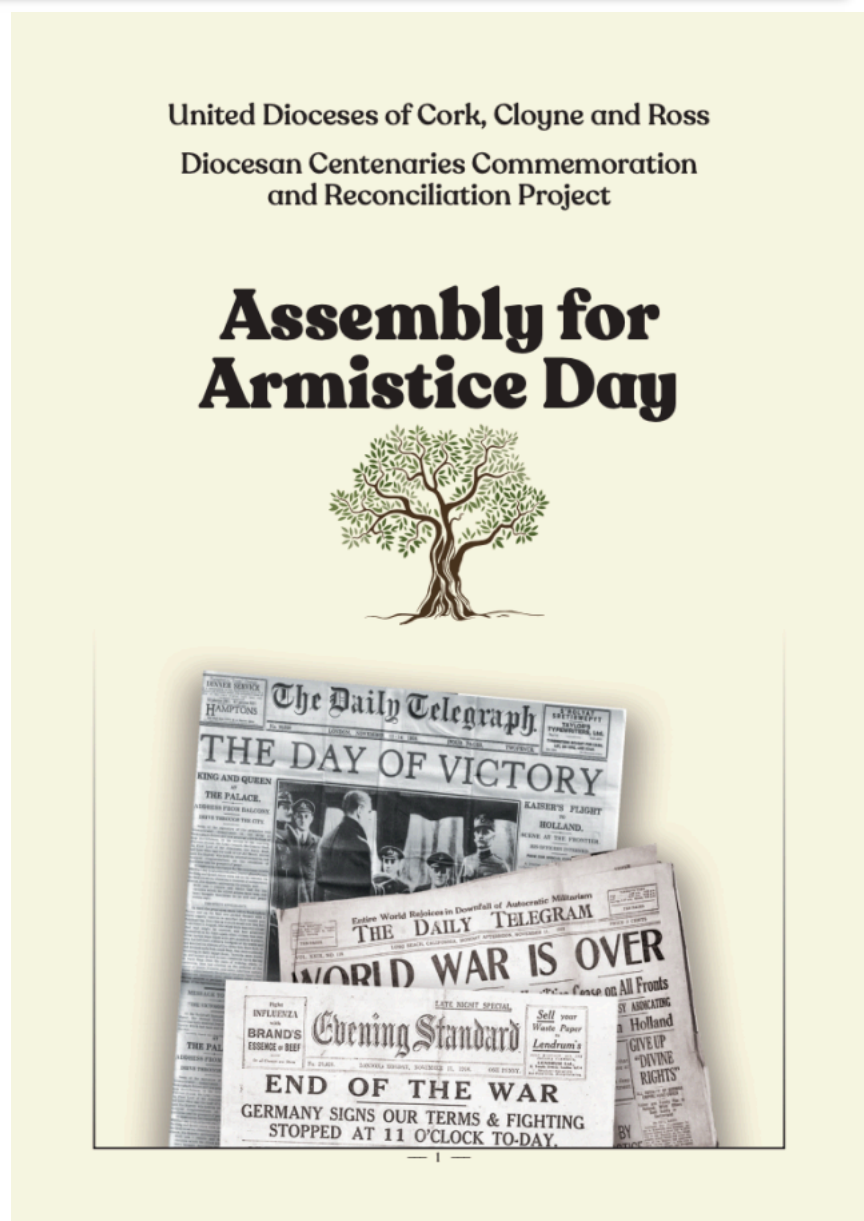




**Olive trees and telegrams in Cork schools will mark end of WW1**

Bishop Colton of Cork is making a gift of an olive tree (symbol of peace) to each school in the Diocese, and materials for a special school assembly of remembrance with prayers for peace have been prepared by Jacqui Wilkinson. Bishop Colton



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### **Olive trees ready for distribution**

said ‘I was given the idea of the olive tree by Eunice Jeffers from Dunmanway, who is one of the people involved in our Diocesan Centenaries Commemoration and Reconciliation Project.’

The trees, sourced by Olive Burns, will be delivered on Tuesday 6th November. In addition, students are being encouraged to look for war memorials in their churches and communities, and to find out about the people being commemorated.

Alternatively, the suggestion is that children research flags and badges around the world that incorporate the olive branch, or that they research the story behind the flag of the United Nations.

Students are asked to find out what the Quakers teach about war and peace, and to look into some of the winners of the Nobel Peace Prize.

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Prayers will be written for use at the assemblies, and a reading list for children about current areas of conflict in the world is suggested.

Bishop Colton will visit a number of the schools to attend those assemblies.

Most of the schools are holding their special assemblies on Friday morning, 9th November.

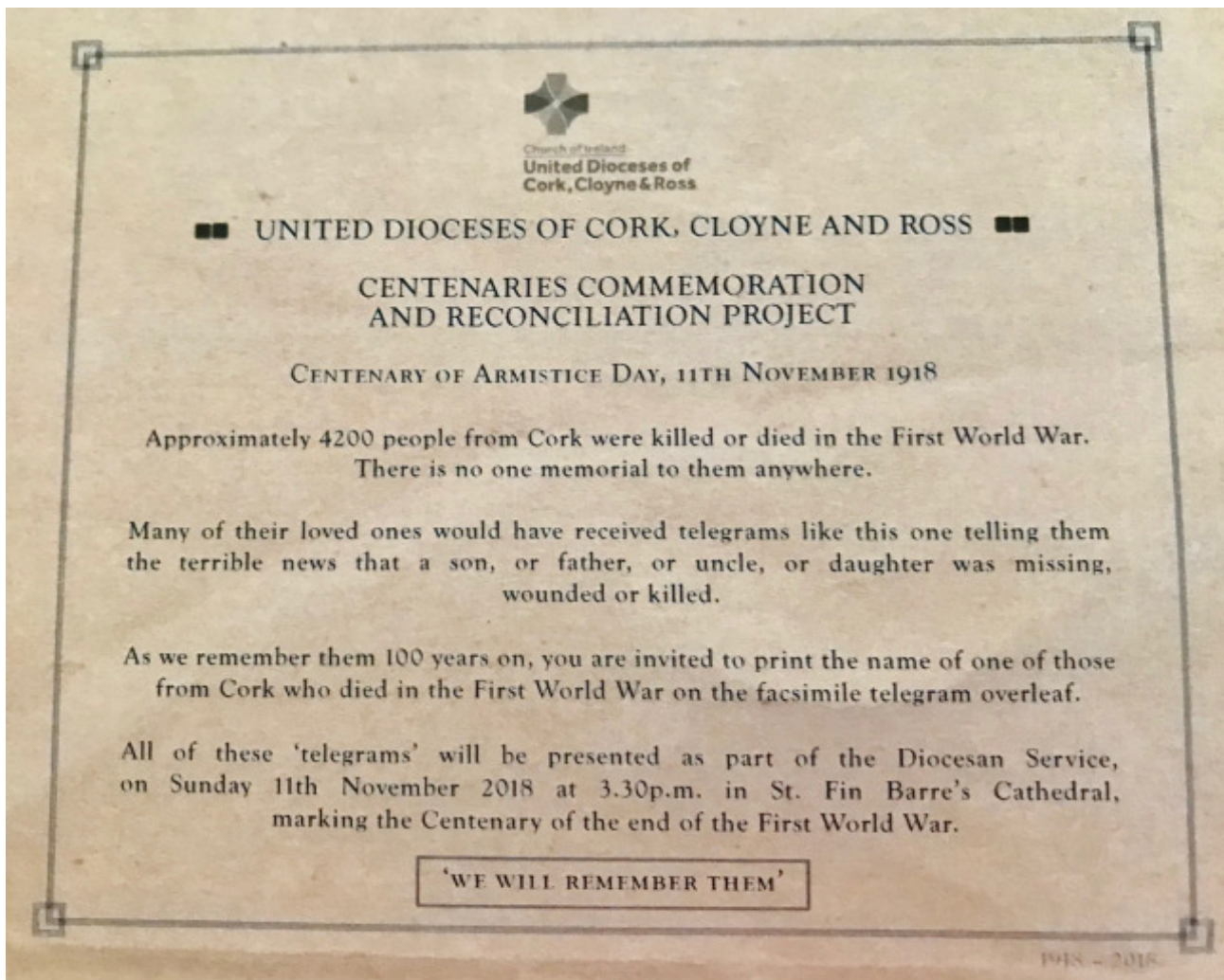
## **Telegrams**

‘Unlike other parts of the world, and indeed some other counties in Ireland, in Cork,’ said Bishop Colton, ‘there is no one memorial to all of the people – approximately 4,200 of them – from our city and county who died in the First World War.’

This set the Bishop thinking and so he came up with the idea, for this centenary commemoration, of the telegram – the means by which so many received the devastating news of the loss of their loved one. The Bishop has had 4200 blank facsimile telegrams printed.

The young people in the three second level schools in the Diocese – Ashton School, Bandon Grammar School, and Midleton College – are each, with the support of school chaplains and history teachers, writing one name on each of the 4,200 telegrams of a Cork person who died in the First World War. Bishop Colton will be visiting the students in some of the schools to see the work in progress.

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Students from the schools will be at St Fin Barre's Cathedral, for the Service of Commemoration of the End of the First World War to present these as an act of remembrance, on Sunday afternoon, 11th November at 3.30 p.m. The Service is open to everyone and will be attended by people from throughout the City and County, the Deputy Lord Mayor of Cork, public representatives, members of the defence forces, veteran organisations, community groups and the consular corps in Cork.

### ***Putting Faces on the Names***

Names engraved on stone only tell part of the story. But, what did they look like? In 2014, Bishop Colton and the

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Dean of Cork, the Very Reverend Nigel Dunne, had a very strong response to their request for photographs that had been hidden away in family albums or even attics. A visual display – ‘Putting Faces on the Names’ – has been running for the last four years. Tens of thousands of visitors to St Fin Barre’s Cathedral (where it is placed) have been to see it. The former British Ambassador to Ireland, Sir Dominick Chilcott, described it as ‘mesmerising’. ‘We deliberately scanned the photos just as they were given to us, with no enhancement,’ explained the Bishop – ‘this is all that remains of what these people looked like.’

## **Pope Francis: ‘A Christian cannot be an anti-Semite’**

Pope Francis strongly condemned anti-Semitism, recalling the living memory of the Holocaust in Europe, during a meeting with rabbis at the Vatican Monday.

“As I have often repeated, a Christian cannot be an anti-Semite; we share the same roots,” Pope Francis told a delegation from the World Congress of Mountain Jews yesterday Nov. 5.

“Rather, we are called to commit ourselves to ensure anti-Semitism is banned from the human community,” he continued.

The Vatican audience was the first time that representatives of the Mountain Jews of the Caucasus, descendants of the ancient Persian Jewish community, met with a Roman pontiff.

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“I have always sought to emphasize the importance of friendship between Jews and Catholics. It is based on a fraternity grounded in the history of salvation and it finds concrete expression in concern for one another,” Pope Francis said.

The pope recounted his visit with a Jewish community in Lithuania on “a day devoted to the commemoration of the Shoah, seventy-five years after the destruction of the Vilnius ghetto and the murder of thousands of Jews.”

“I prayed before the monument to the victims of the Holocaust and I asked the Most High to comfort his people,” the pope said.

There must be “a living memory” of the Holocaust, Francis insisted.

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“Just a few days from now, Nov. 9 will mark the 80th anniversary of the Kristallnacht, when many Jewish places of worship were destroyed, not least with the intent of uprooting from the hearts of individuals and a people that which is absolutely inviolable: the presence of the Creator,” he continued.

In the wake of the deadliest attack on the Jewish community in the United States last week, many bishops spoke out against anti-Semitism. Eleven people were killed when a gunman opened fire at the Tree of Life synagogue during its Sabbath service Oct. 27.

“Anti-Jewish bigotry, and all religious and ethnic bigotry, is a terrible sin,” Bishop David Zubik of Pittsburgh said the day of the attack. “As we pray for peace in our communities and comfort for the grieving, we must put prayer into action by loving our neighbors and working to make ‘Never again!’ a reality.”

After the shooting, Archbishop Charles Chaput of Philadelphia said that “Religious and ethnic hatred is vile in any form, but the ugly record of the last century is a lesson in the special evil of anti-Semitism ... It has no place in America, and especially in the hearts of Christians.”

Pope Francis offered prayers for the victims of the Pittsburgh synagogue shooting during his Angelus address.

“May the Lord help us to extinguish the outbreaks of hatred that develop in our societies,” he prayed.

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## **IDLE team reports to Armagh synod**

The focus of the Armagh Diocesan Synod on Saturday (3 November) was very much on looking to the future ministry of the church and the diocese. This was clearly evident in Archbishop Richard's presidential address, in the reports from the diocesan boards (which have been rebranded and refocused over the past 18 months) and in the presentation from the diocesan team who took part in an IDLE (inter-diocesan learning experience). Their presentation being aptly named 'New Adventures in Ministry' and set the challenge for each parish grouping to consider what one new thing they could start within the next 12 months that could make a real difference to their local community.

*Extracts from the Archbishop's Address follow -*

2019 marks 150 years since the Church of Ireland was disestablished. But even though next year's celebration will be in part about history and change (and as a student of history I welcome that), it will also be an opportunity to ask ourselves what we wish to become, where we need to set our face, and if we can indeed face the future with the same courage that was shown by our predecessors in 1869. Perhaps we need to use the opportunity to have a reality check – a health check – to see what the years and decades have made of us as a Church, and what we need to do in order to have a healthy future, rather than simply to “stagger on” for a few more years. And it is with this in mind that I would like, for a few minutes, to look at different aspects of health and wholeness.



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First of all, as a Church and as a diocese: There seems little doubt that we might indeed manage to “hang on” as a community for another generation or two, even as the world around us changes radically, and ignores us ever more disdainfully in the rising tide of secularisation and self-absorption. But is that all there is to our ambitions for the Kingdom of God – survival as an institution for the time being? It was Our Lord who said that whoever seeks only to save his or her life will assuredly lose it. Part of the continuing good health of any Christian community is the degree to which it looks outside itself and its own continued existence and it is worth reflecting that real health is not achieved when we simply wrap ourselves up and refuse to take any steps outside familiar and unruffled surroundings.

I have spoken about “health” in what are principally metaphorical terms, but I want to mention one aspect of health and this is far from metaphorical. It is the immense upsurge, particularly among young people in problems of mental health. In a recent survey in Northern Ireland, over

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40% of 16–25 year olds said that they had experienced a mental health problem, and nearly 70% that they “always or often” feel stressed.

I was grateful that our youth and children’s ministry group provided a mental health first aid course for some of those involved with ministry among young people. We need to be alert to the needs of our young people but, equally, not to simplify the possible causes of mental health problems or to imagine that any of us has the expertise to deal with any and every situation. We also need to accept that mental ill–health is not an issue only for the young. Many older people, suffer isolation or depression and do not have the confidence to look for help from others. To be alert to the suffering of others without being intrusive or overbearing is a difficult balance to bring to our relationships.

## **Royal Irish annual service of remembrance**

The Royal Irish Regiment ‘family,’ including serving and past members and relatives, gathered in their hundreds in Belfast Cathedral for the annual Service of Remembrance on Sunday past, November 4.

The Regiment meets each year to remember all of those who have died, whether in action or of natural causes. In attendance on Sunday afternoon were all ranks of the Regiment and a large number of veterans and bereaved families.

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Special guests included Brigadier Colin Weir DSO MBE, the Colonel of the Regiment, and Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant for the City of Belfast, Mrs Fionnuala Jay-O'Boyle.

The service of Choral Evensong was led by the Dean of Belfast, the Very Rev Stephen Forde, and featured the Cathedral Choir conducted by Master of the Choristers David Stevens, with organ scholar Jack Wilson playing the organ. There was also music from the Band of The Royal Irish Regiment.

Lessons were read by Brigadier Weir and Lieutenant Colonel PJ Walkley, Commanding Officer, 2nd Battalion The Royal Irish Regiment.

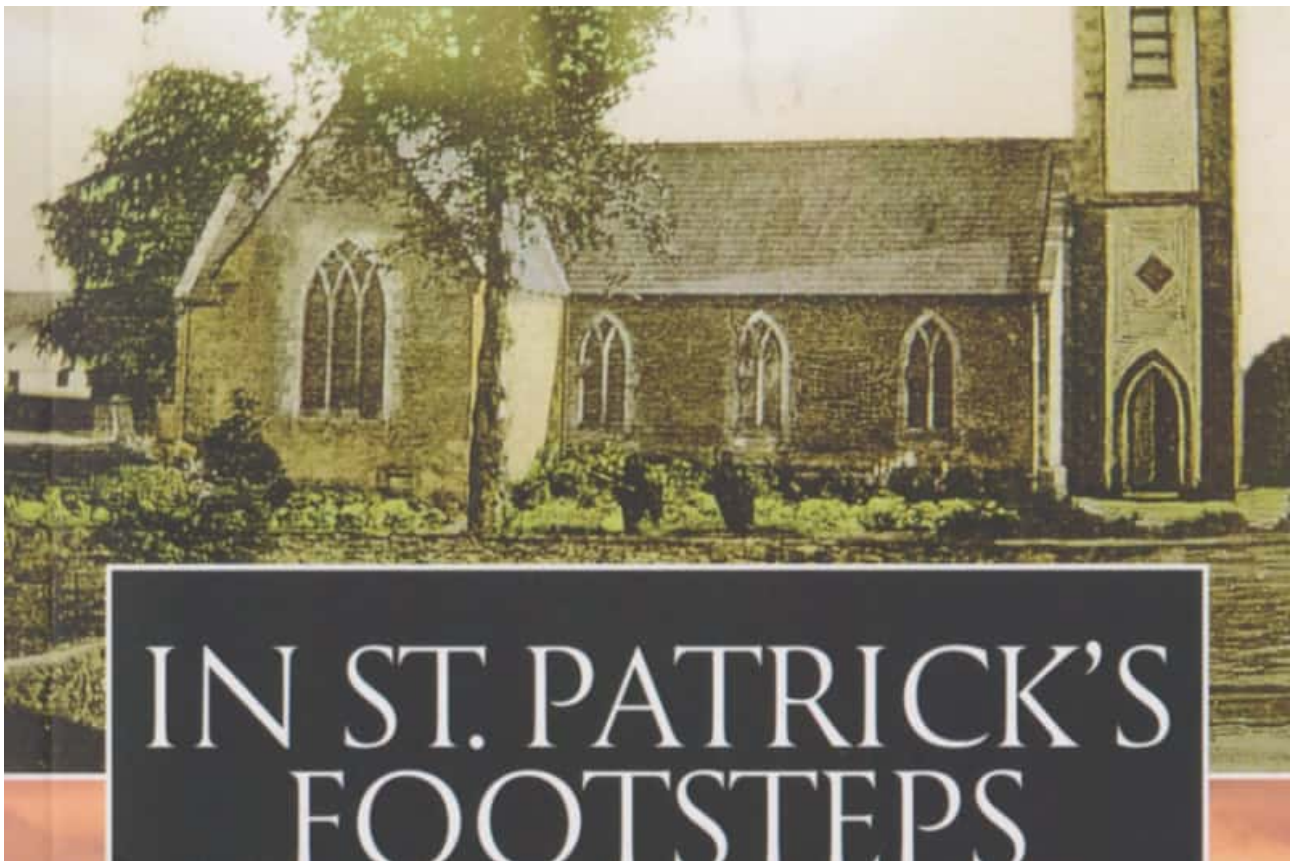
The Rev Dr I Thompson, Honorary Chaplain to the Regiment, led an Act of Remembrance which included the Last Post, Reveille and the laying of wreaths by a representative of each of the antecedent and foundation Regiments which form the Royal Irish Regiment family. A wreath was also laid by the Colonel of the Regiment.

Following a tribute by a piper, Colonel HK McAllister, Honorary Colonel, 2nd Battalion, quoted the Ode of Remembrance.

## **Ruptions and revolutions: 1,500 year history of Tyrone church revealed**

The tumultuous history of a church which is thought to owe its origins to St Patrick has been brought to life thanks to years of research by a trio of local historians.

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After trawling through record offices in Dublin, Armagh and Belfast, and an intensive hunt through the parish's own ancient paperwork, they have produced a volume entitled 'In St Patrick's Footsteps'.

James Glendinning, a 71-year-old retired teacher from Stewartstown, worked on it along with Valentine 'Val' Moffett, and his wife Hazel.

"The story is St Patrick set up seven churches in the east Tyrone area, including Donaghendry," he said.

"Whether he personally did or one of his followers did is open to debate. But it was set up in his time. It's about 1,500 years old."

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In the late 16th and early 17th century, the church had fallen into disrepair because of the Nine Years War, as Hugh O'Neill, ruler of old Ulster, led a failed rebellion against forces led by Baron Mountjoy – culminating in the Flight of the Earls, and paving the way for the plantation.

“This was the middle of O'Neill territory,” said Mr Glendinning. “The place was in terrible turmoil. There was no central control. Mountjoy's policy was to destroy all the crops as part of a strategy to win the war. The church probably fell to bits.

“When [O'Neill] left, Lord Castlestewart came in as the ‘under taker’, to plant the land with Scottish and English settlers.”

The church, or what was left of it, was moved to a new location about a mile away in Stewartstown itself in 1622 – the site where it stands today.

However, there was more strife in store for the congregation. Records the researchers found in Dublin reveal a reference to the parish relating to the 1641 Irish rebellion.

“The records reference Donaghendry. They say the clergyman Mr Dunbar, minister of Donaghendry, his wife and five or six young children, and elderly mother and father, were stripped and robbed of whatever ‘wearing clothes’ they had, and were whipped.

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**The Donaghendry Heritage Group committee (left to right) Jackie Slater, Elizabeth Abernethy Hazel Moffett, James Glendinning and Val Moffett**

“What became of them, no-one knows. Presumably they were dead from exposure - nobody heard tell of them again.”

The church was rebuilt again - on order of William III - in 1690, and then again after a fire in 1870s.

In a safe in the church, the researchers found parish records going back to the 1700s, much of it difficult to read because of the age and the handwriting – but all of it helping to illuminate some bygone aspects of Ireland.

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“If you’re going through 200 years of notes, and taking notes from those, it takes a fair bit of time,” said Mr Glendinning, with an air of understatement. “We worked at it for seven years.”

Among the things they rifled through were old marriage records (some signed with Xs because the spouses were illiterate), an arrest warrant for assault from 1763 (because the church – at the time a big part of the local authority – was in charge of appointing a constable for the area), and even an “very long-winded letter”, dated 1778, from a Jim Anketell to the News Letter, “thanking people for appointing him as curate”.

They compared church records from 1824 and government records from 1860, and noticed that “everybody seemed to have moved”.

“There was no stability in where people were living, because they just rented land and didn’t have to stay in any particular spot. It’s amazing the lack of stability, how people were living.”

This changed around the turn of the century - a change that shows up in the church records - as land reform allowed farmers to purchase their own holdings, instead of paying landlords in perpetuity.

“At the beginning of the 1900s, the people living in big houses all decided to leave to go to Dublin or London because they were no longer getting rent from the land.”

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The church is a Church of Ireland one. Despite having spent so much time on the project, Mr Glendinning himself is not actually a member of the church. “I’m Presbyterian – I’m an interloper!” he joked. “But history is history. It’s all part of the history of the area.” Report courtesy the News Letter

## **News briefs**

### **Down parish’s new bells will ring in the Peace**

Kilmood’s brand new church bells will be unveiled and dedicated at a special civic service on Friday 9 November.

The 500 kg  
‘Peace Bells’  
have been  
installed at  
St Mary’s  
Church.



The Mayor  
and Councillors of Ards and North Down Borough Council  
will attend the service and the bells will be unveiled by the  
Lord Lieutenant of County Down, Mr David Lindsay. Lord  
Eames of Armagh OM, will dedicate them and then give an  
address on the subject of peace.

Whilst attendance at the civic service is strictly at the  
invitation of the council, the parishioners of St Mary’s will  
hear the bells ring out in jubilation as part of the  
commemorations of the WW1 Armistice Centenary.

Finally, on the the evening of Sunday 11, the bells will be  
introduced to the local community at a short informal  
family–friendly service. A bugler will sound at 6.55 pm and

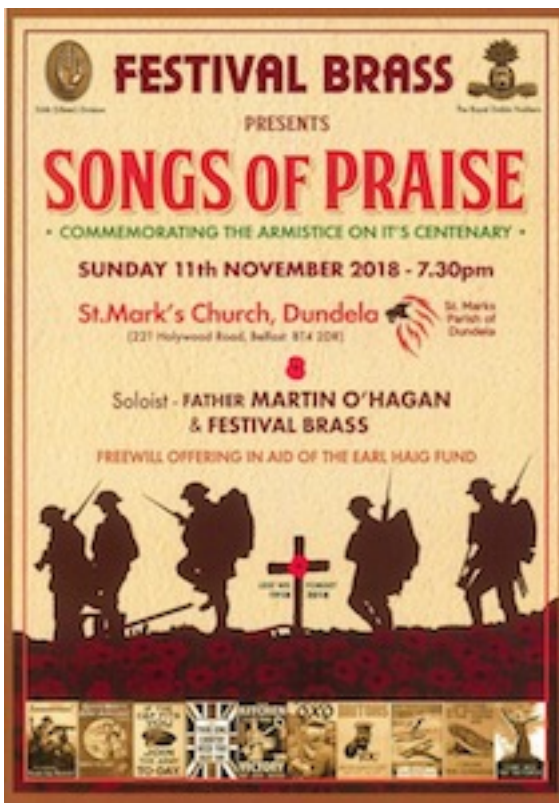


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at 7.00 pm the *Battle's Over* beacon will be ignited alongside 1000+ others across the British Isles. The bells will ring again at 7.55 pm.

18 bell ringers have been trained to make sure that the peace bells ring out for years to come.

## **Armistice Songs of Praise with Festival Brass**



St Mark's, Dundela, will host a special *Songs of Praise* with *Festival Brass* to commemorate the Armistice on its centenary.

Festival Brass will be joined by soloist, Fr. Martin O'Hagan, one of the 'Singing Priests'.

When: Sunday 11 November at 7.30 pm

Where: St Mark's Dundela, 221 Hollywood Road, Belfast, BT4 2DR

This is a free event but there will be a freewill offering in aid of the Earl Haig Fund.

## **Prayer service for the Persecuted Church**

On Monday, 26 November, at 8.00 pm, Divine Healing Ministries will be working with Release International to support the Persecuted Church with a service at Belfast Cathedral.

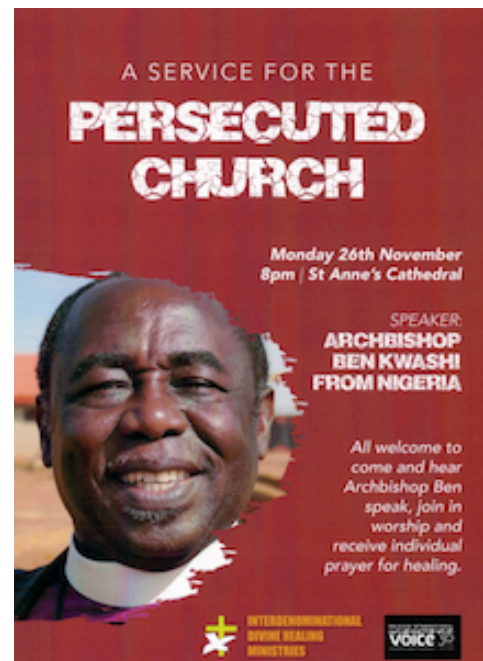
The speaker will be the Most Revd Dr Ben Kwashi. Archbishop Ben is well-known for faithfully serving [churchnewsireland@gmail.org](mailto:churchnewsireland@gmail.org)

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persecuted Christians in Plateau State, central Nigeria. A powerful speaker, he will be sharing his experience from Nigeria at various venues around the UK in late November.

Divine Healing Ministries Director Fergus McMorrow said: “We are tremendously excited to be working with Release International on the service for the Persecuted Church at St Anne’s on Monday, 26

November. We will be praying for a real outpouring of the Spirit. This is a great opportunity to hear from someone who is literally on God’s front-line in Nigeria.”



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