

Anti-abortion clinic said to be opening in Belfast



The Archbishop of Canterbury with the Bishops of South America

C of I, Presbyterian and Methodist Churches welcome new Education legislation in NI

A statement issued by the Boards of education of the C of I, Presbyterian and Methodist Churches - The Transferor Churches welcome the agreement today by the Executive that legislation will be drafted to establish a single body to replace the five Education and Library Boards. It is good that a way forward has been found to place the future of educational administration on a secure footing and to remove the current uncertainty.

The Transferors also warmly welcome the Executive's agreement that the proposed Bill will include an additional provision to fund a new body to support Controlled schools. At their annual meetings of General Synod,

General Assembly and Conference earlier this year, the three Transferor Churches expressed deep concern at the continued disadvantaged position of Controlled schools and called on the Minister to create a body to support and advocate for the Controlled sector. The Churches are pleased that he and his Executive colleagues have responded and acknowledge the support of those parties whose work over the years has enabled such a positive development. The establishment of this new body will correct a deficit in the education system which has existed for decades and will enable Controlled schools to feel they now have an advocate body to work alongside them to bring about continued improvement in educational outcomes for children and young people.

Rev. Dr. Ian W Ellis (Church of Ireland), Rev. Trevor D Gribben (Presbyterian Church in Ireland), Rev. Donald P Ker (Methodist Church in Ireland)



UUP education spokesman Danny Kinahan

‘No single board agreement’ claims UUP

The UUP has rejected suggestions that the Executive has “agreed” to create a single overarching education board - and warned against rushed legislation to create it.

On Tuesday Education Minister John O’Dowd issued a statement welcoming the Executive’s agreement to bring forward legislation to create a single body to replace the five existing education boards.

Proposals for a single body, The Educational Skills Authority (ESA), were first proposed in 2007 but fell through due to unionist concerns, one of which was that it would eliminate academic selection by controlling appointments to grammar schools.

On Wednesday, UUP education spokesman Danny Kinahan said the agreement to bring forward legislation “is being presented as an Executive agreement to create a single body” which he feared was “ministerial spin”.

At the Executive meeting, he said, his party colleague, minister Danny Kennedy, agreed that legislation should be brought to the Assembly “but he made clear our consistent position that accelerated passage – which would short circuit normal parliamentary procedures – is unacceptable”. He said Mr O’Dowd wants to agree the changes by April.

DUP education spokesman Mervyn Storey said the agreement was “good news” but emphasised the need for a new sectoral body for Protestant churches comparable to the Council for Catholic Maintained Schools.

“We await the full content of the Bill and, as always, reserve our right to table amendments as it makes its way through the Assembly,” he added.

SDLP education spokesperson Sean Rogers described it as “a welcome development” but the Ulster Teachers’ Union and NIPSA both lamented the £20m “wasted” on ESA and branded the new proposals “ESA light”.

The Department of Education declined to comment.

The Northern Ireland Teachers` Council gave a cautious welcome to the development, while the UNISON and NIPSA unions said they will both be lobbying to protect jobs.

<http://www.newsletter.co.uk/no-single-board-agreement-claims-uup-1-6291744>

Anger over 'millions wasted' on ESA

Politicians in Northern Ireland are criticised for "wasting" millions of pounds on a failed bid to set up an Education and Skills Authority (ESA).

Read more:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-29138679>

John O'Dowd's proposals for single body to replace five education boards get Executive approval

<http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/local-national/northern-ireland/john-odowds-proposals-for-single-body-to-replace-five-education-boards-get-executive-approval-30575072.html>

Dublin inter-church Young Adults in Leadership Course

The Young Adults Ministry of the United Dioceses of Dublin and Glendalough and the Office for Evangelisation and Ecumenism of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Dublin have been working together to

develop a new ecumenical training program for young adults who wish to train and learn how to be active faith leaders in their communities and churches.

The course will be launched in October and commences in November 2014. It will be ideal for young adults who wish to assume an active and intentional role in their local parishes.

Parishes can nominate young adults to take part in the year long course which aims to equip them to lead effectively in their church, aid spiritual exploration, work with volunteers and serve their local community.

Places will be limited. The course prospectus can be emailed to anyone interested. To find out more email g.fromholz@gmail.com.



Greg Fromholz who heads up Dublin and Glendalough's Young Adults Ministry.

Inquiry into shared and integrated education across Northern Ireland

Stormont's Education Committee has launched an inquiry into shared and integrated schooling across Northern Ireland.

The inquiry will examine how shared and integrated Education are currently delivered across Northern Ireland.

The committee chair Mervyn Storey said it was "keen to hear from pupils, parents and local schools".

"Around two thirds of schools currently indicate that they participate in shared education programmes of various kinds," the DUP man said.

"The Executive's Programme for Government includes important commitments to increase this and facilitate greater sharing of facilities by schools.

"The committee also recognises Integrated Education as an important part of the educational options available to schools, parents and pupils.

"In order to assist in the formulation of good policy, the committee wants to appreciate the context for both Shared and Integrated Education and understand the way

"Members are particularly eager to receive submissions from school councils across the educational spectrum and will be undertaking special engagement events to facilitate this."

It comes just 24 hours after Education Minister John O'Dowd announced agreement had finally been reached on a single education board from Northern Ireland.

More at -

<http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/local-national/northern-ireland/inquiry-into-shared-and-integrated-education-across-northern-ireland-30577738.html>

Presbyterian missionaries feature in BBC Songs of Praise Harvest Special

Derek and his wife Linda first went to serve in Kenya through the Presbyterian's Board of Mission Overseas in 1998. In early 2010, they moved to Kisima Farm near Timauin central Kenya, from Galana in the south east of the country, to work with the WHEAT management team in overseeing a new seed potato development project using cutting edge technology.

Derek and Linda have seen small scale farmers potato yields double, triple and in some cases quadruple as a result of supplying farmers with clean disease free potato seed and introducing better growing methods. The difference has been astounding and has restored hope to many who had almost given up growing potatoes due to crippling low yields.

Potatoes contribute enormously to the food security of Kenya and are now the second most important food source for the expanding population.

As well as being incredibly nutritious, potatoes mature quickly and have been called the 'hunger bursting food'. They provide food long before other crops (e.g. maize, wheat or rice) reach maturity thus ending the hungry period between planting and the next harvest.

Contacts made with potato farmers through this project also opened open doors to share the gospel with many local people.

Derek and Linda returned on Home Assignment in June 2013, and although their time serving on the 'Integrate' Programme has recently come to an end following a year of further studies, they are continuing to be involved with WHEAT and the seed potato project in particular, from Ireland.

Supported by the Presbyterian Church, they hope to make short visits to Kenya from time to time during the next few years. Derek is currently on such a visit to train Master Farmers and learn more about PCEA's Agri Mission strategy.

Derek travelled to Kenya earlier this year to help with the filming for this week's edition of the BBC Songs of Praise, which will be presented by Claire McCollum.

The programme, entitled 'Harvest Thanksgiving' will be on BBC One Northern Ireland at 5.30pm this Sunday evening.

Kill O' The Grange Looks Back at 150 Years of Witness With History Exhibition

Kill O' The Grange History Week was launched on Monday September 8 by Mrs Justice Catherine McGuinness.

The event has been organised as part of the celebrations of the 150th anniversary of Kill O' The Grange Church. The photographic exhibition and displays will be open to the public every night until Friday and there will be walks and talks in conjunction with Foxrock Local History Club.

Launching History Week and a booklet on the history of the parish last night, Catherine McGuinness, who has been a parishioner in Kill O' The Grange for 50 years, said it was a delight to look at the photographic displays and see faces and events that had taken place in the parish over the years. She added that the booklet provided a fascinating insight into the area. She said that it would provide young people with a good background to the parish and its outreach both at home and overseas.

Mrs McGuinness said the booklet also provided examples of how members of the Church of Ireland could reach out to the local and national political community and referred to the recent launch of the biography of the former Archbishop of Dublin, Dr Donald Caird, who advocated that members of the



At the launch of Kill O' the Grange History Week are Sandy Phelan, Mary Williams, the Revd Arthur Young, Patricia Pearson, Mrs Justice Catherine McGuinness, Kate Paterson, Peter Rooke and Beryl Stone.

Church of Ireland should not be a small inward-looking community but could contribute to the wider community.

Also speaking at the launch in the packed parish centre, the Rector, the Revd Arthur Young, paid tribute to the organising committee for their passion and enthusiasm in organising the exhibition and compiling the booklet. Mary Williams outlined the content of the exhibition boards. Peter Rooke thanked all who contributed to the organisation of history week. He said that the booklet was available from the parish at a cost of €10.

The photographic exhibition and displays will be on view from 6.00 pm to 10.00 pm up and including Friday evening. There will be a talk or walk at 8.00 pm from Tuesday to Friday with Foxrock Local History Club. Refreshments will be available.

Presbyterian Women's Conference 2014 'How beautiful are the feet'

A range of people are taking part in the Presbyterian women's conference entitled 'How beautiful are the feet'. Praise will be lead by Graham Hawthorne from Woodlands Presbyterian Church in Carrickfergus.

Members of Carnmoney Girls' Brigade will open with a presentation,

Donacloney PW and Girls' Brigade will perform a drama and Margaret Grayson will review a selection of books. Stories will be told, in person and via DVD, by Diane Cusick, overseas mission personnel, Sharon Heron, Deaconess, John Bryan and PW Group Leader Marianne Trueman.

The keynote speaker will be Elsy McCroskery-Niap. Elsy is a leader in training, supported by the Board of Mission Overseas, and is currently studying theology at Queen's University, Belfast. Elsy is an ordained minister of the Evangelical Christian Church in Timor, Indonesia (GMIT) where she worked as a full time Lecturer GMIT's theological seminary. She is married to Rev. Barry McCroskery, a former PCI missionary to GMIT, and they have two daughters.

Caroline Hawthorne, PW General Secretary said, "Using the words from Romans chapter 10 and verse 15, 'How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news', the conference will further develop the PW theme for the year '...so I am sending you'.

"The aim of the conference is to help women see that, as Christians, we are sent people whatever our culture or context. For some this will mean going overseas, but for many of us it will mean reaching out where God has placed us in our own communities.

"Elsy will focus on the heart of the servant who is called by God to do His work. Understanding what that means for us as women is very important to the service we offer to God for the sake of His glory.

"I would encourage women of all ages to come along on Saturday and be inspired and encouraged by the message that Elsy, and the other participants, bring to us."

The event starts at 10.30am and is expected to finish at 12.30pm. No booking is required and there is no charge, however a collection will be taken for PW funds.

For further information on PW, visit www.presbyterianireland.org/pw

Anti-abortion clinic said to be opening in Belfast

A US-based anti-abortion group is set to open in Belfast, it has been reported.

News Letter - Stanton Healthcare, a healthcare provider which is understood to offer counselling and scans, is expected to open near to the Marie Stopes private abortion clinic.

The latter is based on Great Victoria Street in the city centre, and opened amid furious controversy in 2012.

The BBC said this morning that representatives from Stanton Healthcare recently visited Belfast, and its staff are believed to be working with the anti-abortion campaign group Precious Life.

Council moves to secure purchase of Holy Island

Clare County Council has confirmed that it is an advanced stage of negotiations to secure the purchase of Holy Island (Inis Cealtra) on Lough Derg, the largest lake on the River Shannon.

Holy Island is one of the most important historical and ecclesiastical sites in Ireland, has important links to Brian Ború and is known throughout East Clare as the “Jewel of the Lough”. The island comprises some 50 acres of which more than 4 acres are in the ownership of the Office of Public Works (OPW).

Still used as a burial ground, the ruins and buildings still standing on Holy Island date back as far as the 7th century when the monastic site was established by St. Caimin. Buildings on the island include a 24-metre high Round Tower, an Oratory, and a number of churches. The Island lies close to the village of Mountshannon and is on the UNESCO World Heritage site tentative list as an Early Medieval Monastic site along with Clonmacnoise, Durrow, Glendalough, Kells and Monasterboice.

Cllr. John Crowe, Cathaoirleach of Clare County Council expressed his delight that discussions are at an advanced stage and said he is “confident the acquisition of this important site can be completed.”

The Cathaoirleach added: “I briefed the Tourism Minister, Mr. Pascal Donohue, T.D., on the current status during his recent visit to Clare and I also have been in contact with the Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht and the Minister of State with responsibility for the OPW who already own land on the island. It would be tremendous to secure public ownership of Holy Island this year, considering it is the millennial anniversary of the death of Brian Ború.”

“My Council colleagues as well as Clare’s six Oireachtas members are very supportive of public ownership of this important site,” he added.

Archbishop of Canterbury visits Anglicans in Brazil and Chile

The Archbishop of Canterbury yesterday concluded a four-day visit to Anglicans in Brazil and Chile, part of his series of visits to Anglican primates worldwide.

Archbishop Justin Welby and his wife, Caroline, spent two days visiting the primate of the Anglican Episcopal Church of Brazil, Bishop Francisco de Assis da Silva, before flying to Chile to visit the Presiding Bishop of the Southern Cone, Bishop Tito Zavala.

The Archbishop is [visiting all his fellow primates](#) around the Anglican Communion during his first 18 months in office.

In the Brazilian capital of Sao Paulo the Archbishop met and prayed with local bishops, clergy and lay people. He also preached at Most Holy Trinity Parish, reflecting on the theme of his visit – ‘I am the vine... if you remain in me you will bear much fruit.’ (John 15.5).

While in Brazil the Archbishop also addressed local ecumenical leaders about the importance of ecumenism and inter-religious dialogue for the Anglican Communion.

In the Chilean capital, Santiago, the Archbishop attended a special service in which the province officially changed its name to the Anglican Church of South America. The service was one of thanksgiving for Allen Gardiner, the man who founded the South American Mission Society and sacrificed his life as one of the continent’s first missionaries.

The Archbishop also attended a special event with Chilean religious, social and political leaders, where he spoke on the role of faith in the development of society, and preached at a parish Sunday morning service in Santiago.

Scotland 'in danger of becoming a divided country': Church shifts its focus to reconciliation

After a shock poll put the 'Yes' and 'No' campaigns on Scottish independence neck and neck, the Church of Scotland has revealed its



concerns about the tone of the debate and the possible damage being done to community relations.

The Right Reverend John Chalmers (c) giving out doves of peace made out of glass broken during past conflicts in Bethlehem to Lord Wallace of the No campaign and John Swinney MSP representing the Yes campaign

With the prospect of independence now just around the corner, David Cameron, Nick Clegg and Ed Miliband are all hitting the campaign trail in Scotland in a last ditch attempt to convince voters that together is better.

While much of the debate has centred on economic considerations and relations between Scotland and the rest of the UK, the Church of Scotland fears divisions within the country may become entrenched as the two sides ramp up efforts to swing the vote their way on September 18.

Writing on the Church of Scotland website, Moderator John Chalmers welcomed the level of public engagement in the independence debate but said aspects of the campaign had been "deeply unpleasant".

He told of one elderly woman who reported having a No Thanks poster daubed with obscenities pushed through her letter box. Her house happened to be next to the lamppost it had been torn down from.

Labour MP and former Scottish secretary Jim Murphy suspended his speaking tour after being pelted by eggs by an independence supporter, and Alex Salmond has reportedly received death threats.

Others are "too fearful of broken windows to put campaign notices in the windows of their car or house", Mr Chalmers said.

The Moderator appealed to both sides to keep their actions civil as he warned that the "shouting down" by a minority could "if left unchecked ... disrupt the majority".

"This debate started with two sides - one making a case for Yes and the other making the case for No; now each has become a cause and that's what makes me nervous. Both sides have to get the tenor of the debate under control," he said.

But the concern is equally directed at the politicians fronting the campaigns, as Mr Chalmers admitted his "heart sank" watching the heated televised debate between Alistair Darling and Alex Salmond.

"We do not need heat that is searing and unpleasant as we enter the closing stages," he said.

"I believe it is not too late to make sure that in the aftermath of the referendum there is no 'us' and 'them' but only 'us'."

The Moderator's comments follow polls on the referendum in the last week putting the Yes campaign in the lead for the first time, and revealing concerns about the possible fallout of a Yes or No vote. A poll by The Times found that half of Scots believe there will be remaining bitterness and division after a Yes vote, while 55 per cent believe the same of a No vote.

Mr Chalmers continued: "If we do not behave respectfully to one another in the run up to the 18th September, what on earth makes people think that we will behave differently on the 19th September? Scotland may be in danger of becoming a divided country for some time to come."

Whatever the outcome, he said there was a need to "avoid triumphalism" and "manage expectations" while the result of the referendum is digested.

"If the vote is 'Yes' then there is likely to be a protracted period of negotiation about the terms of separation for Scotland and the rest of the UK," he said.

"If the result is No then a period of debate will begin about what, if any, additional powers might be devolved from Westminster to the Scottish Parliament. During these uncertain times it will be important for Scottish

society to be cohesive, and for the discussions to be positive and constructive."

To foster harmony in the immediate aftermath of the referendum, the Church of Scotland will be holding a service on the first Sunday after the vote in Edinburgh's St Giles' Cathedral.

Press review

Tel

Opinion article on the fallout of a 'Yes' vote for Scottish independence claims the Queen loves Scotland and the lifelong ties that bind her, will be irrevocably undone in the event of a 'Yes' vote. It also states that when she crosses the border, as the Supreme Governor of the Church of England, she becomes a Presbyterian, an ordinary member of the Church of Scotland. She doesn't surrender her Anglican faith, but she accepts that Scotland's church and its legal system are different.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/scottish-independence/11087310/The-Queen-loves-Scotland.-Who-would-wrench-it-from-her.html>

Mail

Further report on a court case of a vicar who is alleged to have run a sham wedding racket at his south London church. The report states the court was told that the Revd Nathan Ntege struggled with paperwork because of his lack of experience. The former Archdeacon of Croydon was giving evidence in the case. The Revd Ntege denies the charges against him.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2750998/Vicar-accused-conducting-hundreds-sham-marriages-told-bosses-didn-t-want-live-sin.html#ixzz3Cyh54oyT>

BBC

Report that a vicar who wants to prevent discarded syringes from being thrown into his garden has said the local council will not allow him to build a mesh fence. Keith Hebden, who lives at the vicarage at St Mark's Church in Mansfield, Nottinghamshire, is worried about the safety of his two young children. Mansfield District Council has recommended Victorian railings that are "in keeping with the neighbourhood". But Mr Hebden said the iron railings would not solve the problem.

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-nottinghamshire-29143303>

Metro/Mail/Mirror

Reports that a vicar who was carrying out a wedding broke his arm after tripping over the bride's dress, but went on to finish the ceremony. They state the Rev Roger Scoones thought he had suffered a heart attack after landing face down on the floor. After the wedding he went to hospital. His arm is in plaster and he must wear a sling for six weeks. "It is a shame it wasn't caught on camera otherwise I would have sent it in to You've Been Framed," he said.

<http://metro.co.uk/2014/09/10/vicar-trips-over-brides-dress-and-breaks-arm-but-finishes-ceremony-like-a-hero-4864162/>

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2750534/Reverend-tripped-broke-arm-slipping->

<http://www.mirror.co.uk/news/uk-news/vicar-slips-brides-dress-breaks-4192918>

Letters

Guard

Letter signed by the Bishop of Derby, Alastair Redfern, Auxiliary Bishop of Birmingham, William Kenney, Secretary General of the Muslim Council of Britain, Shuja Shafi, and Chief executive, Liberal Judaism, Rabbi Danny Rich, calling on MPs to attend and save lives by voting in favour of overseas aid legislation in parliament on Friday. The [proposed bill](#) means that the UK government will continue to honour Britain's commitment to spend the 0.7% of our national income on international aid.

<http://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2014/sep/10/enshrine-overseas-aid-pledge-in-law>

Blogs

Christian Today

Carey Lodge: Former Archbishop calls for prophetic leadership on climate change

<http://www.christiantoday.com/article/former-archbishop-calls-for-prophetic-leadership-on-climate-change/40476.htm>

Psephizo: Law suits and same-sex marriage

<http://www.psephizo.com/life-ministry/law-suits-and-same-sex-marriage/>

Archbishop Cranmer: If Scotland votes "yes", it will be John Major's fault

<http://www.archbishop-cranmer.blogspot.co.uk/2014/09/if-scotland-votes-yes-it-will-be-john.html>

Law and Religion: Diocesan bells advice out-of-tune with court

<http://www.lawandreligionuk.com/2014/09/10/diocesan-bells-advice-out-of-tune-with-court/>

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