



***The Revd Peter Jackson is the Anglican chaplain in Nice***

## **Nice's chaplain tells BBC city "stunned" by lorry attack**

The chaplain of the Anglican Church in Nice has told BBC radio that the French city is stunned by [Thursday night's attack](#) which left 84 people dead and dozens more injured. But the Revd Peter

Jackson said Nice was resilient and would recover.

Father Peter told the *Today* programme that one of his church wardens saw the lorry crush people who had been watching a fireworks display to mark Bastille Day. He said it has been “highly traumatic” for her.

“Other people are just stunned,” he went on. “If you go to the site where so many people died, it is extraordinary – almost surreally quiet.”

Father Peter explained how the Church was providing comfort.

“I have met lots of people, I have been on the phone to them, emailed them. . . We do have our church open every day from eight o’clock in the morning to six o’clock at night. I go in and out of the church a lot during the day and you encounter people there, people coming to pray and also just to find somewhere quiet, a bit of sanctuary.”

Asked by reporter Sima Kotecha if Nice would recover, he said the people were resilient. He said older English-speakers were invoking the spirit of the Blitz during the Second World War –

“be brave and get on with it”. But he said others were talking of avoiding crowded places in future which he said was very sad.

## **Violence is not mindless says Bishop Chillingworth**

In a statement on Nice on the Scottish Episcopal Church site, Primus Chillingworth said:

*The heartfelt thoughts and prayers of people in Scotland and all over the world are with the people of Nice and France today. Once again it has been demonstrated that ruthless killers who care nothing for their own safety can in seconds kill, maim and destroy – and take away the well-being of those who find themselves witnesses to terrible events. Civilised societies invite us to come together, to enjoy and to celebrate. But we become hopelessly vulnerable as we do so.*

*It is also part of a civilised society that we should try to understand what gives rise to such barbarism – not to sympathise but to understand. Abhorrence numbs our minds. But unless we struggle to move beyond that abhorrence, we shall never grasp even the edges of what this means – and we shall never defeat it.*

*We hold in our prayers today those who have been bereaved and injured, members of the emergency services and medical staff. We also prayerfully hold in our hearts those who carry the responsibilities of political leadership. For they are responsible both for the safety of their citizens and for the protection of the values of our open societies*

Commenting further on this in his blog, Bishop David Chillingworth writes -

Always in these moments one struggles with an instinctive reaction which seeks to dehumanise those responsible. In effect, the horror is so great that it can only be contemplated and explained by saying that it is beyond explanation.

Hence the tendency during the years of violence in Northern Ireland to refer to 'mindless violence' when it was nothing of the kind. 'Mindless' could not possibly mean that the people who committed it were not responsible. Moreover the roots of such violence were plain to see in a deeply troubled society.

In his Orwell Lecture in 2015, Archbishop Rowan Williams criticised sections of the media for

‘dehumanising’ Islamic State. Instead, journalists should ‘attempt to understand our enemies’.

‘Somehow the obstinate attempt to make sense of those who are determined to make no sense of me is one of the things that divides civilisation from barbarism, faith from emptiness. You have to try.’

## **Vicar's daughter in No. 10**

Mrs May is a regular worshipper at St Andrew's, Sonning, her parish church. The Vicar, the Revd Jamie Taylor, said that the church was “something of a sanctuary” for Mrs May, whom he praised as a “hard-working and highly respected” member of the church family, and MP for Maidenhead, since 1997.

She and her husband, Philip May, are joint patrons of the parish-hall fund-raising appeal, and she also acts as patron of the Friends of St. Andrew's.

On behalf of the parish community, the Vicar congratulated Mrs May, “as she prepares to take up the daunting responsibilities before her”. He said: “I believe she is well-placed to lead our nation and to deliver a successful negotiation as



we leave the European Union. We pray weekly for Her Majesty and those set in authority under her, and that prayer will take on a little more significance for us at St Andrew's in the years ahead."

Mrs May grew up in an Oxfordshire vicarage: her father was the Revd Hubert Brasier, a priest who trained at Mirfield and was Chaplain of All Saints' Hospital, Eastbourne, when she was born, and subsequently Vicar of Enstone with Heythrop, and then Wheatley ([News, 8 July](#)). On launching her leadership bid, she said: "I grew up the daughter of a local vicar and the granddaughter

of a regimental sergeant major. Public service has been a part of who I am for as long as I can remember.”

The Acting Bishop of Oxford, the Rt Revd Colin Fletcher, also extended his congratulations and prayers to Mrs May “at such a critical time” for the UK, on Wednesday.

The Second Church Estates Commissioner, Caroline Spelman, who is the Conservative MP for Meriden and a member of the group Christians in Parliament, said that Mrs May “has spoken about how her faith shapes her personal and political outlook and I hope this continues to stand as a source of strength for her as she takes on the immense challenges ahead. She needs our prayers at this time, as do all in Government and politics.”

The executive director of the Conservative Christian Fellowship, Gareth Wallace, congratulated Mrs May on Wednesday, and said that she had “never shouted” about her Christian faith. “She wanted no public credit for attending a local church congregation, and stayed the length of the service, despite not having any speaking role.”

In an interview with the magazine *Third Way* in 2003, Mrs May said that her upbringing had taught her “the value of service to others . . . to make a difference in their lives.” She also said that her faith was “part of the background” of her politics.

“To me, the Christian faith is not just about the moral issues but about enabling people to be individuals, while recognising that ‘no man is an island.’ We are interlinked with others and have a role to play in giving service to others and improving (if you like) the common good by what we do.”

She was also supportive of church schools, which she said were popular, not only because they achieved “very good results”, but also because “there’s something else they offer children, which is an ethos for living, a belief in service to others, a way of life.”

## **Daughters of Charity praised for long service in Limerick**

Just days after the departure of the Dominican Order from Limerick City the Daughters of Charity departed the city last week.





***Sr Katherine Moore, Sr Francis Brouder, Sr Colette O'Loughlin and Sr Breege Fahy, the last four nuns to leave St Vincent's.***

The Daughters of Charity arrived in Limerick City 64 years ago in 1952 and in the intervening years the sisters and staff supported hundreds of people with disabilities and their families. Only four sisters remain at the Sisters convent and this week it was confirmed that Sr Kathleen Moore, Sr Breege Fahey, Sr Colette McLoughlin and Sr Francis Brouder are to leave their Lisnargy base on the outskirts of Limerick city.

Paying tribute Denis Cronin, CEO of the Daughters of Charity Disability Support Services told the *Limerick Leader* “If families needed support, they had few options locally and had to consider transferring their son or daughter for residential placement in large centres in Dublin or Cork – difficult places to visit in the 1950s.” He said that religious orders have played a huge role where the State has left a vacuum. He added “It is recognised that religious communities inspired by core Christian values stepped in to deliver where States failed to act.”

The Daughters of Charity, a French order came to post famine Ireland in 1855 – to serve the poor, destitute and abandoned. Over the following years, they were asked by local and national authorities to become involved in a variety of social services like care of the elderly, nursing, hospitals, children’s services and education.

“Over time supporting people with disabilities became one of their larger ministries,” said Mr Cronin. While the CEO recognises that some religious organisations have attracted heavy criticism over unjustifiable acts of neglect and abuse of people under their care, he said as a

society we had to “also recognise the great works that the majority of religious congregations did to support the less fortunate”.

“Certainly in Ireland during the 1940s and 1950s our fledgling state was more than happy to accept the support and services provided by the Daughters and others. In truth, the Governments of the day would not have been in a position to establish, organise, afford or manage the social services without the support of the volunteer religious orders at that time,” he added.

The four remaining sisters will now move to other Daughters of Charity Convents throughout the country.

## Cathedral and choral

**+++ Souls of the Slain exhibition at St Anne's Cathedral, Belfast** - Artist Eve Parnell travelled from Dublin to speak at the launch of her exhibition Souls of the Slain in St Anne's Cathedral, Belfast, on Thursday July 14.

The exhibition, which consists of a series of eight pencil drawings on tissue paper, commemorates the 2016 centenaries, and was first on display in the Long Gallery, Stormont, during June.



***Artist Eve Parnell at the launch of her Souls of the Slain art exhibition in St Anne's Cathedral.***

Eve was introduced by the Dean of Belfast, the Very Rev John Mann, who contributed a foreword in the exhibition catalogue.

In this, he described Eve's work as 'arresting.' "Her artistic conception of the Somme introduces motifs that produce resonances which on the one hand are restorative, but on the other, painful and heart-rending," the Dean wrote.

Eve explained that her use of pencil on tissue paper, a medium that is 'expendable and

sometimes overlooked' made her work very honest.

"I cannot make mistakes. If I do I have to start again. There is no hiding. There are no theatrics. The work is very honest and very bare," Eve said.

The focus of this exhibition is the Raven. Eve has looked at the experience of soldiers in the trenches in Europe and the Easter Rising, and created a response in the form of a series of drawings with selections from the poetry of Wilfred Owen, Patrick Pearse, Thomas Hardy, Rupert Brooke, Dora Sigerson Shorter and others."

Guests at the launch were welcomed with music played by 16-year-old Zoe McGarry on the Irish Harp.

Chorister Rachel Brady (18) sang Pie Jesu accompanied by Cathedral Organist Ian Barber.

The Souls of the Slain exhibition runs at St Anne's until early August during normal opening hours.

**+++ Lunch time concerts in St Mary's Cathedral, Limerick - Wednesday 20th July:**

Aisling Kenny (soprano), Judith Gannon (piano) - Including music by Schubert, Purcell, Quilter, Gurney and Mendelssohn. Wednesday 24th August: Peter Barley (organ) - Special recital for Heritage Week. Both concerts commence at 1.15 pm. Retiring collection.

### **+++ Summer Music at Sandford 2016 -**

continues on Friday at lunchtime when the recital will be given by David Tobin (violin) and Shirin Goudarzi–Toblin (piano). Each recital begins at 1.10pm and concludes at 1.50pm. Admission is free but donations in aid of the Sandford Organ Restoration Fund are welcome.

### **+++ William Carleton Summer School -**

Sunday 31st July – Opening of the 25th William Carleton Summer School in St Macartan's Cathedral, Clogher. Gemma Price on harp will perform the music of Thomas Moore. Diane Whittaker, the cathedral organist will also give a recital. Doors open 7.30pm.

## **News briefs**

### **+++ Macosquin clock strikes again -**

Refurbishment of the clock faces at St Mary's

Parish Church, Macosquin has been completed recently.

The clock dates back to 1899 when it was originally installed in memory of James Sinclair, a former parishioner, churchwarden and treasurer.

The latest restoration was carried out by Canavan Clockmakers of Lurgan using funds donated in memory of the late John McAllister, also a former parishioner and honorary secretary of the parish. For a number of years in the mid-90s, John had spent many long and cold hours up in the Church tower, painstakingly renovating and restoring the clock and rebuilding its striking mechanism.

The clock chimes had been silent for many years after the bell was removed in 1948 to be recast. Although the bell had been reinstalled and the clock itself kept time over the intervening half century, the striking mechanism had never been replaced and many of the parts had been taken away or simply lost.

**+++ Wedding Dress Festival** - Ballymoney parish is organising a Wedding Dress Festival in St Patrick's Church in September.

The festival will open on the Friday September 23 and visitors can view the dresses from 2pm-8pm. The festival continues on the Saturday from 11am-5pm and on the Sunday from 2pm-6pm. Cream teas will be available in the Old School House at £5 per person.

For bookings or further information please contact Roslyn Graham on 07776 401773 or email: [roslyngraham@talktalk.net](mailto:roslyngraham@talktalk.net).

**+++ Derry youth team at Lourdes** - Young people, all in Year 13, representing 14 schools and 31 parishes from the Diocese of Derry took part in the Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes led by Bishop Donal McKeown from 1st - 6th July 2016. The Youth Team participated in a full pilgrimage programme whilst also assisting pilgrims in wheelchairs, singing as part of the choir or reading during the ceremonies.

## **News links to reports on faith, politics and education**

### **Tel/Premier/Christian Today**

Articles on attack in Nice which killed 84 people, noting that Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin



Welby, took to twitter to ask people to pray, saying human evil has killed the innocent cruelly.  
<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2016/07/16/nice-terror-attack-truck-driver-who-killed-84-named-as-loner-fre/>  
<http://www.premier.org.uk/News/UK/Justin-Welby-deplores-human-evil-in-the-wake-of-Nice-attack>

## **FT**

Feature on the new Prime Minister, Theresa May, noting her sense of social justice and altruism was forged in an upbringing as the only child of an Anglican vicar in Oxfordshire.  
[http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/35f7d368-4906-11e6-8d68-72e9211e86ab.html?FTCamp=engage/CAP/webapp/Channel Moreover//B2B#axzz4EYkCbjez](http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/35f7d368-4906-11e6-8d68-72e9211e86ab.html?FTCamp=engage/CAP/webapp/Channel%20Moreover/B2B#axzz4EYkCbjez)

## **Times/BBC/Tel/D Star**

Times comment and BBC/Tel news on the new *Pokemon Go* app released in the UK this week noting that churches are cashing in on the game offering themselves as your local #pokestop on social media. *Times* notes concerns of NSPCC saying that the game, which uses GPS positioning alongside virtual gaming as players find animated creatures to catch, train and battle

with, could attract potential offenders. BBC includes comment from Tallie Proud, CofE's digital media officer (*see blog below*).

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/pok-mon-it-s-cruising-without-the-sex-65d6gzmmg>  
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-36806795> <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/gaming/what-to-play/how-the-world-went-pokemon-go-crazy---in-pictures/> <http://www.dailystar.co.uk/news/latest-news/530438/Pokemon-Go-players-fall-off-cliff-lost-cave-accidents-injuries-mobile-phone>

### **Christian Today**

Interview with Katherine Welby-Roberts focusing on her new blog *Walking Alongside* which aims to discuss faith, suffering and the church with contributions from ordained and lay people with experience of long term suffering and struggle.

### **Christian Today**

Report that Church leaders have offered unanimous opposition to the renewal of the UK's nuclear weapons ahead of a key House of Commons debate on Monday. Article notes that representatives from the Church of England, the Church of Scotland, the Catholic Church, the Baptist Union, the Methodist Church, the United Reform Church and the Quakers have all voiced

“their dismay in a resounding cry against nuclear weapons.”

## **BBC**

Report on anti-trident demonstrations across Scotland in advance of the Commons debate on whether to renew the nuclear deterrent. Article notes the attendance of former Moderator of the Church of Scotland Alan McDonald at one of the rallies.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-36814879>

## **Christian Today**

Report that conservative bishops in the Anglican Church of Canada have described the vote to allow same-sex marriage as a "fundamental departure" from the Church's teaching. In [a statement](#), the seven bishops warn of serious "complications" in relations with the Anglican Communion as a result.

## **BBC**

Report that an exhibition of 12 figures, illustrating the suffering of refugees, has opened at Chichester Cathedral. The set of sculptures called "Shadows of the Wanderer" by Brazilian artist

Ana Maria Pacheco is carved out of a single lime tree.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-sussex-36815768>

## **Pink News**

Report on statement made by General Synod member Andrea Williams, after this week's shared conversations on human sexuality for all Synod members.

<http://www.pinknews.co.uk/2016/07/16/church-of-england-synod-member-gay-christians-are-children-of-the-devil/>

## **Premier**

Report on yesterday's Follow16 event organised by the Central Readers Council (CRC), which is celebrating it's 150th anniversary and is dedicated to serving the more than 10,000 active Readers in the Church of England. Article includes comment from Mark Russell and Paula Gooder.

<http://www.premier.org.uk/News/UK/New-festival-celebrates-unpaid-church-workers>

## **Opinion - links**

**Andrew Brown** *The Guardian* [If the Conservative party's doing God again, what sort of God is it?](#)

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2016/jul/13/conservative-party-god-theresa-may-andrea-leadsom-stephen-crabb-christians>

**Giles Fraser** *The Guardian* [The agony and ecstasy of Saint Theresa, the vicar's daughter](#)

<://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/belief/2016/jul/14/the-agony-and-ecstasy-of-saint-theresa-the-vicars-daughter>

**Loretta Minghella**, CEO of Christian Aid gave the Inclusive Church lecture for 2016 at Liverpool Cathedral this week: [Does Poverty have a Woman's Face?](#). [48 minute video]  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oCmLx4PWhwo>

Language about or addressed to God should be derived from human experience, not just from men's experience, argues Prof **Adrian Thatcher**, a trustee of Modern Church, in a new booklet *Gender-Inclusive Language and Worship*. The 36-page booklet can be downloaded from [here](#),

<http://modernchurch.org.uk/downloads/finish/14-forewords/815-gender-inclusive-language-and-worship>

or purchased in hard copy from the [Modern Church](#) website.

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