



***The Rev Paul Whittaker with the Irish Cup which will be on display today at Garvagh Parish's 'International Football Night'***

## **Green and white army outreach tonight by Derry parish**

As Northern Ireland take to the field tonight (Thursday) for their crucial European Championship clash with Ukraine, they'll be

roared on back home by parishioners of St. Paul's Parish, Garvagh, who will be hosting a simultaneous 'International Football Night'.

The event, in the local Rangers Club, is part of the Parish's contribution to the diocesan Year of Opportunity 2016. The Rector of Errigal and Desertoghill, the Rev Paul Whittaker, is chaplain of Glenavon Football Club, who won the Irish Cup this year. The trophy will be on display at Thursday evening's event.

A team of distinguished football pundits will be joining fans to provide pre-match, half-time and post-match comment and reaction on the Northern Ireland-Ukraine game. They are the Glenavon manager (and former Northern Ireland International) Gary Hamilton; ex-Glentoran and Glenavon player Philip Mitchell; and former Coleraine start – and popular BBC Sport analyst – Liam Beckett.

Every army (and a 'green and white army' is no exception) marches on its stomach, so burgers and hot dogs will be served at half-time. The Parish 'International Football Night' is open to everyone and anyone, including children.

The club will be open from 4pm, in plenty of time for the 5pm kick-off.

## Ecumenical celebration of 50th anniversary of the Anglican Centre in Rome

Anglican and Roman Catholic leaders were joined by senior figures from other Christian denominations last night at a special choral evensong in Westminster Abbey to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Anglican Centre in Rome.

Anglican, Catholic and Orthodox Church leaders were present at the service, which was sung by the Westminster Abbey Choir. In [his sermon](#), Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby praised the work of the Centre, and its director, Archbishop David Moxon, joking that the centre was seen by some as the Anglican Communion's spy station in Rome.

“Those are the first time I heard those words this evening,” Archbishop David told *ACNS* afterwards, “but I think in terms of intelligent reporting, in terms of a careful look at each other, in terms of good communication and awareness of each other, it is a humorous and anecdotal description which I enjoy.”



***Anglican, Roman Catholic and Orthodox Church leaders at a service of choral evensong at Westminster Abbey marking the 50th anniversary of the Anglican Centre in Rome.***

The service, he said, summed up “50 years of faith, hope and love”, and he added: “The Anglican Centre is a bit like a fiddler on the roof: it needs funding every year, it can’t guarantee its existence, but it tries to play a tune of faith, hope, love; to try to suggest that what unites us is greater than what divides us. That’s the point.

“And we stand on that roof, playing that tune, saying to people ‘look up! The Holy Spirit is trying to build bridges all the time.’ We are part of that



process, part of that energy,” he said, adding that God gives the courage and hope needed to build bridges between the denominations.

“Sometimes people get a little cynical about ecumenism. Sometimes they wonder what the point is,” he said. “But living and working in Rome you can see the point. And now, especially, with this Pontificate – with Pope Francis and with Archbishop Justin – there is all kinds of evidence that it is worth it.

“The Pope and Archbishop Justin are saying Let’s behave as if we are one where we can, even though we haven’t agreed on everything. And in some cases the differences seem quite significant, but let’s behave as if we are one for the sake of the Kingdom of God, for justice and peace.”

He said that collaborative work on issues of justice, people trafficking, refugees and city missions were “all ways in which the world needs our solidarity, our co-operation [and] our partnership.”

This was, he said, a new kind of ecumenism which was driven by mission. “Rather than just trying to close the dogmatic gaps – which are

important to close – these two [Pope Francis and Archbishop Justin] are saying let’s generate a sense of communion now, where we can, on the ground.

“The more you walk together the better you talk together. A lot of people think you can only walk together once you have talked together enough. I think it is often the other way around.”

## **Presbyterian Church increases its services to people with a learning disability**

The Presbyterian Church already provides services for people with a learning disability in Northern Ireland, which includes Residential Respite Care, Day Care and Supported Living schemes. This decision will now be able to increase its service provision in the Republic of Ireland.

Lindsay Conway, Director and Secretary to PCI’s Council for Social Witness, which has overall management responsibility for these and other services, said, “The Council has wide-ranging experience of working with adults with a learning disability and is delighted to add Peacehaven in Greystones to its Residential Care, Day Care and

Supported Living schemes. We are also pleased that this will enable us to expand our witness in the Republic of Ireland.

“We look forward in the weeks ahead to developing our relationships with the 16 residents, staff and family members in Greystones. At the same time, we would also want to acknowledge the Christian work undertaken in the past by the members, the Board and the staff of Peacehaven Trust.”

Geoffrey Hanan, Acting Chair and Director of Peacehaven Trust Limited said that Peacehaven has a clear vision and passion of empowering adults with a range of disabilities and appropriate support to live independent lives within their community.

“With a view to ensuring the continued and enhanced delivery of Peacehaven's services to residents, present and future, I am absolutely delighted that we are consolidating our activities into those of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland's Council for Social Witness.

“PCI shares, and I am confident will protect, our Christian ethos and values which will continue, according to God's Will, to shape everything we do for the people we support, our staff and all

other stakeholders. As always, God’s timing has been perfect,” he said.

Mr. Hanan also said that the alignment with PCI’s ethos, governance arrangements and strategic focus, alongside the fusion of joint operations and staff expertise, would sustain and enhance Peacehaven’s work into the future.

“Delivering the best possible service for the people we support, maintaining employment and continuing to work to His Glory with all stakeholders, are key priorities for Peacehaven,” Mr. Hanan added.

## **C of I Global-shaping mission conferences**

The Church of Ireland Council for Mission has announced two one-day conferences to raise awareness of overseas mission within the Church of Ireland. The title – *‘Global Shaping Local: Two-way Mission’* – reflects the Council’s hope of increasing the Church’s understanding of its calling to assist the developing world, while also acknowledging that we have much to learn from the developing world in its experience and approach to faith and mission.

The conferences will be held in two locations in November 2016:

- **St. Columba's Parish Centre, Omagh** – Saturday 5th November 2016, 10am-4pm. Facilitated by the Rt Revd Kenneth Good, Bishop of Derry and Raphoe.
- **The Charleville Centre, Tullamore** – Saturday 12th November 2016, 10am-4pm. Facilitated by the Rt Revd Kenneth Kearon, Bishop of Limerick, Killaloe and Ardfert.

The keynote speaker at both events will be the Revd Dr Mark Welsh, Mission Development Officer with the Presbyterian Church in Ireland. There will be an interview with a mission partner and a choice of five workshops, facilitated by the Association of Missionary Societies (AMS).

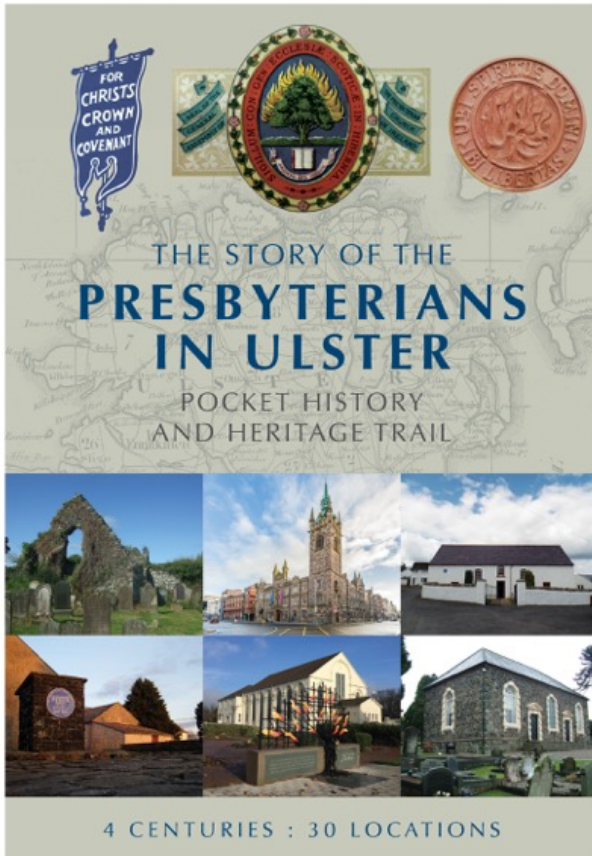
The Council for Mission is inviting every parish in the country to send a representative, to inform themselves of the current challenges in overseas mission and how we can better address mission in our local context. Participants will have the opportunity to attend two of the following workshops: Engaging Youth in Mission; Helping without Hurting; The Bible as a Key to Mission; The Five Marks of Mission; and Two-way Mission: When Global Shapes Local.

There will be a small charge £8/€10 to help to cover costs. Places can be booked by Friday, 30th September by contacting Mrs Brigid Barrett on 00 353 (0)74 9145226 or by email at: [brigid.missionbookings@gmail.com](mailto:brigid.missionbookings@gmail.com)

In advance of the conference, the Council for Mission is also encouraging as many members of the Church of Ireland as possible to complete the following survey to determine the level of involvement in global mission: [www.surveymonkey.com/r/2016GMS](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2016GMS)

## **Pocket History and Heritage Trail of Presbyterians in Ulster**

For four centuries Presbyterians have represented one of the most important elements in the population of Ireland. Their influence has been strongest in the history of the northern province of Ulster where for over 300 years they have constituted a majority of the Protestant population. The origins of the Presbyterian churches in Ireland can be traced to Scotland and to the successive waves of immigration of Scottish families to this island in the 1600s.



This folding map/pocket history looks at the story of Ulster's Presbyterians, highlighting the emergence of the historic Presbyterian denominations, the role of Presbyterians in the 1798 Rebellion and the formation of Northern Ireland, and the contribution of Presbyterians to education and the mission field. It also includes

information on 30 sites where you can discover at first hand the richly textured history of Presbyterianism in Ulster.

The publishers are the Presbyterian Historical Society of Ireland and the Ulster Historical Foundation with sponsorship provided by MAGUS.

Available from the [PHSI Library, 26 College Green, Belfast](#) for personal callers.

Available to order online

from [BooksIreland.org.uk](#). The Ulster Historical Foundation website is at [AncestryIreland.com](#).

## **Ecumenical devotional to mark Reformation anniversary**

A new daily devotional produced by Anglican and Lutheran church leaders will be published later this year to help Christians in the two communions commemorate together next year's 500th anniversary of the beginning of the Reformation.

Work on the book, *Grace upon Grace: Voices around the World*, was substantially completed during last month's meeting of the [Anglican –](#)



[Lutheran International Coordinating Committee](#) in Adelaide, Australia.

In a [communiqué](#) from the meeting, those engaged in the ecumenical dialogue say that the material, which will be available in hard copy and as a downloadable PDF file, “illustrates the constant need for all churches be open to reform and renewal by the Holy Spirit.”

Over the course of six weeks, users of the daily devotional will consider themes of God’s mission in the world (*Mission Dei*), Liberated by God’s grace, Salvation – not for sale, Human beings – not for sale, Creation – not for sale, and Freed to serve (*Diakonia*).

Shortly after the Anglican – Lutheran International Coordinating Committee met, another ecumenical dialogue, the [Anglican – Old Catholic International Co-ordinating Council](#), gathered for their meeting in Ghent, Belgium.

The Church of England entered into full communion with the Old Catholic Churches in July 1931 under what is known as the Bonn Agreement. This has since been extended to all member churches of the Anglican Communion. In their [communiqué](#), members of the ecumenical

dialogue say that they had begun to “explore creatively” how to mark the centenary of the Bonn Agreement in 2031.

During their meeting, the ecumenical representatives looked at ways to “develop concrete proposals for the common mission of the Anglican and Old Catholic Churches on the European continent”; and were joined by Bishop Pierre Whalon of the Convocation of Episcopal Churches in Europe, part of the US-based Episcopal Church; Bishop Robert Innes, the Church of England’s Bishop of Gibraltar in Europe; and Archbishop Joris Vercammen of the Utrecht Union of Old Catholic Churches.

## **100 year old West Belfast man honoured for services to the Catholic Church**

A West Belfast man who turned 100 this week is to be honoured with the prestigious Benemerenti medal for his services to the Catholic Church.

Irish News - Billy Burns, from Ballymurphy, is to receive the rare accolade, awarded by the Pope, for his life-long devotion to the Church.

The centenarian has served in the parish of Corpus Christi for 65 years and has also just been recognised for his dedicated work to St Vincent de Paul.

In 1951, he responded to a request by a priest to take up the Sunday Mass collection and has been performing this service ever since.

During the building of new churches in the parish, including Corpus Christi and the Church of The Annunciation, the father-of-11 also prepared school halls where Mass was held during the renovations.

Mr Burns, originally from the Half Bap area of north Belfast - now known as the Cathedral Quarter - was also in the Fire Service during the Second World War and worked as a tiler in London.

Within the coming weeks, he will receive the Benemerenti medal all the way from Rome for his dedication to the Catholic Church.

It was originally established as an award to soldiers in the Papal Army, but later extended to clergy and the laity for services to the church.

Full report at -

[http://www.irishnews.com/news/2016/06/15/news/100-year-old-west-belfast-man-to-receive-benemerenti-medal-for-services-to-catholic-church-562349/?mc\\_cid=13b64a9083&mc\\_eid=23f2f80c40](http://www.irishnews.com/news/2016/06/15/news/100-year-old-west-belfast-man-to-receive-benemerenti-medal-for-services-to-catholic-church-562349/?mc_cid=13b64a9083&mc_eid=23f2f80c40)

## **Antrim Presbyterian minister 'sensationally sacked'**

First Antrim Presbyterian is officially a church without a leader this week, after its Minister was sensationally sacked.

Antrim Guardian report - Lyle Creighton, the Clerk of Session, confirmed *last week* that Rev Bill Parker's tenure is over.

Following a swift enquiry by the Presbyterian Superior Court, it was decided that the 51-year-old should be 'loosed from his charge' with immediate effect.

In a statement to the shell-shocked congregation on Sunday, church leaders stressed that neither the Session nor Rev Parker had initiated the top-level probe - but it was equally clear that it was an issue of irreconcilable differences running through the core of First Antrim.

## Cathedral, choral and musical

**RSCM workshops St. Brigid's Cathedral, Kildare** - RSCM Ireland invites organists and small church choirs to take part in two two-hour workshops on Saturday, 16 July 2016 from 11:00 to 16:00 . The workshops will be conducted by [Nathan Barrett](#), who is the Organist and Choir Director at St Paul's Church, Glenageary, Co Dublin. The workshops have been organised to enthuse, support and encourage the work of organists and choirs in parish churches. Participants in the Organists' workshop are invited to bring a hymn, voluntary, psalm, etc., that they may like some tips on playing. A light lunch will be available from 1pm–2pm. The cost of the event is €10 and advance booking is required.

Organist Workshop 11am-1pm  
11am: Welcome and Introduction to the role of the organist: Choosing and leading music, Psalms and Voluntaries, Playing tips (Organists to bring a hymn,

voluntary, psalm that they may like some tips on playing)

Choral Workshop 2pm-4pm  
2pm: Welcome and Introduction to singing and vocal parts: Singing and Small Choirs, Hymns, Psalms and Anthems

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### **Derry Diocese Christian Worship Concert -**

After the success of the first concert 'I AM Alive' on Easter Sunday night, where almost 500 people attended the event, the Christian Worship Band will perform a second concert 'I AM FREE' on Sunday 26th June in St Columb's Hall, Derry at 8pm. Tickets available from Veritas, Derry; Henderson Music, Derry or online at [www.ticketsource.co.uk/iam](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/iam)

## **Armagh Pastoral visitors commissioned**

Eight new Pastoral Visitors were commissioned by Archbishop Richard Clarke in St Patrick's Cathedral, Armagh on Sunday 12th June 2016. The Pastoral Visitors will work alongside the ministry team in their local parish setting.

Training for the role was provided by Revd Andy Heber (Rector of Clogherny & Drumnakilly) and Mrs Lynne Heber.



*Pictured (left to right) are: Ruth Mercer, Dean Gregory Dunstan, Roberta Haffey, Ashley Marshall, Roy Patterson, Archbishop Richard Clarke, Lynn Heber, Alex Stinson, Dorothy Warnock, Revd Andy Heber, Ann Haffey and Lorraine Hall.*

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

### **Catholic bishops criticise delay in bringing refugees to Ireland**

Irish Times

**Ireland's** Catholic bishops have criticised the delay in **Ireland** taking in ... 16 dioceses, **religious** congregations and ecclesial groups from **Ireland** to the ...

[churchnewsireland@gmail.com](mailto:churchnewsireland@gmail.com)

<http://www.irishtimes.com/news/social-affairs/religion-and-beliefs/catholic-bishops-criticise-delay-in-bringing-refugees-to-ireland-1.2684217>

## **Craigavon's 'running priest' Martin McAlinden dies aged 51**

Belfast Telegraph

**Church of Ireland** bishop Bishop Harold Miller also paid tribute on Twitter, saying: "One of the most wonderful ecumenical priests I have known died ...

<http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/northern-ireland/craigavons-running-priest-martin-mcalinden-dies-aged-51-34797484.html>

## **MLAs question Education Authority on special needs nursery provision**

BBBC News

Stormont's education committee questioned the EA on a proposed cut to the hours disabled children spend at nurseries in special schools.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-36534305>

## **Ireland sees 30% rise in HIV cases**

Irish Examiner

Ireland sees 30% rise in HIV cases in 2015 as students launch HIV testing campaign

<http://www.irishexaminer.com/breakingnews/ireland/ireland-sees-30-rise-in-hiv-cases-in-2015-as-students-launch-hiv-testing-campaign-740032.html>



## **UN abortion ruling is 'not binding', Enda Kenny says**

Irish Times

<http://www.irishtimes.com/news/politics/un-abortion-ruling-is-not-binding-enda-kenny-says-1.2684762>

### **Yorks Post**

Reports that a charity started by the Archbishop of York has launched a campaign to recognise teaching heroes. It has been inspired by Archbishop Sentamu's pilgrimage which saw him visit almost 150 schools to see their work first hand. Launching the "Heroes in our Schools" initiative, the Archbishop of York Youth Trust will visit six primary schools. The Archbishop said, "Teachers play a vital role in opening up children's hearts and minds to our world, while at the same time treating them as unique individuals who have the potential to grow and change our world for the better."

<http://www.yorkshirepost.co.uk/news/archbishop-of-york-s-youth-charity-launches-new-campaign-to-reward-hero-teachers-1-7963510>

### **Premier**

Reports that more Christian content could soon appear on social media channels as part of a fresh attempt to spread the Gospel (see above). The C of E is to recruit a new Head of Digital Communications to "take risks for the Gospel in exploring how digital engagement can lead to spiritual and numerical growth." The new digital evangelist will be also be trying to build on efforts to provide video, podcasts and other online material that people can access on-the-go and share. Arun Arora, the

Director of Communications at the Archbishops' Council is quoted.

<http://www.premier.org.uk/News/UK/Fresh-bid-to-share-Gospel-in-the-digital-age>

### **BBC/Mail**

Further coverage of the case of a teenager who was tied to a wooden cross by workmates in a mock crucifixion. The teenager, who cannot be named, told York Crown Court he was left feeling distraught after a sustained campaign of bullying by his colleagues. Four men are accused of religiously aggravated assault by beating. All four deny the charges against them. The case continues.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-york-north-yorkshire-36531455>

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3641159/Catholic-teenager-hung-cross-bullying-workmates-religion-ashamed-report-court-told.html>

### **Christian Today/Premier**

Reports that British parliamentarians have been challenged to "change the narrative" of the Middle East from futility to hope. The head of the Coptic Orthodox Church in the UK, Bishop Angaelos, told the National Parliamentary Prayer Breakfast: "We need to address the reality of this situation, that there has been a systematic, yet gradual prejudice, marginalisation and alienation of Christians and minorities allowed to continue over decades. This does not have to continue on our watch."

<http://www.premier.org.uk/News/UK/Prayers-for-the-persecuted-church-at-annual-Parliamentary-Breakfast>

### **BBC**

Reports that a decision on a "Hillsborough Law" to ensure legal funding for bereaved families at inquests where police are involved has been put on hold. The government said any decision should await a report being written by the former bishop of Liverpool James Jones. Bishop James led the Hillsborough Independent Panel now acts as the Home Secretary's adviser on Hillsborough.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-merseyside-36526695>

### **Digital Spy**

Reports that BBC News and Religious Affairs correspondent Caroline Wyatt has been forced to step down from her role after being diagnosed with multiple sclerosis. Ms Wyatt has been fighting MS for the last few years but was only recently diagnosed. She intends to return to the BBC as a radio presenter in the autumn.

<http://www.digitalspy.com/tv/news/a797814/bbc-news-caroline-wyatt-steps-down-after-multiple-sclerosis-diagnosis/>

### **Comment**

Christian Today: Gillan Scott writing about the EU referendum says, "A vote to leave is not about selfish gain". He cites the Archbishop of Canterbury's article to Remain in the Mail on Sunday.

<http://www.christiantoday.com/article/eu.referendum.a.vote.to.leave.is.not.about.selfish.gain/88238.htm>

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