced last autumn to tackle extremism in universities and schools.

BBC/Tel/Mail/Christian Today

Reports that Sir David Attenborough will pay tribute to the Queen to celebrate her official birthday by reading an address by *Paddington* creator Michael Bond. The reading, part of celebrations for Her Majesty turning 90, will be at St Paul's Cathedral on Friday. Bond has written a reflection on the passing of the years for the service, which also includes an anthem by Judith Weir, Master of the Queen's Music.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/entertainment-arts-36477623>

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2016/06/08/sir-david-attenborough-to-lead-tributes-at-queens-90th-birthday/>

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/femail/article-3631213/Sir-David-Attenborough-read-Queen-s-birthday-service-St-Paul-s-Cathedral.html>

BBC

Reports that the funeral of TV sitcom writer Carla Lane is due to be held later in her home city of Liverpool. The creator of BBC comedies *The Liver Birds*, *Bread and Butterflies* died at a nursing home last month. More than 500 people are expected to attend the service at Liverpool Anglican Cathedral.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-merseyside-36480648>

Ind

Reports that the results of research into mitochondrial replacement therapy. This replaces a small amount of a mother's faulty DNA in her egg with healthy DNA from another woman. More commonly known as "three-parent" babies, the procedure means that babies inherit genes from a father and two mothers. The article notes that in February 2015, MPs voted to allow research into "three-parent babies", despite opposition from faith groups including the C of E.

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/science/three-parent-babies-could-be-a-reality-by-the-end-of-2017-following-breakthrough-study-a7071236.html>

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