



Dean Morton (left) with Edward Montgomery, the Honourable the Irish Society at the Freedom of the London ceremony in London's Guildhall.

Freedom of London conferred on Dean of Derry

Very Rev Dr William Morton, from Derry, has been given Freedom of the City of London, marking yet another milestone in what's been a landmark year for the Church of Ireland Dean.

In May of this year, Dean Morton was elected to one of the most high-profile positions in the Church of Ireland, when he was appointed to Dean of St Patrick's Cathedral in Dublin, the national cathedral of the Church.

Born in 1956, Dean Morton attended Trinity College Dublin and was ordained a priest in 1989.

Having served at Drumchoose, Co Derry, and Conwal in Donegal, he became Dean of St Columb's Cathedral, Derry, in 1997.

Dean Morton has now had the Freedom of the City of London bestowed upon him at a ceremony held in the city's Guildhall..

Rev Dr Morton was nominated by Sir David Wootton, a former Lord Mayor of London and now Governor of the Honourable The Irish Society and by Roger Chadwick, the Deputy Governor.

The Freedom Parchment, along with the Rules of Conduct of Life was presented to Dean Morton in the Chamberlain's Court by Paul Double CVO, the Remembrancer of the City of London.

At a celebratory lunch afterwards, Rev Dr Morton paid tribute to the Governor, the Deputy Governor and all involved for their kindness and for the support they had and continued to show him.

“This is a tremendous privilege,” he said.

The Freedom of the City of London is believed to have begun in 1237 and enabled recipients to carry out their trade.

Today people are nominated for, or apply for, the Freedom as it offers them a link with the historic city of London and one of its ancient traditions.

Unfortunately, many of the so-called traditional privileges associated with the Freedom of the City no longer exist, meaning the Dean will be unable to drive sheep over London bridge should he ever wish to.

Vatican to issue new stamp for canonisation of Mother Teresa

In the run up to the canonisation of Mother Teresa of Kolkata on 4 September, the Vatican's Philatelic and Numismatic Office has unveiled a special postage stamp which it is releasing two



days before Pope Francis officially declares the Albanian nun a saint.

The philatelic office has said it will print and sell a maximum of 150,000 sheets of 10 stamps each.

A number of events are planned around the canonisation of the 'Saint of the Gutters' whose special charism was to help the poorest of the poor.

A "family feast" for the poor, a musical, Masses and prayer vigils will precede her canonisation,

according to programmes published by the Vatican and by the Missionaries of Charity.

The canonisation Mass will take place at 10.30am on 4 September.

Anglican mission agency's fresh look at work in Ireland and globally

The oldest Anglican mission agency on these islands is taking new steps forward in Ireland as the name of USPG returns in a new format.

For over 300 years, the USPG family of mission societies has been sharing God's love through practical action, and seeing lives transformed, working hand-in-hand with the culture and context of Church partners around the world.

At its annual conference this year, USPG agreed to a new emphasis on its historic branding and well-known initials. USPG now stands for United Society Partners in the Gospel. The new emphasis reflects USPG's commitment to working in partnership with the Anglican Churches on these islands and Churches throughout the world.

With an enhanced Church of Ireland presence on the Trustees and the Council of USPG, USPG Ireland is reshaping its work in Ireland to build on these new opportunities.

“This is an exciting new phase for USPG in Ireland,” said the Chair of USPG Ireland, the Right Revd John McDowell, Bishop of Clogher. “For over 300 years we have been sharing God’s love through practical action, and seeing lives transformed. Now USPG is taking a fresh look at its work and we are looking to new opportunities to develop these commitments.”

The work of USPG Ireland and USPG Northern Ireland is being integrated into the main work of USPG, and Bishop McDowell said this promises to deliver wider engagement in mission for partner dioceses and parishes in the Church of Ireland.

“Our programmes make a deep impact because they are run by local churches that are embedded in the communities they serve – communities that have often been overlooked,” he said.

Bishop McDowell paid warm tributes to Linda Chambers whose work with the society is coming

to an end after working with USPG Ireland since 2001.

“Linda has brought the work of USPG to every diocese in the Church of Ireland. She was frequently accompanied by her husband Jan, who shared her total commitment to the society’s work,” he said. “We wish to thank her especially for her pioneering work with the Anglican Church in Swaziland, the al-Ahli Hospital in Gaza, in India with the Dublin University Mission to Chota Nagpur, and in Zambia.”

Bishop McDowell also thanked the former board members of USPG Ireland and USPG Northern Ireland.

USPG was recently named by the Diocese of Europe as the mission agency to support its work with refugees in Greece and southern Europe. Meanwhile, USPG is producing new Harvest, Advent and Lenten resources, including a study guide on discipleship, entitled ‘Living an authentic life’.

As USPG restructures in Ireland, these resources are being made available to dioceses and parishes throughout the Church of Ireland.

C of I Children's Ministry training

A series of training sessions to equip leaders to be able to lift Bible stories off the page and into the hearts and minds of children's groups or all-age congregations.

Session 1 – Storytelling the Bible (open to all)

Bible storytelling is definitely back in fashion with its long and rich tradition that has so much to offer children and families in the 21st century. Drawing on Martyn Payne's 13 year experience of working with the Bible Reading Fellowship (BRF), this session will introduce a host of practical tools and techniques that will equip leaders to be able to lift Bible stories off the page and into the hearts and minds of children's groups or all-age congregations. Leaders will feel inspired and equipped for their own context, be it Sunday Clubs, services or other ministry among children.

Monday 12th September

7.30–9.30pm

War Memorial Hall, Rathfarnham Road,
Terenure, Dublin 6W (beside the rectory)

Wednesday 14th September

7.30–9.30pm



Belvoir Parish Church, Dunseverick Avenue,
Belfast

Thursday 15th September

7.30–9.30pm

Omagh Methodist Church Hall, beside St
Columba's Church Hall (Church of Ireland),
Church Street, Omagh (please park in the
Church of Ireland car park)

To book a place, contact:

churchnewsireland@gmail.com

Dublin. Revd Ruth O'Kelly, Rathfarnham Parish.

Tel: 086 0813126. Email:

revruthokelly@gmail.com

Belfast and Omagh. Peter Hamill / Claire

Geoghegan, Board of Education. Tel: 028 9082 8860

Email: edunorth@ireland.anglican.org

Session 2 – The Challenge of All–age Worship (for clergy and worship leaders)

A growing body of current research has affirmed the importance of intergenerational faith sharing and nurture within a church. In this session Martyn Payne will explore this thinking and the biblical rationale for the all–age approach, offering practical advice and sharing stories and ideas from his work with Messy Church team of the Bible Reading Fellowship (BRF).

Messy Church is an intergenerational, missional congregation of a church where the presence of children is welcomed alongside young adults, singles and grandparents. It is founded on the belief that, for faith to be caught and nurtured, the young need the old so that they can hear and learn from those with experience of what it means to trust God through all the circumstances of life; and the old need the young, who bring a

lively spirituality and eager sense of adventure when it comes to exploring the wonders of God's creation and what faith in Jesus means. Faith grown in this sort of all-age soil is much more likely to put down deep roots and produce lasting fruit.

Tuesday 13th September

10.30am–1.00pm

Church of Ireland Theological Institute, Braemor Park, Dublin

Wednesday 14th September

10.30am–1.00pm

St Patrick's Parish Hall, Jordanstown Road, Jordanstown

Friday 16th September

10.30am–1.00pm

St Columba's Parish Hall, Church Street, Omagh

To book a place, contact:

Dublin. Lydia Monds, Sunday School Society for Ireland. Tel: 01 4125 610. Email:

lydia.monds@rcbdub.org

Belfast and Omagh

Peter Hamill / Claire Geoghegan, Board of Education. Tel: 028 9082 8860. Email:

edunorth@ireland.anglican.org

All events are free. There will be a retiring collection for anyone who wishes to contribute. Please see [leaflet](#) for more information.

News briefs

+++ Down and Connor Diocesan Pilgrimage to World Youth Day Krakow 2016 -

On Friday 22 July 54 pilgrims from the Diocese of Down and Connor, under the direction of Pauline Dowd, Director of [Living Youth](#) and the chaplain Fr Andrew Black, began their journey towards the World Youth Day Celebrations in Krakow. The first leg of the pilgrimage began in Prague, where the group prayed for the intentions of the Diocese before the statue of the Infant of Prague and the relics of St Wenceslas in St Vitus Cathedral. The young pilgrims heard the experiences of Czech Catholics who maintained their faith despite, the extremely oppressive Communist regime and mixed with many other young pilgrims from different countries who were also making their way towards Krakow. Read more about the Diocesan Pilgrimage to Poland on the Down and Connor website <http://www.downandconnor.org/.../diocesan-pilgrimage-world-y.../>

+++ New Irish Arts album 10000 Reasons to sing is now released -

This project has been many months in the making and we are so excited to share it with you. New Irish say - It's the most contemporary album we have ever recorded, and we know it contains songs which many of you love. Altogether there are 15 fantastic tracks including featured guest soloists Stuart Townend, Paul Baloché and Aaron Keyes, as well as New Irish regulars Sylvia Burnside and Vicki Schmidt. We know you're dying to get your hands on it and have a listen so here are 4 great ways to do that:

1. Go to newirisharts.com/shop to order your copy now from us, delivered direct to your door.
2. Come to New Horizon this weekend in Coleraine, where we'll be leading worship - and buy it on the bookstall.
3. Download right away from iTunes, Google Play or Amazon. Just search "10000 reasons to sing"
4. Visit your local Christian bookshop who should now have it in stock.

+++ Australian deans shocked at church abuse revelations -

The deans of Australia's cathedrals have expressed grief at hurt and trauma caused by clergy and church workers after hearing reports about the country's Royal

Commission on Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse and the newly established Royal Commission into the Child Protection and Youth Detention Systems of the Northern Territory. The deans had gathered at St James' Cathedral in Townsville, North Queensland, for their annual conference. In a statement, issued at the end of their gathering, the deans strongly condemned any form of abuse. The statement said that the deans – the senior clergy person in charge of a cathedral – had “reported on safeguarding measures in their own cathedrals, affirmed the importance of public acknowledgement and repentance for past wrongs, and the need for transparency and openness of conversation to enable a process of healing and the prevention of future abuse.

+++ Carmelite nuns to stay in Syria - Carmelite nuns have chosen to remain in their convent in Syria in spite of continuous airstrikes from both Syrian and Russian forces. The women religious have appealed for help from Aid to the Church in Need (ACN). Sister Anne-Françoise of Aleppo's Discalced Carmelite Sisters told ACN: “the bombs are falling all around us, but we are not going to leave the people in their suffering”.

The Carmelite convent is situated on the outskirts of Aleppo, an area under constant siege. Sister Anne-Françoise explained: “When the Syrian army attempts to prevent the opposition and other groups from entering into the city, the bombing and shelling is really close to us”. The Sisters claim that many of the city’s citizens – including Christians – have left the city since the war began and only the very poorest remain. The nuns have taken in a number of families whose homes have been destroyed in airstrikes.

+++ UN urges truce to enable humanitarian assistance in Aleppo - With more than two million people impacted by the fighting in and around Aleppo, the United Nations has made an urgent call for a humanitarian pause in the hostilities to enable immediate access to repair the electricity and water networks, and provide assistance to people in need. With more than two million people impacted by the fighting in and around war-ravaged Aleppo, where wide swaths of the area are now without power and water supplies are dwindling, the United Nations yesterday (8 August 2016) urgently called for a humanitarian pause in the hostilities to enable immediate access to repair the electricity and

water networks, and provide assistance to people in need.

According to the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), an estimated 250,000 - 275,000 people have remained trapped in east Aleppo since early July following the closure of Castello road, the last remaining access route into the area. Since 6 August, Khanasser road, the main access route into west Aleppo has also been cut, bringing the total number of civilians living in de facto fear of besiegement to over two million.

+++ Church reliably in delivering projects in

Africa - The secretary general of the Anglican Communion, Dr Josiah Idowu-Fearon, has urged Anglican leaders in Africa not to “fall in line” with “socially progressive” views and programmes “which suggest that the Bible is wrong”. Speaking to members of the Council of African Provinces of Africa (CAPA) during their meeting in Rwanda, Dr Idowu-Fearon said that the Church “will not crumble or bow the knee to a godless secular culture that despises the Bible and what it teaches” and urged the Churches in Africa to remain focused on serving the people of the continent. He made his remarks in a wide-ranging address in which he praised the Anglican

Communion as “the one organisation throughout Africa which is trusted to deliver on projects.” He said that, after a year in his present role, he had come to appreciate the “important and central position” that Anglican churches in the “incredible, diverse, beautiful and challenging continent” of Africa “occupy on the world stage.”

News links to reports on faith, politics and education

A quiet reformer of church practice and a frustrated man of peace. Bishop Edward Daly remembered

<http://sluggerotoole.com/2016/08/08/a-quiet-reformer-of-church-practice-and-a-frustrated-man-of-peace-bishop-edward-daly-remembered/>

Paramilitaries 'cannot be community leaders' - John McBurney

BBC News

Paramilitary leaders cannot be 'brigadiers at night and community workers during the day', says one of the authors of a report into the groups.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-37020516>

Republican claims ‘Catholic judiciary will be dealt with’

churchnewsireland@gmail.com

News Letter

Catholics serving as judges and prosecutors in the Northern Ireland legal system are “traitors” who will be dealt with as “collaborators” once the English are removed, a leading republican has said.

<http://www.newsletter.co.uk/republican-claims-catholic-judiciary-will-be-dealt-with-1-7517705>

Teachers in charge of Ireland's special needs classes not always qualified

The Journal

They often feel ill-equipped to meet the needs of their students, a new ESRI report has found.

<http://www.thejournal.ie/special-needs-2916518-Aug2016/>

Church of England commends Creationtide resources

<https://www.churchofengland.org/media-centre/news/2016/08/church-of-england-commends-creationtide-resources.aspx>

Christian Today

Further coverage that the decline of Christianity in Britain could be coming to a halt, temporarily at least, according to new figures from this year's British Social Attitudes Survey (BSA). The figures, not yet released but reported in *Sunday Telegraph*, show that the overall proportion of Britons who describe themselves as Christian rose by one percentage point in the last year, from 42 per cent to 43 per cent. At the same time, "nones" - those who describe themselves as having no religion - fell from 49 per cent to 48 per cent.

Tel/BBC/Mirror/Premier/Mail/Yorks Post

Reports that two boys have been charged with robbery after a vicar was carjacked as she left a church service in Hull. The Revd Irene Wilson was leaving Holy Trinity church on Sunday when the robbery took place. The grandmother of four was "unhurt" but "very, very shaken", according to Canon Neil Barnes. The teenage boys denied a charge of robbery during an appearance before Hull and Holderness Youth Court.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2016/08/08/vicar-leaving-church-service-is-car-jacked-by-teenagers/>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-humber-37007940>

<http://www.mirror.co.uk/news/uk-news/female-vicar-car-jacked-two-8588322#ICID=nsm>

<http://www.premier.org.uk/News/UK/Teens-charged-after-female-vicar-car-jacked>

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3729307/Female-vicar-left-traumatised-car-jacked-Fiat-Sabia-two-teenagers-left-church-service.html>

<http://www.yorkshirepost.co.uk/news/crime/two-teens-held-after-vicar-is-carjacked-outside-her-hull-church-1-8056527>

Premier

Reports that the C of E's Environment Task Group has produced a new set of resources to encourage churches who want to teach about God's gift of creation to humanity (see above). The resources have been created by Canon Vicky Johnson from Ely Cathedral, enabling churches to celebrate the Creationtide season which begins next month. Nicholas Holtam, Bishop of Salisbury and the lead bishop on the environment, said,

"Celebrating Creationtide marks a shift in the Christian understanding of our relationship to creation under God.

<http://www.premier.org.uk/News/UK/CofE-praises-environment-help-for-churches-ahead-of-Creationtide>

ITV

Video report that Chelmsford Cathedral has become the latest place to make the most of the *Pokemon Go*, inviting players in to search for the virtual characters. Canon Ivor Moody, Vice Dean, is quoted.

<http://www.itv.com/news/anglia/2016-08-08/cathedral-turns-to-pokemon-go-to-bring-in-new-visitors/>

BBC

Report that skulls and bones stored under Holy Trinity church in Rothwell, Northamptonshire date from 1250 to as recently as 1900, tests have revealed. The church is the site of one of only two 13th Century crypts in the UK and contains the remains of 2,500 people. Radio carbon dating found some skulls were older than first thought. But scientists from the University of Sheffield were also surprised to find bones from the last century.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-northamptonshire-36989717>

Blogs

Law and Religion UK: The Church of England and legislative reform orders

<http://www.lawandreligionuk.com/2016/08/08/the-church-of-england-and-legislative-reform-orders/>

Theology Bee: Thank you for talking to my child

<https://www.theologybee.com/talking-to-my-child/>

Stories Worth Sharing

churchnewsireland@gmail.com

Chaplain at the Rio Olympics - Jules Wilkinson - an Oxford diocese parishioner - speaks from the Rio Olympic Village about the atmosphere there and her role as a protestant chaplain. <http://bit.ly/2aYXU2J>

All the Stories Worth Sharing are listed here:
<https://www.churchofengland.org/media-centre/stories-worth-sharing.aspx>

GET CNI HEADLINES EACH DAY

Facebook and Twitter

Click on logo at CNI Home page

www.churchnewsireland.org

+ Please share CNI with your friends
www.churchnewsireland.org