



## The Burning Bush - Online article archive

### The utter apostasy of the Church of Ireland

The substance of this article was drawn to my attention by an anonymous letter received yesterday.

I felt that its contents were worth examining and enlarging upon.

Hence this article.

What an unbelievably evil time we live in!

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The measure of a person's spirituality may often be gauged by what it is they tolerate!

Lot, the nephew of Abraham, is deemed a miserable backslider who would not even be deemed that, were it not for what is written of God in 2 Peter 2:7, where it is stated regarding him: ". . . just Lot, vexed with the filthy conversation of the wicked." Here he is called 'just Lot' or 'justified' Lot. A man who, despised his shameful backsliding, was 'justified by his (Christ's) blood,' Romans 5:9. Proof of his regeneration is seen in that he was "vexed with the filthy conversation of the wicked." The word means 'to be afflicted, to suffer'. The word is translated "oppressed" in Acts 7:24. This is the only other place the Greek word kataponeo appears in the New Testament.

Yet, despite his feeling of being oppressed by the wickedness of Sodom, Lot TOLERATED the wickedness of that evil society. His regenerated nature was overcome by his fleshly love of sin and worldly prosperity. That is what attracted him to the city in the first place.

"And Abram said unto Lot, Let there be no strife, I pray thee, between me and thee, and between my herdmen and thy herdmen; for we be brethren. Is not the whole land before thee? separate thyself, I pray thee, from me: if thou wilt take the left hand, then I will go to the right; or if thou depart to the right hand, then I will go to the left. And Lot lifted up his eyes, and beheld all the plain of Jordan, that it was well watered every where, before the LORD destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah, even as the garden of the LORD, like the land of Egypt, as thou comest unto Zoar," Genesis 13:8-10. The prosperous lifestyle the city offered overcame his sense of what was right before God and persuaded him to condone the wickedness of the place!

That tolerating of sin gives us the measure of the man.

Another example of such tolerating of sin indicating the standard by which some are judged is given us in John 12:42-43. "Nevertheless among the chief rulers also many believed on him; but because of the Pharisees they did not confess him, lest they should be put out of the synagogue: for they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God."

Here are men who accepted the witness and testimony of Christ's words and deeds as to Who He was yet spinelessly refused to acknowledge Him publicly to be the Christ for fear of being 'put out of the synagogue', or excommunicated from Jewish society!

When we apply this scriptural rule to today's professing Christian communities we come up with just how high the tide of apostasy has advanced.

The following details are gleaned from a number of public news domains. I was prompted to do some searching following an anonymous letter sent to me. I do not have a high opinion of 'anonymous' communications, having been the victim of anonymous attacks in the past. I believe in openly standing up for what I believe to be right and if I can't do that it is better to remain silent!

My attention was drawn to a prominent member of the Church of Ireland 'clergy' one, Katie McAteer, the canon at St Columb's Cathedral in Londonderry. She was appointed to that position back in the summer of 2020.



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Reports of her appointment states that she 'has become the first female canon appointed in 400 years to St Columb's Cathedral.' Her father was 'canon of Chester Cathedral in the northwest of England. She is an



**Canon Katie McAteer**

former aerobics instructor who married the son of a leading Nationalist politician and raised her four sons as Roman Catholics'. (Independent {Irish} 11th July 2020).

Just what are Church of Ireland members to think when such a leading cleric chooses to raise her children outside the church in which she professes to serve! It obviously means nothing to this woman to utterly disregard the 'oath' to uphold the historic teachings of the 'Church of Ireland' she swore when inducted into office!

What can be said of a religious body led by such and whose leadership and membership tolerates such hypocritical chicanery!

The man she married was Fergus McAteer. His father was Eddie McAteer, leader of the now defunct 'Nationalist Party' and Stormont MP from 1945 until 1969 when he was ousted by John Hume. The McAteer family was steeped in Irish nationalism. Hugh McAteer, brother of Eddie, was born 3 August 1916 and died 24 June 1970. He was a volunteer in, and leader of the Irish Republican Army during their 'Northern Campaign'. He served as IRA Chief of Staff from 1941 until 12 October 1942, when he was captured and arrested by the Royal Ulster Constabulary. He was later sentenced to 15 years imprisonment on the charge of treason.

None of this would matter to Katie McAteer. After all, her husband Fergus was prominent in the Nationalist Party. In 1973, he was elected to Derry City Council, and he was re-elected in 1977. In October 1977 he merged the Nationalist Party with Unity to form the Irish Independence Party (IIP), becoming joint chair with former Unity leader Frank McManus.

Hugh McAteer's son, Aidan, was personal assistant to Gerry Adams and onetime 'staff officer' of the IRA's Belfast Brigade. His grandson, Ronan McGinley, was elected as a Sinn Féin Councillor in 2014. He served as Mid Ulster Council Group Leader.

This is the treacherous viper of Republican sympathy and support for terrorism that the Church of Ireland unashamedly clasps to its bosom! I can only imagine the horrified reaction of my father and mother's generation to these facts!

Another incident brought to my attention was that of another Church of Ireland cleric. He was Church of Ireland rector, Stephen Hilliard, rector of Rathdrum Parish, County Wicklow. He was murdered in his home by an intruder in January 9th, 1990. Of him it has been freely reported that this former reporter at the Irish Times had been in the IRA in the 1960s. He famously left the paper to become a Church of Ireland cleric, but was murdered by an intruder to his home. After his death the Phoenix reported that he had been in the IRA. The NUJ Chapel at the paper complained to the magazine. However, at the hearing, the Phoenix produced three former IRA men who confirmed that he had been in the organisation.



**Hugh McAteer, IRA terrorist**

This pro-IRA element within the Church of Ireland, coupled with the widespread support for sodomy and



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same-sex marriage found within this religious body, surely must label it as apostate.

But what of those within its ranks who claim to be evangelical believers? Sadly, there are many happy to keep their heads 'buried' in the 'sand of self-imposed ignorance'! Nevertheless, that does not absolve their guilt and shame before the Lord. Ignorance is no excuse in man's law nor indeed in the eyes of God's Law. The case of Uzza as recorded in 1 Chronicles 13:8-10, proves this to be so.

How many believers there are who must bear the ignominy and shame of Lot and that they do rather than standing up for Christ and His truth!

Rev Ivan Foster (Rtd)

21st January 2021.



**Rev. Stephen Hilliard**