

## **David Cameron: Isis poses a direct and deadly threat to Britain**



## **Bishop of Leeds, with support of ABp Welby, asks PM to answer questions**

**The Rt Revd Nicholas Baines (The Bishop of Leeds), commenting on a letter he sent over the weekend to the UK Prime Minister David Cameron -**

“Recognising the complexities of such matters and the difficult role of the Prime Minister in them, I wrote the letter as a constructive stimulus to discussion of the wider questions provoked by what is happening in Iraq, Syria and elsewhere. Attempting to fix the immediate will prove costly in every respect, if we don’t have a long-term, overarching and holistic vision for what we – along with other governments, agencies and partners (such as the churches) – need to achieve. The lack of clarity about such a comprehensive and coherent vision is being commonly remarked upon, and my letter seeks concisely and respectfully to elicit some response to these serious questions.” The text of Bishop Baines letter follows -

Dear Prime Minister,

### **Iraq and IS**

I am conscious of the speed at which events are moving in Iraq and Syria, and write recognising the complexity and interconnectedness of the challenges faced by the international community in responding to the crises in Syria and Iraq.

However, in common with many bishops and other correspondents here in the UK, I remain very concerned about the Government’s response to several

issues. I write with the support of the Archbishop of Canterbury to put these questions to you.

1. It appears that, in common with the United States and other partners, the UK is responding to events in a reactive way, and it is difficult to discern the strategic intentions behind this approach. Please can you tell me what is the overall strategy that holds together the UK Government's response to both the humanitarian situation and what IS is actually doing in Syria and Iraq? Behind this question is the serious concern that we do not seem to have a coherent or comprehensive approach to Islamist extremism as it is developing across the globe. Islamic State, Boko Haram and other groups represent particular manifestations of a global phenomenon, and it is not clear what our broader global strategy is – particularly insofar as the military, political, economic and humanitarian demands interconnect. The Church internationally must be a primary partner in addressing this complexity.

2. The focus by both politicians and media on the plight of the Yezidis has been notable and admirable. However, there has been increasing silence about the plight of tens of thousands of Christians who have been displaced, driven from cities and homelands, and who face a bleak future. Despite appalling persecution, they seem to have fallen from consciousness, and I wonder why. Does your Government have a coherent response to the plight of these huge numbers of Christians whose plight appears to be less regarded than that of others? Or are we simply reacting to the loudest media voice at any particular time?

3. As yet, there appears to have been no response to pleas for asylum provision to be made for those Christians (and other minorities) needing sanctuary from Iraq in the UK. I recognise that we do not wish to encourage Christians or other displaced and suffering people to leave their homeland – the consequences for those cultures and nations would be extremely detrimental at every level – but for some of them this will be the only recourse. The French and German governments have already made provision, but there has so far been only silence from the UK Government. Therefore, I ask for a response to the question of whether there is any intention to offer asylum to Iraqi migrants (as part of a holistic strategy to addressing the challenges of Iraq)?

4. Following on from this, I note that the Bishop of Coventry tabled a series of questions to HM Government in the House of Lords on Monday 28 July. All but two were answered on Monday 11 August. The outstanding questions included the following: "The Lord Bishop of Coventry to ask Her Majesty's

Government what consideration they have given to resettling here in the UK a fair proportion of those displaced from ISIS controlled areas of Northern Iraq.” I would be grateful to know why this question has not so far been answered – something that causes me and colleagues some concern.

5. Underlying these concerns is the need for reassurance that a commitment to religious freedom will remain a priority for the Government, given the departure of ministers who championed this. Will the Foreign Secretary’s Human Rights Advisory Panel continue under the new Foreign Secretary? Is this not the time to appoint an Ambassador at Large for International Religious Freedom – which would demonstrate the Government’s serious commitment to developing an overarching strategy (backed by expertise) against Islamist extremism and violence?.

I look forward to your considered response to these pressing questions.

### **Bishops attack government over rise of Islamic extremism**

<http://www.newsletter.co.uk/bishops-attack-government-over-rise-of-islamic-extremism-1-6244712>

The story has been picked up by the [BBC](#), [ITV](#) and [Sky](#)



### **David Cameron: Isis poses a direct and deadly threat to Britain**

**The poisonous extremism on the march in Iraq and Syria affects us all – and we have no choice but to rise to the challenge, says the Prime Minister.**

David Cameron writes in Sunday Telegraph - Stability. Security. The peace of mind that comes from being able to get a decent job and provide for your family, in a country that you feel has a good future ahead of it and that treats people fairly. In a nutshell, that is what people in Britain want – and

what the Government I lead is dedicated to building.

Britain – our economy, our security, our future – must come first. After a deep and damaging recession, and our involvement in long and difficult conflicts in

Iraq and Afghanistan, it is hardly surprising that so many people say to me when seeing the tragedies unfolding on their television screens: “Yes, let’s help with aid, but let’s not get any more involved.”

I agree that we should avoid sending armies to fight or occupy. But we need to recognise that the brighter future we long for requires a long-term plan for our security as well as for our economy. True security will only be achieved if we use all our resources – aid, diplomacy, our military prowess – to help bring about a more stable world. Today, when every nation is so immediately interconnected, we cannot turn a blind eye and assume that there will not be a cost for us if we do.

The creation of an extremist caliphate in the heart of Iraq and extending into Syria is not a problem miles away from home. Nor is it a problem that should be defined by a war 10 years ago. It is our concern here and now. Because if we do not act to stem the onslaught of this exceptionally dangerous terrorist movement, it will only grow stronger until it can target us on the streets of Britain. We already know that it has the murderous intent. Indeed, the first ISIL-inspired terrorist acts on the continent of Europe have already taken place.

Our first priority has of course been to deal with the acute humanitarian crisis in Iraq. We should be proud of the role that our brave armed services and aid workers have played in the international effort. British citizens have risked their lives to get 80 tons of vital supplies to the Yazidis trapped on Mount Sinjar. It is right that we use our aid programme to respond rapidly to a situation like this: Britain has given £13 million to support the aid effort. We also helped to plan a detailed international rescue operation and we remain ready and flexible to respond to the ongoing challenges in or around Dahuk, where more than 450,000 people have increased the population by 50 per cent.

More at -

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/middleeast/iraq/11038121/David-Cameron-Isil-poses-a-direct-and-deadly-threat-to-Britain.html>

## **Ritchie in plea for British support for Iraqi Christians**

**The UK needs to give more aid to minorities in Iraq, a former SDLP leader has said.**



News Letter - South Down MP Margaret Ritchie said: “There is a moral imperative to give all necessary humanitarian support and assistance to Christian and Yazidi minority groups in Northern Iraq as they face continued violence and threat from Islamic State forces.”

She added: “There is a need to support all efforts to

get minority religious groups out of harms way as soon as possible and to ensure that they have all the food supplies they need to avoid hunger and starvation.

“Church leaders from across Ireland and the United Kingdom have made clear their support for fellow Christians, who face the most harrowing of situations. We stand with them and we will not turn our back on them in their hour of need.”

Ms Ritchie said: “The UN’s special rapporteur on minority issues, Rita Izsák, has clearly stated that the danger of massacre and potential genocide is imminent if something is not done. I now call on the British government to heed these warnings and to provide all the necessary humanitarian support to protect Christians and other minority groups in Iraq.

“However, there should a caution against US/UK further military intervention in the region that could destabilise Iraq and actually worsen the situation. Indeed the existence and growth of the Islamic State militants can be traced back to Western military intervention in the region over the past decade

“Instead there is a need to support the new Iraqi government that seems set to emerge and to develop their capacity to handle this threat and to stabilise the country.”

**Pope says forgiveness key to reconciling divided Korea**  
Addressing young people from Korea and other Asian countries on their concerns about the future, Pope Francis said the best hope for reunification of the divided Korean peninsula lay in brotherly love and a spirit of forgiveness.

Catholic Herald - "You are brothers who speak the same language," the Pope said August 15. "When you speak the same language in a family, there is also a human hope."

The Pope's remarks came in response to a question from a young Korean woman, Marina Park, attending an Asian Youth Day gathering in Solmoe, about 60 miles south of Seoul. Park asked the Pope how young South Korean Catholics should view communist North Korea after six decades of "reciprocal hatred" between the two countries.

"Are there two Koreas?" Pope Francis asked in response. "No, there is one, but it is divided, the family is divided."

To promote reunification, the Pope said he had one piece of advice to offer and one reason for hope.

"My advice is to pray, pray for our brothers in the North," he said, "that there might not be victors and defeated, only one family."

He then led the audience of some 6,000 people in silent prayer for Korean reunification.

To illustrate his reason for hope, Pope Francis cited the Old Testament story of Joseph, who forgave and fed his brothers even though they had sold him into slavery.

"When Joseph's brothers went into Egypt to buy food because they were hungry, they found a brother," he said. "Joseph noticed that they spoke the same language."

The Pope also cited the Gospel parable of the prodigal son, a familiar reference in his preaching. A group of young performers had enacted the parable onstage a few minutes earlier.

The prodigal son's father embraced his repentant son immediately, "he didn't let him speak, he didn't even let him ask for pardon," the Pope said. "He celebrated."

"We can do very ugly things, but please don't despair," he said. "There is always the Father who waits for us."

Pope Francis' answer was not part of the original programme for the afternoon event, which called for him to read a prepared text in English, only the third time as Pope that he has used the language before a live audience.

More at - <http://www.catholicherald.co.uk/news/2014/08/15/pope-says-forgiveness-key-to-reconciling-divided-korea/>



## East Belfast Mission's Social Enterprise Hub Opens for Business

**On 31 July the East Belfast Social Enterprise Hub (EBSEH) opened its doors to local social enterprise entrepreneurs. The EBSEH is one of the projects initiated by the East Belfast Mission and is funded under the Northern Ireland Executive's Delivering Social Change framework.**

Methodist News - The East Belfast Social Enterprise Hub has been set up to assist small and new enterprises on their journey to becoming a sustainable business. It provides advice and support to those interested in setting up a social enterprise in east Belfast and to those who already have a social enterprise and need support to get to the next level.

Help is provided free, and budding entrepreneurs can call in to the East Belfast Hub at 14–16 Castlereagh Road, Belfast BT5 5FP. The Hub also offers Social Enterprise clinics at the Refresh Café at Skainos. Contact Cathy on 028 9045 8560 for more information.

Visit their Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/eastbelfastsehub>

Eleven Social Enterprise Hubs are being funded under the Northern Ireland Executive's Delivering Social Change framework. The Hubs will be located within: Ballymena, Belfast, Derry/Londonderry, Downpatrick, Enniskillen, Lisburn, Lurgan and Strabane.

Delivering Social Change is the Executive's framework set up to tackle poverty and social exclusion. It aims to deliver a sustained reduction in poverty and associated issues across all ages and to improve children and young people's health, well-being and life opportunities thereby breaking the long-term cycle of multigenerational problems.

## Rathcoole centre graffiti removed by Christian group

**Sectarian graffiti painted on a community centre in Newtownabbey has been removed by a group of Christian young people.**

News Letter - The Dunanney Centre in Rathcoole has been targeted by vandals four times since April – including an arson attack causing £150,000 worth of damage.

In response to the latest incident, members of the Sparks Newtownabbey group removed the slogans 'Taigs out' and 'we support Israel' from the front and side walls.

The centre provides a range of community facilities including an award-winning Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB).

Mark Johnston of Sparks said around 50 young people were already involved in improvement work in the area and acted immediately to show solidarity with staff at the centre.

"The majority are from the Rathcoole estate who are sick and tired of what is going on and want to see better things happening here," he said.

"We have been praying for the Dunanney Centre over the last number of months, so what we had decided to do over the last month was to go in and



*Volunteers from the Sparks group removing sectarian graffiti from the Dunanney Centre in Rathcoole*



encourage the staff and to thank them for what they have been doing in the community.

“We wanted to say ‘we love you’ and to show that we really appreciate them,” Mr Johnston added.

Citizens Advice Bureau district manager Pat Hutchinson described the latest incident as “very intimidating and frightening” for staff and warned that the centre could not sustain any further attacks.



## **Malone RFC Thanksgiving service for JE Nelson OBE**

**A Thanksgiving Service  
for the life of the late JE  
Nelson OBE will be held  
on Thursday 21 August  
2014**

To be held in the Club  
House, Thursday 21  
August 2014 at 3:00 pm

The Rev. Sleith will conduct a Thanks giving service for the life of JE Nelson and his widow Maureen will plant a tree in memory of Jimmy, a servant of the club, the Ulster Branch and Irish international rugby.

All members past and present are welcome to attend. There will be light refreshments after wards in the JE Nelson lounge.

Further details contact the Hon Secretary on 07815803527.

## **TCD Chapel choir appointments**

**Ms Eleanor Jones–McAuley has been appointed as Conductor of Trinity College Dublin Chapel Choir for the 2014/2015 academic year. Mr Paul McDonagh–Forde has been appointed Organ Scholar to the College.**

Eleanor Jones–McAuley is from Sandyford in Dublin and is a graduate of TCD in Music and Modern Irish TCD. She has been a member of the Chapel Choir and one of its choral scholars for several years. In addition to being an

accomplished singer and conductor, Eleanor is also a talented pianist and cellist. She studies with Arun Rao and Mary Lennon at the DIT Conservatory of Music. This is her second year as Conductor of Chapel Choir.



*Mr Paul McDonagh–Forde (Organ Scholar), Ms Eleanor Jones–McAuley (Conductor) and Dr Kerry Houston (Director of Chapel Music at TCD)*

Paul

McDonagh–

Forde is from Sligo where he attended Sligo Grammar School before coming to Trinity to study Law. He served as organist and director of music at Calry Parish Church in Sligo from 2011 to 2013. As well as being a gifted organist, Paul is also a talented singer and has been a member of Chapel Choir for the past year. He studies organ with Professor Gerard Gillen.

Dr Kerry Houston, Director of Chapel Music at TCD said, ‘We are very fortunate to have gifted students like Eleanor and Paul to take on these rewarding and demanding posts. Joining Chapel Choir is a very good way for new students to meet students from other disciplines. It is both an educational and aesthetic experience and a chance to be part of one of the oldest parts of College life – the first Chapel Choir was founded more than 250 years ago. The singers in the choir take part in major College events such as the Christmas Carol Service and Trinity Monday celebrations. Some previous choral experience is an advantage and some ability to read music is essential but any member of College is welcome to apply to sing in the Choir. Our big recruitment drive is, of course, during Freshers’ Week, but applications are welcome at any time of the year.’

The Dean of Residence at TCD, the Revd Darren McCallig commented, ‘I congratulate Eleanor and Paul on their appointments. Their roles, as Conductor and Organ Scholar respectively, are central to our worship and witness here in TCD. I know that, working closely with Dr Kerry Houston, they

will sustain and develop Trinity Chapel's distinguished musical heritage and renowned choral tradition. I should also say that the College Chapel and its music is not just for staff and students at Trinity. Everyone is welcome at Thursday evensong (5.15pm) and Sunday morning Sung Eucharist (10.45am).'

In addition to the regular choral services during each week of lecture term and various special college and university services, the Trinity College Dublin Chapel Choir gives concerts and is broadcast regularly on RTE radio and television. Trips are organized twice yearly and recent travels have included visits to New York, Hong Kong, Vienna, Venice and (earlier this year) Frankfurt. For further information on the choir or to enquire about joining, please contact Eleanor Jones–McAuley at [jonesmce@tcd.ie](mailto:jonesmce@tcd.ie)

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