

**God forgives me for
raping woman and
shooting her disabled
son, says UDA killer**

Cardinal Brady's resignation accepted by Pope

**Pope Francis has
accepted the
resignation of Cardinal
Sean Brady, the leader
of the Catholic Church
in Ireland.**



News Letter - The senior churchman, whose final years as a clerical leader were dogged by abuse scandals, announced plans to step down on age grounds last month after turning 75, the standard retirement age in the church.

At the time he had said he was eager for the Pontiff to accept his request to stand down, and this morning the Catholic church confirmed this had happened.

Among those wishing him well was top Presbyterian Rev Dr Donald Watts, President of the Irish Council of Churches, who praised his “gentle humility”.

Archbishop Eamon Martin will now take over the role as Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of All Ireland – the 116th man to fill the role.

“I am looking forward to retirement and, no doubt, it will take me some time to get used to it, but it will be good to have more time for family, friends and to follow the football,” Cardinal Brady said.

The churchman faced repeated calls over the last few years from clerical sex abuse survivors to stand down.

The Most Reverend Dr Richard Clarke, Church of Ireland Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of All Ireland, praised Cardinal Brady's ecumenical work.

“He has been a good friend to successive Archbishops of Armagh and to the wider Church of Ireland throughout his archiepiscopate, and we are grateful to him for this unaffected generosity of spirit,” he said.

“And, on a personal note, I wish to thank Sean for real kindness and warm friendship over many years. We all hope that he will enjoy both true fulfilment and good health in the years ahead.”

Archbishop Clarke said he looks forward to working with his new Catholic counterpart

Last month Pope Francis promised to hold bishops accountable for the protection of children and begged forgiveness from victims after he celebrated a Mass with six survivors at the Vatican.

One of the six, Irish woman Marie Kane, said she asked the pontiff to remove Cardinal Brady from his post because of the way he handled abuse allegations.

In a farewell message Cardinal Brady said he recalled the Pope's motto “miserando atque eligendo” which he said “challenges and inspires me with its message of God having mercy and at the same time choosing us, despite our sinfulness”.

“It reminds me that I too need to say sorry and to ask forgiveness. And I do so again, now,” Cardinal Brady said.

“At the same time, Pope Francis' motto inspires me to trust in the mercy of God and to pray for the strength to do always as Jesus would have me do.”

Cardinal Brady was heavily criticised for swearing two victims of paedophile priest Brendan Smyth to secrecy during an internal church inquiry in 1975 into the abuse of two children.

Their evidence was never handed over to police, allowing Smyth to continue abusing children before he was finally jailed in 1994.

Last December an investigation by church watchdog the National Board for Safeguarding Children said Cardinal Brady made a “commendable decision to gather and document whatever information was available” about abuse allegations in his own archdiocese on taking up his role as Primate of All Ireland in 1996.

At the time he said he was truly sorry for the suffering of victims.

Although he has also apologised to the victims of Smyth, he previously said he would not resign over the affair.

Cardinal Brady led the church in Ireland for more than 17 years during which time a series of investigations exposed shocking levels of clerical abuse.

His successor, Archbishop Martin, is a 52-year-old Derry-born former teacher, who was named as Coadjutor Archbishop of Armagh early in 2013. More at -

<http://www.newsletter.co.uk/cardinal-brady-s-resignation-accepted-by-pope-1-6285073>

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2014/sep/08/irish-catholic-church-leader-announces-retirement>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-29109314>

Rev Dr Donald Watts, President of the Irish Council of Churches, issued a statement following the news of Sean Brady's resignation.

It read: "I have always appreciated his patient thoughtfulness, his deep spirituality and gift of friendship.

"I would also wish to acknowledge his enormous contribution to inter-church relations in Ireland.

"He chaired meetings with a gentle humility that has enabled rich dialogue and built understanding.

"As he retires we enjoy unprecedented positive relationships between our member churches.

"Together with the member churches of the Irish Council of Churches I wish to congratulate Archbishop Eamon on his new ministry as Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of All Ireland and look forward to working with him over the coming years".

Anglican Communion Secretary General elected bishop in Ireland

The Revd Canon Dr Kenneth Kearon, the Secretary General of the Anglican Communion has been elected as a bishop in the Church of Ireland.

ACNS - Canon Kearon, who was appointed to his current role in 2004, will become the next Bishop of the Diocese of Limerick and Killaloe. He succeeds the Right Revd Trevor Williams who retired at the end of July this year.

Responding to the news, Canon Kearon told ACNS, "I am honoured and delighted to have been elected to the Diocese of Limerick and Killaloe, and I look forward to getting to know the diocese, its people and its clergy well in the near future.



Kenneth Kearon has worked at the Anglican Communion Office since early 2005

"Ireland has been through a very difficult period in its history, and I look forward to helping the diocese play its part and making its contribution to shaping the future.

"This diocese has made a distinctive contribution to the Church of Ireland in the past, in part through the work of its bishops and most recently through Bishop Trevor Williams, and I hope to be able to continue in their footsteps."

Canon Kearon has served alongside two Archbishops of Canterbury: Archbishops Rowan Williams and Justin Welby. As the leader of the Anglican Communion Office - the secretariat of the Instruments of Communion - he has supported several Anglican Consultative Council meetings, Primates' Meetings, and the 2008 Lambeth Conference.

The Bishop-elect has travelled widely in his role, and is a well-known figure across the Anglican Communion.

In a statement issued by the Church of Ireland, the Most Revd Dr Michael Jackson, Archbishop of Dublin, said, "Canon Kearon has expressed his delight at returning to work in Ireland and his intention to serve the people of Limerick and Killaloe and the communities of which they are a part.

"I have known Canon Kearon for many years and have always appreciated his personal friendship. I wish Kenneth and Jennifer all that is best within the love of God in their time in Limerick and Killaloe."



East Belfast Mission director Houston dismissed

Mark Houston pictured with Queen Elizabeth and Prince Philip during her visit to Belfast in 2008

The director of the East Belfast Mission - the church group behind the Skainos social enterprise centre in east Belfast - is dismissed for gross misconduct after allegedly making false travel expenses.

BBC - The director of the East Belfast Mission has been dismissed for gross misconduct after allegedly making false travel expenses claims.

Mark Houston was removed from his £50,000-a-year post after an internal disciplinary panel made a finding of gross misconduct.

Mr Houston denies any wrongdoing.

East Belfast Mission (EBM) is the church group behind the multi-million pound Skainos social enterprise centre in east Belfast.

Worship

The group was set up in 1985 and engages in community development in the Newtownards Road area.

It employs a staff of around 90, and an additional 100 volunteers work there, offering homeless support services, employment and benefit advice, as well as a place to worship.

Mr Houston was responsible for the day-to-day running of the mission since his appointment as director in 2007. Before that, he was a pastor at the City Church based in the Holyland area of south Belfast.

The allegations made by EBM against him included falsifying documents in relation to travel expenses and the inappropriate use of a company credit card.

According to a disciplinary hearing, he also failed to comply with the mission's internet and email policy.

When asked, Mr Houston declined to make any public comment on the dismissal. He said he did not want to prejudice any future unfair dismissal case brought against the mission.

Claim

It is understood he strongly denies any wrongdoing and believes the reasons he was given for his dismissal are "deeply flawed".

Sources close to Mr Houston said he believed he had given plausible answers in response to the allegations made against him, but these were not accepted. The source also said that he felt he had been very badly treated.

Two other members of staff have also been let go following an internal investigation at the mission after questions were raised about their performance in their respective roles.

In a brief statement, the EBM confirmed that Mr Houston no longer works at the mission.

It said: "Mark Houston has been dismissed for gross misconduct, but this is now the subject of legal proceedings which will be heard in January.

"You will fully understand that EBM cannot therefore comment further at this time, as you will appreciate that we cannot say anything that might prejudice either party."

In a statement, the Department for Employment and Learning confirmed that Mr Houston had lodged a claim with the Office of the Industrial Tribunals and the Fair Employment Tribunal.

Prior to his dismissal, Mr Houston played a major role at the mission, helping to pioneer and promote the work of the landmark Skainos centre in east Belfast.

Mr Houston is also a member of the East Belfast District and Policing Community Safety partnership.

The Skainos project has received more than £20m in funding, with the vast majority of it coming from public funds, from European Peace funding and the Department for Social development.

A year ago, the then mission superintendent, Rev Gary Mason, said four members of staff had been suspended pending an inquiry, but said the suspensions were not for "earth-shattering" reasons.

New rector at Movilla Abbey

The Bishop of Down and Dromore has instituted Revd Alan Peeke as the rector of Movilla Abbey in Newtownards.

Alan's former Bishop in the Diocese of Derry and Raphoe, The Rt Revd Ken Good, gave the address. Movilla Abbey shares a building with the local Methodist congregation and the minister, Revd Michael Spence (pictured right), also took part in the service.



Rose Crumlin (Rector's Warden) Revd Alan Peek, Denise Johnston (People's Warden) and Lay Reader, Rosie Lappin.

Alan Peeke was born and grew up in a village near Portsmouth, Hampshire. He says, "I committed my life to Christ at the age of 19 and have been pursuing God's missionary call ever since."

Before being ordained in 2004, Alan had a career in the pharmaceutical industry but also worked for several years in both inner-city and overseas mission as well as in social work. After 18 years in Liverpool, he and his family pursued God's call to 'Go West' which brought them to Ireland and Castlederg in 2008.

Alan is married to Tammi and they have 4 daughters: Emily (20), Abii (18), Sarah (15) and Hannah (nearly 13).

"Other than faith and my family," he says, "the things I enjoy include reading, riding my motorbike, listening to music, watching movies, running and walking, and supporting Liverpool FC.

"I believe passionately that the local church is the hope for the world, and I look forward to assisting the people of Movilla in living out and proclaiming that life-changing hope we have in Jesus Christ, in Newtownards and beyond."

Churches Together Conference for those involved in leading worship

Whiteabbey & Jordanstown Churches
Together are hosting an exciting
conference on **Saturday September 13**
for all those who are involved in leading
worship within their churches.

The Conference is aimed not just at
musicians and singers, but Ministers and
all those who lead God's people.

Keynote speakers are Rev John Dickinson
(Carnmoney Presbyterian) and Ian
Hannah (Coleraine) along with musicians
from across Northern Ireland.

The Conference runs from 9.30am – 5pm, and will include lunch. Cost is £10.
For more information register your interest at
worshipheartwhiteabbey@gmail.com

or contact the Rev Jonny Campbell–Smyth on 07808 479649.



God forgives me for raping woman and shooting her disabled son, says UDA killer Hinton

A barbaric killer who shot dead a disabled 14-year-old boy after raping his mother at gunpoint says God has forgiven him for the “drunken escapade”.

Belfast Telegraph - Trevor ‘Hinty’ Hinton is now often seen in Belfast city centre singing hymns with a little gospel group.

Passers-by don't realise that the occasional preacher was convicted of a depraved sectarian murder and rape — and that 20 years later he carried out a hatchet attack on a defenceless Catholic man.

He raped Catholic woman Sarah McClenaghan and ignored her pleas for mercy as he shot dead her son David after breaking into their Oldpark home in north Belfast with three other UDA hoods in the early hours of July 12, 1972.

The sectarian psycho was freed from jail in 1989 but three years later he was jailed for 16 years after he and an accomplice ambushed a drunk Catholic

man and bludgeoned him with a hammer and a hatchet.

Now born-again Hinton claims God has forgiven him — and he even denies the rape and murder he confessed to in court.

When Sunday Life confronted Bible-bashing Hinton at his home in south Belfast, he brazenly said: “I pleaded guilty on the advice of a solicitor.”



Trevor Hinton pictured with the Belfast Bible Believers in the city centre

Hinton said: “Did I rape Sarah McClenaghan? No. Did I shoot her son? No.”

However, he refused point blank to say who he believes raped and shot the widow and killed her son, David.

“I showed abject and true remorse when I was in prison and I apologised at the time and to Sarah’s brother Brendan,” he said.

“I have found forgiveness,” said Hinton.

“It was a stupid drunken escapade that should never have happened. I tried to take my life because I couldn’t live with it.

“In 1973 a prison officer spoke to me about Jesus and gave me a Bible. I’ve been a Christian from that day to this.”

He refused to answer further questions at his home but later rang Sunday Life and said “only the Lord above knows” who committed the murder and rape.

He also complained that he should not have been charged with attempted murder for his 1992 hammer and hatchet attack on a Catholic man.

More at -

<http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/sunday-life/news/god-forgives-me-for-raping-woman-and-shooting-her-disabled-son-says-uda-killer-hinton-30569606.html>

Press review

BBC

Radio 4 Sunday Programme @17:40 minutes

Interview with the Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby who is looking for a Prior to lead a new 'monastic community' in Lambeth Palace. He discusses the project with Edward Stourton and reflects on his vigil for Iraq held earlier this week.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b04g6z5k>

Times

Opinion article expressing support for the Archbishop of Canterbury's alternative 'gap year' which he calls 'Monk Year'. Kevin Maher says young adults from across the country will be invited to apply for a place among a monastic community in Lambeth Palace where, over the course of a single year, they will live by the rules of St Benedict and practise a strict adherence to silence, prayer, and work. He says the year could help young people who have grown up forged by social media and says. 'This is the generation, more than any before it, that needs to go full monk.'

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/life/article4198062.ece>

Tel/ITV

Report that the Archbishop of Canterbury is likely to lead mourners at the televised funeral of King Richard III, found buried under a Leicester car park. The Bishop of Leicester, Tim Stevens, confirmed Justin Welby would attend Leicester Cathedral for the King's funeral in March next year. He will be joined by his equivalent figure in the Roman Catholic Church, the Catholic Archbishop of Westminster Cardinal Vincent Nichols, and representatives of other faiths to bury the Last Plantagenet King with "dignity and honour". Richard III is currently the only English monarch without a marked grave after his remains were found buried under a car park in Leicester two years ago.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/religion/11080345/Archbishop-of-Canterbury-likely-to-lead-funeral-of-Richard-III.html>

<http://www.itv.com/news/central/update/2014-09-07/reinterment-of-king-richard-iii-services-announced/>

Express/Mail/Mirror

Further reports following the article in yesterday's *Sunday Times* claiming that the Scottish Independence vote is causing the Queen "a great deal of concern". A weekend poll revealed that 54 per cent of Scottish voters want the Queen to remain head of state, with 31 per cent preferring an elected figurehead. They state that one key concern of the royals is the impact a Yes vote would have on the Church of Scotland, which the Queen is sworn to preserve.

<http://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/508167/The-Queen-terrified-by-threat-to-her-kingdom>

<http://www.mailonsunday.co.uk/debate/article-2747268/DAILY-MAIL-COMMENT-Ten-days-save-great-union.html>

<http://www.mirror.co.uk/news/uk-news/queen-worried-fears-independence-been-4181341>

Tel/Mail

Reports that a councillor and cricket enthusiast has been told he cannot umpire a church match because of fears he may not be 'theologically neutral' as his great-great grandfather was a bishop. Michael Cloughton, who has 18 years' experience as a cricket umpire, offered to officiate the match between the Church of England XI and Vatican XI, due to take place later this month. But he said he was left baffled after officials said he could not be considered for the charity because they wanted to ensure it was theologically "neutral" and they feared his ancestry could make him biased against the Catholic team.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/religion/11079990/Umpire-banned-from-officiating-church-cricket-match-because-of-religious-ancestry.html>

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2746961/Umpire-banned-church-cricket-match-fears-biased-great-great-grandfather-Anglican-bishop.html>

Tel

Report that a legal bid to have bells at an 18th-century country church re-tuned to improve their melody has been thrown out of a court by a judge who said the plan was a threat to "our heritage". In a rare and possibly unique ruling Mark Ockleton, deputy chancellor of Hereford and a judge of the Church Consistory Court, rejected a re-tuning plan. The bells were installed at the church of St Michael at Michaelchurch Escley in 1732 and the Diocesan Advisory Committee (DAC) recommended they should be re-tuned to make their peal more melodious. But Deputy Chancellor Ockleton has refused permission on the basis that sounds of the past - melodious or otherwise - should be preserved for posterity as they were.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/newstoppers/howaboutthat/11080531/Bid-to-re-tune-18th-Century-church-bells-rejected-to-preserve-their-heritage.html>

BBC

A hand-stitched, leather-bound book of Remembrance created by villagers to honour soldiers who died in World War 1 has been unveiled and dedicated by the Bishop of Dover. It states three amateur historians in Newington village, near Sittingbourne, spent 18 months researching the lives of 31 men who died in the conflict, and 120 who returned from the fighting.

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-kent-29077856>

Tel

Report on becoming a school governor, which quotes Dr Andrew Gailey, who is Vice-Provost of Eton College and has been a governor at a range of schools, including a local Academy in Slough. He says religion often comes into governor selections, especially if the school is affiliated to a particular faith or denomination. And states, "While the governing bodies of these schools naturally reflect the denomination, the best 'faith' schools encourage governors from other faiths." As a protestant governor at a leading catholic school, he chairs the education committee and said religious schools have much to offer, provided it is done in a way that is open and inclusive and that other-faith governors can help achieve this.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/education/educationopinion/11076969/Why-you-should-develop-a-governing-passion.html>

Times

Report that technological progress and the reformist zeal of the Pope have combined to end the sale of the Vatican's famous parchments through souvenir shops and put them within reach of anyone in the world with access to the internet. Ornate papal blessings to mark important church events, such as baptisms, weddings and ordinations, can be bought in dozens of souvenir shops around the Vatican, but Francis has decided to

discontinue the lucrative trade. The papal almoner, who is responsible for disbursing the Pope's charitable payments, has written to about 50 souvenir shops and bookshops in the vicinity of the Holy See to say that the Vatican will not be renewing its licence for the blessings in the new year.

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/world/europe/article4199567.ece>

Letters

Times

Letter urging the government to respond to the plight of 100,000 displaced Christians living in life-threatening conditions in Erbil in northern Iraq, who have been forced to flee from the Islamic State's brutal persecution.

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/opinion/letters/article4199494.ece>

Blogs

The Spectator

Andrew Brown: The theological illiteracy of Eric Pickles

<http://blogs.spectator.co.uk/coffeehouse/2014/09/the-theological-illiteracy-of-eric-pickles/>

Sunday's coverage

Tel (yest)

Report that Al-Qaeda's branch in Syria is attacking one of the country's remaining Christian strongholds, as it presses its offensive against the regime of President Bashar al-Assad. Jabhat al-Nusra fighters, who have pledged allegiance to al-Qaeda's leader Ayman al-Zawahiri, are encircling the historic Christian town of Mhardeh and bombarding it with artillery, residents have told *The Telegraph*.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/middleeast/syria/11079018/Al-Qaeda-closes-in-on-Syrian-Christian-stronghold.html>

Tel (yest)

Report on Congo's Virunga National Park, focusing on the work of conservationists, rebel groups who inhabit the park and Soco International, a British-registered company searching for oil in the region. The article states that Soco shareholders including the Church of England, Aviva and Legal and General are taking notice of its activities and have raised concerns with the company.

*Link on **Tel** (above)*

S Times

Report that Palace aides say the Queen is concerned about what Scottish independence would mean for the Church of Scotland as she is bound by oath to preserve the church in Scotland where it is self-governing.

http://www.thesundaytimes.co.uk/sto/news/uk_news/scotland/article1456061.ece

S Times

Report that Ireland's first atheist church is without a spiritual home after the Dublin branch of the Sunday Assembly, a global movement of godless congregations aimed at bringing together non-believers, floundered after mere months. Sanderson Jones, a British stand-

up comic who founded the international not-for-profit network in London last year, is quoted as saying volunteers struggled to devote enough free time to organising monthly gatherings.

<http://www.thesundaytimes.co.uk/sto/news/ireland/article1455912.ece>

Ind on Sun

Interview with author Charlie Higson who says "Religions get taken over by men with beards The core of most religions is patriarchal and misogynistic, based around denying people everyday pleasures in order to control them. But I understand why people need the comfort and support religion gives them. If you're desperately poor, religion is a beacon. And I'm all for religions such as the Anglican Church of England family, a wishy-washy, "not really telling us to do anything in any direction" religion."

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/people/profiles/charlie-higson-the-author-and-actor-talks-zombies-dyed-hair-and-telling-dad-jokes-9709458.html>