



The Right Reverend and Right Honourable the Lord Williams of Oystermouth, Archbishop of Canterbury (2002-2012) and Chairperson of the Board of Christian Aid

Former Archbishop of Canterbury to preach at All Ireland Christian Aid celebration in Cork

Dr Rowan Williams, who was Archbishop of Canterbury from 2002 to 2012, and who is currently Master of Magdalene College, Cambridge, will visit the United Dioceses of

Cork, Cloyne and Ross on Sunday, 28th
February, 2016.

He will be at St Fin Barre's Cathedral, Cork in his capacity as Chairperson of the Board of Christian Aid to preach at a special Service of Thanksgiving at 3.30 p.m. marking 70 years of that organisation. Regardless of race or religion, Christian Aid helps people in more than 50 countries to tackle the problems they face and to build the lives they deserve.

The Lord Mayor of Cork, Cllr Chris O'Leary, together with the Lady Mayoress, will be present to acknowledge, the significance of the occasion, as will the Deputy Mayor of Cork County Cllr. Kevin Conway. Bishops, clergy, lay ministers, and people from the all over the Diocese, representatives of other churches, guests, visitors, staff and supporters from Christian Aid, and members of the public will be present at the Service.

The Bishop of Cork, the Right Reverend Dr Paul Colton will preside at the Service of Evensong and give the blessing. The Dean of Cork, the Very Reverend Nigel Dunne, will give the Bidding at the start of the Service. The Right Reverend Trevor Williams will represent Christian Aid Ireland, and the Right Reverend Patrick Rooke,

Bishop of Tuam, will attend as Chairperson of the Church of Ireland Bishops' Appeal (the Church of Ireland's World Aid and Development Programme). The Service is open to members of the public, subject to the availability of seating within the Cathedral.

Bishop Paul Colton said: "Loving our neighbour, not only the person we know and like, but also the stranger in our midst and far away out of our sight, is a fundamental tenet of Christianity, given to us by Jesus Christ himself. Christian Aid, and indeed our own Church of Ireland Bishops' Appeal with which it works in partnership, helps us all to do this ecumenically, regardless of race and religion. Seventy years of this work through Christian Aid is indeed something to celebrate and be thankful for. The fact that Archbishop Rowan Williams will be with us in Cork is a major joy. It is a truly historic and significant occasion for the Church of Ireland in Cork, and by extension for the city and region as a whole, that a former Archbishop of Canterbury is honouring this occasion with his presence in this way. I look forward to hearing his preaching; it is always profound, challenging and thoughtful."

As well as marking 70 years of Christian Aid, the Service is an opportunity for Christian Aid to give

thanks for the generosity of the Dioceses of Cork, Cloyne and Ross for their prayerful support of Christian Aid's rebuilding work in Haiti over the past three years. With support from Church of Ireland Bishops' Appeal, this small Diocese has raised more than €44,000 for 'Houses for Haiti'. The funds have helped build new homes for families that lost everything when a major earthquake hit Haiti in January 2010.

Andrew Coleman of Christian Aid (Cork) said: "We would like to take this opportunity to express our heartfelt thanks and gratitude to the churches, schools and communities in Cork for their ongoing support for the work of Christian Aid over the years. We have had overwhelming support for Christian Aid fundraising events including Christian Aid Week, the annual Sheep's Head Hike and other local community fundraising efforts. This has made a huge difference in changing the lives of people living in extreme poverty around the world."

Dr Williams, who was born into a Welsh-speaking family in south Wales, (and whose full title since his elevation to a peerage in the United Kingdom in 2013 is the Right Reverend and Right Honourable the Lord Williams of Oystermouth) is known also as theologian, writer, poet, and linguist (he speaks three and

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reads nine). His academic work is in the area of the Church Fathers and as an historian of Christian spirituality.

Practical information: There will be no parking for members of the public in the Cathedral grounds or in the grounds of the Bishop's Palace, and, once again, it is important to note that while this Service, like every Church Service, is open to attendance by members of the public who will be made most welcome, seating is limited to the number of seats in St Fin Barre's!

This year's Sheep's Head Hike in support of Christian Aid will be held on Saturday, 3rd September. Watch out for more details!

PCI seminar 'Remembering 1916, Martyrdom and Sacrifice'

Martyrdom and Sacrifice were the focus of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland's (PCI) second exploration of the events of 1916 with a talk yesterday evening, Thursday 25, by Open University Professor of Religious History John Wolffe, at the Church's Union Theological College in Belfast.

Entitled *Remembering 1916 – Martyrdom and Sacrifice*, the seminar aimed to facilitate and encourage public conversation around the Easter Rising and the Battle of the Somme.

A specialist in the area of religion and martyrdom and the interfaces between religion, nationalism and national identity, Professor Wolffe said, “The importance of understanding the events of 1916 in their historical context of total war, in which exceptional risk-taking and violence became commonplace, has led people then and now to look for deeper meanings.

“During and immediately after the First World War martyrdom and sacrifice were common cultural currency across the UK, Ireland and beyond. It was understandable that people needed to find some sense of meaning and purpose in the otherwise senseless slaughter of so many young lives.”

“In a society where Christian influence was much more pervasive than in our own, it was probably inevitable that Christian, nationalistic

and community associations would become confused,” he said.

Professor Wolffe also said that one of the striking contrasts for him was the language and use of martyrdom in the Republican tradition, as opposed to the language of sacrifice by the Unionist community.

“With the probable exception of Patrick Pearse, the leaders of the Easter Rising did not set out to be martyrs; they have been constructed as such after the event. On the other hand, the sense that the dead of the Ulster Division were the victims not only of their German enemies, but of their false friends the British generals and politicians who sent them into battle and failed to support them, helps to explain the powerful resonance of their legacy in loyalist areas who feel a similar sense of betrayal.

Thanking Professor Wolffe for his presentation, Revd Dr. Norman Hamilton, Chair of the PCI's Council for Church in Society, said that he believed the Church's

1916 series of events is contributing to the ongoing public discussion around the centenaries.

“The Church has a unique role to play in today’s public square on a broad range of issues and areas of policy and debate. On the seminal events of 100 years ago, as Professor Wolffe said in this evening’s talk, if improved understanding of such complex and emotive histories can make a constructive contribution to thinking about present-day conflicts and post-conflict situations, then that is a good thing.”

Dublin C of I Archbishop appeals for respect across religious traditions at Jesuit commemoration

The Church of Ireland Archbishop of Dublin has appealed for a building up of respect across the religious traditions so beloved of Venerable John Sullivan SJ.

In his reflection on Saturday at Gardiner Street Church for the annual Mass in thanks for the life of the Jesuit, who was born into the Church of



Church of Ireland Archbishop of Dublin Dr Michael Jackson and Catholic Archbishop of Dublin Dr Diarmuid Martin at the tomb of Venerable Fr John Sullivan SJ after Mass in St Francis Xavier Church Gardiner St

Ireland tradition, Archbishop Michael Jackson joined Archbishop Diarmuid Martin and members of the Jesuit community.

Archbishop Jackson also appealed to people to do more to respond to the “plight and

devastation of those who carry the cross of suffering and of ignominy in the Middle East, in the crucible of Christianity and in the paradise-gardens of yesterday where three strong and holy World Faiths have grown up and lived together for so long and now face the terror of disintegration.”

The Mass was attended by members of Fr Sullivan’s family.

Elsewhere in his reflection, Archbishop Jackson said that as John Sullivan moved from one tradition into another, “he never brought with him nor did he seek to impose rancour, triumphalism or ridicule on those whom he had left to remain as an earlier part of his life”.

He added, “Through baptism, John Sullivan entered the waters of new life in Christ as do we. In the spirit of baptism, he grew as a child of God. In the fullness of adult witness, he served God and neighbour.”

Spring Edition of Search journal out this weekend

An excerpt from the late Valerie Jones’ forthcoming book, “Rebel Prods of 1916”,

features in the spring issue of *SEARCH*, out this week–end (February 28). The story of a North Dublin family playing a front line role in the Easter Rising is offered by her daughter, Dr Heather Jones, who has been collating Valerie’s research for publication later this year.

Given the fall–out from the January primates’ meeting in Canterbury, which threatened to marginalise America’s Episcopal Church (TEC) on account of its acceptance of same–sex marriage, TEC leader Bishop Michael Curry’s gracious restraint and steadfastness has impressed many. Two views of the first black presiding bishop of TEC are offered in this issue, one by a TEC priest who is also black, one by a white woman who worked with him closely in North Carolina.

With the Church of Ireland Select Committee’s “Guide to the Conversation” now available, we are called once again to “listen, learn and dialogue” about same–sex relationships between Christians. An interview with the Committee’s chairman, Dean John Mann, aims to show us the way ahead.

Also in the field of relationship between Christians, the matter of domestic violence is confronted, with some shocking results. To what

extent is violence against women, even clergy wives, tolerated in the Church today? The evidence is alarming.

This issue also offers a new view on “election” rooted in the Genesis story of Jacob and Esau, an exploration by a leading imam of the Qur’an’s attitude to Christianity, and an In Retrospect on Archbishop John Ward Armstrong.

Moderator visits Army chaplains

The Presbyterian Church in Ireland (PCI) has a long pastoral association with the British Army, Royal Navy and Royal Air Force. During his visit to the Infantry Training Centre in Catterick, North Yorkshire, Dr. McNie was able to meet with a range of serving soldiers, from recruits to training and support staff.

“It was very encouraging to see the spiritual impact that our chaplains are making in the lives of our troops, and the invaluable links that have been established between soldiers and their families, whether in barracks or back home,” he said.



As a recognised ‘Sending Church’, PCI has provided chaplains to the military in the United Kingdom for over a century. Also known as padres, recruits must be ordained ministers with between two and three year’s experience and be

a citizen of the United Kingdom or the Republic of Ireland.

Initial training takes place at the Armed Forces' Chaplaincy Centre in Hampshire, and then for chaplains in the British Army at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst. As an army chaplain they neither carry weapons, nor bear arms, and will normally be assigned to a unit of about 700 troops and their families.

While in Catterick, the Moderator also visited Phoenix House. Funded by Help for Heroes and run by the Royal British Legion, the unit is designed to help injured personnel with their recovery and rehabilitation.

Armagh anniversary exhibition of Church Lads' and Church Girls' Brigade

The Church Lads' and Church Girls' Brigade has mounted an exhibition in Armagh County Museum to mark 125 years since being founded on St Martin's Day, 11 November 1891. The exhibition will run from now, through March and April, with a possible extension until mid-June. It



should appeal to all those ex members who remember the square bashing, marching in bands, going to camps, taking part in sporting competitions and receiving badges on display night. It should also appeal to those who are interested in the history of youth organisations.

The exhibition focuses on the history of the Brigade in Ireland from its earliest days in Dublin, Cork, Limerick, Drogheda, Belfast, Derry, Ballymena, Portrush and Lisburn, right up to the present time. As the display is in the City of Armagh, a small part of the exhibition deals with Armagh Companies. There are many

photographs on display, some from the 1890s. They have been professionally mounted on photographic board, along with much interesting information telling of the Brigade's development.

Also on display are many items of memorabilia including attendance medals, sporting medals, commemorative medals, cap badges, lapel badges, proficiency badges, band instruments, a CLB sword, drill manuals, company colours, old trophies and a selection of uniforms. It is well worth a visit and the admission is free. The Museum is to be found in the Mall East and is open daily from 10.00 am to 5.00 pm. It closes for lunch on Saturdays.

C of I Youth Hosts Missional Conversations

Under the banner of Foundations, the Church of Ireland Youth Department (CIYD) recently hosted two 'missional conversation' events facilitated by Jonny Baker, Director of Mission Education with CMS Great Britain.

The first event was for clergy and others in church leadership and the second was for young



Jonny Baker, CMS Director of Mission Education, speaking at the young adults' event.

adults from 18–30. Both events explored the theme of how those with a heart for contextual mission can better bridge the gap between the Church and our culture.

The feedback from participants was that the events were both challenging and provocative and the intention is for more similar 'missional conversation' to take place in the future, as part of the Foundations programme for young adults.

Uganda to boycott Anglican Council meeting in Lusaka

The Church of Uganda will boycott the April meeting of the Anglican Consultative Council in Lusaka. In a letter dated 23 Feb 2016 the Archbishop of Uganda, the Most Rev. Stanley Ntagali, said comments made by ACC chairman Dr. James Tengatenga — first reported by Anglican Ink — that the Americans could not be kept away from the meeting, and statements by Episcopal Church leaders that they would pay no heed to the primates' call that their church withdraw from pan-Anglican bodies for three years had led inevitably to this outcome.

Distrust over the efficacy of American promises of good behaviour were a long standing problem in the Anglican Communion, Archbishop Ntagali said. He cited the 2003 incident where Presiding Bishop Frank Griswold promised not to consecrate Gene Robinson, an undertaking given at the emergency primates meeting held at Lambeth Palace, and his decision shortly thereafter to serve as Robinson's chief consecrator.



The primates “felt so betrayed. We wondered how the TEC Presiding Bishop could agree that their consecration should not proceed – how he could agree that if he presided at that consecration that it would tear the fabric of the Anglican Communion at its deepest level – and then immediately turn around and announce that he would do it anyway. It was a double betrayal – betraying the clear message of the Bible and betraying an agreement the Primates had made unanimously.

History appeared to be repeating itself, Archbishop Ntagali said. “Thirteen years later, the Primates of the Anglican Communion gathered last month in January 2016 in Canterbury to discuss what to do about the fact that not only had TEC torn the fabric of the Anglican Communion at its deepest level in 2003, but they have since changed the definition of marriage to no longer be a lifelong union between one man and one woman.”

Church of Scotland calls for positive debate on EU

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The Church of Scotland has called for a positive debate on the EU that considers its role in promoting peace, security and international cooperation. The Church recognises that:

1. A referendum will be held and that could be in as little as four months.
2. The Church of Scotland General Assembly has supported remaining in the EU since 1996.

3. In this time of huge international challenge it is crucial to work together across national borders.
4. In deciding how to vote on this momentous decision we should consider issues of peace, security and international cooperation

The Rev Dr Richard Frazer, Vice Convener of the Church of Scotland's Church and Society Council said: "Since last year's General Election, we have known that there will be a referendum on the UK's continued membership of the European Union. There is likely to be a very short timescale to discuss such an important set of issues. It will be a decision which will shape our country, our communities and our lives for generations to come. It is vital that there is now a respectful, engaging, but above all positive debate which will focus on important issues.

"Since its report in 1996 "The European Union – Crisis or opportunity" the Church of Scotland has repeatedly affirmed the work of the European Union in promoting peace, security and reconciliation amongst European nations. As recently as 2014 the General Assembly stated its opinion that 'it is better for Scotland, Britain and Europe for the United Kingdom to remain in the EU.'

"At a time when there is great conflict in the world, when we are faced with millions of desperate people seeking refuge in Europe and where climate change is wreaking havoc, there is a need to work internationally and globally. We need a bigger picture of the world, not a smaller one. The decision on which way to vote in June is one for each individual to reflect on and make with integrity, but it is in working together, across national borders, that real progress will be made."

* The referendum on whether Britain should remain in the EU will take place on 23 June.

* Church of Scotland [http://
www.churchofscotland.org.uk/home](http://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/home)

News links to reports on faith, politics and education

**Church Times/[Christian Today](#)/Premier/ITV/Gloucester
Citiz/WDpress/[Argus](#)**

Further reports that the Archbishop of Canterbury has [appointed](#) Dame Moira Gibb as chair of the independent review into the Church's handling of the Peter Ball case. The former Bishop of Lewes and Gloucester was jailed last year for sex offences. The review will consider what information was available to the CofE, who had it and

when. ITV and local paper reports include comment from survivor Rev Graham Sawyer who accuses the Church of a cover-up. The *Argus* focuses on the role of the late Bishop of Chichester, Eric Kemp.

<https://www.churchtimes.co.uk/articles/2016/26-february/news/uk/independent-review-to-shed-light-on-church-s-handling-of-peter-ball-case>

<http://www.premier.org.uk/News/UK/Dame-Moira-Gibb-to-chair-Bishop-Peter-Ball-abuse-review>

<http://www.itv.com/news/granada/update/2016-02-24/church-leaders-order-a-review-into-the-case-of-a-vicar-abused-as-a-teenager-by-a-bishop/>

<http://www.gloucestercitizen.co.uk/Victim-Bishop-Gloucester-claims-establishment/story-28802838-detail/story.html>

<http://www.westerndailypress.co.uk/bishop-Peter-Ball-got-away-sexually-abusing-young/story-28798190-detail/story.html>

Christian Today

Reports that plans to liberalise Sunday trading laws could be defeated before reaching the House of Commons for debate. The article reports that a number of Conservative MPs on the committee currently scrutinising the proposed legislation could rebel against the government's amendment to the Enterprise Bill. The proposals would permit local authorities to relax Sunday trading regulations, allowing large stores to treat Sunday like any other day of the week. The CofE has said there is no convincing evidence the change would bring economic benefits. The committee meets today to examine the proposals.

Guard

Reports that in the last 10 years membership of Credit Unions has doubled. The Bank of England estimates 1.1 million adults are in Credit Unions with assets valued at £1.2 billion. But that is still less than 2% of the UK population. The article, which is an invitation to a debate on the issue to be held in London on 2 March, notes the support of the CofE for Credit Unions.

<http://www.theguardian.com/public-leaders-network/2016/jan/06/effective-uk-credit-unions>

Times

A feature on the Whitechapel Bell Foundry. Whitechapel's most famous bells include Pennsylvania's original Liberty Bell and Big Ben.

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/business/workinglife/article4698425.ece>

BBC

Video report. BBC Newsnight's Stephen Smith visits Leicester to examine the city's current football success and how it is affecting the city. The package includes comments from the Dean of Leicester, the Very Revd David Monteith.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-35647184>

Comment

Mail: Stephen Glover writes about the salaries of those running the UK's largest charities. He notes that the stipend of CofE bishops and vicars is low in comparison.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/debate/article-3463094/STEPHEN-GLOVER-no-longer-charities-bosses-home-fat-cat-salaries.html>

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