



Installation of ecumenical canons at Celebration of re-ordering of Downpatrick cathedral

To celebrate the completion of the work there will be a Service of Thanksgiving in Down Cathedral on Thursday 23 April at 8.00 pm.

At the service the installation will take place of of Revd Mark Harvey, rector of St Mary's Ballybeen as Prebendary of Dunsford together with two new ecumenical canons – Brother Eric Loisel



***Very Rev
Henry Hull,
Dean of
Down***

(Order of St Benedict) and Revd John Alderdice from Edgehill College.

These are the cathedral's first ever ecumenical canons.

Brother Eric is with the Holy Cross Monastery in Rostrevor and Revd Alderdice, formerly Methodist Chaplain at Queen's, is Director of Ministry at Edgehill Theological College, Belfast.

Expressing his delight at the appointment of the ecumenical canons to the Cathedral Chapter.

Dean of Down, The Very Revd Henry Hull, said: "Brother Eric's appointment represents the Cathedral's historic roots and special relationship with the Benedictine community in Rostrevor. He also has links with Downpatrick going back to the early 80s when he and Dom Mark Ephrem were part of a House of Prayer in the town.

“The appointment of Revd John Aldredice underscores our growing relationship with the Methodist Church and I look forward to welcoming them both to the cathedral as canons.”



Bishop Martin Drennan ordains two Irish deacons in Rome

Two students of the Pontifical Irish College in Rome, Reverend Stephen Duffy (38) from Ballybay, Co Monaghan, and Reverend Daniel Gallagher (25) from Bohermore in Galway city were on Easter Tuesday, ordained as deacons by Bishop Martin Drennan, Bishop of Galway, who travelled to Rome for this special occasion.

The liturgy was celebrated in the Church of San Silvestro in Capite, an 8th century minor basilica dedicated to Pope Sylvester I, which is under the care of the Irish Pallotine Fathers and is the titular church of Cardinal Desmond Connell, Archbishop Emeritus of Dublin, who is its cardinal priest.

In a moving ceremony, in which the new deacons were joined by over eighty family members and friends, Bishop Drennan reminded the two deacons that “at the heart of life is service. Every gift that God gives is not just for ourselves. It is for others, to be shared, and will bring most joy when it is shared.”

Bishop Drennan continued, “We need to name accurately what cripples. High on the list is an aggressive individualism that asserts *my* rights, *my* opinions, *my* beliefs and gives little space to inherited wisdom, tradition, and institutions.

Large swathes of our world have forgotten two basic lessons that we all need to learn: there *is* a God, and I am not He! It is our privilege to remind people of God.”

Focusing on the Gospel of the paralytic who was lowered through the roof into the presence of Jesus, Bishop Drennan said, “The more secular our world becomes the greater the difficulty it

has with the idea of forgiveness. Healed wounds don't hurt but the unhealed wounds certainly do and without the touch of God's mercy they continue to cause pain. Like those who laid the paralysed man before Jesus, we are called to find creative ways to bring people to Jesus, to make openings in places that shut people off from God, to identify accurately what paralyses, to bring it along and lay it before Jesus."

The two deacons will be ordained to the priesthood during the next year for service in their respective dioceses, Clogher and Galway.

Commenting after today's ordination Mass Monsignor Ciarán O'Carroll, Rector of the College, said, "Today, Easter Tuesday, the community of the Pontifical Irish College rejoices with Stephen and Daniel. We thank God for their particular vocation in life and accompany them with our prayers. I wish them every blessing and happiness in the exercise of their diaconal ministry. May they be given the grace to proclaim the Gospel in both word and deed. May they serve the people of God in their respective dioceses with love, courage, care and compassion. Inspired by the example of the Holy Father Pope Francis may they be true friends to the poor and the voice of the forgotten. May the Lord, who has begun such

good work in our deacons, bring it to completion.”

C of I ordinand on placement in Uganda

On Easter Monday, Danielle McCullagh headed for The Diocese of Madi West Nile, Arua, Uganda - for a 3 week student placement. Danielle is a first year Ordinand at the Church of Ireland Theological Institute in Dublin. Her three weeks in Arua will be spent working alongside Rev Alice Bayo (Diocesan women's Minister) and her team.

While packing up and preparing to go, Danielle had these inspiring words to share as she reflected upon the life of Moses: "During the past week I was reminded in an email from a friend, the value of going on a short term mission. I'm a homebird so this is way outside my comfort zone. Moses made the decision to pitch a tent outside his camp, a place dedicated to meeting God. It's my hope over these next few weeks that I will be able to pitch my tent in Uganda! I am there on a ministry placement, to gain experience in preaching, teaching, hospital/prison/school visiting and any other things that

come my way. I hope that in every single aspect of the trip, that Uganda will be a place where I meet with God, where I allow him to draw near and to teach me. I pray that this temporary relocation will allow me to re-evaluate, recalcuate and rededicate!"

Writing from Uganda, Danielle comments - "Well I've made it to Uganda and I'm writing this post from a gorgeous wee guest house not far from the airport. This will be short and sweet as I have to be up in about 5 hours for my flight to Arua.

"As the plane began it's descent into Entebbe tonight and touched down, in all honesty I had an overwhelming feeling of 'What on earth am I doing here? How am I going to cope'. I am not the adventurous type and I don't like going places on my own. I can hardly get a bus from Belfast to Dublin. I'm not that well experienced in ministry and I'm about to rock up to a cathedral to work for 3 weeks. I am unequipped and unprepared and I have no great gifts to offer to the people of Uganda. This might be the most ridiculous decision I have ever made. I've been reminded over the past 24 hours though, that God chooses to put treasure in clay jars. He uses ordinary everyday people to accomplish his puposes. When he does that, we truely know it is the work of God. I'm excited to be the

ordinary, unequipped, unskilled jar of clay if He is willing to let me carry his treasure to the people here."

"He has been so faithful in getting me here, I have no doubt He will continue to be faithful in the weeks ahead."

Danielle's placement has been arranged by CMSI - Church Missionary Society Ireland.

<http://www.cmsireland.org/>

Church in Wales Governing Body to discuss poverty

A motion calling for the Welsh Government to address poverty and the effects of recession will be put to church members at a key meeting next week.

Members of the Church in Wales' Governing Body will also be asked to affirm church initiatives to combat austerity, such as job clubs, food banks, night shelters and credit unions.

The Governing Body, made up of 144 clergy and lay people from across Wales, will meet at the Pavilion, Llandrindod Wells, on April 15-16. The



meeting will begin at 1.30pm with an address by the Archbishop of Wales, Dr Barry Morgan.

The six-part motion will follow a report on church action on poverty which will also outline the Churches' Mutual Credit Union, which was launched earlier this year, the Church's progress towards becoming a Fair Trade Province and its revised ethical investment policy.

The motion asks that the Governing Body “call upon the Welsh Government to do all that it can to minimise the impact of poverty, austerity and recession on the people of Wales”.

Also on the Governing Body agenda will be new ways for churches to engage with young people

and families – from “messy church” to summer camps.

Teenagers from a youth forum in St Asaph Diocese will give a presentation on their views of church life while a co-ordinator of Messy Church will describe that hugely successful initiative for young families. There will also be a presentation about a new form of ministry being developed in Bangor Diocese. Its four “Cyfmes” – full-time Children, Youth and Family Ministry Enables – will outline their ground-breaking ministry.

Other items on the agenda are:

- A progress report on the Church’s 2020 Vision strategy;
- A report on the representation of women in the Church;
- Group discussions on evangelism;
- A report on parochial fees, which includes a proposal for a new way of allocating fees for weddings, funerals and burials;
- A private member’s motion to review, with the aim of repealing, the retirement age of people in parish, deanery and diocesan lay offices.

BBC highlights church's award winning Scots gaelic speaking dementia project

The amazing work by staff at the Church of Scotland's Cameron House using Gaelic in helping residents with dementia was featured by BBC Scotland yesterday.

Native Gaelic speakers with dementia are being helped to remember their lives and early memories through conversations in their language with school children, at Cameron House, Inverness, run by CrossReach, the Church of Scotland's social care provider.

The project is helping older people living with dementia by breaking down language and generation barriers.

Residents are visited weekly by pupils from Bun Sgoil Ghaidhlig Inbhir Nis School.

The project aims to increase the well-being of the residents and to help the youngsters develop their Gaelic and social skills.



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Margaret Morrison, activities co-ordinator at Cameron House, said the conversations give the residents a 'sense of purpose.'

Speaking on today's BBC Scotland's Good Morning Scotland, <http://bbc.in/1CmIXYJ> (link available until May 7) said: 'The objectives of the project are primarily to enable our Gaelic speakers to converse in their native tongue and to enable the children to develop their language skills by using it conversationally.'

'It gives our service users a sense of purpose and usefulness by assisting the children with their language.'

Described as an 'excellent platform to break down prejudices and misunderstandings about dementia' the partnership between Cameron House and the primary school last year won the 'Best Innovation in Continuing Care' category at Scotland's Dementia Awards.

Scotland's Dementia Awards showcase the creativity, innovation and dedication of staff, which impacts the daily lives of people living with dementia and their families.

The awards show how, across Scotland, policy is being sustainably put into best shared practice.

Evangelicals, Catholics and Methodists join 60 other groups to oppose gay marriage in US Supreme Court

More than 60 groups have filed briefs against same-sex marriage to the US Supreme Court, with most of the opposition coming from



religious organisations and some Republican officials.

By comparison, more than 370 businesses and groups including employers such as Google have filed "friend-of-the-court" briefs in support of gay marriage. Many prominent Republicans have also filed briefs in support.

The hearing is scheduled for 28 April, to be followed by a ruling on the hotly-contested issue.

The US Conference of Catholic Bishops along with evangelical, Mormon, Baptist, Lutheran, Methodist and other religious organisations have warned that legalising same-sex marriage will

lead to serious future conflicts between Church and State.

The Billy Graham Evangelistic Association is among those organisations that have warned of threats to freedom of speech among traditional believers, and that people of faith face being marginalised if they continue to hold to their view that marriage is between a man and a woman.

Religion News Service listed 16 states led by Republican governors as among those calling for bans to be upheld, including Michigan, Ohio, Kentucky and Tennessee. In nine of these states, Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Idaho, Kansas, Montana, Oklahoma, Utah and West Virginia, bans on same-sex marriage have already been struck out by federal courts.

A further 18 states have submitted briefs to the Supreme Court opposing bans on same-sex marriage.

The case will result in a national ruling, compared to 2013, when the Supreme Court decreed that it was up to federal governments to grant benefits to married same-sex couples.



Hewson Memorial Organ Recitals 2015 at St Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin

St Patrick's Cathedral Dublin has announced details of the Hewson Memorial Organ Recitals 2015.

Heather Hewson, daughter of George Hewson and Mabel Home, a well-known Dublin actress, died in 1995. In her will she left a generous legacy to fund the George Hewson Memorial Recitals, directing that they be given by organists of international repute in memory of her father. To mark the twentieth anniversary of her passing the cathedral has organised an impressive line-up of some of the finest young organists from Ireland, the UK and Europe.

This year the recitals will be relayed to audiences on a big screen. The addition of the big screen, revealing the hitherto hidden performers and showing off the Cathedral's wonderful Father Wills organ, is an exciting innovation that will offer concertgoers an even richer experience of an already compelling line up of well known and accomplished performers.

Admission to the concerts is free and there will be a retiring collection.

The line up for this year's recitals is as follows:

Sunday 12 April at 8.00pm

DAVID LEIGH Saint Patrick's Cathedral

Harvey Grace · Fantasy Prelude Resurgam
Olivier Messiaen · Combat de la Mort et de la Vie
Ch M Widor · Symphonie Romane David
Leigh · Improvisation on Easter Themes

Sunday 19 April at 8.00pm

Robert Sharpe York Minster

J S Bach · Fantasia and Fugue in G minor
Edward Bairstow · Evening Song César Franck ·
Choral no.3 in A minor Ch M Widor · Andante
Sostenuto Francis Jackson · Toccata, Choral
and Fugue Piere Cochereau · Berceuse a la
memoire de Vierne Louis Vierne · Carillon de
Westminster

Sunday 26 April at 8.00pm

Andrew Dewar The American Cathedral in Paris

Max Reger · Phantasie und Fuge über BACH

Franz Liszt · Legende S.175 No. 2 Peter

Bannister · Morskie Oko Franz Liszt · Sonata
in B minor S. 178

Sunday 3 May at 8.00pm

David Adams Dublin

Richard Wagner · Tristan Prelude César

Franck · Choral no.2 in B minor César Franck ·

Pièce héroïque Robert Schumann · from 6

Studies, Op.,. 56, No. 2 Miloš Sokola · Bach

Dezso D'Antalfy · Sportive Fauns

Sunday 10 May at 8.00pm

Peter Barley Saint Mary's Cathedral Limerick

Felix Mendelssohn · War March of the Priests arr

Duncan/Gower Edward Elgar · Salut d'amour arr

C.J. Grey César Franck · Fantaisie in A

Edward Elgar · Chanson de matin arr Herbert

Brewer Carl Nielson · Commotio (Op 58)

Thursday 14 May at 6.30pm

David Leigh Saint Patrick's Cathedral

Olivier Messiaen · L'Ascension

[NB no recital on Sunday 17 May]

Sunday 24 May at 8.00pm

David Leigh Saint Patrick's Cathedral

Nicholas De Grigny · Hymnus Veni Creator

Olivier Messiaen · Messe de la Pentecôte

Maurice Duruflé · Prélude, Adagio et Choral Varié
sur le Veni creator David Leigh · Improvisation on
Whitsun Themes

Media Digest - Hot springs used to heat Bath Abbey

ITV

Report aired on news bulletins yesterday that survivor group MACSAS say 136 new abuse cases relating to the Church of England have been brought to their attention in the past six months with focus on one. Report includes video interview with Bishop Paul Butler, lead bishop on safeguarding who stresses that the Church's paramount concern is always for the survivors "and as with all institutions the current climate means that they are being encouraged to come forward. We welcome this and promise to listen and respond appropriately."

<http://www.itv.com/news/2015-04-07/dozens-of-historical-church-of-england-child-abuse-allegations-made/>

Eve Stand

Adrian Newman, Bishop of Stepney writes on "The Church is getting the young to mix religion and politics".

<http://www.standard.co.uk/comment/comment/adrian-newman-bishop-of-stepney-the-church-is-getting-the-young-to-mix-religion-and-politics-10159519.html?origin=internalSearch>

Tel

Comment headlined "It's time gay relationships were part of the school curriculum" following the NUT passing a motion this weekend asking the next government to make it compulsory to teach children about same-sex relationships. Includes comment from Andrea Williams of Christian Concern. (Previous reports in *Guardian* and *Mail* include CofE comment)

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/men/relationships/11519235/Its-time-gay-relationships-were-part-of-the-school-curriculum.html>

Times

Report that for more than 500 years Bath Abbey, a CofE church in the city centre, has been sitting virtually on top of a vast untapped energy resource - with every day about 1,173,000 litres of water from one of Britain's only hot springs pouring through a 1,800-year-old Roman drain into the River Avon. Article states engineers have

begun work to use the wasted water to heat the abbey and the adjacent Pump Room, - which is expected to save the Abbey at least £30,000 a year in heating oil. Report states the work is part of the £19.3 million Footprint Project funded with a contribution of £10 million from the Heritage Lottery Fund.

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/uk/article4404880.ece>

Exp

Report that the Revd David Robertson, who will soon take over as Moderator of the Free Church of Scotland, says there is no such thing as "secular" Islam and that "spineless" politicians are ignoring the rise of Islam in the UK.

<http://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/568999/Free-Church-minister-sounds-alarm-over-rise-of-Islam>

Star

Report that Israeli geologist Dr Arye Shimron claims the Talpiot tomb, where Jesus and the rest of his unknown family are said to have been buried, has been successfully linked to a chalk box from the time. Report states that Dr Shimron believes he has now proved that the tomb was the burial site for Jesus- as well as his wife and son. Dr Shimron and documentary maker Simcha Jacobovici, who helped unearth the big discovery state the research is scientific and not to do with religion.

<http://www.dailystar.co.uk/news/latest-news/435255/Jesus-tomb-Son-of-God-had-wife-and-son-shock-discovery>

Guard

Report that men in the UK are less likely to support a charitable cause or get involved in social action than women, [new research from the Charities Aid Foundation \(CAF\)](http://www.theguardian.com/voluntary-sector-network/2015/apr/07/more-women-support-charities-than-men-research-finds) has found.
<http://www.theguardian.com/voluntary-sector-network/2015/apr/07/more-women-support-charities-than-men-research-finds>

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