

Church News Ireland

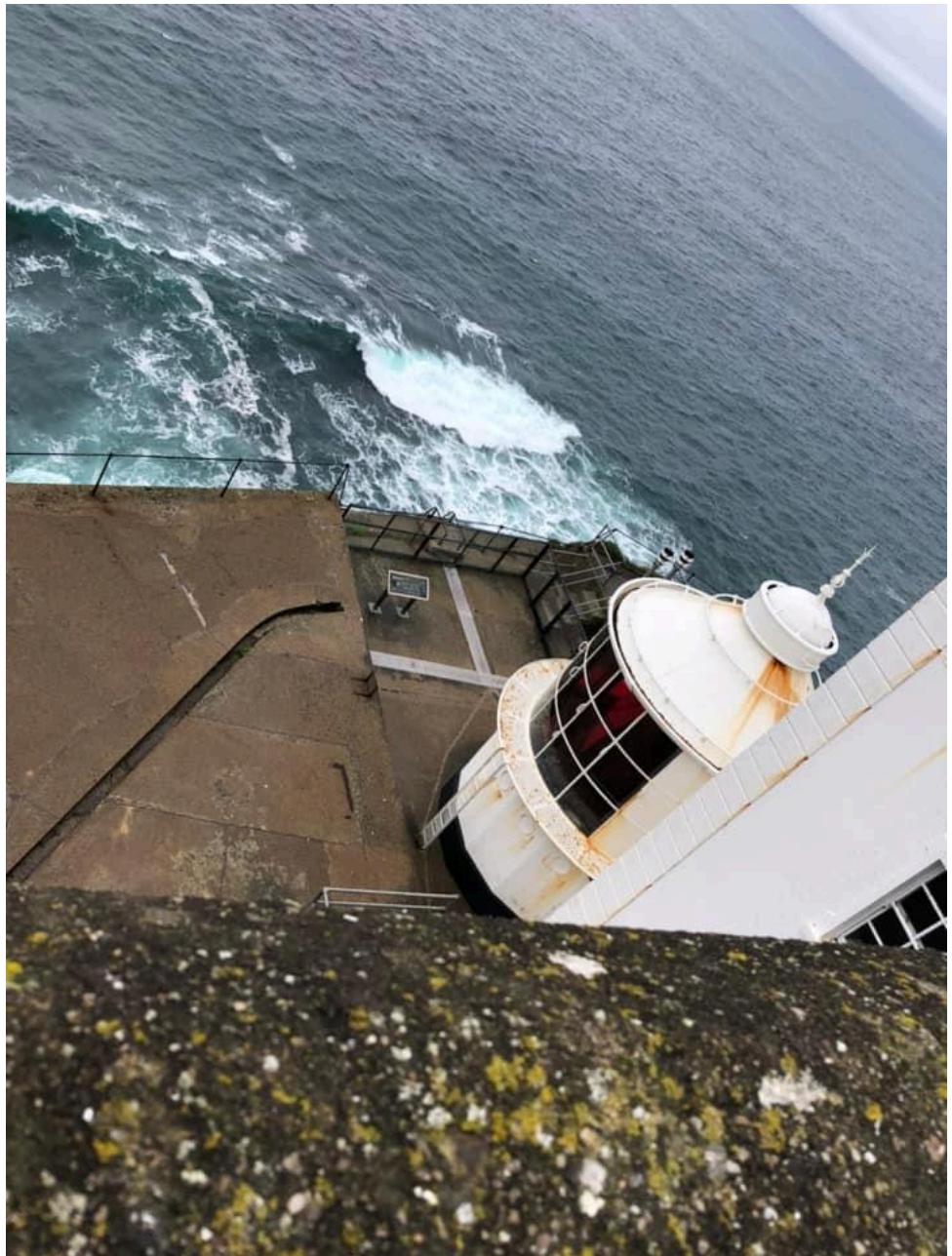


Image of the day – Northern Ireland's northerly light

Image of the day

Northern Ireland's northerly light

Northern Ireland's most Northerly lighthouse is The West Lighthouse, Rathlin Island.



Anyone else been there? Great place to watch the puffins nesting.

The lighthouse was built into the cliff face between 1912 and 1917. A special pier and an inclined railway from the pier to the cliff top had to be built to facilitate the lighthouse's construction.

The light was first exhibited in 1919. Lightkeepers lived in the lighthouse until it was automated in 1983.

People and places



Harvest presentation to Archdeacon

'Harvest Thanksgiving at the Adelaide Memorial Church of Christ the Redeemer, Myshall ended last Sunday, 10 September with a presentation to Archdeacon Robin Bantry-

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White from Rev. Lester Scott and the parishioners of Fenagh, Myshall, Aghade, Ardoyne parish.

The presentation was in honour of Robin's golden celebrations this Summer of 50 years of marriage to Faith his dear wife and 50 years of faith in Ordination as a Priest.



Deluge for Derry ordination

A late summer deluge - with rolling thunder - failed to dampen the mood in Christ Church, Limavady last Sunday evening where Rev Andrew Neill was ordained to the priesthood by the Bishop of Derry and Raphoe, Rt Rev Andrew Forster.



Rev Malcolm Ferry, Rev Andrew Neill and Rev Canon Aonghus Mayes

Rev Neill will serve his curacy in the Parish of Drumachose under the guidance of its Rector, Rev Canon Aonghus Mayes. The new curate's wife, Claire, and their two children were in church for the service, along with his parents and siblings, members of his extended family, parishioners from Agherton (Portstewart) where he had served his Deacon Internship, and churchgoers from Christ Church.

Clergy, readers and choir members made their way into church against a dramatic soundscape, with heavy rain spattering onto the path, the church bell tolling in the tower looming over them and thunder rumbling from the low grey sky.

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Bishop Andrew suggested that this evening's offering – which was being taken up for the Diocesan Ministry Fund – should perhaps be diverted instead to the RNLI, given the difficulties the congregation had overcome to actually reach the service.

The Bishop thanked the Rector and the parish for organising the Service of Ordination. “Any ordination is special,” Bishop Andrew said, “and why is it special? Because it's another step in the life of ministry for an individual – Andrew; it's another step in the life of the parish that he will serve, here,



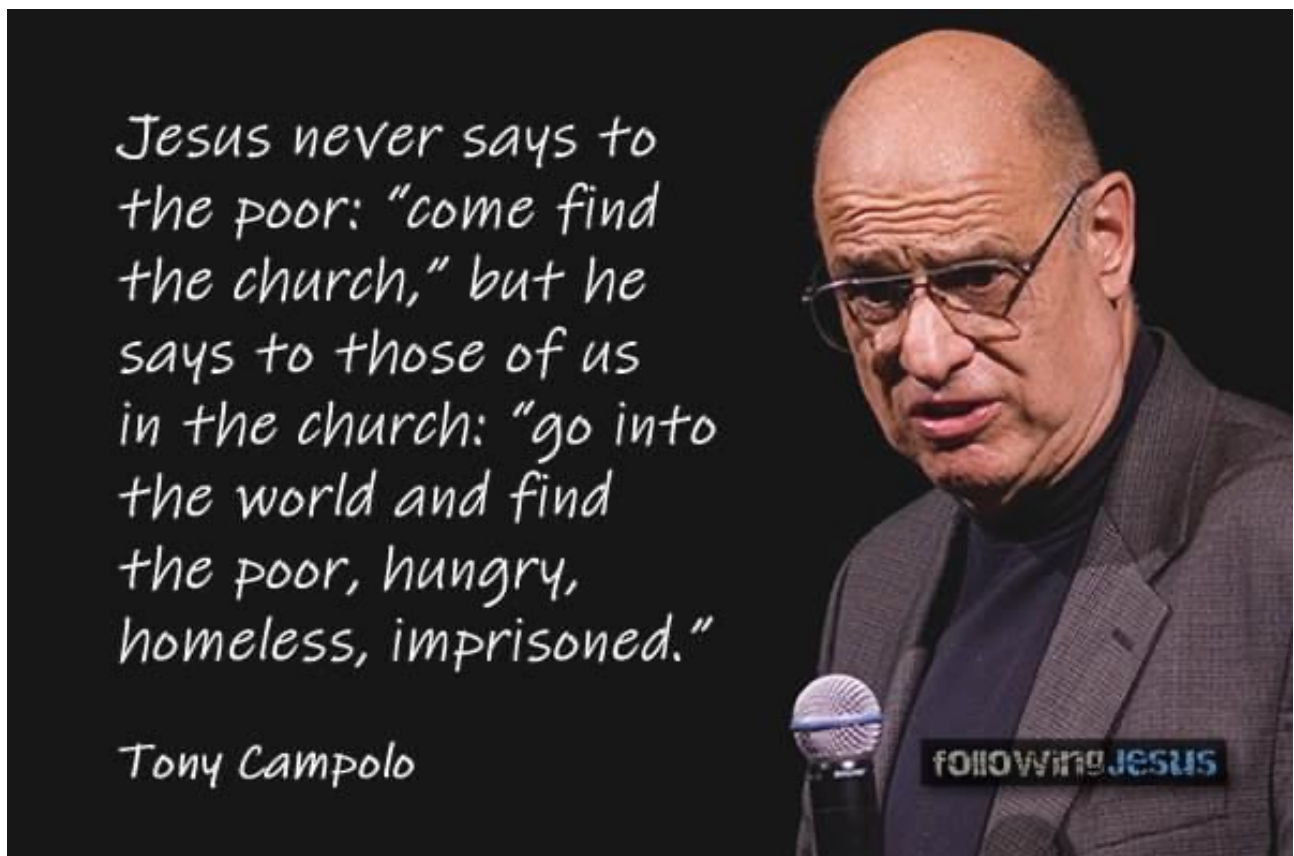
Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin recently hosted the new class of ordinands about to start formation at the Church of Ireland Theological Institute for a guided tour of the building and a discussion of its current ministries.

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in Drumachose, in Christ Church; and it's another step in the life of the diocese and in the Church of God itself, as we ordain together. So, what we do tonight, it actually is an historic moment, and we worship and praise and give thanks to God that we can do this.

“And I know that for you, Andrew, this is a step in a long journey that has brought you here, and we're delighted to welcome you back into the Derry and Raphoe family, as well, and also to acknowledge the amazing ministry that Claire [the new Curate's wife who is the Diocesan Youth Officer] has in the Diocese of Derry and Raphoe, as well. I'm completely biased, of course, but it's great to welcome you back to the best diocese in the Church of Ireland.”

This evening's sermon was preached by the Rev Malcolm Ferry, the Rector of the Parish of Agherton (Portstewart) and



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a former Canon of St Columb's Cathedral. Rev Ferry joked that in Agherton, that morning, they had built a small ark so that they could get to the Ordination Service.

Rev Ferry said the central act of ordination was the belief that the Holy Spirit empowered - gave to Andrew - those necessary gifts and talents, so that he might fulfil his ministry as priest. So, the Preacher said, by the Holy Spirit, Andrew would be enabled to preach, teach, counsel, administer sacraments in ways that benefitted the spiritual growth and wellbeing of the Drumachose congregation and the congregations where he would serve in future.

“Andrew will now be seen as participating in the ministry of Christ in a very unique way,” Rev Ferry said. “To represent Christ here on earth, called to imitate Christ's compassion, his humility, his self-sacrifice. Andrew's called to care for the spiritual needs of his people – the people here in this parish – and along with this, Andrew is tasked to intercede on behalf of the congregation when he leads prayer. He is the bridge between the parish and God as he serves as priest.”

Wicklow church celebrates its commanding presence in town after 160 years

Celebrations to mark the landmark 160 years of Christ Church Bray took place on Saturday, September 3, when young and old came together to create a day filled with joy and laughter, Tom Galvin writes in Bray People

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The day started off with a beautiful family service, led by David Reynolds and Tatiana Konina, who recently took up a post as the new Music Director, with prayer and music combining to deliver a very moving service.

This was followed by a recital on the organ, when two of Tatiana's visiting friends joined on the violin and the congregation were spoilt with mesmerising music. Following the service, it was outside into the morning sun for a BBQ, a bouncy castle for the youngsters before a splash of facepainting.



The Derry and Donegal Presbytery Choir are back!



Practices begin on Tuesday 12th September at 7:30pm



**THEREAFTER TUESDAY EVENINGS 7:30 - 8:45PM
AT RAMELTON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH HALL
(BEHIND THE CHURCH)**



**MEMBERS AND NEW FRIENDS
ALL WELCOME TO ATTEND**

MORE INFO: CHECK OUT OUR FACEBOOK PAGE & LEAVE A MESSAGE

After time to settle down, the trusty BBQ team from the fête then had the burgers ready, and salads and desserts were also shared out, all while being serenaded by friends from The Harbour Ukuleles, who created the perfect

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recipe for chatting and catching up.

With the dominance of its bell tower, Christ Church is something of a landmark in the town, built in 1861 on a raised area known as The Rock of Bray.

Although the first Sunday service took place on July 23, 1863, the commanding spire hadn't been built. And while work on it began in 1865 completion was delayed by storms until 1870.

ALTOS. SOPRANOS. TENORS. BASSSES

AUDITIONS

26 SEPTEMBER 2023
6PM - 9:30PM


**CHURCH OF ST. GEORGE &
ST. THOMAS**
1 CATHAL BRUGHA STREET

For more details,
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But it wasn't there yet, because it would take another 10 years before the peal of bells were installed, and only after a visit by Prime Minister William Gladstone, when he was said to have remarked: "So noble a Church tower as this should not be silent."

Now, the sound of the bells are familiar to all in Bray, and are still rung manually every Sunday morning and at midnight, on December 31.

Another prominent feature in the church is the organ, said to be the largest in the county. It was fully restored in 2016,



7.30PM, FRIDAY 22 SEPTEMBER IN ST JUDE'S CHURCH, BELFAST

Kerygma

The Good News Choir

September MISSION

with guest speaker, Greg Downes



when it was inaugurated in November that year at a special concert by the Christ Church choir.

It was built by Peter Conacher and Co, of Huddersfield, in 1912 but was restored to its glory by the capable hands of Irish firm Trevor Crowe Ltd, who was also responsible for the huge restoration project to bring the largest organ in the country, the 4,500-pipe organ at St FinBarre's Cathedral in Cork, back to heavenly duty, in 2013

Most visitors tend to remark on its interior above all else though, but it wasn't without its setbacks either. Measuring 38.1 m long by 20 m wide, with the peak of the main roof reaching 19.8 m, the church is actually 9.1 m shorter in length than the original design—a detail rumoured to have disappointed the then Lord Meath.

Upon completion in 1863 the Church was actually totally bare and unadorned and described in the records as “tiling throughout ... of the plainest kind”. Decorations were added in accordance with the architect's original plans, but apparently over many years.

The church is well-renowned for its Remembrance events in November, as well as its exhibitions and story-telling events – in 2009, inspired by writer, theologian and Church of Ireland member, CS Lewis, it was transformed into Narnia for an exhibition based on The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe.

Continuing that tradition, the church will be participating in the Bray Churches Together Art Exhibition, which runs from

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Friday September 22 to Tuesday September 26. Report courtesy of Independent Regionals.

Album of photographs at -

[<https://www.independent.ie/regionals/wicklow/bray-news/wicklow-church-celebrates-its-commanding-presence-in-town-after-160-years/a1221619033.html>]

Relic of Bl Carlo Acutis to visit Derry, Knock, Sligo, Newry

In June, the relic of Blessed Carlo Acutis travelled to Ireland from the Sanctuary of the Renunciation, Assisi, and visited the Archdiocese of Armagh, and the Diocese of Down and Connor.

In August, thousands of young people venerated the relic at World Youth Day in Lisbon, where Blessed Carlo happens to be one of the patrons of this global youth gathering.

The pilgrimage of the holy relic to Ireland will continue every three months until all of the 26 dioceses on the island have had an opportunity to offer it locally for devotion.

Already this month there has been a lot of discussion amongst the faithful, and in the media, specifically RTÉ Radio 1's Liveline, about the significance of the relic of Blessed Carlo to the faith lives of young people. The pilgrimage of the relic will continue, from 13 to 18 September, where it will visit the following four dioceses:

- Saint Eugene's Cathedral, Derry, on 14 September;

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- the International Eucharistic and Marian Shrine of Knock in the Archdiocese of Tuam, on 15 September;
- Saint Anne's Church, Sligo, in the Diocese of Elphin for the Abide Eucharistic Conference on 16 September;
- Cathedral of Saint Patrick & Saint Colman, Newry, Diocese of Dromore, on 17 September

Accompanying the fragment of the pericardium relic, the membrane that protected his heart, will be Archbishop Domenico Sorrentino, Monsignor Anthony Figueiredo, head of International Relations, and Sister Alessandra Rusca, Chancellor of the Diocese of Assisi.

According to Archbishop Domenico Sorrentino, who is the Bishop of Assisi, Nocera Umbra, Gualdo Tadino and Foligno, "we are happy that a relic of Blessed Carlo Acutis



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can reach four more dioceses in Ireland as, we are convinced, given previous experiences, that devotion to this young man, who lived according to the Gospel, is an example and a help to the Church and to the many young people who are seeking points of reference to grasp the beauty of faith."

Blessed Carlo Acutis is the first millennial to be beatified. Known 'as the kid in jeans and sneakers,' he died of leukaemia at just 15 years of age in 2006. Blessed Carlo had a passion for holiness, focusing his life on the Eucharist in order to grow in his relationship with Jesus: 'The more we receive the Eucharist,' he said, 'the more we will become like Jesus.' Carlo tried to attend Mass every day and spend



Students at the Presbyterian Chaplaincy at the Queen's University, Belfast at Derryvolgie Hall.

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time in prayer at Eucharistic Adoration, believing that 'when we put ourselves before Jesus in the Eucharist, we become saints.'

The visit of the holy relic will include the launching of a new book, *Blessed Carlo Acutis: Light the Flame of Faith*, by Monsignor Figueiredo, written specifically for Ireland, and a CD of a song composed in honour of Blessed Carlo, Carlo Acutis. *The Living Bread*.

In the media

NI parents 'angry' over sex education reforms, Commons told

Belfast Telegraph - ministers have been warned to "interfere in our children at your peril" as DUP MPs criticised updates to sex education in Northern Ireland.

Westminster earlier this year approved regulations designed to ensure pupils in Northern Ireland receive age-appropriate information about access to contraception and abortion services.

But the move faced renewed opposition on Tuesday evening during a Commons debate led by the DUP's Carla Lockhart.

The MP for Upper Bann said: "One thing I have learnt in my time in politics is you mess with children's education at your peril, you don't meddle in issues where parents are and

should be first educators and you certainly don't do it without consulting and engaging with parents, teachers and boards of governors.

"Parents in Northern Ireland are genuinely angry, they are fearful, teachers are feeling vulnerable and fearful, and yet this Government continues on a track of potential wide-reaching changes to RSE (relationships and sex education) teaching in post-primary Northern Ireland."

DUP MP Ian Paisley (North Antrim) said people have been campaigning on the issue of "letting kids be kids", adding: "Isn't this the important message, as she's rightly said, interfere in our children at your peril?"

"It will not be tolerated by people across the community in Northern Ireland and isn't that the message the Secretary of State (Chris Heaton-Harris) should hear loud and clear?"

Conservative whip Robert Langan, replying for the Government, said Mr Heaton-Harris moved the regulations this year to implement the "clear will of Parliament with respect to sexual and reproductive health education in Northern Ireland".

He said: "When passing the Northern Ireland (Executive Formation) Act 2019 this Parliament in a free vote, and by an overwhelming majority, voted to impose a duty on the Secretary of State to implement in full the recommendations made by the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women."

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On the consultation, Mr Largan said: "On September 1, the Department for Education launched a consultation on the guidance and the opt-out regulations. This will run for 12 weeks until November 24.

"I strongly encourage members who feel strongly to engage in that consultation.

Webinars, music, resources, broadcasts, and books



Esther's Story

"Through praying and reading the Bible I felt God's sense of security and peace."

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From struggling with anxiety, to singing on national TV, Esther describes how her faith provided her with an inner confidence.

Read more at cofe.io/EsthersStory.

C of E Harvest prayers

Harvest is a time for us to be thankful for what we have, and who we share it with.



Dunseverick Parish Church
Coffee & Craft Morning

on Saturday, 28th October 2023
from 10 am to 12 noon
in Dunluce Parish Centre, Bushmills

There will be a Raffle, Craft Stall & Name the Doll.

Music by "Dunseverick Accordionaires"

Admission £5.00 per person to include refreshments
School Children FREE (Must be accompanied by an adult)

Funds in Aid of Dunseverick Parish Church

Find prayers for the whole family at <http://cofe.io/HarvestPrayers>.

Historical Belfast podcast

Jason Burke's podcast on the late great Eamonn Phoenix. <https://buzzsprout.com/1047775>.

Perspective

Let's learn from our mistakes and stop living in the past - Gavin Esler

When my family moved to Northern Ireland during the Troubles our friends and neighbours in Edinburgh thought we were mad.

But my father had a new job and relatives in Co Antrim, and besides, the Esler history was that of 17th century Protestant refugees from Bavaria.

Trying to escape Germany's religious wars, they travelled north and met the Scottish Protestant army in the 1630s and settled in Argyllshire. Other Eslers were recorded in a townland near Ballymena by the 1720s.

As for me, well, I applied for a job with Thomson newspapers who owned papers all over the UK. They offered me The Scotsman, back in Edinburgh. I said — again to their surprise — that I'd rather work at the Belfast Telegraph. Northern Ireland was home and — of course — that was where the news was.

What strikes me now, after decades reporting around the world, is how the violence of the Troubles is largely forgotten in Westminster politics.

Worse, there's downright ignorance about what the communities in Northern Ireland suffered, and so nowadays

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as I'm travelling around the UK talking about my new book *Britain Is Better Than This*, I mention this collective amnesia.

The theme of the book is that Britain remains a great nation and yet our political system is failing us all.

I call this systemic failure “the British Paradox” because the people of these islands are often brilliant, problem-solvers, yet we create multiple avoidable problems for ourselves. Cambridge University — for example — has more Nobel Prize winners than any country in the world, except the United States and Britain itself.

From J K Rowling to Adele to our filmmakers and TV producers or the creation of the World Wide Web or discovering DNA, the UK is full of brilliance and invention. We even trust each other much more than those in many comparable countries.

But — and it's a big but — we trust our governments and politicians much, much less. It's no wonder, with crumbling concrete in schools, strikes on the railways, the multiple problems of the NHS, unfilled potholes, underfunded prisons and of course our five rotating prime ministers in six years.

The Britain that some politicians pretend is “the envy of the world” or “world-beating” is often seen by foreigners very differently — a rudderless ship blundering through a fog. True, we have a great past.

But some of our leaders appear to want to live in that past rather than learn from it. In the book I call this “weaponised

nostalgia”. It's the constant refrain about “taking our country back,” when we need to go forward.

The leading Conservative politician Jacob Rees-Mogg even tries to provoke a return to Imperial weights and measures. He never mentions that no country in the world — not one — follows the antiquated British imperial system.

Americans do have gallons. But a US gallon is 3.785 litres. A British Imperial gallon is 4.546 litres. American AR-15 assault rifles (Armalites) fire ammunition calibrated not in inches, but millimetres (5.56×45mm), although Americans spell it 'millimeters'. Mr Rees-Mogg, incidentally, was described in a German news magazine as “ein lebendes Fossil”, a living fossil.

Yet even Heads-of-Oak politicians surely must remember the violent past in Northern Ireland?

Well, possibly. But some — including, notoriously, one recent Northern Ireland Secretary — appear baffled by the idea that different communities vote for different parties and retain different national aspirations and identities.

A few minutes after meeting the Taoiseach Leo Varadkar on the Wirral, Boris Johnson blithely moved the border into the Irish Sea demonstrating — at best — profound political amnesia about the Good Friday Agreement.

As Ian Paisley rightly told the Commons, under Johnson's leadership the Conservatives acted as an English nationalist party, not a British party.

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The Conservative peer Lord (Chris) Patten, the former Labour leader Gordon Brown and the Welsh (Labour) First Minister Mark Drakeford have also spoken of the Conservatives as English nationalists undermining the coherence of the British state. The SNP, Plaid Cymru and Sinn Fein are unlikely to disagree.

I've been speaking at public meetings ranging from Shetland to Kent, from Belfast to York, London, Edinburgh and elsewhere about the challenges facing Britain in the 2020s.

I'm astonished at how badly key moments of British history are taught. I often ask English audiences if they recall how Germany was punished after the First World War.

We were all taught about the Treaty of Versailles under which Germany lost a massive amount of territory in 1919 (13%.) Then I ask how much land the UK lost after the First World War.

The result is silent bafflement. Then I mention partition, the secession of the 26 counties of Ireland (22% of the UK landmass in 1922) and the foundation of Northern Ireland. I'm often met with blank looks or surprise.

It's not that people outside Northern Ireland don't care. It is that they often just do not know. Britain really is better than this. Whatever our political views, most of us do want to solve problems not create them. But you cannot solve problems until you recognise them. And you cannot build a future on distractions about imperial measures and empty slogans about “levelling up” or the supposed “war on woke”.

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I celebrate our traditions, but I'm not stuck in them. And as Winston Churchill wisely put it: "Those that fail to learn from history are doomed to repeat it."

Let's learn and not repeat.

Gavin Esler is a former Newsnight presenter and Belfast Telegraph journalist. His book Britain Is Better Than This is published by Head of Zeus

Poem for today

Lament for the Poets: 1916 by Francis Ledwidge

I heard the Poor Old Woman say:
"At break of day the fowler came,
And took my blackbirds from their songs
Who loved me well thro' shame and blame.
'No more from lovely distances
Their songs shall bless me, mile by mile,
Nor to white Ashbourne call me down
To wear my crown another while.

"With bended flowers the angels mark
For the skylark the place they lie;
From there its little family
Shall dip their wings first in the sky.
"And when the first surprise of flight
Sweet songs excite, from the far dawn
Shall there come blackbirds loud with love,
Sweet echoes of the singers gone.
"But in the lovely hush of eve,
Weeping I grieve the silent bills,"

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I heard the Poor Old Woman say
In Derry of the little hills.

Speaking to the soul

Short reading and a prayer - daily on this site

Church News Ireland

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