



## **Archbishop of Armagh stresses Five Marks of Mission are essential in parish life**

The Anglican Communion's Five Marks of Mission were highlighted by The Most Revd Dr Richard Clarke Archbishop of Armagh, in his presidential address to the diocesan synod in Armagh yesterday.

Dr Clarke said -

As many of you will know, in April of this year I was – at rather short notice – parachuted, fortunately only metaphorically, into the meeting of the Anglican Consultative Council in Lusaka, the capital city of Zambia. It was in many ways an exciting experience, and I have mentioned aspects of it over the few months since the meeting, but there is one particular area I would like to highlight at this synod, as I believe it might have a very important application for the diocese and, more particularly, for our individual parishes.

This was a major emphasis at the meeting in Lusaka on what is called the *Five Marks of Mission*. These *Five Marks* are an Anglican summary of what “mission” (in some ways a somewhat jaded word in the Christian vocabulary) might and should mean in every part of the world-wide Anglican Communion. I was certainly well aware of the existence and content of these *Five Marks* (which actually have their origins back in the 1980s). I knew also that some local dioceses, both here in the Church of Ireland, and also among our Anglican neighbours in England, Scotland and Wales, were placing serious emphasis on the concept, but it was the meeting in Lusaka that made me realise in a new way that the *Five Marks of Mission* really do have

a *universal* application for Anglicans, in the very different contexts and cultures in which we may live. So what are they?

1. To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom
2. To teach, baptise and nurture new believers
3. To respond to human need by loving service
4. To transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and pursue peace and reconciliation
5. To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation, and sustain and renew the life of the earth

It is clear that they all relate to the first of these five marks, which is central to all else – proclaiming the Good News of the Kingdom. You might ask what is special about these *Five Marks* and, at one level, they are indeed stating fairly obvious aspects of Christian discipleship and witness. What I found fascinating in Lusaka was the way in which they each had a different *character* in the many different Christian contexts represented at that ACC meeting. Every part of the worldwide Church has to work through them, work out the implications for their own setting, and then put them into practice.

A suggestion I want to make to this diocese is that, over the next year, parishes might do their own “internal audit” on which marks of mission they truly reflect and which they need to start taking more and then, as a parish, ask how they might be more effective in fulfilling their calling, their mission.

Looking at them, very briefly in turn.

*Proclaiming the Good News of the Kingdom* does not mean handing people a package, it means encouraging them to join with us on a journey. “The Kingdom of God” - so much part of Our Lord’s teaching in the Gospels – does not mean something we can claim a monopoly on, or ownership of. It is God’s, and what is meant by the Kingdom in Christ’s teaching is the *realm of God*, that place where God’s rule may be found. We can never dare claim that we have *ownership* of that. It is the place we seek, the place of which we wish to be part, the place where we may sometimes fall and falter, but sometimes are wonderfully and luminously aware of God’s presence. The recent visit of the Anglican-Orthodox International Commission for Theological Dialogue was a reminder of this. Many of our visitors were captivated by the

spirituality they could feel, by the heritage of Saint Patrick and the warmth of our fellowship here. We should never take granted the spiritual riches that we do have, but can so often overlook. So, when we talk about proclaiming the Good News of the Kingdom, it is something far more vibrant and exciting than merely handing people directions on how to live, almost as though we don't need directions and corrections for ourselves. We are asking people to become, not "people like us", but to become what we all strive to be, children of the Kingdom of God.

*Teaching, baptising and nurturing.* Three different things, but three essentials. Teaching is something we all need to receive, whether ordained or not. It needs to be done with care and with thoughtfulness and with energy, for every one of us needs to learn and to grow. Baptism is something we also need to take far more seriously, not by refusing to baptise people if they do not measure up to our self-selected standards, but rather by encouraging people at any age to take that first step into faith and then by following up, giving opportunities and encouragement to be nurtured in Christian discipleship. Nurturing and strait-jacketing are not

the same thing. Let us allow God some space in the proceedings.

The following three *Marks* remind us that a real and active Christian faith relates also to the way we live our lives and in how we relate to the world around us, in terms both of people and their needs, but also the creation itself. It is the Letter of James that tells us very bluntly that faith without works is as lifeless as a corpse. The third of the *Five Marks* is about those in need – responding to human need by loving service.

Those in need are here around us every day in Armagh Diocese – the needs of food banks being only one simple and obvious example – and also in the desperate privations of those who live in fear and hunger, even starvation.

If I said the name “Omran Daqneesh”, it would probably mean very little to most of us. If I said that he was the five year boy sitting silently in an ambulance in Aleppo on an orange seat, having been pulled out of his home that had been destroyed by a bombing in which his brother was killed – the picture or video most of us saw in late August on television screens or on-line – you would probably know exactly whom I meant. I will

be honest and say that probably the only reason that I can summon up that name and that image so immediately is that something about him bore a striking resemblance to my own five-year old grandson. I might well have forgotten him otherwise.

It is very easy for the desperate plight of others, whether through violence or through physical or psychological deprivation, becomes a statistic, an occasion to say how sad it all is or something to forget as soon as we can. The third and fourth of those *Marks of Mission* – that we care about the needs of others and that we will do all in our power to speak and act against the injustice that causes their pain and need – are not optional extras. They are precisely what our Lord was talking about in Matthew 25 with his parable of the separation at the judgement between those who cared about the suffering of others and those who did not. Injustice may be the violence that our countries are fuelling through the encouragement of unjust regimes and the sale of weapons, it may be our purchase of cheap goods that have been manufactured by something akin to slave labour, or it may be in the selfishness that does not care if our countries will not accept those who have fled for their lives from terror. It

may be the 1000 unaccompanied children in a refugee camp in Calais.

The fifth of the *Marks of Mission*, our care of the creation and our responsibility for it, was something that became very real to me in Lusaka, where I heard of formerly inhabited islands in the dioceses of the southern Pacific that have disappeared beneath the ocean because of global warming, and of formerly fertile farm land in parts of eastern Africa that have either become desert through the drying up of rivers or have become polluted beyond use by cynical exploitation of foreign industry. In whatever way we can, we have to take responsibility for our use of creation, not simply for future generations here in this country but also for *present* generations in other parts of God's world today. We can make a difference, in simple ways but also with the way we order our lives.

This has been very much a brief sketch but I do now throw out the challenge, to us all, myself included. Can we – as parishes or as individuals – do that “audit” and measure ourselves against the *Five Marks of Mission*? All of them are thoroughly biblical. And if we are truly concerned



with the mission of the Church, none of them is simply a possible option that we may neglect if we wish.

Let us see how we would truly score. And let us ask God to enable us to play our part in fulfilling more effectively His mission in His world.

## **Iraqi Christians cautiously welcome start of battle to push ISIS from Mosul**

Iraqi Christians are cautiously welcoming the start of the battle for Mosul and the Ninevah Plain, their ancestral homeland of the past 14 centuries from which they were brutally driven out by ISIS more than two years ago.

“They’ve been waiting for this day after being forced out in the summer of 2014, and many Christians have been living in very miserable conditions since. A number are eager to go back,” Fr Emanuel Youkhana told the Catholic News Service. The archimandrite, a member of the Assyrian Church of the East, heads the Christian Aid Program Northern Iraq, CAPNI.

“Of course the military operation is just the first of several phases paving the way for their return. They will need security and other guarantees before they go back,” Fr Youkhana said. “Also much reconstruction and rehabilitation of the region occupied by ISIS militants will need to take place.”

This summer, the UN said that as the Mosul crisis evolves, up to 13 million people throughout Iraq may need humanitarian aid by the year’s end — far larger than the Syrian crisis. This would make the humanitarian operation in Mosul likely the single largest, most complex in the world in 2016.

Chaldean Catholic Archbishop Yousif Thomas Mirkis of Kirkuk, Iraq, told CNS Iraqi Christians view these operations “with hope and fear.”

“Everything is complicated. Still, we are waiting for what will happen after Daesh (the Arabic slang name for ISIS), because maybe those criminals will be thrown out of Iraq, but the mentality remains in those who welcomed them,” Archbishop Mirkis said. “So how do we heal the country from this kind of fanaticism, which is very deep in society?”

The Kirkuk Archdiocese has taken in and ministered to hundreds of Iraqi Christians displaced by the brutal attacks of ISIS militants, who demanded Mosul residents leave their homes and businesses, convert to Islam or be killed.

Prior to the Iraqi military's capitulation to a small group of ISIS fighters in 2014, Mosul was inhabited by more than two million people. It's believed that only about one million residents remain today.

Some 130,000 have fled to other areas within Iraq, such as Kirkuk or Kurdistan. Thousands of others are being housed in neighbouring countries, such as Jordan and Lebanon, while perhaps hundreds have been resettled or are awaiting resettlement in the US, Australia and Canada. Some live in cramped conditions in church basements. Caritas and other Catholic organisations have been working to help them.

International humanitarian organisations are warning that Iraqis, mainly Sunni Muslims, left in Mosul are "now in grave danger." The Norwegian Refugee Council, Save the Children and others

are urging the establishment of safe exit routes for civilians to flee the city.

“Unless safe routes to escape the fighting are established, many families will have no choice but to stay and risk being killed by crossfire or bombardment, trapped beyond the reach of humanitarian aid with little food or medical care,” said Aram Shakaram, Save the Children’s deputy country director in Iraq.

“Those that try to flee will be forced to navigate a city ringed with booby traps, snipers and hidden land mines. Without immediate action to ensure people can flee safely, we are likely to see bloodshed of civilians on a massive scale,” Shakaram warned.

The humanitarian groups criticise instructions from Iraq’s military urging inhabitants to hunker down inside their homes.

## **“Pray for us,” says Bible Society leader in war-torn Aleppo**

George Andrea, head of the Bible Society in Syria, based in Aleppo says every day is a gift

from God. He speaks of the destruction, death and horror of living in Aleppo where missile attacks are relentless, killing and injuring indiscriminately.

*“People in Aleppo are living without water and electricity. They have nowhere to escape. And there is nowhere safe to shelter. Bombs and missiles are falling, causing huge damage throughout the city.”*

George could run, get out of Aleppo and find refuge somewhere safer. But he has stayed. He has stayed because in this time of devastation he knows that Jesus brings the only hope for the broken ones. People are desperate for God’s Word, and since the war reached the city of Aleppo 4 years ago, 30–40 tons of Bibles and Christian books have been brought into Syria each year. God has not been silenced.

*“Life is hard. It’s dangerous. And we are totally dependent on God. He is the only solution. At the same time we have realised that we must not lose our respect and love for man. God’s love for man made Him send Jesus to die on the Cross for each one of us. If man is so important to God he must also be important to us. Yes, this is what*

*we have learnt through this conflict and we are crying out to God on behalf of each person in our country. Each one is precious in His sight!*

## **Country wide collection on World Mission Sunday**



October is mission month and bishops have welcomed this year's mission message from Pope Francis:

*Missionary Church, Witness of Mercy.* There are almost 1,200 Irish missionaries serving throughout the world.

The theme for Mission month, and for World Mission Sunday on 23 October, is 'Every Christian is a missionary'.

This Jubilee Year of Mercy marks the 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first World Missionary Day which was approved by Pope Pius XI in 1926 and organised by the Pontifical Society for the Propagation of the Faith.

On Saturday 22 October, on behalf of World Missions Ireland, Archbishop Kieran O'Reilly of Cashel & Emly will lead the inaugural 'Miles for Mission' walk in Phoenix Park, Dublin, to raise funds for the Love and Hope Centre for people living with HIV/Aids in Nakuru, Kenya.

Bishops ask the faithful to support the country-wide collection for our missionaries which will take place on World Mission Sunday on 23 October.

## **Anglican solidarity after Roman Catholic cathedral burgled**

The Anglican cathedral in Liverpool has donated the proceeds of its visitors' collection boxes to its Roman Catholic neighbour, whose own collection jars were destroyed by burglars. The Anglican Dean of Liverpool, the Very Revd Pete Wilcox, stressed that the donation was not an act of

charity but of solidarity. The two cathedrals – at either end of Hope Street – have had a very strong relationship since the era of Bishop David Sheppard and Archbishop Derek Worlock in the Mid 1970s.

Burglars attacked the Metropolitan Cathedral of Christ the King in the early hours of the morning on Wednesday last week (12 October). The thieves targeted specially-commissioned glass collecting structures, made in the iconic shape of the cathedral, and damaged them beyond repair, taking their contents.

“At the Cathedral we pride ourselves on being truly open to all,” a post on its Facebook wall said. “We especially extend our welcome and support to those most in need within our community. All donations are given by members of the public who wish to see our good work continued and it is these individuals who are the real victims of today’s crime.

“On a positive note, we have been overwhelmed by the messages of support that have flooded in today. We are hugely thankful to all of those who have kindly made donations in response to what has happened. It is humbling to see something positive come from today’s events.”



The Roman Catholic Dean of Liverpool, Canon Anthony O'Brien, later described his own feelings at the burglary: "The break in to the Cathedral last week has left us all rather shocked and saddened. Not so much that someone would attempt to steal money from the collection boxes – there is nothing new in that, there have been attempts from time to time when the Cathedral has been open – but it was more the level of damage and vandalism that was caused in an effort to get what would only have been some loose change.

"The two large collection boxes in the shape of the cathedral were completely smashed. Apart from this there was damage to the relatively new aluminium and glass inner doors to the main entrance and also to the point of entry into the building.

"The collection boxes are emptied each day and the money taken off site so there is very little point in going to so much effort to break into the building. The incident happened at about 2 am and I had to negotiate through hundreds of drunken students who were pouring out of the

Students Union to wait for the police so that we could enter the building together.

“It felt like I had entered into the twilight zone from a deep sleep one minute to chaotic mayhem the next.”

In response to the burglary, the Anglican Cathedral donated the contents of its own collection boxes. “We heard pretty quickly about the incident at the Metropolitan Cathedral last week,” Dean Pete Wilcox told ACNS. “Having suffered a very similar experience ourselves a few months ago, we were keen to show our solidarity.

“The idea came of sending them whatever was in our own visitor donations box at a particular point in time, which coincided broadly with their theft. So we sent a very precise amount, not a round number: £910.82. And our message was that the gift was an expression of solidarity, not charity.”

The strong relationship between the two cathedrals began with the close relationship between Bishop David Sheppard and Archbishop Derek Worlock. Their period as bishops in Liverpool overlapped quite closely: Sheppard was appointed in 1975 and served until 1997;

and Worlock was appointed in 1976 and served until 1996.

The two cathedrals work together on schools projects and jointly run the Hope Plus Food Bank and the Volition Employability Project. They also hold joint services several times a year when the two choirs sing together. Last Sunday the two choirs combined at the Anglican cathedral for a joint Friends of Cathedral Music Evensong.

The Roman Catholic cathedral said that it was “overwhelmed” by the donation from the Anglican cathedral, describing it as “a moving gesture of friendship and solidarity.”

## **Wartime witness recalled as Patriarch of Serbia visits the Archbishop of Canterbury**

The Archbishop of Pec, Serbian Patriarch Irinej (named after Saint Irenaeus), has made an official visit to the UK. His visit, which was hosted by the Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby, marked the centenary of the first Orthodox Christian to preach from the pulpit of London’s St Paul’s Cathedral. It was “an occasion of

significant conversation and warm fellowship between [the Archbishops] and their delegations, which signals a renewal of the longstanding and close relationship between the Church of England and the Serbian Orthodox Church,” a spokesperson for Lambeth Palace said.

The two leaders discussed a range of issues from the spiritual life of their churches; to their work with young people, the poor and refugees; the problems of modern society; the renewal of the Serbian Orthodox Church and the household as the place of spiritual nurture and devotion, following the collapse of communism, the spokesperson said.

They also discussed “tangible ways of expressing the renewal of relationships in better communications and exchange of people in the areas in which both churches are called by God to serve their people.”

In his opening remarks, Archbishop Justin Welby thanked Patriarch Irinej for the “extraordinary hospitality and . . . welcome” that the Serbian Orthodox Church had given “to the Anglican community in Serbia for a hundred years,” including through the annual welcome on

Christmas Eve to the Anglican community in the Patriarch's own chapel.

“Today, Serbia finds itself on the frontier of Europe, facing the countless tens of thousands driven by darkness from their own homes,” Archbishop Welby said. “And, tragically, as in the past, Europe has not, in a united way, risen to this challenge, and Serbia has had to bear a great burden – and the Orthodox Church has demonstrated, again, its faithfulness.”

In his response, Patriarch Irinej said that he was “very happy [and] honoured” to be at Lambeth Palace where Archbishop Welby was “not only the keeper of this important institution but also the host to all of us, our people as well as our church.”

At a time in which the world was “saturated with confusion and unrest”, he said, the churches had to “seek ways which allow us to approach each other more closely, to put aside that which possibly divides us and makes us become distant.

“But at the same time to build from within that which is common to us – and indeed there is

much in common between you and us, both of us and the Roman Catholics, and, of course, the Protestant world.

“It is on that foundation that we need to build our common relationships. I trust this is the will of God, and that this is what God expects from us. This is why we need to be servants of the mission, of evangelisation in our times and in our world.”

*At the outbreak of the first World War, the young monk priest Nicolai Velimirovich was sent by the Serbian government to the US on a mission to drum up support. While away Serbia was occupied by enemy forces and Nicolai temporarily settled in the UK for the duration of the war. He gave numerous lectures and sermons, and preached an historic sermon at St Paul’s Cathedral, during which he said: “I am coming from Serbia, from European ‘midnight’. There is no ray of light, not a single trace.*

*“All the light went from the ground to the sky and the sky is the only place where the light is coming from. Nevertheless, we that are weak in everything are strong in faith and hope that dawn will soon arrive.”*

*After the war he was made Bishop Žiča, and was arrested in the city's monastery by German troops after they invaded Yugoslavia in World War II. He was eventually transferred to the Dachau concentration camp. He remained in detention until being liberated by US troops in 1945.*

*He emigrated to the US, where he died in 1956. In 2003, the Holy Assembly of Bishops of the Serbian Orthodox Church recognised Bishop Nikolaj as a saint. His festival is observed on 18 March and 3 May.*

## **Poetry in focus at Cork clergy conference**

The annual Cork, Cloyne and Ross Clergy Conference at Ballylickey, near Bantry, County Cork took place from Monday, 10th to Wednesday 12th October. The guest speaker was Canon Mark Oakley, Canon Chancellor of Saint Paul's Cathedral, London.

Canon Oakley's most recent book *The Splash of Words* (published by Canterbury Press)



***Clergy of Cork, Cloyne and Ross outside the Church of St Brendan the Navigator, Bantry with the Bishop and The Reverend Canon Mark Oakley, Chancellor of Saint Paul's Cathedral, London (front row third from left)***

argues that poetry is vital for understanding that God is in the world as poetry is in a poem. The theme of his lectures was: *All Passion Spent? Reclaiming faith, poetry and preaching.*

Together with worship, relaxation, walks and exploring the local area (golf for some), some light entertainment from the well-known singer and storyteller Seán Ó Sé, and time spent at mealtime, the core of the two-and-a-half day programme was four lectures by Canon Oakley.



These were entitled: 'A beach-combing faith'; 'Now you see me, now you don't: a human priesthood'; 'The metaphorical God'; and, 'Stopping the geese from waddling: a language for our preaching.'

The Conference concluded with a celebration of the Eucharist in the local Parish Church of Saint Brendan the Navigator, Bantry.

## News briefs

**+++ Nigerian primate's "delight" at release of Chibok girls** - The release of 21 schoolgirls who had been held by Islamist terror group Boko Haram has been met with "delight, relief and optimism" by the Anglican Church of Nigeria. The 21 were amongst 276 students kidnapped from the north-eastern Nigerian town of Chibok in April 2014. A spokesman for Nigerian President Muhammadu Buhari said that the Swiss government and the International Committee of the Red Cross had acted as mediators with Boko Haram. Talks are said to be on-going for the release of the remaining 83 girls who are still thought to be being held. The general secretary of the Church of Nigeria, the Ven Dr Stephen

Ayodeji Fagbemi, said in a statement that Archbishop Nicholas Okoh and “the entire Church received with delight, relief and optimism the news of the release of 21 of the Chibok girls that we had long been praying for in the last two years. “This was particularly heartening at a time when hope was almost fading about whether these girls would return again. And while the release of these 21 girls is heart-warming, one hopes that it is an indication that the rest will be released in due course at which time the joy of the entire nation can be full.”

### **+++Church of Pakistan remembers its martyrs -**

The Church of Pakistan has designated 22 September – the anniversary of the deadliest terror attack against the country’s Christian community – as the Day of the Christian Martyrs in Pakistan. Twin suicide bombers killed 127 people and injured more than 250 others when they attacked All Saints Church in Peshawar on 22 September 2013. There have been numerous other attacks – included an attempt to attack the Warsak Christian compound in Peshawar last month. A resident was killed foiling that attack. Those events, and the September 2012 arson attack on St Paul’s Lutheran Church in Mardan, will be

commemorated with a special ecumenical prayer service on All Saint's Day (1 November) in Peshawar's All Saints Church. The designation of 22 September as the day of the Christian Martyrs in Pakistan was made "to commemorate the All Saints Church Martyrdom of children, women, elders and the youth" in the 2013 attack," the Diocese of Peshawar said. "The sorrow and grief can still be felt even after three years." A special prayer service was held in All Saints Church on 22 September this year. All diocesan schools in Peshawar were closed on the day and relatives of the dead and injured began arriving at the church from the morning to offer their personal prayers.

## **News links to reports on faith, politics and education**

### **Martin McGuinness has defended allocation to UDA links**

News Letter

Deputy First Minister Martin McGuinness has defended the allocation of almost £2 million of social investment funding to Charter NI.

<http://www.newsletter.co.uk/mcguinness-defends-uda-linked-funding-1-7633676>

## **Education Authority plans point towards more school mergers and closures**

BBC News

There will be an increasing number of school mergers and closures across Northern Ireland, according to Education Authority (EA) plans.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-37680586>

## **70% 'support Northern Ireland abortion law change' - survey**

BBC News

More than 70% of people in Northern Ireland have shown support for a change in abortion law, according to an opinion poll by Amnesty International.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-37683637>

## **Statement from Dean and Chapter on York Minster Bell Ringers**

<http://www.archbishopofyork.org/articles.php/3546/york-minster-bell-ringers>

**BBC/Times/York Press/ITV/Yorks Post/Guard** Reports on statement released by the Dean and Chapter of York Minster which stated that safeguarding issues had led to the bellringing team being dismissed last week. The statement delivered by the Archbishop of York said: "Earlier this summer, it was necessary for the Chapter to take action regarding a member of the bell

ringing community on safeguarding grounds." It added that "repeated disregard of the Chapter's attempts to fully implement the Church's national policies for safeguarding, health and safety and security meant that decisive action was required."

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-york-north-yorkshire-37681550>

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/york-bellringers-fired-in-safeguarding-row-6zbstdsj2>

<http://www.itv.com/news/calendar/update/2016-10-17/archbishop-sentamu-wades-into-bellringers-row/>

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/oct/17/york-minster-bellringers-sacking-was-on-safeguarding-grounds>

### **Times/Ind/Tel/BBC/Mail**

Reports that more than 100 youngsters from the Calais Jungle are expected to travel to Britain before the end of the week to be united with family members as 14 arrived here yesterday. Lord Williams the former Archbishop of Canterbury, said that he was "delighted" to welcome the children to the UK, but cautioned that this was only the first step and more children need help urgently. The *Mail* highlights the closure of the Jungle camp next week and

quotes the Bishop of Dover, Trevor Willmott saying, “The human tragedy that is the Calais 'Jungle' camp has been a constant cause for concern and prayer in the diocese.”

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/out-of-the-jungle-and-into-croydon-g3vpmvv9l>

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/calais-jungle-unaccompanied-teenagers-croydon-migrants-refugee-camp-crisis-a7365856.html>

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2016/10/17/from-the-calais-jungle-to-croydon-migrant-children-arrive-in-bri/>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-37674875>

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3845004/Get-Jungle-force-Calais-police-post-warning-notices-saying-demolition-migrant-camp-happen-soon-Wednesday.html?>

[ITO=1490&ns\\_mchannel=rss&ns\\_campaign=1490](http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3845004/Get-Jungle-force-Calais-police-post-warning-notices-saying-demolition-migrant-camp-happen-soon-Wednesday.html?ITO=1490&ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490)

## **Times/Mail/Guard**

Reports that churches with small congregations will no longer be obliged to hold Sunday services as the C of E considers abandoning the legal requirement for parishes. A paper published on the CofE website, drawn up by the church’s “simplification task group”, proposes “changes to

Canons B11 and B14 to relax the requirements for regular worship in parish churches in sparsely populated benefices”. The Bishop of Willesden, Pete Broadbent said, “In rural parishes, no vicar can actually get around all their parishes so technically, they’re breaking the law. All we’re doing is putting the law in line with what already happens.”

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/churches-may-be-allowed-to-skip-sunday-services-h77sxjr9q>

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3846028/End-Sunday-services-villages-says-Labour-city-bishop.html>

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/oct/17/church-of-england-could-drop-legal-requirement-weekly-sunday-services>

### **Tel/Mai/BBC**

Range of reports on statement yesterday by Professor Jay, chair of the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse (IICSA), who said it was unrealistic to hold a public inquiry style hearing into every one of the institutions where abuse is said to have occurred and instead the inquiry would focus on four main “thematic strands”. She said she expects "significant progress" by the end of 2020 and the Inquiry would hold true to its commitment to look at past and present failings

by institutions in England and Wales which includes the CofE.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2016/10/17/child-sex-abuse-inquiry-to-be-over-by-2020-as-remit-is-scaled-back/>

[http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3846018/Child-abuse-inquiry-s-FOURTH-chairman-scales-scope-inquiry.html?](http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3846018/Child-abuse-inquiry-s-FOURTH-chairman-scales-scope-inquiry.html?ITO=1490&ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490)

[ITO=1490&ns\\_mchannel=rss&ns\\_campaign=1490](http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3846018/Child-abuse-inquiry-s-FOURTH-chairman-scales-scope-inquiry.html?ITO=1490&ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490)

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-37680906>

### Christian Today/**Premier**

Reports that a vicar has criticised the Church's "institutional homophobia" while outlining why he is determined to keep erecting LGBTI flags above his church despite them repeatedly being torn down by vandals. The Revd Andrew Foreshow-Cain raised the rainbow and transgender flags above his church, St James' in West Hamsptead, on Friday after vandals tore them down earlier this month.

<http://www.premier.org.uk/News/UK/Hate-crime-investigated-after-LGBT-flag-torn-down-from-London-church>

## **BBC**



Report that MPs have voted in favour of the creation of babies with DNA from two women and one man, in a historic move. The UK is now set to become the first country to introduce laws to allow the creation of babies from three people. A further vote is required in the House of Lords. If everything goes ahead then the first such baby could be born next year. Article notes that last week the Anglican and Catholic Churches in England said the idea was not safe or ethical, not least because it involved the destruction of embryos.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/health-31069173>

## **Comment**

**Guardian:** Child refugees – Who is a brothers keeper?

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2016/oct/17/the-guardian-view-on-child-refugees-who-is-a-brothers-keeper>

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