



## The Burning Bush - Online article archive

### Free Presbyterians attend Ballymena ecumenical service for Queen's Jubilee

There are many aspects of the reign of Queen Elizabeth II for which the Christian may be thankful.

She herself has been a pillar of modest and personal decorum. She has not been an improper trend-setter for the nation's womanhood. Rather, had her example been followed instead of that of Hollywood and Paris and the poor glitzy creatures who adorn the media then it would have been to the betterment of the land.



Lord Bannside Dr Ian Paisley who made his first public appearance since his recent illness when he attended Sunday's service to mark the Diamond Jubilee of Her Majesty the Queen in St Patrick's Church of Ireland, Ballymena is seen here with his wife Baroness Eileen Paisley. INBT 18-13&JC More pictures from the Jubilee Service on page 39.

#### Lord Bannside and his wife, Baroness Paisley, pictured outside the service

Sadly, her personal propriety has been more than off-set by her religious activities and example. The spiritual views of the royal family have been dictated by their ecumenical advisors. If ever a family was ill-served by its spiritual pastors it has been the royal family!

Every Christian should indeed earnestly pray, "God save the Queen", for the poor woman needs God's saving grace applied to her heart.

Ecumenical religion will mark the many Jubilee Thanksgiving services held throughout the nation. That was certainly true in Ballymena Lord's Day afternoon, 29th April 2012. The main participants in the service held in St Patrick's Church of Ireland (episcopalian) were, as would be expected, Romanist clerics with a supporting cast of local ecumenical Protestant ministers.

But what was most heart-breaking for many was the attendance at the service of Dr Ian and Mrs Paisley. The man, who for many Christians, was an instructor in righteousness and a guide on the solemn issues of separation from ecumenical apostasy, sat through a service in which a Romanist priest led the congregation in prayer and the Church of Ireland Bishop of Connor, among other things, prayed for the dead! Among those political figures who attended were Mr. Ian Paisley Jr., MP and his wife, Mr. Mervyn Storey and his wife. Mr. Storey is an elder in Ballymoney Free Presbyterian Church. The Mayor of Ballymena was also in attendance and participated in the service. He attends Ballymena Free Presbyterian Church. Other DUP councillors from a number of District Councils were also in attendance.

#### Ordination oath

For a Free Presbyterian minister or elder to attend such a gathering must run contrary to their ordination oath. Part of their oath states: "Do you promise to be zealous and faithful in maintaining the truths of the gospel against modernistic apostasy, and in working for the purity and peace of the church, whatever persecution or opposition may arise unto you on that account?"

It is my duty to denounce such a gathering as this ecumenical service in fulfilment of this very oath. It can only be a



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**Mr. and Mrs Mervyn Storey MLA (Top centre) and Mr. Paisley Jr, MP, and his wife (Below right)**



**Ballymena Mayor, Hubert Nicholl**

violation of this oath if others who swore it, attend this service!

### Seek to justify

Doubtless, it will be said by those who attended this ecumenical event in an attempt to justify their actions that the priest, in praying for the Queen, showed himself supportive of the Royal family. That may well be so. That is the case with thousands of Roman Catholic priests throughout Great Britain. But that does not alter the fact that they are purveyors of a false religion, deniers of the efficacy of the atoning death of Christ and of His sole mediatorship.

For a Christian to be present while a Roman Catholic priest officiated and prayer for the dead was offered is to condone their erroneous views and endorse their falsehoods. Furthermore, it is to deny the distinctive witness of true Biblical Christianity and the stand and witness of the Free Presbyterian Church.

That has been powerfully and vigorously argued by Dr Paisley against attendance at such services by Protestant ministers in the past.

It makes his and Mr Storey's attendance at the service all the more deplorable.

### What saith the Scripture?

- "Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?" 2 Corinthians 6:14, KJV.
- "Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye sepa-



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rate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you," 2 Corinthians 6:17, KJV.

- "And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them," Ephesians 5:11, KJV.
- "Enter not into the path of the wicked, and go not in the way of evil men," Proverbs 4:14, KJV.
- "Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them," Romans 16:17, KJV.
- "This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away," 2 Timothy 3:1-5, KJV.

Such Scriptures as those quoted above were repeatedly quoted by Dr Paisley as he pressed home the path of duty for the believer faced with ecumenical apostasy. It saddens me to quote these glorious truths in these circumstances but God's Word remains true and must not be defied by any.

Rev Ivan Foster  
2nd May, 2012.