Assistant to St Teresa of Calcutta dies after alleged Swansea attack

A charity worker who was an assistant to St Teresa of Calcutta has died from injuries sustained after he was allegedly attacked in Swansea city centre.

Mark Bloomfield, 54, was found injured in High Street in Swansea city centre on Thursday 18th July and taken to hospital. He suffered an incident which led to one man being charged with causing grievous bodily harm.

Last week the family of Mr Bloomfield, originally from Stratford Upon Avon, paid tribute to his charity work across the world, which included working for famous nun and mission- ary St Teresa of Calcutta, also known as Mother Teresa, in India.

The tribute said: ‘Mark Bloomfield built a legacy that will continue to live on in the countless lives that he enhanced.

As special assistant to Mother Teresa in Calcutta, he was an essential con- tributor to her mission and to those she cared for.

In India, he organised free cataract surgery camps and founded schools that gave rare access to education for girls. In Africa, he helped preserve the environment by introducing afforestation to combat the onslaught of poachers.

‘He will be remembered for all of this and more by his mother and three siblings.’

The family said Mr Bloomfield, who died in hospital on Saturday 20th July, would continue to have an impact on others’ lives as a registered organ donor.

South Wales Police are investigating the incident linked to his death at the New Moon pub on Swansea’s High Street on Thursday 18th June at around 3.30am, and are appealing to the public for more information.

Colin Thomas Payne, 61, from Swansea, is currently remanded in custody having been charged with causing grievous bodily harm.

A 21-year-old man and a 50-year-old woman were both arrested in con- connection with the matter and are cur- rently released under investigation.

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Detective Chief Inspector Darren George said: ‘My sincere condolences are passed to Mr Bloomfield’s family, after he sadly passed away as a result of his injuries.

‘A major incident room has been set up at Cockett Police Station and I am keen to hear from anyone who was inside the Full Moon Public House on High Street, Swansea, between 11.30am and 3.15pm on Thursday 18th July, and who may have witnessed an altercation taking place.

‘I am also keen to hear from anyone who was on High Street later in the day, between 2pm and 3.15pm, who may have witnessed an incident out- side the Full Moon Public House.

‘Anyone with dashcam, mobile phone or CCTV footage from High Street, between 1pm and 3.15pm, is also urged to contact us.

‘No matter how insignificant your information or content may seem, please do come forward as it could make all the difference to the investi- gation and to the victim’s family.’

Christian Peace Organisations network in call for global peace

Nick Benson
Pax Christi – the international Catholic movement for peace – has urged Boris Johnson to prioritise peace.

The call comes as members of the Network of Christian Peace Organisations, including Pax Christi, have written an open letter urging the new government to work to ensure a peaceful resolution to the current tensions with Iran, as well as seeking security throughout the United Kingdom as Brexit discussions continue.

Theresa Alessandri, director of Pax Christi, noted that the movement has been following the process of the election of Boris Johnson as the new Tory leader and Prime Minister “with interest”.

“Our interest is in what his appointment can mean for the work of peace,” Ms Alessandri told The Catholic Uni- verse.

“Pax Christi is the movement for peace in the Catholic Church but much of our work is carried out in collaboration with faith-based and secular peace networks where we share common values of peace based on justice, reconciliation and nonvi- olence. The Network of Christian Peace Organisations is one such network. We also work internationally. Through Pax Christi International we have a voice at the United Nations, the African Union and the Council of Europe.

“We are aware of increased divisions, uncertainty and poverty here in the UK, alongside serious concern for the climate,” Ms Alessandri continued.

“Often our international relationships seem to have been characterised by violence or threats of violence. The risk of nuclear weapon use is reported by the UN to have increased to the highest level for generations.

“As part of the Network of Christian Peace Organisations, Pax Christi has written to Boris Johnson inviting him to prioritise peace from the beginning of his time of leadership.

“The principles of justice, recon- ciliation and nonviolence seem more fitting than ever.

“The letter, co-ordinated by the Fel- lowship of Reconciliation, calls on Mr Johnson to ‘prioritise the work of authen- tic peace.

“In the letter the groups warn the new Prime Minister that ‘communities are being fragmented by financial hardship and political uncertainty’. They also point out that as Iran continues to hold a British oil tanker in the heart of any plan for our country’s future must be a commitment to pro- tect all of us from poverty.”

Protect us from poverty, PM urged

Nick Benson
Boris Johnson has been urged to prot- ect all of society from poverty and end the five-week wait for Universal Credit.

The Trussell Trust, which supports a nationwide network of food banks across the UK, has called on the new Prime Minister to commit to his prom- ise of putting the poorest first.

“During the leadership campaign Boris Johnson told us ‘the poorest come first’. As our Prime Minister, he now has an opportunity to put those words into action and create a new vision for our country – one that un- locks people from poverty and protects us all from needing a food bank,” said Emma Revie, the Trust’s chief executive.

“In particular, we need Universal Credit to be the poverty-fighting reform that was intended,” said Ms Re- vie. “The most urgent problem to ad- dress is the five-week wait for Universal Credit. More and more people are be- ing pushed to the doors of food banks while waiting for a first payment.

“Our new Prime Minister can change this by ending the wait. At the heart of any plan for our country’s future must be a commitment to pro- tect all of us from poverty.”