

## The State prayers controversy in the C of I



*Photo: Christian Aid*

### **This evil must stop: Archbishop of Canterbury on Iraq**

**The Archbishop of Canterbury yesterday met with leaders and representatives from Middle Eastern churches in the UK, and joined them in condemning the ongoing crisis in Iraq.**

Describing the discussion with his contemporaries as "the most powerfully moving experience," Archbishop Justin Welby began by offering his condolences to the family of Steven Sotloff – the journalist who was murdered by Islamic State militants in a video released yesterday.

"Our prayers and thoughts are with Steven Sotloff's family during this time, and with all his friends in the press who will be grieving," Welby said.

"We remember that he is both the latest, and most prominent recent victim, but also that he represents many who have suffered in that area who are forgotten day to day."

Reading from a joint statement, the Archbishop then denounced "the recent increase in violence and aggression [which] has resulted in gross violations of the fundamental rights and freedoms in the region.

"We gathered today as Christians, including those originally from the Middle East, to stand in solidarity and prayer with our brothers and sisters who seek to practise their faith and belief in lands where they have been a continuing presence for centuries," he continued.

He said the Middle East is the "birthplace of Christianity, and home to indigenous Christian communities that have been an indispensable part of its history" and added that the region is "in desperate danger of losing an irreplaceable part of its identity, heritage and culture."

The church leaders called upon Christians to pray for peace and reconciliation in Iraq, and committed to speaking "for freedom from persecution for Christians and all other religious communities and those of no faith who live as minority groups across the region.

"We also continue to urge Her Majesty's Government to work with the international community to safeguard and provide for those affected," the Archbishop concluded.



Asked whether he felt the plight of Iraqi Christians in particular had received enough media coverage, Welby responded: "When you're looking at the murder and the slaughter of vast numbers of people, there is never enough in terms of coverage.

"It's easy to forget that this is part of a global process of immense suffering, but I think in looking at the Middle East we hope that the media will not move on quickly, but will continue to remember those who are suffering so greatly."

With regards to granting asylum to those suffering from persecution, he insisted that "the last thing we want to do is empty the Middle East of Christians," and advocated for "the provision of safe havens and security to enable people to re-establish their communities and identity in the area.

"Christians have been there for longer than anyone else, which needs to be remembered," he added.

After leading those gathered in prayer, the Archbishop and his contemporaries then made their way to Westminster Abbey, where a multi-faith prayer vigil was held.

Members of various religions joined together in a unique show of solidarity, urging those gathered to raise their voices on behalf of persecuted communities.

Welby spoke once more, alongside Imam Ibrahim Mogra of the Muslim Council of Britain, Rabbi Laura Janner-Klausner of the Movement for Reform Judaism and Ayatollah Dr Sayyid Fadhil H Al-Milani.

"The stories are absolutely heartbreaking and heart-rending," the Archbishop said of those suffering in Iraq.

He praised the show of solidarity and commitment from those of all faiths in the face of the escalating violence. "It is vital that we are here today as people of many different religions," he said, commending the joint effort of Christian Aid, Islamic Relief and the World Jewish Relief.

"It speaks to the horror that what is happening has bought to all our hearts and minds...We have to stand against it there, and we have to stand against it here.

"We must stand against all culture of impunity, all culture of colluding with violence, and we must remember that we are all human...It is a moment for this to end. It must stop.

We must be deeply committed, because if it does not stop there, and in other places around the world such as northern Nigeria...it will continue to spread. It will require courage and time and determination to overcome this evil."

Imam Ibrahim Mogra, who also sits on the Christian/Muslim forum, said that interfaith encounter is not just about "talking over tea and biscuits," but "it is also about action, which is demonstrated here today."

"It is crucial that the humanitarian dimension should be given top priority to ease the plight of all those who are effected in Iraq, especially minority communities," Mogra added, noting that members of these marginalised groups are "fully-fledged Iraqis, who have lived there for centuries peacefully and securely under centuries of Muslim rule. That is the mark of a truly Islamic, just state."

"No-one's blood is redder than anyone else's," was Rabbi Laura Janner-Klausner's opening remark.

"As faith communities we will always stand together against tyranny, oppression and the violation of human rights, and we pray for all those suffering in Iraq," she said

"Our blood and our souls are the same."

## **It is time to say with one voice: this anti-Semitism is not acceptable**

**For the first time in the 350 years Jews are beginning to question whether they are valued as citizens and can securely think of Britain as their natural home**

Daily Yelegraph - The right to protest is treasured in all democracies. It is a right which should be fiercely protected from the sometimes malign forces of the powerful and the elite. It is a right to be nurtured and guarded by the passionate embrace of ordinary citizens, who are conscious of its affirming power.

But the protests I have seen in recent weeks over the conflict in Gaza between Israel and Hamas have filled me with dread. Banners attacking the



legitimacy of Israel, chants of accusation of massacre and genocide and flagrant abuse of Jews and Israelis, are not the stuff of acceptable protest but the actions of bigots



*The rise in anti-Semitism in Britain and Europe is alarming*

determined to demonise a democracy and its people. They have scant regard for the existential dilemmas Israelis face, nor the true nature of Hamas.

It is not acceptable to constantly single out Israel for unrestrained and uncritical condemnation without any acknowledgement of the disproportionate role that Israel has played amongst the Community of Nations in building a more prosperous and fairer world. Nor is it acceptable to march constantly against Israel while being silent on the horrors playing out in the Middle East and North Africa every day by purveyors of terror and evil.

It is not all of the protesters, nor even a majority. But the malignant minority are not upbraided for their behaviour nor are they criticised or in any way held to account.

It is not acceptable that the political discourse in this country allows a tragic and complex conflict to be reduced to the banality of domestic political infighting and a sordid grab for votes. Lord Prescott chose to lecture the Jewish people about not learning the lessons of the Holocaust? The Jews well understand the lessons of the Holocaust: that their faith in society to protect their rights and lives was catastrophically misplaced in wartime Europe, and that it is a mistake that will not be made again.

More at -

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/religion/11067645/It-is-time-to-say-with-one-voice-this-anti-Semitism-is-not-acceptable.html>

## Scottish independence: Moderator calls for respect on both sides

**The Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland has urged both sides in the referendum debate to treat each other with respect.**



*The Right Reverend John Chalmers said he has been "repelled" by the recent name-calling and rancour*

BBC - The Rt Reverend John Chalmers said

he was "disturbed" by increased aggression as the 18 September vote approached.

Mr Chalmers chairs a debate between Finance Secretary John Swinney and Advocate General Lord Wallace of Tankerness QC in Glasgow on Wednesday.

He said: "I fear something ugly may be beginning to permeate the debate."

Mr Swinney will outline the case for independence while Lord Wallace will back a "No" vote in the debate at St George's Tron Church.

Smirking 'highly unlikely'

Mr Chalmers said: "I have faith that, despite divergent views, most Scots are behaving courteously during the run-up to the referendum. However, it has become clear that some are not.

"I am delighted to be hosting a dialogue which is highly unlikely to feature aggression or smirking. The participants will be asked to listen to each other with respect.

"Like most, I am repelled by the name-calling and rancour we have seen in recent weeks. We need to behave as though we are paving the way for working together whatever the outcome."

The event, which is being streamed online, will run in conjunction with 10 other local debates at Church of Scotland venues across the country.

## **Scottish referendum: An appeal to the undecideds**

A Theos blog comment

<http://www.theosthinktank.co.uk/comment/2014/09/03/scottish-referendum-an-appeal-to-the-undecideds>

## **Richard Dawkins to speak in Belfast**

**Globally-renowned philosopher professor Richard Dawkins is to speak in Belfast next month.**



News Letter - Famed for his outspoken opposition to religious faith, he will take

part in two question-and-answer sessions on October 21, alongside physicist Lawrence Krauss.

Tickets for the first of the two shows sold out yesterday morning.

The Strand Arts Centre in east Belfast said the tickets ran out within around 12 minutes of the box office opening, and without any effort to publicise the event.

Organisers have now laid on a second session, and tickets for this will go on sale at 10.30am today.

The question-and-answer sessions will follow screenings of a film called 'The Unbelievers'.

It is described as following professors Dawkins and Krauss across the world whilst they deliver public speeches about the importance of science and reason, "encouraging others to cast off antiquated religious and politically motivated approaches toward important current issues".

Professor Dawkins – whose stridency led one Telegraph columnist to liken him to Rev Ian Paisley – has gained worldwide fame with his books including

The Blind Watchmaker, The God Delusion, and The Magic of Reality, and through his many broadcast appearances.

The film also features interviews with professor Stephen Hawking, as well as a raft of actors, comedy figures, and more.

For more details, see: [www.strandartscentre.com](http://www.strandartscentre.com)

<http://www.newsletter.co.uk/richard-dawkins-to-speak-in-belfast-1-6277707>



## **Lynda Bryans on healing from depression**

**The well-known television presenter Lynda Bryans will be speaking at the Monday evening healing service in St. Anne's Cathedral on Monday, September 29 at 8 pm.**

Her theme will be 'Healing from Depression'. Lynda will speak about her own healing from this illness and give good advice to any who are suffering from depression. Worship will be led by West Church Bangor Music Group. Personal prayer for healing and a blessing with oil will also be available.

## **Making History Talk in Enniskillen – Understanding World War 1**

**Two prominent speakers (Paul McFadden – former BBC Radio Foyle Morning News anchor & Prof Roddy Cowie – QUB Dept of Psychology – Retired) will be keynote speakers at this unique public event, designed to promote good relations and mutual understanding.**

The event is supported by Clogher Diocese (Church of Ireland), Enniskillen Methodists and Presbyterians as well as Co Fermanagh Grand Orange Lodge.

Making History Talk – Understanding World War 1 is the second in a series of public events designed to reflect on the decade of historic commemorations in a way that builds understanding.

The inspiration for 'Making History Talk' comes from a desire to deal with our history in a way that heals rather than wounds. It will promote understanding



of what was going on in the minds and hearts of each community at a crucial time in our history and build understanding of why each acted or reacted in the way they did.

This event has arisen out of dialogue that has taken place between the Church of Ireland diocese of Clogher, Enniskillen Methodists and Presbyterians and Co Fermanagh Grand Orange Lodge. Out of this dialogue has arisen a desire to hold a public event that will promote greater understanding and good relations in the community.

The organisers are keen that members from all parts of our community attend, to encourage mutual understanding.

Making History Talk – Understanding World War 1. Date: Tuesday 30th September 2014. Time: 7.30pm. Venue: The WV Suite, Westville Hotel, Enniskillen

## The State prayers controversy in the C of I

The ‘State Prayers’ controversy in the Church of Ireland, 1948-1950, is this month’s featured online archive at the RCB Library, Dublin, which is based on the papers of **Hugh Arthur Cornwallis [A.C.] Maude Esq (1904–1982)**

Some 66 years ago, in September 1948, the Irish government declared its intention of establishing Ireland as a republic, presenting the Church of Ireland with an interesting but awkward dilemma. For it was, as it remains today an all-Ireland church, and up until that point the *Book of Common Prayer* (in use for daily liturgies by parish churches and individuals throughout the island) included prayers for the ruling monarch and the royal family.



These prayers had not presented a problem when both Northern Ireland and the Irish Free State remained part of the British Commonwealth, but once that situation changed, the Church had to respond accordingly.

This month's online presentation by the RCB Library reveals the depths of the Church's deliberations on this issue, through the lens of one particularly active campaigner against any change: Hugh Arthur Cornwallis Maude, of Belgard Castle, Clondalkin, County Dublin, gentleman farmer and prominent layman. As a member of both the General Synod and diocesan council for Dublin, Kildare and Glendalough, Maude had access to the channels of authority affecting decision-making within the Church.

In 1948, Hugh Maude was 44 years old. He had been educated at Malvern College, was unmarried and lived with his mother in Belgard Castle, Clondalkin, a few miles south of Dublin, his father having died in 1935. Following in his father's footsteps, Hugh Maude became agent for a number of notable landowning families such as the earl of Arran. He was widely interested in agriculture, a breeder of pedigree cattle and even authored *The farm, a living organization* (Dundalk, 1943) - a series of lectures on agricultural matters. Maude had good social connections; his occupation ensured contact with many persons of note. His mother, Eva Emily Maude (died 1960) was the last surviving grand-daughter of the Most Revd Marcus Gervais Beresford, D.D. (1801-1906) archbishop of Armagh between 1862 and 1885.

Indeed, the papers that make up this collection were actually entrusted by him to the safe-keeping of the Rt Revd George Otto Simms, formerly archbishop of Dublin and Armagh, who in his retirement deposited them permanently in the RCB Library, and they provide a detailed insight to the thinking of a prominent lay member of the Church of Ireland during the 1940s and 1950s, and the crisis of identity faced by him and others during this unusual controversy.

The Archive of the Month presentation incorporates the work of Dr Miriam Moffitt, of St Patrick's College, Maynooth, who has scrutinised and brought to life the contents of Maude's collection which reveals in detail his 18-month unsuccessful campaign to save the prayer for the monarchy, culminating in a final definitive decision at the General Synod of 1950.

A link to her scholarly essay "The Correspondence of Hugh A.C. Maude Relating to the State Prayers Controversy of 1948-50" is included online, together with a list of Maude's papers and a detailed list of the correspondence with those who variously supported or opposed his efforts, in

the process. As she comments: 'The Maude papers contain examples of persons who were horrified at the distancing of southern Ireland from the Empire and the forced removal of the familiar prayers for the British monarch from the order of service, and also from those who were indifferent to the episode, and from yet more people who welcomed the political change'.

Speculating as to why Maude was so vehemently in favour of retaining the prayers for the British monarch and what motivated him to spearhead such a well-organised campaign she suggests 'imperial affinities' were 'strengthened by war-time casualties'. Maude was the third and only surviving son his two elder brothers (Marcus Beresford Maude and Maurice Anthony Maude) having been killed on active service with the British army in the Great War, aged 25 and 26 respectively. As well as the loss of his two older brothers, Maude lost a further 21 cousins in the service of the crown during the First and Second World Wars.

The online exhibition brings all of these issues to life, illustrated with carefully selected examples of the case both for and against the prayers, revealing some of the complexities of Church of Ireland identity at this critical juncture in the evolution of the modern state. See [www.ireland.anglican.org/library/archive](http://www.ireland.anglican.org/library/archive)

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## Press review

### Times/Tel/Guard/Sun/Huff Post

Reports that the Archbishop of Canterbury has compared Islamic State's persecution of Christians in the Middle East to the Holocaust and the reign of Genghis Khan, while the Prince of Wales has written a letter to Christians speaking of his heartbreak at their plight. They state that yesterday, during prayers with church leaders at Lambeth followed by an interfaith vigil at Westminster Abbey, Justin Welby said the attempts to drive out Christianity were the biggest assault on the faith "since the invasion of Genghis Khan", the Mongol leader who ransacked Baghdad in 1258. *Sun* says the Archbishop of Canterbury declared the time has now come to hit back hard on the battlefield, quoting him saying: "There are moments when military and intelligence experts can see they can make a difference".

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/faith/article4196024.ece>

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/middleeast/iraq/11073765/Prince-of-Wales-heartbroken-for-Christians-in-Iraq.html>

<http://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2014/sep/03/archbishop-of-canterbury-condemns-isis-persecution-christians>

<http://www.thesun.co.uk/sol/homepage/news/politics/5879902/Send-in-the-drones.html>

[http://www.huffingtonpost.co.uk/2014/09/03/archbishop-of-canterbury-joins-jewish-and-muslim-faith-leaders-to-declare-weareallhuman\\_n\\_5758568.html?utm\\_hp\\_ref=uk](http://www.huffingtonpost.co.uk/2014/09/03/archbishop-of-canterbury-joins-jewish-and-muslim-faith-leaders-to-declare-weareallhuman_n_5758568.html?utm_hp_ref=uk)

**Guard/BBC**

Report that the Church of Scotland's most senior cleric has expressed fears that "something ugly" is permeating the referendum campaign, as a new poll finds that voters believe the country will be divided after 18 September regardless of the outcome of the vote. It states the Right Rev John Chalmers, moderator of the General Assembly, said: "I am repelled by the name-calling and rancour we have seen in recent weeks. We need to behave as though we are paving the way for working together whatever the outcome.... I fear that something ugly may be beginning to permeate the independence debate." Polling for the Times on Wednesday morning found that 50% believed there would be remaining bitterness and division after a yes vote, while 55% expected similar consequences if the country were to vote against independence.

<http://www.theguardian.com/politics/2014/sep/03/scottish-independence-campaign-church-of-scotland-rancour>

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-29053258>

**Mail**

Report that thousands of refugees are fleeing northeast Nigeria into Cameroon, the U.N. refugee agency reported Wednesday, as extremists pursue a new strategy to hold land they are calling an "Islamic caliphate." It states hundreds of Cameroonians also are abandoning their homes since Nigerian Islamic extremists last week began attacking villages in the neighboring country. In one instance Boko Haram fighters slit the throats of three people found in a Catholic Church in the Cameroonian village of Assighassia, she said. That also is a new tactic for Boko Haram, which previously had only kidnapped Cameroon citizens for ransom.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/wires/ap/article-2742232/Thousands-flee-Islamic-attack-north-Nigeria-UN.html#ixzz3CJx7gL97>

**Times**

Report that the case of a suicidal rape victim shows need to reform Irish abortion laws. It mentions the story of a vulnerable teenager seeking asylum and highlights how abortion is all but impossible even for a suicidal person.

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/law/article4195654.ece>

**BBC**

Report that a pensioner has told an inquiry examining child abuse that he was physically and sexually abused as a young boy while in the care of the Presbyterian Church in Australia. His migration was part of a scheme between the Presbyterian Church in the UK and Australia. Speaking to the Historical Institutional Abuse (HIA) Inquiry via video link, he outlined his childhood. It states he is one of about 50 witnesses giving evidence from Australia.

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-northern-ireland-29048447>

**Blogs**

**Psephizo:** What kind of leader is Justin Welby

<http://www.psephizo.com/life-ministry/what-kind-of-leader-is-justin-welby/>

**Law and Religion:** Rights of way across churchyards: a request for assistance

<http://www.lawandreligionuk.com/2014/09/03/rights-of-way-across-churchyards-a-request-for-assistance/>



