



Canon Edgar Turner with his daughter at the launch of a book of essays marking his 90th birthday in 2010

Canon Edgar Turner

The death has occurred of Canon Edgar Turner who was one of the best known and most familiar clergy in the Church of Ireland.

He was particularly noted for his prodigious knowledge of the Church of Ireland's canon law and Constitution, on which his advice and opinions were still regularly sought from many quarters during his retirement from parochial ministry.

In 2010 a book of essays "Canon Turner at 90" edited by Dean John Mann, was published describing his ministry. The chapters include an account of Canon Turner's curacy at All Saints', Kings Heath, Birmingham, from 1945-1951 (and where, 60 years later, he was still well remembered); his work as dean of residence at Queen's University Belfast, 1951-1958; his 32 years as rector of St George's, High Street, Belfast; his 24 years as registrar of Connor Diocese (he still held the honorary title of principal registrar of Connor); and his work on numerous diocesan and national Church committees and boards.

Also included were chapters on his 50-years' work with the Liturgical Advisory Committee; his pioneering ecumenical work, including his involvement with the Northern Ireland Mixed

Marriage Association; and a chapter on possibly a little-known aspect of Canon Turner's interests: his life-long following of the Northern Ireland international football team - home and all over Europe.

There were two commendatory and largely anecdotal speeches, one from the Rt Revd Dr Samuel Poyntz, a former Bishop of Connor, and the other from Canon Lady Sheil, one of General Synod's lay honorary secretaries.

Bishop Poyntz spoke of his joy at being present on an occasion "saluting one of the leading priests of the Church of Ireland in the last one hundred years." He commended the book as "showing the many sides of a wonderful character ... a holy man of God ... [who] tried to do everything in worship and in life worthy of God".

The bishop also paid tribute to Joan Turner whom he described as "a wonderful helpmate to Edgar" and who, with him, demonstrated "the social witness and implications of the Gospel".

In her remarks, Lady Sheil outlined what she described as "the common threads in the book which form a portrait of the Edgar we know today". She was privileged to affirm a "devout and inspirational priest and pastor of complete

integrity [who had] made a mark in the spiritual life and worship of so many ... an example to all of us”.

In reply, Canon Turner confessed that the occasion was one of the few in his life when he was lost for words. He felt both “completely humiliated and abashed” by what had been said and written about him by people from so many different connections and interests in his life and “humbled” by them saying they were proud to be included in the circle of his friends.

He said he would “treasure the moment” and concluded by adding that, in his life - judging by the heartwarming friendship and goodwill present at the book launch - “I must have done something right”.

Canon Turner, an active supporter of the Northern Ireland Football team, travelled to Europe last year to support them. He also had a fascination with American grid iron.

Composers' Competition Charles Wood Festival

To mark the 150th anniversary, the sesquicentennial, of the birth of Charles Wood,

the Festival and Summer School named after him is offering a unique opportunity for composers: to have their work recorded, broadcast and performed by the Charles Wood Singers, under the direction of Dr. David Hill, one of the UK's finest choral directors.

Full details of the Composers' Competition, including entry forms, are now available on the Summer School website. The closing date for receipt of entries is Friday 8 July 2016. The winning work will be performed as an introit to BBC Radio 3's Choral Evensong on Wednesday 24 August 2016 by the Charles Wood Singers, directed by Dr David Hill. It will also be performed at the Charles Wood Festival's Gala Concert at 8pm on Friday 26 August 2016.

See: <http://www.charleswoodsummerschool.org/.../celebrating-wood-.../>

Was Paul a Lutheran?

On Thursday 14 April 2016, the Annual Theology Circle Lecture will be given in Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin by Revd Dr Kieran O'Mahony O.S.A.

The Circle has been studying St Paul this year, and looks forward to Kieran's presentation with its intriguing title, 'Was Paul a Lutheran?'. The Theology Circle invites all who are interested in learning more about Paul to 6.00 p.m. Evensong sung by the Cathedral Choir, light refreshments, and then Kieran's lecture.

Kieran is an Augustinian friar who has specialized in the study of the letters of Paul. He is the author of 'Pauline Persuasion' (2000) and 'Do We Still Need St Paul?' (2009). An ecumenical canon of St Patrick's Cathedral, he coordinates biblical studies in the R.C. Diocese of Dublin.

Irish Council of Churches graduate student internship

The Irish Council of Churches seeks to recruit a Graduate Student Intern to assist with effective administration in all aspects of the organisation and to explore an area of specific interest within the work of the churches together.

Job Title - Graduate Student Internship (Part-time 20 hours a week)

Location - Inter Church Centre, 48 Elmwood
Avenue, Belfast
Salary £19,930 pro rata
Responsible to ICC Administrator
Expected Term - Fixed Term Contract Late May
to End of September 2016
Interviews Weds 27th April

Background

The ICC states - We seek to develop and provide a voice for Ireland's churches to connect through a common belief in Christ. Our vision is to be a benchmark of unity in Christ for churches and communities globally. We run a wide variety of events and meetings to realise our vision and engage with people and partners from across the churches and throughout the whole island of Ireland. We seek a friendly and enthusiastic individual to provide study leave cover, setting our values of integrity, trust and respect at the heart of our administration.

“Together with the Irish Inter Church Meeting our members are the fifteen main Christian Churches in Ireland. We are one of the longest serving, established national ecumenical bodies in the world and have a proud track record of addressing issues of justice, peace, reconciliation

and integration as well as facilitating collaboration on key contemporary priorities.

“You will support the Administrator in ensuring the smooth running of all of our day to day activities. You will be a vital member of a small team providing key support to the General Secretary in our Belfast headquarters.

“You will also have an opportunity to gain a deeper understanding of the ecumenical structures in Ireland and explore an area of interest within the work of the churches in Ireland to complement your area of study”

Contact person - Karen Kelly, Irish Council of Churches, 48 Elmwood Avenue, Belfast BT9 6AZ
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Further information at -
<http://www.irishchurches.org/news/3910/graduate-student-internship>

Cork Renewal of Ordination vows and Commitment to Ministry

Clergy and lay church workers from Cork, Cloyne and Ross, gathered in St Fachtna's



Andrew Coleman (Christian Aid), Gillian Powell and Dorothy Beamish at the gathering of clergy and lay leaders

Cathedral, Rosscarbery, Co Cork with the Bishop, the Right Reverend Dr Paul Colton, on Maundy Thursday, for the annual Chrism Eucharist and the Renewal of Ordination vows and Commitment to Ministry. The Dean of Ross, the Very Reverend Christopher Peters, together with the Cathedral Chapter, was present, and afterwards he and the parishioners of Ross Union provided a wonderful lunch for the entire congregation in the narthex of the Cathedral.



March saw Spring Synods take place on the eight districts of the Methodist Church in Ireland. The ministerial trio in the photograph were snapped by the Rev William Newell at the North West Synod and shows (from left) the Rev Jo Sweeney who chaired his last Synod as NW District Superintendent before retirement; the Rev Alison Gallagher who was recommended for Ordination at Conference 2016; and the Rev Peter Murray who was elected as the new NW District Superintendent.

**Become “apostles of mercy”
towards those in need, Pope
Francis**

On Divine Mercy Sunday, Pope Francis appealed to the faithful to become “apostles of mercy” towards those in need.

In his homily at Mass in St Peter’s Square, the Pope reminded pilgrims that they were “called to become living writers of the Gospel, heralds of the Good News to all men and women today”.

“We do this by practicing the corporal and spiritual works of mercy, which are the hallmarks of the Christian life,” the Pope explained.

“By means of these simple yet powerful gestures, even when unseen, we can accompany the needy, bringing God’s tenderness and consolation.”

Pope Francis referred back to Sunday’s Gospel which recounts the episode in which the Apostle Thomas doubts the Resurrection until he puts his hand into Jesus’ side.

The scene denotes the contrast between the disciple’s “fear” as they hid behind closed doors, and the “mission” on which Jesus sends them “to proclaim the message of forgiveness,” the Pope said.

“Being apostles of mercy means touching and soothing the wounds that today afflict the bodies and souls of many of our brothers and sisters.”

“Curing these wounds, we profess Jesus, we make him present and alive; we allow others, who touch his mercy with their own hands, to recognise him as ‘Lord and God.’”

On Saturday, the Pontiff lead a prayer vigil for Divine Mercy, in which he spoke of the many faces of the mercy of God.

The prayer vigil coincided with the 11th anniversary of Pope St John Paul II’s death.

Pope Francis reflected on the ‘vast ocean’ that is the mercy of God, saying “so great and infinite is his mercy, to the point that it is greatly challenging to describe it in all its entirety”.

Turning to Scripture, he noted that the Bible expresses God’s mercy as nearness to His people and in the expression of tenderness, especially in the prophet Hosea.

The Pope went on to name the many faces of God’s mercy. “How many expressions there are of God’s mercy! This mercy comes to us as closeness and tenderness, and because of this,

comes also as compassion and solidarity, as consolation and forgiveness.”

News links to reports on faith, politics and education

Grimsby Telegraph/Lincolnshire Echo

Further coverage of an interview given by the former Bishop of Grimsby, David Rosedale, in which he says he was "disappointed" with police for not investigating a clergyman for child sex abuse 16 years ago. Last week Stephen Crabtree, was jailed for three years after admitting six counts of indecent assault on a 15-year-old victim in the 1990s. Bishop David said the matter was reported to Norfolk Police in 2000 but no action was taken.

<http://www.grimsbytelegraph.co.uk/Bishop-Grimsby-denies-disgraced-vicar-s-sex-abuse/story-29043731-detail/story.html>

<http://www.lincolnshireecho.co.uk/offered-way-forward-Bishop-knew-child-sex-attack/story-29042948-detail/story.html>

BBC

Reports that supporters of the Rt Revd George Bell have held a vigil in Chichester as they attempt to restore his reputation. The Diocese settled a civil claim made by a woman who said she was abused by the former Bishop of Chichester in the 1940s and 50s. His supporters say he was branded a paedophile on the strength of a single, uncorroborated allegation. But the Diocese of Chichester

said it found "no reason to doubt the veracity of the claim".

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-sussex-35954917>

BBC

Reports that ground penetrating radar is to be used to uncover the secrets of a 900-year-old abbey, where King Henry I and his Queen Adeliza were buried. It will be the first comprehensive archaeological investigation at Reading Abbey for more than 150 years. The Hidden Abbey Project aims to discover the significance of the site, founded by Henry in 1121.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-berkshire-35953776>

Comment

Independent: If it's a crime against people with disabilities, we don't care. Ian Birrell's article includes a passing reference to a "vicar's wife was convicted of stealing from an old man with learning difficulties."

<http://www.independent.co.uk/voices/if-its-crime-against-people-with-disabilities-we-dont-care-a6966776.html>

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