

Protestant Traybakes v Catholic Scones: Ulster's sectarian patisserie

Choir perform in VW Camper Van

**A church choir from
Llandudno has swapped
its normal venue for
something a bit smaller
– singing in a
Volkswagen camper van.**

The choir of St Paul's
Church in Craig-y-Don
sang the traditional
Anglican service of

evensong inside the tiny vehicle on Llandudno promenade to raise money to restore their church organ.

The choir had to scale numbers down for the occasion because the vehicle, a classic VW type 2 bay window van, only has room for four people, plus the organist in the boot!

David Hay, chairman of the St Paul's Church organ appeal said:

“It was certainly cosy in there, and something of a tight squeeze. The organist didn't mind having to cram his keyboard into the boot.

“The small space also made for quite an intimate sound, and we could put the kettle on without getting up from our singing position. This sort of camper van is normally associated with surfer dudes rather than surplices, so the event certainly turned a few heads.”

The evensong service was followed up by a hymn singing session in the sunshine on Llandudno promenade.





In total, the event is expected to have raised several hundred pounds towards restoring the organ at St Paul's Church, a job which is likely to cost up to £150,000.

Rev Noel Carter, rector of Rhos Cystennin benefice (which includes St Paul's Church), said:

"We're extremely pleased with the way the event went. It's always nice when we as a church can get out into the community, though we don't always do it in such an unusual way!

"The organ at St Paul's is an extremely historic instrument, and one of only a handful in North Wales to be listed. It's extremely unusual because it's remained largely unchanged since it was built in 1910, even down to its original pneumatic action, which means everything inside is controlled by puffs of air rather than electricity."

Restoration of the organ is likely to take several months, but work won't begin until enough money has been raised.

Methodist Churches feature in new Explore West Limerick visitor guide

Adare and Ballingrane Methodist Churches, both of which have unique and interesting histories, are included in a new 52-page visitor guide to the West Limerick region, as is the Irish Palatine Museum and the story

of Philip Embury and Barbara Heck.

The publication was commissioned by West Limerick Tourism, with the support of West Limerick Resources, as a way of encouraging visitors to step out and explore one of Ireland's best kept secrets.



Rev Bill Olmsted with Minister of State for Tourism and Sport, Michael Ring TD.

Superintendent Minister of the Adare & Ballingrane Circuit the Rev Bill

Olmsted attended the launch which was carried out by Minister of State for Tourism and Sport, Michael Ring TD. He accompanied the Minister on a private tour of the Irish Palatine Museum, sharing with him an American's perspective on the importance of the Irish-American Methodist Connection.

'It was an honour to meet with the Minister for Tourism and have him visit the Palatine Museum which means so much to us as Methodists,' Bill said.

The Explore West Limerick visitor guide is available to download at <http://www.visitwestlimerick.com>

Gatecrashing – Castlewellan Holiday Week hosts Irish launch

Brian Heasley recently chose a Methodist event – Castlewellan Holiday Week – for the Irish launch of his book *Gatecrashing: the Story of 24/7 Prayer in Ibiza.*

Brians assessment of the work of 24/7 Prayer in



Ibiza - “When I think back over those years, I am pretty convinced that lives have been changed. People have been prayed for and learned to pray for themselves; people have been listened to; drunk and drugged people have been taken to safety; help and support has been given to people who have been injured, robbed and even raped; meals have been served; hospitality has been extended; people have been baptised; lives have been transformed, and it has been wonderful.’

Recognising the significant role that Irish Methodists have played in this ministry, Brian recently chose a Methodist event – Castlewellan Holiday Week – for the Irish launch of his book *Gatecrashing: the Story of 24/7 Prayer in Ibiza*. You can read Brian’s conversation with award-winning journalist Anne Hailes in the October *Methodist Newsletter*.

Brian Heasley is the director of 24/7 Prayer in Britain and was the keynote speaker at Global Vision Craigavon this year.

Protestant Traybakes v Catholic Scones: Ulster's sectarian patisserie

Dateline Belfast - where the sun is shining, and Ian Paisley is giving a lunchtime sermon outside City Hall. I'm very much looking forward to hearing the effervescent and highly talented young soprano Elizabeth Watts [sing Berlioz's Les nuits d'été later](#).

Daily Telegraph - The other highlight of the weekend will be a big plate of traybakes, alongside a steaming pot of tea. There was a time, long ago, when business at Broadcasting House in Belfast would briefly halt at eleven in the morning and three-thirty in the afternoon - the hours when the canteen laid out the fresh traybakes. Quite correctly, a former controller of BBC Northern Ireland decided the sweet cakes were taking up too much time – and now they appear on special occasions only.

Caramel slices, snowballs, raspberry ripple squares ... I don't really like sweet, sugary things, but, when in Ulster ... The classic Northern Ireland traybake is the 'Fifteen'; 15 marshmallows, 15 digestive biscuits, 15 glace cherries – chopped and crushed, bound together with condensed milk, refrigerated, rolled into a sausage and then cut into fifteen pieces. [A traybake that doesn't even need any baking](#). But wait. Shock horror. I have discovered that traybakes are sectarian.

A friend of mine from Belfast phoned the other day on his way back from a wake. I asked him if there had been any traybakes. He went quiet, then uttered a line of admonishment. 'It was a Catholic funeral – there were

scones, not traybakes'. So now I know. Fifteens and snowballs for the Protestants; cherry, fruit and plain scones for the Catholics. But, as I can testify, on the rare occasions when traybakes now appear at the BBC, people of all faiths and no faith fight their way to the front of the queue. Perhaps traybakes can be seen as a metaphor for the success of the peace process.

No confectionary service in the canteen tomorrow, so we're planning to stalk out another promising destination – The [Lock Keepers Inn](#), run by Northern Ireland Young Entrepreneur of the year Kirk McCambley. Now I'm sure he'll know how to make a decent traybake.

[Petroc Trelawny](#) - is a BBC Radio 3 presenter who also writes about music, books and travel.

<http://blogs.telegraph.co.uk/culture/petroctrelawny/100006324/traybakes-in-northern-ireland-a-sectarian-sweet-treat/>

What changes if Scotland votes 'No'?

An in-depth, concise BBC report with implications for Northern Ireland highlighted - Scottish independence would mean a massive shake-up of the relationship between Scotland and the rest of the UK. But even if Scotland votes 'No', some aspects of UK life might change.

Read more:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-28880557>

A gap year of Prayer at Lambeth?

Archbishop Justin Welby is opening up Lambeth Palace to adults aged 20-35 to spend a year living, praying and studying together as a radical new Christian



community.

In a unique experiment, the Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, is to open up Lambeth Palace in London to Christians aged 20-35 – inviting them to spend a year living, studying and praying at a historic centre of the Anglican Communion.

Launching in September 2015, the Community of St Anselm will gather a group of adventurous young adults from all walks of life, hungry for a challenging and formative experience of life in a praying community.

The Community will initially consist of 16 people living at Lambeth Palace full-time, and up to 40 people, who live and work in London, joining part-time. The year-long programme will include prayer, study, practical service and community life.

Members of the Community will live in a way the ancient monastics would recognise: drawing closer to God through a daily rhythm of silence, study and prayer. But, through those disciplines, they will also be immersed in the modern challenges of the global 21st century church.

Lambeth Palace is in the process of recruiting a Prior to pioneer this new venture and direct its worship and work. The Prior will work under the auspices of the Archbishop, who will be Abbot of the Community.

Archbishop Justin Welby said: “Stanley Hauerwas reminds us that the church should always be engaged in doing things that make no sense if God does not exist. The thing that would most make no sense at all if God does not exist is prayer. Living in a praying community is the ultimate wager on the existence of God, and is anything but comfortable or risk-free. Through it people subject themselves to discipline, to each other in community, and, above all, to God.

“I expect this venture to have radical impact – not just for the individuals who participate but for life at Lambeth, across the Church and in the world we seek to serve. This is what we expect in following Jesus. I urge young people to step up: here is an open invitation to be transformed and to transform.”

The Chaplain to the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Revd Dr Jo Wells, said: “Archbishop Justin is passionate about prayer and about community. The renewal of prayer and Religious Life is the first of his three priorities, and that is what the Community of St Anselm is all about.

“We are inviting people from all around the Anglican Communion – and beyond – to live a year in God’s time. There are no qualifications for joining the Community except a longing to pray, to learn, to study together the things of God, and so to be stretched in body, mind and spirit.”

“Archbishop Justin longs that Lambeth Palace be not so much a historic place of power and authority, but a place from which blessing and service reach to the ends of the earth.”

Notes:

- More information about the Community of St Anselm can be found at: www.stanselm.org.uk
- Four members of the international ecumenical foundation Chemin Neuf came to Lambeth Palace earlier this year to live as a praying community. <http://www.archbishopofcanterbury.org/articles.php/5252/father-make-them-one-chemin-neuf-community-comes-to-lambeth-palace>. They will continue to share in the daily round of prayer that underpins the Archbishop’s ministry, while providing invaluable assistance and specialist expertise with this new venture.
- To be eligible to apply to join the Community, applicants must be aged between 20 and 35. No formal theological, or any other, qualifications are necessary. Applications will be welcome from all over the world, from Christians of any denomination. It will be an ecumenical community.
- Those who join the Community will be asked to contribute towards the programme and living expenses.
- Applications will open early next year. Keep checking the website for updates.
- Saint Anselm, a Benedictine monk and brilliant scholar, was Archbishop of Canterbury from 1093-1114. His motto of ‘faith seeking understanding’ reminds us that the faith journey begins with an active love of God – and from this love a deeper knowledge of God follows. Anselm became a monk when he was 27 – when he first enquired about the possibility, aged 15, he was turned away.

Shimon Peres: Pope Francis is a more powerful peace advocate than UN

Former Israeli President Shimon Peres has said that Pope Francis is more powerful than the United Nation when it comes to advocating peace.

While visiting the Vatican earlier today, Mr Peres asked Pope Francis to head a parallel United Nations called the “United Religions” to counter religious extremism in the world today.

Peres said the United Nations and its peacekeepers “do not have the force or the effectiveness of any one of the Pope’s homilies, which can draw half a million people just in St Peter’s Square alone.”

“So given that the United Nations has run its course, what we need is an organisation of United Religions,” Mr Peres said, as “the best way to counteract these terrorists who kill in the name of their faith.”

“What we need is an unquestionable moral authority who says out loud, ‘No. God doesn’t want this and doesn’t allow it,’” he added.

Speaking to the Catholic magazine, Famiglia Cristiana ahead of the papal meeting, Mr Peres said: “In the past, most wars were motivated by the idea of nationhood. Today, however, wars are incited above all using religion as an excuse.”

Jesuit Father Federico Lombardi, Vatican spokesman, confirmed that Peres, who ended his presidential term in July, had requested the meeting and told the Pope about his idea for United Religions. The Pope, however, did not commit himself to the proposal.

“The Pope listened” to the idea just as he always does with any peace initiative, “showing his interest, his attention and encouragement,” Fr Lombardi said.

But “the Pope made no personal commitment” and reminded Peres that the Vatican has the Pontifical Councils for Interreligious Dialogue and for Justice and Peace — two offices “that are suitable” for supporting or following such initiatives, Father Lombardi said.

Pope Francis also met later in the day with Jordan’s Prince El Hassan bin Talal, who, for the past four decades, has worked to promote interfaith understanding and dialogue around the world.

Cardinal to Lead St. Pat Parade With 1st Gay Group

There is no more natural spot for Roman Catholic Cardinal Timothy Dolan — a proud, ebullient Irish-American — than grand marshal of the city's historic St. Patrick's Day Parade.

ABC News - But the honor now has an added significance: Parade organizers said Wednesday they will allow the first gay group to march under its own banner.

Dolan was quick to issue a statement of support for the parade organizers, accepting their decision. While supporters of gay and lesbian Catholics are cheering, some conservatives want the archbishop to withdraw from the event.

"I think we're seeing the Catholicism of Pope Francis come to the Archdiocese of New York," said J. Patrick Hornbeck, chairman of the theology department at Fordham University. "Cardinal Dolan's statement is welcoming. He did not make this decision, but sees the parade as an opportunity for unity."

Pope Francis last year said church leaders should focus more on mercy than on divisive social issues. He famously said, "Who am I to judge?" when asked about gays and lesbians who are seeking God.

But Pat Archbold, a writer for the theologically conservative National Catholic Register, called Dolan's decision to remain as grand marshal a "total capitulation to gay identity groups."

Dolan said in a statement the parade organizers have "my confidence and support" and he thanked them for keeping the parade "close to its Catholic heritage." He said he and his predecessors have never determined who could march in the parade, but left that decision to the organizers.

However, in 1993, Cardinal John O'Connor opposed the campaign by the Irish Lesbian and Gay Organization for permission to march under their own banner. More than 200 gay rights protesters staged a countermarch that year and were arrested.

"Irish Catholics have been persecuted for the sole reason that they have refused to compromise church teaching," O'Connor said. "What others may call bigotry, Irish Catholics call principle."

Dolan's position on the parade is the latest of his gentler comments on gays and lesbians.

Last year, Dolan was asked on ABC's "This Week" about gay and lesbian Catholics who felt rejected by the church. "Well, the first thing I'd say to them is, 'I love you, too. And God loves you. And you are made in God's image and likeness,'" Dolan said.

When Missouri defensive end Michael Sam announced he was gay earlier this year, Dolan said, "Good for him."

More at

<http://abcnews.go.com/US/wireStory/cardinal-lead-st-pat-parade-1st-gay-group-25241494>

Press review

Times/Tel/Guard/Sun/Huff Post

Reports that the Archbishop of Canterbury has compared Islamic State's persecution of Christians in the Middle East to the Holocaust and the reign of Genghis Khan, while the Prince of Wales has written a letter to Christians speaking of his heartbreak at their plight. They state that yesterday, during prayers with church leaders at Lambeth followed by an interfaith vigil at Westminster Abbey, Justin Welby said the attempts to drive out Christianity were the biggest assault on the faith "since the invasion of Genghis Khan", the Mongol leader who ransacked Baghdad in 1258. *Sun* says the Archbishop of Canterbury declared the time has now come to hit back hard on the battlefield, quoting him saying: "There are moments when military and intelligence experts can see they can make a difference".

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/faith/article4196024.ece>

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/middleeast/iraq/11073765/Prince-of-Wales-heartbroken-for-Christians-in-Iraq.html>

<http://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2014/sep/03/archbishop-of-canterbury-condemns-isis-persecution-christians>

<http://www.thesun.co.uk/sol/homepage/news/politics/5879902/Send-in-the-drones.html>

http://www.huffingtonpost.co.uk/2014/09/03/archbishop-of-canterbury-joins-jewish-and-muslim-faith-leaders-to-declare-weareallhuman_n_5758568.html?utm_hp_ref=uk

Guard/BBC

Report that the Church of Scotland's most senior cleric has expressed fears that "something ugly" is permeating the referendum campaign, as a new poll finds that voters believe the country will be divided after 18 September regardless of the outcome of the vote. It states the Right Rev John Chalmers, moderator of the General Assembly, said: "I am repelled by the name-calling and rancour we have seen in recent weeks. We need to behave as though we are paving the way for working together whatever the outcome.... I fear that something ugly may be beginning to permeate the independence debate." Polling for the Times on Wednesday morning found that 50% believed there would be remaining bitterness and division after a yes vote, while 55% expected similar consequences if the country were to vote against independence.

<http://www.theguardian.com/politics/2014/sep/03/scottish-independence-campaign-church-of-scotland-rancour>

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-29053258>

Mail

Report that thousands of refugees are fleeing northeast Nigeria into Cameroon, the U.N. refugee agency reported Wednesday, as extremists pursue a new strategy to hold land they are calling an "Islamic caliphate." It states hundreds of Cameroonians also are abandoning their homes since Nigerian Islamic extremists last week began attacking villages in the neighboring country. In one instance Boko Haram fighters slit the throats of three people found in a Catholic Church in the Cameroonian village of Assighassia, she said. That also is a new tactic for Boko Haram, which previously had only kidnapped Cameroon citizens for ransom.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/wires/ap/article-2742232/Thousands-flee-Islamic-attack-north-Nigeria-UN.html#ixzz3CJx7gL97>

Times

Report that the case of a suicidal rape victim shows need to reform Irish abortion laws. It mentions the story of a vulnerable teenager seeking asylum and highlights how abortion is all but impossible even for a suicidal person.

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/law/article4195654.ece>

BBC

Report that a pensioner has told an inquiry examining child abuse that he was physically and sexually abused as a young boy while in the care of the Presbyterian Church in Australia. His migration was part of a scheme between the Presbyterian Church in the UK and Australia. Speaking to the Historical Institutional Abuse (HIA) Inquiry via video link, he outlined his childhood. It states he is one of about 50 witnesses giving evidence from Australia.

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-northern-ireland-29048447>

Blogs

Psephizo: What kind of leader is Justin Welby

<http://www.psephizo.com/life-ministry/what-kind-of-leader-is-justin-welby/>

Law and Religion: Rights of way across churchyards: a request for assistance

<http://www.lawandreligionuk.com/2014/09/03/rights-of-way-across-churchyards-a-request-for-assistance/>