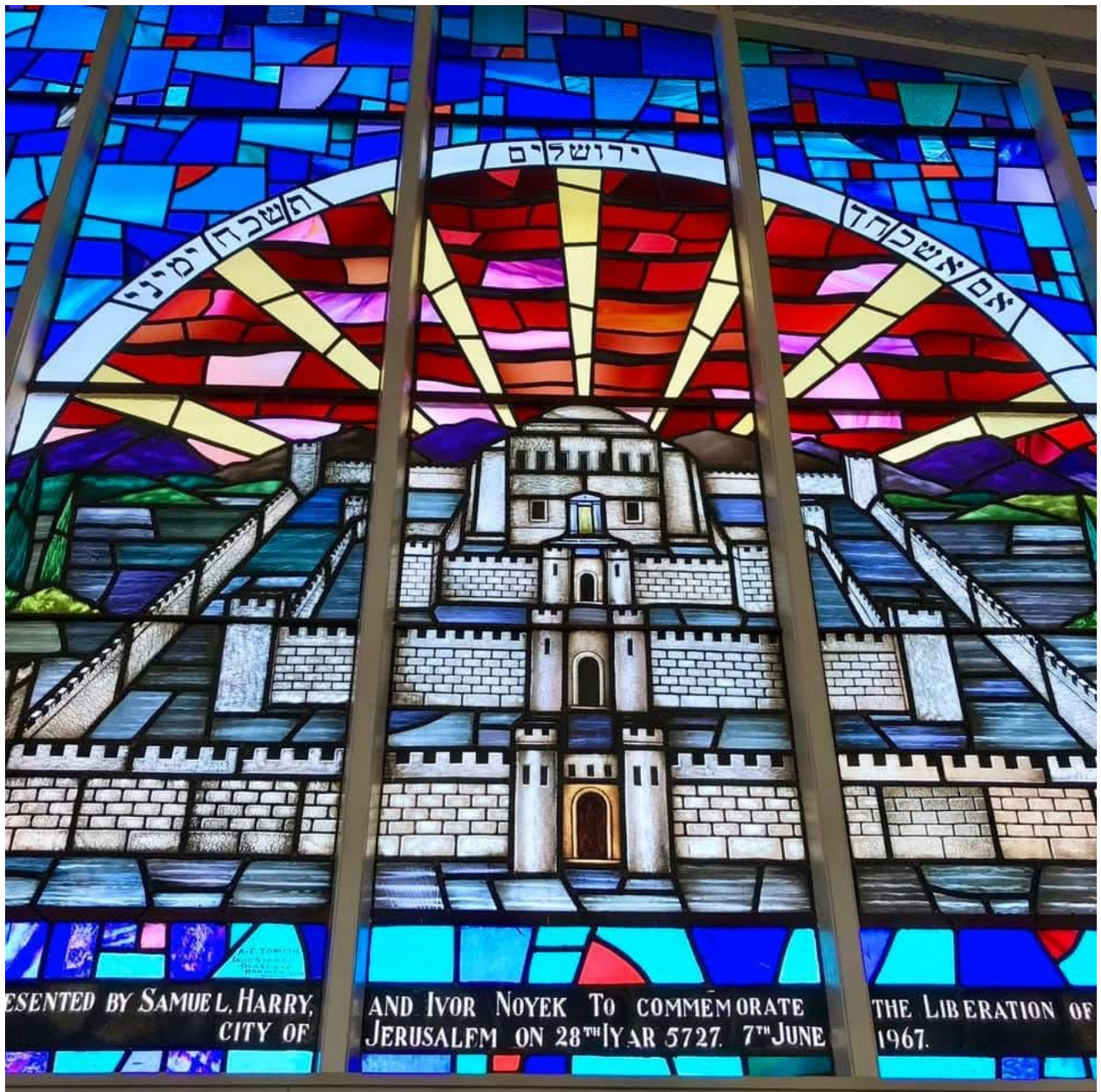


# Church News Ireland



## Image of the day – Dublin Hebrew Congregation

January 15, 2025

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### **News -**

Holocaust Memorial Day 2025

King to become first British monarch to visit Auschwitz

Bishops of England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales discuss protecting life, Jubilee Year, Safeguarding and Warm Ecumenical Service in Navan

Pope Francis meets young cancer patients in Poland

### **Cathedral Calls -**

Climate activists deface Darwin's grave at Westminster Abbey

New date for a Labyrinth evening under the magnificent Dome of St Paul's

### **Clergy and ministry -**

Train as a Down & Dromore Diocesan Evangelist

### **Webinars, music, resources, broadcasts, and books -**

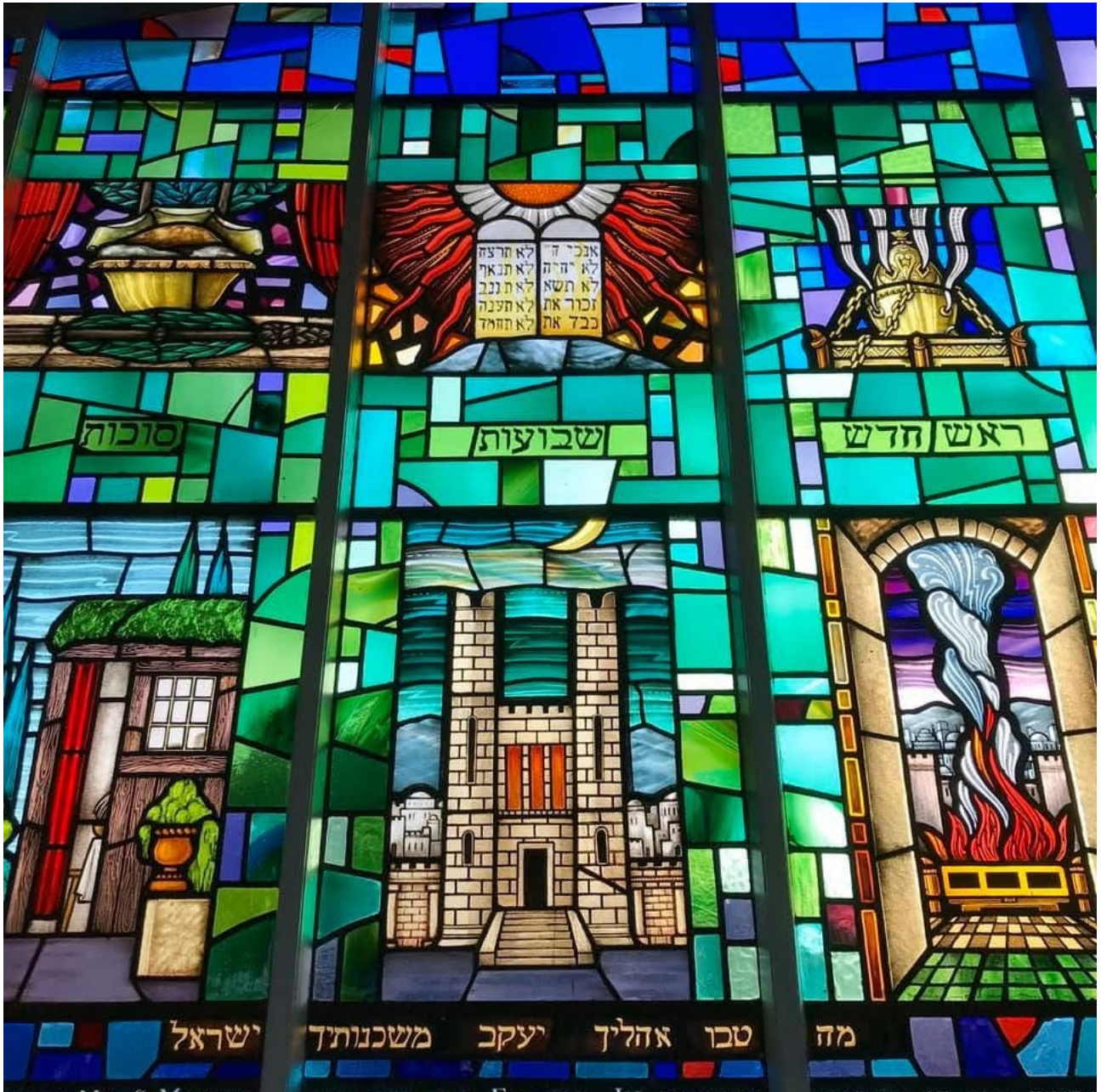
Online Workshop with founder of Kids In Faith

### **Speaking to the soul -**

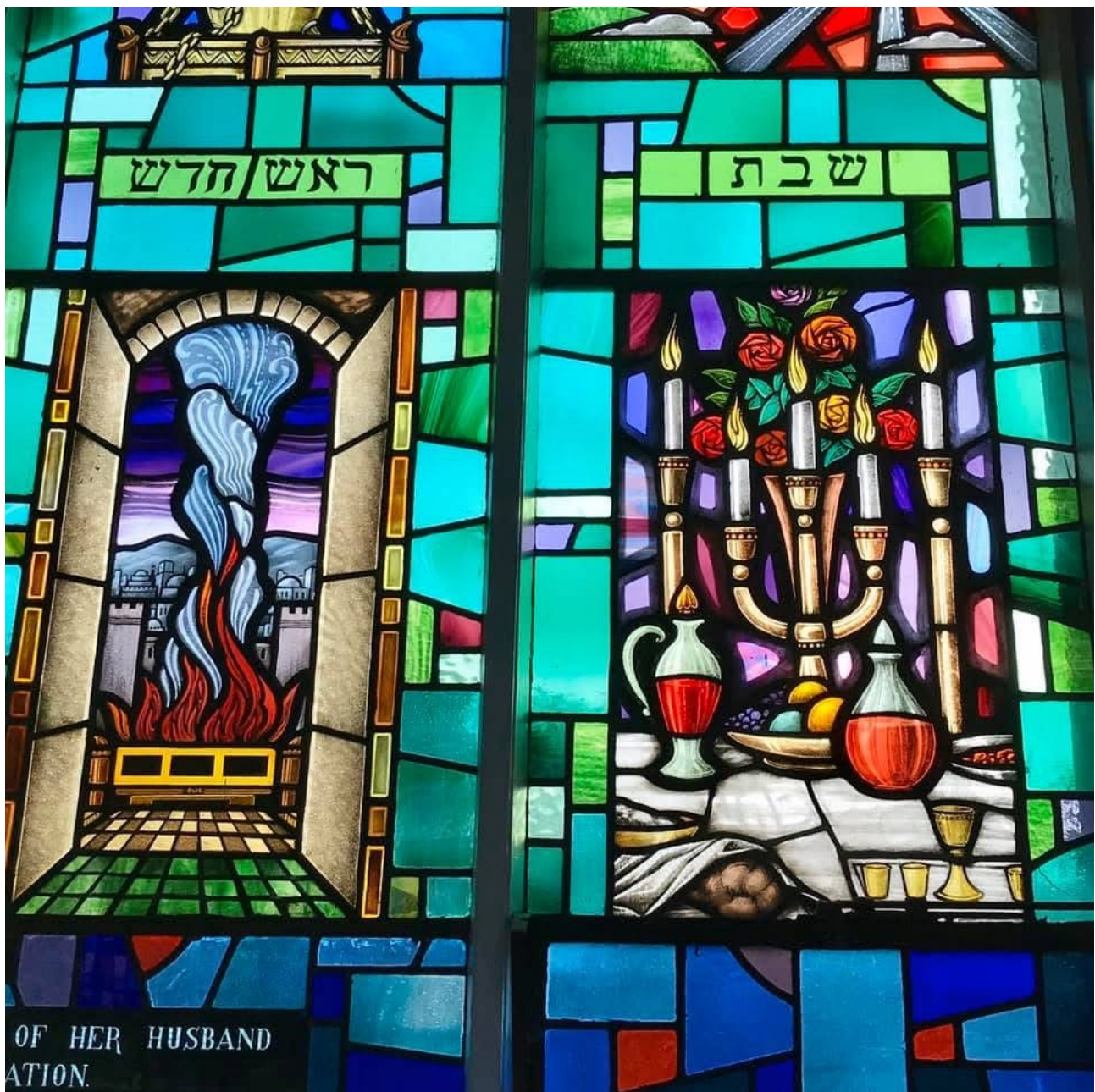
Short reading and a prayer daily on this site

January 15, 2025

# Image of the day - Dublin Hebrew Congregation



**David Caron comments - Visited the Synagogue in Terenure recently to see their stained glass. Had no idea they had any until the artist involved mentioned it in passing when I met him a few days earlier.**



The windows were made c. 1968 by Stanley Tomlin (1916-76) and his sons Alan and Fergus of Irish Stained Glass Ltd. From the roadside (Rathfarnham Road) the only inkling that there may be stained glass is the five Star of David-shaped windows up high (in the Ladies' Gallery).

Two large walls of glass dominate the interior; on the left is depicted the Western Wall, Second Temple, and Citadel of David; on the right side are ten panels (five over five) depicting Jewish Festivals. A real treat to see.

## News

### **Holocaust Memorial Day 2025 - "For a Better Future"**

**We encourage you to please support the following important events which are taking place in Northern Ireland to mark Holocaust Memorial Day. See CNI yesterday for Dublin event.**

*At the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland, Belfast - 16  
January 1pm*

### **From Kazakhstan to Kilkeel - the story of the Sekules family.**

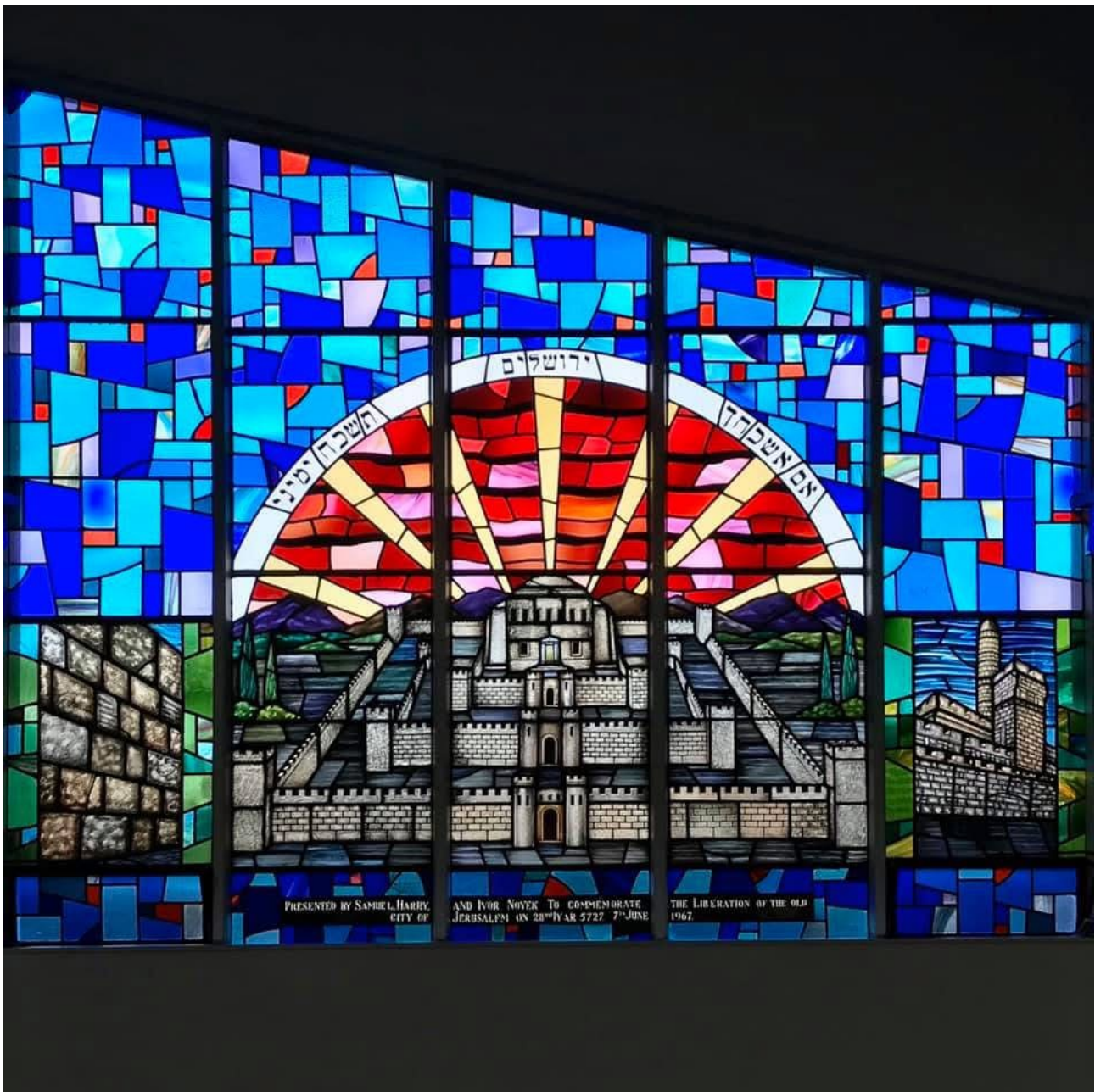
A talk by Csilla Toldy and Esther Bloch. The talk is based on the illustrated book, *Enemy Alien - Walter's Journey through Adversity* (2024). The Sekules family survived Hitler's Vienna and Stalin's gulag and found freedom in Northern Ireland.

Please contact PRONI for further information.

*At the Linenhall Library, Belfast - 27 January 1 - 2pm*

### **The Saved and the Spurned**

Author, broadcaster and journalist, Noel Russell, talks about his recently published book subtitled, *Northern Ireland,*



Vienna and the Holocaust. Noel will outline what happened when hundreds of Jews experiencing Nazi persecution in Austria appealed to the Stormont government to be allowed to come to Northern Ireland.

Tickets can be obtained via the Linenhall library website.

*At the Northern Ireland War Memorial, Belfast - 27 January, 7 - 8.15pm*



## **A Commemoration of Helen Lewis**

Helen's grandson, Dan, from the Northern Holocaust Education Group, will share his family's story. Dan will be speaking via zoom to an in person audience at the War Memorial. Pictures inspired by Helen's life will be on display and a special candle will be lit. Helen pioneered modern dance in Northern Ireland, having survived Auschwitz, other camps and a forced march across Europe.

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Please apply to the Northern Ireland War Memorial for tickets - the venue has limited capacity.

*On line presentation hosted by PRONI - 30 January, 1-2pm*

## **Business, Culture and Community: The Contribution of Jewish Refugees to Northern Ireland**

Bernard Enlander, of the Belfast Jewish Heritage project, will share the stories of those less well known or even forgotten Jewish refugees who came to Northern Ireland, but who made an enormous contribution to many aspects of life here.

Please apply to PRONI to register - the link will be circulated an hour before the presentation.

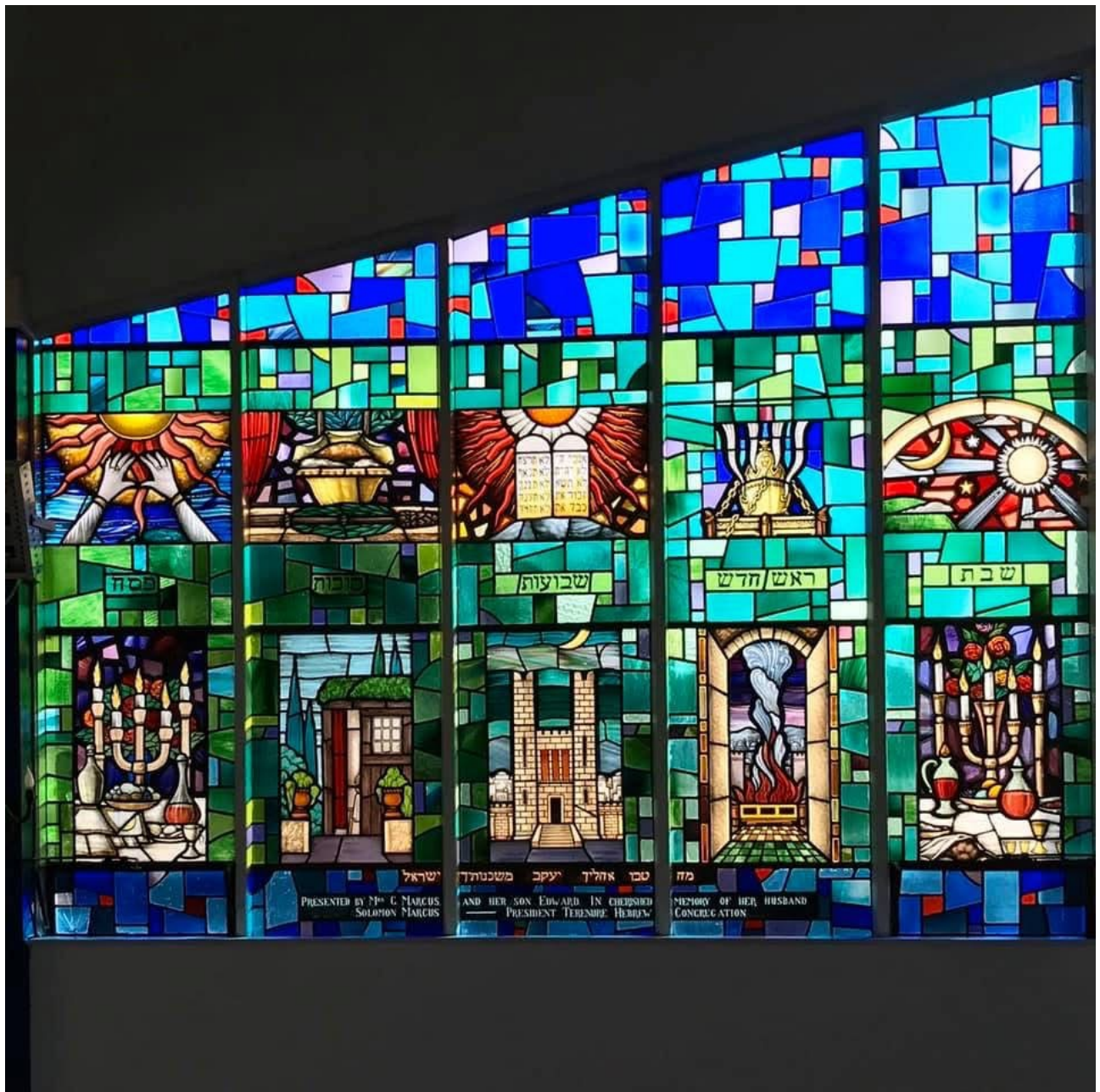
## **King to become first British monarch to visit Auschwitz**

**Queen Camilla is the only other senior royal figure to have visited the camp after she attended the 75th anniversary commemorations in 2020**

The King will become the first British monarch to visit Auschwitz when he marks the “important” 80th anniversary of its liberation later this month.

The monarch will join heads of state, presidents and prime ministers from around the globe for a poignant





remembrance ceremony at the Auschwitz-Birkenau Museum and Memorial in Poland on Jan 27.

The King, who is the patron of the Holocaust Memorial Day Trust, hosted an event at Buckingham Palace on Monday to hear about various initiatives designed to ensure that the experiences of Holocaust survivors are never forgotten.

He was joined by Manfred Goldberg, 94, who survived a succession of labour camps, including Stutthof in occupied

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Poland, as well as a death march, discussing his plans to attend the commemoration.

“I feel I must for the 80th anniversary,” he said. “It’s so important.”

Speaking of the small number of Holocaust survivors still alive to share their stories, the King added: “I can’t bear the dwindling number left behind.”

The monarch has spent decades working to ensure the Holocaust is never forgotten and has previously described how he had been inspired throughout his own life by survivors’ stories of immense bravery and sacrifice.

In June 2015, Elizabeth II visited Bergen-Belsen in northern Germany, marking her first and only visit to a Second World War concentration camp.

However, the only senior royal figure to have visited Auschwitz is Queen Camilla, who attended the 75th anniversary commemorations there in 2020.

Mr Goldberg said he was “full of admiration” for the way the King had decided “not to keep silent” about the Holocaust and to show the world where his sympathies lay, adding: “Silence never helps the oppressed. It always helps the oppressor.”

He said: “I think it is an astounding affirmation by His Majesty that he fully understands the colossal injustice and atrocity that was perpetrated against the Jewish people during the Holocaust.

“He seems to have made it an active component of his life to do what he can to ensure that people become aware.”

Mr Goldberg is one of four Holocaust survivors whose stories form part of a new educational programme which uses AI and virtual reality technology to allow children to chat with them face-to-face, as if in real-time.

The King watched a demonstration of the programme, called Testimony 360: People and Places of the Holocaust, asking Mr Goldberg through the computer: “What is the message that you really want to leave people with?”

The digitised Mr Goldberg replied that he would like people to realise that “indifference is a very dangerous response to the injustice”

*County. Antrim sunrise*



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The King was also told about an initiative called “80 Candles for 80 Years” – with each holder highlighting the life of an individual or community persecuted by the Nazis.

He was shown a display inspired by Anita Lasker-Wallfisch, who played the cello in the women’s orchestra at Auschwitz, before lighting a candle in memory of those killed in the Holocaust and more recent genocides.

## **Bishops of England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales discuss protecting life, Jubilee Year, Safeguarding and Warm**

**A group of bishops, led by the presidents of the Catholic Bishops' Conferences of England and Wales, Ireland and Scotland, met in London for two days, from 9 to 10 January, to discuss the issues of the day and to share times of fraternal prayer and reflection.**

Cardinal Vincent Nichols, Archbishop of Westminster and President of the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, hosted the group, that included Archbishop Eamon Martin of Armagh, President of the Irish Bishops' Conference, and Bishop John Keenan, President of the Bishops' Conference of Scotland and Bishop of Paisley. The presidents were joined by bishops from the three episcopal conferences to convene what is called the 'Liaison Committee'. It meets annually and is an expression of unity and solidarity between the Catholic bishops of the three territories. The group includes the General Secretaries of the episcopal conferences.

Among the topics discussed were life issues, and in particular proposed assisted suicide legislation affecting all the jurisdictions, migration, conflict in the Holy Land, safeguarding, the Jubilee year, and other matters of common concern.

The Episcopal gathering comprised the following:

**Ireland**

Archbishop Eamon Martin  
President, Irish Bishops' Conference  
Archbishop of Armagh, Primate of All Ireland  
Archbishop Dermot Farrell  
Vice-President, Irish Bishops' Conference  
Archbishop of Dublin  
Monsignor Joseph McGuinness  
General Secretary, Irish Bishops' Conference

**England and Wales**

Cardinal Vincent Nichols  
President, Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales  
Archbishop of Westminster  
Bishop Nicholas Hudson  
Episcopal Secretary, Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales  
Auxiliary Bishop, Diocese of Westminster  
Greg Pope  
General Secretary, Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales

**Scotland**

Bishop John Keenan  
President, Bishops' Conference of Scotland  
Bishop of Paisley  
Bishop Brian McGee  
Bishop of Argyll and the Isles, Scotland  
Father Gerard Maguinness  
General Secretary, Bishops' Conference of Scotland

## **Ecumenical Service in Navan**

**To mark the Octave of Prayer For Christian Unity, an Ecumenical Service will take place at St. Mary's R.C. Church, Navan, on Sunday 19th January, 2025 at 7.30p.m.**

This year's theme is: "Do you believe this?". The Preacher will be The Revd Philip McKinley (Lead Evangelist Kildare Centre of Mission and Curate, Dunboyne & Rathmolyon Unions). Revd McKinley has been deeply involved in the Brigid 150 celebrations.

## **Pope Francis meets young cancer patients in Poland**

**Pope Francis met a group of young cancer patients receiving treatment at the Oncology and Pediatric Hematology Clinic in Wrocław, Poland this week.**

In his greeting the Pope spoke about the Jubilee Year 2025, calling it a "year in which God wants to grant us special graces.... We have the opportunity to give each other hope and love," Pope Francis said.

The Holy Father explained one of the reasons he felt joy ahead of the meeting, was that children and young people are, for him, "signs of hope." This is because Jesus is present in each of them, and, the Pope said, "where He is, there is hope that never disappoints." ... Through our own sufferings, we can unite ourselves to Jesus, who suffered willingly for us on the cross. Pope Francis called this "a test

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of friendship" because people are truly friends when "the joy of the other is also my joy, and the pain of the other is also my pain."

The Pope reminded the children and young people that another sign of Jesus' love for them can be seen in the people around them.

"The love and constant presence of your parents, the kind and tender smiles of the doctors, nurses, and physiotherapists who care for you and work to improve your health"- all with the goal of helping these children live their hopes and dreams.

Pope Francis stressed that he shares Jesus' perspective: calling the group his friends. He offered them a challenge to serve the Church by offering their prayers and sufferings for the Pope.

He asked them all to join him in praying for the "children-unfortunately, many of them-who do not have the possibility to receive care."

## Cathedral Calls

### Climate activists deface Darwin's grave at Westminster Abbey

**Climate activists from Just Stop Oil painted over the grave of British naturalist Charles Darwin at London's Westminster Abbey on Monday.**

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Two activists entered Westminster Abbey - Britain's site for royal weddings, coronations, burials and a major tourist attraction - on Monday morning and used spray chalk on Darwin's grave, the campaign group said in a statement.

The activists wrote "1.5 is dead" in orange over the surface of the white marble gravestone - a reference to recent news that global temperatures in 2024 had exceeded 1.5 Celsius above the pre-industrial era for the first time.

"We have passed the 1.5 degree threshold that was supposed to keep us safe," one of the activists said. "Darwin would be turning in his grave to know we are in the midst of the sixth mass extinction."

Darwin, best known for his theory of evolution by natural selection, died in 1882. He is buried in Westminster Abbey's Scientists' Corner, where Isaac Newton and Stephen Hawking are also buried.

The church confirmed the incident in a statement.

"The Abbey's conservators are taking immediate action to clean the memorial and do not anticipate that there will be any permanent damage," a spokeswoman said.

"The police were called to the scene and dealt with the incident. The Abbey remains open for visiting and worshipping."

London's Metropolitan Police said two women had been arrested on suspicion of causing criminal damage at



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Westminster Abbey and taken to a central London police station.

Just Stop Oil activists have staged a number of high-profile protests in Britain including by disrupting sports and theatre events, painting over the U.S. embassy building in London and throwing soup at Van Gogh paintings.



## **New date for a Labyrinth evening under the magnificent Dome of St Paul's**

Tuesday 28th January, 6.10-8pm. Free Event, All welcome. Come and walk a Labyrinth under the magnificent Dome of St Paul's. Experience Wren's sacred space created to inspire awe and wonder. Enjoy the tranquillity and stillness of the Nave and Transepts in the early evening. You are also

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welcome to join the daily service of Evensong beforehand at 5pm and conclude your experience with a short service of night prayer at 7.45pm.

During this evening there will be an opportunity to experience a Christian mindfulness taster session lasting 20 minutes. The session will run twice, once at 6.30pm and again at 7pm. The sessions will be led by Martin Zetter of Mindful WorkLife who helps busy people to use meditation and mindfulness to manage stress.

[<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/labyrinth-evening-tickets-1080436969059>]

## Clergy and ministry

### Train as a Down & Dromore Diocesan Evangelist

**Down & Dromore vision is to have a Diocesan Evangelist in every parish. Could you be one of them? The Diocesan Evangelist Training Course (2025-26) is open for applications until Friday 24 January.**

This exciting course which runs over 2 years is open to adults of any age who have a heart for reaching others with the Gospel. In the past 10 years over 4 people have completed the course with many going on into paid positions as evangelists, church planters and other ministry positions.

The course is facilitated by New Wine in partnership with Down and Dromore diocese. It was developed by Through

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Faith Missions with the aim of producing evangelists who combine a credible level of learning, with an ability to actually 'do the work of an evangelist'. On average the commitment is 8 to 10 hours a week split between studying/ assignments and doing evangelism.

Theological study together with a practical portfolio is undertaken to successfully complete the course and this consists of 5 prescribed modules and an Evangelists Portfolio.

Cost - The total cost of the course is £1,980 and successful candidates will be awarded one third (£660) of this amount from the diocese. We encourage applicants to seek financial support from their local church towards the remaining amount.

To find out more, please download the course brochure on the diocesan web site.

Applying - Applications for the 2025-26 course close on Friday 24 January 2025.

For an application form or more information please contact Andrew Brannigan by email at [andrew@downanddromore.org](mailto:andrew@downanddromore.org) or call 07950 846621.

## Webinars, music, resources, broadcasts, and books

## Online Workshop with founder of Kids In Faith

**Join online Wednesday 22nd January for the next Online Workshop where we will hear from Ed Drew, founder of Kids In Faith.**

As Children grow up, they hear many conflicting messages about how they can define themselves. For example, they are told they can define themselves by their achievements, popularity, sexuality, morality, or gender, or by how they feel.

In the workshop, Ed will provide us with biblical help for parents and leaders on this topic. He will show us how we can encourage our children to find their identity in the fact that they are made and loved by Jesus, and explore the implications and applications of this truth. Based on his book of the same name, Ed will bring wisdom and honest discussion.

Sign up for the zoom link by clicking here:  
<https://bit.ly/ConfusingWorld>

## Speaking to the soul

Short reading and a prayer - daily on this site

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# Church News Ireland

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# Church News Ireland

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**Link in Monday through Saturday from  
early morning**

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