



## **President-elect of Irish Methodist Church from Zimbabwe**

The Irish Methodist Conference will meet from Wednesday, June 15th, to Sunday, June 19th. Conference 2016 will be held in Thomas Street Methodist Church, Portadown.

The Conference is the final authority in the Church in all matters of doctrine, worship, discipline and order, and has been since the early beginnings of the Methodist Church.

The first Conference in Ireland was called by John Wesley, the founder of Methodism, in 1752 and was held in Limerick.

With a few exceptions, the Irish Conference had been chaired by the successor of John Wesley, the President of the Methodist Church in England, until recently. In the past number of years the president of the Irish Methodist Church has chaired the Conference.

Each Conference is made up of lay and ordained people. This year there are 130 ministers and 130 lay people, male and female; for the Methodist Church in Ireland has ordained women since 1978, and women may serve in all positions in the church.

Decisions will be made on a variety of issues about the life and governance of the church, as well as deciding by election the president elect and the lay leader elect of the church.

This year the incoming President of the Church is Rev William D Mullally. A native of Zimbabwe, he served with Scripture Union and the

Methodist Church in South Africa, before moving to Ireland in 2000. Since then he has ministered in west Cork, Lucan, Tallaght and latterly, Cork.

Following his installation at this coming Conference, Rev Mullally will chair the Conference and other committees throughout the year, as well as visiting Methodist congregations all over the island and representing the church in the public sphere.

His theme for the year will challenge the church to fulfil the biblical call to “Be transformed by the renewing of your mind” (Romans 12:2) and ask what God is calling the church to “be” and “do” in this day and age.

The incoming lay leader is Dr Fergus O’Ferrall, a native of Abbeyderg, Kenagh, Co Longford. Dr O’Ferrall holds a doctorate in Irish history from Trinity College Dublin. Amongst his publications are *Catholic Emancipation, Daniel O’Connell and the Birth of Irish Democracy 1820-1830* (Gill & Macmillan, 1985) a short biography of Daniel O’Connell (Gill & Macmillan, 1981 and 1998) and articles in various journals including *Studies, An Irish Quarterly* and the *Dublin Review of Books*.

Dr O’Ferrall has held the following positions:  
Adelaide Professor in Health Policy, Trinity College, Dublin; Director of the Adelaide Hospital  
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Society; Director of the National Bible Society of Ireland; Chief Executive of Macra na Feirme, President of the National Youth Council of Ireland; Chairman of The Wheel, the co-ordinating body of the Irish voluntary sector. He is currently a governor of *The Irish Times* newspaper.

Recently, too, he has been asked to co-chair a new initiative by the Carnegie Trust and The Wheel to stimulate a national People's Conversation directed towards producing a New Vision of Citizenship in Ireland being launched this year.

## **Summer Issue of C of I journal *Search* published**

A hundred years after 1916, the need for a common symbol from that conflicted time in Ireland that could unite North and South, is the concern of the first two articles in the summer issue of the Church of Ireland journal, *Search*, which is edited by Canon Ginnie Kennerley.

From a Northern perspective, psychologist Roddy Cowie delves into the stories of the **Ulster heroes of World War I** and asks: could it be the lone soldier on every war memorial,

standing for virtue, self-sacrifice and the defence of civilization? This might chime with the **'blood sacrifice' of the Easter Rising** but as the Revd Dr William Olhausen points out, we have to question the Christian credentials of Pearse's ideology. The theme of self-sacrifice for a transcendent cause, common to both sides of the border, still begs the question of the deepest values of our communities.

Highly relevant to these matters is Walter Wink's thinking about **'principalities and powers'**, explored in the Revd Rob Clements' article that follows, naming the false gods and worldly systems that derail us.

Also in this issue, the stark facts of the **migrant crisis**, detailed by Lydia Monds of Bishops' Appeal, challenge the Church to do more and give more to help those in desperate need. Then the Revd Simon J. Lumby looks at the relation of secular and biblical views of **marriage**, noting that the Church may have imposed its view on the biblical texts rather than *vice versa*.

Reflections on the recent **Anglican Consultative Council** in Lusaka by Canon Maurice Elliott follow, along with a briefing on the Dublin – Jerusalem link by Linda Chambers and an *In*

*Retrospect* on Archbishop McAdoo by Dr Kenneth Milne.

## **8 permanent deacons ordained for Dublin**

Archbishop Diarmuid Martin of Dublin ordained eight men to the permanent diaconate at a ceremony in the Pro Cathedral on Saturday morning.

The eight will join 22 permanent deacons already serving in Dublin diocese.

The permanent diaconate is a voluntary part-time ministry for married or single men. However, some deacons who have taken early retirement or reduced their work commitments, are able to offer a greater time commitment.

Deacons can assist the priest at the celebration of the Eucharist; they can celebrate baptism and marriage and preside at funerals.

They also facilitate visiting the sick, prisoners and the bereaved and promoting awareness of the social teaching of the church.

In partnership with priests and parish pastoral workers, their role includes supporting the

structures, which allow for the wider participation of the lay faithful in a range of ministries in the parish and in the wider community.

Separately, deacons and their wives attended a Maynooth seminar on the Spirituality of the Permanent Deacon led by Deacon James Keating of Creighton University, Omaha, Nebraska.

Deacon Keating is the Director of Theological Formation at the Institute for Priestly Formation and is the director of IPF Publications.

His publications include 'The Heart of the Diaconate' which looks at the three areas of Calling, Formation and Ordination, and Ministry.

Other publications include 'The Deacon Reader' which he edited and presents an overview of the theological and pastoral nature of the diaconate in a bid to clarify the fundamental identity of the deacon; and 'A Deacon's Retreat'.

The Maynooth seminar was organised by Fr Michael Duignan, the National Co-ordinator of Formation for the Permanent Diaconate.

It was the first ever meeting of permanent deacons, candidates for the Permanent

Diaconate and their wives from all around Ireland.

As a prelude to Deacon Keating's lecture, Teresa Talbot (Roscommon) gave a moving presentation of her personal Journey through the formation period and subsequent diaconal ministry of her husband Deacon Seamus Talbot who ministers in Kilbride Parish.

Bishop Raymond Browne, who is chairperson of the National Training Authority for the Permanent Diaconate in Ireland, also attended.

## **Review of June issue of *Presbyterian Herald***

The Herald's cover story this month features the incoming Moderator, Rev. Dr. Frank Sellar. In 'A story of a fish and a frog', Frank talks to Alan Meban about the Jonah moments in his ministry so far and his hopes for encouraging Presbyterians to be 'a community of global concern'.

Considering his year in office, he said, "I'll encourage those I meet to look to God and to find in Him joy and delight".





One story dominating the news currently is the EU Referendum. The question is whether to remain in the EU or vote to leave. In 'Leave or remain?' Gavin Norris, PCI's Public Affairs Officer, provides some reflections for Northern Ireland readers of the Herald to consider.

2016 has been a year of anniversaries, and the Presbyterian Church in Ireland (PCI) has had its own significant anniversary to celebrate. This year marks the 40th anniversary of Rev. Ruth Patterson's ordination into PCI, the first female in the Church's history. In 'Forty years on...' Professor Stephen Williams offers his own thoughts on where PCI currently stands on the gender debate.

“Perhaps the starting point for tackling this question in PCI is to think more widely about the place and voice of women in our Church without focusing on the question of ordination,” Stephen said.

He continued, “... As we are all one new creation in Christ Jesus, women's voices and wisdom must be heard as clearly and heeded as diligently in the church as those of men.”

In 'Words of grace' read about Marilynne Robinson, the Pulitzer Prize winning novelist who visited Belfast recently. Alfred Thompson went to hear her as she spoke on her writing and her faith.

“Her work is storytelling theology at its very best, through which...divine grace can flow through

her words into the hearts and lives of her readers,” Alfred said.

This year will see PCI enter its fifth and final year of ‘Fit for Purpose’. The theme for this year is ‘A community of global concern’, and in ‘Reclaiming the planet’, Bertie Stirling outlines why we should be giving more thought and action to caring for the earth.

Andrew Conway finishes his series exploring the Westminster Confession of Faith, with a challenge for living in a spirit of unity and love.

Andrew comments, “Believers are to be passionately committed to fellowship, recognising that it has a central place in God’s plan for each of us...our fellowship is not to be confined to the spiritual...rather, believers are to ‘help each other in material things according to their...needs’”.

In ‘This day and that day’ Suzanne Hamilton reports on the Presbyterian Women’s annual meetings, which took place at the beginning of May. While in ‘A vibrant Church doing a vital job’, Mark Smith reports on Dr. Ian McNie’s reflections as his year as Moderator draws to a close.

## **200,000 assemble to honour Ugandan martyrs**

Last week all roads in Uganda have been leading to the Namugongo Anglican site where more than 20 Anglican Christians were brutally murdered over a century ago. Thousands of pilgrims have made the journey over hundreds of miles to reach the shrine of the Christian martyrs killed over 100 years ago and remembered on the anniversary June 3.

The martyrs were killed at the order of the king of Buganda kingdom, Kabaka Mwanga. On 3 June 1876 he ordered the killing of all the newly converted Christians. Some were Anglicans others were Catholics and some Muslims. All the Christians killed had been converted a few years after the arrival of missionaries from the UK.

The Roman Catholic church was the first to recognise the 22 victims as martyrs and commemorate the day on which they were killed. Three Popes have visited the Catholic shrine where the Christians were killed and the martyrs have now been recognised as Catholic saints

Anglicans also visit a dedicated shrine on the site and hold prayers to mark the 23 martyred for



***Renovations work at the Anglican Shrine to the Uganda Martyrs in Namugongo***

their faith. It is now an established pilgrimage place, where thousands of Anglicans travel each year on 3 June.

The Revd James Kato, a member of this year's organizing committee said, "As a sign of showing solidarity with martyrs, the pilgrims walk from their homes to the shrine established at the site where the Anglican martyrs were killed."

Last week over 200,000 Anglican Christians camped at the compound next to the shrine and many more are still on their way. Mr Kato said, "Many Christians walked from within Uganda, others have arrived from neighbouring countries

like Kenya, Tanzania, Rwanda, Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo and South Sudan and many more are coming. The biggest number were brought in by vehicles on June 3.”

Security was tight at the shrine. The Catholic shrine is located about a kilometres away from the Anglican site and was equally packed with pilgrims. At both shrines there are pilgrims from Europe and USA and organisers are expecting greater numbers this year than ever before. On Wednesday Uganda's president, Yoweri Museveni visited the sites and addressed the pilgrims.

## **Pope approves new measure to remove bishops who mishandled abuse cases**

Pope Francis has established legal procedures to remove bishops who mishandle sex abuse cases, saying they can be removed from office if the Vatican finds they were negligent in doing their jobs.

In a law published on Saturday, Francis answered a long-running demand by victims of abuse and their advocates to hold bishops



accountable for failing to protect their flocks from paedophiles. Victims have long accused bishops of covering up for abuse, moving rapists from parish to parish rather than reporting them to police.

In the law, Francis acknowledged that the Church's canonical code already allows for a bishop to be removed for "grave reasons". But he said he wanted to precisely state that negligence, especially negligence in handling abuse cases, can cost a bishop his job. Bishops "must undertake a particular diligence in protecting those who are the weakest among their flock", Francis wrote in the law, called a *motu proprio*.

The statute alters the original proposal approved by Francis last year to establish a tribunal inside the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith to hear negligence cases. Francis's sex abuse advisory board had recommended that the Congregation prosecute negligent bishops because it is already responsible for overseeing actual sex abuse cases against clergy.

But amid a host of legal and bureaucratic questions posed by that original proposal, Francis decided to streamline the procedure and task the Vatican offices that are already in charge of handling bishop issues to investigate and punish negligence cases.

In the law, Francis said a bishop can be removed if his actions or omissions cause "grave harm," either physical, moral, spiritual or financial, to individuals or communities.

## Cathedral, choral and musical

On Wednesday the lunchtime recital in **St Mary's cathedral, Limerick** will be given by Sarah Ellen Murphy (alto), Celia Donoghue (clarinet) and Daniel Sherlock (viola).

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Next Friday in **St Patrick's cathedral, Dublin**, the Choral Foundation Concert will be held at 6.15pm when the Cathedral Choir will sing favourite choruses and arias by G.F. Handel, and on Saturday 11 June the Mornington Singers Summer Concert, 'Musicke Divine', which will include works from the 12th to the 21st century, will be held in St Ann's church, Dublin, at 8pm.

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Belfast Community Gospel Choir will be performing at Banbridge Leisure Centre on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> June 2016 at 7.30pm.

## News briefs

The Bishop of Kilmore was in **Kildallon, Co. Cavan**, yesterday (Sunday) for the celebrations to mark the 200th anniversary of the parish church. Following a Service of Thanksgiving a history of the parish was launched. Kildallon is part of a group of parishes based on Swanlinbar where the bishop's curate is the Revd John Woods. In **Sion Mills** the Bishop of Derry was the preacher at the Flower Festival Closing Service.

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The **Northern Ireland District of the Boys' Brigade** has been awarded The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service - The MBE for Volunteers. Congratulations to all NI Leaders in BB - well deserved. You can read the full press release on the BB website at [www.bbni.co.uk/news/item6093](http://www.bbni.co.uk/news/item6093)

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In a message to Irish friends, **Bishop Darren McCartney** whose diocese is in the Canadian arctic says, "God has blessed us with a beautiful baby boy Liam James McCartney who was born on May 25, 2016 weighing 8lb 4oz. Thank you all for your best wishes, love Darren and Karen."

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Recently, following restoration and redecoration, the Chapel on the Victorian corridor of the **Royal Victoria Hospital** was reopened by the Trust Chairman, Peter McNaney CBE, and rededicated by Church representatives. 'The Chapel has been redecorated, including restoring the old stained glass window frames. It is now open every day from morning until evening as a place of Christian worship and for patients, families and staff to use for private prayer and reflection,' Rev Derek Johnston, lead chaplain to the Belfast HSC trust says. 'Weekly

Christian services are held with Sunday Masses at 8.10am and 10.00am and Interdenominational services, conducted on a rota basis by the Protestant chaplains, at 2.00pm. 'The Quiet Room in the RVH front foyer remains open to all as a multi-faith place for prayer and reflection.'

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The leader of worldwide evangelical Anglican Christians has accused the Church of England of "normalising" the "false teaching" of the US Episcopal Church over gay marriage. Archbishop of Nigeria Nicholas Okoh, chairman of the Global South orthodox **Anglican group Gafcon**, says a "line has been crossed" with the appointment of an American bishop who supports blessing same-sex unions to a post in the Liverpool diocese. The Akure diocese in Nigeria, which was twinned with the **Liverpool diocese**, has also formally severed its links following the appointment of Susan Goff, a suffragan in the Virginia diocese in the US Episcopal Church, as an honorary bishop in Liverpool.

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

## **BBC**

Report that the all-party parliamentary group on international religious freedom says asylum claims from converts to Christianity are being dealt with unfairly because too often officials are asking about Bible trivia, rather than probing what someone really believes. Article notes that Rev Mark Miller, who has a large congregation of Iranian converts in Stockton-on-Tees, has advised the Home Office on how to handle such claims and stresses that officials should be trying to understand the difference between head knowledge and heart knowledge,

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-36430880>

## **S Mirror**

Further report on Newcastle vicar Rev Geoff Short, saying he is taking time out from the parish after his wife left him for actor Robson Green. Article includes ref to previous media interview with Mr Short's first wife and comment from Team Rector and a spokesman saying Mr Short had currently agreed to step back from ministry and it was a difficult time for everyone.

<http://www.mirror.co.uk/3am/celebrity-news/vicar-who-lost-wife-robson-8115722#ICID=nsm>

## **BBC**

Report that police are this week to visit the Isle of Wight school of a murdered six-year-old girl to give support to pupils and staff. Article notes that local vicar, Revd Allie Kerr, will also be available at the school for support.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-hampshire-36451884>

### **Tel/BBC/Guard/Ind**

Reports on comments yesterday by Pope Francis that Roman Catholic bishops guilty of negligence in child abuse cases can now face dismissal from office. The decision, which will also apply to other senior Church officials, was unveiled in a papal decree which said such cases would now fall under existing canon law allowing for prelates to be sacked for "serious reasons".

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2016/06/04/bishops-face-sack-for-mishandling-paedophile-claims-according-to/> <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-36451954> <http://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/jun/04/pope-francis-church-law-paedophile-priests-catholic-bishops> <http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/europe/pope-agrees-to-remove-bishops-who-mishandle-abuse-cases-a7065441.html>

### **Times**

Feature on the Archbishop of Canterbury's Anglican Community Fund (set up 19 years ago) to help survivors of war zones. Includes comment from Archbishop Justin.

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/church-raises-game-to-aid-the-worlds-poorest-anglicans-qxxjs0vk2>

### **Tel/BBC/Sun/Star/Guard/Exp/Mirror/Metro/Mail**

Reports on a court case (Fri) that heard how a Church of England vicar assaulted a police officer and paramedic while claiming he had "diplomatic immunity" from the Vatican. Revd Gareth Jones, a priest in Chelmsford diocese, pleaded guilty to two counts of assault by beating at Highbury Magistrates' Court; he had been drinking heavily when he passed out on a street in his clerical attire, the court heard. A range of fines were

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imposed and the court heard he is seeking help to deal with alcoholism. A diocesan spokesperson confirmed he had been suspended from his duties and proceedings had begun under the Clergy Disciplinary Measure.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2016/06/03/im-from-the-vatican-youre-f-drunken-priest-suspended-after-he-ki/>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-london-36445522>

<http://www.thesun.co.uk/sol/homepage/news/7191862/Im-from-the-Vatican-youre-f-Church-of-England-vicar-in-bizarre-drunken-brawl-with-police-and-paramedics.html>

<http://www.dailystar.co.uk/news/latest-news/520574/Vicar-drunken-rampage-police-paramedics-Covent-Garden-London-Church-England-Gareth-Jones>

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/jun/03/vicar>

<http://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/676731/Im-from-Vatican-Vicar-street-fight-police>

<http://www.mirror.co.uk/news/uk-news/vicar-shouted-im-vatican-youre-8112054#ICID=nsm>

<http://metro.co.uk/2016/06/03/drunk-vicar-punches-paramedic-and-declares-he-has-diplomatic-immunity-5923026/>

[http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3624120/CofE-vicar-shouted-m-Vatican-f-ed-police-arrested-biting-spitting-paramedic-downing-three-bottles-wine.html?ITO=1490&ns\\_mchannel=rss&ns\\_campaign=1490](http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3624120/CofE-vicar-shouted-m-Vatican-f-ed-police-arrested-biting-spitting-paramedic-downing-three-bottles-wine.html?ITO=1490&ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490)

## **Tel/BBC**

Reports on the sentencing yesterday of Kevin McGarahan, who sexually assaulted a 15-year-old girl, when he was a priest in Hereford diocese, before the case was covered up by the Church for 20 years. The retired CofE priest, went on trial last month and was

found guilty at Shrewsbury Crown Court. He was sentenced to six months imprisonment, suspended for 12 months. McGarahan, who now lives in Cornwall, was also ordered to pay £2,000 compensation to the victim. The Bishop of Hereford, Richard Frith, said: "The Diocese of Hereford is committed to doing everything it can to ensure our churches are safe places to be. A case like this is reminder of our need to be scrupulous in our safeguarding and we intend always to be that scrupulous."

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2016/06/03/vicar-who-was-official-chaplain-to-the-british-olympic-team-sexu/>  
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-shropshire-36447516>

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