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ST BRIDE'S CHURCH

JOURNALISTS' COMMEMORATIVE SERVICE

Facts Under Fire



Tuesday 10th November 2026 at 6:30pm

St Bride's Church
Fleet Street, London EC4

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Introduction

As consumers of news in a fast-changing world, we demand a great deal of our journalists, correspondents, photographers, sound-crew and camera-crew. We expect them to keep us informed and enlightened about difficult and complex situations in the trouble spots of the world, often at great personal risk, and sometimes, tragically, they pay the ultimate price.

So it is important that, as representatives of the media industry, we honour their memory in this service and remind ourselves of the sacrifice they make in order to bring us the truth.

We commemorate and support, too, the support staff – drivers, translators, fixers – who make it possible for them to carry out their work.

But we also come together in this spiritual home of the media – local, regional, national and international – to celebrate the industry, its people and its achievements.

Choir

Lord, who may dwell in your sanctuary?
Psalm 15. 1-3, 8; Setting: Matthew Morley (b. 1968)

Welcome & Opening Prayer

The Rector

Almighty Father,
in whose perfect realm
no sword is drawn but the sword of justice,
and no strength known but the strength of love:
guide and protect all who seek to bear witness
to the truth of your troubled world;
all who seek to give a voice to the voiceless,
and to tell stories that would otherwise remain untold.
We remember especially this day all members of this profession
who have died, or whose fate is unknown,
that you may bless their work,
and strengthen and sustain those who love them.
In Jesus' name we pray.

Amen.

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Hymn

Lead us, heavenly Father, lead us

Lead us, heavenly Father, lead us
o'er the world's tempestuous sea;
guard us, guide us, keep us, feed us,
for we have no help but thee;
yet possessing every blessing,
if our God our Father be.

Saviour, breathe forgiveness o'er us:
all our weakness thou dost know;
thou didst tread this earth before us,
thou didst feel its keenest woe;
lone and dreary, faint and weary,
through the desert thou didst go.

Spirit of our God, descending,
fill our hearts with heavenly joy,
love with every passion blending,
pleasure that can never cloy:
thus provided, pardoned, guided,
nothing can our peace destroy.

First Reading

Lamentations 3. 46-60
Read by Chris Evans,
Editor, The Daily Telegraph

Choir

Lord, I shall be verie busie this day
English text: Sir Jacob Astley (1579-1652)
Latin text: Dr Peter Jones (b. 1942)
Music: Stephen Barlow (b. 1954)

Lord, I shall be verie busie this day.	*Domine, hodie occupatis simus ero;*
I may forget Thee:	*licet ego tui,*
but doe not Thou forget me.	*ne, tu mei sis immemor.*

Sir Jacob Astley was a Royalist infantry commander in the English Civil War, and wrote this 'most excellent, pious, short and soldierly prayer' before the battle of Edgehill. The composer Stephen Barlow has set the English text to be sung by a bass soloist, with the Latin translation (by Latin scholar and author, Dr Peter Jones) sung by the choir.

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Second Reading

These are Facts – Ruthven Todd
Read by Caroline Wyatt,
Broadcaster, BBC News,
Member of Steering Group, On The Record

Ruthven Todd (1914-78) was a Scottish poet, artist and novelist, author of detective fiction written under the pseudonym R T Campbell, and editor of the works of William Blake. During World War II, he was a conscientious objector.

Choir

Days
Ray Davies (b. 1944); Arranged: Matthew Morley

Reflection

Bénédicte Paviot,
Chair, Reporters Without Borders UK Advisory Board,
UK Correspondent, France 24

Hymn

Be thou my vision

Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart,
be all else but naught to me, save that thou art;
be thou my best thought in the day and the night,
both waking and sleeping, thy presence my light.

Be thou my wisdom, be thou my true word,
be thou ever with me, and I with thee, Lord;
be thou my great Father, and I thy true son;
be thou in me dwelling, and I with thee one.

Be thou my breastplate, my sword for the fight;
be thou my whole armour, be thou my true might;
be thou my soul's shelter, be thou my strong tower:
O raise thou me heavenward, great Power of my power.

Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise:
be thou my inheritance now and always;
be thou and thou only the first in my heart;
O Sovereign of heaven, my treasure thou art.

High King of heaven, thou heaven's bright Sun,
O grant me its joys after vict'ry is won;
great Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
still be thou my vision, O Ruler of all.

Address

Mark Phillips,
Former Senior Foreign Correspondent, CBS News

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At least 56 journalists have been killed since mid-October 2025, according to Reporters Without Borders.

On the following three pages is a selection of journalists and staff who have been killed in the last twelve months.

This group has been chosen to reflect a range of regions and professional roles and is presented in no particular order.

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Saleh Aljafarawi



Ahmed Abu Mutair



Noel Bellen Samar



Kristian Zavala



Miguel Ángel Béltrán



Darwin Baque



Mahmoud Wadi



Jorge Zapeta Aguilar



Mitzar Bato Castillejos Tenazoa



Thierry Banga Lole



Carlos Leonardo Ramírez Castro



Mohammad Salah Qashta

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Alaa Mohammed



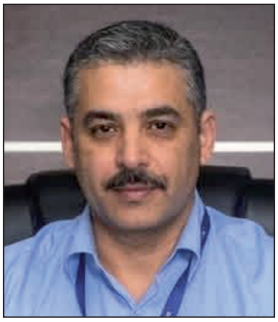
Amal Shemali



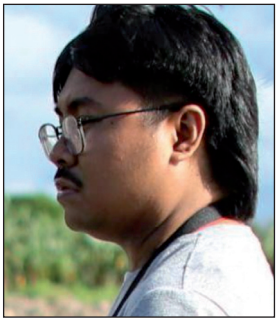
Abdelsamad al-Qadi



Fatima Ftouni



Marwan Harzallah



RJ Nichole Ledesma



Joe Nam



Amal Khalil



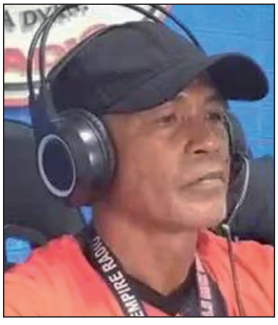
Carlos Humberto Cal Ical



Mateo Pérez Rueda



Aimable Karasira Uzaramba



Nestor Micator

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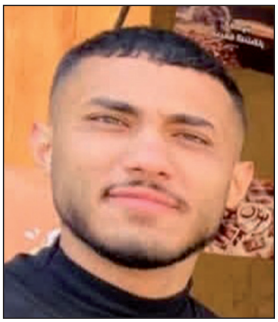
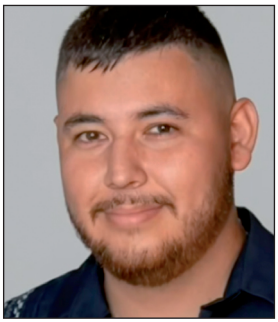


Fadi al-Meghari



Cristian Herrera Niño



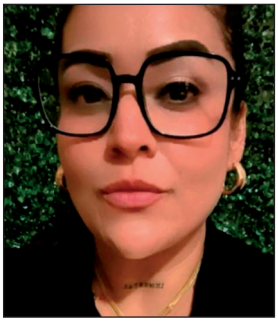
Luis Ángel López Valdez



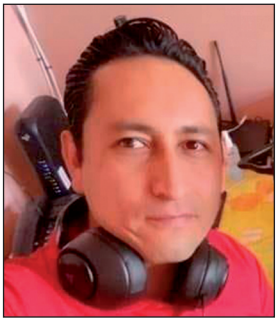
Mohammed Aydah



Manuel Alejandro Mora Serna



Roxana Berenice Guzmán Ramirez



Josué Martínez Contreras



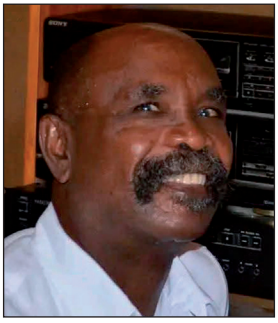
Francisco Alejandro Leyva Aguilar



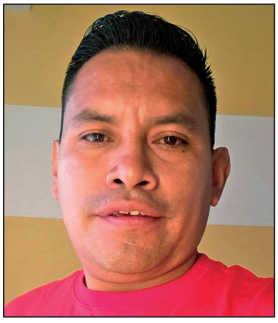
Ricardo Zúñiga Rosas



Bashir Mohamed Abdullahi



Joseph Willard Vancol



Evelio Lisandro López Sánchez

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Choir

Nunc dimittis
Gustav Holst (1874-1934)

Nunc dimittis servum tuum, Domine, secundum verbum tuum in pace:
Quia viderunt oculi mei salutare tuum,
Quod parasti ante faciem omnium populorum:
Lumen ad revelationem gentium, et gloriam plebis tuae Israel.

Gloria Patri, et Filio, et Spiritui Sancto:
Sicut erat in principio, et nunc, et semper, et in sæcula sæculorum. Amen.

Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace: according to thy word.
For mine eyes have seen: thy salvation,
Which thou hast prepared: before the face of all people;
To be a light to lighten the Gentiles: and to be the glory of thy people Israel.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son: and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be: world without end. Amen.

During which candles will be lit for those
- *who have lost their lives*
- *who are missing or held captive*
- *who continue to report at great risk*

Prayers

The Rector

Ending with

The Lord's Prayer

All: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name;
Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done; on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory,
for ever and ever.
Amen.

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Hymn

He who would valiant be

He who would valiant be
'gainst all disaster,
let him in constancy
follow the Master.
There's no discouragement
shall make him once relent
his first avowed intent
to be a pilgrim.

Who so beset him round
with dismal stories,
do but themselves confound -
his strength the more is.
No foes shall stay his might,
though he with giants fight:
he will make good his right
to be a pilgrim.

Since, Lord, thou dost defend
us with thy Spirit,
we know we at the end
shall life inherit.
Then fancies flee away!
I'll fear not what men say,
I'll labour night and day
to be a pilgrim.

Blessing

The Rector

Organ Voluntary

Elegy
George Thalben-Ball (1896-1987)

A retiring collection will be taken and shared between ***St Bride's Church****, the spiritual home of journalists throughout the world, and* ***Reporters Without Borders (RSF)****, the global organisation which defends the freedom, pluralism and independence of journalism*

There will be a reception after the service at the Humble Grape, 1 St Bride's Passage, London EC4Y 8EJ

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Our thanks go to a number of organisations who have helped to make this service possible:

News UK

dmg media

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Cover picture:
Journalists cover the "Operation Peace Spring" in Şanliurfa's Akçakale border near the site of Tell Abyad city of Syria on 10th October 2019.

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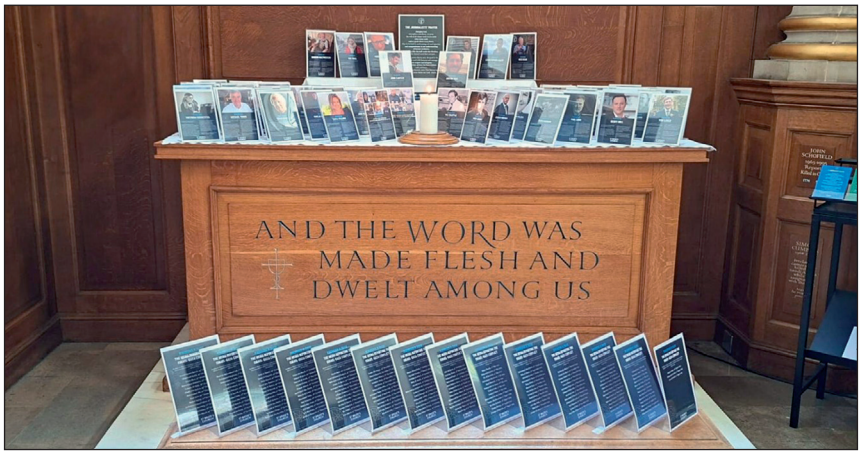

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