



CNI



100 Days Magazine making the headlines

100: Our Story of Healing, Honour and Hope is a collection of interviews and articles reflecting on the hundred years since the Easter Rising and the Battle of the Somme and looking forward to a hope-filled story for the next one hundred years - Peter Elliott of Evangelical Alliance writes.

Among a wide variety of features, the magazine includes interviews with the First Minister Arlene

Foster and Deputy First Minister, Martin McGuinness, and Ulster Rugby player, Ruan Pienaar. Other contributors include the Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, Bishop Harold Millar, the Very Rev Norman Hamilton and photo essays of the art-works of the Bogside artists and Ross Wilson.

Also, our interview with Attorney General John Larkin has made some headlines which you can see [here](#).

The magazine runs to over 100 pages and seeks to explore the narrative of an alternative kingdom. Amidst the talk of suffering and sacrifice, our desire is to see **healing** sweep across our land this Easter.

As different groups contest parts of the story of this land, we will work towards **honour** and grace-filled conversations in the present. We pray for heavenly solutions and stories of **hope** that will change a nation.

Ultimately we look to the good news of Jesus, the ultimate story of reconciliation which makes all other reconciliation possible. Our prayer is that this magazine helps move the conversation forward and, in a small way, contributes to

healing of the past, **honour** in the present and **hope** for the future.

Copies of the magazine can be purchased at Ground coffee shops, The Bookwell, Common Grounds, Lost & Found, The Ground Floor and we are adding more stockists all the time. Please check out www.100days100years.com/retailers for a full list. To order a personal copy to be delivered to you, click [here](#).

If you would like copies for your church email info@100days100years.com

We can arrange for you to receive a box to distribute for a suggested donation of £4 - you can then return the donated money and any remaining copies in a few weeks time so there is no risk to you. Alternatively, you can buy a box of 22 copies for £50 to give away as you please.

See also -

News Letter - Martin McGuinness has described himself as “a very broad-minded Christian” in an interview with a leading Christian broadcaster and publishing company. <http://www.newsletter.co.uk/sinn-fein-s-mcguinness-on-christ-and-faith-1-7285591>

Moderator's Easter Message: The Gospel of Grace that continues to transform

Rt. Rev. Dr. Ian McNie, Moderator of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland writes -

The circumstances surrounding that first Easter morning have been for many down the ages the subject of much debate and division. But for generations this unique event has changed the lives of millions of people who have been transformed by the power of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, through His life, death and resurrection.

What happened at the Cross and that 'Easter Rising' nearly 2,000 years ago, was God's ultimate response in order that forgiveness, reconciliation, peace and salvation could emerge and a new kingdom would be established in keeping with His plan for the world.

Frank Morison, a sceptic of Christianity, attempted to write a book about what he saw as the 'myth' of the resurrection. After careful research he published a book entitled 'Who moved the Stone?' The first chapter he called, 'The book that refused to be written'.

Having examined the facts around the first Easter, he confessed that his initial belief – originally calculated to discredit the bodily resurrection of Jesus Christ – simply did not hold water. He concluded with the words, “The third day He rose again from the dead.”

One indisputable fact associated with the ‘Easter Rising’ of two millennia ago, has been the phenomenal growth of the Christian Church, leaving us in no doubt that Christ’s resurrection has taken the world by storm, drawing people from every age and generation to the Gospel of God’s Grace.

No other single event in history has touched and changed the lives of so many people. As it continues to impact and transform today, I simply ask: Has it impacted you?

The church of Jesus Christ today has been entrusted with a responsibility and message that no other institution, or organisation, has been called to share. In simple terms, the Church is commissioned to present the unique message of the Gospel of Jesus Christ – a message that calls people to respond to the teaching and work of Jesus Christ in order to become Children of God.

This response leads to self-examination, repentance and acceptance of Jesus Christ as our Saviour. My personal response to the Gospel has enabled me to understand clearly the meaning of life: Where did I come from? Why am I here? Where am I going? How will I get there?

The resurrection of Our Lord Jesus Christ has impacted me, as it has millions of others. I hope and pray that this Easter it impacts you.

Church on Derry's walls outreach to men event

A former Speaker of the Northern Ireland Assembly was among almost 50 people who showed up for a Men's and Boys' Breakfast in St Augustine's Church in Londonderry on a Sunday morning recently. The event was organised by the Rector of 'the Wee Church on the Walls', Rev Malcolm Ferry, to offer "food and fellowship" to men and boys. Mr. Ferry said it was part of the parish's contribution to the Year of Opportunity in the Diocese, during which churches are being encouraged to reach out to children.

Having heard about the men's ministry at St Augustine's from his son-in-law John Lynch – a regular parishioner – Lord Hay of Ballyore (who is

perhaps better known as William Hay, the former Speaker of the NI Assembly,) asked to accompany him to the breakfast. The peer said he was very pleasantly surprised at the number of men who turned up for what was a fantastic occasion. The fare on offer in the church hall – a full fried breakfast (with fruit for the more health-conscious) – was served up by men from the church. The all-male gathering was joined, too, by the captain of Coleraine Football Club, Howard Beverland, who is a born-again believer, and by Philip Mitchell of Sports Chaplaincy UK.

Howard – who is now 25 years of age – has captained Coleraine since he was 22. He talked to the group about the Bannsidiers' attempt to qualify for European football next season, Northern Ireland's prospects at the European Championships and about the importance of faith in his life. He encouraged the young people present to grow up into men of God, young men who would take a stand for Christ. "Being a Christian doesn't mean you can't have fun. If you're into football, go and do that and play that well; do it for a purpose – that Christ will get the glory and people will see Him through you."

Howard brought with him a flag which has been carried round every ground in the NIFL Premiership. It was made by his brothers and

bears his image. It also includes a verse from the Bible: “For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. John 3:17: “ Philip outlined how there were around 350 chaplains working across a range of sports throughout the UK and said they hoped to raise that figure to a thousand in the next five years. He said there were 151,000 sports club in the UK that had 80 adults and 90 children in them. There were 52,000 churches with an average attendance of 84. “As a church,” he suggested, “it’s important we engage with that community called sport because it’s a great opportunity for us to reach the common man.”

The Rector of St Augustine’s was delighted with the success of the event. “Last year we had hoped to get 30,” Rev Ferry said, “today we almost got 50. That’s virtually all the men who attend our small church regularly. That’s a fantastic response. It’s important that we in the Church create more opportunities for men and boys to come together in fellowship.”

C of I Good Friday worship

On Friday RTE will televise a Good Friday liturgy from St Bartholomew’s church, Dublin, at 3pm.

The Bishop of Limerick will lead the Three Hour Devotions in St Mary's cathedral, while in St Ann's church, Dublin, the former Archbishop of Dublin, Dr John Neill, will speak at the Three Hour Service which begins at 12 noon. In St George's church, Belfast, the Good Friday speaker will be the Rt Revd Alan Harper, formerly Archbishop of Armagh.

At 8pm in Christ Church cathedral, Waterford, the Cathedral Choir, directed by Eric Sweeny will sing music from Rachmaninov's Vespers by candlelight.

In St Mary's cathedral, Limerick, yesterday there was a performance of music for Holy Week, entitled 'Lacrimosa', featuring organist, David Leigh, tenor, Eoin Hynes and the Collegium Chamber Choir from Galway, all directed by Mark Duley. This performance will also be presented by Music for Galway in St Nicholas' Collegiate church on Good Friday.

For services in Dublin and Glendalough, including transport arrangements, see - <http://dublin.anglican.org/news/events/2016/03/Easter-Day-2016-Services-in-Cathedrals-and-City-Centre-Parishes>

Cork mass marking 1916 Rising will pray for British dead

To mark the 1916 Rising, a special Mass for Peace and Reconciliation will be celebrated by Bishop John Buckley, Bishop of Cork & Ross, in Holy Trinity Church, Father Mathew Street, Cork, at 12:30pm on Sunday 3 April.

Making the announcement Bishop Buckley said, “Holy Trinity Church has been selected because of the important pastoral role exercised by members of the religious orders, especially the Capuchin Community, some of whose members wrote very informative, personal narratives on the Rising. Our Mass will be a time for reflection not celebration. We visit our history, not to find what divides but what unites us. We will pray for the four hundred and eighty five men, women and children who died violently in 1916, on whatever side or none.”

Bishop Buckley continued, “We, as people of faith, pray also for the British soldiers and the RIC members who died on the streets of Dublin, many of whom were Irish. We will also remember the five hundred and eighty Irish soldiers who died on the Western Front in the First World War during that week. Indeed, some of those who

survived received a very cold reception when they returned home. We will pray also for those who died during the violence in Northern Ireland including the many people who are still suffering from its effects to this day.

“We must commemorate 1916 in a way that respects all past differences and does not glorify violence retrospectively. This Remembrance will be a sign that the conflict is over. Sadly, the threat of violence has not completely disappeared. There is no moral legitimacy whatsoever for violence today. There is always a danger than anniversaries have the potential to influence people negatively. There is a thin line between celebration and commemoration. If we only remember one side, we are telling ourselves that the conflict is not truly over. The Good Friday Agreement democratically and peacefully removed any remaining cause of conflict.

“We welcome the fact that a Commemorative Wall is to be erected in Glasnevin Cemetery in Dublin which will bear the names of all who died in 1916 regardless of which side they were on – or if they were on no side – and whether they were bearing arms or not. We should be extremely careful in case the celebrations would, in any way, contribute to an increased tension in Northern Ireland. It has been said that aspects of

the 1966 commemoration were subsequently used to justify violence. Our aim should be to promote friendship and harmony.

“Even though the official Catholic Church and the newspapers at the time did not approve of the Rising, nevertheless they maintained that the volunteers were men of high idealism and self-sacrifice who really believed that they were pursuing a noble cause, while reminding us, at the same time, that great progress had been made towards the goal of an independent Ireland.

“We should not forget the religious spirit that animated the Rising. The leaders were people of profound faith and received the sacraments before their executions. The poetry of Padraig Pearse and Joseph Mary Plunkett is deeply religious. We recall Plunkett’s ‘I see his blood upon the rose’ and Pearse’s ‘Iosagáin’. As Pearse himself said in 1915 at the grave of O’Donovan Rossa, ‘Splendid and holy causes are best served by splendid and holy people’. Indeed, the religious and cultural legacy of the 1916 leaders, which reflected the Church’s social teaching at the time, may be as significant as their political legacy.”



Dr Joe McKee

Organ scholars skills training

Scholars on the Down & Dromore and Connor Organ Scholarship Scheme gathering on Saturday morning at St Molua's Stormont for further schooling in the choral training section of the three year course. Saturday's session was taken by Dr Joe McKee, one of the course tutors. Other tutors on the course are Michael McCracken and Ian Mills.

In St Mary's cathedral, Limerick, on Wednesday at lunchtime Peter Barley will give a special

organ recital for Holy Week which will include music by J.S. Bach.

Largest virtual Hallelujah Chorus

More than 2000 voices are joined with the 360 strong *Mormon Tabernacle Choir* to electronically create the largest virtual choral rendition of the *Hallelujah Chorus* from Handel's *Messiah*.

Recorded in the historic Salt Lake Tabernacle on Temple Square in downtown Salt Lake City UT, vocalists in street clothes and various styles and colours of headphones and earphones were scattered among the choir members, while the virtual choir members were projected digitally on the elliptical ceiling of the Tabernacle surrounding the choir and the famous and iconic Tabernacle organ. The Singers and organ were joined in the production by the Orchestra at Temple Square. The music was conducted by Mack Wilberg, who has served as the Tabernacle Choir's Music Director since 2008.

Participants were asked to submit video recordings of themselves singing one of the four parts of the music; soprano, alto, tenor or bass. Digital engineers wove in every video that they

could feasibly fit with the format of the production. Vocalists who submitted videos included folks from all over the world, representing most every race and many nationalities.

Among the 100s of video submissions are numerous well known YouTube musical personalities; the governor of Utah, Gary Herbert; BYU acapella group *Vocal Point*; LDS singing artist Donny Osmond and many individuals, choirs and choral ensembles.

The video performance of the Hallelujah Chorus is a special project for Easter by the Missionary Department of the LDS Church. Listen at -

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=akb0kD7EHIk>

Anglican Centre in Rome celebrates half a century of reconciliation ministry

The historic first official meeting since the Reformation between a Pope and an Archbishop of Canterbury fifty years ago; and with it the dedication of the Anglican Centre of Rome, is



Meetings between Popes and Archbishops of Canterbury, as seen here when Archbishop Justin Welby met Pope Francis at the Vatican in 2013, are no longer unusual; but the public meeting between Archbishop Ramsey and Pope Paul VI in the Sistine Chapel 50 years ago – on 23 March 1966 – was the first since the Reformation.

being celebrated with a host of events that will take place throughout the year.

Pope Paul VI and Archbishop Michael Ramsey met twice on 22 March 1966 and again the following day. The first meeting took place in the morning in the Sistine Chapel. Formal addresses were given and gifts exchanged.

The Pope gave Archbishop Ramsey a 12th century fresco of Christ in Glory from a church in the north of Italy. It now hangs in the Crypt Chapel at Lambeth. They met again in the afternoon for private talks in the Pope's library. The following day there was a service in the Church of St Paul without the Walls during which there was a common declaration and a gift of a ring from Pope Paul VI to Archbishop Ramsey.

The meeting paved the way for the creation of the first official process of dialogue between Anglicans and the Vatican since the Reformation – the Anglican Roman Catholic International Commission (ARCIC).

The Anglican Centre in Rome was dedicated on 22 March 1966; it opened a few months later. “The Anglican Communion cherishes the Holy Scriptures and the Catholic Creeds,” Archbishop Ramsey said in a short speech at the dedication ceremony. “In history, it values the lessons of the Reformation of the sixteenth century, and it values no less the continuity which it claims with the ancient church.

“In spirituality, it learns from saints and teachers of its own, while it also tries to learn from saints and teachers of every period in the West and in the East. In theology, it learns from the

Scriptures, the ancient fathers and the liturgy, while it strives to use whatever light is shed by modern knowledge upon the understanding of man and the world.

“The Anglican student is often a debtor to writers within the Roman Catholic Church. This Centre is an attempt to repay that debt by making available the resources of Anglican learning to any who will come and enjoy them.”

To mark the anniversary of the dedication, a special Eucharist will be celebrated at the Church of St Andrew by the Wardrobe in the City of London. The Celebrant will be the Archdeacon of London, assisted by the associate director of the Anglican Centre in Rome, the Revd Marcus Walker. The former governor of the centre, and current secretary, the Revd Barry Nichols, will preach.

Anglicans around the world are being asked to pray for the work of the centre on Sunday 29 May – which has been designated as an Anglican Communion Day of Prayer for the Anglican Centre in Rome. The date has been chosen as the Sunday nearest the feast-day of Saint Augustine of Canterbury.

A special choral evensong to mark the anniversary will be held in Westminster Abbey on Tuesday 14 June. The Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, will preach at the service.

And a two-day meeting will be held in Rome from Wednesday 5 and Thursday 6 October to mark the 50th anniversary of the opening of the Anglican Centre in Rome by Cardinal Willebrands. Details of the programme for that event will be released later.

News links to reports on faith, politics and education

Times

Report on case of Canadian law professor who has criticised the handling of her abuse claim against the CofE focusing on the treatment by the insurance company and contrasting it with Church statements on safeguarding. She made a formal complaint in 1999 about her abuse in the 1970s, and the priest, by then working abroad, resigned. She later took out an insurance claim against the diocese.

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/faith/article4716809.ece>

Ind

Reports on comments by BBC's head of religion, Aaqil Ahmed that Britain needs to address its "chronic lack of religious literacy" if it is to accommodate the rise through

new immigration of “more assertive” forms of Christianity with “conflicting views” on same-sex marriage and other human rights issues. Comments are made in advance of next week’s BBC1 documentary, *The Battle for Christianity*, examining significant changes in the Christian Church in Britain which will be presented by Presenter Robert Beckford, a theology professor at Canterbury Christ Church University.

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/bbc-head-of-religion-warns-of-chronic-lack-of-religious-literacy-in-the-uk-a6940041.html>

Tel

Report that David Cameron has dismissed calls to classify the jihadist attacks against Christians and other religious minorities in the Middle East as genocide. Article notes that the House of Lords is expected to vote on the question of genocide on Monday through an amendment to the Immigration Bill, tabled by the cross-bench peer Lord Alton, a vocal supporter of persecuted religious minorities.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/islamic-state/12198086/David-Cameron-no-need-to-reconsider-calling-slaughter-of-Christians-genocide.html>

Christian Today

Feature on Church leaders' social media presence following announcement yesterday that Pope Francis has joined instagram. Article notes that “with over 88,000 followers, the Archbishop of Canterbury (@JustinWelby) isn't in danger of catching the Pope up any time soon, but it is an impressive effort. Numbers aside, Welby actually seems a more adaptable and engaging user of Twitter than Pope Francis.”

Christian Today

Report on the Government's 'English Churches and Cathedrals Sustainability Review' , announced in the Budget to see if there is any way of making the buildings more financially sustainable. Article focuses on idea that remote rural churches could be turned into overnight hostels for walkers. The Church of England has welcomed the review and article includes quotes from Bishop of Worcester, John Inge and Sir Tony Baldry, Chair of the Building Council.

And finally ...

Horticultural Week

Report that a fixed date for Easter, is supported by growers and plant retailers, following a consultation by *Horticultural Week*. Article notes the Archbishop of Canterbury's support for a fixed date and quotes a spokesman for the Archbishop: "I don't think what the garden centres of England want is going to carry the day, with the best will in the world, and international [religious groups'] agreement is a tall order, but it looks like it has a fair wind at the moment."

<http://www.hortweek.com/garden-industry-eager-season-underway/retail/article/1387651>

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March 7

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