

## **St Patrick's Cross stands again on the Hill of Down**

An imposing St Patrick's Cross stands once more on the Hill of Down in the grounds of Down Cathedral and against the backdrop of the Mourne Mountains.

It's an authentic replica of one of the oldest high crosses in Ireland, three fragments of which are on display in the entrance porch of Down Cathedral.

The original dates from the late 8<sup>th</sup> Century and was most likely erected alongside one of the first monasteries on the Hill of Down. Drawings from the early 19th Century also place part of the cross at the traditional site of St Patrick's grave before the large granite stone was placed there.



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The replica was crafted by McConnell's of Kilkeel and, like the original, is carved out of Mourne granite.

The cross, which weighs 5 tonnes and stands at 4.7m high, was dedicated in bright sunshine on Friday afternoon (31 August). A small crowd gathered for the short interdenominational service which was led by the Dean of Down, the Very Revd Henry Hull. The Church of Ireland Bishop of Down and Dromore, the Rt Revd Harold Miller and the Roman Catholic Bishop of Down and Connor, the Most Revd Noel Treanor, together prayed the prayer of dedication.

Dean Hull said:  
“The cross is the central symbol of faith for all Christians and so as we gather from different traditions around this cross today we do so as an act of unity.”

Symbolic of that unity,  
Bishop Miller

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THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF ST. ANNE

## Pets' Service

including the blessing of the pets

Sunday September 30th at 3.30pm

All well behaved pets welcome

[www.belfastcathedral.org](http://www.belfastcathedral.org)

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and Bishop Treanor together placed their palms in a hand-shaped depression on the base of the cross.

Bishop Miller said that he hoped the cross would become a focal point for those who visited the site seeking faith.

Also joining the Dean and Chapter of the Cathedral were Bishop Grant LeMarquand (former Area Bishop of the Horn of Africa currently visiting the diocese), Mr Mike King (Assistant Director Museum, Arts & Culture for Down District Council), local clergy, representatives of the Holy Cross Monastery, Rostrevor, Mr Jim Shannon MP, Mr Colin McGrath MLA and other council representatives.

## **Whitehead group aims to offer hope and a home to Syrian family**

A number of parishioners from St Patrick's Parish Church, Whitehead, are striving to give new hope – and a new life – to a refugee family from war ravaged Syria.

They are members of the Whitehead Small World Group, which includes people from other churches in the area, as well as others who have no faith background.

The group is hoping to provide a new home to a family from Syria and to support that family for their first two years in Northern Ireland.

Members have raised substantial funds, identified a house and are about to put an application into the Home Office for the Community Sponsorship Scheme.

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Jeni McAughey, a parishioner of St Patrick's and group member, said: "For most of us it is impossible to imagine what life must be like for people in Syria.

"Two hundred and fifty thousand have already been killed. Four million have had to leave their country. They had no choice and now they are living in dire conditions in refugee camps in neighbouring countries like Turkey, Iraq and Egypt. What must that be like?

"Imagine being forced from your home and into another country, leaving everything familiar behind and knowing you may never go back."

Jeni said the group in Whitehead came together to do something practical to help, and is working closely with Citizens UK and in conjunction with the UK government which has pledged to allow 20,000 vulnerable refugees to settle in the UK.

"As the Government has made pledges to offer places of safety for these refugees, the selected family will have access on arrival to work and/or benefits, also to education and health services," Jeni said.

"Our aim will be to provide practical support for the family for up to two years, while they become familiar with their new home and settle into our community. With time they will become more independent and need less support.

"Our family, having been chosen and processed by The United Nations High Commission for Refugees, will arrive from the borders of Syria with very few possessions, after a period of very challenging and frightening experiences."

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The Whitehead Small World Group has raised enough money to meet the Home Office requirement for a guarantee, sourced what the group hopes will be a suitable house, and is organising a team of volunteers to support the family.

“It is our hope that other communities and town will consider doing something similar and we are happy to support anyone interested in this,” Jeni said.

The rector of Whitehead and Islandmagee, the Rev Canon Mark Taylor, said: “These people are our neighbours. We know people in Northern Ireland who have had to leave their homes suddenly and quickly as a result of terrorism. Can we do anything other than offer them a welcome?”

## **Christian MP Frank Field quits Labour whip with anti-Semitism warning**

Labour veteran Frank Field is set to hold showdown talks with the party's chief whip after resigning with a warning that Jeremy Corbyn's leadership has become a "force for antisemitism".

Mr Field, who has served as the MP for Birkenhead for almost 40 years, is set to meet with Nick Brown in Westminster on Friday to discuss his options after resigning the whip.

Labour sources have said Field's wish to serve as an Independent MP while remaining a member of the party is "not possible".





Under the Parliamentary Labour Party standing orders, which governs MPs, anyone who takes such action will usually get a letter asking them to retake the party whip within 14 days or face expulsion.

Labour's shadow justice secretary Richard Burgon last night called on Mr Field to fight a by-election, tweeting:  
"Politicians who are elected as Labour MPs by their constituents and who then leave the Labour Party should do the right and respectful thing and call a by-election straight away.

"They should ask for their constituents' consent to continue to represent them on a different basis."

Mr Field, the one-time minister for welfare reform, who was charged by Tony Blair to reform the welfare state by "thinking the unthinkable", said in his resignation letter that the party was now governed by "a culture of intolerance, nastiness and intimidation".

He said: "I am resigning the whip for two principal reasons.

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"The first centres on the latest example of Labour's leadership becoming a force for antisemitism in British politics.

"The latest example, from last week, comes after a series of attempts by Jeremy to deny the past statements and actions by him were antisemitic.

"Britain fought the Second World War to banish these views from our politics, but that superhuman effort and success is now under huge and sustained internal attack.

"The leadership is doing nothing substantive to address this erosion of our core values.

"It saddens me to say that we are increasingly seen as a racist party. This issue alone compels me to resign the whip."

In a letter to his constituents in the Liverpool Echo, Mr Field said he had resigned with "considerable sadness", but said he could not "lend any legitimacy to the most appalling culture".

He added that he had nominated Mr Corbyn (pictured above) for the leadership in 2015 as he wanted to see a "broad debate" on the party's future.

"My wish to see a more inclusive debate in the Labour Party could not have been more wide of the mark", he wrote.

He added: "In addition to the leadership's failure to expel anti-Semites is the charge that the national Party appears to

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be doing nothing to ensure that Labour's dominant values of debate, good will, and inclusiveness can flourish in Constituency Labour Parties."

Labour deputy leader Tom Watson said Mr Field's resignation should serve as a "major wake up call" to the party.

He said: "This is a serious loss to the party and I deeply regret Frank's decision. It reflects both the deep divisions in the party and the sense of drift engulfing us.

"It is a major wake up call. We cannot afford to lose people of such weight and stature."

Former Labour home secretary Lord Blunkett said he had tried to dissuade Mr Field from resigning.

He told the Daily Telegraph: "I understand that his constituency party membership has been giving him an incredibly hard time, which is unforgivable and reminds me vividly of the Eighties, when I was involved as a member of the national executive committee in dealing with these people, particularly from Merseyside."

Labour MP Wes Streeting (Ilford North) raised concern Mr Field "won't be the last" to resign.

He said: "Antisemitism and the toxic political culture in the Labour Party are issues that need to be immediately addressed by the Labour leadership if they're to stop this becoming a full-scale existential crisis of the Labour Party.



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"I've made very clear that I'm not about to leave the Labour Party because of these people, but I'm afraid Frank Field isn't the first Labour MP to quit and at this rate he won't be the last.

"It would be an absolute tragedy if the Labour Party were to split, but we should be in no doubt that this is the biggest crisis facing the party since 1981."

But speaking on BBC's Newsnight, Labour MP Chris Williamson said: "The only intolerance that I've seen is inside, or a section of the parliamentary Labour party who have not been prepared to honour the democratic decisions of Labour Party members."

He added: "They are less than 0.4% of our membership and diminishing all the time."

Mr Field, who chairs the Commons work and pensions committee, has faced criticism from party members for his voting record on key Government Brexit legislation and last month lost a motion of no confidence in his local party.

A spokesman for Jeremy Corbyn said: "Jeremy Corbyn thanks Frank Field for his service to the Labour Party".

## **C of I farmer's connection between faith and nature in RTE feature**

RTÉ News spoke to people of different faiths in Ireland in 2018.

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Harold Kingston, Church of Ireland, speaks about how faith got him through a difficult year in farming.

"My faith is certainly part of who I am in terms of identity.

"For me, here in a field of cows surrounded by nature, surrounded by God's work, if you want to put it that way, you start to figure out things and how things developed and I suppose that's the way my faith has developed as well.

"This year in farming circles has been testing and certainly my faith would've been tested along with my reason for farming has been tested this year.

"The weather has been absolutely diabolical. Back in the start of April, I was pretty well ready to pack it in as regards farming. But, as it turns out, one of the things that happened was that there were - there were people there.

"When we read a lot of different Bible readings, and so on, it's a case that there's this voice from the mountain that comes to you or whatever. But in a lot of cases as well, it's a case that God sends somebody and there were people came to me when I needed help that day.

"Sometimes you have to actually pause, take time, come down and sit on a water trough and you know, relax for a while. You have to take a break.

"I can see my faith this year actually being very practical in helping me get through. Whether it's to do with somebody coming to help, or whether it's to do with just being able to clear my mind and work things through in my mind.

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"You need to take a break from the running, relax, listen to what's happening around you and I certainly find my faith helps me in that."

[Click here for the full series](#)

## **How your church can mark the end of the Great War: A guide to resources**

Christian organisations are giving away a wealth of resources to help churches, communities and schools mark 100 years since the end of the First World War. Some of the resources have a modest cost but the majority are completely free and available to download in digital format.



**The Menin Gate at Ypres, near the site of the Battle of Passchendaele.**

The resources have been collated online by HOPE, the charity that co-published *The Servant Queen* and *the King She Serves*.

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The 100th anniversary of the end of the Great War takes place on Sunday November 11, 2018. On this special centenary many people all over the globe will observe Remembrance Sunday and Armistice Day. The 53 member states of the British Commonwealth, including places such as the UK, Canada, New Zealand, Australia, Kenya, Jamaica, Cyprus, Uganda and India will also mark the occasion. The US will also conduct services of remembrance to honour military veterans on November 11, known in the US as Veterans Day.



**HOPE has produced a gift book, Silence**

The wealth of remembrance and peace-themed resources available include lesson plans, service outlines, short video clips, inspirational stories, liturgical resources, prayers,



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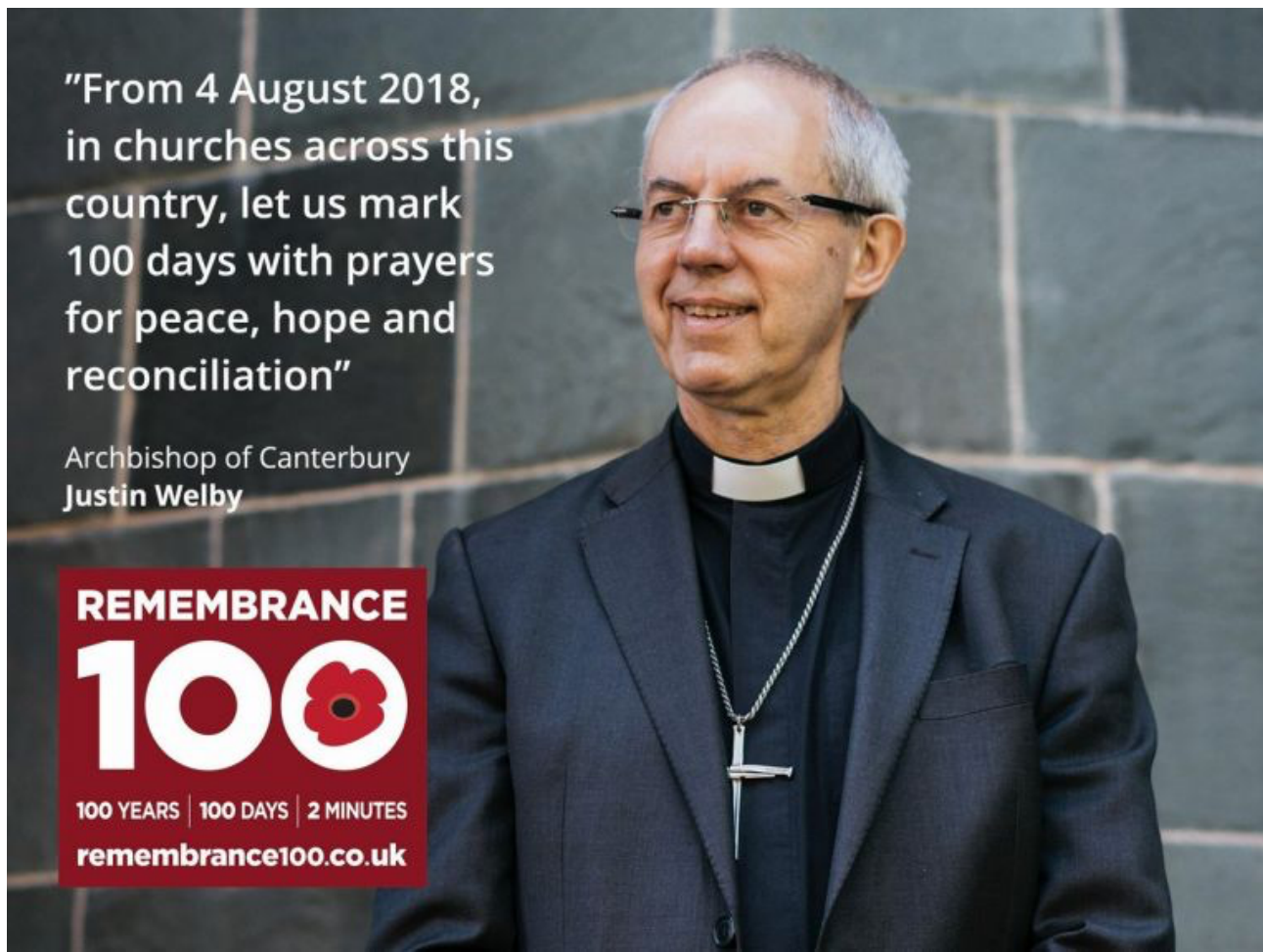
Bible readings, reflections, suggested hymns, songs and music, and books to order and give away at an event. In addition to collating the efforts of other Christian organisations HOPE has produced several resources of its own. 100 Days of Peace and Hope is a collection of daily prayers, Bible readings and reflections with a sensitive introduction by Justin Welby, the Archbishop of Canterbury. Contributors to include members and staff from the Church of England, the Methodist Church, the United Reformed Church, the Armed Forces Christian Union, Bible Society, the Evangelical Alliance, the HOPE leadership team, Sports Chaplaincy UK, Christian Vision for Men, the World Prayer Centre, the Anglican Communion Office, the Peace Alliance and other chaplaincies and Christian ministries.

These thoughts, prayers and peace making actions can be used by individuals and groups at any time but are especially useful in the **100 days** leading up to Armistice Day on November 11.

**HOPE** has produced a small gift book, Silence, which for a modest cost can be ordered online for your church to give as a keepsake for those attending remembrance services. HOPE is also giving away a **50-page document** which is packed with exciting ideas about how to organise a Peace Party in the community.

**The Church of England** has created a comprehensive **collection of resources**. It lists biblical readings which are suitable for use in a church service. It also lists the sources of more than 20 appropriate non-biblical readings from literature such as war poems and memoirs. In addition to these free resources there are many well written prayers, [churchnewsireland@gmail.org](mailto:churchnewsireland@gmail.org)

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**The Archbishop of Canterbury is encouraging people to mark the end of the war.**

and recommendations for hymns, songs, music and images.

**Bible Society** distributed more than 9 million copies of scripture in over 80 languages to members of the armed forces and prisoners of war on all sides from 1914-18. Today its [website](#) delivers a generous supply of fascinating, and often deeply personal, wartime stories which centre on faith. There are short video clips, a suggested order of service, sermon notes and a free digital book, *St Paul from the Trenches*. *Hear My Cry* is an illustrated collection of psalms, poems and prayers to aid reflection about World



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War One which is suitable for religious and civic remembrance ceremonies as well as for individual use.

**Christian Vision for Men (CVM)** has produced [a short film](#), Greater Love, which is available as a free download. This collection of interviews with military personnel focuses on the sacrifice which was made 100 years ago, and which military families continue to make today. The film incorporates a short gospel film by Carl Beech featuring Great War chaplain Woodbine Willie and filmed on location at the Menin Gate in Ypres, Belgium. CVM is also giving away a booklet to accompany the film Greater Love, tips for church services, ideas for use with children and young people, sermon outlines and prayers. For information, images and stories which raise awareness about the contributions of African and Caribbean servicemen to the First World War, click [here](#).

To see the full range of resources and Christian organisations involved click [here](#).

## **News briefs**

**+++Episcopal ordination in Meath** - the celebration of Mass for the Episcopal Ordination of Canon Tom Deenihan as the



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new Bishop of Meath will take place at 3.00pm on Sunday 2 September 2018 in the Cathedral of Christ the King, Mullingar.



**+++Meeting Christ in Advent: Praying the Advent antiphons** - will be a retreat for clergy and lay people at the Dromantine Retreat and Conference Centre, Newry, Co. Down, on 15th–17th November 2018.

The speaker will be Dr Bridget Nichols, Lecturer in Anglicanism and Liturgy at the Church of Ireland Theological Institute. She has completed undergraduate and graduate studies in South Africa and has a doctorate in Literature and Theology from the University of Durham. She has lectured at the University of Durham and the University of Sunderland and has been a Visiting Scholar at Sarum College, Salisbury. Her current research interests include the psalter collects and the nature of liturgical language. Dr Nichols writes a column on the weekly Sunday readings for Church Times.

Cost: €130/£115 per person to include retreat fee and all meals from 5.00pm, Thursday 15th November to 2.00pm, Saturday 17th November.

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For further details and a booking form, please contact Judy Peters ([judith.m.peters@gmail.com](mailto:judith.m.peters@gmail.com)) or Catherine Smith ([catherine.smith@rcbdub.org](mailto:catherine.smith@rcbdub.org)).

### **+++ European Heritage Open Days in Armagh -**

European Heritage Open Days (EHOD) will help to celebrate this year's European Year of Cultural Heritage. EHOD's theme, 'The Art of Sharing', has been chosen to encourage people to explore cultural heritage on their doorstep and further afield, and the Hill of Armagh is ready to play its part.

Armagh Robinson Library and No 5 Vicars' Hill will open during the day on Saturday, 8th September, and the Sunday afternoon. St Patrick's Church of Ireland Cathedral will be open on both days, free of charge. Visitors will also be welcome to attend the Sunday services.

On the Saturday of EHOD, all three places on the Hill will offer free guided tours, lasting thirty minutes in each place, and at separate times, to allow visitors to join one, two or all three tours. As part of the Cathedral tours, visitors will have the opportunity to see the crypt, the foundations of which are 750 years old this year.

No 5 Vicars' Hill, designed to look like a dwelling house, was the registry for church and civic records for hundreds of years. The guided tours will refer to No 5's architecture, its original use and what is now held in the 1772 building. The third tour, in Armagh Robinson Library, will tell visitors about the original building, changes made to it over the years, and the collections which it holds.

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As part of the EHOD visitor experience to No 5 Vicars' Hill, a number of books will be on sale. Speaking about the range, Dr Stephen Day, Registry Officer, said: "They include hardback and paperbacks, as well as pamphlets, in a range of sizes, dating from the nineteenth century. Subjects include music, religious history, general history and archaeology, and some relate to the island of Ireland. Prices range from £2 to £40. All proceeds will go to Armagh Robinson Library, as the items on sale are duplicate copies from its collection."

There will be activities for children during their visit to the Hill of Armagh, including a special tour of the Cathedral on the Saturday, touchscreen quizzes in No 5, and treasure hunts in the Library. The latter two buildings will have toys and books for under-fives to enjoy, as part of the 'Playful Museums' initiative.

Information on all the buildings open for EHOD can be found on [www.discovernorthernireland.com/ehod](http://www.discovernorthernireland.com/ehod)

**+++The 'Queen of Country'** - Philomena Begley, is the headline act at a Country Music Night in the White Horse Hotel, Campsie, on Thursday 13th September, 2018, with proceeds in aid of All Saints Clooney Parish Church. Other artists performing at the event include the Ryan Turner Band, Owen Mac, Dessie Mac, Sinead McLaughlin, Trevor Loughrey, Lee Matthews and Rev David McBeth. The entertainment will begin at 8pm. Tickets costing £12.50 are available from Andy Deans (on 07713 890351), or from the All Saints' Centre, 21 Glendermott Road, Londonderry, tel: 02871 349348

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