



An honour guard lowers Richard III's casket into a new tomb in Leicester Cathedral yesterday. Report in this issue.

Irish Churches Peace Project has gone beyond nice meetings - Bishop McKeown

Bishop Donal McKeown speaking at the opening of a conference of participants in the Irish Churches Peace Project in Templepatrick yesterday said -

“Our aim is expressed clearly on our website - *Promoting community reconciliation through the churches working together*. We can't do everything – but we want to do everything that we can. Thus, we have emphasised support for local parishes and congregations to meet and to build on what has already existed.

“This week's award of the Freedom of the City of Derry-Londonderry to Bishops Edward Daly and James Mehaffey is a sign that, in some places, good inter-church relations in public and private have already been long established and effective in healing old wounds.

“In other places, we had to start with bringing clergy together. Often their previous lack of co-operation was based more on a lack of time or support than on antagonism or enmity. Pastoring your own flock can be strenuous enough. But even though we chose often challenging areas in which to do our work, the response has

been very positive and encouraging.

There is a lot of good will out there in the churches. What was missing was the know-how and the co-ordination.

“But we have tried to go beyond nice meetings. We have developed materials to help local communities undertake dialogue and tackle difficult issues such as hurt and forgiveness. Work has been done between the various theology training centres in Ireland that prepare candidates for ordained ministry so that peace-building can be incorporated into their theological and pastoral formation. Furthermore, we have happily engaged with all people of good will who are, and have been involved in local efforts.

“The Churches could not contribute to a shared future by working in isolation.

“We have only scratched the surface of the work that has to be done. But we hope and pray that we have done enough to convince our members that this work is

both essential and possible. Indeed, we believe that it is the duty of all Christians and not just a niche interest for some to help our society move forward. The often uncomfortable truth can set us to be stop being prisoners of the past and freed to be architects of our future. If God has reconciled the world to himself in Christ, he has also committed to us the message of reconciliation. (Cf 2 Cor 5:18-19). We can do no other.”

Newry - Free event for Holy Week: Joseph Haydn's 'The Seven Last Words of Christ on the Cross'

Free event for Holy Week: Next Tuesday, 31st March, 8pm at Newry Cathedral - Joseph Haydn's 'The Seven Last Words of Christ on the Cross' will be performed by the Oriel String Quartet Next Tuesday, 31st March, 8pm at Newry Cathedral.

Haydn's work is a moving depiction in words and music of the final hours of Christ's life accompanied by scripture and poetry. There will

be a retiring collection raising funds for the Tree of Hope Charity and baby Patrick Jackson.

Poet and President - Longley and McAleese - to mark Corrymeela 50th

Michael Longley recently received the freedom of Belfast. Michael will be one of the speakers at Corrymeela's Gala 50th Anniversary Event in Belfast City Hall on Friday 30th October. "The Poet, The Peacemaker and The President," will also feature Kathleen Kuehnast (US Institute of Peace) and former Irish President Mary Robinson.

Belfast Lord Mayor Officially Opens Methodist Mission's Memory Lane

Staff at Kirk House Residential Home, a project of the Belfast Central Mission, welcomed Nichola Mallon, Lord Mayor of Belfast to officially open Memory Lane today. Ms Mallon said that Memory Lane provided, "*Love, care & support for people living with dementia*".

Memory Lane is an area of Kirk House which was recently adapted to provide specialist care for people living with dementia. All the staff at

Memory Lane have completed the innovative Dementia Services Development Centre (DSDC) '*Best Practice in Dementia Care*' development programme.

In February this year staff at Kirk House won a prestigious award which recognised their expertise in dementia care. The NI Dementia Achievement Award was presented by the Dementia Services Development Centre. The Award recognizes organisations and individuals who have worked to improve the quality of life for people with living dementia.

Pioneer Evangelist takes up role in north Belfast

A Pioneer Evangelist appointed by the Diocese of Connor and the Church Army is now engaged in establishing links with the community in north Belfast.

Stephen Whitten, 25, took up the post of Pioneer Evangelist a number of weeks ago. The role is the first step towards the Bishop of Connor's aspiration to create a Centre of Mission for the diocese which will have a particular focus in north Belfast.



Stephen Whitten has been appointed as Pioneer Evangelist in north Belfast by the Diocese of Connor and the Church Army.

Speaking about the proposed Centre of Mission at the 2014 Connor Synod, Bishop Alan said: “This has been recognised as an area of deprivation and, in particular, is in need of education, education and education.”

The plan is that two Church Army staff trained in pioneer ministry will focus on establishing new communities of faith, and will also seek to train and equip parishes and people across the

diocese in what this might mean for each and every context.

The post of Pioneer Lead Evangelist is [currently being advertised](#), with a closing date for applications of March 30.

Bishop Alan said the new Centre of Mission would “offer new opportunities for training for everyone, whether ordained or not.” He added: “I want every member of the Church of Ireland to feel confident in their faith and to be resourced as they seek to live it.”

Stephen grew up in east Belfast and now lives in Dundonald. A former pupil of Grosvenor Grammar School, he worked in Lisburn for a year before doing a Foundation Degree in Rural and Countryside Management at Greenmount College.

He was involved in a youth drop-in outreach project in Moneyreagh, and was invited to do a Church Army Internship in Bangor, Co Down, for a year after finishing at Greenmount.

The first two months of Stephen’s internship were spent in Romania with the charity Networks Romania, which works with the Roma community. As well as helping to drill wells, Stephen was also involved in new church plants.

He returned to Bangor to continue his internship, working with the Primacy Church, and was involved in street outreach, running children's clubs, community days, Messy Church, and also establishing a new church plant.

Stephen did a two-year degree in Environmental Science at the University of Ulster in Coleraine, maintaining his Church Army involvement with weekly Skype meetings on outreach and evangelism with other young Church Army members across the UK.

After graduating, Stephen went to Bolivia for three months with Tear Fund. "I was working with a charity that seeks to reduce levels of violence, particularly domestic and sexual abuse, which are very high in Santa Cruz. We ran workshops teaching young people about self-esteem," he said.

It was when he was in Bolivia that he heard about the Connor post in north Belfast.

"I have always been passionate about evangelism and outreach, especially with people who would not be interested in Church," Stephen said.

"I have done a lot of evangelism on the streets and with strangers, ministry to the homeless,

and getting to know people within a community. I love doing it and I also love being part of a team.”

Since taking up his post, which is based in and around Whiterock and Glencairn parishes, Stephen has been getting to know the area and making connections with local people.

“I have been meeting people in the churches, but have also been out knocking doors in places like the Springmartin Estate. I am hoping to do some work with the youth there who have shown an interest in faith,” Stephen said.

“The vast majority of people have been very welcoming and very accommodating. Many say they pray and believe God looks out for them but that they have never been church goers. The main challenge is to come up with a form of community that is going to be suitable for these people and meet their needs.”

Cork, Cloyne and Ross Mothers' Union Diocesan Festival Service

The Mothers' Union of Cork, Cloyne and Ross celebrated the Feast of the Annunciation (historically known as 'Lady Day') with their



The Reverend Isobel Jackson (MU Diocesan Chaplain), Mrs Phyllis Grothier (MU All Ireland President), the Bishop, Mrs Patsy Devoy (MU Diocesan President), the Reverend Eileen Cremin (Rector of Fermoy Union).

Diocesan Festival Service in Christ Church, Fermoy on Sunday afternoon 22nd March. The Bishop, Dr Paul Colton, presided and the speaker was the All-Ireland President of the Mothers' Union Mrs Phyllis Grothier.

Templebreedy Parish Children's Choir sang at the Service and afterwards hospitality was provided by the local parish, where the the rector is the Reverend Eileen Cremin,

England: first female diocesan bishop announced



Yesterday the Prime Minister's Office in Downing Street announced that The Queen has approved the nomination of the Venerable Rachel Treweek, BA, BTh, Archdeacon of Hackney, for election as Bishop of Gloucester in succession to the Right Reverend Michael Francis Perham, MA, whose resignation took effect on the 21 November 2014.

The Venerable Rachel Treweek (nee Montgomery) aged 52, studied at Reading University and trained for the ordained ministry at Wycliffe Hall, Oxford. She served her first

curacy at Saint George and All Saints, Tufnell Park in the Diocese of London from 1994 to 1997 and was Associate Vicar from 1997 to 1999.

From 1999 to 2006 she was Vicar at Saint James the Less, Bethnal Green and Continuing Ministerial Education Officer for the Stepney Episcopal Area. From 2006 to 2011 she was Archdeacon of Northolt in the Diocese of London. Since 2011 she has been Archdeacon of Hackney. In 2013 she was elected as Participant Observer in the House of Bishops for the South East Region.

Rachel is married to Guy, Priest-in-Charge of two parishes in the City of London.

Her interests include conflict transformation, walking and canoeing.

See also -

Telegraph : The first woman bishop to sit in the House of Lords has been appointed by the Church of England.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/religion/11496047/Church-of-England-names-first-female-bishop-to-sit-in-the-House-of-Lords.html>

Kilkenny marble plinth for English king's remains reburied after 530 years



Emma Chamberlain, 9, from Aylestone (a suburb of Leicester) and a member of the 1st Aylestone Brownies, places a crown on Richard III's casket March 22 after it was brought to Leicester Cathedral.

History buffs from all over the world joined royal, civil and ecclesiastical representatives in Leicester, England, on a rainy March 26 for the reburial of a king whose bones were found in 2012 under a parking lot.

Richard III, the last Plantagenet king of England, died aged 32 on Aug. 22, 1485 during the [Battle of Bosworth](#).

His skeleton was found in 2012 in the ruins of the [Greyfriars priory](#) buried beneath a parking lot in what the [New York Times](#) called “one of the most astonishing archaeological hunches in modern history.”

Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby led the reburial ceremony in [Leicester Cathedral](#) along with members of the British royal family, Bishop of Leicester Tim Stevens, senior ecumenical clergy, civic leaders and descendants of Richard III.

During the somber ceremony based on Morning Prayer ([order of service here](#)), Welby censed Richard III’s casket and blessed it with holy water.

“As we return the bones of your servant Richard to the grave, we beseech you to grant him a quiet resting place,” Welby prayed.

Welby also sprinkled the coffin with soils from Fotheringhay, Middleham and Bosworth. Richard III was born at Fotheringhay Castle in Northamptonshire and members of his family are

buried at the local church. Middleham in Yorkshire is where Richard met his future wife Anne.

“Today we come to accord this King, this child of God, these mortal remains, the dignity and honour denied them in death,” Stevens said during the homily. Members of [the team that found Richard’s remains have said](#) that his initial casket-less burial was done in a hurried fashion in a too-short grave, causing the king’s head to need to be pushed askew.

Also during the service, actor Benedict Cumberbatch read [“Richard,” a poem written for the occasion](#) by Poet Laureate Dame Carol Ann Duffy. Cumberbatch will play Richard III in the BBC series [“The Hollow Crown: The Wars of the Roses.”](#) He has also been identified as a third cousin, 16 times removed of Richard. [A YouTube clip of Cumberbatch’s reading during the service is here.](#)

The casket was lowered into a tomb within an ambulatory (a walking space) between the newly created Chapel of Christ the King at the east end of Leicester Cathedral and the sanctuary, a location not far from where Richard’s remains were found. The stone used in [the design of the tomb](#) is a Swaledale fossil stone, quarried in

North Yorkshire, that contains fossils of long-dead creatures. It is topped with a Kilkenny marble plinth bearing Richard's name, dates and motto.

The New York Times noted that some saw Richard's reburial in an Anglican cathedral and Welby's participation as an anomaly, since Richard was a devout Roman Catholic who died well before Henry VIII's break with Rome in the 1530s.

Cardinal Vincent Nichols, the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Westminster, preached at a March 22 service of Compline ([order of service here](#)) at Leicester Cathedral when the king's mortal remains were received. The remains were carried from the University of Leicester by the team who discovered them.

Many heard [the cardinal's sermon](#) "as a deft message of reconciliation to the contending schools of thought about Richard's legacy as king," according to The New York Times article. Richard has been cast as a hunch-backed villain who killed two young princes but who also reformed parts of English law. Nichols said he was also a man who prayed, noting in a Vatican Radio interview that Welby would bring Richard's prayer book with him to the March 26 service.

The book contained Richard's annotations and a prayer the king wrote.

BBC News reported that more than 35,000 people lined the streets in parts of Leicester March 22 to see the cortege bring the king's remains to the cathedral. More than 20,000 people visited the cathedral to view the casket containing the king's remains, the news service said. Viewing times were extended on March 24 and 25 to accommodate the crowds, according to the [King Richard in Leicester website](#).

Presiding Bishop to preach, celebrate Holy Week in Salisbury

At the invitation of the Very Rev. June Osborne, Dean, [Episcopal Church](#) Presiding Bishop and Primate Katharine Jefferts Schori will preach and lead services at various times at [Salisbury Cathedral](#) during Holy Week 2015.

"I am looking forward to joining the Holy Week and Triduum liturgies of a cathedral that is both deeply historic and innovative, to meet new and old friends, and to reflect on the partnerships with Sudan and other parts of the Anglican Communion that continue to teach us all about

the Paschal mystery,” Presiding Bishop Jefferts Schori commented.

On Monday, March 30, the Presiding Bishop will preach at the Service of Reconciliation.

On Tuesday, March 31, Presiding Bishop Jefferts Schori will preach at the Tenebrae or Service of Shadows with music by Francis Poulenc, sung by Salisbury Cathedral Choir.

On Wednesday, April 1, the Presiding Bishop will provide the devotional reflection at the service in which the orchestra La Folia, conducted by the Cathedral’s Director of Music, David Halls, joins the Cathedral choir in a Holy Week Meditation. Music will include Allegri, Hassler and James Macmillan’s Seven Last Words from the Cross.

On Holy Thursday, April 2, Presiding Bishop Jefferts Schori will preach at the Eucharist of the Last Supper.

The Good Friday Devotion service from noon – 1:15 pm will be led by the Presiding Bishop. She will preach again during The Liturgy of the Day at which the Cathedral Choir will sing.

On Easter Sunday, April 5, Presiding Bishop Jefferts Schori will preach at the Easter Eucharist

March 26

Presiding Bishop Jefferts Schori previously
preached at Salisbury Cathedral in June 2008.