



Queen's student team to help Ugandan Projects

In June this year 17 students from The Hub, home to the Church of Ireland and Methodist Chaplaincies at Queen's University, will be heading to Uganda for 2 weeks to support local charities.

The team will be partnering with two local charities – Abaana and Waakisa Ministries. They

will be supporting both projects through a variety of practical and manual tasks such as running children's clubs, assisting in education work and providing relief work with street children.

The team is partnering with these two projects because they reflect many of the aims of The Hub's work with their own students. The Chaplaincies want to invest in the lives of their students by helping them to have an awareness of issues such as poverty and lack of education, healthcare and housing. And to develop ways to positively respond to these issues.

Funds for the cost of the trip and donations to each project are being partly met by personal contributions from each team member, together with support from the Chaplaincy. The team are also fundraising through a variety of events and activities such as street sleeps and clothes swaps. See their Facebook for more info <https://www.facebook.com/HubUgandaTeam>

Find out more about the Ugandan visit on The Hub's web site at <http://www.thehubbelfast.org/uganda-2015/>

The Hub is home to the Church of Ireland and Methodist Chaplaincies located in the heart of Queen's University in the city of Belfast, It is a place of residence, a café, a space for worship, churchnewsireland@gmail.com

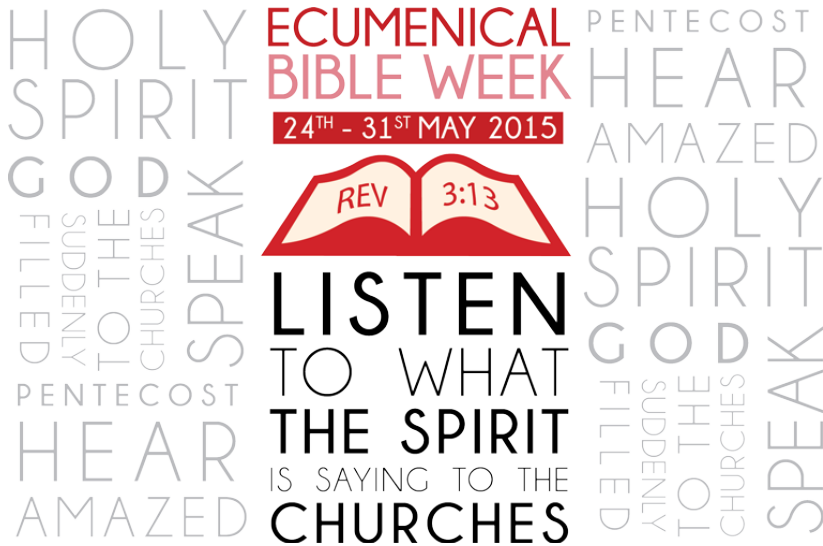
a venue. More than that *the hub* is an ethos, a value, a way of thinking, connecting lives, faith, sojourners and settlers. <http://www.thehubbelfast.org/>

The name 'Abaana' comes from an Ugandan language, and means 'children'. Abaana is a Bangor-based charity, with 7 staff in Northern Ireland, and 8 on the ground in Uganda. Since 1998, Abaana has raised over £1,500,000 to build schools, to provide clean water, medical care and education. <http://www.abaana.org/>

Waakisa Ministries is another charity founded in Northern Ireland, with a well-known charity shop in East Belfast which raises support for their work. The Waakisa Centre in Uganda aims to provide care and support to young vulnerable girls who are pregnant and alone, and to deliver health education programmes to local schools and churches. <http://waakisa-ministries.squarespace.com/>

Ecumenical Bible Week 2015 Asks What the Spirit is Saying to Churches

Details of Ecumenical Bible Week 2015 which runs from Pentecost Sunday to Trinity Sunday



(May 24 to 31) will see 32 events taking place in 15 venues in counties Dublin, Kildare and Wicklow involving 18 presenters.

The theme of this year's Ecumenical Bible Week is 'What is the Spirit saying to the Churches?' During the week a series of presentations will be offered in a range of venues. They are aimed at the interested ordinary believer or enquirer. Some of the presentations are offered more than once in different locations and others are once off events.

Obviously the focus is on the Bible but it will be looked at from different perspectives. Some will use the lens of film, music, ethics and law to examine the Bible. But there will also be

traditional approaches such as prayer (lectio divina), how to open the Bible and how to organise a Bible study group.

At a special event on Thursday May 28 the Church of Ireland and Catholic Archbishops of Dublin will join other church leaders for 'Thinking Allowed' in All Hallows College in Drumcondra. The chaired panel discussion with audience participation will centre on the theme of Bible Week, 'What is the Spirit saying to the Churches?' The panel will include Archbishop Michael Jackson, Archbishop Diarmuid Martin, Fr Calin Florea (Romanian Orthodox Priest), Pastor Sean Mullarkey (AGI National Leader, St Mark's Church Leader) and Pastor Tunde Adebayo-Oke (Redeemed Christian Church of God). They will be interviewed by Philip McKinley.

Ecumenical Bible Week started last year as an experiment which was deemed a success. The co-chairs are Dr Kieron O'Mahony and the Revd Ken Rue.

Details of events and locations are available at

<http://www.bibleweek.ie/>.

New Secretary to the C of I Board of Education NI

Dr Peter Hamill has been appointed Secretary to the Church of Ireland General Synod's Board of Education NI. Peter is a qualified teacher and vocational trainer with a PhD in the field of education. He has worked in the area of training and development for a number of organisations over the years, including the Diocese of Connor and, more recently, the Northern Ireland Council for Voluntary Action.

Welcoming Peter to his new role, the Chair of the General Synod Board of Education, the Most Revd Dr Richard Clarke said: 'The position of Secretary to the Board of Education NI is a key role for the Church of Ireland, and Dr Hamill will bring to the task a diverse experience of working both within the Church of Ireland and in wider educational roles. I hope that Peter will thoroughly enjoy his new appointment and, with the other members of the Board of Education NI, I look forward to working with him in the future.'

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Archbishops of Dublin to Bless 'Homeless Jesus' Sculpture at Christ Church Cathedral

The Church of Ireland and Catholic Archbishops of Dublin will together bless the 'Homeless Jesus' sculpture which is to be located in the grounds of Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin. Archbishop Michael Jackson and Archbishop Diarmuid Martin will bless the sculpture on Friday May 1 at 3.00 pm at a special service in the cathedral in the presence of Dean Dermot Dunne and the cathedral choir, followed by the official unveiling.

Casts of the much talked about sculpture (pictured) have been installed in cities in North America, Canada and Europe. Following a competition among prospective Dublin sites, Christ Church Cathedral was chosen to be the location by Tim Schmalz. The 7ft-wide bronze sculpture depicts a park bench with a faceless cloaked figure lying on it. Passers-by realise that the sculpture depicts Jesus only when they notice the holes in the feet.

Canadian based Schmalz, who will be in attendance, is a devout Catholic and Homeless Jesus has been blessed by the Pope. He does



not see religion as a barrier. “I am delighted that the sculpture is going in the spiritual heart of Dublin, which is Christ Church,” says Schmalz. “When I met the Dean, I saw in his eyes instantly that he was just delighted to have the sculpture at Christ Church. He talked about the sculpture with a deep powerfulness. And when you start talking about the deepest ideas about spirituality, it’s contagious.”

“I think the statue is absolutely beautiful. It goes beyond religion,” says The Very Rev Dermot Dunne, Dean of Christ Church, who recently slept rough to highlight the plight of the homeless. “We are in the centre of the city, where I’m seeing homelessness all the time, and it’s getting worse.”

The sculpture is being presented to the people of Dublin by an anonymous North American Episcopalian benefactor, who is also giving the sculpture to 11 other European cities, including the Vatican City in Rome.

BBC Radio Ulster School Choir of the Year: Meet the judges

The wait is over as 12 choirs compete to be named as Northern Ireland’s top junior and senior school choirs in the live final of the BBC Radio Ulster School Choir of the Year.

Presented by John Toal and Kerry McLean, the final will be broadcast live from the Ulster Hall, Belfast, on BBC Radio Ulster from 2pm on Sunday, April 26.

The judging panel will be made up of series regulars Dominic Peckham, artistic director with the Ulster Youth Choir; Ciaran Scullion, head of music, Arts Council for Northern Ireland; Richard Yarr, senior producer classical music, BBC Radio Ulster and joining the panel for the live final is Yvie Burnett, a Mezzo Soprano who is also well known for her work as vocal coach with 'The Voice'.

Each choir will be invited to perform two songs after which the judges will decide which two choirs from the junior and senior categories will go head-to-head as they battle it out to pick up the two titles.

The choirs taking part in the final are: junior category - Ballyholme Primary School, Bangor; St Colman's Primary School, Saval; Riverdale Primary School, Lisburn; Ebrington Primary School, Londonderry; Pond Park Primary School, Lisburn and St Conor's Primary School, Omagh.

In the senior category competing in the final will be: St Colman's College, Newry; Sullivan Upper School, Holywood; Grosvenor Grammar School, Belfast; Coleraine High School; Ballyclare High School and Bloomfield Collegiate School, Belfast.

The three-hour live radio programme will also include a performance from Soprano Rebekah Coffey and a duet with Sinead O'Kelly and Dawn Burns, both winners of the Northern Ireland Young Musicians' Platform Awards

The competition is produced in association with the Ulster Youth Choir, and supported by the Arts Council for Northern Ireland (ACNI).

The winning choirs will help BBC Radio Ulster celebrate its 40th anniversary during this year and feature across a range of the station's programming and events.

Judges for the final are:

Richard Yarr is senior producer, Classical Music with BBC Northern Ireland. After graduating with a First in Music from Queen's University in Belfast in 1992, he gained a choral scholarship to King's College in London where he completed a Master of Music Degree.

He then returned to Queen's to undertake Doctoral studies.

Since 2000 he has been producing for BBC Radio Ulster and Radio 3, and in 2013 he co-ordinated the BBC's coverage of the inaugural UK City of Culture. Richard is sought-after as an

adjudicator and locally he has worked at competitions including Bangor International Choral Festival, Carrickfergus and Larne Music Festivals, Lisburn City School Choir of the Year and the Northern Ireland Young Musician of the Year.

Richard founded the Northern Ireland International Organ Competition in 2011 and has been Director of Music at Christ Church Lisburn since 1992.

Yvie Burnett is a mezzo soprano who has sung as a soloist with many major European opera companies, but is best known as a singing teacher behind the development of singers across many of the UK and US top singing and talent shows of the last decade.

Dominic Peckham is regarded as one of the UK's finest young, dynamic choral and orchestral conductors.

As an ambassador for choral music he holds an impressive array of posts including: director of the Ulster Youth Training Choir, artistic director of The Royal Opera House's 'RM19' Youth Chorus, assistant music director of The National Youth Choirs of Great Britain, artistic director and founder of iSingUK, artistic director of The Fourth Choir, guest conductor for Aldeburgh

Music, vocal director for BBC Choir of the Year, consultant to Trinity Guildhall's vocal programme and as a guest speaker for 'Sing Up'.

He has most recently been appointed director of The London Oriana Choir and this spring he will make his debut as guest chorus master at English National Opera.

Ciaran Scullion is head of music for the Arts Council of Northern Ireland. He studied Music at Queen's University and the Royal Irish Academy and has worked in the music industry in a number of capacities, from arts management to performer, adjudicator and academic.

He's an experienced arts executive and has held previous roles at the Ulster Orchestra and the Ulster Youth Choir and has led some of the UK's largest and award-winning youth music projects.

Ciaran has also worked with some of the world's leading artists including Bryn Terfel, James Galway and Barry Douglas.

With the Arts Council of Northern Ireland, he is responsible for the development of music, opera and the traditional arts.

Ciaran manages a broad portfolio of organisations including the Ulster Orchestra, Northern Ireland Opera and Camerata Ireland.

Kevin Myers gives poignant lecture on WW1 at Alexandra College

Historian and author, Kevin Myers, delivered a moving lecture in Alexandra College on the forgotten Irish men who fought in the First World War. The lecture, entitled 'The Forgotten 40,000: Ireland's Great War' was part of the Ardilaun Lecture Series at the Milltown school.

Mr Myers' passionate talk, based on his latest book 'Ireland's Great War', directed his audience through that catastrophic war and emphasised the humanity of its victims; particularly poignant in a week that sees the centenary of the Gallipoli campaign.

The Ardilaun Lectures were endowed in 1921 by Lady Ardilaun in memory of her husband Lord Ardilaun. They were originally only concerned with French history, a passion of Lady Ardilaun, and the primary aim of the endowment was to permit a distinguished historian of French history who was 'a graduate of a university outside Ireland and a man of universal distinction and



Kevin Myers and Archbishop Jackson

known ability as a lecturer' to be invited to Alexandra College each year.

The very first lecture took place In January 1921. Professor Grant Robertson, Fellow of All Souls, Oxford, and Principal of the University of Birmingham, gave four lectures on 'The Age of Louis XIV and the Period of the Revolution and the Napoleonic Empire'. In the following two years he lectured on 'Marie Antoinette' and 'The Second Empire'. Over the course of the following 94 years however, the lectures evolved to cover Irish, American and European history.

This year two lectures took place. The first was given in November by Professor Mary Daly, President of the Royal Irish Academy.

First ecumenical canons installed in Down Cathedral

A Service of Thanksgiving was held on Thursday 23 April in Down Cathedral to mark the reordering and redecoration of the Cathedral and to install 3 new canons, including the cathedral's first ever ecumenical canons.

Dean Hull installed Revd Mark Harvey, rector of St Mary's Ballybeen, as Prebendary of Dunsford and Brother Eric Loisel from Holy Cross Monastery (Order of St Benedict) and Revd John Alderdice (Methodist) as ecumenical canons. Bishop Harold Miller presided over Holy Communion and dedicated the new lectern and holy table.

Canon Harvey said that he had been, "delighted to accept Bishop Harold's invitation to become a canon of Down Cathedral. It's a real privilege to be joining the Chapter at such an exciting time in the history of our diocese in this Year of Mission." Mark is currently Clerical Honorary Secretary (Down) and served the diocese as Director of Ordinands for a number of years.



Canon Alderdice, formerly Methodist Chaplain at Queen's, is Director of Ministry at Edgehill Theological College, Belfast. He said, "I regard it as a real privilege and a joy to be installed as an ecumenical canon. I have had many years of working with colleagues and friends in the Church of Ireland and I look forward to many more."

Brother Eric's appointment represents the cathedral's historic roots and special relationship with the Benedictine community in Rostrevor. He also has links with Downpatrick going back to the early 80s when he and Dom Mark Ephrem were part of a House of Prayer in the town. "After 32 years it's a bit like coming home," he said. "I believe that everything that we

can do together is better than what we can do separately.”

In his sermon, Revd Canon Jonathan Pierce addressed the new canons saying:

“In being asked to become canons, something bigger is taking place tonight. You are also being asked to be part of an ongoing wave of witness that has been a part of this place since Patrick’s time.”

He continued: “we long to see this place continue to do that in our own day– to draw young and old, men and women into a living faith in Jesus Christ and you are tonight being given a platform in this special place to do exactly that.

“It’s a special privilege and you all bring unique and special things to the worshipping life of this place.”

Quakers in Britain Open Letter to the Prime Minister on the plight of migrants in Mediterranean

Quakers in Britain have written an Open Letter to the Prime Minister, expressing their deepest

concern for the plight of migrants trying to cross the Mediterranean.

Quakers in Britain have written an Open Letter to the Prime Minister, expressing their deepest concern for the plight of migrants desperately trying to cross the Mediterranean.

The full text of the letter to the Prime Minister, David Cameron, follows:

Quakers in Britain have been shocked and angered by the needless deaths of thousands of desperate people in the Mediterranean in recent months. Every human life is a precious gift to be treasured – each person a child of God – and the loss of just one diminishes all of us. It is immoral to use the threat of loss of life as a deterrent to migration.

We urge you as our Prime Minister, in your work with other European leaders, to ensure that Britain, one of the richest countries in the world, plays its part in preventing these unnecessary drownings and addressing the economic inequality and violence which leads to these desperate attempts to reach a new home.

The letter is signed by Paul Parker, Recording Clerk, Quakers in Britain.

Quaker Asylum and Refugee Network (QARN) and Quaker Council for European Affairs (QCEA) have previously called for safe paths to legal protection and protested against the cessation of funding for the Search and Rescue Operation in the Mediterranean.

Quakers in Britain say this tragic loss of life will be very much on the hearts and minds of Quakers as they meet for Yearly Meeting at Friends House in London next week (1 to 4 May).

* Quakers are known formally as the Religious Society of Friends. Around 23,000 people attend 478 Quaker meetings in Britain. Their commitment to equality, justice, peace, simplicity and truth challenges them to seek positive social and legislative change.

* Quakers in Britain <http://www.quaker.org.uk/>

Archbishop of York heads call for more minority ethnic vocations

More minority ethnic Anglicans are needed for ordained ministry in the Church of England, the Archbishop of York said Friday.

In a foreword to a new booklet on minority ethnic vocations, Dr John Sentamu said there has never been a better time for Christians from minority ethnic backgrounds to respond to God's call to ordained ministry in the Church of England.

"There is a greater need than ever for minority ethnic Anglicans to respond to God's call to ministry and servant leadership - we need people who are equipped for cross cultural ministry in our increasingly diverse society," Dr Sentamu said.

"We need more minority ethnic clergy as deacons, priests and bishops. We need ethnic diversity at all levels in the Church's ministry. This booklet shows how crucial it is for our ongoing vocations work in the Church of England. We need to see more minority ethnic Anglicans if we are to serve effectively and see churches grow, and to do that we must make and nurture disciples in diverse communities across England today."

[Everyday People, God's gift to the Church of England](#), from the Vocations Strategy Group, a working group of the Committee for Minority Ethnic Anglican Concerns, and the Ministry Division of the Church of England, features the churchnewsireland@gmail.com

life stories of seven ordained clergy and one Anglican who is currently exploring her vocation. All are of minority ethnic heritage.

The booklet, being distributed to dioceses in the Church of England, includes a contribution by the Revd Dr Sharon Prentis, curate at St Matthew's, Redhill, Surrey, and a mission support officer for Southwark Diocese.

The Yorkshire-born former lecturer at Leeds and Huddersfield Universities, who has also worked for the Salvation Army and Oasis Trust, was ordained as a priest last year. Her parents came to the UK from the Caribbean in the 1960s.

She said: "In order for the Church to fully engage with and reach out to the whole of society with the message of the Good News of the Gospel, it is important that there is representation from a diverse range of people from different backgrounds in ordained ministry within the Church of England."

Dr Elizabeth Henry, the Church of England's national adviser on minority ethnic Anglican concerns, said there are "significant" numbers of minority ethnic Christians in Anglican churches but minority ethnic clergy make up less than 3% of serving clergy.

"Working to increase representation and inclusion of minority ethnic Anglicans at all levels in the Church is not about redressing an imbalance, it is essential to church growth," she said.

"We hope this booklet will provide insight and inspiration for a positive impact on the number of minority ethnic Anglicans coming forward for ordination."

Ministry through murals

St John the Evangelist Church, Princes Street, Edinburgh has a history over more than 30 years of displaying murals on topical subjects. The intention behind the murals is to provoke thought and debate.

The Rev Markus Dünzkofer, Rector of St John's Church has unveiled the latest Mural at St John's Church and says:

"Easter has come and for many this time has been and continues to be a wonderful and joyous celebration of the Resurrection with flowers, candles, incense, glorious vestments

and festive hymns. We sing “Alleluia!” once again!

“We are also in the middle of an election season here in the UK and we must consider our options. Social media and the news have many of us obsessed with the question of who will form the next parliament. It is an exciting time!

“Over the past few days Scots have soaked up every ray of the beautiful sun that has warmed our cities and countryside. Jumpers are discarded, shorts unearthed, and Irn Bru and Pimms packed for a picnic in the park or at the local loch. Spring has sprung!

“Meanwhile hundreds of refugees fleeing war, injustice, and poverty are drowning every day as they try to reach shores of safety, trusting that “the Christian West” will honour the Biblical command to ‘take care of immigrants and to clothe the naked and feed the hungry’.

“And yet: We are not listening. Neither to the Bible. Nor to the desperate plight of refugees. We are preoccupied with other things, many other things. And women, men, and children die, because we do not listen.

“Our most recent mural at St John’s attempts to refocus our attention and to encourage the opening of the ears, eyes, and the hearts of the many people who see this mural.”

Armenian Apostolic Church canonises 1.5 million victims of genocide

The Armenian Apostolic Church canonised 1.5 million victims of the Armenian genocide yesterday in what is believed to be the single biggest recognition of sainthood in history.

The two-hour canonisation liturgy took place outside Armenia’s main cathedral, Echmiadzin, ahead of the 100th anniversary of the genocide today.

Catholicos of All Armenians, Karekin II, said: “During the dire years of the genocide of the Armenians, millions of our people were uprooted and massacred in a premeditated manner, passed through fire and sword, tasted the bitter fruits of torture and sorrow.

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“The canonisation of the martyrs of the genocide brings life-giving new breath, grace and blessing to our national and ecclesiastical life,” he said.

At the end of the liturgy bells rang out across Armenia and a minute’s silence was observed. According to Armenian television, bells were also tolled in New York, Paris, Madrid, Venice and Berlin. Meanwhile, world leaders – including Prince Charles and Prince Harry – gathered in Turkey to mark the 100th anniversary of the Battle of Gallipoli. Armenian president Serzh Sarkisian accused Turkey of “trying to divert world attention” from the Armenian genocide commemorations. The actual fighting started a day later, on April 25.

Media digest

News Letter

Tear fund NI - Christian charity working to help the world’s real‘Cinderellas’

<http://www.newsletter.co.uk/faith-christian-charity-working-to-help-the-world-s-real-cinderellas-1-6703448>

Irish Times

President Higgins notes ‘silence’ that hung over Gallipoli dead

http://www.irishtimes.com/news/politics/higgins-notes-silence-that-hung-over-gallipoli-dead-1.2186969?utm_source=dlvr.it&utm_medium=twitter

Irish Central

Gay marriage referendum too close to call as hypocrisy rules

<http://www.irishcentral.com/news/irishvoice/Marriage-referendum-close-to-call-as-hypocrisy-rears-its-head.html>

Mirror

'Imagine being a Christian and thinking that God made you gay'

<http://news.google.com/news/url?sa=t&fd=R&ct2=us&usg=AFQjCNF6M-a0j90yGHYmehQhjNF5LP-ohw&clid=c3a7d30bb8a4878e06b80cf16b898331&cid=52778816637007&ei=4Fc6VfjdJ4KnmALgpoHACQ&url=http://www.mirror.co.uk/usvsth3m/imagine-being-christian-thinking-god-5570230>

Further article by the Archbishop of York, John Sentamu explaining why workers should be paid enough for a decent standard of living as he calls for companies and the government to pay the living wage.

<http://www.mirror.co.uk/news/uk-news/jesus-would-pay-living-wage-5571664>

Telegraph

The ultimate loft clear-out: inside Westminster Abbey's secret room

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/religion/11557835/Is-this-the-ultimate-loft-clear-out.html>

Guard

Why is the UK government so afraid to speak of Armenian genocide? - Giles Fraser

<http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/belief/2015/apr/24/why-uk-government-so-afraid-speak-armenian-genocide>

Report discussing the media's handling of religion following comments by Radio 4's Feedback programme presenter, Roger Bolton, who said national newspapers and television were failing to "power up" coverage of religious belief at a time when faith is playing a role in driving genocide and war. Former Sunday Telegraph writer Cole Moreton, said that the CofE had become just one of the institutions Fleet Street covered, but said the media was not engaging with spirituality more generally.

<http://www.theguardian.com/media/2015/apr/23/radio-4s-roger-bolton-press-and-tv-have-failed-on-religious-coverage>

Mail

Articles on how EU leaders agreed on Thursday to triple their naval search mission in the Mediterranean, restoring funding to last year's level. Italian Prime Minister Matteo Renzi, who had called for the emergency summit in Brussels after the sinking of a crowded vessel on Sunday called it "a big step forward for Europe".

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/wires/reuters/article-3052240/EU-leaders-pledge-rescue-migrants-no-fix-problem.html#ixzz3YCTGHF28>

Mail/Ind/BBC/Tel/Guard

Report that the Armenian Apostolic Church on Thursday made saints of up to 1.5 million Armenians at a ceremony to commemorate their killing by Ottoman Turks a century ago. Armenia say the massacres during WW1 constitute genocide. *Guardian* reports that the centenary of the genocide of 1915 today, will be attended by the Bishop of London, Richard Chartres.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/wires/reuters/article-3052660/Armenian-church-canonises-victims-1915-mass-killings.html#ixzz3YCV9oldX>

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/europe/armenia-genocide-victims-canonised-on-centenary-of-atrocity-that-turkey-still-refuses-to-recognise-10199760.html>

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-32438126>

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/europe/turkey/11556559/Armenian-massacres-Descendants-emerge-from-the-shadows-in-Turkey.html>

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/on-the-middle-east/2015/apr/23/britain-sidesteps-armenian-genocide-recognition-a-century-after-killings>

Mail/BBC

Reports on statistics around foodbank users being quoted during General Election campaign saying it is important to distinguish between unique users and the number of food parcels handed out. Articles say the former comes out at 500,000 - not the one million quoted earlier in the week - but BBC stresses overall the Trussell Trust figures show there is an increased use of foodbanks.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3051402/Food-bank-admits-million-users-year-claim-false-Trust-admits-not-unique-user-figure-thought-500-000.html>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/election-2015-32413080>