



Image of the day - Climate Sunday service at Glasgow Cathedral

News reports

Christian partners unite marking Climate Sunday

Last Sunday, 40 Christian denominations from across the UK came together for a special service marking Climate Sunday at Glasgow Cathedral, close to where the COP26 climate summit will take place in two months' time.

Those who took part included members of the clergy, environmental charities and young people, with the aim of bringing the environmental commitments made by more than 2000 congregations before politicians and the wider Church.

Many of those involved were 'speaking up' for the first time, joining thousands more in signing the 'Time is Now' declaration, which calls on the UK government to go further and faster on climate action before hosting the COP26 summit in November.

Lord Wallace, Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, said: "As we look to the COP26 taking place later this year, it has been an honour to join with ecumenical friends from England, Wales, and Ireland, as well as here in Scotland, to mark Climate Sunday at Glasgow Cathedral.

"The event took place on the first Sunday of Creation Time



Lord Wallace, Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, at Climate Sunday

and was a chance to engage with the immense issues facing our planet through prayer and worship."

Over the past year, the Climate Sunday initiative has been asking churches to act, pray and speak up on climate change.

As well as signing the declaration, Christians were invited to take part by holding their own Climate Sunday services in parishes across England, Scotland, Wales and Ireland.

They were also encouraged to get involved with a church 'greening scheme', such as A Rocha's Eco Church, the Catholic Agency for Overseas Development's Live Simply or Eco Congregation in Scotland and Ireland.

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The movement has involved people from many diverse church traditions, which was reflected in the worship, and represents the largest ecumenical event before COP26.

Churches are also calling on the Government, in their role as chair of COP26, to be much more ambitious in seeking faster and deeper global emissions cuts and the delivery of long-promised finance to help poorer countries adapt to the climate disruption.

The Climate Sunday opened with representatives from the 40 denominations and Christian organisations processing into Glasgow Cathedral.

Music included hymns from by leading modern composers Keith and Kristyn Getty.

The service closed in commending COP26 in prayer (including in Welsh and Gaelic) and pledging the nations' churches to continue climate action.

Spitfire tribute to WW2 airmen at remembrance service in Ballykelly

Relatives of three RAF crewmen, who died when their plane crashed in a field in Ballykelly during the Second World War, attended a commemoration event on Sunday afternoon during which a memorial stone was unveiled by members of the men's families and dedicated by the local Rector, the Rev Canon Harold Given.

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The event took place in the Rectory Field, near Tamlaghtfinlagan Church of Ireland, where parts of the wreckage of the crewmen's Bristol Beaufort AW271 were found. The discovery followed an excavation by members of The Foyle College Aviation Team and a team from Queen's University Belfast. The project was led by Jonny McNee, whose father, the Rev Canon Bill McNee – a former Rector of Tamlaghtfinlagan – took part in today's short Service.



Relatives of the fallen airmen unveil a memorial stone in Ballykelly.

Canon Given told those gathered for the Memorial Service that the Parish of Tamlaghtfinlagan had a long association with the RAF. "On this Sunday," he said, "in years gone by, we would have had about 30 members of the RAF who would come back to Ballykelly and join with us, in the parish church, on this, the first Sunday of September – Battle of

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Britain Day – and we would have our Service and our remembrance there. So, it's very fitting that we meet here this afternoon for an RAF Service, as it were, to remember not only these three men but all those who have given their lives in the service of their country and in the cause of freedom.”

[The RAF pays tribute to its fallen colleagues with a flypast by a Spitfire.](#)

The crewmen who died were Flight Lieutenant Archibald Livingstone, Flight Lieutenant Richard Holdsworth and Flight Sergeant Stanley Chadwick. A copper beech now marks the spot where their plane came down in April 1942.

During the Memorial Service, a period of silence was observed, and there was a flypast by a World War Two Spitfire. Flight Lieutenant Livingstone's nephew, David Livingstone; Flight Sergeant Chadwick's son, Ron; and Flight Lieutenant Holdsworth's daughter, the Rev Di Hervey, performed readings at Sunday's Service.

Wreaths were laid by the Roe Valley Branch of the Royal Air Forces Association, and by Wing Commander Steve McCleery, Officer Commanding 502 (Ulster) Squadron, RAF.

[Open days to view Inishmacsaint's heritage](#)

The heritage of St Ninnidh's Church, in the Church of Ireland's Parish of Inishmacsaint near Derrygonnelly, will be outlined in a special exhibition and open days in early September.

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The parish will be opening their church on European Heritage Open Days on Saturday, 11th September, from 10am to 6pm and on Sunday, 12th September, from 2pm to 6pm.

Information will be available on the Ely ancestry and their contribution to the church. The crypt where members of the Ely family are buried in the grounds of Inishmacsaint Church.



The crypt where members of the Ely family are buried in the grounds of Inishmacsaint Church.

The Fermanagh Genealogy Group will be attending on the Saturday.

On Sunday, 12th September, during morning service, the Bishop of Clogher, the Right Revd Dr Ian Ellis, will lead a Service of Thanksgiving for the Ely family and for all in the community, past and present, who have contributed to the

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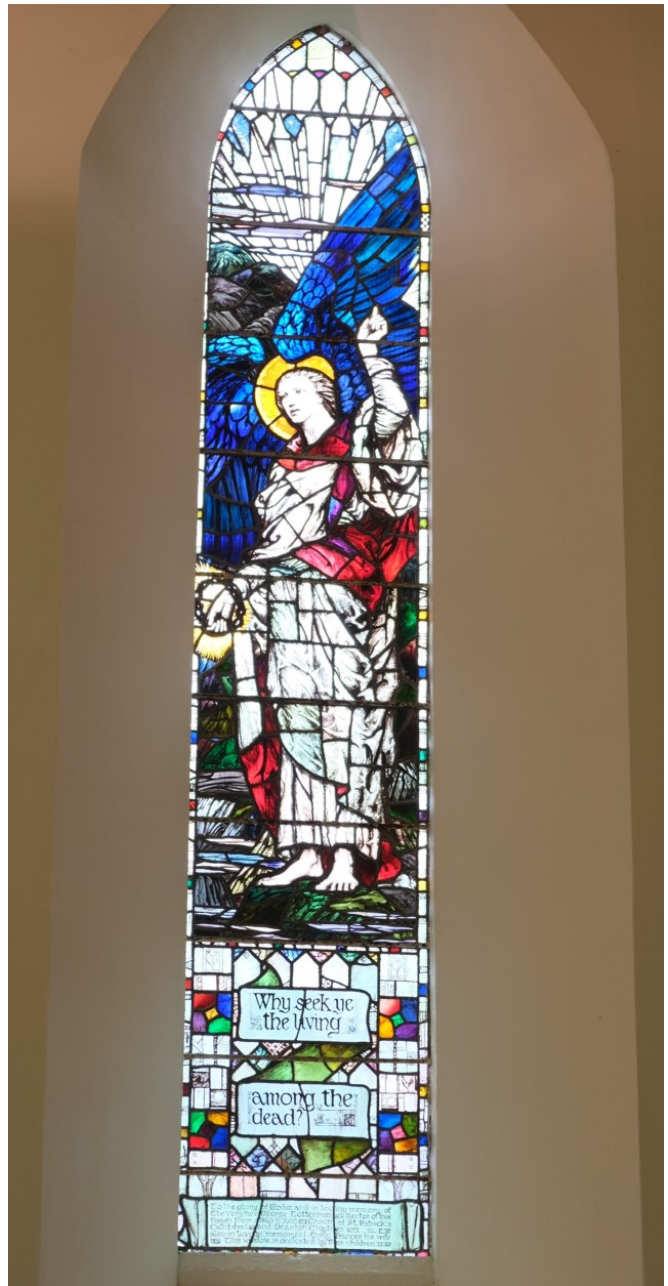
life and growth of this community of faith.

A special memorial stone will be unveiled recording those who are buried in the church crypt.

The Revd Stephanie Woods, who is in charge of the parish, has compiled a short, colourful history book of the church and the Ely family, an accompanying puzzle book and a book detailing the providence and meaning of the stained glass in the church. These will be available over the weekend

Nineteenth Century panels, hand painted by Lady Anna Maria and currently awaiting restoration, will also be available for viewing as well as the 6th century hand chiselled font (still in use today) and the first full size, autonomous window undertaken by the world-famous glass artist Wilhelmina Geddes.

[Above - The Angel of Resurrection stained glass window in Inishmacsaint Parish Church.](#)



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The present church at Benmore was built in 1831 using a loan of £1,384 12d 3 3/4d from 'First Fruits', a fund from the first year's revenue of all Church of Ireland vacant churches. With repayments annually of £55.8s the Second Marquis of Ely, John Loftus who lived between 1770 and 1845 paid a fifth and the parish the remaining four fifths.

John Loftus owned some 34,000 acres of land in Fermanagh and was considered a good landlord.

One of the interesting features in the church is the 6th century baptismal font chiselled from local stone and brought from Inishmacsaint Island to the church where it is still used.

The church was consecrated by the Second Marquis's brother, Bishop Robert Ponsonby Tottenham, on 31st August 1831.

Among the many treasures which adorn Inishmacsaint Church is the Angel of Resurrection stained glass window dating from 1912 and which was the first full scale church window produced by the celebrated Irish artist, Wilhelmina Geddes.

Funding and support for the weekend has been provided by the Lough Erne Partnership.

A virtual tour of the building and grounds is available on the Facebook page [here](#).

Mrs Hume was a most humble and beautiful person, Father Paul Farren



The Bishop of Derry, Dr Donal McKeown, Bishop Andrew Forster of Derry and Raphoe, joined other clergy at the funeral of Mrs Pat Hume in St Eugene’s Cathedral in Londonderry yesterday.

The Requiem Mass, which was attended by the President of Ireland, Michael D. Higgins, was private, at the family’s request, owing to Covid restrictions. Mrs Hume, who was the widow of the Nobel peace laureate, John Hume, died on Thursday after a short illness. Her husband had predeceased her just over a year earlier.

In his funeral address, the main celebrant of the Requiem Mass, Father Paul Farren, described Mrs Hume as a most humble and beautiful person. “Much has been said about

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John and Pat and their unity in peacemaking,” Fr Farren said, “and it’s all true. And if John brought the brilliant mind to the peacemaking, then Pat brought the pure heart.”

The priest told mourners, who included Mrs Hume’s five children and many of her grandchildren, that the empathy she had was unique and incredible. “That is why her work with Daphne Trimble after the Good Friday Agreement, with those who are victims, was so important to her, and that is why she found it abhorrent that anybody or any government would believe that a line could be drawn under the pain and the suffering of people. Her commitment to truth and to justice was consistent and unquestionable. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for what is right; they shall be satisfied.”

In his homily, Fr Farren suggested that rather than just remembering Mrs Hume, those present in the church or watching her funeral online would be inspired to do as she did, and to see God in the other and so be true peacemakers themselves.

Books, Broadcasts, Resources and Webinars

Northern Catholic Bishops webinar series to mark centenary of Partition and establishment of Northern Ireland

“This webinar series is an opportunity for people of all traditions to engage with our shared history” – Archbishop Eamon Martin

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The Northern Catholic Bishops have announced that they will host an online webinar series of historical talks marking the centenary of Partition and the establishment of Northern Ireland. These talks will be led by Dr Éamon Phoenix, political historian, columnist and broadcaster, who will be joined by a number of academic historians from the North and South over four Monday nights from 13 September to 4 October 2021.

Welcoming the announcement of the webinar series, Archbishop Eamon Martin, Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of All Ireland, said, “This webinar series is an opportunity for people of all traditions to engage with our shared history. The presentations, expertly put together by Dr Éamon Phoenix, will allow for the story of the coming into being, and development, of Northern Ireland to be examined and analysed while critically assessing the role of the Churches, and others, in that respect. On behalf of the Northern Bishops, I invite those with an interest in Church, society, politics and history to join us in helping to unravel further this complex and sometimes contentious story.”

“We are grateful for the funding we have received from the Northern Ireland Office and the National Lottery Heritage Fund which will enable the sharing of untold stories about important aspects of our history and to help bring the community together at this important moment.”

From next week, the programme of talks will be delivered online via Zoom over four Monday evenings from 7.00pm – 9.00pm, as follows:

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Monday 13 September 2021: ‘The path to partition and the creation of Northern Ireland 1900-1922’ with Dr Éamon Phoenix and Ann Donnelly of the Northern Ireland Screen drawing on the historical newsreels of the period.

Monday 20 September 2021: ‘A difficult birth: political background and sectarian violence 1918-1922’ with Dr Alan Parkinson, Jim McDermott and Dr Éamon Phoenix.

Monday 27 September 2021: ‘The formative years: the Catholic Church, the nationalist minority and the Northern Ireland state 1921-25’ with Dr Mary Harris, Professor Laurence Kirkpatrick, Dr Sean Farren and Dr Éamon Phoenix.

Monday 4 October 2021: ‘The Catholic Church, Northern Nationalism and the Unionist State from the Boundary Commission to the Welfare State and the Troubles, c. 1925-75’ with Dr Mary Harris, Dr Russell Rees and Dr Éamon Phoenix.

Each week’s webinar will include a question and answer session. The aim is to facilitate a respectful, cross-community discussion on this key historical period, its legacy and consider its lessons for a society moving forward post-conflict.

Each of the webinars are free of charge but registration is required in advance by email to cjp@iecon.ie. The Zoom link will be sent out in advance of each webinar.

Opinion

We must keep memories of the Holocaust alive

by HRH The Prince of Wales

The testimony of survivors turns history into memory. Now the responsibility passes to a new generation. ‘Lily’s Promise’, a memoir by Holocaust survivor Lily Ebert, co-written with her great-grandson Dov Forman, tells the story of how she survived Auschwitz. The foreword, printed below, was written by HRH the Prince of Wales, who is patron of the Holocaust Memorial Day Trust.

For the Jewish people, the Holocaust was a personal tragedy. By the end of the Second World War, one third of European Jewry had perished at the hands of the Nazis. Six million innocent Jewish men, women and children murdered for no reason other than the religion they were born into. A great pillar of smoke covered all of Europe; the shadow of which remains with us still today.

Yet the Holocaust was also a universal human tragedy. It was the greatest crime of man against man, during which humanity showed itself capable of incomparable inhumanity on an incomprehensible scale. Names were replaced by numbers, tattooed on forearms, as a permanent reminder of the depths to which humankind can sink and the evil it can impart on a fellow human being.

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The late chief rabbi, Lord Sacks, spoke about the profound difference between history and memory. “History,” he taught, “is his story – an event that happened sometime else to someone else. Memory is my story – something that happened to me and is part of who I am. History is information. Memory, by contrast, is about identity ... History is about the past as past. Memory is about the past as present.”

It is the Holocaust survivors who help us transform history into memory by their ability to humanise the inhumane. It is them and their words that make the past present.

Throughout my life, I consider it a singular privilege to have met so many survivors. As Patron of the Holocaust Memorial Day Trust, I have witnessed, and been greatly moved by, their harrowing testimony. I have drawn personal inspiration from the many Righteous among the Nations, who, like my dear grandmother, Princess Alice of Greece, put their own lives at immense risk to save Jewish men, women and children from certain death.

I have seen the impact survivors’ words and their sheer presence have had on others, in schools, communities and organisations across our country and around the world.

One such occasion was in 2015 when my wife and I were particularly honoured to light six remembrance candles as part of the National Holocaust Memorial Day Ceremony in London.

For the lighting of each candle, we were joined by a survivor who, like many others, had rebuilt their lives in the United

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Kingdom after the Second World War and contributed enormously to the fabric of our nation. One of the survivors was Lily Ebert BEM.

The joint lighting of the candles was a recognition that the responsibility of memory is slowly but surely passing from the survivors to our generation, and to future generations not yet born. It symbolised the need for us to be fearless in confronting falsehoods and resolute in resisting words and acts of violence. It called on us to recommit ourselves to the beliefs of tolerance and respect, and the central idea, set out in the Hebrew Bible, of b'tzelem elokim, that we are all, irrespective of race, colour, class or creed, created "in the image of God".

These lessons, important then, remain vital now – especially when the events of the Holocaust are sometimes distorted, diminished, or denied, the testimony of victims and witnesses is invaluable and essential. This is what Lily, together with the other Holocaust survivors, understands only too well.

In co-authoring this book with her great-grandson, Dov Forman, Lily has lit her own candle, and recognised the urgent necessity of passing both its light and the responsibility of remembrance between the generations.

This is a task Dov has shown himself more than capable of carrying forward. Through his engaging and effective use of social media, Dov has demonstrated a determination to share his great-grandmother's story with a global audience. In being an enthusiastic partner in this work, Lily is once again showing her passion to use every avenue available to

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ensure that some good might come from the horrendous losses she suffered and the unspeakable evil she overcame.

Lily's story is as profoundly moving as she is inspirational. It is for these reasons, among others, that I was humbled to be asked to contribute a foreword. She and her story are a beacon of light in the darkness; a symbol of hope amongst the despair.

In the depths of Auschwitz, Lily made herself a promise that if she survived, she would dedicate the rest of her life to ensuring the world knew what happened during the Holocaust. This book, which so powerfully captures her testimony, represents the fulfilment of that promise and the culmination of a lifetime of service to the human conscience.

We would all do well to make Lily's history our memory.

Poem for today

To Autumn by John Keats

Season of mists and mellow fruitfulness,
Close bosom-friend of the maturing sun;
Conspiring with him how to load and bless
With fruit the vines that round the thatch-eaves run;
To bend with apples the moss'd cottage-trees,
And fill all fruit with ripeness to the core;
To swell the gourd, and plump the hazel shells

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With a sweet kernel; to set budding more,
And still more, later flowers for the bees,
Until they think warm days will never cease,
For summer has o'er-brimm'd their clammy cells.

Who hath not seen thee oft amid thy store?
Sometimes whoever seeks abroad may find
Thee sitting careless on a granary floor,
Thy hair soft-lifted by the winnowing wind;
Or on a half-reap'd furrow sound asleep,
Drows'd with the fume of poppies, while thy hook
Spares the next swath and all its twined flowers:
And sometimes like a gleaner thou dost keep
Steady thy laden head across a brook;
Or by a cyder-press, with patient look,
Thou watchest the last ooziings hours by hours.

Where are the songs of spring? Ay, Where are they?
Think not of them, thou hast thy music too,—
While barred clouds bloom the soft-dying day,
And touch the stubble-plains with rosy hue;
Then in a wailful choir the small gnats mourn
Among the river sallows, borne aloft
Or sinking as the light wind lives or dies;
And full-grown lambs loud bleat from hilly bourn;
Hedge-cricket sing; and now with treble soft
The red-breast whistles from a garden-croft;
And gathering swallows twitter in the skies.





Pointers for prayer

Almighty and everlasting God,
Give unto us the increase of faith, hope, and charity;
and, that we may obtain that which thou dost promise,
make us to love that which thou dost command;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

We give You thanks, O Lord, that You have invited Your people to pray, in the confidence that You will both hear and answer them according to Your merciful will.

We praise You, O Lord, for the gift of work and for the gifts and skills which shape our earthly vocations. Teach us to labour not for earthly reward but for Your glory, knowing that nothing we do in Your service is ever in vain. Give comfort and direction to the unemployed and the underemployed, that they may find work appropriate to their needs and abilities. Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

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We pray especially for those who labour on behalf of Your kingdom, for our bishops.....,clergy, our pastor(s), and for all missionaries and church workers. Bless especially those who serve You on mission fields far from home and those who bring the light of Your Word to the blind. Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

We pray for our nation and those who labour on our behalf at every level of government, and for all who serve the public trust, that they may fulfil their duties with wisdom, honour, and justice. Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

We pray for the men and women of our armed forces, especially those who labour against the forces of war, terrorism, and oppression. We ask Your blessing also upon those who protect and defend us here. Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

We are mindful of the many whose lives are filled with pain and suffering, grief and sorrow. As You once showed Your mercy to those who called upon You long ago, so show Your mercy to those who cry to You today. According to Your will, grant them healing and peace, especially _____**those whom we name now in our hearts. Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

Almighty God,
whose only Son has opened for us
a new and living way into your presence:
Give us pure hearts and steadfast wills
to worship you in spirit and in truth,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Speaking to the Soul

**Then the leaders of the Levites called out to the people:
“Stand up and praise the Lord your God, for he lives
from everlasting to everlasting!”**

Nehemiah 9.5 NLT

Time defines our lives so completely that it is very hard to understand eternity. I recall hearing about heaven when I was a child and finding it a very unattractive idea. I assumed that there must be a lot of worship going on in heaven and so I built up a picture of it being like a never-ending church service. The service I had in mind started with a brilliant presentation by the angelic choir who sang beautifully for 650 years. This was followed by a welcome and some notices which were relatively brief at only 200 years. And then there was an absolutely amazing sermon that had 1,400 extremely good points and went on for 2,000 years. I decided that heaven probably wasn't for me! If you have such visions of heaven then I would like to set you free! Heaven will be nothing like that. Heaven is beyond time, just like God.

Whenever the Bible talks about God being eternal it is as a springboard to worship. Because God lies beyond time that means that, unlike us, God never grows old. He has no beginning and no end. He is never in a hurry and he is never late. The past, present and future are all the same to God. In the New Testament we learn that Jesus and the Holy Spirit have always lived with the Father. The apostle Paul

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wrote of Jesus, “He existed before anything else, and he holds all creation together.” (Colossians 1.17)

Charles Spurgeon, the famous Baptist preacher wrote, “Do you not know that God is an eternal, self-existent Being, that to say He loves now, is, in fact, to say He always did love, since with God there is no past and can be no future? What we call past, present and future, He wraps up in one eternal NOW. And if you say that He loves you now, you thereby say that He loved you yesterday, He loved you in the past eternity and He will love you forever.” Understanding eternity is beyond our little minds but what we can do is to understand that we are loved and to worship God just like the people in Nehemiah’s day.

QUESTION

How do you relate to the concept of eternity?

PRAYER

Eternal God, we praise you for your infinite greatness. We fall at your feet in worship and adoration. Amen

