



DUP MP says gay rights will be maintained in Tory-DUP deal

A Democratic Unionist Party member has said that LGBT rights would be maintained if they formed a coalition party with the Conservatives despite his party's stance on same-sex marriage.

Jim Shannon, a Christian who was re-elected as the MP for Strangford said he had heard comments made by gay Scottish Conservative leader Ruth Davidson who said she had received

assurances from the Prime Minister over gay rights if a deal between the parties was made.

He said despite people's concerns, the party during negotiations wants to set conditions that will "benefit everyone across the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland".

He added: "We want to ensure that every one of the LGBT community have rights and their rights will be maintained. So, there's going to be no changes to that whatsoever.

"The situation in Northern Ireland is very different. The Northern Ireland Assembly will make those decisions - they're two diverse and different opinions.

Bishop says Scottish church's move on gay marriage 'a way forward'

The [Church of Ireland](#) may have found a way forward on the issue of same-sex marriage following a move by a church in Scotland, Bishop of Cork Paul Colton has said, Ratsy McGarry reports in the Irish Times.

The Scottish Episcopal Church last week became the first major church in Britain or



Church of Ireland Bishop of Cork Paul Colton: 'the reality is that there is such diversity and difference throughout the Church of Ireland.'

[Ireland](#) to allow same-sex marriage. A vote by its general synod in [Edinburgh](#) removed a clause from the church's canon law which defined marriage as between a man and a woman.

However, clergy who do not agree can opt out of conducting same-sex weddings.

Dublin-born Bishop [David Chillingworth](#) is primus of the Scottish Church. He was ordained in [Belfast](#) and served in [Northern Ireland](#) until 2005 when he was consecrated Bishop of the diocese of St Andrews, Dunkeld and Dunblane in [Scotland](#).

Addressing the Cork diocesan synod in Douglas, [Bishop Colton](#) quoted Bishop Chillingworth who said “the new canon itself affirms that there are differing views of marriage in our church.

“Nobody will be compelled to do anything against their conscience. We affirm that we are a church of diversity and difference, bound together by our oneness in Christ...”

Diversity and difference

Bishop Colton said “the reality is that there is such diversity and difference throughout the Church of Ireland too. Those differences and that diversity cannot be ignored.”

He added it may well be the Scottish approach “represents a way forward for us too that recognises all integrities. It is worth considering in our debate here in Ireland”.

The bishop said “that such things are open to debate in this Church [of Ireland] has always been the case. If there had been no questioning or discourse, the Reformation itself would not have happened, nor would many other developments have unfolded over the centuries, in ministry, in liturgy and in belief, the most recent examples being our change in approach to suicide, to the marriage in church of

divorcees, and also the ordination of women, and there are many others.”

Thanksgiving service

Last month a motion that Church of Ireland bishops investigate developing a public thanksgiving service for legally married same-sex couples was defeated at the church’s General Synod in [Limerick](#). It followed debate where speakers divided along North-South lines, with all speakers from the South in favour and all but one Northern speaker opposed.

Meanwhile, a report to the Church of Scotland (Presbyterian) [General Assembly](#) last month concluded there were not “sufficient theological grounds to deny nominated individual ministers and deacons the authority to preside at same-sex marriages”.

It said “conscientious refusal” of ministers and deacons to preside at such marriages should be protected and spoke of “constrained difference” in the church over the issue. Officials were instructed to consider changes to church law that would allow ministers to preside over same-sex marriage ceremonies.

A report presented last week in Belfast to the general assembly of the Presbyterian Church in

Ireland concluded that its sister Church of Scotland “has departed from the clear teaching of scripture on the matter of same-sex relationships.”

Ireland’s first ever Jesuit bishop to take over in Raphoe diocese

Ireland’s first ever Jesuit bishop, Fr Alan McGuckian (64), will be ordained Bishop of [Raphoe](#) at the Cathedral of Saints Eunan and Columba in [Letterkenny](#), Co [Donegal](#), on August 6th. He succeeds Dr [Philip Boyce](#) (77), who has been Bishop of Raphoe since 1995.

Fr McGuckian has a deep interest in the Irish language following a visit to Donegal as a teenager. “Tháinig mé go dtí deoise seo agus an contae seo don chéad uair i 1968 chun freastal ar Choláiste Bhríde i Rann na Feirste. Cuireadh síol ansin ag an am sin. Mhothaigh mé go raibh mé ar mo chompóird i Rann na Feirste agus sa chontae seo trí chéile. Mar sin de tá mé ar mo shuaimhneas. Creidim ó chroí go mbeidh mé sa bhaile sa deoise seo,” he said.

(I came to this diocese and county for the first time in 1968 to attend Coláiste Bhríde in Rann na Feirste. A seed was planted at that time. I felt I was at my most comfortable in Rann na Feirste



Fr Alan McGuckian: will be ordained as bishop on August 6th

and in this county. So I am at my most content. I believe in my heart that I will be at home in this diocese).

“As a Jesuit I bring both strengths and weaknesses to this appointment. As is typical of most Jesuits I have never served as a curate in a parish, or as a parish priest,” and so “I will be relying on the priests and people of Raphoe to teach me how to be a truly pastoral bishop,” he said.

Fr McGuckian, the youngest of six and one of three brothers who are Jesuit priests, was born in [Cloughmills](#), Co [Antrim](#), in February 1963. In

October 1972 he joined the Jesuit novitiate in [Clontarf](#), Dublin.

Following studies at UCD, Queen's University [Belfast](#), the [Milltown Institute](#) in Dublin and the School of Theology in [Toronto](#), he was ordained in 1984. After four years teaching at [Clongowes Wood College](#) in Co [Kildare](#) and six months in [India](#) and the Philippines, he returned to Dublin, where he ran the Jesuit Communications Centre.

Later, in Belfast, he served as chaplain to Gaelscoileanna in Down and Connor diocese and was chaplain at the University of [Ulster](#) at Jordanstown and Belfast. For the past six years he has been working with Down and Connor diocese in the Living Church project, which heard from the priests, religious and laity in all of its 87 parishes.

Changing Attitude Ireland welcomes Scottish Episcopal Church decision on same-sex marriage

Changing Attitude Ireland welcomes the decision by the Scottish Episcopal Church , to amend

their canon law to allow same-sex couples to marry in the church.

The pursuit of equal recognition for same-sex couples within God's Church is a long, slow journey. However, there are occasions along the way, when that slow, steady effort is rewarded with results like this when Christian compassion prevails.

The Anglican tradition has long held to the tenet of Scripture, Tradition and Reason as central to its beliefs; it is from this that we derive our via media. This 'middle way' is perfectly exemplified in the carefully accommodated 'conscience clause' allowed for in the Episcopal Church of Scotland's amendment to its canon 31, which seeks to ensure that clergy who are not comfortable with this development do not have to participate in celebrating a same-sex marriage.

We now hope that those of our brothers and sisters in our Christian family, who have come so far on their journey towards full and equal membership of God's Church, will reach back to us who are also on this road and lend us their hands in our journey towards full inclusion in the Church of Ireland.

This week's music highlights

The Greenwich Academy Madrigal Singers from Connecticut, began an Irish tour on Monday when they gave a lunchtime recital Christ Church cathedral, Dublin. This evening at 8pm they will sing in St. Columba's church, Kells, Co. Meath, and on Thursday they will be in Bandon for a recital in St Peter's church at 8pm.

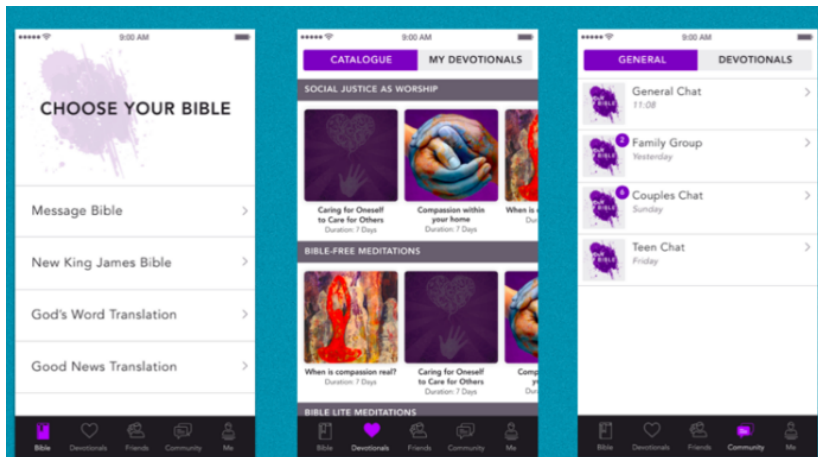
On Wednesday the lunchtime organ recital in St Mary's cathedral, Limerick, will be given by David Simon, a Canadian doctoral student at Yale University.

The Summer Music at Sandford series of lunchtime recital continues on Friday with a recital by the Sheffield University Chamber Choir beginning at 1.10pm

Dunlavin Arts Festival will present 'Swift in Dunlavin', an evening of poetry, prose, song and organ on Saturday 17th. June at 8pm. to celebrate the bicentenary of St. Nicholas Church, Dunlavin, and the 350th anniversary of the birth of Jonathan Swift. Booking is through eventbrite.ie

LGBT supporting bible app launching soon

A gay Christian will be launching a mobile app to promote inclusiveness within LGBT believers who feel marginalized in the Christian community.



Crystal Cheatham, the creator of “Our Bible App”, says In a YouTube video, she was told by ministers at her church that her faith was in conflict with being a lesbian.

Explaining how she came to create the app, she said: “I couldn’t find any devotional that represented me.”

The Our Bible app - which was funded by thousands of dollars from online donations - offers users at least 20 Bibles and over 300 devotional readings, articles, podcasts, and meditation exercises designed for LGBT Christians.

Our Bible App will also include translations that refer to God in gender neutral terms.

Cheatham is requesting for \$20,000 in order to launch the app that will be free to download later this month.

Justin Welby rebukes appointment of new 'missionary' bishop

The Archbishop of Canterbury has warned African Anglican leaders against creating 'disturbance and discords' by intervening in Britain with the appointment of a 'missionary' bishop.

In a letter to fellow Anglican leaders - obtained by the Mail on Sunday - Justin Welby accused them of a 'cross-border' intervention' that would 'carry no weight in the Church of England'.

The Scottish Episcopal Church last week made history when it voted in favour of allowing same-sex couples to be allowed to marry in church.



Rev Canon Andy Lines

As a result, GAFCON, a worldwide group of conservative Anglicans, named English based Rev Canon Andy Lines as a missionary bishop to cater for disaffected Christians in Scotland, England and across Europe.

Later this month conservative archbishops, led by the Archbishop of Nigeria, Nicholas Okoh, plan to consecrate Rev Canon Lines at a meeting in America.

The former British Army tank commander and father-of-three from Surrey will be tasked with looking after disaffected Anglicans who are unhappy at potential changes to church teaching on sexuality.

The Archbishop addressed leaders across the 80 million-strong worldwide Communion saying that

there was no need for a missionary bishop in the Church of England because worshippers could already express a range of views.

He also quoted the 'uncompromising' verdict of the early Church's First Council of Nicea in 325 AD, which condemned the 'great disturbances and discords that occur' when bishops ministered in this way.

Rev Canon Lines said if his appointment led to a divide within the Anglican Communion, the people who voted in favour of gay marriages in the Scottish Episcopal Church were responsible. He added: "I am staying where the Anglican Communion has always been in its beliefs."

CNI

Help CNI grow

Please commend

**CNI daily news to your
friends**

www.churchnewsireland.org

CNI