



Belfast Herzog Plaque campaign seeks support

A campaign to commemorate the birth of Chaim Herzog in Belfast has been launched in the city - two years after a memorial to the former Israeli president was removed following attacks.

London Jewish Chronicle - The initiative, which aims to raise national and international awareness of the Herzog connection to Belfast through social media and public lectures, was launched by the Northern Ireland Friends of Israel (NIFI) ahead of the centenary of Herzog's birth in 2018.

Steven Jaffe, NIFI co-chair, said the group had been moved to act "to make the point that you cannot erase history" after repeated, failed attempts to restore the original plaque (below) at the building where Herzog was born.

The memorial was removed by officials in August 2014 after events in Gaza led to a series of antisemitic graffiti and cases of vandalism on the site.

Attacks on the plaque led authorities to fear for the safety of residents living in the building.

"In Belfast, there are many murals and memorials throughout the city; some of these can be offensive, but you don't take these down. You respect each community's right to express itself," Mr Jaffe said. "This has not happened in the case of the plaque."

The group is working with representatives from Protestant and Catholic communities, as well as politicians.

Mr Jaffe said: "Many people are still not aware of the fact that Herzog was born here. We want to put Belfast on the map of Jewish interest."

How you can help:

To help the campaign you can like the page on Facebook: *Herzog in Belfast* which tells the story of the family's connection [https://
www.facebook.com/Chaim-Herzog-in-Belfast-154478478217512/notifications/](https://www.facebook.com/Chaim-Herzog-in-Belfast-154478478217512/notifications/)

Or even join the 310+ from around the world who have already sent Chaim Herzog a friend request - click here [https://www.facebook.com/
profile.php?id=100011276851716&fref=ts](https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100011276851716&fref=ts)

Dublin C of I Service Looks at the Ultimate Election Manifesto

Is the Good News of the Kingdom being proclaimed in our time? This was the question posed at an uplifting Come&C Service in St Maelruain's Church in Tallaght on Saturday February 6. With election fever taking hold,



Members of the congregation in St Maelruain's Church looking for good news in the news papers at the Come&C Service in Tallaght.

participants were asked to make the choice between auction politics and a manifesto that would enable people to see the Good News in action.

The service was one of a series of events which are taking place around Dublin and Glendalough during the Year of Come&C. Each service focuses on one of the Five Marks of Mission of the Anglican Communion and the theme in Tallaght was 'To Proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom'.

The services also bear the hallmark of the host community. Tallaght has been a site of Christian worship for over 1,200 years and people came

from all over Dublin and Glendalough to sample the life of the parish as it is today. There were musical contributions from members of the parish who are part of the African community, the parish music group and from members of the Nazareth Mar Thoma Church who worship in St Maelruain's Church also.

With the general election less than three weeks away, the Rector Canon William Deverell, spoke of manifestos and the challenges facing the proclamation of the Good News in today's society. Taking Luke 4:14–21 as his text he spoke of how Jesus outlined his manifesto in the Synagogue as set out in Isaiah 61:1–2. He said he had come to preach and to meet every human need – proclaim the Good News to the poor, free the captives, heal the blind and set the oppressed free.

Canon Deverell said Jesus came to preach the Good News to the poor but what worried him in Tallaght was that there were very few churches having an impact on the poorest areas. "We are least relevant to those who we most need to reach. It is a challenge to us all and we are not just talking about those who are financially poor," he said.

He spoke of the captives in our society today – those who were addicted or in financial bondage – and those who were spiritually blind. In terms of setting the oppressed free, Canon Deverell turned to the commemorations of the centenary of the 1916 Rising. “I hope this time will be used to reflect on the type of society we have. As I hear the auction politics of boom and bust, I wonder if we learned anything from the past. The gap between the rich and the poor continues to widen,” he commented.

“It is quite a challenge to us – how we proclaim the Good News of that manifesto. We read in Luke that after reading from the scroll Jesus sat down and said: ‘Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing’. The question for our time is this – is the Good News being proclaimed in our hearing, in our time? We have a choice in three weeks’ time: are we going to be selfish and grab the opportunity of less tax or be brave and think of this manifesto and think of others so that people might actually see the Good News in action?” he asked.

Connecting the Good News and today’s news, newspapers were handed out to the congregation who selected prayer points which were then pasted onto a banner. Leading the prayers, the Revd Abigail Sines, who organised

the service along with the Revd Eugene Griffin and the Revd Alan Breen, urged people to be guided in their prayer by what they read in the newspapers. Prayers were said using the topics on the banner by local nuns who also prayed for unity and strength throughout the Christian world.

The service was brought to a close by Archbishop Michael Jackson who said that the afternoon's theme drew together the inspiration of Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit, Heaven and earth and the Great Commission. He asked God's blessing on the people of Tallaght.

The next service takes place in the Church of St John the Baptist in Clontarf on Saturday March 12 at 6.30 pm. Come&C how the theme of 'To teach, baptise and nurture new believers' is worked out in the context of the parish community there.

Film shows abuse parallels between Boston and Dublin

There are clear parallels between the child abuse depicted in the award winning film *Spotlight* in Boston and what occurred in Ireland, according to the Archbishop of Dublin, Dr Diarmuid Martin.



“The same unwillingness to address the problems emerged. The same situation in which defending the Church, looking after the priest took precedence over the child,” Archbishop Martin told Marian Finnucane on *RTE 1* radio.

Spotlight, tells the true story of the investigation by the Boston Globe’s Spotlight team, into clerical child sexual abuse in the Boston area in 2002.

The paper published 13 reports about the crimes and their cover-up from June to December 2002 leading to the resignation of Cardinal Law as archbishop of Boston in December 2002.

It went on general release in Ireland at the end of January.

Dr Martin said a survivor of sexual abuse once told him, “You know this thing is like having a hand grenade in your heart. You are doing great and then suddenly it goes off – something happens, something turns up.”

Survivors are going to have that experience watching *Spotlight*, said the Archbishop, “The whole thing is going to come back into their lives again and its very important that counselling services are available.”

He said media outlets should have notices advising people upset by the subject matter of the movie, of where they can get help.

Much progress had been made in Dublin relating to clerical child abuse, he said, but nonetheless one abuser had slipped through the net.

“That frightens me because the sexual abuser was active in my diocese when I was archbishop and it wasn’t seen, it wasn’t discovered and it was appalling abuse as well,” he said.

They reported the man to the Gardaí and he has already been sentenced to over seven years for his first offence.

“So you can imagine how horrendous that was. That particular survivor was a very nice person. He’s a very talented young man,” he added.

Archbishop Martin said the Church could never become complacent on child protection.

The lay people working as child protection representatives can’t be tempted when nothing happens in their parishes over a number of years to say, “Look let’s stand back.”

Ahoghill Parish Knotty Knitters

Members of the Knotty Knitters, a newly formed knitting club at St Colmanell’s parish, Ahoghill, have been busy knitting hats and scarves for the Mission to Seafarers and Twiddle Mitts for patients with dementia.

The mitts provide something patients can hold and ‘twiddle’ with, helping to reduce anxiety and promote calm. They are simple knitted cuffs to which a range of items, including ribbons, buttons or beads, can be stitched, providing activity for patients.

The Knotty Knitters recently raised £2,000 through knitting for the parish building fund.



Twiddle mitts which help ease anxiety for dementia patients.

If anyone would like more information on the twiddle mitts please contact the rector, the Rev Gary Millar, who admits he doesn't actually know how to make them, but would pass the query on to one of the Knotty Knitters who certainly do!

Methodist and C of I joint ministry at The Hub at Queen's

Since 2010, the C. of I. and Methodist denominations have worked together out the premises on Elmwood Avenue where the Hub Cafe is open daily during term-time and the



The Archbishop of Canterbury, the Most Rev Justin Welby with Methodist President, the Rev Brian Anderson, at a reception in 'the Hub' prior to this year's Church of Ireland Theological Lecture at Queen's, where the Archbishop spoke on the subject of reconciliation.

chaplaincy is home to around 50 students. The Church of the Resurrection, the chapel of the Hub community, is attended by families, young people and students from the surrounding area.

In October 2016, the Church of the Resurrection – now a Covenant church – will mark its 50th birthday and 'Friends of the Chaplaincy' reunions are being planned.

Fundraising for a major redevelopment project is also under way. Further information is available from www.thehubbelfast.org/reunions

Holiday opportunity for single parent families

Care for the Family is hosting a special holiday for single parents and their children in Co. Fermanagh this summer. If you are parenting alone and still have no plans for holidays and looking for something with a difference then we would love to hear from you.

The *Take a Break* holiday will take place from Sunday 24 July – Saturday 30 July 2016 at Roscor Youth Village outside Enniskillen.

The organisers state : “We can promise you plenty of new, exciting activities to do together, the prospect of making new friends and the opportunity to have fun as a family among other single parent families.

“Many of the families who have been on *Take a Break* say that it is the best holiday they have ever had.



“This holiday provides a unique opportunity to visit one of the most beautiful parts of rural Northern Ireland. The centre sits on an 8 acre site overlooking Lower Lough Erne and below the cliffs of Magho. During the week, you will have the opportunity to enjoy a host of outdoor activities including water sports, archery, zip wire and a trip to the beach.

“For further information please visit [our website](#) for all the details.”

Young people have their say on priorities of Methodist Church in Britain

- Young people have had [their say](#) on their priorities for the Methodist Church

- Poverty, the environment, bullying and the refugee crisis among top concerns
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Young Methodists from across the country have taken the opportunity to share their priorities and passions for their Church, highlighted for the very first time in three new 'manifesto' documents.

Following research undertaken at the Methodist Children's and Youth Assembly, 3 Generate, three manifestos outlining the foci of the different age groups have been [published online](#). This new venture is intended to raise the voices of the young people of the Church and highlight the real and varied concerns close to their hearts.

Split into the three age group tiers of the assembly - 8-11s, 11-18s and 18-23s - the manifestos highlight many different issues important to young Methodists including: the environment, poverty, bullying, disability accessibility and the refugee crisis.

Craig Gaffney, Youth President of the Methodist Church added: "These statements are essential reading for all Methodists across the Connexion. It is vital that everyone in the Church engages with the voice of young people and the topics close to their hearts. All of the issues raised

should be important to the whole Church and its membership and should be a regular focus for any Christian living out their faith."

Craig continued: "It's so encouraging to see that the young people of the Methodist Church are so passionate about social and global issues. I am proud to be part of a Church where even our youngest members have a heart for those in need."

Walsingham shrine receives £4 million donation

The Catholic National Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham has announced it has received a donation of £4 million for its building development fund.

The shrine is currently attempting to raise £6 million to improve its facilities, with plans including the development of upgraded pilgrim accommodation, new accommodation for the disabled, a retreat centre and a wet weather cloister.

Speaking on Monday at Walsingham's Chapel of Reconciliation, Mgr John Armitage, the rector of

the shrine, revealed the donation, saying that “in a very short period of time great things can happen.”

“When I left on December 28 for my holidays I did not expect when I came back I would bring £4 million towards the building fund,” he said.

“We have been greatly blessed that a donor has given to the building fund this remarkable sum of money. So let’s give thanks to this great generosity of this particular donor.”

He added that the donation means there is £1.6 million left to raise towards the building fund

“It is a great blessing on the shrine and please pray for the donor who is very sick at the moment,” Mgr Armitage said.

The shrine is also seeking to raise a separate £4 million to develop its work.

News links to reports on faith, politics and education

Four integrated schools opt for academic selection in defiance of Northern Ireland Education Minister O'Dowd

Belfast Telegraph

<http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/northern-ireland/four-integrated-schools-opt-for-academic-selection-in-defiance-of-northern-ireland-education-minister-odowd-34446587.html>

Twelve NI schools to share £35m building fund

BBC

Twelve schools across Northern Ireland are to share a £35m fund to build new facilities or to improve their existing buildings.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-35556564>

Less than 2 per cent of Catholic primary schools are oversubscribed

The Irish Catholic

Of the 3,200 schools, 2,900 are run by the Catholic Church, which means 580 ... preparatory schools", most of which are Catholic or **Church of Ireland**.

<http://www.irishcatholic.ie/article/less-2-catholic-primary-schools-are-oversubscribed-%E2%80%93-survey>

Clerical concern over access to Easter Sunday services in Dublin

Irish Times

Irish clergy, including Archbishop Michael Jackson, are to meet in Dublin on Friday to discuss ways to address difficulties in accessing ...

<http://www.irishtimes.com/news/social-affairs/religion-and-beliefs/clerical-concern-over-access-to-easter-sunday-services-in-dublin-1.2531568>

Mandatory reporting of abuse 'very clear' says Catholic Church

Irish Times

All allegations of clerical child sexual abuse on the island of **Ireland** must be reported to civil authorities, said Catholic **Church** representatives.

<http://www.irishtimes.com/news/social-affairs/religion-and-beliefs/mandatory-reporting-of-abuse-very-clear-says-catholic-church-1.2531663>

Archbishop Diarmaid Martin: report every clerical abuse claim to gardai

Irish Examiner

<http://www.irishexaminer.com/ireland/archbishop-diarmuid-martin-report-every-clerical-abuse-claim-to-gardai-381442.html>

1916/2016: A miscellany

Irish Times

The **Church of Ireland** Historical Centenaries Working Group will mark the Rising centenary of the Easter Rising with an evening of presentations, ...

<http://www.irishtimes.com/news/ireland/irish-news/1916-2016-a-miscellany-1.2531596>

Ind

Report on the CofE's [Psalm 22 project](#) which features five stories of people who found faith at a homeless centre with a series of short films for Lent and Easter. Most have experienced crime, alcohol, drug addiction, homelessness or violence in their lives. Psalm 22 follows on from the CofEs "Lord's Prayer" campaign which was

banned by cinemas before Christmas and promotes the justpray.uk website. The Revd Arun Arora, Director of Communications at the Archbishops' Council is quoted. <http://www.independent.co.uk/life-style/gadgets-and-tech/church-of-england-turns-to-youtube-after-cinema-ads-were-banned-a6868361.html>

BBC/Premier

Report that Dr Sue Proctor is to chair a panel looking into the treatment of former residents at the CofEs children's home, Kendall House in Gravesend. Dr Proctor led inquiries into sex abuse by Jimmy Savile at Leeds General Infirmary. [The Kendall House review](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-kent-35548415) has been set up by the Bishop of Rochester James Langstaff as a result of concerns raised by former residents. Bishop James is quoted.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-kent-35548415>
<http://www.premier.org.uk/News/UK/Ex-residents-of-Church-care-home-settle-legal-claims-over-treatment>

Christian Today

Report that theological college Wycliffe Hall in Oxford has invited the Revd Professor Martyn Percy, Dean of Christ Church, Oxford - the City's Cathedral, to preach in its Chapel. Revd Percy is described as a liberal supporter of gay rights in and outside the Church and the invitation has critically received in social media by some Evangelical Christians. The Revd Dr Michael Lloyd, Principal of Wycliffe Hall is quoted in the report.

Comment

Mail online: Peter Hitchens makes a link between recent statements from Metropolitan Police Commissioner Sir Bernard Hogan Howe on the anonymity of suspects in

abuse cases and the statement by Sussex police concerning the former bishop, George Bell.

<http://hitchensblog.mailonsunday.co.uk/2016/02/actually-sir-bernard-hogan-howe-probably-shouldnt-apologise-publicly-to-lord-bramall.html>

Mail

Further report on comments made [in a lecture on Tuesday](#) given by the Archbishop of Canterbury who said that Britain must confront its historic responsibility for conflict in the Middle East.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3441584/Colonialism-inspired-ISIS-extremists-says-Welby-Archbishop-Canterbury-use-lecture-says-Britain-face-responsibility-conflict-Middle-East.html>

BBC

Video report on the St Anselm Community based at Lambeth Palace, a group of 36 young people who have been living together as part of a quasi-monastic community since September 2015. They come from many different Christian denominations, from around the globe.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/magazine-35544527>

Tel

Relaxing Sunday trading laws will hit working mothers and shows that the government is siding with "big business" over communities, the CofE has warned. In its response to a government consultation on the changes the Church said ministers had "failed to provide any new evidence" to support their reforms. The Bishop of St Albans, Alan Smith, said extending opening hours on

Sundays would "exacerbate" the decline in time that people spend together seen in recent years.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/journalists/ben-riley-smith/12151167/Relaxing-Sunday-trading-laws-will-hurt-working-mothers-Church-of-England-warns.html>

FT (Weds)

Report that trustees of the parliamentary pension fund are coming under pressure to improve disclosure after refusing to give MPs detailed information about the fund's investments. Article includes ref to the Church of England's commitment to reduce investment in fossil fuel companies and also how it was embarrassed by its investments in Wonga three years ago when the Archbishop of Canterbury had spoken out against payday lenders.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/91299538-cf16-11e5-92a1-c5e23ef99c77.html#axzz3zqlTNhEu>

Premier

A new campaign has been launched encouraging Christians to change to an electricity supplier who only uses renewable energy. The Big Church Switch has been created by Christian Aid and Tearfund and will invite hundreds of thousands of Christians to switch energy suppliers.

<http://www.premier.org.uk/News/UK/Christians-urged-to-switch-to-greener-energy-providers>

Even Stand

The Prince of Wales has held discussions with a group of Hindus, Muslims, Sikhs and Christians at St John's church in Southall before meeting some of the congregation. The Revd Mark Poulson, the Archbishop of

Canterbury's adviser for inter-religious affairs, chaired the meeting. He was the vicar at St John's for 12 years until his wife the Revd Anna Poulson took over the parish.

<http://www.standard.co.uk/news/london/prince-charles-holds-talks-with-community-leaders-from-different-religions-who-stood-arm-in-arm-a3177556.html>

Ind

Practicing Christians are now a "minority" in the UK, two of the country's leading Anglican and Catholic figures have said. The Bishop of London, Richard Chartres, and Cardinal Vincent Nichols, the leader of the Catholic Church in England and Wales, compared the state of modern day Christianity to persecuted Catholics during the Reformation. Speaking at a unique service in the Chapel Royal at Hampton Court Palace, Cardinal Nichols said Catholics now existed as a "significant minority" in British life, while Bishop Chartres said, "We are all minorities now".

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/christians-now-a-minority-in-uk-like-roman-catholics-at-reformation-say-leading-clerics-a6865471.html>

TES

Michael Bailey, head of St Peter's Church of England Primary in Leicestershire, has launched a petition calling on Education Secretary, Nicky Morgan, to sit Key Stage Two tests so she can understand how difficult they are.

<https://www.tes.com/news/school-news/breaking-news/one-heads-challenge-nicky-morgan-take-new-sats-and-lets-see-if-you>

Times

Dan Walker has been announced as the new presenter on BBC Breakfast. Mr Walker, a devout Christian and son of a Baptist preacher insists on taking Sundays off to practise his faith, is also a creationist, as confirmed by his spokeswoman last night.

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/medianews/article4688035.ece>

Ind

Report that the Catholic Church is telling newly appointed bishops it is "not necessarily" their duty to report accusations of clerical child abuse to authorities. A document explaining how senior clergy members ought to deal with allegations of abuse suggests only victims or their families should make the decision to report abuse to police.

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/europe/bishops-do-not-have-to-report-child-abuse-vatican-says-a6866061.html>

Guard

Two women have abseiled from a motorway bridge and unfurl banner as backlash grows against Australian government's plans to relocate 267 asylum seekers back to the remote island of Nauru. The three hour protest ended peacefully when the women abseiled to the ground. Ten Anglican and other Christian leaders have defied the government, invoking ancient right of sanctuary in offering their churches as refuges for those facing removal to Nauru.

<http://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2016/feb/11/protesters-with-let-them-stay-banner-hang-over-melbourne-freeway>

Tel

An explanation of Ash Wednesday, its customs and how it is fixed by the date of Easter. The article notes Archbishop Justin's discussions with other Christian leaders about the possibility of fixing the date of Easter.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/religion/12150264/Ash-Wednesday-2016-beginning-Lent-why-give-things-up.html>

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