



CNI



Priest from Banbridge comforts friends of dead and injured in Berkeley tragedy

A priest from the Diocese of Dromore has been supporting friends of those killed and injured in the Berkeley balcony tragedy.

Lurgan Mail - Fr Aidan McAleenan, who is from Banbridge, spent an emotional 24 hours with the bereaved and injured.

Fr McAleenan, who is now based at St Columba's Church near Berkeley, was saying his morning prayers when news of Monday night's accident filtered through at around 9am.

"I was getting texts from Ireland, from friends asking me if I had heard what happened," he said.

"Ireland heard the news before most of us woke up. Social media made a big difference.

"I contacted Father Brendan McBride who is based in an Irish pastoral centre funded by the Irish government and asked if there was anything I could do."

Three hospitals were dealing with the incident and Fr McAleenan was dispatched to the Walnut Creek hospital where two young people who were injured at the party were in surgery. One had a broken femur and the other a punctured lung.

"When I arrived there were nine young ones all from south Dublin," he said.

“They were just absolutely devastated. I had to tell one of the young men another person had died. His best friend.”

Fr McAleenan has now been based in the US for 28 years.

“I came out myself on a J1 visa myself,” he said. “I could not think of my own parents having to go through that.”

When it came to a young man who had lost two friends, he confessed: “I did not know what to say or do.”

Fr McAleenan said there was a wonderful sense of community and support at the hospital, which at times felt “more like a wake”.

“It was just amazing,” he said. “The people there could not have done enough.

“The young guys themselves, it was very hard for them to communicate, but they really stuck together.

“The hospital staff could not have done enough. At one point we prayed together.”

Speaking ahead of a special service at the local Christ the Light Cathedral yesterday evening, Fr

McAleenan said he would continue to try to play a supportive role in the days ahead.

Berkeley Tragedy: Father whose son died in US hit-and-run offers to bring home Berkeley balcony victims

<http://www.independent.ie/irish-news/berkeley-tragedy/berkeley-tragedy-father-whose-son-died-in-us-hitandrun-offers-to-bring-home-berkeley-balcony-victims-31309958.html>

Special Mass in California for student victims

Bishop Michael Barber SJ, Bishop of the Diocese of Oakland, California, has been in contact with Archbishop Eamon Martin, Archbishop of Armagh, to offer his condolences following the tragedy in Berkeley yesterday.

Bishop Barber expressed his sorrow to Archbishop Eamon that this tragedy occurred and offered an assurance of continued prayers for all those affected. Bishop Barber also assured the Archbishop that the priests and diocesan staff in Oakland diocese are providing all the support they can to all those affected by the tragic events in Berkeley yesterday.

Bishop Barber has arranged for a special Memorial Mass to be celebrated in the Cathedral of Christ the Light, Oakland, as a way of offering prayer and consolation to all those affected by the tragedy and to remember in a special way those who have died and those who have been injured.

Bishop Barber presided at the Mass and Father Aidan McAleenan preached the homily. Father McAleenan was one of the priests who was ministering at the hospitals where the wounded were brought. Archbishop Eamon Martin has in turn expressed his thanks to Bishop Barber and to all of those who are helping in any way in Berkeley, Oakland at this time. Archbishop Martin and Bishop Barber will both continue to offer prayers in the coming days that the love and mercy of Christ may comfort all who are grieving at this time.

Blessing of Pets in Saint Peter's Church, Bandon

Nearly sixty people, and many more dogs and other animals, recently attended the 'Blessing of Pets' in St. Peter's, Bandon.



Liz Atkins from 'Irish Dogs for the Disabled' arrives with her family and 'Hannah' and 'Hope' for the blessing of pets in St Peter's, Bandon.

While dogs were in the majority, a lizard called 'Puff' and three tiny kittens were also in attendance. The kittens were a great favourite of 'Holly' the Curate's Jack Russell terrier. (Although some doubted her motivations.)

Volunteers (Noreen, Linda and our parishioner Liz Atkins) from 'Irish Dogs for the Disabled' came to speak about their work. Noreen in her address explained that they are a unique charity founded in 2007 to improve the lives of children

and adults living with physical disabilities in Ireland.

The assistance dogs are specially trained to assist physically disabled children and adults to carry out a range of practical tasks in order to achieve greater independence. Every dog is trained to help with simple everyday tasks such as opening/closing doors, picking up dropped items, emptying the washing machine, sending for help or even helping a child with severe walking difficulties to walk with greater ease and balance plus much more.

Parishioner Claire McCutcheon also spoke. She is a volunteer with 'Irish Therapy Dogs', a charity which bring dogs into hospitals, nursing homes, day care centres, schools and other places where people may be restricted from having pets and where the presence of dogs and their owners, will add comfort and support.

Fanning the Flame of faith in Derry

About 2,800 young people from Co. Donegal, Derry City, Co. Derry and Co. Tyrone attended the annual Fan the Flame Mass in Celtic Park, Derry for children who have received the



Sacrament of Confirmation in the Diocese of Derry during the past year.

The main celebrant was Bishop Donal McKeown. The Long Tower Folk Group led the music and pupils from different schools assisted in the liturgy of the Word and the offertory procession. Over 100 teenage volunteers, some of whom are participating in the Pope John Paul II Award, also acted as ushers.

Every school brought a banner which formed part of the entrance procession and the post Communion reflection.

At the end of the Mass Bishop McKeown, retired bishops Seamus Hegarty, Francis Lagan and priests of the diocese, assisted by some young

people, released balloons symbolising the breath of the Holy Spirit.

Vestry in Knocknamuckley church split row is urged to resign

There is further upheaval at Knocknamuckley Church of Ireland parish in Co Armagh.

Belfast Telegraph - Some parishioners are now calling for the resignation of the select vestry at St Matthias's near Lurgan following the departure of controversial Rev Alan Kilpatrick. He left after the congregation divided over his style of ministry.

Rev Kilpatrick rarely wore traditional robes or preached from the pulpit, and was said to have a connection to the Bethel Church of Supernatural Ministries based in California.

The select vestry is chaired by the rector and looks after the finances and buildings of the parish.

The Concerned Parishioners group which opposed Rev Kilpatrick is now objecting to the composition of the select vestry, claiming 12 of its 16 members back the former rector.



***Rev Alan Kilpatrick talks with his wife Jan in
Craigavon Civic Centre***

Members met with a delegation representing Bishop Harold Miller last night to voice their concerns.

It's believed they want the vestry to resign and have threatened to set up a shadow body if that does not come about.

The under-fire vestry also met with the Bishop's representatives.

Following those meetings the delegation headed to another gathering at Craigavon Civic Centre

attended by the breakaway congregation under Rev Kilpatrick.

The church-goers who rejected Rev Kilpatrick's modern style said they were concerned that the majority of the vestry side with Rev Kilpatrick and claimed they still hold the purse-strings and management of the parish, even though they worship elsewhere.

Those who left the main congregation and its traditional style now meet at Craigavon Civic Centre following a brief stay at a local sports club.

Following their meeting, the select vestry members remained tight-lipped about what was discussed

One member said concerns over their continued status as vestry members smacked of a "lack of trust".

He said it was "business as usual" and referring to the parishioners asked: "In what way are they being affected?"

Rev Kilpatrick rejected the charge the select vestry was being partisan and said it would continue to be "run with honour".

More at -

<http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/northern-ireland/vestry-in-knocknamuckley-church-split-row-is-urged-to-resign-31311171.html>

Clonard Novena gets under way

Several thousand people flocked to Clonard Monastery in west Belfast on wednesday for the first day of the annual Clonard Novena.

Irish News - One of the youngest people to attend was four-day-old Aoife Rose, who was taken to the monastery by her mother Emma Jones.



Up to 20,000 people are expected to attend the 10 daily sessions, which take place from early morning until late at night. The annual devotion consists of special prayers and services over nine days.

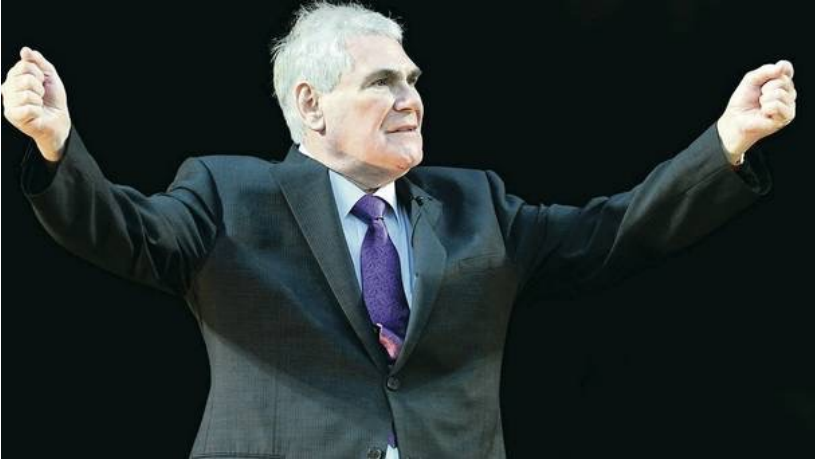
Fr Noel Kehoe is celebrating his first Novena as rector of the monastery after he succeeded Fr Michael Murtagh earlier this year. The theme of this year's Novena, which runs until Thursday of next week, is 'Stories of God, stories of you'.

The Clonard Solemn Novena can also be watched live on www.clonard.com.

Pastor James McConnell vows not to be silenced by courts as he faces prosecution over 'Islam is satanic' sermon

Controversial preacher James McConnell has vowed not to be silenced by the courts as he faces prosecution for calling Islam "satanic."

Belfast Telegraph - The firebrand Belfast pastor told the Belfast Telegraph he refused to accept a police warning about his anti-Islamic tirade because "they were trying to shut me up".



He is now due to be prosecuted for telling his congregation at the Whitewell Metropolitan Tabernacle in May last year that "Islam is heathen, Islam is satanic, Islam is a doctrine spawned in hell."

But the 78 year-old preacher insisted: "I'm not taking it lying down. I am not going to be gagged."

He added: "The police tried to shut me up and tell me what to preach. It's ridiculous. I believe in freedom of speech. I'm going to keep on preaching the Gospel.

"I have nothing against Muslims, I have never hated Muslims, I have never hated anyone. But I am against what Muslims believe. They have the

right to say what they believe in and I have a right to say what I believe," Mr McConnell said.

He said that he received over 20,000 messages of support after his anti-Islamic sermon went viral.

"People are supporting me and my family is behind me. I have no criminal convictions and I've no idea how this is all going to end up but I'm not going to be silenced," he added.

Speaking to his congregation in north Belfast last year, Mr McConnell said "a new evil had arisen" and "there are cells of Muslims right throughout Britain".

"Islam is heathen, Islam is satanic, Islam is a doctrine spawned in hell," he said.

More at -

<http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/northern-ireland/pastor-james-mcconnell-vows-not-to-be-silenced-by-courts-as-he-faces-prosecution-over-islam-is-satanic-sermon-31311916.html>

Church Leaders In Derry condemn attempted murder of police

Leaders of the four main churches in Derry–Londonderry have issued a joint statement

condemning the attempted murder of a police officer in Eglinton yesterday morning.

A number of the church leaders met senior police officers at Strand Road police station.

Bishop Donal McKeown, Bishop Ken Good, Dr Robert Buick and the Revd Peter Murray stated:

We are appalled at the despicable attempt to murder a police officer in Eglinton this morning, and thankful and relieved that the attack was thwarted.

There can be no justification for the attempted murder. It was wrong. It was evil. It was reckless. The police have said those who left the device endangered not only the police officer but other people living in the area.

Like the vast majority of people in our community, we had hoped that attacks like this had become a thing of the past. The use of violence has been rejected repeatedly and overwhelmingly by our community, so today's attempted murder was an assault on us, too, and on our aspiration for a better society.

Our people want to move forward – together – towards a better and brighter future. The

bombers seem intent on taking us backwards and keeping us apart.

They must not succeed.

We, as church leaders, offer our support and prayers to the police officer who was targeted this morning and appeal for anyone with information about the incident to share it with the PSNI.

Church of England Welcomes Climate Encyclical

The Church of England's lead on the environment, Bishop of Salisbury the Rt Revd Nicholas Holtam, has given a wholehearted welcome to yesterday's Papal Encyclical on climate change.

Bishop Nicholas said:

"I wholeheartedly welcome the Papal Encyclical *Laudato Si*, a major contribution to tackling climate change, which is one of the great moral challenges of our times. It has been much anticipated and lives up to our hopes that it would be a very substantial and compelling

document not just for Roman Catholics but for the whole Church and all people who live together in our common home.

"Pope Francis highlights the iniquitous way in which the enormous consumption of some wealthy nations has repercussions in the poorest places on the planet. What is bad for our neighbours is also bad for us.

"We are seeing significant ecumenical and interfaith convergence on climate change. The Papal Encyclical is a substantial development of themes very much in line with statements made by the Ecumenical Patriarch of the Orthodox Churches, the Letter on Climate Change from the Swedish Lutheran bishops as well as by the Church of England and the Anglican Communion's Environmental Network and others. As we saw yesterday with the launch of the Lambeth Declaration, the moral gravity of the challenge of climate change is also recognised by all the world faiths present in the UK.

"The transition to a low carbon economy is urgent. Churches and other faith communities have a unique power to mobilise people for the common good and change attitudes and

behaviours. We also need to strengthen our politicians to achieve ambitious, accountable and binding climate change agreements, nationally and internationally.

"The UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon highlighted how important this is when he spoke at the Vatican Summit on climate change in April. If people of faith and all people of goodwill work together, there is hope that we can meet the challenges posed by climate change."

C of E Statement on Nottingham Employment Tribunal

"The Church of England supports gay men and women who serve as clergy in its parishes, dioceses and institutions. Jeremy Pemberton is one of many who currently serve and receive that support. The Church has no truck with homophobia and supports clergy who are in civil partnerships.

"The Church of England's doctrine on marriage is clear. The Church quite reasonably expects its clergy to honour their commitment to model and live up to the teachings of the Church. Clergy do not have the option of treating the teachings of

the church as an a la carte menu and only modelling those with which they personally agree.

“The Church is currently involved in a process of shared conversations about a range of issues on sexuality in regions across the country. It is regrettable that this case risks undermining that process by invoking legislation which does not even apply to this situation.”

Businesses should put human wellbeing first - Abp Sentamu

The Archbishop of York has written an article as part of 'The Great Business Campaign' debate in which he says that no society can flourish if the majority are poor and miserable.

He says,

“The Bible is not an economics handbook. But it has a lot to say about profit and loss, entrepreneurs and bankrupts, employers and workers, meanness and generosity. Underlying it all is the fundamental principle that God has no favourites and expects us to treat one another with respect.

THE GREAT BUSINESS DEBATE

“So I was greatly heartened to Chair the Living Wage Commission which reported last year...

As President of the Board of Trade, in a speech to the House of Commons on 28 April 1909, Winston Churchill said, “It is a serious national evil that any class of His Majesty’s subjects should receive less than a living wage in return for their utmost exertions.”(1)

Our Commission found that those employers who treat their workforce with respect actually benefit. To give just one example, KPMG, since applying the Living Wage for all its staff in 2006, found extra wage costs were more than met by lowered recruitment churn and absenteeism, greater loyalty, and higher morale leading to better performance.

That contradicts the heresy that the path of righteousness is the road to ruin!

- See more at: <http://www.archbishopofyork.org/articles.php/3269/businesses-should-put-human-wellbeing-first#sthash.TM9DEMSS.dpuf>

Pope says international community cares more about oil and weapons than persecuted Christians

"While proclaiming peace and justice it is tolerated that traffickers of death continue to operate those lands," Pope Francis said.

The Pope has berated the international community for prizing "oil and weapons" above the lives of those persecuted for their faith in the Middle East, **Vatican Radio** reports.

His comments were made during an address to the Reunion of Aid Agencies for the Oriental Churches meeting at the Vatican this week (ROACO).

He spoke passionately about the ongoing conflicts in the Middle East which "make us feel



the cold of a winter and a frost in the human heart that never seem to end".

The Pope added: "The land in these regions, crossed by the footsteps of those who seek refuge, is irrigated by the blood of so many men and women, including many Christians persecuted for their faith."

While the plight of Christians in the Middle East has become more prominent in recent months, he said there still seemed to be international agreements in which "the lives of thousands and thousands of families – women, men, children, and elderly people – seem to weigh less than oil and weapons on the scale of interests.

"So that while proclaiming peace and justice, it is tolerated that traffickers of death continue to operate those lands" he said, referring to the large number of migrants making the perilous journey across the Mediterranean. Many who make the journey to escape persecution risk their lives at the hands of people smugglers on dangerous vessels.

However, Francis acknowledged and encouraged the work of humanitarian agencies and urged them to continue working with mercy and compassion.

And he called all Christians to join prayer and in seeking justice for our brothers and sisters. "May their cry become ours and together we can break the barrier of indifference that often reigns concealing hypocrisy and selfishness."

WCC Executive Committee speaks out on migrant crises

Deeply concerned for migrants in many regions, especially those "driven to undertake journeys of desperate risk and danger", the Executive Committee of the World Council of Churches (WCC) has declared: "All members of the

international community have a moral and legal duty to save the lives of those in jeopardy at sea or in transit, regardless of their origin and status.”

Meeting in Armenia, the executive committee is reviewing both internal matters in the life of the WCC fellowship of churches and issues of pressing urgency to both church and world. In their public issues statement on migrants, the WCC identifies the multiple contemporary crises as “an escalating global problem, with different expressions and responses in different contexts”.

Recent examples of the fatal consequences of this issue include “the deaths of unprecedented numbers of migrants and refugees seeking to cross the Mediterranean Sea to Europe, and of Rohingya and Bangladeshi migrants on the Andaman Sea. The recent killings of Ethiopian Christian migrant workers by the so-called ‘Islamic State’ in Libya, and the xenophobic violence against migrants in South Africa, are also illustrative of the special vulnerability of people who leave their home countries in the universal human pursuit of safety and a better life for themselves and their families.”

In the statement's conclusion, the WCC Executive Committee urges all states to provide for generous, safe and accessible procedures for the legal migration of people, calls on all governments to fulfil their moral and legal duty to save lives and to refrain from any actions that might further endanger them, calls on the members of the international community and governments to commit to stronger and more effective long-term international action to resolve the conflicts, to end oppression and occupation, and to eliminate the extreme poverty driving these population movements.

The statement also “invites WCC member churches and ecumenical partners, together with all people of goodwill, to promote a more open and welcoming approach to the stranger, and to the neighbour in need and distress.”

Media digest

Churchmen have a duty to speak out on the environment - News Letter

<http://www.newsletter.co.uk/churchmen-have-a-duty-to-speak-out-on-the-environment-1-6802324>

Court plea for ‘right to life’ - News Letter

<http://www.newsletter.co.uk/court-plea-for-right-to-life-1-6802939>

Child neglect offences 'highest in a decade' - UTV

The number of child neglect offences in Northern Ireland is at the highest level in a decade, according to the NSPCC.

<http://www.u.tv/News/2015/06/17/Child-neglect-offences-highest-in-a-decade-39244>

Proud Orangemen are pro-Protestant, not anti-Catholic - Belfast Telegraph

<http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/opinion/debateni/ruth-dudley-edwards/proud-orangemen-are-proprotestant-not-anticatholic-31301307.html>

Gunman kills 9 in attack on historic black church in Charleston - Religion News Service

http://www.religionnews.com/2015/06/18/9-dead-in-white-mans-attack-on-historic-black-church-in-charleston/?utm_content=bufferb3b9e&utm_medium=social&utm_source=twitter.com&utm_campaign=buffer

BBC/Tel/Guard/Times

Reports that nine people have died in a shooting at a historic African-American church in Charleston in the US state of South Carolina. City police chief Gregory Mullen said eight of the victims were killed inside the Emanuel African

Methodist Episcopal Church, while another person died shortly afterwards.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-us-canada-33179019>

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/northamerica/usa/11682685/Nine-killed-at-South-Carolina-church.html>

<http://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2015/jun/18/charleston-church-shooting-nine-dead-after-hate-attack>

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/world/americas/article4473296.ece>

Guard

Article on a mass climate change lobby outside parliament yesterday when it says beekeepers, surfers, nuns and children were among around 9,000 people who took part in what organisers believe is the UK's **biggest ever lobby on climate change**. The participants were lobbying around 250 MPs according to **the Climate Coalition**, the group of charities, unions and faith groups that organised the event. The Bishop of Salisbury, Nicholas Holtam, is quoted speaking at a service in Westminster ahead of the event, saying: "It is the concern of people of all faiths. It is our human concern in solidarity with all people. The world is our home."

<http://www.theguardian.com/environment/2015/jun/17/thousands-join-mass-climate-change-lobby-outside-uk-parliament>

Mail

Further report on the Bishop of Durham, Paul Butler's comments on childcare reform, when he said doubling the amount of free childcare offered to working parents is putting adults' right to work ahead of children's needs.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/video/news/video-1192725/Bishop-Durham-voices-concerns-Childcare-reform.html>

Tel/Guard

Continuing reports on the employment tribunal for Canon Jeremy Pemberton who claims the Church of England discriminated against him in revoking his permission to officiate after he married his partner. Reports focus on response from Bishop Richard Inwood, acting Bishop of Southwell and Nottingham at the time of Jeremy Pemberton's marriage to Laurence Cunningham, and advice that each case was a pastoral matter for the diocesan bishop. (See also *statement on Nottingham Tribunal and blog*).

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/religion/11682260/Archbishop-of-Canterbury-urged-clerics-to-stick-to-line-over-rebel-priests-gay-wedding.html>

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/jun/17/archbishop-canterbury-gay-priest-wedding-tribunal-anglicans>

BBC

Report that the number of ceremonies conducted by humanist celebrants has grown massively in Scotland in the last 10 years, overtaking Catholic weddings and threatening to replace Church of Scotland as the most popular belief service.

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-33146224>

Times/Star/Eve Standard/Mirror/Express

Further reports on the murder of a 14-year-old boy, Jordan Watson, whose body was found in a cemetery next to St John The Baptist Church, in Carlisle, Cumbria. A teenager was being questioned by police yesterday over the murder, which police said was a 'savage and brutal attack'. The Revd Jim Hyslop, vicar of St John the Baptist church, is quoted.

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/uk/crime/article4472850.ece>

<http://www.dailystar.co.uk/news/latest-news/448574/Jordan-Watson-Upperby-Cemetery-Cumbria-Carlisle-Manor-Road-murder-attack-North-police>

<http://www.standard.co.uk/news/crime/jordan-watsons-family-pay-emotional-tribute-to-boy-14-found-dead-in-cemetery-10327532.html>
<http://www.mirror.co.uk/news/uk-news/jordan-watson-murder-live-updates-5897287>
<http://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/584975/Jordan-Watson-Upperby-Cemetery-Cumbria-Carlisle-Manor-Road-murder-attack-North-police>

Guard

Further comment on the memorial to Philip Larkin in Westminster Abbey's Poet's Corner. The columnist suggests it would be good to find an alternative final resting place for writers whose relationship with religion was not entirely straightforward.

<http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2015/jun/17/philip-larkin-poets-corner-another-place>

BBC

Report that a retired priest is to plead not guilty to a string of sex abuse charges involving two male teenagers over six years to 1983, a court heard. It states the Ven Granville Gibson from Darlington is accused of eight offences including a serious sexual assault.

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-33171943>

Mail

Report on how council contractors in Cornwall destroyed a churchyard wildlife haven and even strimmed around the sign warning not to cut the grass at St Andrew's in Tywardreath. It says locals condemned it as an 'act of vandalism' after animals and rare plants were mowed down while gravestones were also reportedly damaged. David Hughes, Cornwall councillor for Tywardreath, who is also a churchwarden and lay chairman of St Andrew's Parochial Church Council (PCC), said: "Lessons have been learnt and I am confident that it will not happen again."

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3128647/Bungling-council-contractors-destroyed-church-wildlife-haven-strimmed-sign-warning-not-cut-GRASS.html#ixzz3dOAhuWGL>

BBC

Report that campaigners have been awarded £145,000 to save a grade II listed chapel from dereliction. Friends of Wombwell Cemetery will use the lottery cash and heritage grants to turn the crumbling church into a community hub. Some of the money will also go towards putting on guided walks and displays at the graveyard near Barnsley.

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-south-yorkshire-33164692>

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