



Bicentenary Week of Mission in St George's, Belfast

St George's is holding a mission from next Saturday, September 10th until Sunday September 18th as part of the church's 200th anniversary.

The mission will be led by a team from the Community of the Resurrection in Mirfield,
churchnewsireland@gmail.com

Yorkshire. The team is made up of Fr John Gribben CR and five theological students, Sebastian Hamilton, Alex Hobbs, Philip Kennedy, Steffan Mathias and Waldermar Nion.

Fr John is originally from Willowfield in east Belfast and was ordained in the Church of Ireland in 1975. Since 1979 he has been a member of the Anglican monastic order, the Community of the Resurrection in Mirfield. The week will take the form of a teaching mission on the theme Jesus Christ, the same yesterday, today and forever, with morning sessions at 10.30am Monday-Saturday (except Wednesday 14th when the session will be at 11am) and evening mission services Sunday–Friday at 7.30pm, followed by refreshments.

There will be children's events on the Saturday afternoon, September 17, from 2-4pm.

The team will be commissioned by Archbishop Alan Harper, former Archbishop of Armagh and a former Bishop of Connor, at 11am on Sunday September 11.

The rector of St George's, the Rev Brian Stewart, said: "Everyone is most warmly welcome to the

events of Mission 2016 and we would ask you to pray for its success and particularly for Fr John, Alex, Philip, Steffan, Sebastian and Waldermar.”

For further information contact
stgeorgesoffice@btconnect.com or ring 028 9023 1275.

New screening in cathedral for 100-year-old Great War film

Belfast's St Anne's Cathedral will be the spectacular setting for a new screening of a 100-year-old silent film that depicts the horror of World War I. Some 20 million people saw the film, *The Battle of the Somme*, when it was released in the Autumn of 1916 – half the population of Britain at the time. It remains one of the most watched films in British cinema history – topping even Star Wars.

Next Thursday (15 September) it will be shown in the cathedral as part of the Belfast Film Festival; with a new score by Laura Rossi, commissioned by the UK's Imperial War Museum to mark the 90th anniversary 10 years ago.

“Smiling awkwardly at the new-fangled cameras, troops move towards the Front in the Great War,” a cathedral spokesperson said. “Their actions are far removed from the swagger and march of war films, but then this is real.

“*The Battle of the Somme* was different from the newsreels of the day. It took footage of actual events and turned it into a main feature with mass appeal.

“The film gave its 1916 audience an unprecedented insight into the realities of trench warfare, controversially including the depiction of dead and wounded soldiers. It shows scenes of the build-up to the infantry offensive including the massive preliminary bombardment, coverage of the first day of the battle – the bloodiest single day in Britain’s military history – and depictions of the small gains and massive costs of the attack.”

The footage was filmed by Geoffrey Malins and John McDowell, official cinematographers for the British government, to demonstrate the country’s commitment to the First World War. It is the source of many of the most iconic images of that war.

“We are thrilled to be taking part in this UK–wide commemoration of the battle of the Somme’s centenary,” [Belfast Film Festival](#) director Michele Devlin said. “Cinema was at the height of its popularity in 1916, but *The Battle of the Somme* very much pushed the boundaries of silent film at that time.

“St Anne’s will provide a poignant backdrop to our screening, and I’m particularly looking forward to hearing the film’s acclaimed score reverberating around the cathedral.”

ACC Secretary General clarifies view after gay English bishop “outed”

The secretary general of the Anglican Communion, Dr Josiah Idowu-Fearon, has moved to clarify any misunderstanding among Anglican provinces around the world after news emerged at the weekend of the first English Bishop to declare that he is gay and in a relationship.

The suffragan Bishop of Grantham in the Diocese of Lincoln, the Rt Revd Nicholas

Chamberlain, told the British media he had adhered to church guidelines under which gay clergy must be celibate and cannot marry. He said his sexuality was no secret and was part of who he was — but it was his ministry that he wanted to focus on.

Dr Idowu-Fearon said: “It is clear that Bishop Nicholas has abided by the guidelines set down by the Church. In fact, his lifestyle would make him acceptable to serve the church at any time in its history. I reject the suggestion that his appointment is an ‘error’.

“I do recognise that this is a sensitive area for many people whatever their convictions. It is also a difficult time for Bishop Nicholas with revelations about his private life being made public in such a dramatic way, against his will, by anonymous sources that seem to be out to make trouble.

“The Anglican Communion is a worldwide family and, like any family, we don’t agree on everything,” he added. “But we are committed to working together on difficult issues. I want to reassure the Communion of my commitment to what was set out at the Lambeth conference in

1998 — that human sexuality finds its full expression in marriage between a man and woman. But all baptised, faithful and believing people are loved by God and full members of the body of Christ regardless of their sexual orientation. The Anglican Communion has never made sexual orientation a condition of eligibility to hold office within the church and I reject the suggestion that it has.”

Full statement at -
<http://www.anglicannews.org/news/2016/09/secretary-general-clarifies-views-after-gay-english-bishop-outed.aspx>

News briefs

+++ Appointment to Connor parish - The Rev Canon David Humphries, currently Incumbent of St Molua's Church, Parish of Stormont, Diocese of Down, has been appointed as Incumbent of the Parish of Kilbride, Diocese of Connor. The date for the Institution has yet to be confirmed.

+++ Irish Capuchins welcome four new novices - The Irish Capuchin Franciscan province this weekend welcomed four men into

their novitiate at the Capuchin friary in Kilkenny. The novices, Brothers Ade Green, CJ O'Dwyer, Jared Jamie and John Doone, were clothed during the ceremony for the first time in the well known brown Capuchin habit. In his homily for the reception of the new Capuchins, novice master, Brother Sean Kelly described it was "A very proud moment for our two provinces of Ireland and Great Britain and Vice Province of South Africa and for the Order as a whole – truly a sign of God's blessings upon us." He told the four new Brothers that the name 'Friars Minor' "So beautifully reflects the Franciscan charism. By it, every friar knows that he is to not merely serve the poor, but he must be the poor." Ade Green, who is a member of the Province of Great Britain, and John Doone and CJ O'Dwyer, who are both from the Irish Province, have been with the Capuchins as postulants since September 2015. They are joined in the novitiate by Jared Jamie, a novice from South Africa.

+++ New Irish Arts hosting worship

conference - to help church leaders and musicians, in partnership with Gettymusic and hosted by Keith and Kristyn Getty. It is for worship leaders, pastors and musicians

featuring: Keith Getty, Kristyn Getty, Bishop Harold Miller, Stuart Townend, Jonathan Rea, Revd David Bruce and the Gettymusic Band. It is an interactive day conference to help build church congregational singing through Biblical and artistic means. Distinguished seminar speakers cover topics including congregational singing, songwriting, singing and leading, instrumental performance and improvisation, music for children and music curation.

When: Saturday 10 September 2016 from 9.30 am–4.00 pm. Where: Belfast Waterfront Hall and Conference Centre. Tickets: £30 (Group rate: 10 tickets for £200). For further information, or to avail of group discounts

email office@newirisharts.com Or book tickets now from [conference tickets](#)

+++ Leader of next year's Down & Dromore Bible week - Bishop Greg Venables is much in demand as a Bible teacher and is a leading theological conservative in global Anglicanism. He and his wife Sylvia have been missionaries in South America for almost 40 years. Born and raised in England, Greg was a computer systems officer and a school teacher before beginning his ordained ministry in 1984 and serving with the Anglican Church in Paraguay, Bolivia and

Argentina. He was headmaster of St Andrew's College, Asuncion, from 1978 until 1989 and was ordained to the episcopate in 1993 when he became the Auxiliary Bishop of Peru and Bolivia. Greg served as the Primate of the Southern Cone in South America from 2001 until 2010 and has been diocesan bishop of Southern Argentina since 2002. He and Sylvia have been married since 1970 and they have one son, two daughters and seven grandchildren.

+++ Pet blessing service - The annual Blessing of the Animals Service takes place in Nun's Cross Church, Killiskey, on Sunday September 11 at 11.00 am. All are welcome to come along and bring their pet.

+++ Making of deacons in Portadown - This year's Service of Ordination of Deacons, took place in Seagoe Church, Portadown, on Sunday 4 September. The ordination retreat leader and preacher was Revd John Scott who is a member of the Lecale Area Mission Partnership (LAMP) ministry team. Bishop Ken Clarke also took part in the service.

Bishop Miller ordained 3 deacons who will serve internships in the diocese.

- Lucy Burden to serve an internship in Mount Merrion Parish
- Geoff Hamilton to serve an internship in Seagoe Parish
- Johnny McFarland to serve an internship in St Gall's Carnalea

+++ Creation Time resources - This year's Earth Day resource from [Creation Justice Ministries](#) explores the Christian call to dominion and stewardship over God's creatures. To make use of their collection of educational resources for all ages during this Season of Creation, please learn more at:

<http://www.creationjustice.org/educational-resources.html>

It is [#TimeforCreation](#), and from 1 September to 4 October, the [#WCC](#) invites you to join Christians worldwide to pray together, for Creation, for justice and peace - also with the Earth.

For more resources and information, please see: Resources on the WCC website:

<http://www.oikoumene.org/.../what-we-do/cli.../time-for-creation>

The Season of Creation website:

<http://www.seasonofcreation.org>

#SeasonofCreation #JusticeAndPeace
#ClimateJustice

News links to reports on faith, politics and education



Irish colleges fall down in international rankings

Only one Irish university did not fall in the league table.

<http://www.thejournal.ie/irish-colleges-trinity-international-rankings-2966416-Sep2016/>

PSNI orders investigation into low number of Catholic recruits

<http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/northern-ireland/psni-orders-investigation-into-low-number-of-catholic-recruits-35023903.html>

She was an 'ordinary sister', says Irish nun who worked with Teresa

Irish Independent

"I had the privilege of meeting her through those little children - I also met her on occasions when we had **religious** celebrations," recalled the **Irish** nun ...

<http://www.independent.ie/irish-news/she-was-an-ordinary-sister-says-irish-nun-who-worked-with-teresa-35021458.html>

Christian Today/Premier

Reports that the Archbishop of Canterbury took to [Twitter](#) to join his 95,000 followers and many more in advising how to pray for the world, for individuals, for those in sickness - and for yourself (*see above*). Archbishop Justin has set up the #askJustinWelby lunchtime Twitter prayer session. Hundreds of people responded, asking for prayers for jobless teenagers, for guidance on how to "pray like the Psalmist" and even expressing concern that "God's inbox" might be getting too full. In the dialogue, Archbishop Justin said the purpose of prayer is "to bring ourselves into the presence of God" and to be transformed by "being in the presence of God."

<http://www.premierchristianradio.com/News/World/Archbishop-Welby-holds-first-live-Q-A>

Times

Report that the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse (IICSA) is too big and under-funded to succeed, and must be overhauled, according to Justice Goddard

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who resigned as its chair last month. In a memo to the Home Affairs Select Committee, seen by the paper, she urged the Home Secretary to carry out a full review of the inquiry that stretches back more than 60 years and spans institutions including the Anglican Church in England and Wales, councils, schools and Westminster. It is expected to run for at least a decade at a cost of £100 million.

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/news/child-abuse-inquiry-out-of-control-warns-judge-8x3j9gcfc>

Exp/Newcastle Evening Chronicle

Further coverage of the death of David Jenkins, the former Bishop of Durham who died at the weekend.

<http://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/707318/Controversial-Bishop-and-Alzheimer-s-sufferer-David-Jenkins-dies-aged-91>

<http://www.chroniclelive.co.uk/news/north-east-news/tributes-paid-the-pitmans-bishop-11845104>

Christian Today

An article reflecting on the theology of the late David Jenkins, under the headline, "Can you be a Christian and not believe in the Virgin Birth?"

Christian Today

Reports that the former Bishop of Rochester, Michael Nazir-Ali and others have been criticised for being part of a delegation that has met President of Syria Bashir al-Assad. The delegation also included Revd Andrew Ashdown, the Bishop of Winchester's former interfaith adviser, who was the group leader and other Parliamentarians. A spokesman for the Diocese of Winchester said, "Andrew Ashdown retired from his parish position in the Diocese last October and stood

down as interfaith adviser shortly afterwards. His personal views do not reflect those of the diocese."

BBC

Reports that a memorial service for Sir Terry Wogan at Westminster Abbey is to be broadcast live on BBC Radio 2. The service will be held on 27 September - the 50th anniversary of the presenter's first BBC radio broadcast.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/entertainment-arts-37278120>

Bradford Tel & Argus

Reports that Bradford Cathedral has been awarded £10,000 to tell the stories of the men who served as chaplains of the First World War. The Heritage Lottery funding marking the First World War Centenary will be used for a project and exhibition to be shown at the Cathedral in November. The Dean of Bradford, Jerry Lepine is quoted.

Ind/Tel/Premier

Reports plans by the Revd Thomas Plant of St Michael's church in Camden, London, to turn the 19th century building into a live venue for music to raise money for repairs and outreach work. Revd Plant said the community work that would benefit from the venture includes the church's free legal drop-in service, its AA group and its work with the homeless, while hosting gigs will also be a way to put the building on the "cultural map".

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/vicar-promises-no-mosh-pits-in-plans-for-church-to-become-music-venue-says-windows-are-too-high-to-a7227096.html>

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2016/09/05/vicar-applies-for-booze-licence-for-church-claiming-jesus-turned/>

<http://www.premier.org.uk/News/UK/Vicar-applies-for-alcohol-licence-for-church>

Guard

Reports the £2.5m conservation of the 13th century South window in Canterbury Cathedral, which was built to hold some of the most precious stained glass in the world. Heather Newton, the cathedral's head of conservation is quoted.

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/sep/05/canterbury-cathedral-medieval-window-frame-restored>

Exp

Reports on Dennis Doyle who is celebrating being Britain's oldest active church chorister - at the age of 96. Dennis joined the choir of St Mary the Virgin, Great Shelford in Cambridge back in 1927 aged just seven and still sings for them every Friday. A composer, Dennis writes anthems in Latin for the same church.

<http://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/707493/Pensioner-Britain-oldest-church-chorister-96-feeling-young>

Comment

Guardian: Vicky Beeching writes, "The first openly gay bishop is a huge step forward - but it's not enough".

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2016/sep/05/first-gay-bishop-church-of-england-nicholas-chamberlain>

Letters

Guardian: Our best wishes to Bishop Nick

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/sep/05/our-best-wishes-to-bishop-nick>

Blogs

C of E Communications: We need to talk about organ donation

<http://cofecomms.tumblr.com/post/149977857017/we-need-to-talk-about-organ-donation>

The Art of Uncertainty: Dear the next LGBT St Anselmer

<https://theartofuncertainty.com/2016/09/03/dear-the-next-lgbt-st-anselmer/>

To Your Credit: Growing the mustard seed

<http://www.toyourcredit.org.uk/blog/growing-the-mustard-seed>

Law and Religion UK: Brexit basics 8 update

<http://www.lawandreligionuk.com/2016/09/05/brexit-basics-8-update-5th-september/>

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