

## **The essential brief on the Irish churches**



### **Blood Swept Lands And Seas Of Red**

**The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge joined Prince Harry at the Tower of London to symbolically plant poppies to commemorate British and Commonwealth dead from the First World War.**

The three young Royals each planted a ceramic version of the red flower so synonymous with the conflict in a powerful and enormous art installation at the London landmark.

Blood Swept Lands And Seas Of Red, in the Tower's moat, currently consists of 120,000 poppies but more will be added over the coming months until there are 888,246 on Armistice Day, November 11, one for each British and Colonial death during the war. William was heard telling the artwork's creator Paul Cummins the piece was "spectacular" before they joined him to climb the Middle Tower to view the artwork from on high.

They then walked through the poppies before planting their own tribute to the war dead, accompanied by General Lord Dannatt, Constable of the Tower of London, and his wife Philippa.

Mr Cummins said he got the idea for the artwork from a “living will” he found in Derbyshire two years ago which had used the phrase that gave his installation its name.

“Each one represents someone who died in the First World War from Britain and the Dominions. I’m literally trying to represent people because a number is a number, but if you see it all like this it is a visual idea of how many people were there.”

Stage designer Tom Piper, who helped Mr Cummins make his vision a reality, said: “We also wanted to make sure it didn’t become regimented mass rows of poppies – there is an organic quality to it – so taking the line of the ‘seas of red’, a feeling of waves of movement so that some of the poppies are higher than others so

you can see them gently moving in the breeze ... just to give it a sort of energy, the energy of all those who lost their lives.”

## Connor youth's Take the Castle weekend

There is plenty to look forward to for young people thinking of signing up for Engage Connor Youth's Take the Castle



*A Solemn service was held in St Patrick's Church, Broughshane, on Sunday August 3 2014, the eve of the Centenary of the outbreak of WW1. Pictured are, from left: Hilary Boody, People's Churchwarden, Richard Reade, Vice-Lord Lieutenant for Co Antrim, the Rev Adrian Halligan, Curate, Mrs Audrey Wales MBE, Mayor of Ballymena, the Very Rev John Bond Dean of Connor, and Winston Byers Rector's Churchwarden.*

## **weekend in Castlewellaan from September 5–7.**

The weekend gets underway with registration from 7–8pm on the Friday evening, followed by games to help everyone get to know each other, worship, a late night walk around the lake if weather permits, or possibly an indoor treasure hunt if it is wet, a hot dog supper and, to finish the night off, a disco in the cellar!



Saturday kicks off with a morning of worship and teaching, followed by an afternoon of activities including a Knights and Jesters It's a Knockout in the Castle Grounds, a visit to the maze and maybe even a scavenger hunt. There will be more crazy games after dinner and evening worship before things calm down with Saturday night supper.

Sunday morning features worship and teaching, time for reflection before the chair of Engage Connor Youth, the Rev Peter Ferguson, sums up the weekend, reflects on the message of the event and looks forward to future events.

The teaching programme is as follows:

- Friday evening – The Enemy (Ephesians 6:10–12)
- Saturday morning – The Equipment (Ephesians 6:13–17)
- Saturday evening – The Energy (Ephesians 6:18–20)
- Sunday morning – The Encouragement (Ephesians 6:21–24)

The weekend takes place in the beautiful Castlewellaan Castle on the shores of Castlewellaan Lake in County Down.

## **Mediaeval churches, motorbikes and mission**

**The August edition of *The Church Review* is out now. In the latest copy of the diocesan magazine of Dublin and Glendalough readers can keep up to date with all that is going on throughout the dioceses.**

In his regular column, Canon Patrick Comerford writes about mediaeval churches and their centuries of witness to faith in the English midlands. This

month also, the Revd Andrew McCroskery writes of his visit to Swaziland with the United Society.

There are reports on the new ICON missional initiative in Dublin, Blessington pupils' time capsule and Cumann Gaelach na hEaglaise's visit to Áras an Uachtaráin and there is coverage of St Patrick's Cathedral's World War I exhibition.

There is news from both Christ Church Cathedral and St Patrick's Cathedral and there is a comprehensive roundup of events and information from parishes throughout the dioceses in the 'Around the Parishes' section.



## The Mission bikers - 5 days, 16 cathedrals to go

From August 1 to 10 the Revd Nigel Kirkpatrick, rector of [Gilnahirk](#) in Belfast, and the Revd Andrew McCroskery, rector of [St Bartholomew's](#) and Christ Church Leeson Park in Dublin, are making a motorbike run to every cathedral in the Church of Ireland in aid of the work of the United Society (formerly USPG) and in support of their work in Swaziland.

They would be delighted to see as many people as possible turn out to support their efforts. As they journey around each cathedral in this the 300th anniversary year of the United Society, Nigel and Andrew will join or lead a short service with prayers for the United Society and their work in Swaziland at each cathedral.

The remaining itinerary is as follows:

**6th August** 11am: St Finn Barre's Cathedral, Cork 2pm: St Colman's Cathedral, Cloyne 4.30pm: St Carthage's Cathedral, Lismore

**7th August** 11.15am: Holy Trinity, Waterford 3pm: St John's Cathedral, Cashel

**8th August** 10am: St Canice's Cathedral, Kilkenny 12 Midday: St Laserian's Cathedral, Old Leighlin 3.30pm: St Edan's Cathedral, Ferns

**9th August** 10am: St Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin 11am: Christ Church Cathedral Dublin 2pm: St Brigid's Cathedral, Kildare 5pm: St Patrick's Cathedral, Trim

**10th August** 11.30m: Down Cathedral, Downpatrick 3.30pm: St Ann's Cathedral, Belfast

## Presentation of leaving gifts in Whiterock

**The Rev Dr Chris Easton was presented with gifts from parishioners in St Columba's Whiterock as he prepares to move to the parishes of Armoy, Loughguile and Drumtallagh.**



Among the leaving gifts, Chris and his family received were two beautiful pictures. One a painting of St Columbas by local artist, Andrew Brown, and another of a Celtic Cross comprising all the names of those regularly involved in St Columbas.

Chris will be instituted as rector of the Armoy, Loughguile and Drumtallagh parishes on Tuesday August 12.

## Police question Bishop over two allegations of indecent assault

**The Bishop of Gloucester, Michael Perham, has been questioned by police over allegations of indecent assault on a girl under 18 and a woman.**

Ruth Gledhill writes in The Tablet - Bishop Perham, aged 66, who was due to retire later this year, was not arrested but interviewed under caution. A Metropolitan Police statement said: "Enquiries continue."

The alleged incidents concern a period of time between 1980 and 1981 when Perham was a curate at St Mary's Addington in Croydon, south London.

The Gloucester diocese, which in two previous statements made no reference to police enquiries, said today, Tuesday: "This is a police matter. We have no further comment to make."

A police spokesman said: "A 66-year-old man today attended a police station in Gloucestershire by appointment and was interviewed on suspicion of indecent assault of a child aged under 18 and indecent assault of a second female aged over 18."

The incidents are being investigated by officers from the Metropolitan Police Sexual Offences, Exploitation and Child Abuse Command.

Bishop Perham is from the Church of England's liberal catholic wing. He was a member of the Crown Nominations Commission that chose the latest Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby. His area of speciality is liturgy and he was a main influence over Common Worship, which succeeded the Alternative Service Book. A special service was due to take place in November to celebrate his ministry.

A previous Bishop of Gloucester, Peter Ball, is currently facing charges of misconduct in public office and of indecent assault on a boy and a young man.

## **Christian Aid Gives Qualified Welcome To MPs' New Report On Gaza & West Bank**

**Commenting on a new report by Parliament's International Development Committee about the UK's work in the occupied Palestinian territory, William Bell, Christian Aid's Advocacy Officer for the Palestinians and Israel, said:**

"The MPs' report is extremely welcome because it puts the Gaza conflict into its wider context – one which has been all too often neglected in recent weeks but which [must be understood and dealt with, if the violence is ever to be permanently halted.](#)"

He added: "It is disappointing that the report, while acknowledging the negative impact of settlements and Israeli policies in the OPT, does not

mention one important way in which the UK could contribute to ending Palestinian poverty and the conflict. That is by [banning the import to this country of produce produced in settlements on Palestinian territory](#).

“Settlements are illegal under international law, a major cause of poverty amongst Palestinians and an obstacle to peace.”

## **New map links cycle routes with Wales' sacred heritage**

**A new map of the National Cycle Network in Wales has been produced, identifying how 49 of Wales' most historic sites can be accessed on bike – as cycling increase in popularity for a family day out at the weekend or during the school holidays.**

The Sacred Trails map, produced by charity Sustrans with the Church in Wales and Cadw, the Welsh Government's historic environment service, provides four great rides linking some of Wales' most scenic sections of the National Cycle Network with some of the nations' most historic and sacred sites.

Promoting 49 sacred sites in Wales, the map allows people to plot a short day trip to take in multiple sites, or combine a more challenging multi-day ride with some Welsh history; meaning that Wales' rich cultural heritage and religious routes will be made available to all the family, alongside promoting some of the excellent National Cycle Network routes and Welsh countryside and coastline.

The leaflet maps out prominent sacred places along the National Cycle Network in Wales, including cathedrals, churches, chapels, shrines and holy wells, as well as prehistoric burial chambers and ancient carved crosses. There are also castles and monuments, each with their own story to tell and unique sense of peace and spirituality.

Bishop Wyn Evans, the Bishop of St Davids, said, “We are blessed in Wales with an incredible legacy of spiritual places, including fabulous cathedrals, which are free to visit. This trail gives visitors a full and unique picture of Wales, its heritage and culture and deep sense of spirituality. It also offers a real challenge for the intrepid to complete the whole route and perhaps raise money for good causes. We are delighted to have worked with Cadw and Sustrans on the project and to promote with them the opportunities Wales has to offer.”

John Griffiths, Minister for Culture and Sport, “By providing specific cycling trails we’re encouraging people to not only exercise and keep fit this summer, but to also visit some of the spectacular heritage sites Wales has to offer.

“By making physical and thematic links between places and sites we’re encouraging people to follow stories across Wales to learn more about their history, and combining this with a cycling trail to travel from one site to another improves the experience further. I encourage everyone – families, visitors and local communities – to take advantage of the new resources produced to explore Wales and learn about their history over the summer months.”

Jane Lorimer, National Director of Sustrans Cymru, said, “We hope this map will encourage more people from Wales and further afield to explore some of our great historical sites by bike.

“Cycle tourism brings money into the Welsh economy – and this initiative links two things that are great about Wales: our scenic cycle routes and our fabulous history.”

The map is free and will be available from Sustrans website and sacred locations across Wales.

## **C of I conduit to Gaza and Iraq**

**Bishops’ Appeal is acting as a conduit for funds being raised for the Anglican Diocese of Jerusalem. The Diocese runs the Al-Ahli hospital in Gaza which has been damaged whilst simultaneously being inundated with casualties and people seeking refuge in the hospital grounds.**

Donations will go towards medical supplies, fuel for generators, and basic supplies of food parcels and blankets. Archbishop Michael Jackson has encouraged support from members of the Dioceses of Dublin and Glendalough and Bishops’ Appeal welcomes individuals and parishes throughout Ireland to contribute.

Bishops’ Appeal is also acting as a conduit for any funds raised for those who have been displaced due to violence in Iraq. The number of people displaced now exceeds 1.2 million. Earlier this week Archbishop Richard Clarke issued a statement of prayer for those who are being persecuted. Funds will be



directed towards the Anglican Church in Baghdad which is providing refuge, medical assistance and food relief to many who have fled their homes.

Donations can be sent to Bishops' Appeal, Church of Ireland House, Church Avenue, Rathmines, Dublin 6. Lodgement details are on the website [www.bishopsappeal.ireland.anglican.org/donate](http://www.bishopsappeal.ireland.anglican.org/donate)

## **Gaza ceasefire: Chance to reach out to a population at breaking point**

**Christian Aid's partners in Gaza are using the 72-hour ceasefire to reach some of the hundreds of thousands of people affected by the conflict with life saving medicine, food and clean water.**

Four weeks of bombardment have displaced nearly a third of the population, who are now staying with relatives or living in schools, hospitals, or even on the streets. The level of need everywhere is massive.

William Bell, Christian Aid's Policy and Advocacy Officer for Israel and the Palestinians, said: "We fully welcome the ceasefire as it is critical to get immediate humanitarian aid to the people of Gaza. Christian Aid partners who have been aiding people throughout the fighting can now reach the most vulnerable communities who were inaccessible before.

"The talks in Cairo between Hamas and Israel must be turned into an opportunity to get a long-term ceasefire in place. There has to be a real end to the death and destruction of the last month and successful measures to make sure this never happens again."

Israel's attacks against Gaza's health services were unprecedented, leaving 35 medical facilities severely damaged including two clinics belonging to our partner Palestinian Medical Relief Society (PMRS). Despite this, the group has been reaching up to 8,000 people a day with emergency healthcare and treatment.

With the present ceasefire, PMRS can now move mobile clinics into previously inaccessible places. At least 9,000 people injured by the shelling are in desperate need of medical care, because the health service is on the brink of collapse.

In recent days, Gaza's only power plant was forced out of operation, with the lack of power hitting the sewage and water systems. Christian Aid partner the Agricultural Development Association is now starting to access areas that have been previously been cut off from any kind of support, hoping to reach some 30,000 people with fresh water.

Banks have been closed for a month so people have not had money to buy food, and fishermen have been unable to feed their families. Our partner the Woman's Affairs Centre will be supporting 200 female-headed households with vouchers for food and essential hygiene items.

And with the UN estimating that some 373,000 children are in need of psychosocial support and care as a result of what they have seen, Christian Aid partner Culture and Free Thought Association are looking to start providing vital psychological and social care to both women and children. Any child above the age of seven in Gaza has now lived through three major offensives.

Another partner, the Palestinian Centre for Human Rights, is continuing to document violations of international humanitarian law. It is operating in places where the bombings have been worst.

Azzam Al Saqqa, Christian Aid consultant in Gaza, today described the situation on the ground: "Today, when I look round my neighbourhood, I see civilian houses flattened, fishing boats destroyed. This used to be a beautiful place. Now it is rubble. I can smell the gunpowder.

"Paramedics are starting to pull bodies out of the rubble. There is so much work to do. People really need this ceasefire so that they can meet their survival needs and live in dignity."

The UN has reported that as of Sunday at least 1,312 Palestinians civilians, including 403 children, have been killed in Gaza. Three civilians have also been killed in Israel as a result of indiscriminate rocket fire from the Strip.

Christian Aid is deeply concerned for the security of both Israeli and Palestinian civilians and condemns all violence against civilians without exception.

**To find out more about our appeal or to donate please visit the Christian Aid website at [www.christianaid.org.uk](http://www.christianaid.org.uk) or visit the appeal page here. Text HELP to 70007 to give £5.**

## **Press Review**

### **Times/Mirror/BBC/Mail/Ind/Guard/Tel**

Reports that Scotland Yard has confirmed that a 66-year-old man - which news outlets have named as the Bishop of Gloucester, Michael Perham -

attended a police station in Gloucestershire yesterday by appointment and was interviewed on suspicion of indecent assault of a child aged under 18 and indecent assault of a second female aged over 18. The alleged incidents are said to have occurred between 1980 and 1981. He was not arrested. All reports state that last week Bishop Michael stepped aside from ministry for personal reasons.

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/uk/crime/article4167946.ece>

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/law-and-order/11014357/Bishop-of-Gloucester-questioned-by-police-over-indecent-assault-allegations.html>

<http://www.mirror.co.uk/news/uk-news/bishop-gloucester-quizzed-over-alleged-3996484>

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-gloucestershire-28664990>

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/wires/pa/article-2717051/BISHOP-QUIZZED-OVER-SEX-ASSAULTS.html>

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/church-of-england-embroiled-in-another-alleged-child-abuse-scandal-after-bishop-of-gloucesters-shock-resignation-9650278.html>

<http://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2014/aug/05/bishop-gloucester-sexual-assault-detained-michael-perham>

## Mail

Article on how research into facial features found high cheek bones and eyebrows make people more trusted. Applying the findings to public figures, it states trusted individuals including newsreader Fiona Bruce and the Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby indeed have high cheekbones and eyebrows.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2717217/What-makes-trust-face-It-s-high-eyebrows-prominent-cheekbones.html#ixzz39aMmRGsW>

## BBC

Report that a 22-year-old man has appeared in court charged with rape and GBH. The man, from Bedfordshire, was charged after a woman was attacked in the grounds of St Clements Church, in the Boscombe area of Bournemouth, at about 05:30 BST on Saturday.

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-dorset-28663736>

## Mail/Huff Post

Reports on a Doctor Who style service for couple Paul and Joanne Seymour who renewed their marriage vows at St Peter and St Paul's Church, Gravesend, Kent. They state they opted for a Doctor Who theme, with a Dalek as the best man, who was welcomed into the church by the Revd Graham Herbert. The Dalek then turned to the congregation and asked them

to show respect for the vicar.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2716874/Till-extermination-Doctor-Who-superfans-celebrate-30th-wedding-anniversary-renewing-vows-DALEK-presenting-ring.html#ixzz39aQMA4Rd>

[http://www.huffingtonpost.co.uk/2014/08/05/doctor-who-wedding\\_n\\_5650628.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.co.uk/2014/08/05/doctor-who-wedding_n_5650628.html)

### **Mail/Express**

Reports and photographs of the Queen at prayer in a local Scottish chapel as she remembered the war dead - including her mother's brother. They state the Queen arrived at 6.30pm for the 30-minute service and sat in quiet contemplation at her private chapel at Crathie.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2715955/Queen-Prince-Philip-commemorate-start-First-World-War-Crathie-Kirk-Sandringham.html#ixzz39aSbZ83k>

<http://www.express.co.uk/news/royal/495655/WW1-centenary-Queen-pays-her-respects>

### **Times**

Opinion article by Michael Burleigh on how God was enrolled in Europe's holy war and the role the church played in demonizing the enemy in the First World War.

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/opinion/columnists/article4167926.ece>

### **Mail**

Report that the head of the Church of Scotland has called for an end to the blockade of Gaza and the commitment of the international community to peace-building measures. Initial priority should be given to much-needed relief measures, the Church said. The Israel-Palestinian conflict in Gaza has claimed nearly 1,900 Palestinian lives, most of them civilians, and has left 67 Israelis dead, all but three of them soldiers.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/wires/pa/article-2716805/CHURCH-IN-PLEA-FOR-PEACE-IN-GAZA.html#ixzz39aReqHzT>

### **Letters**

#### **Ind**

Letter referring to clergyman, Jeremy Pemberton, who married his gay partner, says the Church of England should embrace single-sex marriage as an example of loving commitment, instead of enforcing a dogmatic, unloving view of Christian ethics.

<http://www.independent.co.uk/voices/letters/letters-focus-on-the-catastrophes-of-2014-9650219.html>

## **Blogs**

**Brother Ivo:** We should honour the simple values of ordinary soldiers

<http://brotherivo.com/blog/2014/08/04/we-should-honour-the-simple-values-of-ordinary-soldiers/>

**Archbishop Cranmer:** Warsi resigns over "morally indefensible" Gaza policy

<http://archbishop-cranmer.blogspot.co.uk/2014/08/warsi-resigns-over-morally-indefensible.html>

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