

**CNI**  
CHURCH  
NEWS  
IRELAND

**1914 to 2014**  
**2014 018**  
**FIRST WORLD WAR**  
**CENTENARY**

## WW1 web resources and interviews from CofE

**It was called the war to end all wars. Sadly, we know all too well that this was a mistaken view.**

It began 100 years ago yesterday (28 July), and in the four years, three months and one week that followed; more than nine million combatants were killed in one of the deadliest conflicts the world has seen.



The Church of England has created a number of liturgical and website resources to help churches commemorate the centenary; and have created a dedicated website.

It contains interviews with the Dean of Salisbury Cathedral, the Ven June Osborne, who talks about the “absolutely central” role the Church has to play in the WW1 centenary commemorations; and with the veteran BBC war reporter Kate Adie, who talks about how the role of women in the Church changed as a result of the war.

Both interviews can be found on the dedicated Church of England website - [www.churchofengland.org/ww1](http://www.churchofengland.org/ww1) - which also contains specially created resources for parishes to use during services as well as interviews and materials and correspondence from [Lambeth Palace Library](#) about the role of the church in the war.

**The Dean of Salisbury Cathedral, June Osborne talks about the "absolutely central" role the Church has to play in the WW1 centenary commemorations while BBC war reporter Kate Adie talks about how the role of women in the Church changed.**

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[Dean June Osborne said](#): "The Church of England needs to be attuned to what matters to the nation and I'm absolutely convinced that these four years are going to matter a great deal to the people of this country. They have family connections. Their families were very often changed by fatalities and they look to the Church to articulate the kind of things that are very difficult to talk about."

[Kate Adie talks](#) about how the women in the church saw their roles increase as congregations were reduced with men leaving for the frontline. She talks about how women weren't allowed to give out hymn books or take the collection, and explains how "With all the men going away, what arose was the practical problems of were there any vergers ... any sidesmen? Women were absolutely excluded from the ritual of the church, something we find quite difficult to imagine today" She explains how the campaign for equality for women in church gained momentum during the First World War.

The website will also feature pictures of poppies which were planted by church communities at the end of April in the hope that they would flower around the time of the centenary on August the 4<sup>th</sup>. Visitors to the site will also be able to find details of events that are happening around the country and material from the vast archive at Lambeth Palace library, including correspondence sent to the then Archbishop of Canterbury.

## **[St Patrick's Cathedral memorial tree evokes trenches of first World War](#)**

**Interactive exhibit, created to mark centenary, explores locality's connections to war**

The St Patrick's Cathedral memorial tree evokes the trenches of the first World War. This interactive exhibit was created to mark the centenary of World War I, and explores local connections to war.

Irish Times - It has yet to be unveiled officially and there has been little or no publicity about it, but already the newly installed [Tree of Remembrance](#) inside [St Patrick's Cathedral](#) in Dublin appears to be a hit.

Standing in the centre of the cathedral's north transept, the 18ft distressed steel tree evokes brilliantly the dystopian landscape of No Man's Land.

It is mounted on a kidney-shaped metal plinth and surrounded by faux barbed wire, threaded through twisted metal wire uprights.

It is as close as the current generation is likely to come to what a small patch of earth between opposing trenches at the Somme must have looked like a little over 100 years ago.

All the more remarkable, then, that it was designed not by an artist but by [Andrew Smith](#), the cathedral's education officer, a historian and teacher by trade, with a little help from [Bisgood Bagnall](#) of Tallaght, formerly [Bushy Park Ironworks](#), who made it.

The scene at the Somme "is exactly the imagery we were going for", says Smith.

The lacquered metal tree, whose bent trunk and 16 bare branches appear almost sinewy, was spotlit and bathed in sunlight in the normally gloomy north transept last Wednesday. It is the centrepiece of the cathedral's *Lives Remembered* project, an exhibition inside the cathedral and online that explores the connections to the [first World War](#) of St Patrick's and those who lived close to the cathedral a century ago.

## **Fusiliers**

They include the families of nearby Bride Street, which lost 31 sons, brothers and husbands in the conflict. Among them were brothers John, Peter and [Patrick McDonnell](#), the sons of Edward and [Anne McDonnell](#), of No 46, who died within days of each other at Ypres in 1915 while serving with the Royal Dublin Fusiliers.

They have no known graves but are remembered on the Menin Gate memorial. A display panel in the transept tells their story. Other panels tell of

the transept's regimental colours mounted high on the walls, some dating from the first World War, others from the mid-19th century and which are disintegrating.

Other panels deal with the morality of war and the role of chaplains; the history, sometimes fraught, of St Patrick's and war remembrance (a section recalling president Mary Robinson's attendance at the 1991 Armistice Day service is headed "into the light"); and *Ireland's Memorial Records 1914-1918*, the Harry Clarke-illustrated volumes containing a list, which is incomplete, of the Irish war dead.

One of eight volumes owned by the cathedral is on display, a page turned each day, but visitors can also examine a full digital copy of the record.

The setting of the tree in the north transept is appropriate because of its association with military memory.

Three of the four lower stained glass windows are associated with war: one is a memorial to a Donnybrook family who lost two sons and a son-in-law in the first World War. Another showing King Cormac of Cashel commemorates the role of the Royal Irish Regiment in South Africa in 1899-1902. The third commemorates the role of the same regiment in 1855-1856 in the Crimean War.

### **Civilians fleeing**

Above them all, even the dominating, triple lancet, stained-glass window by Frank Brangwyn, which shows the tree of life, has a war connection.

Brangwyn, who designed first World War posters, used faces from one, showing civilians fleeing the war, in the windows designed for St Patrick's.

In the centre of all this is the new tree of remembrance.

"The idea with our tree was to create an inversion of the tree of life – the fact that it is completely bare and war-torn," says Smith.

"It is a bit like the poppy which flourished amid the debris of war. The tree has survived war and over the course of the four years, it will bring a message of hope and peace."

The public gained access to the tree last Tuesday. By Wednesday afternoon, it was festooned with hundreds of leaf-shaped pieces of paper tied on by visitors. The cathedral has printed 10,000 such leaves and visitors are invited

to leave a message of remembrance of someone gone and who was of importance to them. Smith expects that soon the tree will be covered by a “huge wall of uplifting messages of hope and peace”.

The tree and the *Lives Remembered* project will be opened officially this evening by writer [Jennifer Johnston](#). Entry is by invitation only. See [stpatrickscathedral.ie/Lives-Remembered.aspx](http://stpatrickscathedral.ie/Lives-Remembered.aspx)

<http://www.irishtimes.com/culture/heritage/st-patrick-s-cathedral-memorial-tree-evokes-trenches-of-first-world-war-1.1879950#.U9ZHuMwxxlk.twitter>