



Chaim Herzog in Belfast online exhibition

Last year in north Belfast the plaque marking the birthplace of the late president of Israel, Chaim Herzog, was taken down following alleged attacks on the building.

Efforts to have the plaque restored to its rightful place have so far proven fruitless.

“Friends of Israel - Northern Ireland” are determined that the connection between Belfast and the Herzog family should not be forgotten. Indeed, they want many more people to know about it than ever before.

Their first step is to have posted an exhibition on Facebook which tells the story of the Herzog family and its remarkable connection to Belfast through three generations. Did you know that in 1918 Belfast boasted living in it a future chief rabbi, president and foreign minister of Israel? The exhibition tells the story through photographs, videos and links for those wanting further information.

Launched less than a week ago the Chaim Herzog in Belfast exhibition has already reached over a thousand Facebook users and secured over 150 likes. If you are on Facebook, please show your support by liking the page and sharing it with your friends.

Everyone can view the exhibition - please either click the link here or copy and paste it onto your browser:

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Chaim-Herzog-in-Belfast/154478478217512?fref=ts>

Bishop McAreavey supports 'Christian Bells' initiative in solidarity with persecuted Christians

Catholic bishops across the world will be ringing church bells in their dioceses today at noon on the Feast of the Assumption, in solidarity with persecuted Christians in the Middle East.

Bishop John McAreavey, Bishop of Dromore and chair of the Council for Justice and Peace of the Irish Bishops' Conference, has invited parishes to support this important symbolic moment of solidarity and reflection.

Bishop McAreavey said, "Christians are now the world's most oppressed religious group, facing religious discrimination and persecution in over a hundred countries. Each year, thousands of Christians are being tortured and killed because of their faith. Yet the international community has been slow to recognise Christians as victims of religious persecution. The lack of protest at their treatment is truly shocking. In parts of the Middle East ravaged by conflict Christians have lost everything for their faith. Many have lost

their lives. Those who remain face a terrifying and uncertain future.

“Today, on the Feast of the Assumption, the global silence on the persecution of Christians will be broken by the sound of church bells at midday. As Christians throughout the world gather to celebrate Mass on a Holy Day dedicated to Our Lady, it is appropriate that we pause to remember those who are suffering because of their faith. Our fellow bishops in Iraq have told Irish bishops how important spiritual solidarity and prayer are to them in their suffering. As Archbishop Petros Mouche of Mosul told us during his visit to Maynooth in June: ‘With so many people praying for us, it reminds us that God cannot forget us’.

“On the Feast of the Assumption we pray to Our Lady for the protection of vulnerable and displaced populations in the Middle East. We pray for peace and healing for all those who suffer. I invite all parishes to join the ‘Christian Bells’ initiative, by ringing their local church bells for up to fifteen minutes, and thereby expressing solidarity with our fellow Christians suffering in the Middle. I also urge people to support this initiative on Facebook and on Twitter.

- To support the 'Christian Bells' initiative on social media see Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/ChristiansBells?fref=ts>, and on Twitter #ChristianBells.

Former President's son challenges Irish primate on pastoral care for gays

The son of Ireland's former President, Mary McAleese, has called on the Church to revise its attitude to gay Catholics.

The Tablet - Justin McAleese, who is gay and a practising Catholic, this week made public correspondence between himself and the Primate of All Ireland, Archbishop Eamon Martin, aimed at clarifying the Church's teaching on homosexuality.

Writing in the *Irish Independent* Mr McAleese said Archbishop Martin referred him to a 16-page document from the Irish Catholic Bishops' Conference called "Guidelines on Relationships and Sexuality Education", a document intended to inform all aspects of teaching on sexuality in Catholic schools.

However, according to Mr McAleese, the document makes no mention of gays, lesbians or homosexuality. When asked about specific guidelines for gay and lesbian Catholics, the archbishop said he was not aware of any and referred him to the work of Christopher West, an expert on Pope John Paul II's Theology of the Body. Archbishop Martin added that the Church's teaching on sexuality is "well-known".

When asked by *The Tablet* about any ministry provided by the Church in Ireland to gay Catholics or guidelines on this, a spokesman for the bishops said he had "no information".

After Ireland voted in favour of same-sex marriage this year, Archbishop Martin called for the Church to "re-commit ourselves to the pastoral care of anyone in society who experiences victimisation and stigmatisation".

In response, Mr McAleese asked in his article: "How can he even seriously consider pastoral care when his own guidelines don't even acknowledge the existence of homosexuals?"

Fr Gerry O'Connor, a member of the Association of Catholic Priests' leadership has called for a re-examination of the Church's understanding of homosexuality. Fr O'Connor warned that the Irish Church faces "a dilemma of considerable

proportions with respect to bridging the gap between the Church and families blessed with family members of a homosexual orientation". The traditional pastoral practice is not so much redundant as tired, he suggested.

Bangor Parish seminar on sharing Gospel with Mormons

Bangor Parish will be the venue for an upcoming event, 'Sharing the Gospel on Your Doorstep' with Bill McKeever of Mormonism Research Ministry.

Bill, who is from Utah, will share the basics of Mormon belief and how you might share your faith with Mormons when you meet them. He has a wealth of experience in this area.

The Mormon religion is also known as The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and is active in Ireland.

Bangor rector, Revd Nigel Parker, says: "In Bangor Parish we have had the joy of seeing a number of former Mormons come to orthodox Christian faith. They are passionate about reaching those still within Mormonism with the liberating love of Jesus Christ and we are

hosting this evening to equip local Christians to do just that. Please come and find out more.”

Download a flier here.

<http://www.downanddromore.org/cmsfiles/moved/files/m/Mormonism-Seminar-Flier.pdf>

When: Tuesday 22 September from 7.00 – 10.00 pm

Where: St Comgall's Church of Ireland, 1 Castle Street, Bangor BT20 4SU.

There is no charge for the evening but an offering will be taken. Tea and coffee will be served from 7.00 pm.

National Eucharistic Congress 26-27 September 2015

A National Eucharistic Congress will take place at Our Lady's Shrine, Knock, Co Mayo, on Saturday and Sunday 26 and 27 September 2015 on the theme 'Christ is Our Hope'. The theme chosen echoes the theme of the 51st International Eucharistic Congress which will take place in Cebu in the Philippines from 24 – 31 January 2016. The National Eucharistic



Congress will serve as spiritual preparation for the 51st International Eucharistic Congress. The programme for the National Eucharistic Congress is currently being finalised and will include:

- Over 40 workshops and talks
- A Children's Programme
- Youth Space
- Perpetual Adoration
- Sacrament of Reconciliation
- Liturgy of the Hours
- Concert of Praise and Worship
- Candlelit Procession

The regular Knock Shrine pilgrimage schedule will also be in place as part of the September Congress and this includes the Rosary, the Stations of the Cross, the Sacrament of the Sick and the celebration of the Eucharist.

Employment obtained via Christians Against Poverty job club

Today three more East Belfast ladies are celebrating success in securing employment via their local Christians Against Poverty (CAP) Job Club.

Deborah Clarke, Susie Gilkinson and Barbara Allen joined the Job Club at Willowfield Parish Church in real need of support in the difficult task of job hunting.

After ten years of unemployment, Deborah, had nearly given up hope of finding a job. “It was really tough. I didn’t know where to begin with application forms or my CV and didn’t think any employers would be willing to give me a chance,” she said. “But the Job Club changed all that.”

Thanks to the practical advice, support and encouragement from her local CAP Job Club, Deborah is now enjoying being back in employment, working as Domestic Assistant for Clanmill Housing Association.

CAP Job Club Manager, Emma Jackson, said: “When it comes to job hunting, having the right



tools and techniques up your sleeve can really improve your chances in finding work.

“We provide a unique personal service, which gives people both practical and emotional support. And we work really hard to help members find work.”

CAP Job Clubs works with individuals to meet their personal needs. Sessions cover practical topics such as identifying strengths, CV writing and interview techniques. Staff, who have all been trained, can provide assistance in filling out daunting application forms, volunteering and work experience opportunities and guidance on returning to education.

Suzie, who is now working as a Financial Administrator with Mindflood, said, “The support from the team at my CAP Job Club has been incredible, they were always on hand when I needed them and I know for sure that the interview preparation they did with me really helped me to get this job”.

Willowfield is one of more than 130 churches of different Christian traditions across the UK regularly running CAP Job Clubs, as they work together to positively impact the communities around them.

In particular, the Job Club provides an opportunity for support and community, where members can meet in a friendly, relaxed atmosphere, get to know each other and not feel so isolated in their unemployment.

“Meeting with others who were in similar circumstances was such an encouragement, you didn’t feel so alone and the only one going through this,” said Barbara, who found employment with as a Care Assistant with Dunlady Care Home said.

“We have a great laugh and buns, there’s always coffee and a bun,” she added.

This Job Club in particular has been really successful over the last few months; the club manager Emma told us “We are so thrilled to see these ladies back in work. But these are just three of many members over the last couple of months who have found work via our support. The help we provide really does work and we want to reach out to as many people in our local community as possible who need support getting back into the workplace’.

Job Club starts up again on Friday 24 August at 1.00pm at Willowfield Parish Church, My Lady’s Road Belfast.

To find out more about CAP Job Clubs, or to book your place visit www.capjobclubs.org or call Freephone 0800 328 0006.

Great Welsh churches join UK network

Two Welsh churches are the first in Wales to join a network for the UK’s most significant churches.

St Giles’s Church in Wrexham, and St Mary’s Priory in Abergavenny have been admitted to the [Greater Churches Network](#) – an informal

association of non-cathedral churches. The Network supports churches which surpass most parish churches in their size, architectural importance, visitor numbers and ministry. Among the other 44 members are Beverley Minster and Bath Abbey.

A Grade 1 listed building and 180ft long, [St Giles' Church](#) is the largest Medieval parish church in Wales. It was described by the Simon Jenkins, a former chairman of the National Trust, as “the glory of the Marches” and its magnificent tower has been claimed as “one of the seven wonders of Wales”. Today St Giles' houses the regimental chapel of the Royal Welsh Fusiliers.

[St Mary's Priory Church](#), also a Grade 1 listed building, was founded in 1087 as a Benedictine Priory. It has an outstanding collection of effigies and also a 15th Century wooden carving, called the Jesse, which would once have been part of an even larger carving forming a Jesse Tree. It is unique in the UK and has been called one of the finest medieval sculptures in the world. Next to the Priory is a recently restored Tithe Barn, which houses exhibitions and workshops.

Vicar of St Giles, Revd Dr Jason Bray, said he was delighted the church had been admitted to the Greater Churches Network. He said, “St



St Giles, Wrexham

Giles' is the largest Medieval parish church in Wales and a truly significant building architecturally yet it is barely on the Welsh tourist map. Joining the Network is a significant boost for us and I hope it will help draw people to visit us and explore Wrexham too."

Canon Mark Soady, Vicar of St Mary's Priory, said, "This is great news for the Priory and for Abergavenny. Being a member of the Greater Churches Network will help raise our profile nationally and also give us somewhere to seek advice and share experience in running a large

church. This is important because while large churches often operate much like cathedrals – with all-day opening, daily services, paid staff and on-site shops or cafes – we don't benefit from the cathedral's infrastructure, available expertise or its income."

Philippa Shaw, secretary of the Greater Churches Network, encouraged other churches in Wales would apply for membership. She said, "It is a pleasure to welcome our new members and we hope to welcome the incumbents and other members of the church to our Biennial Conference in October. The criteria for joining the network are that Churches should be a physically large building, have a significant number of visitors per year, a ministry which is wider than that of most parish churches have paid staff in addition to clergy and are open all day most days.

"The Network would be delighted to receive applications from other churches in Wales which would like to be considered for membership."

To find out more about the Greater Churches Network, visit <http://greaterchurches.org/>

To find out more about St Giles' Church see <http://stgiles.wrexhamparish.org.uk/>

To find out more about St Mary's Priory Church see <http://www.stmarys-priory.org/>

Media digest

Irish Times

Doing the Camino in a Kerry currach

<http://www.irishtimes.com/life-and-style/people/doing-the-camino-in-a-kerry-currach-1.2310321>

FT

Report that the former bishop of Maidstone, Graham Cray, is among those opposing plans for fracking in the Conservative-supporting countryside around Pickering. The Bishop, who has retired with his wife Jackie to the village of Kirby Misperton, is quoted saying, "The government is saying you can have local democracy as long as it agrees with us." He also believes that tourism, the area's biggest industry, will suffer, and that water supplies could be affected. It states no fracking has taken place in the UK since it caused two minor earthquakes in 2011.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/e8840832-41c1-11e5-9abe-5b335da3a90e.html?siteedition=intl#axzz3ilQCztsh>

BBC

Report that a fitness club owned by former British Olympic athlete Daley Thompson has been criticised for holding part of an exercise class in Putney Old Burial Ground in south-west London. It looks at the rules about activities in graveyards and states in the Church of England, each individual diocese sets the rules about what activities are permissible in graveyards, but there are general principles most follow. A Church of England spokesperson is quoted along with Giles Fraser.

<http://www.bbc.com/news/magazine-33911938>

Tel

Article on line up for V-J day 70th anniversary commemorations today (Saturday) which states the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh will be among those attending a commemoration service at St-Martins-in-the-Fields Church, at 11am, organised by the National Far East Prisoners of War (FEPOW) Fellowship Welfare Remembrance Association (NFFWRA) representing prisoners of war, civilian internees, their widows and families. It also mentions commemorations in other parts of the country, including the National Memorial Arboretum and Lichfield Cathedral.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/11799328/V-J-Day-celebrations-what-is-happening.html>

Mail & Mirror

Reports on how a grieving widower was fined £160 for arriving 45 minutes late for his wife's burial - even though he had been told by gravediggers that there was 'no rush'. They state Frank Blades was left shocked when he noticed the charge on top of a £6,000 fee from funeral directors following the burial of wife Violet at Hannah Park Cemetery in Worksop, Nottinghamshire. The Revd Nicholas Spicer, of Worksop Priory is quoted saying he sympathised with the family and blamed a 'breakdown in communication' between Bassetlaw Council and Hopkinson's. He said, "Ultimately, steps need to be taken to ensure this doesn't happen again."

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3196784/Grieving-widower-fined-160-arriving-45-minutes-late-wife-s-burial-gravediggers-told-no-rush.html#ixzz3ilSOxYZH>
<http://www.mirror.co.uk/news/uk-news/grieving-widower-slapped-160-charge-6247102>

Times

Report that a majority of MPs believe that either the Commons or the Lords should move out of parliament while it undergoes a large-scale

renovation. It states urgent repairs are needed to the Palace of Westminster, but the cost of the refurbishment could be minimised if the entire estate decamped. Other locations in Westminster have been mooted as homes for exiled MPs or peers, including the QEII conference centre, Church House or Methodist Central Hall.

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/politics/article4526957.ece>

Star & Mirror

Articles on how a tourist taking photographs in Norwich Cathedral captured what appears to be the figure of a 'ghost bishop'. They state the Gothic Grade I listed building is popular with ghost tours after claims objects were seen moving on their own and reports of other eerie figures roaming the building.

<http://www.dailystar.co.uk/news/latest-news/459125/ghost-bishop-cathedral-haunted>

<http://www.mirror.co.uk/news/weird-news/pictured-ghost-long-dead-bishop-6248697>

Star & Exp

Reports on arrangements for the funeral of Cilla Black which say the service may be televised.

<http://www.express.co.uk/celebrity-news/598224/Cilla-Black-funeral-broadcast-Liverpool>

<http://www.dailystar.co.uk/news/latest-news/459151/Cilla-Black-funeral-televised>

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