



***This is Christian Aid Week - Climate changers urge NI Assembly MLAs to put action into the Programme for Government... Christian Aid insists the world can be swiftly changed to one where everyone can live a life free from poverty, injustice & inequality.***

## **SDLP and Sinn Fein ‘alienating devout Catholics’**

The SDLP and Sinn Fein are increasingly alienating devoutly Catholic voters, the editor of a major Catholic newspaper has said.

Writing in *The Irish Catholic*, the paper's editor, Michael Kelly, said that some of the five per cent drop in the nationalist vote last week can be explained by the swing to People Before Profit in West Belfast and Foyle.

But he argued that the loss of votes to the socialist party was "only part of the explanation".

He went on: "One explanation I hear when I speak to Catholics who are serious about their faith is a disillusionment with both Sinn Féin and the SDLP when it comes to vital social issues.

"Sinn Féin is enthusiastically pushing for the introduction of abortion in the North, while the SDLP has made the introduction of same-sex marriage a core party principle.

"There is simply nowhere for Catholics who are serious about the defence of marriage and the right to life of the vulnerable to go."

He added: "The SDLP is desperate to attract a younger demographic. And it appears that many of the party's current stances are motivated by a

desire to appear 'with it' when it comes to younger voters.

“But, the reality is that the party often appears like a less-radical version of Sinn Féin or as one now-alienated SDLP voter recently described his former party to me: ‘Sinn Féin-lite’.”

## **Urban Saints' overseas mission**

A group of Urban Saints from Tullylish and Gilford will fly out to South Africa on July 8 to build new homes for the deprived as part of a ReBuild project.

Banbridge Leader - Formerly called the Crusaders until 2007, Urban Saints is an interdenominational Christian Youth Organisation and the team from Tullylish Church of Ireland, Tullylish Presbyterian and Gilford Church of Ireland have been hard at work organising a Car Boot Sale fundraiser on May 28, for their trip.

Chloe Moffatt, who is travelling with the group said: “We will be joining up with other teams from Ireland and England to build a home for a family living in a township.



***Urban Saints from Gilford and Tullylish will take part in a ReBuild project In South Africa***

“Professional builders will lay the foundations but after that we’ll be building the rest. We’re there for 10 days and at the end we get to hand the keys over to the family.

“While we’re there it attracts a lot of kids from the area, so we’ll also be running kids clubs and we’ll visit an orphanage and an HIV centre.”

The Tullylish and Gilford group of Urban Saints was formed around 20 years ago and 20 young people now meet each Sunday night. Of them,

eight will be participating in the South African ReBuild project.

“This is the first time our group has done something like this and for a lot of them it is their first mission trip, so everything is very exciting.

“We’re also the first group from Northern Ireland to do a rebuild project, so they are very excited to have us. As we know each other well, we’ll be able to support each other.”

The Car Boot Sale will take place at Gilford Bowling Green on Saturday, May 28, from 9am - 12 noon and at £5 per car or £10 per van the young people are encouraging everyone to come and support them.

## **NI Assembly election results endorse pro life ethos, claim**

The Pro Life group, Precious Life, has said that the Northern Ireland Assembly election results are an endorsement of pro life parties.

Prior to the 5 May vote, Precious Life launched its ‘Your Vote Matters’ campaign, appealing to voters to vote pro life and distributing over 100,000 leaflets to homes, churches, and in city centres throughout the six counties.



Their website contained a comprehensive list of all the candidates in the election and where they stood on abortion.

The Democratic Unionist Party (DUP), Social and Democratic and Labour Party, roughly half the members of the Ulster Unionist Party and some Independents all said they were against abortion.

Sinn Féin, the Alliance Party, the Greens and People Before Profit support greater access to abortion.

The elections, the fifth since the devolved assembly was established in 1998, saw the Democratic Unionist Party (DUP) win 38 seats, Sinn Féin (SF) – 28, Ulster Unionist Party (UUP) –

16, Social Democratic and Labour Party (SDLP) – 12, and the Alliance 8.

The Greens and People Before Profit won two seats each and Traditional Unionist Voice, one seat. The turnout was almost 60%.

Fifty nine of the 108 candidates elected oppose abortion (SDLP, DUP, 8 UUP Members of the Legislative Assembly and the TUV ).

Reacting to the Assembly Election results, Bernadette Smyth, the director of Precious Life congratulated the newly elected Members of the Northern Ireland Assembly who had vowed to defend the right to life of all unborn children at Stormont.

“The DUP and SDLP have publicly made clear that they are pro-life parties,” she said.

“Precious Life are very hopeful that they will stand strong in their opposition to the plans of Sinn Féin and others to bring forward legislation to allow abortion in cases where an unborn child has been diagnosed with a life-limiting disability. We trust that they will not let their voters down.”

She appealed to the electorate to keep the pressure on political representatives to “ensure that they do not renege on their pro-life

promises,” and invited the public to attend the 10th Annual All-Ireland *Rally for Life* in Belfast on 2 July 2016.

Precious Life, founded by Bernadette Smyth in 1997, is the largest pro-life group in Northern Ireland.

Composed of people from all sections of the community, it is non-denominational and non-party political.

The group believes that the dramatic drop in the numbers of women travelling from Northern Ireland to England for abortion is in part at least attributable to its activism, including the work it does on the streets.

## **Sabina Higgins criticised over abortion comments**

A group representing parents with children diagnosed with life limiting conditions, along with other pro life groups, have hit back at President Michael D Higgins’ wife over her comments on abortion.

Speaking after a debate organised by the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Ireland in Trinity College last week, Sabina Higgins said it was



“outrage” against women that in the case of “foetal abnormality”, a person should be “made carry” the baby to term.

“There has to be the choice that you know that, what do you call it, that foetal abnormality, that the person or persons should be made carry, you know, and sit in, you know. These are really outrages against women and outrages against the world and nature,” Mrs Higgins said.

In a statement posted on its Facebook page, the group EveryLifeCounts responded by saying it was sad to see Sabina Higgins “push abortion for babies like ours because of their severe disability”.

The statement continued, “Their lives were short but they mattered and they had value. And surely the President’s wife should know that there is no such medical diagnosis as a ‘fatal, foetal abnormality’. She should withdraw her remarks and apologise for the hurt caused.”

Sabina Higgins’ abortion call an abuse of privilege and a shameful targeting of babies with disabilities

The Life Institute accused the President’s wife of an “attack on the Constitutional right to life of

unborn babies” and said it was “an absolute abuse of power and privilege”.

Spokeswoman Niamh Uí Bhriain said Ms Higgins’ comments, targeting unborn babies with a disability, were particularly offensive to families who had lost a child to a life-limiting condition.

“The President’s wife is unelected but uses the platform of the supposedly non-political office of her husband to amplify her support for abortion,” said Niamh Uí Bhriain.

“The fact that she has targeted babies with a disability to justify an abortion call is, in my view, reprehensible. It is shameful to see Ms Higgins use the language of discrimination – misinformed and discriminatory phrases like ‘fatal foetal abnormality’, which are not a medical diagnosis – despite a call by parents for an end to this language and discriminatory attitudes towards unborn babies with a severe disability,” she said.

“It seems that Ms Higgins is seizing the pulpit of the Presidential office to push her own agenda on the killing of unborn babies. This is unprecedented, and has ensured that the office of President is now seen as part of an abortion

campaign, a move which would be opposed by the majority of Irish people,” she said.

Separately, the Independent Senator Rónán Mullen described Sabina Higgins’ intervention in abortion debate as “regrettable”.

## **Last Methodist presidential letter from Rev Brian Anderson**

In his last presidential letter (June *Methodist Newsletter*), before handing over the reins to Rev Bill Mullally , Rev Brian Anderson challenged readers to think of what the greatest challenges are in church life. He says that in the course of his presidential year he has visited 80 churches throughout Ireland and asked ministers and stewards about their concerns. He discerned two main threads:

Problems with getting people to take on roles – leaders are having to be recycled.

Keeping congregations together – tensions around inevitable change.

There were other challenges too e.g. finding the missing generation of people in their 30s and 40s, and getting people interested in prayer. Brian felt that the fundamental challenge could

be summed up by the words of one minister: 'How do I lead my congregation between agreeing what is important and what is *really* important?'

Brian concluded his letter with his belief that if church members commit to personal holiness some of the other challenges may look after themselves.

## **Helping evangelical Christians to accept LGBT people as equals**

Jayne Ozanne is known for her passionate commitment to “good disagreement” between those who hold differing opinions within the Church, especially on sexuality issues. Speaking to members of the Church of Ireland General Synod at a fringe meeting in Dun Laoghaire last week she urged the importance of fostering “good disagreement” and mutual respect between those of opposing views on sexuality issues in the Church.

Responding to questions from the Revd Gary Dowd, she shared the story of her own struggle to reverse her same-sex attraction and her eventual realisation that it was right for her to accept her orientation. She became convinced

that she was created to relate to those around her in this way, that her calling was to help others in a similar situation and to help her fellow evangelical Christians to accept LGBT people as equals.

During the seminar Ms Ozanne shared her experience of helping Christians, particularly evangelicals, engage with this topic in the Church of England, and discussed the current debate within the Anglican Communion. She also listened carefully to both opposing and supportive views from the floor, and expressed the hope that there would be further mutually respectful discussion at every level of church life. “Learning to listen across the conservative – liberal divide is crucial,” she said. “And I am so pleased that this has been mandated by the Report of the C of I’s Select Committee on Human Sexuality in the Context of Christian Belief”

“The Church of Ireland is at a pivotal point in its discussions on human sexuality – which will affect the lives of hundreds of thousands. Now, more than ever, Christians need to find the courage, wisdom and grace to engage with one another in a way that honours and respects the Christ in each other. How can such differences be reconciled? Is it possible to

hold differing views in tension? What will this mean for the future of the Church?”

“This challenge offers a unique opportunity for the Church of Ireland to witness the transformative power of the Gospel, particularly in how it deals with some of the most vulnerable and marginalised in our society. For too long their voices, and their pain, have gone unheeded. The Archbishop of Canterbury himself has recently recognized this, responding during the Primates Meeting in January to a letter signed by over 100 senior Anglicans, by saying how sorry he was “for the hurt and pain both past and present that the Church has caused LGBT people”.

Ms Ozanne said that, central to the debate are our differing understandings of Scripture, and how we interpret it in the light of the different cultural contexts in which the books of the Bible were written. This requires a rigorous engagement with the texts, and demands a level of honesty about some of our greatest fears and prejudices. The journey is not for the faint hearted. It demands resilience, patience and grace – but most of all it compels us to speak the truth in love to each other, whilst looking to “act justly, love mercy and walk humbly with our God”

The debate of the report of the Select Committee on Human Sexuality in the Context of Christian Belief at General Synod is available at

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<http://synod.ireland.anglican.org/2016/index.php?do=news&newsid=355>

The book of reports for General Synod is available at -

<http://synod.ireland.anglican.org/2016/index.php?id=185>

## **Cathedral and choral**

St Anne's Cathedral, Belfast, 2016 Music Festival features a variety of choral music and will finish with a concert in honour of Her Majesty The Queen's ninetieth birthday. The Festival runs from Sunday May 22, opening with a concert by the pupils from the three Cathedral Choir Schools, with the Queen's Birthday Concert the following Saturday night, May 28.

Special guests this year are Tenor Conor Breen and Soprano Andrea Delaney, while the Cathedral's own Master of the Choristers David Stevens and the cathedral choir will also perform.



***Tenor Conor Breen***

Music tutors from St Anne's teach choral singing every day in three north Belfast schools, Edenbrooke Primary, Cliftonville Integrated and Sacred Heart Boys'. The opening concert, at 3.30pm on May 22, will allow the young singers and instrumentalists from these schools – all part of the Cathedral's innovative Choir Schools Project – to perform showpieces from their classes this year.





***Soprano Andrea Delaney***

The festival continues at 7.30pm on Wednesday May 25 when Conor Breen will perform **Dies natalis: towards the dawn**. His programme will include *Saint-Saëns* Danse macabre, *Fauré* Après une rêve, *Finzi* Dies natalis, *Mahler* Urlicht and *Strauss* Morgen.

On Thursday May 26, again at 7.30pm, David Steven's will present **Hymnes de l'Église: Music inspired by melodies of the church** on the organ, with members of the Cathedral Choir. The

programme includes: *de Grigny*, Pange lingua, *Daquin* Noels IX & VI, *Bach* O Mensch, bewein & Ich ruf zu dir, *Rheinberger*, Sonata No. 4 and *Durufié* Chorale Varié sur 'Veni Creator.'

County Armagh Soprano Andrea Delaney's concert **On a Wing and a Prayer** is on Friday May 27 at 7.30pm and will include: *Mozart* Alleluia, *Handel* I know that my redeemer liveth, *Puccini* O mio babbino, *Offenbach* Les Oiseaux dans la charmille, *Bizet* Habanera and *Verdi* Ave Maria.

The grand finale of the 2016 festival is the concert on Saturday at 3pm to honour Her Majesty the Queen on the occasion of her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday.

This concert will feature organ and choral music, both celebratory and reflective, associated with HM The Queen and with previous British Royalty.

The Junior Choir of Victoria College will sing music that was sung when the Queen attended a Service in St Anne's at the time of Her Majesty's Golden Jubilee in 2002.

Brian Hunter, who conducted the Cathedral Choir at that Service, will conduct the Cantate Domino Consort in music from the time of Elizabeth I to Elizabeth II.

Organists Ian Barber and David Stevens will take part along with Christopher Boodle, a former Assistant Organist of St Anne's.

Everyone is very welcome to all these concerts. There is no admission charge, but there will be a retiring collection at each event with the exception of the Choir Schools Concert on May 22.

Download a [Cathedral Music Festival 2016 flyer](#).

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

Belfast Community Gospel Choir (BCGC) are Northern Ireland's first and only multicultural gospel choir. They are comprised of over 100 auditioned singers from all over the province. Their dynamic performances, are charged with passion and energy. Our aim is to bring the Banbridge community together to share in this joyful night whilst raising money for mental health support in Sri Lanka.

[A flyer](#) with further information on purchasing tickets as well as a [media pack](#) which explains the event in more detail.

Saturday, 18 June, 2016 - 19:30.  
BanbridgeLeisure Centre, 15 Downshire Rd,  
Banbridge, County Down, BT32 3JY.  
Email: [info@bcgc.biz](mailto:info@bcgc.biz)

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The Society of St Willibrod in Britain and Ireland will conclude its conference with a celebration of the Eucharist and dinner in **St Lasarian's Cathedral, Old Leighlin**, on Friday. The society is an important ecumenical body which promotes inter-church relationships and is chaired by the Bishop of Cashel, Ferns & Ossory.

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The annual **Pentecost Ecumenical Service** was held yesterday in **St Macartin's Cathedral, Enniskillen**. The service was led by the Bishops of Clogher, The Rt Rev. John McDowell and the Most Rev. Liam McDaid.

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In **St Mary's Church, Inistioge**, the annual **Songs of Praise** service was held yesterday with the Rev. Dr Philip Knowles at the organ, the Kilkenny Gospel Choir and the choral group, In Cantorium, from Athy, Co Kildare.

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In **St Patrick's Cathedral, Armagh**, there was an **organ recital by Dr Stephen Timpany**, the cathedral's director of music. His programme included works by JS Bach, John Stanley, Walton and Elgar.

## News briefs

Tomorrow, Tuesday, the Bishop of Cork will preach at a service to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the consecration of **St Lappan's Church, Little Island**. The building of St Lappan's Church was part of an extensive church-building programme in Cork, Cloyne & Ross which was driven by John Gregg who had been appointed bishop in 1862. A leading member of the evangelical movement, Gregg was, on his appointment to Cork, the first Irish-speaking bishop since the famed Bishop Bedell of Kilmore. In his charge, in 1867, Gregg observed that in a little more than five years nine churches had been built, three were in the course of building, and 30 had been improved. Today St Lappan's is part of the Cobh and Glanmire group of parishes where the Rev. Adrian Moran is the priest- in-charge.

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Yesterday morning the Archbishop of Dublin presided at a service to celebrate 150 years of **St John the Baptist's Church, Clontarf**. The preacher was the Archbishop of Armagh. Clontarf is an ancient foundation and in the Middle Ages the parish belonged to the Hospitallers of Kilmainham. A new church was built in 1609 dedicated to St John the Baptist but with the onset of suburban growth in the 19th century it became too small. A plot of ground on what is now Seafield Road was provided by John Vernon and a new church was built. It was consecrated on May 14th, 1866 and the Archbishop of Dublin, John Henry Bernard preached in the morning and Canon FW Mervyn, a former rector, preached in the evening. The present incumbent is the Rev. Lesley Robinson.

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**PCI Young Adults** - Closing date for the Intern Scheme is 23rd May. This is a 12 month programme offering a young leader the opportunity to grow, flourish and serve alongside quality training & support. 6 spaces available - don't miss out! Info & application pack available at <https://presbyterianireland.org/.../Volunteers-and-Interns-Pr...>

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The inaugural meeting of the **new St Augustine's Cub Pack** has taken place at the church hall in Palace Street – former home of the First Londonderry pack. The first recruits enrolled under the watchful eye of Rector, Rev Malcolm Ferry, District Scout Commissioner Richard Edgar and Joan Reid of Scouts NI. New pack leaders Lori Campbell, Christine Brace, Roger Hamilton and Caroline McCartney led activities.

Among those lending a helping a hand was Dickie Montgomery, who recalled his own first outing as a cub – to a camp in County Antrim – 68 years earlier. It was a nostalgic occasion, too, for Canon John McKegney, who was present at the meeting; Canon McKegney is a former member of the First Londonderry pack. His father, Canon Herbert McKegney, was a former Rector of St Augustine's and a Scout Leader.

Tuesday evening's meeting marked the return of scouting to the centre of Londonderry after a 44-year absence. The original First Londonderry Troop ceased operating in 1972 because of the deteriorating security situation.

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**The Rev. Ted Woods**, who was Rector of Rathfarnham until his retirement in 2014, has

written *And Some There Were*, a “light look” at past Church of Ireland clergy. There are 25 sketches of priests and prelates from the Reformation to the 20th century including the rogues and the righteous. Intended to inform and entertain, the book is available as an e-book from Amazon.

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

### **Fr Rory Coyle: Armagh parishioners support priest who put naked pictures on gay site**

Irish News

<http://www.irishnews.com/news/2016/05/14/news/fr-rory-coyle-armagh-parishioners-support-for-legend-priest-who-posted-naked-pictures-on-gay-dating-website-519440/>

### **Priest who posted his photos on gay dating app Grindr now on leave**

Belfast Telegraph

<http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/northern-ireland/priest-who-posted-his-photos-on-gay-dating-app-grindr-now-on-leave-34713529.html>

### **No prosecution for 'white powder' priest**

BBC News



Stephen Crossan a County Down priest who was caught on video snorting a white powder will not face prosecution.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-36287142>

## **The foreign missions: Good news for the Church in Ireland**

Irish News The people of **Ireland** have a long and noble history of going to far-off lands to spread the good news to the missions and work among the most ...

<http://www.irishnews.com/lifestyle/faithmatters/2016/05/12/news/the-foreign-missions-good-news-for-the-church-in-ireland-today--515851/>

## **Youths set to visit Somme with Archbishops of Armagh**

Belfast Telegraph

The leaders of the **Church of Ireland** and the Catholic Church will lead a group of youths from across Ireland on a journey of historical discovery next ...

<http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/northern-ireland/youths-set-to-visit-somme-as-part-of-church-trip-34710503.html>

## **Alf McCreary on the C of I Synod and Dean of St Patrick's**

Belfast Telegraph

<http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/opinion/columnists/alf-mccreary/how-a-fresh-look-at-the-past-can-shape-a-better-future-34713308.html>

## **S Times**

Report that Lord Hall, BBC director-general, is considering findings that show there is a disproportionate amount of programming on Christian matters compared with other faiths. Aaqil Ahmed, the BBC's head of religion and ethics, is quoted saying that the number of hours produced is measured against the religious make-up of society and Christianity remains the cornerstone of output but it is regularly assessed. Article includes a CofE quote stressing the importance of religious literacy and Ibrahim Mogra, of the Muslim Council of Britain suggests ideas for more Muslim coverage but said he would not want to see any less coverage of Christianity.

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/news/bbc-says-it-is-too-christian-and-must-diversify-mvg7lh6t2>

## **Mail**

Lord Carey writes why he is supporting Brexit. In the article he refers to 'one Bible narrative which springs to mind in this context is the Exodus story of the people of Israel leaving captivity in Egypt, led by Moses into the wilderness and eventually to the Promised Land.' He also talks about the dangers of uncontrolled immigration.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/debate/article-3590851/Why-m-voting-Brexodus-revelatory-call-quit-EU-former-leader-Church-England.html#ixzz48i7pr021>

## **Mail**

Interview with Ukip leader Nigel Farage noting that his immigration warning is reinforced today by Lord Carey's support on Brexit.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3590822/I-II-Boris-PM-Britain-leaves-EU-says-Farage-blasts-devious-Cameron-ahead-one-one-debate.html#ixzz48i8RRoG1>

## **BBC**

Report that the re-hanging of a portrait in a town hall of Bishop George Bell has been labelled "offensive to all victims and survivors of childhood abuse" by the founder of NAPAC (National Association for People Abused in Childhood), Peter Saunders. The painting of the late bishop was removed when the Church of England **settled a civil claim** made by a woman who says she was abused by him in the 1940s and 50s. Chichester Council said the painting had been replaced in a more discreet position as two councillors had objected to the majority decision.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-sussex-36294052>

## **Tel**

Feature on the Revd Robert Parker, described as the CofE's richest vicar, who owns seven estates and has a nest egg of £43m following the sale of a Care Home business in 2008 - which he started from scratch with his second wife in 1986 after a loan from the bank. Article notes he used to work as an advisor for the Church of England at its Westminster offices.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/men/thinking-man/hes-got-a-43-million-nest-egg-and-seven-country-estates-meet-bri/>

## **Mail - Black Dog column** (*scroll down*)

Item on the suggestion by Tory Michael Fabricant that the hard-up cathedral in his Lichfield constituency could earn more cash by holding gay marriages and charging for them and the 'stinging riposte' from the dean, the Very Reverend Adrian Dorber. 'Gay marriage poses for us the same difficulty the EU does for the Tory Party,' he said.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/debate/article-3591021/BLACK-DOG-Nigel-plans-topless-tour.html#ixzz48i0q7MFE>

## **Tel/ITV/Mail**

Report that St Andrew's Church in Hornchurch, London, has been using Kanye West lyrics, along with other quotes and messages, on a sign outside the building, in order to encourage people to come in. Includes comment from volunteer Terry Keens responsible for the signs; vicar, Barry Hobson is also quoted. Article notes that the unorthodox approach has been noticed by the religious and non-religious alike, and seems to have gone down quite well.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2016/05/13/london-church-uses-kanye-west-lyrics-instead-of-bible-verses-to/>

<http://www.itv.com/news/london/update/2016-05-13/vicar-quotes-kanye-west-instead-of-bible-verses-to-entice-new-followers/>

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3588946/Jesus-two-dads-turned-just-fine-Devout-Christian-uses-Kanye-West-quotes-series-one-liners-outside-church-inspire-modern-day-parishioners.html>

## **Guard**

Article on an anti-fracking campaign in North Yorkshire noting that the Kirby Misperton home of husband and wife Graham and Jackie Cray acts at the campaign's headquarters. Graham is a retired Church of England bishop.

<http://www.theguardian.com/environment/2016/may/13/north-yorkshire-village-kirby-misperton-fights-fracking-plans>

## **Ind/Guard**

Report that chief constables have had to be reminded that the dead cannot be charged with criminal offences, after the Crown Prosecution Service complained of receiving a number of requests regarding dead suspects. Reports note that prosecutors anticipate the number of historical cases will continue to rise as the Goddard inquiry into institutional child abuse, which is looking a range of institutions including the Anglican Church in England and Wales, begins its public hearings.

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/cps-forced-to-remind-police-investigating-historical-sex-abuse-to-ignore-dead-suspects-a7028946.html>

<http://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2016/may/13/cps-reminds-police-that-dead-cannot-be-prosecuted-over-past-child-abuse>

## **Christian Today**

Report that church involvement in helping the deprived and needy is growing around the country with more than 2000 people a week benefiting from projects funded by grants of up

to £5,000 awarded by the Church Urban Fund  
(see *News from CofE* above).

## **Tel**

Report that the Syrian monastery dedicated to St Simeon Stylites, the fifth century monk who lived on top of a pillar, has become the latest victim of the country's civil war. Activists yesterday said both the church and the remains of the original pillar on which St Simeon is said to have spent 47 years in prayer and contemplation, have been damaged in an airstrike.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2016/05/13/syrian-monastery-where-st-simeon-sat-on-a-pillar-for-four-decade/>

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