



## The Burning Bush - Online article archive

### Sodom embraced and sanctioned

Below are two articles on the same shameful subject - the nation's rush to embrace and sanction the wickedness which damned Sodom!!

One report contains the announcement of and the words of rejoicing over the fact that from today a change in the law permits 'religious 'same-sex marriages' in Northern Ireland.

The second report contains a warning from a Christian politician, Mr Jim Wells.

Christian, please take heed to "the signs of the times" as the saviour demands of us, Matthew 16:1-4. The sky is darkening and "the night cometh, when no man can work," John 9:4.

It is time for God's people to heed the exhortation of Paul in Romans 13:11-14.

*"And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed.*

*The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light.*

*Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying.*

*But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof."*

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### Same-sex weddings permitted in NI churches from today

A church minister has welcomed a law change allowing same-sex couples to marry in religious ceremonies in Northern Ireland.

By Niall Deeney, Belfast Newsletter, Tuesday, 1st September 2020, 7:00 am

From today, same-sex couples will be able to register to marry in a religious setting, and religious bodies can choose to opt in to provide same-sex weddings. Rev Chris Hudson, minister of All Souls Church in Belfast and a member of the non-subscribing Presbyterian church of Ireland, described the change as "great news" and said he has already been speaking to "a number of couples" who have been waiting for their big day.

With a statutory 28-day waiting period, the earliest date for a same-sex religious wedding will be September 29.

Rev Hudson said: "This is great news for couples who wish to celebrate their marriage in church, embraced by family, friends and the love of God.

"I have already been speaking to a number of couples who have been waiting for this day so they can finally have the church wedding that they have longed for."

Amnesty International, a prominent voice in the campaign for same-sex marriage to be permitted in Northern Ireland, has also welcomed the law-change.

Patrick Corrigan, Amnesty International's Northern Ireland director and part of the Love Equality coalition, said: "Today is a milestone for equality in Northern Ireland.

"After years of campaigning, same-sex couples of faith can finally register to marry in a church or other religious setting.



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"In line with our campaign, we are pleased that the law will protect religious freedom, and that churches will neither be compelled nor prevented from offering wedding ceremonies to same-sex couples."

He continued: "This is an important issue for many couples in Northern Ireland, who have previously been prevented by law from marrying in their own church."

Amnesty International say there are 1,200 same-sex couples in NI with civil partnerships.

The organisation is now campaigning for those couples to be allowed to 'convert' the civil partnerships to marriages.

Mr Corrigan said: "We now urge the government to finish the job of marriage equality in Northern Ireland, by allowing couples in civil partnerships to convert to married status if they so wish."

Same-sex marriage became legal in Northern Ireland for the first time in January this year.

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### **Jim Wells: The next step will be to force clergymen on same-sex marriage**

A prominent opponent of same-sex marriage has warned that "LGBT militants" could try and force clergy to carry out or facilitate same-sex marriages.

By The Newsroom, **Belfast Newsletter**, Tuesday, 1st September 2020, 7:00 am

South Down MLA Jim Wells, a veteran member of the DUP who lost the party whip two years ago, encouraged people to "remain vigilant" about the possibility.

Speaking ahead of a change in the law today which permits religious same-sex marriages in Northern Ireland, Mr Wells said: "I am totally opposed to same-sex marriage.

"I don't even believe they are marriages because I believe marriage is between one man and one woman, period, no questions asked.

"These 'events' or 'ceremonies' will likely only be carried out in less than one per cent of all churches in Northern Ireland."

He continued: "All we can do is remain very, very vigilant. I suspect the next step from the militant LGBT folk will be to try and force churches to try and do things which they totally oppose.

"The LGBT militants as I call them — remember they stated that all they wanted was civil partnerships but the ink was hardly dry on the legislation to allow civil partnerships than they had begun to campaign for same sex marriage.

"In England the ink wasn't dry when they got same-sex marriage when there were judicial reviews to try and force churches into having ceremonies. Fortunately, that judicial review was lost, but it shows the intent to undermine a fundamental principle of Christian faith — that marriage is a lifetime commitment between one man and one woman for mutual love, respect and the rearing of children."

The South Down MLA added: "It is absolutely vital that the law is concrete on this."