

Church News Ireland



Image of the day – Congratulations

Image of the day

Congratulations

Congratulations to the Reverend Steve Stockman who this week was presented with an MBE award at Windsor Castle by the Princess Royal. He was accompanied by his wife and daughters. See link below to Steve's account of the day

A writer and broadcaster Steve is one of the co-founders of the cross-community 4Corners Festival. Steve blogs and in 2022 he began his Soul Surmise podcast. He is author of the book Walk On: The Spiritual Journey Of U2. From Harryville, Ballymena, he is minister of Fitzroy Presbyterian Church.

Steve's account of the day

[\[https://stocki.typepad.com/soulsurmise/2023/10/getting-my-mbe-at-windsor-castle.html\]](https://stocki.typepad.com/soulsurmise/2023/10/getting-my-mbe-at-windsor-castle.html)

The Podcast of Steve's sermon on Sunday past is also available at this second link. It is on Apple, Spotify and Amazon... Jesus is picking fights with the religious leaders... who has authority...

[\[https://stocki.typepad.com/soulsurmise/2023/10/sunday-sermon-podcast-81023.html\]](https://stocki.typepad.com/soulsurmise/2023/10/sunday-sermon-podcast-81023.html)

People and places

Interchurch Stitchers talented tapestries of Newcastle's four main churches

A talented group of local ladies have put their gifts to good use, skilfully creating tapestries depicting Newcastle's four main churches.

The Interchurch Stitchers spent the past 10 months planning and then deciding what each creation would feature.

Meeting each Thursday afternoon in the town's parish centre, the 24-strong team are thrilled with the end products, which last week were presented to representatives from St John's Church of Ireland, Donard Methodist Church, Newcastle Presbyterian Church and Our Lady of the Assumption Church. Ita Shannon, who helped form the group, has thanked everyone for their endeavours over the course of the year, adding that the group has had many benefits – not just sharing arts and crafts skills, but forging new friendships too.

Thanking everyone who took part, as well as the churches for their co-operation, Ita said that although this project has reached its conclusion, the group will carry on, with the ladies continuing with their crafts. From total novices, to stitching and tapestry experts, everyone who took part in this project learned something new, explained Ita, who is delighted with the group's efforts to date. "It's been a great project, and everyone should be very proud of their efforts.



Friends of Armagh Cathedral - There was an excellent turnout of Friends at the Autumn event. The guest speaker was Dr Stephen Timpany, the Cathedral Organist and Master of the Choristers.

We have four lovely pieces of art now, which each tell their own story and will proudly be on display for many years to come,” she said.

Ita added that from the outset with her goal of creating this cross-community project she received support and guidance from Elaine Callen. She said the transformation from some of the stitchers’ first get-together, when they began making samplers, all the way through to the finished products, was “just fantastic.” Describing the team as a bunch of “amazing ladies”, Ita concluded: “I have got to know ladies through



CONFERENCE

The Primacy of Peace

Promoting Understanding and Dialogue through the Collections of
the Primate of All-Ireland,
Archbishop Robin Eames (1986 - 2006) and
Cardinal Tomás Ó Fiaich (1977 - 1990)



Tuesday
24 October 2023



10.00am to 3.00pm



Free, lunch included
Booking essential



Market Place Theatre, Armagh



visitarmagh.com/marketplacetheatre
Tel: 03300 561 025

Morning Session

Keynote speaker

Adjunct Professor Philip
McDonagh



Panel of Speakers

Dr Brian Lambkin
Dr Thomas Dolan
Professor Gladys Ganiel

Chairperson of the Panel

Susan McKay

Organised by



Afternoon Session

Keynote speaker

Professor Ian McBride



Panel of Speakers

Archbishop Eamon Martin
Archbishop John McDowell
Government representatives

Chairperson of the Panel

Mark Devenport

Funded by



An Roinn Gnóthaí
Eachtracha agus Trádála
Department of
Foreign Affairs and Trade

this group who I had never seen before, and that's one of the many benefits. "Not only are we bonding over our love of arts and crafts, but we are sharing our stories and able to learn from one another about various aspects of life through this really successful social project."

Parishioners to preside over church burials in Clogher

More than 40 new 'lay leaders' will be introduced to Clogher Diocese to preside over funerals as parishioners take on more duties due to the shortage of priests here, John Carney reports in the Fermanagh Herald.

In total, over 70 new lay leaders are undertaking training for the role in Clogher and Down and Connor dioceses.

They'll be commissioned in the coming months and will begin their work in parishes across the two dioceses.

"It's a very welcome development and flows from the initiative of Bishop of Clogher Larry Duffy, who sought to invite and involve more lay people in parish ministry including some liturgical ministry," Dr Gary Carville, communications officer for Clogher Diocese, told the Irish Catholic newspaper.



Cork, Cloyne and Ross clergy away days

The former Archbishop of Armagh (Right) chatting with the Archbishop of

York over dinner. Earlier this week the Archbishop of York was walking northern York parishes. The “church bus” Destination 211 visits families in isolated areas.



Irish archbishops: We urge a cessation of violence in the Holy Land, respect of civilian populations and release of hostages

“Over the past days we have watched with shock and dismay the events that have unfolded in the land of the birth of Our Lord.

“The ongoing situation has caused great suffering to many innocent people on all sides in the present conflict. The loss of innocent lives together with the large numbers of innocent people injured in the Holy Land is a great affront to a lasting peace. Unfortunately, the present crisis does not augur well for the immediate future as many more may endure destruction and death.

“We re-echo the words of Pope Francis when he said at last Sunday’s audience in Saint Peter’s Square, Rome:

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‘May the attacks and weaponry cease. Please! And let it be understood that terrorism and war do not lead to any resolutions, but only to the death and suffering of so many innocent people.’

“We, who love the Holy Land as the 5th Gospel, urge all people of goodwill to work towards a cessation of violence, ensuring that civilian populations be respected and that all hostages are released without harm.

“We join with Pope Francis, and the Patriarch of Jerusalem, Cardinal Pizzaballa, in calling for prayers for peace, and praying for the families and individuals suffering through these events at this time.

‘Lord, come to our aid! Grant us peace; teach us peace; guide our steps in the way of peace. Open our eyes and our hearts and give us the courage to say: ‘Never again war!’ Amen.’

“Our Lady, Queen of Peace, pray for us.”

Archbishop Eamon Martin, Archbishop of Armagh

Archbishop Dermot Farrell, Archbishop of Dublin

Archbishop Kieran O’Reilly SMA, Archbishop of Cashel & Emly

Archbishop Francis Duffy, Archbishop of Tuam

Church News Ireland

In the media

Israel conflict latest: Northern Irish Jew says 'we tried to warn people about Hamas - they want every last one of us on Earth dead'

A Jewish man from Northern Ireland has said Hamas aims to extinguish every last Jew on Earth, as he spoke out against those protestors who chant that Palestine must be free “from the river to the sea”, Adam Kula reports in The News Letter, 12/10/2023

Steven Jaffe was speaking to the News Letter amid the most recent round of internecine bloodshed in the Middle East, sparked by an invasion of Israeli territory on Saturday by Hamas killers (who are now believed to have claimed upwards of 1,200 lives before retreating or being slain themselves).

The News Letter has catalogued the outpouring of support for “the Palestinian resistance” in the days that have followed:

Israel conflict latest: INLA-linked group holds roadside vigil in Northern Ireland calling for people to ‘support the Palestinian resistance’

Israel conflict latest: VIDEO FOOTAGE – Crowd in Londonderry chants ‘from the river to the sea Palestine will

[Continued on page 12...](#)

Response in Ireland - Tanaiste, Israel embassy, UUP



An Roinn Gnóthaí Eachtracha
Department of Foreign Affairs

Statement from the Tánaiste

It is with immense sadness that I learnt this evening that Kim Damti's death has been confirmed.

When news reached us over the weekend that an Irish citizen was one of the many hundreds missing after the repugnant terrorist attack by Hamas in Israel, we hoped against hope that she would be found safely. The news that this hope has now been extinguished is devastating.

Anyone looking at the photo of Kim in the media over the last few days will have been struck by the radiance and energy in her expression; a young 22-year-old woman with a whole life ahead of her, full of promise.

For anyone to lose a child is devastating. To lose a child in such circumstances is indescribable.

On my behalf and on behalf of the Government and people of Ireland, I convey our heartfelt condolences to Kim's family in Ireland and in Israel. We are with them in their grief. I spoke with Kim's family earlier this evening and expressed this to them.

Our thoughts remain with all the families of those who have died, who are injured or who are missing in the wake of these terrible events.

May her memory be a blessing.

ENDS

Press Office

11 October 2023



Israel in Ireland - All of us here at the embassy are heartbroken to hear that Kim Damti was murdered. We send our deepest condolences to her family and friends, in these hard days. The ongoing indiscriminate attacks of Hamas on civilians must stop. May her memory be a blessing Z'L

UUP - This is the worst news for Kim's family & friends to hear. Our thoughts & prayers are with them all - no words can

adequately express the horror of these terrorist atrocities. Dr Steve Aiken OBE. UUP

Continued from page 10...

be free' on the same day that UK government warns police forces to be on lookout for that phrase

@ @

Israel conflict latest: WATCH – Republican group Lasair Dhearg broadcasts the message 'smash the Zionists!' onto Belfast City Hall along with images of 'Palestinian resistance paragliders'

DUP human rights spokesman Jim Shannon MP says Hamas should be 'liquidated' and calls for 'aggressive' police crackdown on signs of support for the group Mr Jaffe, the co-chair of Northern Ireland Friends of Israel, told the News Letter: "We always knew that those demonstrating their support for Hamas around the world wanted Israel eliminated and its population massacred.

"It is plain to see from the Hamas foundation charter which dates from the 1980s.

"The charter calls for the murder of the last Jew on the planet. But we couldn't convince the rest of the world.

"Many moderate people were happy to march alongside those singing 'from the river to the sea, Palestine will be free' – meaning no more Israel.

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“Now no one can be under any illusions about what that means and what it entails.

“ Hamas wants every Jewish man, woman and child dead.”

Hamas was formed in the late 1980s. Its charter set out an extreme Islamist interpretation of Jewish-Muslim relations.

It sets out a desire not just to re-conquer Israel itself by exclusively armed means (“so-called peaceful solutions and international conferences are in contradiction to the principles of the Islamic Resistance Movement”) but also casts itself as “the spearhead of the circle of struggle with world Zionism... \[and] the fight with the warmongering Jews”.

There are a mere 439 Jews in Northern Ireland according to the last census in 2021.

In Israel, there are about seven million Jewish people.

There are very roughly three million Palestinians in the West Bank, another two million in Gaza, and another two million inside Israel.

According to a 2023 study by the Jewish People Policy Institute (as reported by the Jewish Chronicle), there are now 14.2 million Jews worldwide, plus another 2.3 million “partially Jewish” people.

When combined into 16.5 million, that means the global Jewish population in 2023 has finally rebounded to the same level it was at before the Holocaust, according to the Chronicle.

Paddington Bear and recent events

Paddington Bear first appeared in the children's book "A Bear Called Paddington" 65 years ago on October 13, 1958.

But did you know that the little bear with a big heart was inspired by Jewish children who escaped the Holocaust on the Kindertransport?

The Kindertransport was a rescue mission that took place between 1938 and 1939, during which 10,000 Jewish children were sent by train to safety from Germany to England, traveling alone and without their parents.

Paddington's creator, Michael Bond, was motivated by his memories of children arriving at London's Reading station during WWII. These young refugees each carried a small suitcase and wore labels around their necks for identification. It's no coincidence that in the book, the little bear is found sitting on his suitcase at Paddington Station in London with a note around his neck that reads, "Please take care of this bear. Thank you."

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Hamas's hatred of Jews mustn't be downplayed

When George Floyd was murdered by a Minneapolis police officer on May 25 2020, activists and institutions across the Western world reacted instantly, Charles Moore writes in The Daily Telegraph.

Going far beyond justified horror at the killing, many of those reacting – including some Whitehall departments, Oxbridge colleges and the British Museum – endorsed the aims of Black Lives Matter, the neo-Marxist group which claimed to speak in the name of black people everywhere.

On Saturday, hundreds of Israeli citizens (and some non-Israeli visitors) were murdered by Hamas in cold blood, including 260 young people at a music festival and a queue of old ladies waiting at a bus stop. The body of an almost naked young woman was paraded through the streets to cheers.

There has been international condemnation, of course. In Britain the reaction of both Rishi Sunak and Sir Keir Starmer was admirably firm. But of a coordinated, global attempt to use these outrages, which collectively dwarfed the horror of the Floyd murder, to mobilise opinion there was no sign. Where was a movement proclaiming “Jewish Lives Matter”?

In a way, I am glad this has not materialised, because the BLM example shows how dangerous it can be to politicise violent death. But it is worth noting, all the same. As history

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has repeatedly shown, the level of hatred against Jewish people has been one of the most persistent and revolting tendencies in human nature. Until this weekend, I had seen its extreme expression on such a scale only in films from the Second World War.

Hamas expressly encourages hatred of Jews. It must think it right to commit such atrocities or it would not have planned them in the first place and gleefully publicised them afterwards. It sees the killings and kidnappings as praiseworthy, even as pleasing to God. With this evil plainly before our eyes, any attempt to be “even-handed” is grossly misleading. Any failure to recognise the depth of the murderous hatred will have dangerous consequences for Jews everywhere.

Which brings me to the use of words. There are justified protests that the BBC continues to describe these anti-Semitic murderers as “militants” not “terrorists”; but I have not seen an examination of the BBC policy behind this. It is worth a look.

It appears in the BBC News style guide, in a section entitled “Israel and the Palestinians”. Under the heading of “Terrorists”, the guide says that “Terrorism is a difficult and emotive subject with significant political overtones and care is required in the use of language that carries value judgments”. This is a reasonable point, but then it goes on: “We should not use the term ‘terrorist’ without attribution.”

Is that true in all circumstances? In the days when Britain suffered IRA terrorism, the word “terrorism” was often used in news outlets, and was accurate. (Note, in passing, that

one of those signalling his approval of Hamas's attacks last weekend was Gerry Adams.) The Provos sought to win by inspiring terror. Only people who supported them called their methods "the armed struggle".

It might be arguable that when Hamas or Hizbollah skirmish with Israeli troops over disputed borders this is better described in more neutral words (e.g. "Hamas gunmen"), but surely in the present case of racist massacres of unarmed people, the avoidance of the "T" word becomes itself a political statement, an anti-Israel one. I notice that the BBC is correctly reporting Hamas's latest acts in Israel as "atrocities", a word which carries just the sort of "value judgment" which makes it nervous.

Who, apart from regular armies (such as that of Russia) or mercenaries, commits atrocities? Terrorists.

It is agreed, not least by the Israeli authorities themselves, that the Hamas attacks have revealed a failure of intelligence. I wonder if there has been a wider failure too; a cultural one.

Since I first visited Israel, I have noticed an astonishing change. Forty years ago, it was still an austere, semi-socialist society which, in some respects, seemed economically backward. Nowadays, it is prosperous, outward-facing, even glamorous. Food and wine are of high quality. Many people have comfortable Western lifestyles. Above all, Israel is at the cutting edge of digital technology, hi-tech more generally, and medical advance.

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This is an admirable, enviable achievement, but it has had a dangerous by-product. Many Israelis, particularly prosperous ones with Western backgrounds, came to believe they were safe. What with their Iron Dome, their cyber pre-eminence, and their general reliance on brilliant gizmos, they led a charmed life. The phrase “lulled into a false sense of security” began to fit.

This feeling has been added to by another development, again welcome in itself. Since the Abraham Accords, growing numbers of Muslim countries in the region, especially the Gulf states, have sought neighbourly relations. Until Saturday, there was a definite prospect that Israel could normalise.

This may partly explain why the country became so bitterly divided over Benjamin Netanyahu’s plans for judicial reform. Of course, the issue is very important in its own right, but it became self-indulgently explosive, rather like Western culture wars. One notable trend was that some of the reforms’ young opponents started refusing to perform their service in the reserves. Israelis have now been reminded, in the most horrible way, that nothing can guarantee their country’s survival unless, rather like Ukraine since February last year, they keep it first in their hearts.

Charles Moore is a former editor of the Daily Telegraph

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Webinars, music, resources, broadcasts, and books

Gifts of Support

REBUILDING LIVES IN PRISON

Across the UK, prisoners and their families are finding hope and support from MU members coming alongside them and responding to their needs. This includes training in parenting skills, such as in the 'Being Dad' course, where one man reflected that he was "developing to become the father my kids deserve"

Mothers' UNION

Mothers Union Prison ministry resources

For Prisons Week, why not buy one of our Gifts of Support - Rebuilding lives in prison? Across the UK, prisoners and their families are finding hope and support from Mothers' Union members coming alongside them and responding to their needs. <https://tinyurl.com/22hwnc95>

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St Patrick's Walk - Saturday 21st October

St Patrick's Centre - "We are excited to announce that we are doing a "St Patrick's Prayer Walk". On the 21st October we will be walking from St Anne's Cathedral in Belfast to Down Cathedral, and then finishing in St Patrick's Church in Saul - a distance totalling 25 miles. We will be praying for the land and the people as we go.

"You can partner with us in 3 different ways:

- Pray with us - join us for part of the journey and pray with us for the land and people.
- Pray for us - pray for strength and safety and for DHM.
- Partner with financially - by sponsoring this walk (A JustGiving link will be posted on the DHM website)

**Video: [<https://youtu.be/ZJPLbG9a4uY?si=fsLn3qfemYAzgfIZ>]

Dublin Welsh Male Voice Choir Concert



Venue: St Peter's Church of Ireland
1 Coote Street, Portlaoise R32 A7PK

Date: Saturday, November 4th 2023
Time: 7:30 pm

October 13, 2023

Dublin Welsh Male Voice Choir Concert in St Peter's C of I Church, Portlaoise

Saturday, November 4th 2023 at 7:30 pm.

Ticket sales online

<https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/dublin-welsh-male-voice-choir-st-peters-church-portlaoise-tickets-735352237337?aff=oddtcreator>

Tickets can also be purchased through
Revd. Alec Purser – 087 923 2694
Mr Shane Reynolds – 085 812 0650
Mrs Linda Onions – 086 806 0107
You can also buy tickets at the door.

Poem for today

Canal Bank Walk by Patrick Kavanagh

Leafy-with-love banks and the green waters of the canal
Pouring redemption for me, that I do
The will of God, wallow in the habitual, the banal,
Grow with nature again as before I grew.
The bright stick trapped, the breeze adding a third
Party to the couple kissing on an old seat,
And a bird gathering materials for the nest for the Word
Eloquently new and abandoned to its delirious beat.
O unworn world enrapture me, encapture me in a web



Of fabulous grass and eternal voices by a beech,
Feed the gaping need of my senses, give me ad lib
To pray unselfconsciously with overflowing speech
For this soul needs to be honoured with a new dress woven
From green and blue things and arguments that cannot be
proven.

Speaking to the soul

Short reading and a prayer - daily on this site

Church News Ireland

The publication of Church News Ireland is overseen by Very Rev Dr Houston McKelvey OBE, QVRM, TD. He may be contacted at houstonmckelvey@mac.com
