

# Religion & Peace

**Does religion cause conflict?**

**Is religion inherently violent, or peaceful?**

**How can religion contribute to peacemaking & peacebuilding?**

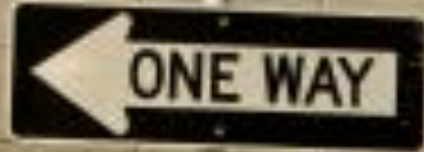


# What do we mean by Religion?

A system of beliefs?

A set of practices/rituals?

Part of community/culture?



# Perspectives on Religion & Conflict

- Religion Doesn't Matter – a proxy for other grievances, differences
- Religion is inherently violent – clash of civilizations (Huntington)
- Religious 'extremists' – a few 'bad apples'
- 'Ambivalence of the sacred' (Appleby)





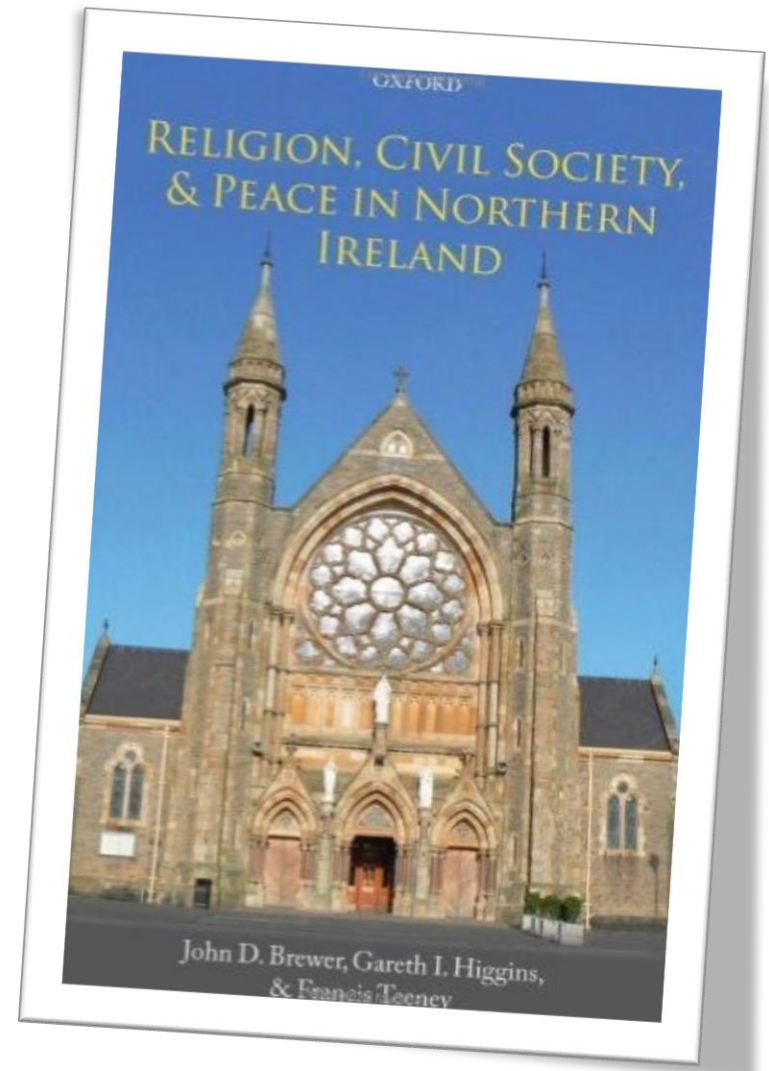
Peacemaking vs.  
Peacebuilding:

What's the Difference?

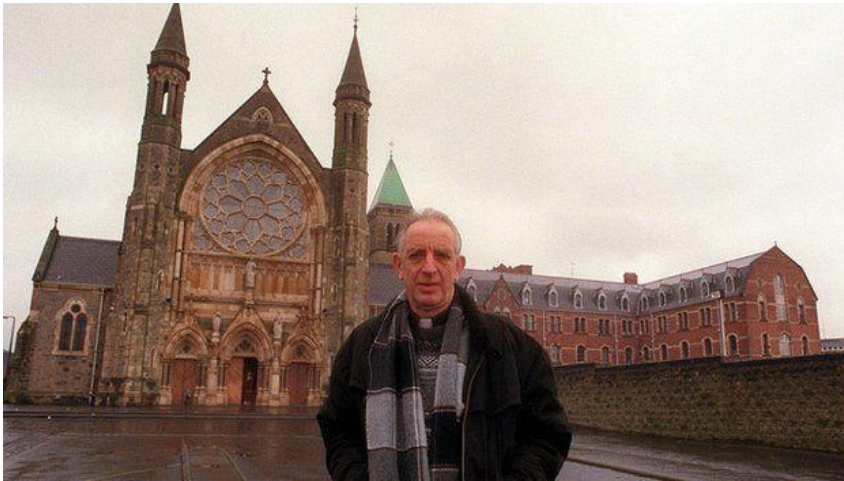


# John Brewer et al

Develops general theoretical ways of thinking about the role of religion in peacemaking & peacebuilding through a case study of Northern Ireland

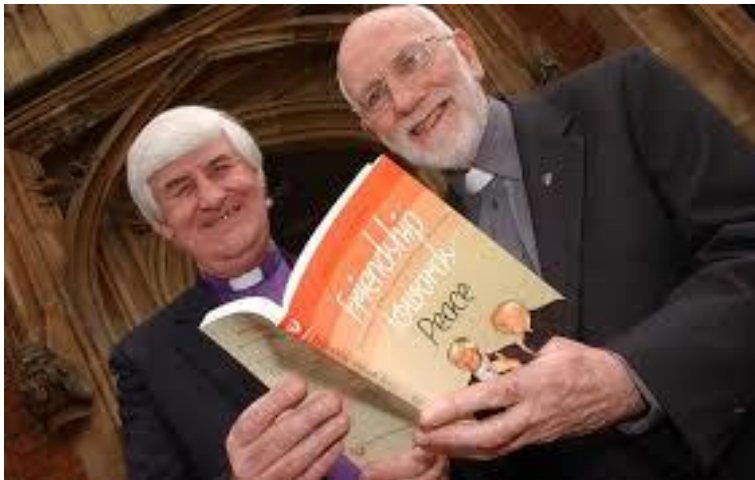


# The Political Peace Process



- Back channels of communication
- Effectiveness of sacred spaces ('exude redemption', p 106); safe, secure
- Ripple effect among politicians

# The Social Peace Process



- Larger role for religion in social peace processes
- Active vs. passive peacemaking
- Rooted in civil society
- Local vs. 'institutional' leaders



# Civil Society's Strategic Social Spaces

<b>Intellectual</b>  Ecumenism, anti-sectarianism	<b>Institutional</b>  Cross-community activities, peace initiatives
Market  Transitional justice work with prisoners and families, social gospel	Political  Mediation, backchannel political communication, formal political representation



# Example: Fr Alec Reid

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fA1X4kp4woQ> (34.20)

BBC documentary,  
*14 Days*

- As you watch the video:
  - Your immediate reactions?
  - How does Fr Reid embody political & social activism in this example?
  - What's distinctly Christian or religious about his peacemaking?
  - Are the distinctly Christian aspects significant?

# Gladys Ganiel

Building a Church Without Walls

Home

Events Calendar

About Me

About This Blog

My Books

Media

Archives

Contact me

Marathon Runner



## Peter Rollins: God is Undead – Lecture Review & Start of Fringe Festival Tonight with John Caputo

by Gladys Ganiel on April 14, 2015 in Atheism, Dealing with the Past, Ecumenism, Emerging Church, Evangelicalism, Morality, Post Modern Theology, Postmodern Theology, Secularisation, Social Justice, Sociology of Religion



Are we haunted by a god(s) we don't believe in? That was one of the fundamental questions raised by Peter Rollins in a lecture on Sunday afternoon, 'God is Undead: The Religion of New Atheism,' in the Seedhead Arts' Faculty Lecture series in the Black Box in Belfast. Rollins is probably best known around these [...]

## Catherwood Lecture in Public Theology on Thursday: Jenny Taylor on Religious Literacy & Post-Multicultural Possibilities

by Gladys Ganiel on April 13, 2015 in Churches & Institutions



Welcome to Building a Church Without Walls, a website for people who are excited about how Christianity is developing in the 21st Century. I am a Research Fellow in the [Institute for the Study of Conflict Transformation and Social Justice](#) at Queen's University Belfast. Check out the [Institute's Master's programme](#), which has a stream on Religion and Peacebuilding.



This is my personal site. All views are my own and are not representative of Queen's. I also write for the popular NI Politics site [Sluggie O'Toole](#).

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For more information visit my blog at: [gladysganiel.com](http://gladysganiel.com)

Contemporary Christianity's annual Catherwood Lecture in Public Theology will take place Thursday 16 April at 8 pm (7.30 for tea and coffee) at the Agape Centre, 238 Lisburn Road in Belfast. Dr Jenny Taylor, a cultural analyst, journalist, author and founder of Lapido Media, a consultancy specialising in religious literacy in world affairs, will speak [...]

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### Church Without Walls Calendar

Today	Thursday, 16 April
Thursday, 16 April	20:00 Catherwood Lecture: Jenny Tay
Saturday, 18 April	10:00 Repitching the Tent

## Fr Martin Magill's Ecumenical Tithing: Shankill Gospel Hall



STUDY OF  
FORMATION

