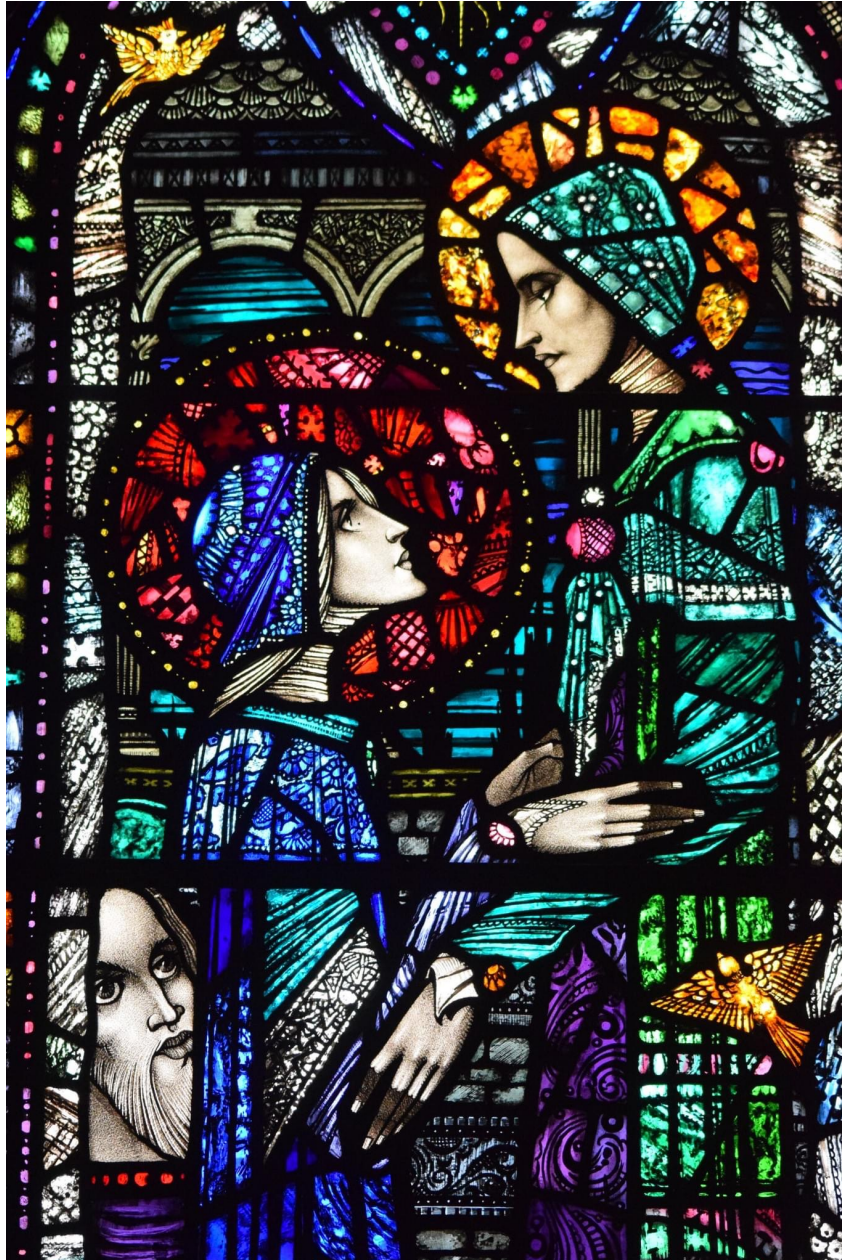


Church News Ireland



**Image of the day – Stained glass secret of
St Malachy's College Chapel, Belfast**

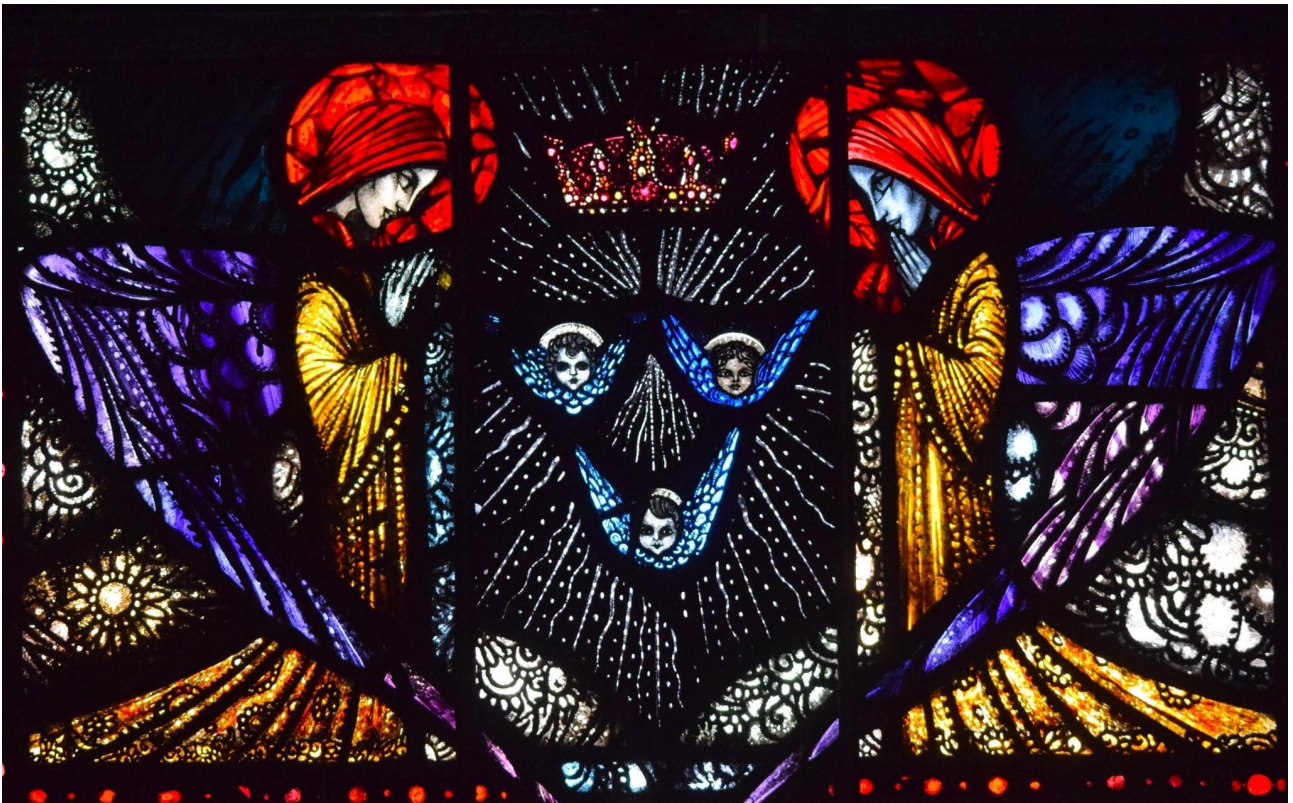


Image of the day

Stained glass secret of St Malachy's College Chapel, Belfast

Harry Clarke the acclaimed Irish stained-glass artist and illustrator, is renowned for his intricate and vividly detailed work.

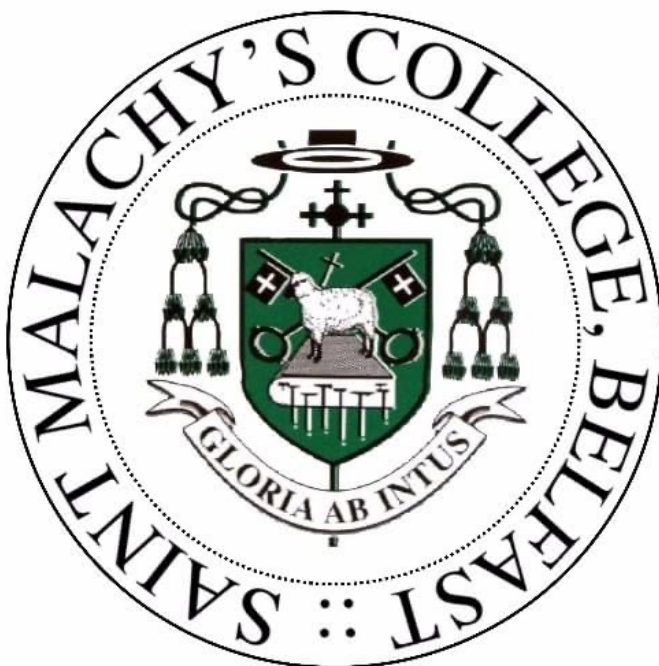
Following his death in 1931 his legacy endured through The Harry Clarke Stained Glass Studios, Dublin with Richard King (1907-74), as manager and principal designer. King created 22 stunning stained-glass windows for the chapel of St Malachy's College, Belfast from 1935-37. The college also holds an exquisite window by the artist William Dowling (1907-80).



The Treasure Ireland project from National Churches

Trust focuses on collaboration and connection, bringing people together to explore places of worship and uncover the rich art, architecture, and archaeology within.

The Treasure Ireland project in collaboration with The North Belfast Heritage Cluster, and Great Place North Belfast is offering a rare opportunity to delve into one of North Belfast's best-kept art history secrets and witness the breathtaking stained glass firsthand.



Two of Ireland's foremost stained-glass experts, Dr David Caron and Ruth Sheehy, will be present.



Date: 16th August



Time: 2:00 PM

Dr David Caron will give an introduction to twentieth-century Irish stained glass and will specifically discuss the work of Harry Clarke and his studio up to the artist's death in January 1931.

Ruth Sheehy MLitt, art historian will focus on the dominant influence of Harry Clarke on the stained glass of the Studio artists such as Richard King and William Dowling.



Venue: St. Malachy's College

St Malachy's College has many links to key figures who helped to shape our shared history. In 2016 the school received support from The National Lottery Heritage Lottery Fund to develop its impressive archive.

This event is FREE thanks to the support of our funders. To book your place please complete the form:

<https://lnkd.in/eGy-3Mea>

The Treasure Ireland Project:

An initiative by the National Churches Trust, The National Lottery Heritage Fund, Pilgrim Trust, and the Department for Communities' Historic Environment Division, offering specialist support to churches in Northern Ireland since

News



Incredible spread for Mums in May at Derriaghy

July 30, 2024



Derriaghy Mothers Union last week put on an incredible spread for afternoon tea in support of Mums in May.

Everyone had a super time and was well fed. Thanks to the MU committee for all their hard work and the superb support by members and their friends for Mums in May



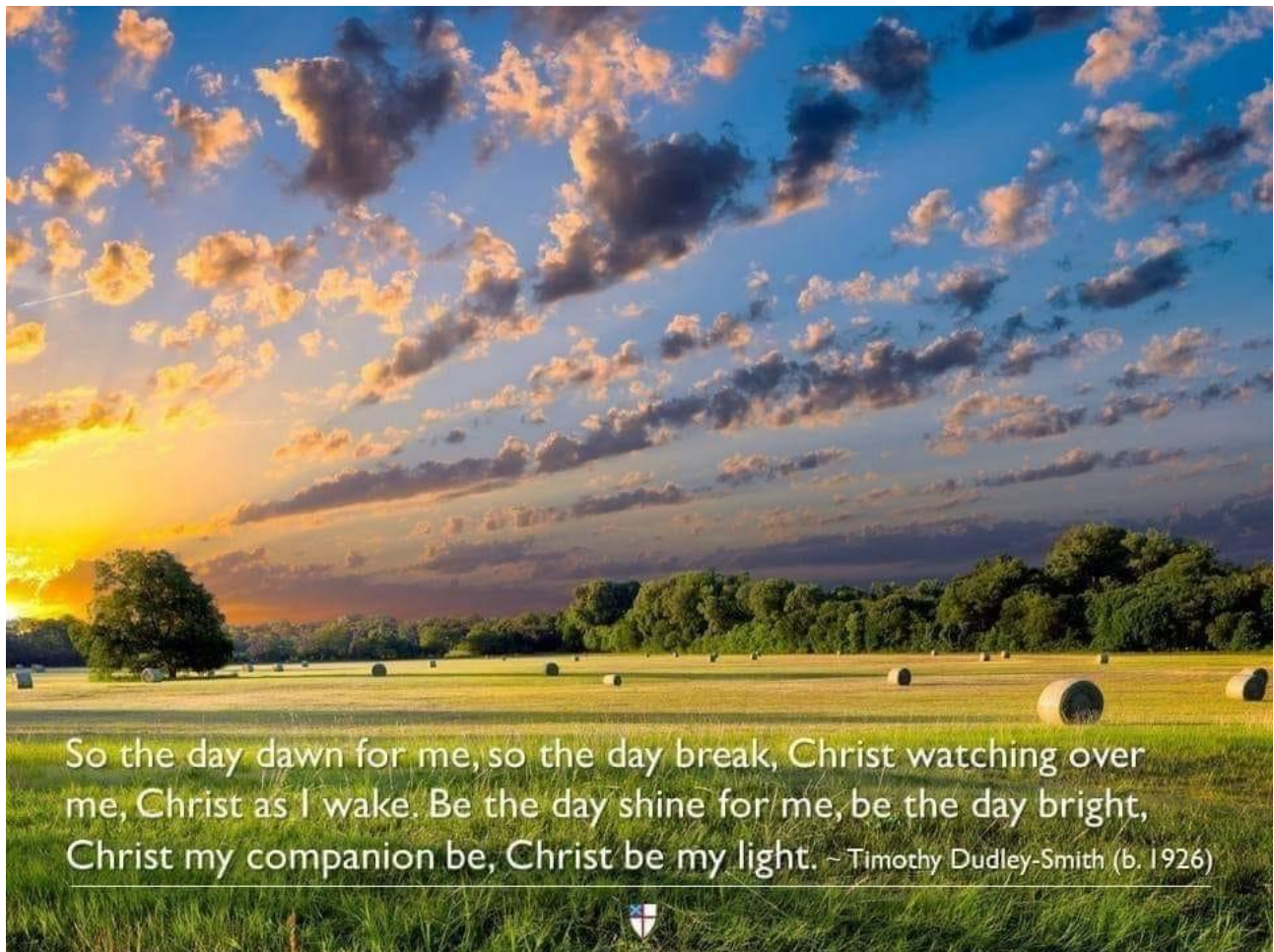


Agherton Parish Church, Portstewart at dusk on an evening last week

King chats to air cadets and well-wishers on walk to church

The King took time to chat with air cadets and members of the public as he walked to church on the Sandringham Estate in Norfolk on Sunday.

Several dozen well-wishers turned out to see King Charles, 75, as he strolled to the service at St Mary Magdalene Church on a warm July day.



The size of the crowd had swelled to more than 100 people by the time the King walked back to Sandringham House after the service, and he took time to speak with many of them.

Members of the public were invited into the paddock near the church as they were on Christmas Day.

The King – who is continuing to receive treatment following a cancer diagnosis – wore a grey suit, purple tie and brown shoes.

The sun shone as he made the short journey, a few minutes on foot, from Sandringham House to the church.

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The King, who was not joined by the Queen, briefly spoke with members of the public before being greeted by the Rev Canon Dr Paul Williams.

After the service, he walked down the steps from the church and took time to speak with Flt Lt Pauline Petch and a line-up of air cadets from 42F Squadron.

Ms Petch has overseen the local RAF cadets for the last 20 years and is retiring next week with the Sandringham Flower Show as her last duty.

It is understood the King and Queen are unable to attend this year's Sandringham flower show, on Wednesday, due to existing diary commitments.

Ms Petch, of Middleton near King's Lynn, said she sent the King a card when news emerged that he was ill.

In it, she wished him well and said: "I hope I'll see you at the flower show which will be my 20th year in command and probably my last engagement."

The former teacher, aged 66, said she was later told that the King was not coming to the flower show this year, but that she was invited with a group of cadets to the church gate on Sunday.

Ms Petch said it meant "a lot" to have been invited, adding: "It's an honour to be down here."

She added that the King thanked her for what she had done.

“He spoke to each of the cadets so well and asked them so many different things about their schooling and about what they get from cadets,” she said.

Cathedral Calls

Canterbury's South East Transept shop reopens

“We are delighted to announce the reopening of our South East Transept shop!



Canon Andrew blessed the shop at it's unveiling, pictured here with Simon and Mat from our shop team.

The fresh look and new layout is designed to be more open, inviting and accessible for our visitors.

All profits from both our onsite Cathedral shops and online shop, go towards the Cathedral. So, why not check out the new shop and take home a lasting memory of your visit to the Cathedral!

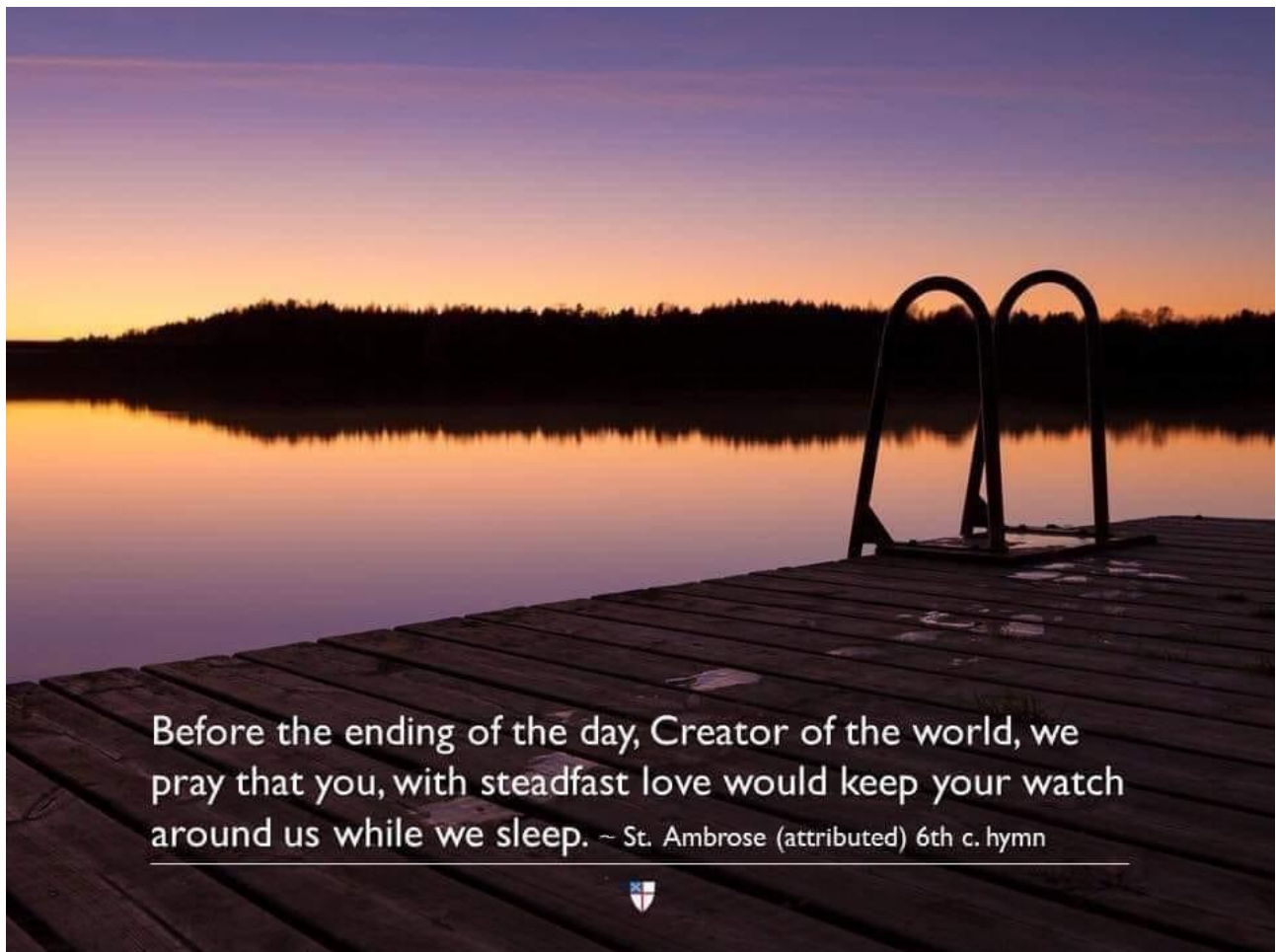
Some of our most popular items are our 3D Cathedral magnets, Archbishop ducks, Cathedral snow globes and various Christmas decorations and stained glass roundels.

Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin – Access Focus Group volunteers needed

Christ Church Cathedral is currently recruiting volunteers for an access focus group. Can you help?

The cathedral and grounds will undergo a full access audit in September, and as part of this project they are looking to recruit a group of up to twelve volunteers, with different access needs, to take part in a focus group on Thursday 19 September 10:00–13:00.

This group will help the staff assess the cathedral's current access provision and provide them with vital advice on how to improve it. Refreshments and lunch will be provided and



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a €100 One for All voucher is offered as thanks for your participation.

If you are interested in being part of the group and helping make this iconic Dublin institution a truly welcoming place for all, please contact the cathedral's Head of Learning, Ruth Kenny at ruth.kenny@christchurch.ie

Clergy and ministry

Former parishioner ordained Archbishop in Ennis to serve as the Apostolic Nuncio in South Sudan



Fr Martin Browne writes - “I was delighted, while on a break at home, to be able to participate in a most unusual solemn occasion - the ordination of a native of Ennis Parish as Archbishop, to serve as the Apostolic Nuncio in South Sudan.

“We were servers together in this same church for several years as children, and I sang in the choir when he celebrated his ‘First Mass’ as a priest thirty years ago. The



Secretary of State of His Holiness, Cardinal Pietro Parolin, came from the Vatican to preside at the liturgy. He was assisted by Cardinal 'Chito' Tagle, Bishop Fintan Monahan and several other bishops. Pray for Archbishop Séamus Horgan, and for the church and state in South Sudan, where he will serve as Pope Francis's representative. Alex Sakor



Left centre- The Irish Ambassador to the Holy See and two Irish clergy from Rome

(Photos: h/t Diocese of Killaloe)



Songs of Praise to Celebrate 40 years of Ministry

This St James' Day, 25th July, the roof of the Cathedral Church of St. Mary the Virgin and John the Baptist was raised in songs of praise to mark the 40th anniversary of the Ordination of Dean Arfon Williams.

It was a wonderful service of celebration, testimony and exuberant song to celebrate a God who, through his Holy Spirit, is doing a great work in our lives. The hymns and readings were all chosen to reflect something about Dean Arfon's journey of faith. From the opening Hymn of Praise – Praise to the holiest in the Height by Cardinal John Henry Newman to the closing hymn – Guide me, O Thou great Jehovah by William Williams we heard the story of a God who reaches into the brokenness of the world and the foundation shaking moments of life with his undeserved and inescapable love.

Dean Nigel Crossey, who is also celebrating the 40th year since ordination, read from Isaiah 53:1-12 and 2 Corinthians

5:11-21 was read in Welsh by Canon Edward Yendall and in English by Canon Arthur Barrett.

Preaching from these passages, the Right Revd. Dr Ferran Glenfield, Bishop of Kilmore, Elphin and Ardagh, reminded us of the wonderful words of Isaiah 53 v5 'But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed. He said that in his writings Isaiah paints a comprehensive picture of the sin and wrongdoing at the heart of the human condition. Our transgression – the breaking of boundaries established by God, our iniquity – the flaws within the human spirit which make us wayward, enmity – people at war with God, each other and conflicted within themselves and disease. However, in Isaiah 53 we read about a wounded healer, a servant of the living God, bringing atonement, redemption and the reversal of the human plight. By his wounds we have been healed. Ultimately this prophecy finds its fulfilment in the cross of Christ, in Jesus' self-giving sacrifice to redeem humanity. In Christ, God was reconciling the world to himself and entrusting us with a message of reconciliation.

Following the service prayers were led by Revd. Albert Dawson, Revd. Adam Norris and Revd. John Addy and closing prayers and blessings were said by Bishop Ken Clarke, Bishop Ferran Glenfield and the Roman Catholic Bishop of Elphin, The Most Revd. Dr. Bishop Kevin Doran.

It was a truly uplifting occasion and wished Dean Arfon and his wife, Trudi well in retirement.

In the media

Church Times - Press: If nothing is true, democracy cannot function

Andrew Brown writes - Last week, my wife stumbled on a fashion site that boasts an “AI-assisted” editor: in other words, a Chat-GPT session that produces sentences such as “The puffball skirt is back thanks to this fun little dress. . . It reminds me of the dresses I wore as a teenager but linen makes it feel more grown up,” and, “I also just watched Celine Dion’s documentary,” as well as the usual word salad — her style is “Elevated, polished, fashion-forward and a little bit extra. I like classic items combined with something a bit unexpected — like a big shoulder or a killer accessory.”

These sentences are the product of a computer programme that has never been a teenager and has not, in fact, worn any clothes at all. Everything it “said” was a lie and an imposture. This horrified my wife.

My own reaction was entirely different. As a working reporter, I knew that almost everything anyone said for public consumption was an attempt at manipulation, and I would just scan for the quotable bits. What might be true or false was whether someone said something. Whether the thing that they said was true was something above my pay grade — interesting, perhaps, but no part of the news.

The necessity of thinking like that is one reason that I disliked being a news reporter and was never very good at

it. None the less, it is a useful discipline, and, given the right audience — one that understands what honest reporting can and cannot prove — it can be very effective in giving the reader the material to make up their minds.

The trouble is that making up a mind requires some effort. Far better to use a ready-made-up mind, as we all do on almost every subject except the ones that really interest us. It is very misleading to argue, as lazy sceptics do, that we choose to believe all kinds of things that we could just as well choose not to believe. We couldn't. It's like arguing that we choose to fly the Atlantic when we could just as well row across.

THE second drawback of the neutral report is that it doesn't answer the question that we really care about, which is not "Is this report true?" but "Does it matter?" or "Should I care?" In mass-market papers, the answer is almost by definition "No." As one of the characters in Evelyn Waugh's *Scoop* explains, "News is what a chap who doesn't care much about anything wants to read."

This looked like a witty if rather dystopian view until the internet came along. The ad-supported internet has vastly enlarged the quantity of stuff available for the chap who doesn't care much about anything. And, thanks to what is called AI, there is now far more than even Google can keep track of, and it appears that Google has, in recent weeks, given up on the ambition to index everything on the web.

The process started well before the internet was invented, and it was apparent to everyone who worried about the mass media of the 20th century, from T. H. White to Hannah

Arendt. But it is now unstoppable, and actively encouraged by tyrants and would-be tyrants. From Putin to Trump, they all want their followers to believe that “Everything is possible and nothing is true” — but this message is attractive because it implies something really important and undeniably true: that you, the audience, can change nothing, and might as well believe anything you like.

Compare this with the good democratic message that you, as a voter, can change the world, and it is obvious why many people prefer to have it frankly acknowledged that they can't. It's one less thing to worry about.

STILL, the net made possible one new horror. Not only has it further atomised and isolated the indifferent: at the same time, it has bonded together everyone with a passionate particular interest and allowed them to create their own mythologies. The two tendencies work together against democracy, and even against the possibility of public-service journalism. As the AI-boosted fashion site makes clear, the old test of “Did they really say it?” breaks down when there's really no “they” there to say it. Everything becomes a press release. And, when everything is possible and nothing is true, democracy cannot work.

The obvious answer is to demand that the old ideals of objectivity be dropped. I see a lot of this on the American Left and its demand that no one should report Trump as if he ever told the truth. But, if you're doing that to win an election, it won't work. It is not going to persuade anyone who disagrees. This is a horrible fact to face; so people don't. Both Right and Left come to see the views — and,

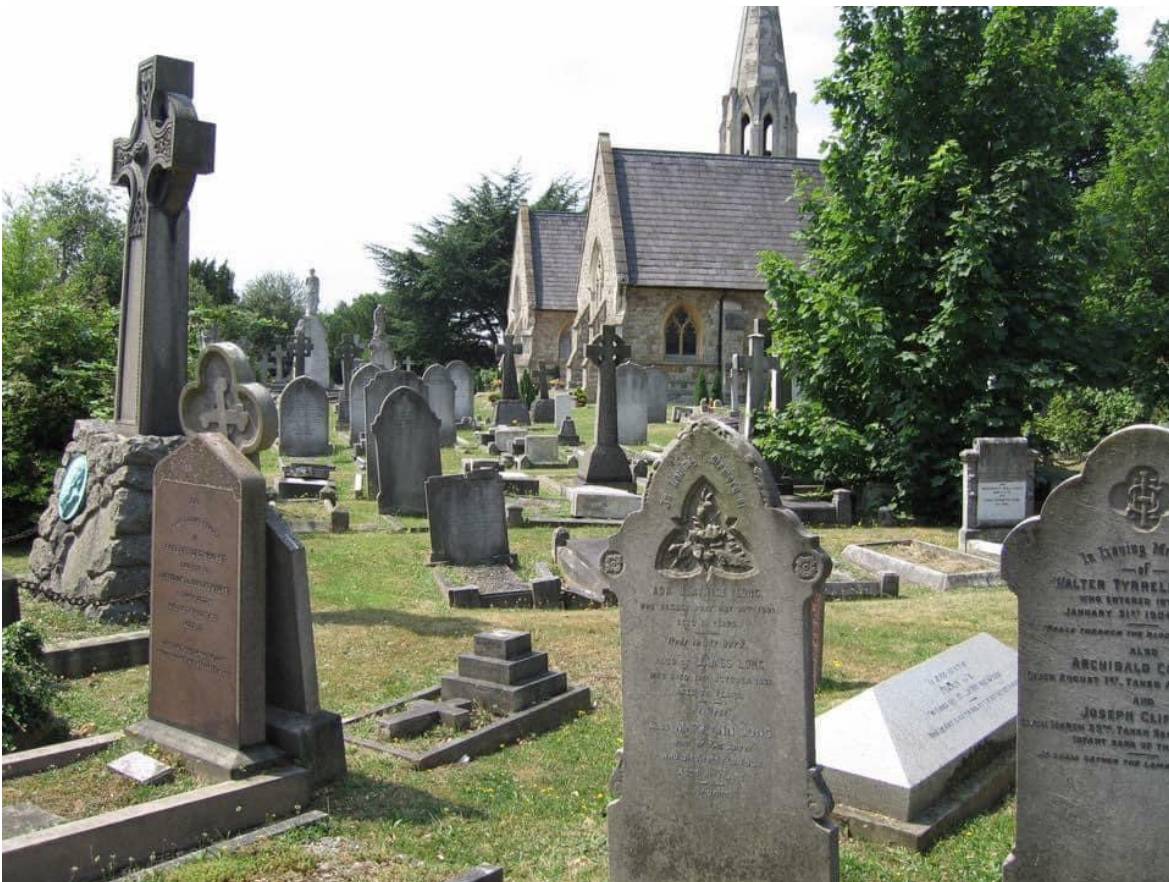
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eventually, even the votes — of their opponents as unreal, illegitimate.

Nothing like that could ever happen in church politics, of course.

Courtesy Church Times 26 July 2024

Poem for today



Summer Evening Churchyard, Lechlade, Gloucestershire

By Percy Bysshe Shelley

The wind has swept from the wide atmosphere
Each vapour that obscured the sunset's ray,

And pallid Evening twines its beaming hair
In duskier braids around the languid eyes of Day:
Silence and Twilight, unbeloved of men,
Creep hand in hand from yon obscurest glen.

They breathe their spells towards the departing day,
Encompassing the earth, air, stars, and sea;
Light, sound, and motion, own the potent sway,
Responding to the charm with its own mystery.
The winds are still, or the dry church-tower grass
Knows not their gentle motions as they pass.

Thou too, aerial pile, whose pinnacles
Point from one shrine like pyramids of fire,
Obey'st I in silence their sweet solemn spells,
Clothing in hues of heaven thy dim and distant spire,
Around whose lessening and invisible height
Gather among the stars the clouds of night.

The dead are sleeping in their sepulchres:
And, mouldering as they sleep, a thrilling sound,
Half sense half thought, among the darkness stirs,
Breathed from their wormy beds all living things around,
And, mingling with the still night and mute sky,
Its awful hush is felt inaudibly.

Thus solemnized and softened, death is mild
And terrorless as this serenest night.
Here could I hope, like some enquiring child
Sporting on graves, that death did hide from human sight
Sweet secrets, or beside its breathless sleep
That loveliest dreams perpetual watch did keep.

Speaking to the soul

Short reading and a prayer - daily on this site

Church News Ireland

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