



CNI



Diocese of Clogher to take reflective look back at past 100 years

‘100 Years Past – 2016 – 100 Years Forward Who Do People Say That We Are?’

The Diocese of Clogher, through its youth ministry team, Clogher don Óige, is marking the decade of centenaries by taking a reflective look back at the past one hundred years through film, music and dance, on the theme ‘100 Years Past – 2016 – 100 Years Forward Who Do People Say That We Are?’

Three performances are being presented this Easter week: two in St Macartan’s Cathedral in Monaghan on Tuesday and Wednesday evenings, and one in St Michael’s Church, Enniskillen on Friday 1 April.

The reflections begins with the events of 1916 – the Easter Rising and the First World War – and move forward, stopping off at significant events that have had a major impact on Irish society in general, and Clogher diocese in particular, along the way.

The Centenary Celebration uses both still and moving images of historic local interest from both Monaghan and Fermanagh, supported by music, lighting and dance from young people across the diocese of Clogher.

The purpose of this centenary celebration is to help people to reflect on the past so as they can learn for the future. The event is promoted by the Bishop of Clogher, Most Rev Liam MacDaid.

The event begins at 8.00 pm on each night. Admission is free, and by ticket. Tickets can be obtained at parish offices in all the towns of the diocese. Opportunities for donations will be available on the night. All are welcome to attend.

April's edition of the Presbyterian Herald: out now

This month's cover story reflects a theme current in society today – self-obsession. In 'Generation selfie' Ruth Sanderson explores the narcissistic world of the 'selfie', what this says about our society and the challenges this brings.

Lisa Skinner examines modern life further in 'Join the conversation', as she investigates blogging and its value from a Christian perspective. She looks at how this online platform, used to communicate a message to the world, can provide a huge capacity to digitally spread the gospel.

If a visit to the cinema appeals, then Hollywood's latest biblical blockbuster, *Risen*, may be the answer. Neil Sedgewick reviews this story of the resurrection told through the eyes of a non-believer and how it could be beneficial to us in the church.

"Watching a film like *Risen* may help us grow in faith," Neil said.

"Seeing the disciples and their desire to wholeheartedly follow Jesus was inspiring... *Risen* may start unexpected conversations".

In springtime, as buds begin to poke through the earth and lambs leap in the fields, we often think of new birth and renewal. In his article 'The renewal of all things', Alfred Thompson explores the biblical teaching about the new heaven and the new earth – discovering that what the Bible tells us about eternity and life after death for Christians is broader, higher, and more wonderful than we could ever imagine.

Commencing a new three-part series exploring the Westminster Confession of Faith, Andrew Conway begins by explaining why the confession

is still relevant today in his article entitled 'Being children of God'.

"Why do we see such value in the confession?" Andrew asked.

"The answer is simple: it contains much rich soul-nourishing truth...God is concerned about every part of His children's lives, and wants to help us live to His glory in everything", he said.

What does the word Lego bring to mind for you? Is it hours of fun building houses or creating spaceships? Whatever it may be for you, in his article 'The theology of Lego', Stephen Graham suggests that teaching faith to children can be child's play – and that Lego, in particular, can provide opportunities for discussion.

For more reading, dip into the Herald this April. As always, there are photos from around the church, and ideas for listening and reading in the reviews pages. While the reflections of Diane Cusick, Emma Scrivener, Mark Welsh, Betsy Cameron and Arthur Clarke are also there to be enjoyed. Don't miss out on April's Herald; [to download](#) this edition or to see how you can [subscribe](#), visit the Presbyterian Herald section of the website.

Single copies may be purchased at the reception desk in Assembly Buildings, Fisherwick Place, Belfast.

Connor young people gearing up for diocesan sports tournament

Young people across Connor Diocese will be brushing up their fitness levels in preparation for the diocesan sports tournament on May 7.

Beach towel volleyball and dodgeball are among the sports on offer, with some fantastic awards for the winning teams.

The tournament takes place in Ballymoney Parish Centre from 2pm-7pm on May 7, and parishes are encouraged to enter young people in teams of five. Parishes can multiple teams, and if they can't make up a full team they can be linked with another parish group.

Young people should to come along in active clothing, as two sports tournaments will run alongside each other on the day. Most of the sports will be indoors but the organisers, Engage Connor Youth, are hoping that weather permitting there will be some activities outdoors.



Beach towel volleyball and dodgeball are among the sporting challenges at the Engage Connor Youth tournament on May 7.

The participation charge is £5 for each young person, and for this they get entry into all activities, a BBQ and soft drinks throughout the day.

Any money raised will go towards Streetreach 2016 and supporting resources for the young people involved in this mission.

Diocesan Youth Officer Christina Baillie said: “Engage Connor Youth are excited to be hosting their first Sports Tournament for young people

across the diocese. We are looking forward to this active, social event which would be a great first opportunity for new groups to come along to.”

For further information, please contact Christina on 07753312405 or

christina@connor.anglican.org.

Belfast cathedral concerts this week

The Morris Knolls Chorale from Morris Knolls High School, Rockaway, New Jersey, will give a free lunchtime concert in St Anne’s Cathedral, Belfast, on Friday April 1 at 1.15pm.

The Morris Knolls Chorale, one of six choirs at Morris Knolls High School, is an elite 60 voice ensemble. Under the direction of Mr Michael Semancik, the Morris Knolls Chorale has substantial accomplishments over the last seven years. The ensemble has performed at Avery Fisher Hall, at Lincoln Centre, as well as taken the stage at Carnegie Hall.

The ensemble has participated in two European tours, in 2012, and 2014, and is their third tour for this spring brings them to Ireland. Chorale has received many awards, and has been



The Morris Knolls Chorale

selected to sing at many conferences and festivals, including the New Jersey Music Educators Association, American Choral Directors Association, and National Association for Music Educators convention.

Radcliffe Ladies Choir from Nottinghamshire will be giving a concert in St Anne's Cathedral at lunchtime on Saturday April 2.

Formed in September 1991 with just 14 members, the Radcliffe Ladies' Choir has grown to a membership of 55 ladies from around the county whose ages range from early-20s to mid-80s.

The choir celebrates its 25th anniversary with a tour of Northern Ireland. Musical Director Alex Patterson, a native of Northern Ireland, has been with the choir since May 2010,

Alex studied at the University of Nottingham and later at Birmingham Conservatoire specialising in composition and opera.

In addition to his role with the Radcliffe Ladies' Choir, Alex is also Director of Music at Nottingham (St Barnabas) Cathedral. He is in high demand as a singing animateur and regularly leads singing workshops in local schools as well as conducting Nottingham Youth Voices and the Workers' Lunchtime Choir based at the Royal Concert Hall, Nottingham.

As a composer, Alex wrote many of his first commissions for St Barnabas Cathedral as their Composer-in-Residence in 2009. His music has since travelled the world and been performed by a variety of groups across the UK and broadcast on BBC Radio 3.

The concert in St Anne's will begin at 12 noon on April 2. That evening at 7.30pm the choir will be in concert with Ballyclare Male Voice Choir in the Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Church in Holywood, and will give an information

performance in the Atrium at Titanic Belfast on April 5 at 12 noon.

See - <http://www.radcliffeladieschoir.co.uk/concerts.html>

93rd Annual Meeting of the Irish Council of Churches

The 93rd Annual Meeting of the Irish Council of Churches will take place on Thursday April 7 from 10.30 am until 3.00 pm at Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin 8. Tea and coffee will be served on arrival from 10:30 am with AGM business commencing at 11.00 am.

Church's Ministry of Healing Annual Service of Thanksgiving

The Church's Ministry of Healing's annual Thanksgiving Service & Gift Day takes place in St Michan's Church, Dublin, at 3.00 pm on Saturday, 16th April 2016.

This is a Service of Wholeness & Healing with Holy Communion, and there will be an opportunity for prayer ministry with the laying on of hands and anointing with oil for those who desire it. The celebrant will be the Rev Canon

David Gillespie and the preacher will be Bishop Patrick Rooke.

IRC, Christian Aid and NGOs urge global leaders to commit to resettling at least 10% of Syria's refugees

IRC, Christian Aid and other NGOs urge global leaders to commit to resettling at least 10% of Syria's refugees

Ahead of the UNHCR High Level Meeting on Global Responsibility Sharing through Pathways for Admission of Syrian Refugees on March 30 in Geneva, NGOs send an open letter to global leaders.

Organisations working with or for Syrian refugees, including the International Rescue Committee, Christian Aid, Refugee Council, Refugee Action and Action Aid call upon states at the High Level Meeting on March 30 2016 to pledge to achieve the UNHCR target of resettlement and alternative pathways for at least 10 percent of Syria's nearly five million refugees.

You can find the letter on this link here:

<http://www.rescue-uk.org/international-news/irc-and-ngos-urge-global-leaders-commit-resettling-least-10-syrias-refugees>

Oxfam urges rich nations to take in more Syria refugees

The UK and other wealthy nations should sharply increase the number of Syrian refugees they take in, Oxfam has said.

www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-35913972

News links to reports on faith, politics and education

'Some 1916 ideals not yet achieved' - President of Ireland

Irish Independent

<http://www.independent.ie/irish-news/1916/some-1916-ideals-not-yet-achieved-president-34583010.html>

Political process will not deliver a united Ireland

Irish News

Founding member Provisional IRA member, Billy McKee
<http://www.irishnews.com/news/2016/03/30/news/political-process-will-not-deliver-a-united-ireland---billy-mckee-468087/>

'Unfortunately, my journey is drawing to a close'

Irish Independent

Terminally ill Irish scout chief's heartbreaking farewell message

<http://www.independent.ie/irish-news/unfortunatelymy-journey-is-drawing-to-a-close-terminally-ill-scout-chiefs-heartbreaking-farewell-message-34583029.html>

Seaside resorts residents' fury as drunken teens cause mayhem at Bangor, Portrush and Newcastle

Belfast Telegraph

<http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/northern-ireland/seaside-resorts-residents-fury-as-drunken-teens-cause-mayhem-at-bangor-portrush-and-newcastle-34582647.html>

Two-week protest on the doorstep of power will aim to push abortion issue

The Journal.ie

The campaign is supported by Amnesty International

<http://www.thejournal.ie/protest-government-doorstep-abortion-issue-2685470-Mar2016/>

Young teachers face 'perfect storm' of cuts and costs

Irish Times

Recently-recruited teachers would have to work until they were 94 to receive more money from a new revised pension system than they actually paid into the scheme, the TUI annual conference has been told.

http://www.irishtimes.com/news/ireland/irish-news/young-teachers-face-perfect-storm-of-cuts-and-costs-1.2591370?utm_source=dlvr.it&utm_medium=twitter

Non-Jews should be forbidden from living in Israel, says Chief Rabbi Yitzhak Yosef

Belfast Telegraph

<http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/world-news/nonjews-should-be-forbidden-from-living-in-israel-says-chief-rabbi-yitzhak-yosef-34584879.html>

Guard/Mail Online

Reports on the funerals of some of the 70 mostly women and children killed in the bomb attack in Lahore, Pakistan. Many were Christians, who the articles note are among the country's most economically disadvantaged communities and had been attracted to the cheap and affordable public attraction as an Easter treat for their children. A Taliban splinter group has claimed responsibility.

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/mar/28/lahore-bombing-victims-buried-grief-anger-security>
<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/wires/ap/article-3512957/AP-Explains-Violence-against-Christians-Pakistan.html>

BBC/Times/Mail/Express/[Christian Today](#)

Further coverage following the bomb explosion in Lahore, Pakistan, on Easter Sunday which killed 72 people. The *BBC* says that more than 200 people have been detained in the hunt for those behind the bombing. The *Times* reports that fear is a fact of life for Christians living in Pakistan. The *Mail* reports that the Christian community is

calling for protection from militants. The *Express* says Christians face "extinction" after years of religious persecution and terror attacks. *Christian Today* reports comments by the Catholic Archbishop of Lahore that Christians in Pakistan must not lose hope.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-asia-35916578>

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/world/asia/article4723854.ece>

[http://www.dailymail.co.uk/wires/reuters/article-3514452/Pakistans-Christians-call-protection-unity-Easter-bomb.html?](http://www.dailymail.co.uk/wires/reuters/article-3514452/Pakistans-Christians-call-protection-unity-Easter-bomb.html?ITO=1490&ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490)

[ITO=1490&ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490](http://www.dailymail.co.uk/wires/reuters/article-3514452/Pakistans-Christians-call-protection-unity-Easter-bomb.html?ITO=1490&ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490)

<http://www.express.co.uk/news/world/656405/Christians-Iraq-fear-wiped-out-ISIS-threats-persecution>

<http://www.christiantoday.com/article/pakistan.christians.must.not.give.up.hope.archbishop.says/82908.htm>

Christian Today

Reports the Maundy Thursday sermon by the Bishop of Salisbury Nicholas Holtam. In it Bishop Nicholas noted the link between Easter and the Jewish Passover festival. Fixing date date for Easter would separate Christians from their Jewish roots, he warned. His comments come after conversations between the leaders of Christian faiths about trying to fix the date of Easter.

Mail Online

Reports that a chocolate firm has been accused of 'hiding' the word 'Easter' from the front of their chocolate egg packaging. Cadbury was inundated with comments from customers on social media, questioning why the Easter treats simply said 'milk chocolate egg' with no mention of the Christian festival. Both Cadbury and

Nestle denied that they were getting rid of the word 'Easter' from their products. The Bishop of Salisbury, Nicholas Holtam is quoted.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3512381/Cadbury-underfire-hiding-reference-Easter-chocolate-egg-packaging.html>

BBC

Reports that Oxfam has said that the UK and other wealthy nations should sharply increase the number of Syrian refugees they take in. The charity wants 10% of the 4.8 million Syrians displaced by civil war to be resettled by the end of the year. Ahead of UN talks in Geneva on the crisis, it highlighted figures showing only 1.4% had been helped so far. Oxfam said UK plans to resettle 20,000 Syrians by 2020 were "not good enough", but the British government says it is focused on providing aid to people in the region.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-35913972>

Mail/Christian Today

Reports that a pottery fragment bearing Christian symbols from Roman Britain has been found among a number of forgotten fragments originally unearthed in Brentford, London, in the 1970s. The piece has been described as a 'tantalising find' because it sheds light on the spread of Christianity to London in the 4th century. The artefact has a Christian symbol scratched into it and this suggests there were followers of Christ living in Brentford in Roman times.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/sciencetech/article-3514122/Rare-Roman-pot-Christian-markings-London-Tantalising-sheds-light-religion-capital-poses-questions-answers.html>

ITV

Feature on James Runcie, the author of the books the *Grantchester* TV series. James is the son of the former Archbishop of Canterbury, Robert Runcie.

<http://www.itv.com/news/anglia/2014-10-07/interview-the-author-behind-itvs-grantchester-explains-how-his-childhood-in-cambridge-inspired-the-series/>

Comment

Telegraph: Tom Harris reflects the uncomfortable relationship between UK politicians and religion. The article notes that Christianity was never intended (originally, anyway) to be a comforting faith; it was, and remains, "a challenging and deeply uncomfortable philosophy".

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/religion/12205727/David-Camerons-shallow-cliched-Easter-message-shows-why-politicians-really-shouldnt-do-God.html>

Independent: Following the bombing which killed 70 in Lahore, comment piece on the persecution of Christians in Pakistan

<http://www.independent.co.uk/voices/lahore-we-shouldnt-shy-away-from-talking-about-the-persecution-of-christians-in-pakistan-a6956876.html>

FT: Further comment on above, including quotes from the Bishop of Karachi.

http://www.ft.com/cms/s/2/5aeebe9e-f4eb-11e5-96db-fc683b5e52db.html?FTCamp=engage/CAP1/webapp/Channel_Moreover//B2B#axzz44GVGuCvG

Times

Archbishop of York John Sentamu writes that many remain 'unconvinced' by the new 'national living wage' announced by the Chancellor George Osborne. He says that although it is to be welcomed that the Chancellor is increasing wages at the bottom level for over 25s, it amounts to a new legal minimum wage for this age group and is not enough to achieve a decent standard of living in the UK.

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/the-chancellors-living-wage-is-not-enough-to-live-on-k52h66s97>

Economist: Buttonwood - Where Brexit and climate-change scepticism converge, which includes a single quote from the Archbishop of Canterbury on climate change.

<http://www.economist.com/blogs/buttonwood/2016/03/economics-and-politics>

Evening Standard: Melanie McDonagh - Pakistan's empty promises for its Christian minority.

<http://www.standard.co.uk/comment/comment/melanie-mcdonagh-pakistan-s-empty-promises-for-its-christian-minority-a3213491.html>

Spectator: Tim Stanley - British Christians must start to think and act like a minority.

<http://blogs.spectator.co.uk/2016/03/british-christians-must-start-to-think-and-act-like-a-minority/>

GET CNI HEADLINES EACH DAY

Facebook and Twitter

Click on logo at CNI Home page

www.churchnewsireland.org

**+ Please share CNI with your friends
www.churchnewsireland.org**