



Methodist President, the Rev Brian Anderson (right) is pictured with the Rev Richard Rowe at a service on 1st June held to commemorate the Irish Sailor during the First World War. Mr Rowe, a Methodist minister who is a serving chaplain with the Royal Navy, conducted the service and Mr Anderson offered the closing prayer.

A Community of Global Concern - General Assembly theme

The evening celebration next Wednesday at the Irish Presbyterian Church's General Assembly will provide an opportunity to celebrate and explore what it is to be part of a Presbyterian community that, in turn, is part of a larger global community.

Enabling the celebration will be Rev. Dr. Chris Wright, who is originally from Belfast, and now serves with the Langham Partnership, which was founded by the evangelist and prolific author John Stott to serve the global church.

The Langham Partnership's vision is to see churches in Asia, Africa and Latin America equipped for mission and growing to maturity in Christ through the ministry of pastors and leaders who believe, teach and live by the Word of God.

It does this by training up church leaders with the skills and tools needed to teach and preach in a way that equips God's people for their mission in the world.

Rev. Dr. Mark Welsh, PCI's Mission Development Officer, commented, "Having previously been raised as an Irish Presbyterian and having served as a Parish Minister in England, as a College Lecturer in India and as Principal of All Nations



Christian College, an international college for training in cross-cultural ministry, Chris is well-placed to show us what it means to be a 'Community of Global Concern,' Dr. Welsh explained.

“We are all familiar with the opening words of John 3: 16: ‘For God so loved the world he sent his one and only son ...’ which is a wonderful reminder to us that God’s missional activity was born out of a missional heart; a heart that Christ Himself modelled when He looked out with compassion and concern on the crowds who were lost, harassed and helpless before sending His disciples out into the harvest field.

“To help us reflect on God’s heart for and activity in His world, I am delighted that our 2016/17 Fit for Purpose theme is that – as God’s people – we are called to be ... ‘A Community of Global Concern’ and excited that Chris is able to speak into this key area for us at the Wednesday Evening Celebration. So please come along and

hear of God's heart and concern for His world and of our role within His global mission," Dr. Welsh said.

The Wednesday Evening Celebration is open to all with no pre-booking required. It will take place in the Assembly Hall, Assembly Buildings, Belfast, and begins at 7:45pm.

As an outworking of PCI's Global Concern, an offering will be taken on the night for the work of the [Langham Partnership](#).

C of I approach Handling Conflict in the Parish

The next mini-retreat being held at the Church of Ireland Theological Institute, Dublin, will focus on 'Handling Conflict in the Parish'.

This event is open for lay people engaged in all aspects of Parish ministry wishing to explore conflict management and resolution. Given that this mini-retreat will have a practical focus those in ordained leadership are also very welcome to attend.



Laurie Randall, an independent practitioner in pastoral supervision, mediation, facilitation, and training, will be acting as our facilitator. She is involved in Pastoral support for clergy and their partners in Connor Diocese. Laurie also works for Mediation Northern Ireland. She has experience directly intervening in church conflict, and also supporting ministers and others as they assess how best to address sensitive situations themselves. To book in for this mini-retreat, please email davidbrown@theologicalinstitute.ie All bookings must be received by Friday 17th June.

Clonard Novena to take place from 15 – 23 June

The annual Clonard Monastery Solemn Novena to our Mother of Perpetual help takes place from Wednesday 15th to Thursday 23rd June in Belfast. The theme of this year's Novena is 'Icon of Mercy'.

This year marks the 150th Jubilee Year of the Redemptorists' special mission of making the Icon of Our Mother of Perpetual Help known throughout the world. It has been a time of celebration and renewal of this mission to strengthen love for the Mother of God. The Church is also celebrating the Holy Year of Mercy, a time of grace, peace, conversion and joy. It is meant for everyone: people of every age, for those far or near to the Church. This year's Novena is a time to pray with Mary and celebrate God's outpouring of abundant graces and crazy love.

The Novena Masses take place each day at 6.45am, 8.15am, 9.30am, 11.00am, 12.45pm, 4.30pm, 6.00pm, 7.30pm, 9.00pm and 10.30pm and on weekends at 6.45am, 8.15am, 9.30am, 11.00am, 12.45pm, 3.00pm, 4.30pm, 6.00pm

and 7.30pm. There will also be special services as follows:

Candlelight Session each night at 10.30pm (except on Saturday and Sunday)

Novena Seesion with Sign Language each day at 4.30pm

Reconciliation Services on Friday 17 June at 9.30am, 4.30pm, 6.00pm and 9.00pm.

Mass with Anointing of the Sick will take place on Saturday 18 June at 11.00am, 12.45pm and 3.00pm.

Blessing of Babies and Children on Sunday 19 June at 3.00pm.

Youth Session with Mass on Sunday 19 June at 7.30pm with Papal Nuncio, His Excellency Archbishop Charles j Brown.

There will be guest speakers on Monday 20th June at all sessions. The speakers will be Ministers from other Christian Churches.

The guest speaker on Tuesday 21 June will be John McAreavey (Michaela Foundation) from 4.30pm onwards.

The Redemptorists are a congregation of priests and brothers who live in community in order to preach the Good News of plentiful redemption.

They were founded in 1732 in a village called Scala on the Amalfi Coast, Southern Italy by St. Alphonsus Maria de Liguori. He was shocked by the material and spiritual neglect of the local people, and so resolved to minister to them and other 'most abandoned souls.' From these humble beginnings, the Redemptorists spread throughout Europe to every continent. Today more than 5,000 Redemptorists minister in nearly 80 countries worldwide.

In Ireland, the Redemptorists came first to Limerick in 1852. Other foundations soon followed in Dundalk (1874) and Clonard (1896). Today, Irish Redemptorists minister in Limerick, Dundalk, Belfast, Galway, Dublin and Cork, as well as overseas in Brazil, the Philippines, Mozambique, Rome, and Siberia.

NI Conference on Churches role in safeguarding children

The Safeguarding Board for Northern Ireland (SBNi) held a conference on Thursday to discuss the role of faith communities in safeguarding children in Northern Ireland. The

conference explored the role which faith communities play, highlighting good practice and also the associated challenges.

Glenys Johnston, Interim Independent Chair of the SBNI, said: “This conference gives us the opportunity to bring together different denominations, so together we can enhance the safeguarding work already well-established within the faith sector in Northern Ireland.”

The conference allowed for the sharing of safeguarding policies and procedures, training materials, resources, and local community initiatives. It enhanced effective communication and co-operation about safeguarding matters across faith groups.

Barbara McDermott, Chair of the Interfaith group of SBNI, said that the conference, the first of its kind, demonstrates “a real commitment by faith communities to genuinely work together to protect and promote the welfare of all children and young people, in Northern Ireland. As faith communities we are delighted to be part of the ethos, culture and work of SBNI.”

Detective Chief Superintendent George Clarke, Head of the PSNI’s Public Protection Branch, said: “The PSNI recognises the significant and



The Most Revd Dr Richard Clarke (Archbishop of Armagh) with delegates from the Diocese of Armagh. Archbishop Clarke said “The Church of Ireland holds safeguarding as a priority and the welfare of children is paramount in all we undertake. We are pleased to be sending a large number of delegates to the Interfaith Conference run by the Safeguarding Board.”

valuable role which faith organisations play in the lives of so many young people. The Interfaith group of SBNI fulfils a crucial role in developing and sharing this good practice and we are delighted to be able to support this conference.” The SBNI strives to improve learning, enhance practice and ensure that children’s voices are at churchnewsireland@gmail.com

the centre of all that is done by the organisations and professionals who together make up the Child Protection System. In May 2015, the SBNI established its Interfaith Sub Group. The rationale for the creation of the group was to acknowledge the important and central role which faith communities play in the wider safeguarding agenda for children and young people throughout Northern Ireland.

Membership of the Interfaith group comprises of staff with a safeguarding role, currently working within the four main churches. One of the main tasks of this working group is to provide a formal arrangement for the faith community to meet regularly, to share their knowledge, skills and experience of best practice arrangements for safeguarding children across the churches in Northern Ireland.

Following the event communication between the SBNI and the faith groups has been strengthened and good practice shared, working towards a safer future for all children. For further information on the work of SBNI see www.safeguardingni.org

C of I Somme Centenary Event

The horror of the Battle of the Somme was recalled at a special event in Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin, on the evening of Wednesday June 1.

Lyn Glanville writes - The event was chaired by the **British Ambassador to Ireland, Dominick Chilcott**, who commended the Church of Ireland for the work it was doing on commemorating centenaries during this Decade of Centenaries.

He said that in February Christ Church Cathedral had hosted a symposium on the 1916 Rising which was attended by An Taoiseach, Enda Kenny and the Northern Irish First Minister, Arlene Foster. "That was the only event connected with the Easter Rising that Arlene Foster attended so the evening was not just about history but it was making history," he commented.

Setting the context, Mr Chilcott noted that 1916 was a tumultuous year with the Battle of Verdun and the Battle of the Somme on land and the Battle of Jutland at sea. On the home front there was the 1916 Rising in Dublin. He gave a brief outline of the Battle of the Somme which began on July 1 and ended on November 18 1916

resulting in the loss of more than one million lives.

The efforts of the 36th Ulster Division on July 1 1916 had captured the imaginations of the country and their heroics were commemorated widely in Northern Ireland. However, he said this was not the whole story. They were joined by soldiers from the 16th Irish Division and many other Irish battalions. There were also many Irish troops fighting with British regiments.

Dr Gavin Hughes took the audience through the Battle of the Somme, which he said started with high hopes but was later considered a failure. He also addressed the myths that grew around the Battle of the Somme and comparisons with the Battle of the Boyne. He looked at the background to the campaign and the Irish regiments that fought there, particularly the 36th Ulster and 16th Irish Divisions while mentioning the many other Irish battalions.

He suggested that the year 1916 witnessed destruction of Nationalists and Unionists in unimaginable numbers. The long Battle of the Somme saw arguably the biggest achievement of

Irish divisions he said, although he noted that the front advanced just seven miles in 121 days.

In answer to a question afterwards, Dr Hughes explained that Unionism had adopted the Somme so closely partly because the Ulster Division was determined to show Ulster's loyalty and not to let Ulster down. "When the little brown envelopes began seeping into houses throughout the province, it also became clear that most of Northern Ireland's young men had been hurt or killed fighting for that ideal," he said.

"A century on, the battle's legacy remains. There is anger at the immense loss of life and a sense of loss. It is unsurprising that the legacy of the Somme has left such a visceral scar. The carnage on the Somme decimated the Irish battalions. It is natural that such awful loss should be coupled with anger but also gratitude and respect and it is a salutary lesson to live within its long shadow," he stated.

Turtle Bunbury brought a personal note to the evening talking about individuals connected with the Battle of the Somme. His grandmother's uncle, Lt George Guy Finlay, was killed at Bazentin Ridge. He, his brother and some friends

had been to the Western Front to find the last resting places of various family members.

He highlighted the bravery of Captain Eric Bell from Enniskillen who was awarded the Victoria Cross for his actions on the first day of the battle at Thiepval. Mr Bunbury also spoke of Irish artist Sir William Orpen, who was born in Stillorgan, who went to the Somme battlefield after the battle had ended and sketched the frozen and desolate landscape. A total of 138 of his paintings went on display in the Imperial War Museum but his experiences there had a lasting effect on him.

There were also connections between the 1916 Rising and the Battle of the Somme, he said. One of these was Brigadier General Charles Blackader who presided over the court martial proceedings of some of the leaders of the Rising in Dublin and later that year took over the command of the 38th Welsh Division who suffered heavy losses at the Somme.

He also spoke of the hugely popular Woodbine Willie, Geoffrey Studdert Kennedy, a Church of England priest with an Irish background who had a great ability to connect with his parishioners in

England and with soldiers while at chaplain by giving them Woodbine cigarettes. Tom Kettle, nationalist, economist and poet was also highlighted, as one of the best known Irish figures to die at the Somme.

‘The Somme: A Wider Set of Reflections and Experiences’ was organised by the Church of Ireland Historical Centenaries Working Group which is chaired by the Bishop of Clogher, Rt Rev J McDowell.

Catholic charity that feeds a million children wins Queen’s Award

Mary’s Meals has been given the Queen’s Award for Voluntary Service, Britain’s highest award for charitable activities which is known as ‘the MBE for voluntary groups’.

The charity, which was founded in 2002, provides a daily meal in school to more than 1.1 million children in 12 countries across the world. It describes its goals as combating hunger and helping children to receive an education.

The school feeding programmes are implemented by volunteers from within the local communities – often parents of the pupils – who are trained by Mary’s Meals to cook and serve meals to schoolchildren.

In the UK, the Mary’s Meals movement is supported by thousands of volunteers working in roles as various as charity shop assistants, promotional speakers, and social media ambassadors.

Mary’s Meals is one of 193 recipient of the Queen’s Award this year. Alan Brown, executive director of the charity, said: “We are very honoured to receive the Queen’s Award for Voluntary Service. It is fantastic that the achievements of our many wonderful UK volunteers are being officially recognised through this award. We are so grateful to every volunteer who has supported Mary’s Meals’ incredible mission. Their compassion, dedication and hard work is helping us to reach the next child waiting for Mary’s Meals.”

He added: “From our 65,000 volunteers in Malawi who get up at the break of dawn to prepare, cook and serve vital meals to hungry

children to the thousands of generous people across the UK who give up their time to support our work, volunteers are at the heart of everything we do.”

News briefs

Sunday June 12th marks **Queen Elizabeth's official 90th birthday**. Throughout her reign the Queen's strong Christian faith has been evident from her words and actions.

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Presbyterian History in Ireland - On Thursday 9 June **Professor Robert Armstrong** (Trinity College Dublin) will be delivering the Beckett Lecture of the Ulster Society for Irish Historical Studies. The title of the lecture is “**The Presbyterian Story**” in 17th- and 18th-century Ireland’. It will be held in PRONI, Titanic Boulevard, Belfast at 6.30pm. Before to the lecture, at 6pm, there will be a wine reception during which there will be the launch of the ***Presbyterian History in Ireland: Two Seventeenth-Century Narratives by Patrick Adair and Andrew Stewart***, edited by Robert Armstrong, Andrew Holmes, Scott Spurlock and Patrick Walsh, and published by the Ulster Historical Foundation. Open to the Public -

Everyone is welcome to the Reception and the Lecture.

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Sophie Dixon presents a bouquet of flowers to Mrs Mary Good. Also pictured are the Rev Irene Lyttle, Bishop Ken Good and Mr Ian Madden

A special Service has taken place in Bready to celebrate **150 years of Christian witness at Dunnalong Parish Church** (Derry diocese). The Service, which was held on Trinity Sunday, was led by the Reverend Irene Lyttle and attended by the Bishop of Derry and Raphoe, the Rt Rev Ken Good. The Church of St John was built in 1865 and consecrated the following year. The building

was designed by Welland and Gillespie, architects for the Ecclesiastical Commissioners. The construction cost was covered by a grant from the Commissioners and by public subscription. St John's is notable for its steeply pitched roof and the church is a landmark on the main road between Londonderry and Strabane.

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Parishioners of **Connor and St Patrick's Parish, Antrim**, shared memories as they tucked into a birthday cake to celebrate St Patrick's Church turning 40. St Patrick's came into being on May 3 1976 and is still serving the local community. To mark the occasion parishioners enjoyed refreshments and chat after the service on May 15.

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Just Finance Network - The Church of England is embarking on an ambitious programme to grow a nationwide network of support for people to help them take action on money and debt. A pilot scheme based in churches in London, Southwark and Liverpool dioceses will be expanded to dioceses in the rest of the country under plans put forward by

the Just Finance Network, formerly known as the Church Credit Champions Network.

More than 260 'credit champions', or volunteers in local churches have been trained so far within the pilot scheme to help people tackle issues from promoting budgeting skills to work on increasing the size of credit unions. Over 300 churches are already involved in the scheme carrying out mass sign-ups to credit unions, setting up credit union branches in church buildings and encouraging local employers to set up pay roll saving for their staff.

The programme is on target to bring in more than 3,000 new credit union members by the end of this year and have saved more than £2 million by helping people access affordable credit rather than high cost pay day lenders. The proposals for an expansion to the network are the latest stage in work first started by the Archbishop of Canterbury's Task Group on responsible credit and savings. The network, now managed by Church Urban Fund, will build on initiatives already under way in churches across the country.

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Representatives from Anglican and Salvation Army churches across Africa met in Cape

Town last week to share insights and build a common vision on how to tackle **human trafficking and modern day slavery**. The consultation aimed to create an Africa-wide understanding of the trends of human trafficking as well as trafficking to and from Africa. Participants listened to painful and courageous testimonies of survivors as well as engaging with government and UN officials to understand the unique contribution that churches can play in tackling human trafficking. It is estimated that between 25 and 37 million people world-wide are caught up in modern day slavery. The consultation was one of a series organised by the Anglican Alliance around the Anglican Communion to help share learning and equip provinces and their local churches to respond effectively to the issues. It was jointly convened with the Salvation Army and held under the auspices of the Council of Anglican Provinces in Africa (CAPA). It was hosted by Hope Africa, the relief and development arm of the Anglican Church of Southern Africa.

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Episcopalians across the church in the USA wore orange shirts, orange ribbons and even orange liturgical stoles June 2 as a sign of their



commitment to reducing gun violence in their communities.

News links to reports on faith, politics and education

Academic selection: AQE says single test 'would take three years to develop'

BBC News

The chief executive of the Association of Quality Education (AQE) says a single, post-primary school transfer test will not be possible for "at least three years".
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-36440313>

Education Authority 'misled Stormont committee' over pre-school provision

BBC News

The Education Authority provided misleading evidence to a Stormont committee investigating pre-school provision for children in special schools.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-36440310>

RTÉ rejects Muslim scholar's appeal for daily Ramadan prayer

Irish Times

RTÉ has turned down calls by a prominent Muslim scholar in **Ireland** to ... In a response to Dr Selim, RTÉ's Head of **Religious** Programmes Roger ...

<http://www.irishtimes.com/news/social-affairs/religion-and-beliefs/rt%C3%A9-rejects-muslim-scholar-s-appeal-for-daily-ramadan-prayer-1.2670599>

Does the Irish Catholic Church have a contingency to combat vocational decline?

the Irish News

The survey found that 58 per cent of priests who were against the idea of dropping celibacy argued that the **Church of Ireland** have married clergy and ...

<http://www.irishnews.com/lifestyle/faithmatters/2016/06/02/news/does-the-irish-catholic-church-have-a-contingency-to-combat-vocational-decline--533222/>

Controversial church seeks new minister

Lurgan Mail

However despite the criticism Rev Kilpatrick insisted: "I am a **Church of Ireland** clergyman and I preach about the Kingdom of God. In May last year ...

<http://www.lurganmail.co.uk/news/lurgan-news/controversial-church-seeks-new-minister-1-7410710>

Church has role in de-glamorising crime

The Irish Catholic

Mary Kenny - This was also articulated vividly by a listener to the Ryan Tubridy Show who sent an email about her current experiences in a small **Irish** town:

“When ...

<http://www.irishcatholic.ie/article/church-has-role-de-glamorising-crime>

Christian Today/BBC/Times

Further coverage of the CofE's Ministry statistics released yesterday focusing on the fact that the number due to retire is greater than the number of younger clergy coming through. The BBC interviews 25-year-old Rose Grigg from Cornwall, training full-time to become a vicar, having left her job in London's music industry. The *Times* focuses on CofE's struggle to fill both pews and post of priests.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/newsbeat/article/36434805/with-25-of-clergy-due-to-retire-in-the-next-five-years-the-uk-needs-more>

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/fight-to-fill-pews-moves-to-pulpit-as-cofe-vicars-die-out-fj3prrvsq>

Guard/Tel/Mail/Even Stand/Premier

Reports that fashion house Gucci has used Westminster Abbey's cloisters to showcase its 2017 cruise collection. An Abbey spokesperson said the response to the show had been “overwhelmingly positive”, and described it as “a new and exciting collaboration for us”. *Premier* report that the animal welfare pressure group PETA wrote an churchnewsireland@gmail.com

open letter to the Archbishop of Canterbury urging him to ensure that exotic skins are not permitted on the catwalk.

<http://www.theguardian.com/fashion/2016/jun/02/westminster-abbey-divine-inspiration-gucci-show>

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/fashion/brands/gucci-takes-over-westminster-abbey-all-the-looks-from-the-cruise/>

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/video/tvshowbiz/video-1296360/Finale-Gucci-cruise-catwalk-beautiful-Westminster-Abbey.html>

<http://www.standard.co.uk/fashion/news/the-fashion-world-descends-on-westminster-abbey-to-worship-at-the-altar-of-guccis-alessandro-michele-a3262576.html>

<http://www.premier.org.uk/News/UK/Justin-Welby-urged-to-step-in-at-Westminster-Abbey-fashion-show>

<http://www.premier.org.uk/News/UK/Justin-Welby-urged-to-step-in-at-Westminster-Abbey-fashion-show>

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Herts Advertiser

Reports the death of the former John Taylor, Bishop of St Albans 1980-1995. The article highlights Bishop John's ministry in the CofE.

<http://www.hertsad.co.uk/news/>

http://www.hertsad.co.uk/news/former_bishop_of_st_albans_john_taylor_dies_1_456107

[7](http://www.hertsad.co.uk/news/former_bishop_of_st_albans_john_taylor_dies_1_456107)

Mail

Reports that a 'Ghost walk' in the 19th century Sculcoates Lane graveyard in Hull stumbled across a film crew making a pornographic film. The graveyard owned by the Diocese of York was taken over by the community in 2007. Members of the congregation of nearby St Mary's church are quoted.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3622903/Ghost-hunters-X-rated-surprise-graveyard-tour-stumbling-naked-actors-shooting-porn-film.html>

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3622903/Ghost-hunters-X-rated-surprise-graveyard-tour-stumbling-naked-actors-shooting-porn-film.html>

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3622903/Ghost-hunters-X-rated-surprise-graveyard-tour-stumbling-naked-actors-shooting-porn-film.html>

Comment

Guardian: Giles Fraser writes “National borders exist to pen poor people into reservations of poverty.”

<http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/belief/2016/jun/02/national-borders-exist-to-pen-poor-people-into-reservations-of-poverty>

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