

## Christmas Truce concert

**'Voices of the 1914 Christmas Truce' concert takes place in Christ Church Cathedral on Saturday December 7 at 8.00 pm. The evening will celebrate the 1914 Christmas Truce with choral music, verse and prose and will feature the Omagh–Waterford Peace Choir and special guests.**

Proceeds from the concert will go towards the Omagh–Waterford Peace Choir as well as the National Children's Hospital, Tallaght and the Little Prince Children's Hospital, Brazil.

One of the Christmas Truce voices was a young British soldier, Albert Moren who, recalling the trenches near La Chapelle d'Armentieres, France, 12 kilometres from Messines, Flanders, wrote:  
"It was a beautiful moonlit night, frost on the ground, white almost everywhere; ... there was a lot of commotion in the German trenches and then there were those lights – I don't know what they were. And then they sang 'Stille Nacht' – 'Silent Night'. I shall never forget it. It was one of the highlights of my life."

The 'Voices of the Christmas Truce' concert is based around the memories evoked by young Albert Moren, and other soldiers, from that extraordinary night during the first Christmas of World War One, beautifully complimented by the singing of the Omagh–Waterford Peace Choir, and special guests.

Tickets cost €10 and are available from Christ Church Cathedral on 01-6778099 or [www.entertainment.ie/tickets/christ-church-cathedral-dublin.asp](http://www.entertainment.ie/tickets/christ-church-cathedral-dublin.asp)

## Georgian Day Concert

**Today, Saturday 30th November at 2.00pm Hunter Moore Flute Orchestra and Cleland Memorial**

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**Pipe Band are playing in St Patrick's C of I Cathedral.**

Admission is free with a retiring collection in aid of the Cathedral Restoration Fund.

Hunter Moore will be playing from 2.00pm – 2.45pm and Cleland Memorial Pipe Band will be playing from 2.50pm – 3.20pm approx.



Cleland Memorial are a Bangor based pipe band, formed in 1926. They compete domestically and internationally throughout the year in grade 4a under the Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association, Northern Ireland Branch. They also participate in many engagements including game fairs, parades & recently joined forces with 3 other pipe bands in a Tattoo at Killyleagh Castle to raise funds for the poppy appeal.

Cleland have a long tradition of teaching and tutoring pupils that are interested in learning any of the instruments involved in pipe bands, some of their former pupils have gone on to play in the worlds top grade bands.



Hunter Moore Flute Orchestra are based in Newry, Co. Down. They recently came 3rd in the world championships held in Armagh. They have a proud tradition of excellent music over many decades. This concert is being put on with the assistance of the Ulster Scots Agency

## **CofI Institute Advent Carol Service**

**The Church of Ireland Theological Institute Advent Carol Service takes place on Wednesday December 4 in the Lady Chapel of St Patrick's Cathedral at 7.00 pm.**

A collection will be taken up of the Bishops' Appeal Syrian Appeal. Refreshments will be served afterwards and parking will be available at St Patrick's Cathedral Grammar School.

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## **Moderator says there are lessons to be learned from Rwanda experience**

**Presbyterian Moderator Dr. Rob Craig thinks there are lessons to be learned from Rwanda as it rebuilds its country and its people in the aftermath of the genocide of 1994 when over one million people were killed in a bitter conflict between the Hutu and Tutsi peoples.**

"It is not easy to make direct comparisons, but Rwanda seems to be allowing the future to shape the present more than the past," said Dr. Craig. "I believe that we at home should be prepared to listen to that."

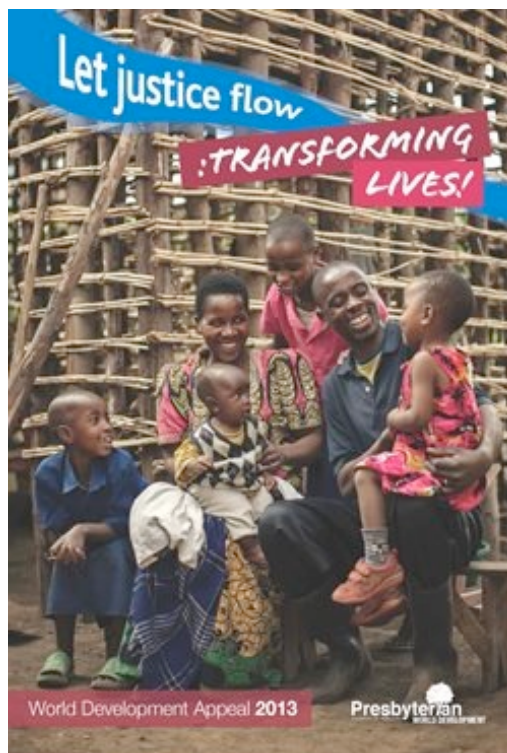
Dr. Craig made his remarks as he launched the Presbyterian Church's Annual World Development Appeal which runs in congregations during Advent and this year focuses on Rwanda, a country that the Moderator visited earlier this year.

The appeal is both to inform Presbyterians about Rwanda and also to raise money that is divided equally between Christian Aid and Tearfund, the Presbyterian Church's partners in relief and development.

"As I travelled around Rwanda I experienced a country moving on from its past, people working together helping others and helping themselves and for me the really exciting thing was that at the heart of everything was the Christian Church and people of faith working to transform lives and communities," continued Dr. Craig.

During his visit the Moderator met Janette and Vianezi who live with their four children in the village of Burambi, a two hour drive north from Rwanda's capital Kigali.

Like most villages after the genocide Burambi was a divided community where neither Hutu or Tutsi would farm together,



go to school together, collect water together or even worship together.

However, over several years, the local women, including Janette, began to meet together because of their shared faith. As relationships and trust grew, they realized their common needs and particularly everyone's need for clean water.

Together they build a tank that collected rainwater that was shared among everyone. Seeing how they were helping themselves, Tearfund and Christian Aid's partner in Rwanda, Moucecore, offered them help and today the village has 114 water tanks supplying 1224 households with clean fresh water.

Now the whole community is involved, working hard with their fellow villagers for everyone's benefit. Moucecore provides expertise and some financial help but the onus is very much on the local people to

help themselves. Together they have built better homes with good sanitation and learnt new agricultural techniques which they have put to good use in growing crops for themselves with enough left over to sell through a co-operative they have formed.

For Janette and Viane it means that they can afford to send their children to school, pay for medical care and because they make enough income through agriculture, Viane no longer has to travel to Uganda for work.

On the other side of the country at Gitare the Moderator met a women's group called 'Seekers of Peace' and their President, Jacqueline.

Jacqueline had lived as a refugee in the Democratic Republic of Congo before returning home to Rwanda after the conflict.

Again it was the local church that had brought the women together helping create enough trust to establish the community action group. With help of expertise from Moucecore and money they raised themselves the group has built 25 houses with the emphasis on providing shelter for widows and older people.

"Through God's Word we realise that we are all the same with no division and no fear," Jacqueline told the Moderator. "Now we live together, celebrate together and mourn together as one."

Summing up his Rwandan experience and the World Development Appeal, Dr. Craig said, "Rwanda is a country that is helping itself. Divided communities that once lived in fear and conflict are coming together, identifying their common needs, and working side by side to build a future.

"In all of this they are being assisted with expertise, resources and finance through churches and local Christian organisations who are partners with Tearfund and

Christian Aid, through which the Presbyterian Church is pledging its support and its prayers.”

The Presbyterian Church’s World Development Appeal has been running for over twenty years raising awareness of and giving financial support to longterm sustainable development programmes. In that time over £10m has been generously donated by Presbyterians to support the work of their partners, Tearfund and Christian Aid in numerous countries all around the world.

### **Congregational Church: Policing protests cost nearly £12,000**

**The cost of policing protests linked to a bitter row at a County Down church has reached nearly £12,000.**

The dispute, which has split Ballynahinch Congregational Church, has been going on for some time.

In September, police were called to a disturbance inside the premises. Since then, the cost of the police operation has been £11,547.

The dispute began in 2010 over the running of the church, which is based on Dromore Street in the town.

Some members say Rev George Speers was voted out of the position last year and has refused to leave. His supporters insist that is not true.

However, police officers were called to the church three months ago following angry scenes and amid reports that one member of the congregation had been head-butted.

The following week, two officers were on duty and they maintained a discreet presence while the service got under way.

On that occasion, at least 60 people stood up and left after the minister entered the room; more than 80 people remained inside the church.



It centres on the position of the Rev George Speers and his management of the church.

***Since September, the police have been at the premises on a number of occasions.***



The row has caused deep divisions within the congregation, with many wanting the minister to remain preaching while others want him to go.

The protesters disagree with Mr Speers and the way in which he is leading the church.

In a congregational church, the members decide on the its direction; there is no ruling authority.

The BBC obtained the cost of the policing operation from the Police Service of Northern Ireland through a Freedom of Information request.

Neither Rev Speers nor a spokesperson for the protesters have made any comment on the matter.

## Decades of service abroad by Irish Catholic missionaries honoured in Dublin

**Irish missionaries who have each served between 40 and 60 years abroad were honoured at a special awards ceremony in Dublin City Hall this week.**

Irish Times - An inaugural event, it was in recognition of the huge contribution they have made in education, human rights, social justice and healthcare in developing countries.

Organised by the [Irish Missionary Union](#), [World Mission Ireland](#) and [Misean Cara](#), it included a reading of the names of the 225

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priests, nuns and brothers present, as well as the countries in which they had served for decades. Their combined years of service abroad by the missionaries concerned has been put at 8,000 by the Irish Missionary Union.

Among the countries where they've worked, as read out, were [Cameroon](#), South [Africa](#), [Kenya](#), [Zambia](#), [Liberia](#), [Nigeria](#), [Sierra Leone](#), [Ethiopia](#), [Brazil](#), [Gambia](#), the US, [Papua New Guinea](#), [Australia](#), [Mauritius](#), the West Indies, [Fiji](#), [New Zealand](#), [Argentina](#), [Ghana](#), [Uganda](#), [India](#), [Mexico](#), west Africa, [Sri Lanka](#), [Egypt](#), [Singapore](#), [Samoa](#), [Malawi](#), [Hong Kong](#), [Japan](#), the [Philippines](#), Korea, [China](#), [Peru](#), [Pakistan](#), [Chile](#), [Tanzania](#), [Haiti](#) and Burma.

### 'Outstanding contribution'

In an address, Sabina Higgins, wife of President [Michael D Higgins](#), expressed gratitude to the missionaries for their "outstanding contribution" in those "many countries throughout the world." It was "very appropriate" they "should be publicly acknowledged."



She said: "[Ireland](#) and its people have always had a great sense of pride in our long history of missionary work and what it has brought to communities all over the world."

Their experience "has led the way and given a solid foundation to much of the

Irish Government's approach to development".

Ireland's missionaries "were the pioneers in development co-operation, predating Ireland's aid programme and deeply influencing its values," she said.

## **Wales: Church celebrates former Archbishop**

**An Archbishop who championed the Welsh language was celebrated this week in a special service to mark the centenary of his birth.**

Gwilym Owen Williams, who was Archbishop of Wales for 11 years and Bishop of Bangor for 25 years, helped secure a Welsh language television station for Wales – S4C – and also oversaw the translation and publication of the New Welsh Bible.

Originally from Penisarwaun, near Llanrug, "G.O.", as he was known, was elected as Bishop of Bangor in 1957 and Archbishop in 1971. He held both posts until he retired in 1982.

Today's Archbishop of Wales, Dr. Barry Morgan, will preach at the service this evening (November 28) at Bangor Cathedral. He said, "Archbishop Gwilym served as Bishop of Bangor for 25 years and in all those years he never lost his freshness and persuaded the diocese to do things that it would not otherwise have done. He was also a great Archbishop of Wales with the interests of both church and nation close to his heart."

The Bishop of Bangor – the Right Reverend Andrew John – who will also be taking part in the service said, "This service gives us the opportunity to commemorate and thank God for the life and commitment of a Bishop and Archbishop who was dedicated to serving all the people of Wales."

G.O. Williams was educated at Ysgol Brynrefail and then Jesus College, Oxford, where he took a first-class honours in both English and Theology. He was ordained in 1937 and served as a curate at St Asaph, chaplain at St. David's College, Lampeter, chaplain and tutor at St. Mary's College, Bangor, and as Lecturer in Theology at the University of Wales, Bangor. In 1947 he became a Canon of Bangor Cathedral, and in 1948 moved to become headmaster of Llandoverly College, from where he became Bishop of Bangor in 1957.

As well as his leadership of the Diocese of Bangor and the Church in Wales, Archbishop GO Williams was the Chair of the ecumenical committee responsible for the translation and publication of the New Welsh Bible in 1988. He was also part of a delegation which met the then Home Secretary, William Whitelaw, and helped to persuade the first government of Margaret Thatcher to establish S4C.

## **Sexism is daily reality for girls, says Girlguiding**

**Sexism is so widespread in the UK that it affects "most aspects" of the lives of girls and young women, a report from Girlguiding says.**

"Sexual harassment is commonplace, girls' appearance is intensively scrutinised and their abilities are undermined," says the report.

The report [Equality for Girls](#) is based on a survey of more than 1,200 girls and young women aged seven to 21.

Girlguiding chief executive Julie Bentley called it a "wake-up call".

She said: "This cannot be dismissed as something that girls and young women just have to deal with as they grow up."

Girls needed to live in an equal society if they were to flourish and fulfil their potential to be leaders in all walks of life, added Ms Bentley.

The survey of a representative sample of girls and young women, both Guides and non-Guides, gives "a disturbing insight into the state of equality for girls in the UK", says Girlguiding, which has more than half a million members.

'Priority issue'

"Girls identified sexism as a priority issue for their generation", with three-quarters saying sexism affected "most areas of their lives", says the report.

Of the 11 to 21-year-olds questioned, some 87% thought women were judged more on their appearance than their ability.

More than a third (36%) of all those surveyed had felt "patronised or made to feel stupid" because of their gender, rising to 60% of the 16 to 21-year-olds.

Most of the 13-year-olds questioned said they had experienced sexual harassment, rising to 80% of 19 to 21-year-olds.

This included being shouted and whistled at, sexual graffiti and pornography, sexual jokes and taunts as well as unwanted sexual attention, unwanted touching and stalking.

More than three-quarters (78%) said they found this behaviour threatening if they were alone.

'Double standards'

The girls said there were "clear double standards" for girls and boys when it came to relationships and sex.

Three-quarters (76%) of the 11 to 21-year-olds said girls were judged harshly for sexual behaviour seen as acceptable in boys, with just 3% feeling the opposite.

Most of the 16 to 21-year-olds questioned said they thought too much responsibility was placed on girls for their sexual safety.

The report also talks of bias in the way women are portrayed in the media, with girls and women facing "unprecedented levels of personal and public scrutiny" over body shape".

Of the 11 to 21-year-olds questioned, 75% agreed boys expected girls to look like images they saw in the media, while 71% said they would like to lose weight.

Other challenges are similar to those faced by previous generations, such as overcoming stereotypes and constraints in work and family life, say the authors.

Some 46% of the 11 to 21-year-olds said they feared having children would damage their careers. Most of the 16 to 21-year-olds worried some employers may to some extent prefer to hire men.

The report concludes that despite awareness of the difficulties they face, most girls remain positive, with 55% hoping to get to the top of their chosen profession, 70% wanting to combine a career and motherhood and 11% preferring a career over children.

Lucy Lawrenson, 18, of Girlguiding, said she was "depressed" by the findings.

"Issues that should only be read about in our history books are still common.

"I know because they happen to me, and this can't continue. Something has to change."

Emma Gees, 22, also of Girlguiding, said cultural misconceptions and media stereotypes "deeply ingrained in our culture" were major barriers to equality.

"Equality requires a change in perception and attitudes, not just laws, which is currently the case," she said.

#### CNI Bulletin 30th November 2013

Kelley Temple, National Union of Students women's officer, said the report echoed new NUS research into [lad culture at universities](#).

"It's time decision-makers across the spectrum woke up to the realities of gender inequality," she said.

"We need to take action to tackle this culture within our communities that cuts women out whenever it rears its ugly head."

Girlguiding plans to meet the leaders of the main political parties in the run-up to the general election in 2015 to discuss the findings.

### Appointment

The Revd Bryan Follis, Incumbent of the Parish of All Saints, Belfast, in the Diocese of Connor, has been appointed as Incumbent of the Parish of Hillsborough, in the Diocese of Down. The date of the institution has yet to be confirmed.

### Quiz raising funds for 20 years

**Over the past 20 years an annual table quiz held in St Patrick's Church Hall, Ballymena, has raised thousands of pounds for the church and charity.**

This year was no exception when the quiz made £750 for the charity Crocus. The name Crocus comes from Isaiah 35 v 1 ... 'the wilderness will rejoice and blossom, like the crocus, it will burst in bloom.' Crocus Special Needs Association is a



registered charity that runs a youth club in the Community Centre, Galgorm, Ballymena, for 11-year-olds upwards.

The quiz night was first conceived in the St Patrick's youth room by Irene Thompson and teenagers Eleanor and David Stacey. Irene's husband Maurice and the teenagers' parents Ivan and Rosemary had to be convinced it would be a good idea, but in the end Maurice, Ivan and Rosemary decided to give it a go and so the quiz was born.

The young Staceys dropped out a few years ago as both are now married and have moved away from the district, and the organising team now consists of Trevor and Isobel Halliday and Nina Marrs.

Further information regarding this year's quiz charity Crocus can be obtained from at <http://crocus-sna.com>

### Prayer for today

Almighty God, who wonderfully created us in your own image and yet more wonderfully restored us through your Son Jesus Christ: grant that, as he came to share in our humanity, so we may share the life of his divinity; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen. *Methodist Worship & Common*

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