



Rev Liz Hughes

PCI encourages continued prayer for Kenya

The Presbyterian church's Council for Global Mission Convener, Rev. Liz Hughes said, "News of the attack on Garissa University last week was indeed horrifying, not least the way in which

students were singled out and executed simply for being Christians.

“The Council for Global Mission encourages prayer for all those affected by the attack, and for the leadership and members of our partner church in Kenya, [the PCEA](#) at this distressing time, on the eve of their 21st General Assembly.

“Pray that people will find comfort and strength in the Lord and that such attacks will result in the strengthening of the Church and faith in Jesus Christ.”

Earlier this week, Rt. Rev. David Gathanju, PCEA Moderator issued a statement condemning the attack and appealed for the nation to unite and for people to encourage one another. "This act has pierced the very heart of our country, and caused immense pain," he said.

“The PCEA joins the nation in condemning this cowardly act in the strongest words possible. As a church we are praying and mourning with the families affected and with the whole nation during these trying moments, when there are more questions than answers...I urge all of us as individuals to love our brothers and sisters, and be our brother's keeper.

“These challenges are immense, they are painful; but they should never divide us as a people. We are one people, one nation and together we shall overcome.”

Archbishop Clarke to give lecture on “The Church in the Irish Public Square”

The Patrick Finn Lecture series continues in St Mary’s Church, Haddington Road, Dublin, with Most Rev Dr Richard Clarke, Church of Ireland Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of All Ireland, discussing “The Church in the Irish Public Square”.

Thursday 16th April at 8.00 pm in St Mary’s Church, Haddington Road, Dublin 4. Admission is free. Tel. 01-6600075

www.stmaryshaddingtonroad.ie

C of I Church Life in Action Photography Competition

The Church of Ireland’s Central Communications Board (CCB) invites you to enter a photography competition focusing on showing Church of Ireland church life in action. This year, in a



change to the annual communications competition (which has traditionally focused on print, web-based and social media), selected entries to this special photography competition will not only win a prize but will also feature prominently on the Church of Ireland website as it is redeveloped this year.

The church life in action photography competition is kindly being sponsored by Ecclesiastical Insurance. The competition calls photographers of all ages and experience to take part. Bishop Pat Storey of the CCB says, 'This year's photography competition aims to celebrate and capture something of the wide range of worship and community activity that takes place within the Church of Ireland and to convey this imaginatively to the wider world

through the Church's website as it is redeveloped.'

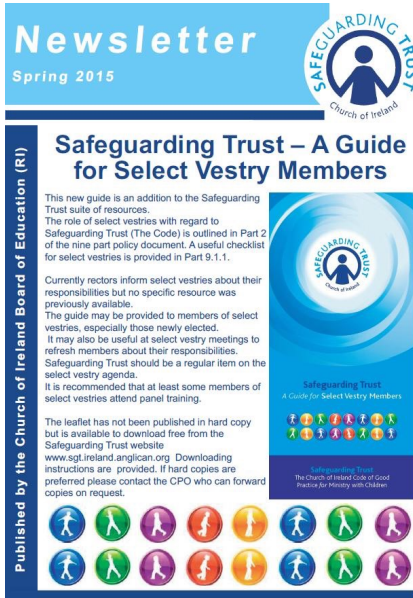
The idea is to focus on church activities, rather than buildings – people, not just places. The judges will be looking for images which reveal human interaction within church spaces.

Entrants can choose to focus on, for example, worship and prayer, community activities or the church and its people. Entries will be judged on their composition, creativity and impact and must include people.

Entrants may submit one image which should be submitted via email to

press@ireland.anglican.org along with the entrant's name, full contact details, and parish, diocesan, church committee or formally Church of Ireland linked organization connection. Images must be jpegs, and at least 300 dpi and 3 mega-bytes in size but strictly not over 4 mega-bytes, and be submitted with the date the photograph was taken.

The deadline for entries will be 12 noon on Monday 27th April 2015. The judging panel will be independent of the CCB and prizes will be announced at the General Synod in Armagh on 9 May 2015.



Safe - guarding resource for Select Vestries

The C of I Safeguarding Trust (RI) newsletter, for Spring 2015 may be accessed by clicking below. A leaflet informing members of vestries has been produced. It is particularly useful for new members in its outline of responsibilities which the General Synod has agreed.

www.ireland.anglican.org/sgt_ri

www.sgt.ireland.anglican.org

Queen thanks Tyburn nuns for their prayers

A priest who was invited to a reception at Buckingham Palace has said the Queen asked

him to convey her thanks to the Tyburn Nuns after learning that they prayed for her.

Fr Patrick Cope, a prison chaplain based at the Ministry of Justice prison headquarters, said he told the Queen he was also chaplain to London's Tyburn Convent. He explained that the nuns had a plaque entitled: "For the Queen and England" at one of the main altar candles.

The Queen "showed great interest", he said, and asked him to "convey her thanks to the nuns for their prayers and her greetings".

Fr Cope had been invited to Buckingham Palace in recognition of his role as a prison chaplain and as a fellow of the Winston Churchill Memorial Trust.

The Tyburn Nuns are contemplative Benedictines. They have had a presence in Marble Arch, west London, for over a century. The site is where 105 canonised and beatified Catholics were martyred at the Tyburn gallows during the Reformation.

Church invites congregations to take part in major survey



'What Counts?' is the question being asked by Mission Statistics co-ordinator, Rev Dr Fiona Tweedie

The Church of Scotland is launching a major survey to understand the size and impact of its congregations in parishes the length and breadth of Scotland.

'What Counts?' is the question being asked by Mission Statistics co-ordinator, Rev Dr Fiona Tweedie.

Fiona, who is an expert statistician, is designing what will be large scale information gathering exercise for the Church.

Fiona says: "For years we have asked congregations to tell us the number of members and elders, yet the impact of our congregations in their communities goes far beyond that. 'What Counts?' is an exciting opportunity for us to find out what people are doing right across Scotland!"

As a first step towards discovering the effect our congregations are having, Fiona wants to hear views from across the Church at all levels:

*What congregational information would help you do your work?

*Why?

*How would you collect that data?

For congregations, Fiona is also asking:

*What do you want to tell the wider Kirk?

The answers Fiona receives will help shape the survey which will be piloted this December. The pilot will be followed up with formal suggestions for change being offered to the General Assembly in 2016 before the full survey is conducted.

'What Counts?' is being described as an important initiative for the future of the Church by the Moderator of the General Assembly, Rt Rev John Chalmers.

He says: "During my Moderatorial year I have witnessed first-hand the energy and dynamism of many congregations who draw on significant numbers of volunteers to make a real difference in their communities.

"I have also noticed the number of people withdrawing from their physical communities into the world of social media and we must reach out to them too. Collecting more accurate data on the wide scope of our Church will present us with challenges as well as opportunities, and we must be ready for them. This is an initiative we must all do our best to help make succeed."

Archbishop of Canterbury's interview with SAT-7 Middle East station

In an interview with SAT-7, the Christian TV station based in the Middle East, Archbishop Justin spoke about the suffering of Christians in the region, among other topics.

The interview with Imed Dabbour (*above, left*), presenter of the SAT-7 programme 'Forbidden', was recorded at Lambeth Palace in March. Watch the interview 2.5 minute in [here](#).

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B_4uorSrXNU



Islam will be fastest-growing faith in coming decades - survey

Muslims are expected to comprise 30% of the global population in 2050 according to a new report by the Pew Research Centre.

Islam could experience record growth and match Christianity within the next few decades, according to new research.

According to **The News Tribute**, analysts from the Pew Research Center said that Muslims will reach 2.76 billion by 2050. The Centre's report, titled "The Future of World Religions," also said

that Christians could grow to a population of 2.92 billion by 2050.

This will make each religion account for around 30 per cent of the world population by then, the report said.

Researchers said that Muslims can "have more children than members of other faiths, driving their global growth."

According to the News Tribute, the report's predictions are based on census information as well as data from demographic surveys, including birth and death rates, immigration patterns and rates of religious conversions.

The report predicted that both Islam and Christianity will experience rapid growth on the African continent. By 2050, the report expects that 4 out of 10 Christians will be located in Africa.

In contrast to the predicted growth in Africa, Christianity is expected to experience further decline in Europe. By 2050, Christians will no longer be a majority in the United Kingdom, France and Australia. Instead, 10 per cent of Europe's population will be Muslim.

Islam will also experience significant growth in the United States, with Muslims expected to outnumber Jews in America within the next 35 years. By 2050, Christians could make up only two-thirds of the US population.

Christians currently make up three quarters of the US population.

The Pew Research Center report also forecast further growth for Muslims in India, with the country possibly replacing Indonesia as the nation with the largest Muslim population in the world.

However, Muslims are not expected to replace Hindus as the majority religion in India.

Islam is currently the largest minority in India, comprising 14.88 per cent of the total population in the country according to a **2011 Census** in India.

Media digest

IRISH CATHOLIC

Was the Great Famine a genocide perpetrated by the British?

Dr Martin Mansergh

On a visit to the United States in March 1997, Bertie Ahern, then leader of the opposition, paid a courtesy call on that formidable Church leader Cardinal John O'Connor, Archbishop of New York.

As we prepared to leave, Cardinal O'Connor mentioned that he was due to address an Irish-American gathering on St Patrick's Day on the 150th anniversary of the Great Famine in 1847. He asked us whether it should be regarded as genocide, or whether the British were trying to do their best. Bertie Ahern looked across to me as the nearest thing to an historian in the delegation, and, according to a note I made at the time, "I explained my view, which blamed the British, but not endorsing the notion of deliberate genocide".

I have often thought about this since, especially since reading Tim Pat Coogan's fluently written book *The Famine Plot: England's Role in Ireland's Greatest Tragedy published in the US in 2012*.

Based mainly on familiar sources, its novelty consists in attempting to measure the British government's handling of the Famine against the criteria set out in the UN Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide adopted by the UN General Assembly

in 1948. The concept of genocide emerged in 1943-44 during the Second World War, at a time when Nazi Germany, seeking to exterminate the Jewish population of Europe, killed an estimated six million people.

Nazi invasion

A Polish-Jewish lawyer Raphael Lemkin (1900-59), not referenced in Coogan's book, who was wounded as a soldier defending Warsaw against the Nazi invasion in 1939, and who had several dozen relatives murdered in the Holocaust, developed the concept of genocide, after working from 1942 in American universities and for the US government.

He subsequently advised the US Chief Prosecutor at the Nuremberg Trials, and was the chief influence behind the UN convention.

The weight of the convention rests on its definition of genocide, as meaning acts "committed with intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnical, racial or religious group". Deliberate intent is inherent to the concept of genocide. Five acts are listed:

- * killing members of the group;
- * causing them serious mental or bodily harm;
- * inflicting conditions of life calculated to bring about its physical destruction;
- * measures to prevent births within the group;

* forcible transfer of children to another group.

Obviously, some of these acts can occur within contexts other than genocide, so evidence of intent is of paramount importance. Conspiracy, incitement, and attempt to commit genocide, and complicity in it, are also punishable.

More at -

<http://irishcatholic.ie/article/was-great-famine-genocide-perpetrated-british>

IRISH TIMES

The changing face of marriage in the Catholic church

Patsy McGarry, Religious Affairs Correspondent

One of the striking things about the marriage equality debate to date has been the proprietorial attitude adopted by some on the No side towards marriage itself. It is as if it is theirs alone to own and protect.

This is by no means the position of all on the No side, just those vocal few who once more insist that everyone should be compelled by law to live by their beliefs.

Meanwhile the great majority of Irish people seem only to want a situation whereby as many as possible can live in accord with what they believe to be right.

As retired Church of Ireland archdeacon of Dublin Gordon Linney put it recently “the claim of the churches to own marriage in any sense just doesn’t stand up because marriage was there long, long before there was ever a Christian church”. Marriage was, he said, “a civil matter”.

Those in the churches so possessed of an irresistible urge “to own marriage” might reread the gospels. There they would see that Jesus’s first miracle took place at a marriage, presumably between two Jews, and well before the movement known as Christianity began.

Marriage, in various forms, has been a feature of society the world over, regardless of religion. It, generally, has been a civil matter and was so also for much of the history of Christianity...

More at -

<http://www.irishtimes.com/opinion/the-changing-face-of-marriage-in-the-catholic-church-1.2167778>

News Letter

The big lie that Islamic terror is caused by the racist West

Robin Greer

When a trio of London schoolgirls decided that it would be fun to become Jihadi brides and join in the medieval barbarity of Islamic State the liberal chattering classes got very upset.

Not that they were bothered by the genocide, mass executions, slavery and oppression, but they worked themselves up into a frenzy as to how the wicked west had forced the wannabe terror trio to leave from the UK.

Abase Hussen, the father of one of the girls, became the poster boy for their cause. He played the distraught father, clutching a teddy bear as he appealed for the return his daughter. It was tear-jerking stuff which the BBC made quite a meal out of.

Such was the outcry that Hussen, a migrant from Ethiopia, got a hearing before the Home Affairs Select Committee where he told MPs of his shock and confusion. He blamed the British security forces, the police, and his child's teachers.

Tasnime Akunjee, a "human rights lawyer" working for the families, lambasted the British authorities and demanded an apology from the police, for driving the

girls into the arms of the mayhem. Keith Vaz, a Labour MP and immigration enthusiast, set about the police who were forced to offer a supine apology and agree to allow the girls to return to the UK without threat of prosecution.

In effect these “on the runs” have now been given get out of jail free cards.

The truth about Abase Hussen has now emerged. He has been pictured alongside hate preacher Anjem Choudary, who praised the World Trade Centre atrocity, and Michael Adebawale, who killed and tried to decapitate Lee Rigby in a London street. Video footage shows Abase Hussen at demonstrators, behind a banner proclaiming: ‘The followers of Mohammed will conquer America’. He can be seen beside burning Israeli and American flags, chanting ‘Allahu Akbar’ and “Burn, burn USA”, and calling for Shariah law to be imposed in the UK.

But he still wants you to believe that his daughter’s radicalisation was nothing to do with him.

More at -

<http://www.newsletter.co.uk/the-big-lie-that-islamic-terror-is-caused-by-the-racist-west-1-6678307>

BBC

Report that the Revd Charles Richardson, vicar of St John the Evangelist, in East Dulwich(Southwark

churchnewsireland@gmail.com

Diocese), took his own life after being arrested over the possession of indecent images of children, an inquest decided yesterday. Mr Richardson had been arrested in May 2014 and expected to be charged. Police, told the hearing he had been "fully co-operating" with them and emailed police "expressing remorse" before his death.

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-32224132>

BBC/Mail/Express/Mirror/Tel

Reports that the Reverend Andrew Dotchin was turned away from an Ipswich wine bar for wearing sandals on Easter Sunday. They state he was told he could not go in by a doorman due to health and safety fears. A Wine Bar spokesman said it was "unfortunate" but a man in sandals had previously cut his foot. Mr Dotchin is quoted.

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-suffolk-32217877>

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3031302/Wine-bar-bans-vicar-having->

[drink-Easter-Sunday-wearing-sandals.html?
ITO=1490&ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1
490](http://www.itecho.org.uk/news/1490/drink-Easter-Sunday-wearing-sandals.html?ITO=1490&ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490)

[http://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/569249/
vicar-sandals-wine-bar](http://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/569249/vicar-sandals-wine-bar)

[http://www.mirror.co.uk/news/weird-news/
vicar-denied-entry-wine-bar-5482667](http://www.mirror.co.uk/news/weird-news/vicar-denied-entry-wine-bar-5482667)

[http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/religion/
11521718/Vicar-told-thou-shalt-not-go-into-a-
bar-wearing-sandals.html](http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/religion/11521718/Vicar-told-thou-shalt-not-go-into-a-bar-wearing-sandals.html)

Tel

Report that a conservation group, the Victorian Society, is planning to challenge a decision to approve the removal of a Victorian font at St Peter Church in Shipton Bellinger near Andover. It states the rector and his church wardens, backed by the Parochial Church Council and the Diocesan Advisory Committee, want the font taken out and replaced with a smaller more compact one. The removal has been approved by the Chancellor of the Diocese of Winchester.

[http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/religion/
11522698/Church-rector-in-unholy-battle-
over-showy-Victorian-font.html](http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/religion/11522698/Church-rector-in-unholy-battle-over-showy-Victorian-font.html)

Mail

Report on an inquest into the death of murdered teenager Becky Watts, stating a funeral service for the teenager will take place on April 17 at St Ambrose Church, Bristol. Members of the public have raised almost £5,000 towards the cost of the funeral. It said the church was reserved for family and close friends but the service would be relayed to mourners outside.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3030616/Body-schoolgirl-Becky-Watts-identified-DNA-inquest-hears.html#ixzz3Wmqel8aN>

Mail

Further reports on work at Bath Abbey, a CofE church in the city centre, where work has begun to use the wasted water from hot springs in a Roman drain to heat the abbey and the adjacent Pump Room. It states the project is expected to save the Abbey at least £30,000 a year in heating oil. Report states the work is part of the £19.3 million Footprint Project funded with a contribution of £10 million from the Heritage Lottery Fund.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/sciencetech/article-3030124/Bath-Abbey-benefit-ancient->

[Roman-plumbing-Engineers-tap-thermal-springs-provide-underfloor-heating.html](#)

Spectator

Review of the book, 'God & Mrs Thatcher', by Eliza Filby, which mentions Church of England bishops and how the former Prime Minister related to them.

<http://www.spectator.co.uk/books/9491742/did-mrs-thatcher-do-god-denis-thought-so-and-he-should-know-says-charles-moore/>

Guardian

Art critic Jonathan Jones on the discovery of what is claimed to be the tomb of Jesus.

<http://www.theguardian.com/artanddesign/jonathanjonesblog/2015/apr/08/jesus-christ-tomb-family-church-will-not-accept>