



***A re-enactor at the 'Lives Remembered' exhibition held last year in St Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin***

## **Hidden Pages - Cathedral seminar on unseen archives on World War 1**

In a novel partnership with the Irish Society for Archives, Saint Patrick's Cathedral has announced that it is holding a free seminar on

hitherto unseen archives relating to World War One.

Entitled 'Hidden Pages from World War One' the event takes place in St Patrick's Cathedral on Tuesday February 3 at 7.00 pm. It will explore previously unknown archival sources on soldiers and civilians. Curators representing a variety of national projects and exhibitions will present short papers on sources which they have uncovered through their work.

This event is free of charge and no booking is required in order to attend. It will take place in the Lady Chapel of Saint Patrick's Cathedral. The evening will begin with a short reception in the 'Lives Remembered' exhibition in the North Transept of the building. RTE news anchor Bryan Dobson will chair the proceedings which will commence at 7.30 pm.

Speakers at this event will include:

Nicky Ralston, National Library of Ireland, Curator of Ireland and WW1 exhibition who will give a talk entitled 'Meeting Michael O'Leary'. This will focus on the way in which the National Library of Ireland uncovered the extraordinary story of Michael O'Leary's award of the VC

through the NLI's collection of newspapers and periodicals.



Noelle Dowling, Catholic Diocesan Archives Dublin will give a paper entitled 'From Templemore to the Rue de Bois: the Fr Francis Gleeson collection'. This will focus on Fr Gleeson's collection of diaries, brigade roll books and correspondence, some of which have been digitized and highly publicised in recent months.

Andrew Whiteside, Archivist, Kilkenny College will talk on 'Jack Salter of Skibbereen' This paper will explore the mystery of a past pupil reported to have been killed in action on the first day of the Battle of the Somme.

Susan Hood, Representative Church Body Library will give a talk on 'Finding letters from the Western Front: a Church of Ireland parish story'. This will focus on the 10

letters written to the rector of Dundela parish in East Belfast found in a tea chest and subsequent efforts to find out more about the men who wrote them.

Andrew Smith, Education Officer of St Patrick's Cathedral will speak on 'Lives Remembered at Saint Patrick's Cathedral'. This talk will provide an overview of exhibition and the various contributions made by St Patrick's to remember lives lost and affected by war.

The Dean of St Patrick's Cathedral, the Very Revd Victor Stacey said he was delighted that the cathedral was partnering with the Irish Society of Archives in organising the event. "Irish participation in World War One has traditionally been a subject area which has been neglected by historians and scholars and any new archives or sources which help to bring understanding and clarity to this episode in Irish history is to be welcomed," he said.

Kerry Houston, Honorary Treasurer of the Irish Society of Archives said that the seminar focused on the ideas and memories that are encapsulated in the 'Lives Remembered' Exhibition in the North Transept of the cathedral.

"Memory of war and conflict is a constant thread through Irish history and we hope that this evening's talks and viewing of the exhibition will make us all rethink how we remember and how memory of violent acts can be transformed from negative and static memories to new ways of finding peace, justice, reconciliation and mutual understanding," he stated.

## **Strong opposition to assisted dying bill at Belfast conference**

The highly emotive subject of assisted dying is one of the most complex and sensitive issues facing society today, a major church conference in Belfast has heard.

News Letter - Academics and church leaders were debating Living and Dying Well at the Presbyterian Assembly building as pressure groups continue to press for a change in the law.

In a recent letter published in the national press around 80 doctors, clerics, politicians and writers claimed an “overwhelming majority” of the public now support a change in the law.

Signatories included Lord Carey, the former Archbishop of Canterbury. They argue that Britain is “closer than ever” to a historic change after progress of a bill tabled by Lord Falconer in the House of Lords.

Principal speakers at Thursday's Church in the Public Square event included Baroness Finlay of Llandaff, chair of an all-party group at Parliament examining the issue, ethics expert Professor

John Wyatt from University College London and Robert Preston of the think-tank Living and Dying Well.

One estimate puts the number of suicides involving terminally ill people in Britain each year at 330.

Lord Falconer has said that for some terminally ill patients a “limited” change was needed to the law to give people choice.

One of those opposed is Lord Tebbit who said such a new law would create “too much of a financial incentive for the taking of life”.

Speaking to the News Letter, Robert Preston said the Living and Dying Well grouping “works to examine the objective evidence surrounding the controversial end-of-life debate”.

Mr Preston said: “You can’t sustain a case for changing the law.”

However, he said: “I think that it may well happen one of these days, but probably not in the immediate future, because we live in a society that is focussed on choice ... but doesn’t always recognise that choice for some means risk for

others. We have to think of the majority of vulnerable people.”

Mr Preston added: “Take Oregon, one of three US states to make laws like this research has shown that, of a sample of deaths of people who have taken lethal drugs supplied by doctors, one-in-six had been suffering from clinical depression that hadn’t been diagnosed. It’s too late then – they had died.”

Commenting on the prospect of pressure being put on terminally ill people to end their own lives if the law was changed, Mr Preston added: “A law like this sends the message that if you are terminally ill, this is perhaps something you should be considering.”

Professor Stafford Carson, principal of the Presbyterian Church’s Union Theological College who organised the conference, said: “End of life issues raise significant theological, ethical, legal and pastoral issues for all of us, especially legislator, those in the legal, medical and caring professions and, of course, for those individuals who are directly affected.”

The British Medical Journal has expressed its support for a change in the law. It said: “It’s the right thing to do, and most people want it.”

The influential publication also explained how Lord Falconer's bill would work in practice.

"The bill would allow adults who are expected to live six months or less to be provided with assistance to end their lives.

"Two doctors must be satisfied that the person is terminally ill, has the capacity to make the decision to end his or her life, and has a clear and settled intention to do so. This decision must have been reached voluntarily on an informed basis and without coercion or duress."

Following his bill failing to make further progress in the Lords last week, Lord Falconer conceded it would not become law this Parliament.

But he hailed a vote on its provisions as an "overwhelming vote in favour of assisted dying".

Although it would not be voted on in the Commons in the near future, he said there was time for it to make further progress in the Lords.

## **Home Mission The Possibilities - C of I evangelical meeting**

Revd Dr Maurice Elliott, Director of the Church of Ireland Theological Institute will be the speaker at The Church of Ireland Evangelical Fellowship's open meeting on 'Home Mission The Possibilities' on Thursday 29 January at 7.45 pm

at St Nicholas Parish Hall, 3 Lancasterian Street,  
Carrickfergus, BT38 7AB



***Left - Rev Dr Maurice Elliott***

The Fellowship's publicity states - "In church life there can always be the tension of Maintenance versus Mission. In a context of declining congregations, growing personal commitments, as well as, structural and financial constraints, it can be very difficult to see how a Church can live up to becoming more intentionally missional. There is also the difficulty of knowing what it actually means to be more missional. How might our being more missional change how it is that we serve as a church in a local context?"

“Revd Dr Maurice Elliott is the Director of the Church of Ireland Theological Institute. In recent years, there has been considerable change in the way that Ordinands and Diocesan Readers are being trained. A guiding principle behind these changes has been the mission of the Church in the current and future generations. Prior to his current appointment, Maurice has served in Parish Ministry in Coleraine, Greenisland and Lurgan. Through experience, learning and thought, he has much to share with us as we seek to paint a picture of the Church that is more fully motivated for the task of mission.”

For further information, please contact Malcolm Kingston, tel: (028) 3752 2970

## **Christian Vision for Men - Ulster Rugby Tour**

Ulster Rugby has a number of key Christian players, and on Tuesday 24 March in Holywood Parish, Paul Marshall, Ruan Pienaar and Franco Van Der Merwe will talk about all things rugby and share their life changing stories. However it's so much more than one night.



**CVM**  
CHRISTIAN VISION FOR MEN

# Ulster Rugby Tour

mission 2015  
**for you**

Join Ulster Rugby players;  
**Paul Marshall, Ruan Pienaar & Franco Van Der Merwe**  
as they talk all things rugby and share their **life changing stories**

**Tuesday 24 March 2015 - 7:30pm**  
**Hollywood Parish Church**  
71 Church Road, Hollywood, North Down BT18 9BX

**Admission FREE**  
Doors open at 6:45pm - arrive early to avoid disappointment!  
For more info t: 028 9045 7379 e: [ireland@cvm.org.uk](mailto:ireland@cvm.org.uk)

In partnership with  
DIOCESE of  
Down & Dromore

  **CVMireland** [cvm.org.uk/ireland](http://cvm.org.uk/ireland)

CVM: connecting men to Jesus and the church to men CVM Office, 276 Ravenhill Road, Belfast BT6 8GL  
CVM is a registered charity in England and Wales (No.1071663) and Scotland (No. SC043446) and a company limited by guarantee (No.3623498)

Ulster Rugby has given CVM - Christian Vision for Men - a special discount rate for the game on

27 February (Ulster vs Scarlets, kick-off 7.35 pm). This is a chance to bring someone to a match before inviting them to hear the players' stories in March.

An information evening on this initiative is being held on 29 January at 8.00 pm in Holywood Parish Church. Congregations are encouraged to send a representative from to an information evening on Thursday 29 January at 8.00 pm in Holywood Parish.

This is the 3rd season of the 'Rugby Tour' and over 8 events in the province of Ulster over 8000 men, young boys (and even a few ladies) have been reached. So far over 80 men have come to faith.

## **Billy Parish Church 200th anniversary year**

Billy Parish in Bushmills celebrates its 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year. The parish has existed since the Norman Conquest, but the current church was built in 1815 and the ruins of the former church can be seen in the old graveyard.

The earliest record of Billy goes back to 1305 with the taxation of Pope Nicholas IV when the

parish was valued at £36, a high valuation suggesting the parish was large and prosperous.

The list of rectors and vicars can be traced to 1428 when John Mieltrim resided in Billy. In former times Billy was one of the largest parishes in Co Antrim covering the areas of Dunseverick, Ballintoy and Rathlin before those parishes were carved out.

Today Billy's claim to fame is that the parish includes Northern Ireland's only World Heritage Site, the Giants Causeway, as well as 29 other townlands.

The parish church is typical of its age, three bays long with y-traceried windows. The bell tower is a prominent landmark with its pinnacles and battlements. The chancel and sanctuary were added in 1890 and have three fine stained glass windows by Michael Healy, the pioneering Irish artist whose work is highly regarded.

Several events are planned to mark the 200<sup>th</sup> year in the life of the parish church, and the first is a special service on Mothering Sunday (March 15) when the Bishop of Connor, the Rt Rev Alan Abernethy, will celebrate with the congregation. The service begins at 11am and all welcome.

A wedding dress festival is planned for September to coincide with the European Heritage Open weekend (September 12-13), and the year will end with a Christmas tree festival in December.

The church has just been redecorated internally, and all are very welcome to come and visit. Worship is at 10.30am on Sundays.

## **Archbishop Welby visits New York to speak on economic inequality**



The Archbishop of Canterbury has been in New York for a series of events on economic inequality and the common good convened by Trinity Church Wall Street.

On Wednesday evening Archbishop Justin spoke to a group of young seminarians and college

students who had gathered in Downtown New York to reflect on the common good.

On Thursday morning he spoke on the same theme to faith, government and business leaders at an off-record breakfast roundtable at St Paul's Chapel, part of the parish of Trinity Wall Street.

Afterwards he went to St Paul's churchyard to ring the Bell of Hope, which the Mayor of London presented to New York City on the first anniversary of 9/11. The bell is rung when world events call for solidarity with victims of terrorism:

The Rector of Trinity Wall Street, the French and Nigerian Consul Generals in New York, and Archbishop Justin each rung the bell five times. The Archbishop then led the assembled crowd in a prayer for those in France and Nigeria who have suffered recent atrocities.

On Thursday evening Archbishop Justin preached at Evensong at Trinity Church, and yesterday he spoke at the [Trinity Institute 2015 conference on 'Creating the Common Good'](#), addressing the question: Is Inequality Sinful?

## Church of England makes history with online pastor role

The Church of England's Lichfield Diocese has broken new ground by advertising for a lay or ordained diocesan pastor to connect and support people *online*.

According to Bishop of Stafford Geoff Annas the Diocesan Online Pastor is "a brave new role" with a focus on enabling teenagers and young people to "build up and nurture each other in the Christian faith".

Speaking on the Church of England's [weekly podcast](#) Bishop Annas stressed that while it was "not a substitute for face-to-face contact" the role would help the church meet needs that young people had and that weren't currently being met.

"The emphasis is about how [young people] can better join in in their churches, but it's also about keeping them aware of what's going on in other churches," he said.

"A lot of young people nowadays don't see themselves even in denominational terms they

see themselves as young Christians and the way they live out their faith is very different from traditional ways. It's all part of reimagining of what it means to be 'church' in the coming years.

"I think where we've got problems is that young people see church in a totally different way. We're not going to get them to sign up to endless meetings...the Church of England particularly is at an interesting moment. It's at a turning point."

Archdeacon of Stoke on Trent Matthew Parker told the Church of England's Jillian Moody that success in this role "will look like more of our young people feeling that they are involved, connected. Relating not just to one another, not just to the wider church, but ultimately relating to God in a way that feels appropriate to them and speaks to where they are."

The job description (which can be found [here](#)) states, "To reach new generations we recognise that we must learn to relate more effectively to the world and the experience of young people and young adults. Increasingly, this generation inhabits a virtual environment sustained by an array of social media applications and digital devices".

It cited recent research that found that adults in Britain spend more time in each day using devices than they do sleeping. Those aged 16-24, doing more than one task at

a time, squeeze 14 hours and 7 minutes of media activity into each day, in just over 9 hours.

The job advert continues, "If Christian mission requires a commitment to going where people are and speaking the language they speak, then we cannot afford not to have a focussed and engaged online presence if we wish to reach new generations with the gospel."

This is not the first time an Anglican has been appointed exclusively for an online ministry - the Revd Mark Brown was ordained to a digital ministry by the Anglican Church of Australia more than a decade ago and, among other things, set up an Anglican Cathedral in the online virtual world *Second Life*.

Nevertheless, this is thought to be the first time a Church of England diocese will appoint someone specifically to a ministerial role that puts the digital space, and young people, at its heart.

## **Presiding Bishop leads interfaith pilgrimage to Holy Land**

The Presiding Bishop of the US Episcopal Church, Katharine Jefferts Schori, is currently leading an Interfaith Abrahamic Pilgrimage to the Holy Land. The pilgrimage is in response to a resolution approved at General Convention 2012, recommending the interfaith pilgrimage.



Presiding Bishop Jefferts Schori recently noted to Executive Council that this resolution “asked me to develop an interfaith pilgrimage to the Holy Land, with equal representation of Episcopalians, Jews, and Muslims, to model and encourage similar efforts and dialogues by others.”

The Presiding Bishop is joined in leadership of the pilgrimage by Rabbi Steve Gutow, President and CEO of the [Jewish Council on Public Affairs](#), New York City, and a trustee of Faith in Public Life; Dr. Sayyid M. Syeed, National Director for the Office for Interfaith and Community Alliances for the Islamic Society of North America ([ISNA](#)); and their respective delegates. The Episcopal

Church delegation includes Bishop Prince Singh of the Episcopal Diocese of [Rochester](#) and the Rev. John E. Kitagawa, Rector of [St. Philip's in-the-Hills](#), Tucson, AZ.

## **Christian Aid supporting thousands hit by catastrophic Malawi floods**

Christian Aid is providing emergency assistance to deluged communities in Malawi, in the aftermath of the worst floods the country has seen in nearly two decades.

More than 630,000 people have been affected, with 120,000 of these displaced by the torrential rain and flooding that hit the country's southern districts a week ago, washing away homes, livestock, crops and roads.

Christian Aid partners are working to provide 40,000 people in Nsanje and Chikwawa districts with access to clean water, toilets facilities and temporary shelter.

Existing water sources such as boreholes and wells have been damaged or swept away, as have many public and household latrines. There are growing fears that the few remaining water sources could become contaminated, leaving

communities exposed to the threat of water-borne diseases such as cholera.

Christian Aid partners will be building 50 latrines, distributing 1,800 water purification tablets and jerry-cans, and constructing or rehabilitating 200 emergency sanitation facilities – including water points – in the most vulnerable areas over the coming weeks.

As many homes have been destroyed, 1,800 tarpaulins will be distributed to provide emergency shelter for up to 9,000 people. Partners will also hand out 850 insecticide-treated mosquito nets, particularly targeting pregnant mothers and children under five. In addition 4,000 families will receive kits containing essential household and hygiene items.

Christian Aid's Malawi Country Manager, MacDuff Phiri, described the floods as "catastrophic". He said: "The impact has been huge. The majority of people here live on less than US\$1 a day, and everything they own has been washed away. It means they need to rebuild their lives, which isn't going to be easy. Some people might be able to recover completely; others will not be able to do so. As a result, poverty levels will deepen in some areas."

He continued: "Countries like Malawi are very susceptible to malaria. Lots of rain means more mosquitoes breeding, and more mosquitos breeding means more malaria. There is also a risk of water-borne diseases such as cholera and diarrhoea, which could kill more people than the floods themselves. That's why one priority for Christian Aid is to distribute insecticide-treated nets and water treatment supplies to enable people to collect safe water."

Malawi is among the world's poorest countries and one of the most densely populated in Africa. It depends largely on agriculture, which accounts for more than a third of its GDP. However, the majority of households in the affected districts lost their food reserves in the floods. An estimated 7,000 hectares of crops in Chikwawa and a further 8,000 hectares in Nsanje were completely destroyed.

The disaster will perpetuate livelihood and food insecurity in farming communities. Mr Phiri said: "Many people's gardens and fields have been washed away. Others will have to wait for the water to subside before they can plant again. The challenge is that not everybody will have access to seeds. The lack of food could lead to high levels of malnutrition, especially in children, over the coming months."

The World Food Programme is providing food to affected families, as the country had already been facing chronic food insecurity. Erratic weather patterns, unreliable rains,

prolonged dry spells, regular floods and droughts have made it difficult for farmers to harvest traditional food crops such as maize.

Many Christian Aid partners in Malawi have been working in the rural flood-hit communities for several years, helping families to develop and diversify their farming methods, and supporting communities to build their resilience to future climate-related disasters.

“In the communities where we’ve invested a lot over the last few years, we were seeing success stories,” says Mr Phiri. “Some of that investment has now been washed away. We moved so many steps forward and right now we’ve moved many steps back. Rebuilding this resilience will be a challenge, but it is critical.

“In Malawi the climate is changing, it is real, and people’s lives are being affected. Just imagine: everything they’ve worked on for the whole of their lives washed away in a moment. This catastrophe is a very clear example of the impact of climate change. It can happen at any point and any time. For people going through it, it’s real and for those of us on the ground serving these people, it’s real.”

The situation in the country is expected to worsen, with the Malawi Meteorological Department forecasting heavy rainfall until March.

**Media digest follows on next page -**

## **'The marble altar is completely disintegrated' - Investigation launched into blaze at Dublin church**

Garda have begun an investigation after a section of Salesian House on St Teresa's Road Crumlin, Dublin, was destroyed following the fire that set off an alarm in the building

[www.independent.ie/irish-news/news/the-marble-altar-is-completely-disintegrated-investigation-launched-into-blaze-at-dublin-church-30930015.html](http://www.independent.ie/irish-news/news/the-marble-altar-is-completely-disintegrated-investigation-launched-into-blaze-at-dublin-church-30930015.html)

## **Game of Thrones sculptor's sea god statue stolen from mountain**

Police say they are investigating the "religious aspect" of the theft of a six-foot sculpture of a Celtic sea god from a mountainside.

A six-foot statue of a Celtic sea god, created by a Game of Thrones sculptor, is stolen from a mountainside in County Londonderry.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-30934332>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-30919259>

Sculptor shocked after sea god statue stolen from mountain

<http://www.newsletter.co.uk/sculptor-shocked-after-sea-god-statue-stolen-from-mountain-1-6537426>

## **Dublin priest says archbishops remind him of the Housemartins**

A Dublin parish priest, rebuked by two Catholic archbishops last June for casting doubt on media reports that Fr [Michael Cleary](#) fathered children, has described their reaction “as disappointing to say the least”.

Fr Arthur O’Neill, administrator in Cabinteely, said Archbishop Diarmuid Martin of Dublin and the Catholic Primate Archbishop [Eamon Martin](#) reminded him of 1980s pop group the Housemartins.

[www.irishtimes.com/news/social-affairs/religion-and-beliefs/dublin-priest-says-archbishops-remind-him-of-the-housemartins-1.2076093?utm\\_source=dlvr.it&utm\\_medium=twitter](http://www.irishtimes.com/news/social-affairs/religion-and-beliefs/dublin-priest-says-archbishops-remind-him-of-the-housemartins-1.2076093?utm_source=dlvr.it&utm_medium=twitter)

## **'No future' for segregated teacher training in Northern Ireland**

N Ireland Conservatives reaction to cuts in St Mary’s and Stranmillis colleges budgets.

<http://www.niconservatives.com/news/no-future-segregated-teacher-training-northern-ireland>

**Tel/BBC**

Reports on the question of special arrangements over consecration of bishops with different views on the ordination of women in light of the forthcoming consecrations of Rev Libby Lane as Bishop of Stockport (first female bishop in the Church of England) and Rev Philip North as Bishop of Burnley (a traditionalist who voted against women bishops). In a statement released yesterday the Archbishop of York said: "Any suggestion that the arrangements proposed for the consecration of the Bishop of Burnley are influenced by a theology of 'taint' would be mistaken." He pointed out that he had already presided at the consecration of several traditionalist bishops in the past without objections, despite having ordained many women over the years. Dr Sentamu also said arrangements for Philip North's consecration as Bishop of Burnley were made at his suggestion, not at Philip North's request.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/religion/11363659/Sentamu-rejects-taint-claim-in-women-bishops-row.html>  
<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-30943009>

## **Mail**

Report that the Bishop of Liverpool, Paul Bayes, paid tribute to PC Neil Doyle, killed while off duty on a Christmas night out with colleagues after

being attacked in Liverpool city centre. The funeral will take place at Liverpool Parish Church in central Liverpool at 11.30am today. The couple were regular worshippers at the church and the funeral sermon will be given by the Rev Canon Robert Lewis, who presided at their wedding.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/wires/pa/article-2922664/Funeral-street-attack-officer.html#ixzz3PchJtUJ0>

## **BBC**

Report that charities and campaign groups have been "frightened" into curtailing their public work by a new lobbying law, ex-Bishop of Oxford, Lord Harries, has said following a report by a commission he chairs. The Lobbying Act tightened regulation on campaign spending during election periods. Article notes that the both the Church of England and Catholic church have taken legal advice and decided not to register.

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-30935367>

## **Tel**

Article on complaints from neighbours over noise from a church barn venue, which led to the church being handed a noise abatement notice. It says church leaders at St James the Great Church in Thorley, Hertfordshire (St Albans

diocese) have said they would investigate soundproofing for the Grade II-listed barn - called the St Barnabas Centre, which was converted from a pig barn in 1996 after a £1m endowment and is also where Sunday church services are held.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/law-and-order/11362535/Church-holding-rowdy-parties-is-told-to-keep-it-down-after-ding-dong-with-neighbours.html>

## **Tel**

Report that residents of Lindisfarne are objecting to plans to allow a small ecumenical retreat centre on the tiny island to build a new chapel. The Community of Aidan and Hilda has submitted a planning application to build a new space for prayer and services at its "Open Gate" guesthouse. But some residents are arguing the island - which has around 200 inhabitants - already has enough churches. The Rev Graham Booth, a guardian of the community, questioned how the island can have too many places of worship, given its famed links with Christianity.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/religion/11362781/Holy-in-name-but-not-in-nature-Holy-Island-residents-say-no-more-churches-please.html>