



This image of baptisms in India has been chosen as the cover illustration of “Intentional Discipleship and Disciple-Making – An Anglican Guide for Christian Life and Formation,” a major new report from the Anglican Communion. See this issue CNI.

Irish Methodist leader to meet Pope Francis next week

Irish Methodist laywoman Gillian Kingston who is Vice-President of the World Methodist Council will meet Pope Francis next Thursday.

Pope Francis will meet senior Methodist representatives from around the world who are taking part in the series of events to mark the opening of the new Methodist Ecumenical Office in Rome (MEOR).

Attendees at the events, taking place between April 5th and 7th, include representatives from the Vatican, the Church of England, the World Methodist Council, the United Methodist Church and the Methodist Church in Britain.

World Methodist Council President, Bishop Paulo Lockmann, Vice-President Gillian Kingston and General Secretary Bishop Ivan Abrahams, the Revd Gareth J Powell, Secretary of the Methodist Conference, other representatives from the Methodist Church in Britain, Deacon Alessandra Trotta President of the Methodist Churches in Italy, representatives of the European Methodist Council, the United Methodist Church and The Wesley (Rome) will be present.

A service of dedication and the opening of the centre at Ponte Sant` Angelo will be attended by

representatives of the Vatican, Archbishop David Moxon, the Director of the Anglican Centre and the representative of the Archbishop of Canterbury in Rome, members of the diplomatic corps and other churches in Rome.

Next Thursday the Methodist delegation will be received by Pope Francis in a private audience at the Vatican followed by a meeting with members of the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity (PCPCU).

The Revd Dr Tim Macquiban, Director of the Methodist Ecumenical Office in Rome, said: "We ask you to hold the ecumenical work of the office in your prayers at this important stage of its development.

"This initiative gives Methodists worldwide the opportunity to contribute in a continuing ecumenical dialogue, promoting ecumenical understanding through the likes of educational programmes."

Pope Francis' Apostolic Exhortation 'Amoris Laetitia' (The Joy of Love) to be published on 8 April

Pope Francis's apostolic exhortation based on the Synod on the Family will be released on Friday April 8, it was announced yesterday.

The Vatican said the exhortation will be called "Amoris Laetitia", which means the Joy of Love. The document will be presented by Cardinal Lorenzo Baldisseri, general secretary of the Synod of Bishops, and Cardinal Christoph Schönborn, Archbishop of Vienna.

The married couple Professor Francesco Miano, lecturer in moral philosophy at the University of Rome at Tor Vergata, and Professor Giuseppina De Simone in Miano, lecturer in philosophy at the Theological Faculty of Southern Italy in Naples, will also be present.

A simultaneous translation service will be available in Italian, English and Spanish. The Press Conference can be seen via live streaming (audio-video) [here](#) on the Vatican Player, Vatican Radio where it will subsequently remain available on demand.

Cardinal Pietro Parolin, the Vatican Secretary of State, said last year that the papal document "will be based on the conclusions of the synod, as is the tradition".

The Apostolic Exhortation is the conclusion of a two-year synod process discussing both the beauty and challenges of family life today.

The three-week Synod of the Family saw 270 bishops discuss Communion for divorcees and the civilly remarried as well as the Church's pastoral approach to gay Catholics.

Presbyterian Church to be represented at 1916 service

The Presbyterian Church in Ireland will be officially represented tomorrow (Sunday, 3rd April), at one of the main State events to mark the centenary of the 1916 Easter Rising - the unveiling of a Remembrance Wall in Glasnevin Cemetery, Dublin, which records the names of the men, women and children who lost their lives 100 years ago.

Four hundred and eighty-five people were killed during the Easter Rising and the vast majority of those are buried in Glasnevin Cemetery. The Remembrance Wall lists alphabetically the names of all civilians and members of the British Army, Dublin Metropolitan Police, Irish Citizen Army, Irish Volunteers and Royal Irish Constabulary, without rank or organisation, who



Very Rev. Dr. Trevor Morrow will represent the Presbyterian Church at Glasnevin ceremony tomorrow.

were killed as a result of the fighting a century ago.

The Church's last Moderator from the Republic of Ireland - and Minister Emeritus of Lucan

Presbyterian Church in County Dublin - the Very Rev. Dr. Trevor Morrow, has been asked to officially represent the Church. Dr. Morrow will be taking part in a Christian act of worship during the ceremony.

Speaking in advance of the ceremony, Dr. Morrow said, "We recognise the historic importance of what took place in Dublin 100 years ago; a seminal event in the history of the establishment of the Irish Republic and one that has shaped the political landscape and relationships in these islands ever since.

"Having held a major conference on the Easter Rising and Battle of the Somme centenaries earlier this year, given the significance of this centenary, it was agreed in principle that the Church should be represented at an appropriate event organised by the State to mark the occasion.

"Having been formally invited to participate, in what we consider to be a measured and reflective event where we will remember those who lost their lives, it was felt appropriate that we should take part."

Local school children will unveil the Remembrance Wall, while Acting Taoiseach,
churchnewsireland@gmail.com

Enda Kenny TD, will lay a wreath during the ceremony in memory of all who were killed.

Union's remembrance of Harry Nicholls, 'Protestant Rebel'

On 30th April 11:00 Impact Union will honour the memory of its founding President Harry Nicholls at a ceremony at St Patrick's Enniskerry, where he is buried. Harry Nicholls was the Assistant City Engineer for Dublin Corporation and a member of the parish of St Ann's Church Dawson Street. He was also one of the select group of Protestant rebels active in 1916. A Captain in the 4th Battalion Irish Volunteers, as a result of the confusion around the mobilisation he ended up joining with the Irish Citizen Army in the College of Surgeons garrison on St Stephen's Green. Imprisoned in Frongoch he devoted his energies on release to forming a national trade union of local government officers. The union he formed has grown today to become Impact, the largest trade union of public service workers in Ireland.

The ceremony will include a graveside prayer, followed by a short lecture on Harry Nicholls by Dr Martin Maguire. Refreshments will be served.

Major new report calls Anglicans to Intentional Discipleship and Disciple-Making

An Anglican Communion-wide season of intentional discipleship should not be created to address poor church attendance, or to counter the challenge faced by churches with high attendance and low commitment. Instead, it should be “a response to the biblical call to make disciples to honour and glorify God, as Christians live out their faith in everyday life as faithful followers of Jesus Christ, their Lord and Master,” a major new report published by the Anglican Communion says.

Addressing those problems would, however, be “by products” of any period of focused intentional discipleship, which would also have “the potential to catalyse renewal and transformation in the Anglican Communion,” the report says.

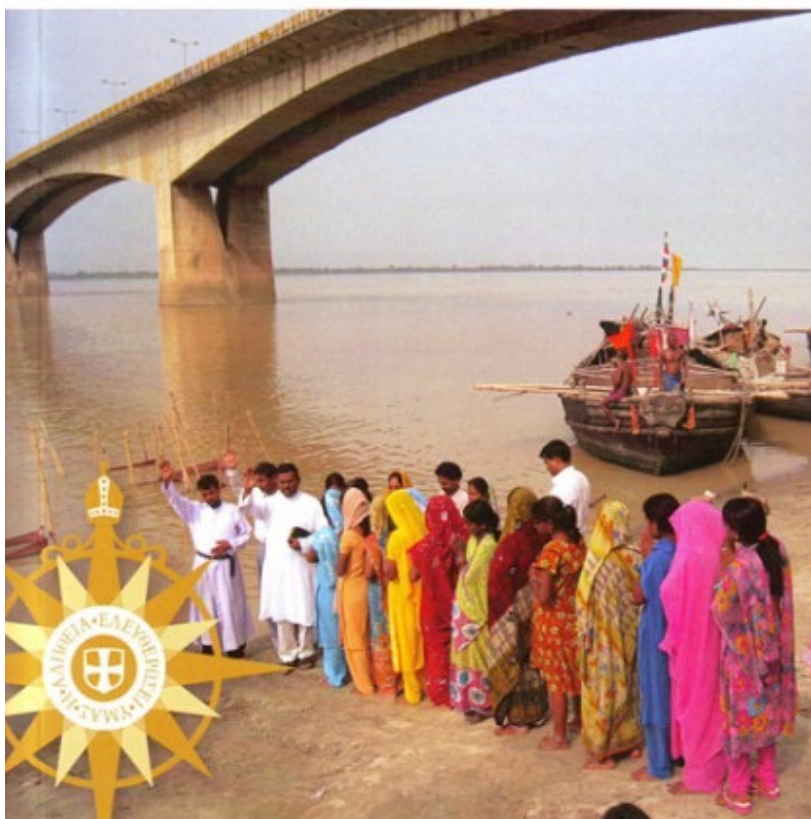
The report, *Intentional Discipleship and Disciple-Making - An Anglican Guide for Christian Life and Formation*, has been published for members of the Anglican Consultative Council as they prepare to meet in Lusaka next week. But, says

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To purchase or download copies of *Intentional Discipleship and Disciple-Making* – An Anglican

Guide for Christian Life and Formation see the links at the foot of this article

the Revd Canon John Kafwanka, the director for mission at the Anglican Communion Office, “this book is a text for everyone and should be accessible to the laity, ordinands, clergy, bishops, theologians and young people” throughout the Communion.

The 16th meeting of the Anglican Consultative Council (ACC-16) takes place in the Cathedral of the Holy Cross in Lusaka, Zambia, from Friday 8 April until Tuesday 19 April. ACC-16 will bring together lay and ordained representatives from across the Anglican Communion “to facilitate the co-operative work of the churches of the Anglican Communion, exchange information between the Provinces and churches, and help to co-ordinate common action.”

Its theme, “*Intentional Discipleship in a World of differences*”, was chosen by the Standing Committee after discussing a paper on discipleship which formed the basis of the new report, described by Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby as the “best document I have read on the subject.”

The report's introduction explains that a Church Growth Initiative (now known as [Anglican Witness: Evangelism and Church Growth Initiative of the Anglican Communion](#)) was established following concerns expressed by the Lambeth Conference in 2008 and subsequent discussions at ACC-14 in Jamaica in 2009. The initiative was created to "spearhead research, thinking, and action within the Communion" on mission and discipleship.

The Archbishop of South East Asia, the Most Revd Moon Hing, Bishop of West Malaysia, describes the biblical imperative to discipleship in the report's foreword: "'Follow me'. These two simple words of invitation and command stand at the head of every relationship with Jesus, the Son of God, whether spoken on a Galilean lake shore, on the streets of Lusaka, or in a hospital in Chicago," Archbishop Hing said. "Like every child responding to the outstretched hand of a parent, Simon and Andrew, Mary and Salome, and millions of Christians through two millennia have accepted that simple invitation in faith and often with minimal understanding of the life-transforming decision they have taken."

He describes a decision to follow Christ as "simply the most challenging, the most beautiful,

the most costly, the most rewarding journey we could ever choose to begin.”

The Archbishop goes on to explain that reconciliation “becomes a pressing priority” for Christians as they are drawn deeper into the body of Christ. “Humanity shares the brokenness and pain of our world, and this needs to be brought to God, to be offered at the Cross – to find reconciliation, wholeness, and life in the shattered life of God. As Paul reminds us, the heart of our discipleship is not only to ‘be reconciled’ with God but also to exercise a ‘ministry of reconciliation’ (2 Cor 5.11–21).

“That ministry is to be exercised within the Church, in the wider community, and in our relationship with the whole created order. In many ways this life of reconciliation is the most public aspect of our Christian discipleship and at the same time deeply enmeshed with our witness, or evangelism.

“As a Communion we are profoundly in need of reconciliation and we find ourselves in a world equally riven by fear, division, and brokenness. It is for this reason that, as never before, we need to accept Jesus’ invitation to an apostleship, a discipleship, of the whole of our lives. A narrow, pietistic attachment to Jesus, whether

individualistic or ecclesial, was never what God intended and will not serve us well today.

“Following Jesus will and must change every aspect of our being. At the core will be our reconciliation with God, but this can never be complete until we are at peace with ourselves, in vital communion with the whole Body of Christ, in a renewed relationship with the whole human family, and discovering a new harmony with creation as a whole. Wrestling with environmental issues, with peace-building and peace-keeping, with the complexities of human relationships, with truth, justice, and loving, and with the care of our family and ourselves –these are all key concerns for those who accept the invitation of Jesus to ‘follow’”.

Canon John Kafwanka described the report as “a key resource” for next month’s meeting of the ACC, but added that “the ACC members will bring their own diverse but rich experience on how their faith is lived out and expressed as Christ’s Ambassadors, how and what resources they have available in equipping themselves and their gathering communities in being the salt and light of world, and in proclaiming Christ as the Hope of the World in these challenging times.”

He added: “My earnest hope is that ACC members will have a passionate discussion on this important theme and point to some future direction of how a Communion committed on intentionally being disciples and making disciples of Jesus would do more in transforming communities with the love and the Gospel of Christ, and thereby bringing many more to love and follow Jesus Christ as his disciples.”

He said: “My hope and prayer is that, for some people, this book will be a challenging and welcome reminder to go back to the basics of where we should be a Body of Christ and as individual Christians, and for others the book will be an inspiration and important companion on their journey of discipleship, and to others to discover that this so commonly used term, discipleship, is in fact the bedrock of our existence as followers of Jesus.”

Explaining the use of the word “intentional” to describe a type of discipleship, he said that: “Anglicans / Episcopalians all over the world are witnessing to Christ’s reconciling love in all sorts of ways as a sign of their discipleship. But there is also a renewed realisation among many people that there is need to be more intentional

and invest in ways of resourcing and equipping ourselves and those who join as new members to be lifelong disciples of Jesus in every sphere of our daily life.”

He said that having a Christian faith should “make a difference in ways Christians relate to one another and to the environment around them, including the choices they make [as they] love the world and respond to the various challenges [they face].

“In sense, there is already a movement of Anglicans / Episcopalians – and other Christians for that matter – who are committed to Christian discipleship. This ‘emerging’ and growing movement among Anglicans / Episcopalians in many dioceses is coming out of a renewed appreciation that as Christians, we are here for an important purpose, to honour God and our Lord Jesus Christ by the way we live our life, as Christ’s Ambassadors; and that the need to focus on discipleship is the basic call to the Church and to all the baptised, and one which has the potential to make all the difference in a troubled but God’s world.

“So, I do pray that ACC will send out such rallying messages and call the Communion to intentional following and intentional equipping of all baptised Anglicans / Episcopalians to love Jesus and love the world. That is the ‘renewed discipleship movement’ I pray and hope for.

“This ACC has the potential to be a ‘springboard’ for a ‘discipleship movement’, which [Presiding] Bishop Michael Curry [of the Episcopal Church in America] often calls the Jesus Movement.”

- **The report, *Intentional Discipleship and Disciple-Making - An Anglican Guide for Christian Life and Formation*, can be purchased from the [Anglican Communion Shop](#) (available shortly), priced £6.50 GBP plus postage and packing; or [downloaded as a PDF](#) (148 pages) from the [ACC-16 webpage](#).**

News links to reports on faith, politics and education

Baroness Paisley: Republic's Easter Rising commemorations were 'done very well'

the Irish News

... the rebellion as "a violent act that killed many hundreds of Irish people" - instead attending a **Church of Ireland** event in the capital last month.

<http://www.irishnews.com/paywall/tsa/irishnews/irishnews/irishnews//news/easterrising/2016/04/01/news/baroness-paisley-republic-s-rising-commemorations-were-done-very-well--470435/content.html>

1916 leaders 'had no legitimacy', says Foster

Irish Independent

And Mrs Foster did attend a Church of Ireland event in Dublin last month to mark the centenary of the Rising, which included contributions from ...

<http://www.independent.ie/irish-news/1916/1916-leaders-had-no-legitimacy-says-foster-34589647.html>

A Dublin tale: Two cathedrals

Boston Irish Reporter

Saint Patrick's and Christ Church are located in Dublin 8, within a half mile of each other. Both belong to the **Church of Ireland**, dating back to the ...

<http://www.bostonirish.com/publishers-notes/dublin-tale-two-cathedrals>

Telegraph/Mail/BBC

Reports the case of a CofE vicar Stephen Crabtree, jailed for three years by Lincoln Crown after he admitted sex offences against a teenage girl in the early 1990s. The court heard evidence that Mr Crabtree confessed to the then Bishop of Grimsby in 2000 but was allowed to continue practising for more than a decade after the Church failed to pass on details to police. An apology

issued by the Bishop of Lincoln, Christopher Lowson is featured.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2016/03/31/minister-who-confessed-child-sex-offences-to-his-bishop-allowed/>

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3517369/Clergyman-jailed-three-years-repeated-appalling-sexual-abuse-15-year-old-girl-20-years-ago.html>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-lincolnshire-35933385>

BBC/Tel/Northern Echo

Reports that a £20m restoration project to improve York Minster has been completed following a topping out ceremony. The scheme, said to be one of the largest restoration projects of its kind in Europe, included work to restore the cathedral's 600-year-old East Front and Great East Window. The five-year project, also saw the building of a new exhibition in the underground chambers. A £10.5m grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund supported the project.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-york-north-yorkshire-35932732>

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2016/03/31/york-minster-restoration-the-largest-of-its-kind-in-europe/>

http://www.thenorthernecho.co.uk/news/14396331.Scaffolding_free

[York Minster revealed after mammoth conservation project/](#)

Times

Reports that Oxford undergraduates studying for a degree in theology will no longer have to complete a component on Christianity because of the need to

appeal to other faiths. The degree is being altered to reflect changes to culture and religious belief in British society.

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/oxford-students-released-from-christian-burden-6m5gplmqm>

BBC

Reports that the new mandatory National Living Wage has come into force, requiring employers to pay workers aged 25 and over at least £7.20 an hour. It is expected to give 1.3 million workers an immediate pay rise. Workers aged 21 to 24 will continue to be entitled to the National Minimum Wage of £6.70 an hour.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-35935677>

Christian Today

Article assesses just how and why religion is still so prevalent around the world. The Bishop of Leeds Nick Baines is quoted.

Comment

Guardian: Giles Fraser - The resurrection isn't an argument. It's the Christian word for defiance.

<http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/belief/2016/mar/31/the-resurrection-isnt-an-argument-its-the-christian-word-for-defiance>

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