

**The essential daily
brief on the Irish
churches**

**'We hope our
re-imagined
poppy will be
sign of hope'**

**Ireland's most
significant
memorial to World
War One is about
to be re-imagined.
A stark 20-ft tall
iron sculpture of a
bare tree,
shrouded in
barbed wire, will
become the new
centre-piece in the
memorial chapel to
the war dead in
Dublin's St
Patrick's Cathedral.**



Poppy wreaths laid at the Irish Guards memorial in Dublin's St Patrick's Cathedral.

Irish Independent - This apocalyptic-like Tree of Remembrance will be installed in the cathedral's North Transept chapel in late July where it will be surrounded by the more traditional brass and marble memorials to a select few victims of the First World War.

The sculpture and accompanying exhibition represents a bold move away from exclusivity and the glorification of war towards inclusivity and a more critical exploration of the wider impact of conflict.

"Traditionally in cathedrals, individuals are remembered and it is quite an exclusive club," admitted [Andrew Smith](#), education officer, with St Patrick's Cathedral.

"Generally they are officer class, they are from the Anglican community and they are all men."

"We are using the centenary of World War One as a kind of opportunity to make a statement that it doesn't sit well with us that so few are remembered.

"We feel that all should be remembered."

Visitors to the soaring gothic cathedral will be invited to place personal messages on tags and attach them to the barbed wire.

"It is a re-imagined poppy. The tree is a neutral symbol without the political trappings and we hope will become a symbol of hope in darkness and destruction."

Annual war remembrance services have been taking place in the Church of Ireland Cathedral since 1919.

IN November 1991, President [Mary Robinson](#) made history when she became the first Irish Head of State to attend the Remembrance Day Service.

Presidents McAleese and Higgins have continued the practice, placing a poppy wreath at the war memorial in the solemn chapel ceremony.

More at -

<http://www.independent.ie/lifestyle/world-war-1/we-hope-our-reimagined-poppy-will-be-sign-of-hope-30270582.html>

Wilson's Hospital appoints first female principal

Rosemary Maxwell-Eager (BA(Mod) HDE MEd) has been named as the thirteenth Principal and Warden of the 253 year old Wilson's Hospital School in Multyfarnham. Mrs Eager is the first female to hold the post.

Westmeath Examiner - The trustees and guardians of the school have announced that Mrs Eager will take up her position at the beginning of the school year 2014 - 2015, following the retirement of the present warden, Adrian Oughten.



A native of Clara, Co. Offaly Mrs Eager was educated at Glengara Park School, Dun Laoghaire and Trinity College Dublin. She later completed a further degree at the National University of Ireland, Maynooth.

She has served as Deputy Principal of Wilson's Hospital for a number of years and represents the Church of Ireland Board of Education on the National Council for Curriculum and Assessment. She also serves on the Executive of the National Association of Principals and Deputy Principals.

The incoming Warden brings many talents to her new role. She is acknowledged to be an accomplished academic with her abilities extending over a wide range of educational areas and interests.

Mrs. Eager has had considerable experience in the boarding life of the school having served in various positions in the Residency over the years.

The incoming Warden, as a member of the Church of Ireland, recognises the unique place of Protestant schools in the modern era..

- See more at: <http://www.westmeathexaminer.ie/news/roundup/articles/2014/05/20/4030347-wilsons-hospital-appoints-first-female-principal/#sthash.DBeSwqJe.dpuf>

Inaugural Ecumenical Bible Week

The inaugural Ecumenical Bible Week takes place from June 8 to 15, starting on Pentecost Sunday. This new initiative, involving all the main churches, is a different kind of celebration. It is not a congress or an assembly but a series of events which will move around Dublin and the wider area.

With a highly ecumenical engagement, this new initiative has great potential for the coming together of Christians from all backgrounds around the Word of God which we all share.

The Ecumenical Bible Week is a direct fruit of the International Eucharistic Congress of 2012. If it proves a success, it may become an annual event. The churches and movements involved so far are: Scripture Union, the Evangelical Alliance, the Orthodox Church, the Church of Ireland, the Roman Catholic Church, the Methodist Church and the Presbyterian Church.

The week of events begins with an opening ceremony in Trinity College Dublin Chapel on Sunday June 8 at 3.00 pm where details of the programme will be outlined.

Sessions during the week will take place in a number of different locations. They will come under the headings of Film, Media and Bible, Bible and Music, Exploring and Praying Scripture, Bible and Contemporary Issues and Pentecost Project Comic Book.

On Thursday June 12 there will be a session called 'Thinking Allowed' which will be a chaired discussion among a panel of Church leaders with audience participation. This takes place in All Hallow's College, Drumcondra, at 7.30 pm.

Venues include Arklow Presbyterian Church, Whitehall Parish, Tallaght Methodist Hall, St Mary's Church, Leixlip, Zion Parish Hall, Arklow Methodist Church and St Saviour's Church, Arklow. The closing ceremony will take place in All Hallows College on Sunday June 15 at 3.00 pm.

Full details of events and locations can be found on the website www.bibleweek.ie.

Irish link with Coventry Cathedral

Coventry Cathedral announced the appointment of the Reverend Dr Sarah Hills as the new Canon for Reconciliation. Born in South Africa Dr Hills lived in the Ballymoney area for several years.

The Canon for Reconciliation is a member of the senior management team of the Cathedral and is responsible for the peace and reconciliation ministry that is based in Coventry. This includes the Community of the Cross of Nails and the network of ICONS (International Cross of Nails Schools); both organisations include the Cathedral's many partners who work for peace in their own communities across the world. The role was previously held by Canon David Porter who has been seconded to the Archbishop of Canterbury's personal staff as his Director for Reconciliation. The Very Reverend John Witcombe, Dean of Coventry, commented, "We are very excited about Sarah's appointment. She brings a longstanding association with the cathedral's Cathedral's ministry, and will already be known to many in the city having spoken at the Celebration celebration service for Nelson Mandela at the end of last year. Sarah's experience in the theory and practice of reconciliation and peace building will be a tremendous gift to the city, and to the national and international work of the Cathedral. We are delighted to be welcoming her to Coventry." Sarah will be installed as the Canon for Reconciliation on Sunday September 14th.

Canon David Porter from Belfast formerly held this post, prior to his appointment to Archbishop Justin Welby's staff.

C of E Archbishops join Methodist leaders in call for further unity

The Archbishops of Canterbury and York have joined Methodist leaders in calling for 'significant steps' towards progressing the Anglican-Methodist Covenant

The Archbishops of Canterbury and York, together with the President and Vice-President of the Methodist Conference, have today called for "further, significant steps" towards reconciliation and partnership between Anglican and Methodist churches.

In a joint statement to their Churches, Archbishop Justin Welby, Archbishop John Sentamu, the Revd Ruth Gee and Dr Daleep Mukarji said: "The time has now come for our churches to take further, significant steps to achieve that level of reconciliation between us and partnership in the gospel that will enhance our mission together in local communities and our shared witness to the whole of society."

The statement welcomes a report that will be debated by the Methodist Conference and General Synod this year, entitled [The Challenge of the Covenant](#). The report recommends that both Churches take action to enhance unity between them, with the work being fully embedded in Church structures. It also encourages the Church of England to address the question of interchangeability of ordained ministries between the two Churches, and the Methodist Church to consider the possibility of a form of episcopal ministry (such as a 'president bishop').

The full statement at - <http://www.archbishopofcanterbury.org/articles.php/5324/archbishops-join-methodist-leaders-in-call-for-further-unity#sthash.25i3gdMB.dpuf>

And - <http://methodist.org.uk/news-and-events/news-releases/%E2%80%99significant-steps%E2%80%99-needed-to-progress-anglican-methodist-covenant>

June Methodist Newsletter available now

In the June issue of the Methodist Newsletter, Rev Julian Hamilton (Jools) describes life as a University Chaplain in Dublin.

It is clearly a job that both challenges and exhilarates him, for he describes it as

‘Both a joy and a terror. An honour and a pain. It is a privilege that is satisfying; tiring yet life-giving; awful and heart-breaking. Sometimes all on the same day. The opportunity to spend 80 – 90% of ministry amongst those ‘outside’ the walls of the Church, however, is nothing but wonderful.’

The Methodist Newsletter is a magazine, produced monthly (apart from August) by the Methodist Publishing Company (Ireland).

It is an independent journal, but tries to reflect a broad range of views from across the Methodist Church in Ireland. Senior Editor: Mrs. Lynda Neilands, Editor: Rev. Peter Mercer, Business Manager: Mr Harold Baird.



Watched by pupils and parents from St Multose National School, Kinsale, Bishop Paul Colton cuts the ribbon to mark the opening of the new extension to the school. Included in the photograph are the Mayor of Kinsale, Cllr Tony Cierans (left), the chairperson of the Board of Management, Mr John Stanley (second left), the school principal, Ms Fiona Giles (third left at back)

Extension to St Multose National School, Kinsale, opened

The Bishop of Cork, the Right Reverend Dr Paul Colton visited St Multose National School, Kinsale, County Cork, to open a substantial new extension to the school.

Prior to the opening the pupils and teachers led a Service of Thanksgiving in

the adjacent parochial hall at which they were joined by parents and representatives of the local community.

The Principal of the School, Ms Fiona Giles, welcomed everyone, and both she and the chairperson of the Board, Mr John Stanley paid tribute to all in the school community who had worked so hard to achieve two such extensions to the school in a relatively short period of time. During the morning the school community also took the opportunity to say a very sincere 'thank you' to the rector, Canon David Williams, and to wish him well on his forthcoming retirement.

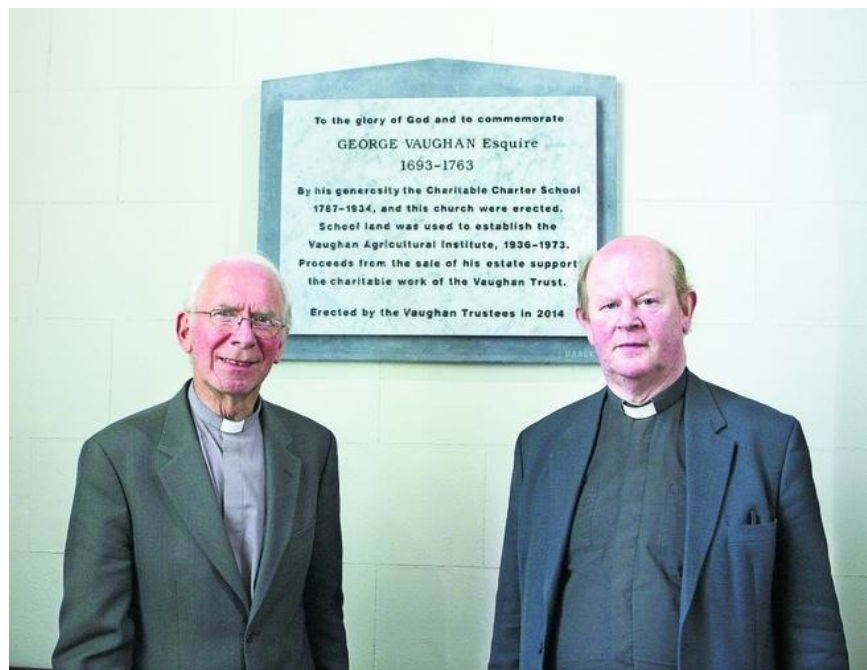
Gallery of photos at -

<http://churchofirelandcork.com/2014/05/21/extension-to-st-multose-national-school-kinsale-opened-by-bishop-paul-colton/>

A life of generosity commemorated

The Vaughan Trustees who administer agricultural awards from the legacy of the late George Vaughan, have erected a plaque to commemorate his life and to highlight the generosity of his legacy in Fermanagh.

Impartial Reporter - George Vaughan was born in 1693 and died in 1763, and the Charitable Charter School, Drumkeeran Parish Church and the Vaughan Agricultural Institute at Tubrid, Kesh, were as a result of his legacy. Now the Vaughan Trust is supported from the invested funds from the sale of his estate, to support the farming community in Fermanagh.



Archdeacon Cecil Pringle, rector of Drumkeeran Parish Church, Tubrid with Canon David Crooks, a 7th generation nephew of the late George Vaughan and is rector of Taughboyne Church, North Donegal.

In his article, Olwen B Gormley from the Vaughan Trustees, charts the life of George Vaughan and how he

developed agriculture here.

“The Vaughan family settled in North Donegal before the Plantation of Ulster and came originally from South Wales. Sir John Vaughan, an ancestor of George, was responsible for the establishment of Londonderry, and as Governor, was in charge of the building of the Walls of Derry and St Columb’s Cathedral. John’s brother, Captain Henry Vaughan settled in North Donegal and was responsible for the formation and development of Buncrana town. The Vaughan family, over the next 100 years, leased and purchased lands including the Buncrana estate, Doe Castle estate and Porthall. It was into this prominent family that George was born in 1693. George was the youngest in his family with three older sisters Elizabeth, Marianna and Anne. His father was Colonel George Vaughan of Buncrana Castle.

“Young George was educated at Trinity College, Dublin, which he entered in 1708. He married Alice Fortescue from Co Louth and they had one daughter. However their daughter died in her youth and George and Alice were left with no direct heir. George and his wife lived in Buncrana Castle which had been rebuilt by his father in 1718.

“George managed his estates and provided employment in his native Buncrana by establishing flax mills and building roads. During the severe famine of 1740’s (100 years before the ‘infamous’ famine) he sought to provide employment in the flax industry to alleviate the poverty of his tenants.

“In 1740 George Vaughan purchased the Castle Hassett estate in North Fermanagh from Mrs Squire, initially 2000 acres. Crevenish Castle near Kesh, which is now in ruins, was once known as Castle Hassett. From his home in Buncrana he negotiated with the Hamiltons of Baronscourt to build a road to link the counties and he funded the ‘seven mile straight’, from Scraghey mountain to Kesh, to access his estate lands. This road provided work for his Fermanagh tenants throughout the famine...

...“By the early 1970’s, with the establishment of the new Enniskillen Agricultural College and the Grassland Experimental Centre at Castle Archdale, there appeared no further use for the Institute. The Vaughan’s Charity Order 1973 ensured the remaining lands and buildings were sold off and assets were invested by the Charities Branch of the Department of Finance.

“Since 1973 the annual income from the invested monies funds the present Vaughan Trust. A new board of Trustees was set up to Government requirements, in order to manage the Vaughan Trust fund. The plaque erected by the Trustees at Tubrid suitably commemorates George Vaughan

for his generosity in the substantial legacy which continues to benefit the farming community of Co Fermanagh.”

The Vaughan Trustees thanked all those who had helped with the event including the Rector and Vestry of Drumkeeran Parish and Haslet Monumental Sculptors.

More at -

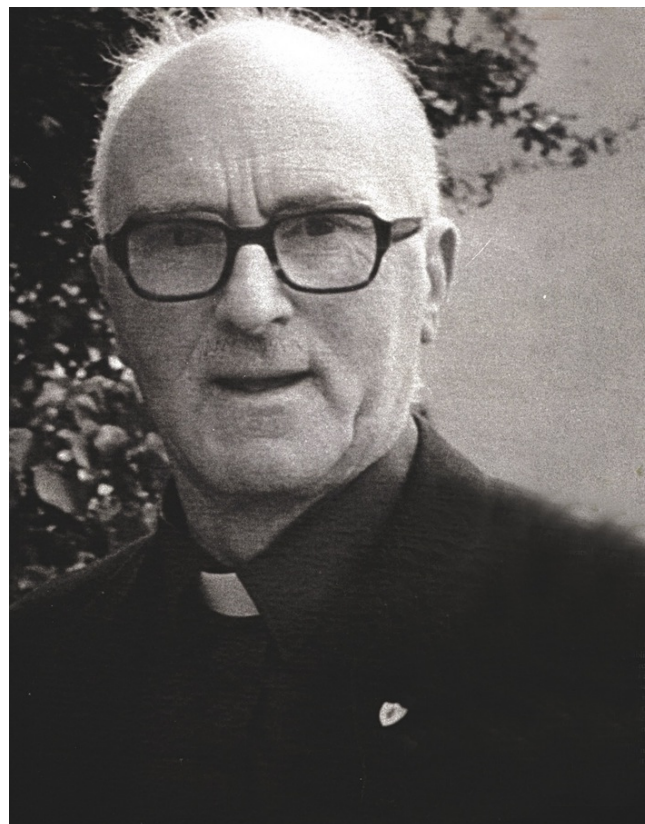
<http://www.impartialreporter.com/news/farming/articles/2014/05/15/405113-lasting-memorial-erected-to-man-who-inspired-the-vaughan-trust/>

C of I input to book on Jesuits in Galway

Ms Avril Forrest took her first religion class in the Jes when the school chaplain Fr Derek Cassidy was on sick leave. Famine in Africa, and how the West should respond, was the issue of the day. The class unanimously insisted that the Vatican should sell all its assets, and give the money to relieve world hunger.

Galway Advertiser - There was no debate until Ms Forrest began to point out that the Vatican wealth does not belong to the Pope, but to all Catholics. It existed to inspire belief in the Kingdom of God, and had been collected over the centuries. If it was sold off it would raise a few billion dollars, but that would soon be gone, and then all that treasure, the great artistic witnesses to the church expressed in paintings, frescoes, sculpture, buildings, etc, gathered over 2,000 years, would have been lost....

It was a valiant defence. The class was impressed. But if the truth be known Ms Avril Forrest, the wife of the then respected rector of St Nicholas' Collegiate Church, was a Protestant, thrown into the deep end of religious



The late Br Michael Crowe who 'made it special'.

teaching in the oldest Catholic school in the city. When the principal, Fr Greene, asked her to take senior classes for religion Ms Forrest protested that she knew nothing of Catholic doctrine, Fr Green waved his hand: "Tell them about the Church of Ireland; call it Ecumenical Studies." Which is what Ms Forrest did, and it proved to be one of the most stimulating classes of the week for debate and interest.

In fact there is a stream of Church of Ireland children at the Jes. The popular notion that Protestant families are all wealthy, and could easily afford to send their children to Protestant boarding schools is far from the truth. St Nicholas' primary school leavers had no entitlement to a place in any Galway secondary school. In the 1980s and 90s, as the population of the city expanded rapidly, all schools were under pressure. Understandably they gave preference to Catholic children. That is now changing due to the recent influx of new immigrant families, but in Ms Forrests' time the Jes traditionally accepted Protestant children into its school, and made a place in its curriculum for their own religious instruction. Ms Forrest writes that many Protestant children ' found not only a place, but a welcome, and full inclusion into school life. At least one Church of Ireland parish rector can testify to that; and claim Coláiste Iognáid as his alma mater.'

One of the best known faces of the Jesuits inside and outside school, was the late Brother Michael Crowe. The school library is named after him, as this was his domain. Ms Forrest writes that Br Crowe was a gentle unassuming man. 'Every morning before school, he cycled to Salthill for a swim, and arrived back fresh and clear-headed for the day, a state not always achieved by the rest of the staff. He called for silence in the library while waving his hands in the air, a gesture some of the boys could imitate perfectly behind his back, more in affection than in mockery.'

A former student Margaret Duggan writes: 'He was like the good shepherd. He knew every book in the room. We students were his flock who benefited most from his work. With his passing I began to grasp that the school is more than an establishment - It is a community, and people like Br Crowe made it special.'

I am taking this from a new book celebrating 150 years of the Jesuits in Galway. ** In fact the Jesuits were here since the beginning of the 17th century, but in the centuries that followed they came and went according to the political climate of the day. The Jesuits wisely slipped away after Cromwell's troops occupied the town in 1651. Barely 40 years later, immediately following the Battle of Aughrim, King William's army arrived exhausted and vengeful, and occupied the town. Their ships were anchored in the bay. The Penal Laws followed. The Jesuits again disappeared.

But after each political turmoil, however, they returned, always ensuring that the members who spoke the native Irish language were best suited for Galway. There is an affecting momento of these times in the shape of a silver chalice used by a Fr John Birmingham in 1620 now in the possession of the Jesuits in Gaway. It was probably used at public Mass in difficult times.

More at -

ser.ie/galway/article/69446/education-is-exciting-but-probably-better-to-leave-the-minister-at-home#.U3i9GBK9Kf0

Church of Scotland looking further at ordaining those in civil partnerships

The General Assembly of the Church of Scotland has voted in favour of a proposal which could eventually lead to the ordination of ministers in civil partnerships.

Following a lengthy debate which examined the legal and theological implications, commissioners voted by 369 for, and 189 against.

The vote means the Assembly has agreed to send down to its Presbyteries for further discussion a piece of draft Church legislation, known as an Overture, which offers a way of accommodating differing views on ministers and deacons in civil partnerships.

The decisions of all 46 Presbyteries will be reported back to the General Assembly in May 2015. If a majority are in favour, a final vote will be taken at next year's gathering.

Christian and Muslim leaders condemn Jos bombings

After bombings on 21 May in the northern Nigerian city of Jos, in which more than one-hundred people have been killed, "heart-felt sorrow and condolences" have been expressed in a joint statement by Rev. Dr Olav Fykse Tveit, general secretary of the World Council of Churches (WCC), and Prince Ghazi bin Muhammad of Jordan, chairman of the Royal Aal Al-Bayt Institute for Islamic Thought (RABIIT).

WCC - "We strongly condemn the recent bombings in Jos, Nigeria. The location and timing of the bombings clearly were designed to cause indiscriminate and widespread casualties among passers-by, and among

rescue workers who were coming to their aid,” reads the statement.

Both religious leaders, who were in Jos and Plateau State in 2012 leading a Christian-Muslim delegation in Nigeria, have stressed that the horrific acts which have just occurred in Jos do not represent in any way either of their two religions.



WCC general secretary Olav Fykse Tveit and Prince Ghazi bin Muhammad of Jordan during their visit to Nigeria in 2012.

“They have made us even more determined to find ways to support the people of Nigeria and those who are seeking to put an end to violence in the country,” says their statement.

“Peace is a blessing from God. Christianity and Islam call for peace and harmony among all of humanity, and do not condone or allow offensive warfare or aggression,” reads the statement.

The country is also in the news due to the abduction of more than 200 young women by the Boko Haram fighters, an event which prompted a “profound concern” from the WCC general secretary urging “swift and peaceful” action to restore these girls to their homes.

[Read full text of the WCC- RABIT joint statement](#)



World Council of Churches

GET CNI HEADLINES ON TWITTER - link on CNI home page