

**13 pages - 12 short reports  
including -**

**Flute band church**

**Cardinal O'Brien's accusers  
seek justice in Rome**

## **ECUMENICAL SERVICE TO MARK BRIAN BORU ANNIVERSARY**

**After his death at the battle of Clontarf on Good Friday, 1014, Brian Boromhe, High King of Ireland, was buried 'on the north side of the great church' at Armagh.**



The Church of Ireland Cathedral of St Patrick, which stands on the site, incorporates a memorial tablet in its north wall. A service will be held to mark the millennium of the burial of Brian Boromhe on Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> April 2014 at 3.15 p.m.

Based on the Anglican liturgy of Choral Evensong, the service will be ecumenical in character, including both commemoration of the burial and prayer for the Ireland of today. Mark Patrick Hederman, OSB, Abbot of Glenstal, will preach.

Given the widespread interest in the commemoration of the Battle of Clontarf, and the limited seating capacity of the Cathedral, admission to the service is likely to be by ticket only. Application for tickets should be made by Friday 28<sup>th</sup> March to [admin@armaghpubliclibrary.co.uk](mailto:admin@armaghpubliclibrary.co.uk), or by post to The Administrator, Armagh Public Library, 43 Abbey Street, ARMAGH, BT61 7DY. Except in the case of those specifically invited, tickets will be issued on a 'first come first served' basis in early April.

Looking forward to the service, the Dean of Armagh, the Very Revd Gregory Dunstan, said, 'The Battle of Clontarf was of European importance. The

commemorative programme runs from Killaloe through Cashel and Dublin to Armagh. In this service, the Cathedral aims both to reflect on an historic tragedy and to highlight its significance for the Island of today'



## **PRESBYTERIANS 'DOING THINGS TOGETHER' FOR MISSION**

**'United Appeal for Mission' is a year-long campaign that annually raises over £3m for the mission outreach of the Presbyterian Church.**

This year, among many things, it will help finance 40 missionaries working on 10 countries, 42 students currently in training for the Presbyterian ministry, over 3,500 events for children and young people, the provision of 445 bed spaces for older people needing residential and nursing care as well as for those those with learning difficulty, over 60 hospital, university and forces chaplains, 17 community and mission workers, 28 deaconesses. The list could go on and all of this is done in addition to the work and witness of local congregations.

"Every aspect of our Church's mission depends to some extent on the United Appeal," explains **Presbyterian Moderator Dr. Rob Craig**. "No one congregation could undertake all of this work alone but when Presbyterians do things together we can support hundreds of projects and programmes at home and overseas that are helping to advance God's kingdom and show God's love in action to hundreds and thousands of people."

Ministry is at the heart of the United Appeal and supports the training of ministers in Union College, mission workers, lay preachers, deaconesses and chaplains for effective service in preaching and pastoring to local communities. Recently over 150 people have completed Handling the Word, a course designed help those who are involved in leading church groups while a further 96 have gone on to become accredited preachers that are regularly conducting worship and preaching in congregations that may be without a regular minister.

Children and young people are a vital part of Presbyterian congregations and it is essential that they are taught well, disciplined in their faith and protected as part of church families. Across the Presbyterian Church 33,000 volunteers and staff look after the 119,000 children and young people that attend youth organisations. It is essential that this is backed up with appropriate training and child protection arrangements, much of which is supported by United

Appeal. This includes 140 Taking Care training sessions all around Ireland with 1,300 leaders taking part in training events to help them lead Sunday school and bible class and over 3,500 attending special youth and children's events.

Caring for others has always been a focus of the Presbyterian Church with a strong desire to show God's love to others by reaching out to those in need. United Appeal supports that desire by helping support a range of social action projects including residential and nursing care for older people and those with learning difficulties, helping people overcome addictions, the operation of a counselling service, a ministry to people who are deaf and lobbying and campaigning for the welfare of vulnerable people.

The other major area of the Presbyterian Church's ministry that United Appeal supports is its overseas mission. Currently 40 missionaries are working in 10 countries over 4 continents while there are partnership arrangements in place with local churches and Christian institutions in 25 countries while 6 leaders from overseas partner churches are currently being supported while they undertake further studies in the UK and Ireland.

"Behind all these facts and figures are thousands of people engaged in Christian work and witness, reaching out to the people and communities they serve and showing God's love through ministry and action, all supported by the prayers and generosity of Presbyterians doing things together," added Dr Craig. "As a denomination we are proud to stand together as a body of believers, knowing that we can do much more together than we ever could on our own."



## **POPE JOHN II AWARDS PRESENTED IN DERRY**

**The new Bishop of Derry, Most Rev Dr Donal McKeown was a surprise guest at the annual Pope John Paul II Awards ceremony held in Derry's Millennium Forum on Tuesday night.**

Along with the special guest of honour, the Papal Nuncio to Ireland, Archbishop Charles Brown, Bishop McKeown congratulated almost 500 young people from throughout the Derry diocese who had successfully completed the Award which is dedicated to the memory of the late Pope John Paul II

The Pope John Paul II award which is now in its seventh year was set up to help young people get involved in the life of their church and community. It aims to help teenagers understand that religion is for living and can be the central part of their everyday lives.

During the ceremony some of the young people shared their personal experiences of taking part in the award. The richness and diversity of their volunteer work and activities was evident. One pupil, Rosanna McAleese said the award had helped her get involved in many activities and experiences in her parish and community. She travelled to Lourdes and Romania as part of her award and found the whole experience ‘humbling and life-giving’.

A total of 457 young people from Derry, Inishowen and Tyrone received awards and congratulating them, Archbishop Brown praised their ‘hard work and commitment’ while Bishop McKeown spoke to them about their goodness and ‘how they were made for great things’.

The awardees represented 22 schools and 47 parishes in the Derry diocese as well as 18 parishes outside the diocese. The ceremony was attended by more than 1,600 people, including family and friends of those receiving the award. All enjoyed an evening of celebration and entertainment centred on the achievements and dedication of the young people gathered. This brings the total number who have received the PJPII Awards now in the diocese to 2,384 and the national figure for young people participating in the award is now over 10,000. For information about this award

contact: [admin@thepopejohnpauliiaward.com](mailto:admin@thepopejohnpauliiaward.com) [www.popejohnpauliiaward.com](http://www.popejohnpauliiaward.com)  
#PJPIIAwards

Derry video at - <http://www.derryjournal.com/news/your-community/pope-john-paul-ii-awards-1-5907475>



## **DOWN AND CONNOR PASTORAL PLAN RESPONDS TO CLERGY SHORTAGE**

**Bishop Noël Treanor has commented on a process of consultation in the diocese which highlighted a shortage of clergy and other issues.**

The bishop said -

*‘ In the Pastoral Plan I outlined that “There are many difficult questions that lie ahead of us as a Diocese. As the number of clergy and religious rapidly declines we must have honest conversations about our future” I believe that*

*we must now address the extent of sacramental and pastoral services that are provided in the Diocese given the declining number of clergy.*

*An emerging consensus through the Listening Process and the preparations for the Diocesan Congress indicates that this is an issue that should be addressed. In the spirit of our Pastoral Plan, this should be done in a consultative fashion, inspired by a desire to promote the common spiritual and pastoral good of the faithful and the parishes.*

*Our responsibilities as a Diocese in this process are:*

- To ensure that the people of God have the opportunity to become involved through consultation, in the decision making process, promoting ‘ a culture of co-responsibility...at every level of the Diocese’
- ‘To promote the worthy celebration of the liturgy as an uplifting experience of communion with God and with one another and as an integral part of the community’s growth in faith’
- To ensure that our Clergy have duties that are reasonable and practical to administer, ‘taking into account the changing context within which our priests minister’.

*With the support of the [Living Church](#) office I have outlined the consultation process that will take place. This will involve us looking at:*

- The number of parish Masses we celebrate, their times and attendances, especially on Sundays.
- The flexibility in our Mass schedule to allow us to provide cover for clergy absence – Holiday Leave, Sabbatical, cover in times of illness or bereavement.
- Sharing of ministries and services with neighbouring parishes.
- Identifying with neighbouring parishes how we can group together so that we can sustain our mission into the future.
- The sacraments that are celebrated within the life of the Parish during a year and the support given by the Priest and community in preparing people for reception of the sacraments.
- The whole range of other parish duties often, though not always, carried out by the priests

*Once we have gathered this information it will encourage us all to look realistically towards the future and to do so with our neighbouring parishes. We can then meet in our vicariates, share ideas and concerns and make*

*proposals that, together with the Diocesan Pastoral Council and the Council of Priests, I can deliberate and discern in a consultative process.*

*I would ask each of you to undertake to pray daily for this process that we will be attentive to the Holy Spirit and maintain our focus on Christ and the realisation of the Kingdom of God.”*

<http://www.downandconnor.org/blog/2014/02/28/diocesanreview/>



## **C of I HISTORY CONFERENCE**

**The next Church of Ireland Historical Society conference is to be held in the Armagh Public Library on Saturday, 5 April at 10.30am.**

Professor Jacqueline Hill will talk about Reverend William Phelan and the historiography of the Church of Ireland; Dr Brendan Scott will examine the 1622 royal visitation of the Church of Ireland in Ulster; while Dr Colin Reid will discuss the Irish Protestant Nationalist, Stephen Gwynn, during the revolutionary period, c. 1912-23. The research paper will be delivered by Mr Ciarán McCabe. He will assess the suppression of street begging in early nineteenth-century Ireland.

Full details of the conference programme is available to download on the COIHS [archive](#) page.

Anyone wishing to attend can register online via the [membership](#) page. Non-members are most welcome

<http://churchofirelandhist.org/spring-conference-in-armagh/>



## **MINOR CANONS APPOINTED**

**The Dean and Chapter of Saint Anne’s Cathedral have appointed the Revd Adrian Dorrian and the Revd Nigel Kirkpatrick as minor canons in addition to the existing minor canon of the Cathedral, the Revd Stephen Fielding.**

Adrian is the rector of St Mark’s Dundela and Nigel the rector of St Dorothea’s, Gilnahirk, both in the Diocese of Down.

Minor canons have largely an occasional working role in the liturgical life of a cathedral; primarily as clergy who are also gifted as singers and are able to lead Choral Evensong and Sung Compline with the Choir. They are a

valued and important part of the flow of the cathedral's musical life, although they are not accorded the title 'Canon', nor are they part of the Cathedral Chapter.

"The aspiration in St Anne's is to have a sung service every day," says The Very Revd John Mann, Dean of St Anne's, "but this is likely to take another two or three years to realise. At the moment Compline is sung on Mondays at 5.30 pm and Choral Evensong is on Wednesdays at 5.30 pm – both during term time. It is hoped that a third weekday service may be put in place shortly.

"We do encourage people to attend the Cathedral at 5.30 pm on weekdays, especially on Mondays and Wednesdays for the choral services. The traffic is so much lighter after 6.00 pm!"



### **GRAHAM KENDRICK IN CONCERT**

**Graham  
Kendrick has been  
described as a**

**'father of modern worship music'  
whose songs are 'crammed full of  
poetic divine, biblical truth' that have  
'sculpted a view of God that has  
impacted generations'.**



Holy Trinity Banbridge. Thursday 20 March (Doors open at 7.00 pm for 7.30 pm start). £10.00 – Non refundable | Admission by ticket only

Tickets available from the Parish Office, Church Square, Banbridge BT32 4AA. Tel: 07732 269388

Or from [www.wegotickets.com](http://www.wegotickets.com)



### **OVERSEAS SUPPORT**

**Larne parish raises £3,700 for South Sudan appeal. St Cedma's Parish, Larne, has presented a cheque for £3,700 to CMS Ireland for its Emergency Appeal for South Sudan.**

This money was raised by Larne parishioners to support the Appeal, sponsored by Connor Diocese through CMSI, to provide emergency support including food, blankets, medicine and cooking utensils for the thousands of internally displaced people who have fled the violent conflict in the north of South Sudan.

Fighting in the world's newest state broke out in December and soon spiralled into tribal warfare. Some 10,000 people have been killed and more than 800,000 have left their homes.

A team from Connor was due to visit its partner diocese of Yei in South Sudan in January, but the trip was postponed due to the ongoing unrest. CMSI launched its emergency appeal later that month.

The rector of St Cedma's Parish Larne, Archdeacon Stephen Forde, has visited Yei on several occasions as Chair of Connor's Council for Mission and signed the first of two partnership agreements back in 2007. St Cedma's has a close friendship with Bishop Hilary who has been a guest in the parish in the past.

The St Cedma's collection is part of the wider Connor Diocesan Appeal (including a further £300 raised by the congregations of Glynn and Raloo) to support the work of the church in South Sudan providing essential support for the tens of thousands of people who have been internally displaced by the most recent conflict.

A ceasefire was signed by the rebels and government forces in South Sudan on January 23, but violations have been reported on both sides. This BBC News Africa [report](#) on the situation in Malakal indicates that violence is continuing in parts of the country.

## **BISHOP'S LENTEN COURSES**



**The first in the 2014 series of Lenten courses by the Bishop of Connor gets underway in Bushmills Parish Centre on Tuesday March 4.**

Two seminars, focusing on Discipleship and Ministry, will be delivered during March and the first week in April in Bushmills, Jordanstown Parish Centre, and Christ Church, Lisburn.

The Bishop, the Rt Rev Alan Abernethy said: "As a Church, we have often



talked about everyone having a ministry and, indeed, it is present in our baptismal liturgy.

“However, it is something that is difficult to implement and it is becoming more difficult to get volunteers in an increasingly busy and demanding lifestyle for many.

“In the Lent course, I will be focusing on what it means to be a disciple in our present culture and how we might continue to grow in faith as individuals and as communities.

“I will also be reflecting on how discipleship leads us to ministry and how every disciple has a ministry within the body of Christ, what this might mean and how we can seek to develop the ministry of all.

### **The dates and venues are as follows:**

#### **Discipleship**

Tuesday 4th March Bushmills Parish Centre

Monday 10th March Jordanstown Parish Centre

Tuesday 18th March Christ Church, Lisburn (church)

#### **Ministry**

Tuesday 25th March Bushmills Parish Centre

Tuesday 1st April Jordanstown Parish Centre

Monday 7th April Christ Church, Lisburn (church)

All Lenten courses will commence at 7.30pm.

### **100,000 ANGLICANS TAKING PART IN BIBLE IN A YEAR PROGRAMME**



**A read the Bible-in-a-year course that started off in one church in the United States is now in 2,500 churches in over 40 countries with 100,000 Anglicans participating. Almost 80,000 people worldwide visited their website in the first two weeks of January.**

The director of The Bible Challenge, the Revd Marek Zabriskie, said he thinks the secret to the course's success is that The Bible Challenge participants can do it whenever and wherever they like. “They can use a printed Bible or read the Bible on a mobile device or listen to the Bible being read,” he noted.

"Each step of the way, people have given us ideas to help make this work better for them or for their church or diocese," said Mr Zabriskie, "There's an enormous hunger out there for Anglicans to engage the Bible." Over 40 Anglican bishops are currently leading their entire diocese in The Bible Challenge.

"Our goal is to help individuals develop a life-long spiritual discipline of daily Scripture reading that will transform the entire life," said Mr. Zabriskie. "This ministry is also having an incredible impact on entire congregations and dioceses and transforming them from a low to high level of biblical literacy, and people from occasional churchgoers to people with a daily spiritual practice of engaging the Bible."

"Studies reveal that regular engagement with the Bible is the number one tool for helping Christians grow in their faith, but it is actually one of the great weaknesses for many Anglicans," he noted.

Author and Church historian Diana Butler Bass has noted that Episcopalians are the number one best-educated Christian group in the United States out of almost 22,000 Christian groups and denominations. "When asked about biblical literacy, however, Episcopalians drop to almost dead last," Zabriskie noted.

Mr. Zabriskie started The Bible Challenge to strengthen his own spiritual life. His increased Bible reading was so stimulating that he invited members of his church to join him in reading the entire Bible in a year.

Mr. Zabriskie's new book will come out in September called "Doing the Bible Better: Unleashing the Bible for Transformation in the Episcopal Church."

To participate in The Bible Challenge visit [www.thecenterforbiblicalstudies.org](http://www.thecenterforbiblicalstudies.org)

## RECTOR STARTS FLUTE BAND CHURCH



**What do you get when you mix a thunderous drumbeat, a tuneful Christian hymn, and a church minister who is spreading the [Gospel](#)? A flute band with a difference, that's what.**

News Letter - Five years since the Flute Band Church was first formed, the minister at its head is as determined as ever to show there is another side to marching bands – away from associations with drinking

and sectarianism, as one member put it.

Sixteen members, ranging in age from young teens to over-40s, gather weekly for band practice, tea and a chat, as part of Rev William Orr's efforts to re-connect with a scene that he says has often not been strongly associated with the Christian faith.



And now Rev Orr is planning a Province-wide survey of band members to find out more about what is important to them.

“We will hopefully be going out to other [band practices](#) to engage on that local scene and find out what those members believe about their culture and their Christian heritage, if they have any,” Rev Orr told the News Letter.

On joining Muckamore Parish as rector of Muckamore, Killead and Gartree in 2007, he found that while more than 90 per cent of the surrounding estates in the parish were Protestant, just 10 per cent of local people were practising their faith.

As church secretary Ricky Hunter admitted, there was and is a level of apprehension about how they will be received by bands where religion has not been an aspect of the practice.

“It can be scary and intimidating but we have to get out there and do it,” he said.

“There is not point in just sitting here playing to ourselves.”

To that end, Rev Orr said he is looking forward to a fundraising concert in Rathfriland High School soon, adding that they have enjoyed a very positive reception since they formed.

“While we don't go on parade or anything like that we have had a few performances and people seem to like what we do – it's a bit different,” he said.

“People are surprised when they see that a church has become involved, and in particular a minister is willing to play a flute and has set up a band.”

Hearing hymns like Abide With Me in a blood-and-thunder style is quite an experience, said Rev Orr, and some other bands have even asked for [hymns](#) the Flute Band Church has played – perhaps without knowing they are Christian.

“We have some very gifted musicians who can play anything and that gives us a great repertoire,” he said.

As for the future, Rev Orr aspires to see one or two members from every band across Northern Ireland become members of the Flute Band Church.

<http://www.newsletter.co.uk/news/christian-flute-band-leader-planning-survey-1-5907757>

## CARDINAL O'BRIENS ACCUSERS TAKE THEIR FIGHT FOR JUSTICE TO POPE



### **Priests say investigation into allegations of sexual abuse are being blocked by 'formidable church machine'**

Guardian - Three priests and one ex-priest whose allegations of sexual misconduct against the archbishop of St Andrews and Edinburgh, Cardinal Keith O'Brien, led

to his resignation a year ago, have appealed directly to [Pope Francis](#) for a meeting in a last-ditch bid for justice.

Describing the church as a "formidable machine" that had blocked any investigation, one told the *Observer*: "The abuse we received at the hands of Keith O'Brien is dwarfed by the systematic abuse we have received from church officials. They have passed the buck, misrepresented the truth, engaged in cover-up and, having asked for our trust and co-operation, shamelessly procrastinated and hidden behind a veneer of diplomacy and charm. I want to ask Pope Francis, can you sort this out?"

Secret negotiations have been going on between the men and the cardinal's successor, Archbishop Leo Cushley, since last November. The archbishop insists that only Rome can initiate an inquiry into O'Brien's sexual behaviour,

but he has agreed to an investigation of the cardinal's financial transactions. In an email to the complainants last December, the archbishop's vicar general, Philip Kerr, confirmed: "The archdiocesan auditors have been asked to examine the financial accounts which Keith O'Brien personally operated."

"Lenny", an ex-priest who rebuffed O'Brien's advances at a seminary, says that the diocese is a charity and he would have contacted the charity regulator if Cushley had refused the audit. "Keith O'Brien was essentially the CEO of a £9m charity. We want to assure ourselves that this institution is not totally corrupt."

The group know that the cardinal bought a priest friend a jet ski for his birthday. "Jet skis cost thousands of pounds. How can a man who was an archbishop have the money to pay for a jet ski for his pal? Catholics should not give a penny more until they know the church is spending it on something they intend to pay for."

The complainants tabled a formal paper at a meeting with Cushley in Edinburgh last November, repeating the need for a formal investigation and proposing a number of initiatives. These included a public apology for "the victims of O'Brien and all those affected by abuse throughout the church", but also an investigation into governance in the diocese. They wanted to know how O'Brien had come to be appointed, the extent of his predatory behaviour and whether those close to him had been manoeuvred into positions of power under his leadership.

Most damaging for the church was a request to examine potential sacramental abuse by O'Brien. The complainants have asked if the cardinal sought absolution in confession from anyone he had committed a sexual sin against. This offence is regarded as so serious that the penalty is automatic excommunication. In church eyes, any sacraments the cardinal had subsequently administered would be illicit. More at -

[http://www.theguardian.com/world/2014/mar/01/cardinal-keith-o-brien-accusers-justice-pope-francis?CMP=twf\\_fd](http://www.theguardian.com/world/2014/mar/01/cardinal-keith-o-brien-accusers-justice-pope-francis?CMP=twf_fd)