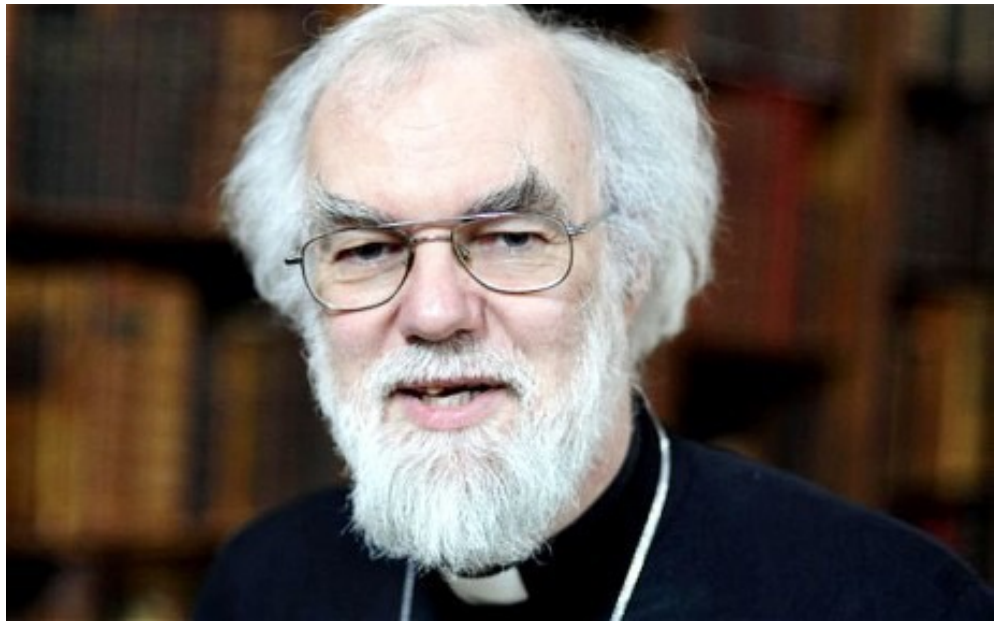




## **Ireland's prisons are getting more chaplains**

### **Archbishop Williams to preach at Christian Aid ACET Advent Hope Service in St Patrick's Cathedral**



Former Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Rowan Williams, will preach at an Advent Hope Service, organised by Christian Aid and ACET, in St Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin, on Sunday November 30 at 3.15 pm.

The service of worship, prayer, thanksgiving and reflection will be in the context of Choral Evensong which will be sung by the cathedral choir. Dr Williams (pictured) is chairperson of Christian Aid UK and Ireland.

November 30 is the first Sunday in Advent. It is also the day before World AIDS Day, December 1 2014, which is marked around the world.

ACET Ireland (Aids Care Education & Training) works to improve the lives of people living with, and affected by HIV and AIDS in Ireland. It also works to reduce the number of new cases of HIV in Ireland. ACET has partnered with Christian Aid on some of its overseas work in the fight against HIV and AIDS.

The theme of the service is 'Advent Hope', and all are welcome to attend.

## Ballymena church project would 'allow for new Wrightbus headquarters'



*The Green Pastures church at Galgorm, outside Ballymena, is behind the planned development*

BBC News NI - A major development project by a church in Ballymena, County Antrim, would create jobs and allow for a new headquarters for Wrightbus, new details of the scheme have revealed.

The firm is a partner in the scheme, which involves Green Pastures church, founded in 2007 by pastor Jeff Wright.

He is a member of the bus-building family.

Known as the Gateway project, it still requires planning approval, but aims to redevelop a 97-acre site.

It is envisaged that it would be situated close to the town's Seven Towers roundabout.

Part of it would also involve housing, a hotel, retail and the church's relocation.

Previously, the Northern Ireland Independent Retail Trade Association (NIIRTA) has said it "strenuously objects" to the retail element of the scheme, a 67,000 sq ft supermarket.

In fresh details released about the project, it is described as being a "public-private partnership model involving the Wrightbus Group, local business and an anchor retail interest".

Subject to planning approval, construction would begin in mid-2015.

Those involved said it would contribute to the area's economic development plan.

They said a new headquarters for Wrightbus would allow "the company to remain firmly located within the borough, securing much needed employment in research, development and manufacturing in Ballymena and Northern Ireland".

Green Pastures Church is currently on part of the Wrightbus site and its relocation would free space for a new headquarters building.

## **Children in Need Helps Methodist Belfast City Mission Parent Support Project**

Belfast City Mission (BCM) was delighted recently to receive a grant of £10,000 from the BBC's Children in Need for its Parent Support Project in Ards.



The grant will go towards the salary of a Domiciliary Worker and the Project's Baby Mornings

The Parent Support Project offers one to one support, formal group work and informal peer support to young parents. Advice and support are provided on all issues relating to parenting, for instance, healthy eating, personal care when pregnant, positive parenting techniques, stimulating play and the importance of peer support.

The project has very strong community links and offers a wide range of activities and links to other appropriate services.

## Adult conflict in schools focus of C of I Schools Management Agm

The annual general meeting of the Church of Ireland Primary School Management Association (CIPSMA) has taken place in the Church of Ireland College of Education.

Members from around Ireland gathered to hear the reports of the executive committee and a guest speaker addressed them on dealing with adult conflict in schools.



***Canon John Clarke of CIPSMA, Scott Hayes of Ecclesiastical Insurance, the Revd Brian O'Rourke CIPSMA Chairman, Luke Monaghan of Cúram.ie and the Revd Norman Gamble CIPSMA Secretary.***

Delivering the secretary's report, the Revd Norman Gamble, looked back on a successful CIPSMA conference in the King's Hospital School in March and said that plans were already underway for next year's event.

He said that the advent of a new Minister for Education may herald a more cooperative period for Church of Ireland schools. However, he said it would not mean more money and warned that schools could only do more with less money for a certain amount of time before the system died of starvation.

The organisation has proposed to contribute towards funding research being carried out by Dr Anne Lodge and Dr David Tuohy which seeks to further their work started with the 'Our School Community' survey which was published in 2012.

CIPSMA chairperson, the Revd Brian O'Rourke, said that the research to be carried out would be invaluable to CIPSMA and the General Synod Board of Education.

Treasurer, the Revd Adrienne Galligan, presented the financial report to the meeting.



Luke Monaghan of Cúram.ie addressed the meeting on the issue of managing adult conflict within schools. He suggested that schools were used to dealing with conflict among children but school boards of management needed to be equipped to deal with conflict between adults.

## **Irish Presbyterian missionary remembered in India**

A former Presbyterian missionary who served in India has been honoured during a special ceremony held recently at the Gujarat United School of Theology.

Rev. John Faris and Miss Linda Jackson represented the Presbyterian Church of Ireland as the Ted Jackson Computer Training Centre and new library were officially opened in Ahmedabad.

Ted Jackson served in India from 1964 to 1969 as Treasurer of the General Board of the Gujarat Church Council and also of the IP Mission Council in Gujarat. During his time there the role of Treasurer and Secretary of the IP Mission Trust Association was added to his work. Ted also served for a number of years in the Finance Office in Assembly Buildings, Belfast, and was Chairperson of the Overseas Board Finance Committee from 1973 to 1993. Ted passed away on 10th October 2011.

Secretary to the Board of Mission Overseas Rev Uel Marrs, who attended the Church of North India (CNI) Synod last month in Nainital, said, "It is an honour that the work and witness of the late Mr. Ted Jackson is remembered in this lasting manner. Every aspect of his work was undertaken with great diligence, efficiency and warmth of heart. It is fitting that his name and example live on in the College complex, and poignant for Ted's daughter, Linda Jackson, to represent her family and the Presbyterian Church in Ireland at the inauguration of the new facilities when tribute was paid to her late father."

## **Ireland's prisons are getting more chaplains**

The [Journal.ie](http://www.journal.ie) - The department of public Expenditure and Reform have sanctioned the filling of 3.5 chaplaincy vacancies throughout the prison estate, specifically, one post each in Cork and Limerick and half time positions in the Mountjoy Campus, West Dublin Campus and Loughan House Open Centre.

Answering a parliamentary question, the Minister for Justice, Frances Fitzgerald said these new roles will increase resources of the chaplaincy service to 15 posts, covering 14 institutions.

### Prison service

“The intention is to bring the total number of chaplains in the prison service up to 18.5, in order to ensure an effective and meaningful chaplaincy service. These new chaplains recruited from a Public Appointments Service competition will be direct employees of the Irish Prison Service,” she added.

Minister Fitzgerald said the Irish Prison Chaplain Service plays “a crucial role in the provision of pastoral and spiritual care to the entire prison community and seeks to meet the needs of all denominations”.

While chaplains are mostly Roman Catholic, some are from the Church of Ireland and Methodist denominations.

“Spiritual advisors of other churches/religions can also attend the prisons on a visiting basis, subject to normal visit rules,” said Fitzgerald.

### Spiritual guidance

The minister added that the chaplaincy has a significant contribution to make as part of the multi-disciplinary team in a prison, addressing the physical, social and spiritual needs of prisoners in a holistic way.

## **Saint Patrick’s Cathedral, Dublin, Organ Scholarship 2015/16**

Applications are invited for the organ scholarship at Saint Patrick’s Cathedral for the 2015/16 academic year. Details are available from the website

<http://www.stpatrickscathedral.ie/media/file/Organ%20Scholarship%202014-15.pdf>

Closing date for applications 7 January 2015. Contact the Organist & Master of Choristers *Stuart Nicholson* for more details

[organist@stpatrickscathedral.ie](mailto:organist@stpatrickscathedral.ie)

## **The Pope’s visit - Which way will Turkey turn?**

Catholic Herald - The Pope’s visit to Turkey today will be the most significant foreign trip he’s made to date, [and it comes at a time when Christians are increasingly nervous.](#)

Francis has gone to majority-Muslim countries in the past, but Turkey is Islamic in a way that Albania isn't. It is also – with the exception of Israel – the most important military power in the Middle East, and at a geographic crossroads, with the European Union on one side and ISIS-controlled Iraq and Syria on the other.

It seems to be at a crossroads in time, too, with President Recep Tayyip Erdogan doing much to reverse the reforms of the Turkish republic's founder Mustafa Kemal Atatürk. Just a couple of months ago he reversed the ban on women wearing the headscarf in universities; personally I'm in favour of women being free to wear whatever they like, but I can see why Turkish women adopting headscarves is a bad sign. It's also a rule of thumb that the more covered-up women in Muslim countries, the worse things are for the Christians. As the BBC reported:  
Catholics, the smallest Christian minority in Turkey, have felt the impact.

A spate of murders of Catholic missionaries and priests a few years ago left the community in shock. At the Catholic basilica in Istanbul, there is Mass for the few.

'To be a Turk now means you have to be Muslim,' says Fr Iulian Pista, who serves here.

'In the past, being a pious Muslim was looked down upon. Now Friday prayers are encouraged. Society here is becoming Islamised. Recently, I've seen youngsters defecate and urinate in my church. They shout "Allahu akbar" [English: God is great]. I also believe God is great but the way they say it is threatening.'

The president has also said some pretty odd things, alarming for the leader of a Nato country. He recently stated that Islamic countries have only [ever fought wars of defence, not of conquest](#), which might have come as a surprise to visitors to the Hagia Sophia. The [president also made the claim that Muslims discovered America before Columbus](#), a prime example of internet-era junk history (and besides, as me granny told me, it was discovered by St Brendan in a stone boat long before). There is also the issue of censorship, claims that Erdogan disregards the rule of law, and the enormous palace he's just finished, which hardly screams "republican virtue" – it will be interesting to see his choice of wall art.

Perhaps I'm not a fair critic, as I have a great admiration for Atatürk and what he and the Turks achieved in secularising a very Islamic country; by most accounts Erdogan's government has treated the country's Christian minority

well, handing over confiscated convents that its (essentially anti-religious) secularist nationalist predecessors refused to.

But Erdogan is riding a wave of Ottoman nostalgia in Turkey, a harking back for that golden age of Islamic power. Curiously Ottstalgia is not confined to that country, but exists in the west too, but for different reasons; the recent Rageh Omaar BBC series Europe's Muslim Emperors presented it as essentially a diverse, benevolent and peaceful society that sadly succumbed to the bogeyman of nationalism. In Britain Ottstalgia is a response to recent immigration and the need to find a historical example of a peaceful multicultural state with Muslims in it. The reality of Ottoman rule was very different, of course, but just as nationalists have their imagined communities, so do their polar opposites, multiculturalists.

When the Ottoman Empire ended the Christians were mostly killed or driven out of what is Turkey, most notoriously was the Armenian genocide in 1915, but there was also mass murder against Greeks and Syriac, and as many as a million Greek-speakers forced out (in return for roughly 500,000 Turks going the other way).

Today once again Turkey is becoming more multi-ethnic thanks in part to the various crises on its border; the country is home to an estimated 1.6m Syrians, an incredible burden that the Turks have shouldered with characteristic generosity. It's likely that the Pope will meet some this week and will do his best to help the victims of war, [just like his predecessor Benedict XVI](#). But his visit, [as Radio Vatican reports, will also come as a huge boost to the country's small Catholic community](#).

## Media Digest - quick links to the main news stories

### Times/Mail/Tel

Report that a town band has banned Christmas carols from its festive show, claiming that "people don't like to stand up and sing in public". It states Northampton Concert Band decided to ban carols from its festive concert this year at the Holy Sepulchre Church because feedback from previous events revealed that the audience felt pressured to join in.

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/uk/article4279552.ece>

[http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2850038/Silent-night-Band-bans-Christmas-carols-town-s-festive-people-embarrassed-sing-public.html?](http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2850038/Silent-night-Band-bans-Christmas-carols-town-s-festive-people-embarrassed-sing-public.html?ITO=1490&ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490)

[ITO=1490&ns\\_mchannel=rss&ns\\_campaign=1490](http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2850038/Silent-night-Band-bans-Christmas-carols-town-s-festive-people-embarrassed-sing-public.html?ITO=1490&ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490)

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/newstopics/howaboutthat/11255149/Town-band-wont-play-Christmas-carols-because-people-dont-like-singing.html>

### BBC

Report that the Rev James Ogley, who admitted asking children to sexually assault other youngsters on an internet chat blog has been removed from office at the church of Saint



Francis, Luton, and banned from being a Church of England priest for the rest of his life. It states Ogley was sentenced to two years in prison in October for publishing obscene material. The Diocese of St Albans said it was the "maximum penalty" and the Bishop of St Albans, Alan Smith, said he had been "deeply shocked and saddened" to hear about Ogley's actions, but it had been important to follow the required legal process "to guarantee a safe, certain and unchallengeable result".

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-beds-bucks-herts-30212063>

## **BBC**

Report that a public appeal to raise money for the reburial of Richard III has been launched. It states five days of events accompany a ceremony where the bones will be placed in a tomb in the remodelled Leicester Cathedral on 27 March 2015. The diocese of Leicester said it had raised £1.9m of the £2.5m cost and set a £50,000 target for the public appeal and is calling on schools, clubs, community groups, families and individuals to put on fundraising activities.

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-leicestershire-30216824>

## **Ind**

Opinion article discussing the issue of faith schools in the light of Ofsted inspections over extremism and British values.

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/education/schools/should-we-have-faith-in-the-future-of-religious-schools-9885740.html>

## **BBC/Metro**

Reports that ITV has announced there will be a second series of detective drama *Grantchester*, based on the novels of James Runcie. The show averaged 6.6m viewers in its first series earlier this year. They state Runcie was inspired to write the detective stories by his father Robert, the former Archbishop of Canterbury.

<http://www.bbc.com/news/entertainment-arts-30206813>

<http://metro.co.uk/2014/11/26/hoorah-the-hot-vicar-is-returning-as-itv-secure-second-series-of-grantchester-4963176/>

## **Guardian**

Media Monkey reports on Angelina Jolie being invited to join BBC Radio 2's Clare Balding and the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Westminster, Cardinal Vincent Nichols, to reflect on faith as part of Good Morning Christmas on the airwaves.

<http://www.theguardian.com/media/mediamonkeyblog/2014/nov/26/angelina-jolie-bbc-tv-good-morning-christmas>

## **BBC**

Report that a memorial service marking the 70th anniversary of an explosion at an underground bomb storage depot which killed 70 people, will be held today at St Werburgh's Church, Hanbury. It states the force of the blast left a 400ft (120m)-deep crater in the Staffordshire countryside, which still exists today.

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-stoke-staffordshire-30218324>

## **Mail**

Report on how Christians are still worshipping in Aleppo although tens of thousands have fled Islamic State jihadists. It states Father Imad Daher of the Latin church of Saint Francis said Christians are preparing to put up their Christmas trees. "We will celebrate Christmas, even if our numbers have dwindled. We will celebrate with a mass for peace," he said.

[http://www.dailymail.co.uk/wires/afp/article-2850680/Christians-hold-Syrias-Aleppo-despite-jihadist-threat.html?ITO=1490&ns\\_mchannel=rss&ns\\_campaign=1490](http://www.dailymail.co.uk/wires/afp/article-2850680/Christians-hold-Syrias-Aleppo-despite-jihadist-threat.html?ITO=1490&ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490)

## **Sun**

Report on Elim Pentecostal Church on the Moorlands estate in Lincoln that has been knick named the 'Chav Church' and replaced traditional hymns by devotional rock tunes. It says the service seems a million miles from the average Church of England service and that the pastor Darren Edwards, a reformed alcoholic, wanted to set up a working-class church, about working-class culture, reflecting what it means to grow up on a council estate and have different aspirations.

<http://www.thesun.co.uk/sol/homepage/features/6128357/Reformed-brawler-and-car-thief-starts-chav-church.html>

## **Tel**

Article stating Pope Francis said he would be prepared to talk to the extremists of Islamic State (Isil) if he thought it would help bring peace to Syria and Iraq. The Pope said "the door is always open" to peace initiatives, but conceded that it would be very hard to negotiate with Isil. He told journalists that dialogue might not be possible, "but you can never shut a door".

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/the-pope/11255200/Pope-I-would-be-willing-to-talk-to-Islamic-State.html>

## **Blogs**

### **Huff Post**

**Bob Morgan:** Why Do the Media Assume the Bishops Are Our Only Moral Guardians?

[http://www.huffingtonpost.co.uk/bob-morgan/thought-for-the-day\\_b\\_6224268.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.co.uk/bob-morgan/thought-for-the-day_b_6224268.html)

**iBenedictines:** Lost faith in institutions

<http://www.ibenedictines.org/2014/11/26/lost-faith-in-institutions/>

**Brother Ivo:** Pope Francis addresses the EU

<http://brotherivo.com/blog/2014/11/25/pope-francis-addresses-the-eu/>

**Thurible:** Six reasons why (some) cathedrals are doing well

<http://thurible.net/2014/11/26/six-reasons-cathedrals-well/>