

From Ian Sexton, PhD, M.Litt, GTCL(Hons), LTCL, LRSM.

I am Organist of Cloyne Cathedral, and a also dedicated member of the Church of Ireland in Cloyne, County Cork, where The Late Rt Revd Dr George Berkeley was once a fine Bishop.

In the Cathedral, we have The Berkeley Chapel, as well as a number of his memorials and a life size recumbent plaster memorial.

We are very proud of these things and we celebrate the best of the Bishop. We do not seek to find out negative facts that may be uncomfortable to modern sensibilities, and mis-apply them in the way that TCD proposes. I am somewhat reminded of 1950s 'lunatics' who were put away from polite society. It is wrong to cancel historical figures in this way - you cannot judge the past by the present. Yet the library belongs in the present.

As Christians - or as good and educated people - we should contextualise olden privileged life with our day and celebrate the best of Berkeley, not cancel his fine name.

I for one utterly deplore the shameful proposal to change the name and I hope that TCD will be a bit braver than other modern, pre-eminent universities.

You only need put up a piece of information inside the library door, to explain it, if you must.

I find the whole proposal horrible.

Yours faithfully,
Ian Sexton