



*Pictured at the Service of Recognition, which includes eight of the nine candidates for the Auxiliary Ministry, are: (left to right) Rev. Noble McNeely, Convener of Council for Training in Ministry, Francis Johnston, Rev. David Allen, Dean of Ministerial Studies and Development, Uel Gamble, Werner van den Hemel, Meriel Pinkerton, Evelyn Boyd, Joseph Ebai, Very Rev. Dr. Ian McNie, Moderator, Michael Wylie, Julie-Ann Greenlee and Rev. Jim Stothers, Deputy Clerk of General Assembly.*

## Presbyterian church introduces Auxiliary Ministers

The General Assembly's approval of the Scheme's Guidelines earlier this month was the  
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final piece of the jigsaw to be put in place enabling the creation of the new post of Auxiliary Minister in congregations.

According to a number of dictionary definitions, an auxiliary is a person that 'offers or provides supplementary or additional support'. For some larger congregations or where a number of smaller ones are linked in rural settings, that additional support will be welcome.

Speaking about the Auxiliary Ministry Scheme, Rev. Jim Stothers, the Church's Deputy Clerk who is involved in the administration of the training for the Scheme as Secretary of the Council for Training and Ministry, said, "As a Church we are blessed with thousands of people who sacrificially give of their time to volunteer in many different areas of work each week, directly and indirectly supporting the work and witness of individual congregations.

"But sometimes, in addition to the work of an ordained Minister, there is a specific need in terms of preaching and teaching and this is where Auxiliary Ministers will come into their own."

In 2010 the General Assembly gave the go-ahead for the Auxiliary Minister Scheme and in

2014 the stage had been reached for the first candidates to start their one and a half year part-time course at the Church's Union Theological College in Belfast.

As a result, the first nine men and women are now ready to apply for auxiliary ministry posts once a congregation seeks permission through its Presbytery for the central Church authority to establish one. With the approval of the

Guidelines for doing so earlier this month the way is now open for the first appointments to be made later this year.

“An Auxiliary Minister is a Minister of the Word and their primary duty will be to preach and teach, with the rest of the role comprising various combinations of pastoral care, discipleship and outreach. As a support role to the ordained Minister they will be responsible to him or her and to the local Presbytery,” Rev. Jim Stothers explained.

“Depending on congregational need, they can be full-time or part-time, salaried or expenses based. This built-in flexibility means that an Auxiliary Minister could be a realistic financial commitment for smaller congregations who need someone to join the ministry team. Their duties,

however, will not include officiating at baptisms, the Lord's Supper or weddings.

“While we are still at the start of this fresh approach to ministry, we are looking forward to the commissioning of the first Auxiliary Ministers. It certainly is an exciting time,” the Deputy Clerk said.

The Church's Council for Mission in Ireland, which is responsible for new Church development and Church planting, can also request the creation of an Auxiliary Minister post to support the establishment of new congregations across Ireland.

The service was conducted by the Council for Training in Ministry and also recognised a group of more than 20 Accredited Preachers.

Candidates for the Scheme must have successfully completed the Church's 12-month part-time [Accredited Preacher Scheme](#) and be able to demonstrate that they have existing gifts in pastoral care, discipleship and outreach, normally exercised in their own congregations or through other forms of service.

Training for the next Auxiliary Minister Scheme starts in January 2016. It is planned to hold

further Accredited Preacher Courses in 2016, in both Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland. For more information on both schemes contact [info@presbyterianireland.org](mailto:info@presbyterianireland.org).

## **Pope Francis blesses palliums for new archbishops**

The Church wants pastors who are unafraid of persecution and are convincing witnesses with a life rooted in prayer and the Gospel, Pope Francis has told new archbishops.

“It’s quite simple, because the most effective and authentic witness is one that does not contradict, by behaviour and lifestyle,” what one preaches and teaches, he said during a Mass celebrating the feasts of Saints. Peter and Paul.

Forty-six archbishops representing 34 countries, who were named over the course of the last year, were invited to come to Rome to concelebrate the feast day Mass with Pope Francis.

Among those invited to concelebrate were Archbishops John Wester of Santa Fe, New Mexico; Blase Cupich of Chicago; Denis Grondin of Rimouski, Quebec; Anthony Fisher of Sydney;



Eamon Martin of Armagh, Northern Ireland; and Kieran O'Reilly of Cashel and Emly, Ireland. This year, however, the Pope set aside an element that had been part of the Mass for the past 32 years, by no longer conferring the pallium on new archbishops during the liturgy.

The archbishops were to be present for the Pope's blessing of the palliums in order to underline their bond of unity and communion with him. But the actual imposition of the woolen band was to take place in the archbishop's archdiocese in the presence of his faithful and bishops from neighbouring dioceses.

The change was meant to better “highlight the relationship of the metropolitan archbishops with their local churches, giving more faithful the possibility of being present for this significant rite,” Msgr Guido Marini, papal master of liturgical ceremonies, said in January.

During his blessing of the palliums, Pope Francis said the woolen bands that will be worn over their shoulders symbolise the “yoke” of the Gospel as well as their call to be shepherds dedicated to the pastoral care of their people. During his homily, the Pope said the first reading from the Acts of the Apostles recalled the harsh persecution faced by the early Christians.

“However, I do not wish to dwell on these atrocious, inhuman and incomprehensible persecutions, sadly still present in many parts of the world today,” often happening right in front of everyone’s eyes and meeting with complete silence, he said.

Instead, the Pope said he wanted to “pay homage to” these courageous Christians who evangelised fearlessly in a pagan culture; they are, he said, models for Christians today, and a “powerful call to prayer, to faith and to witness.”

A Church rooted in prayer is strong, solid and moves forward, while Christians who pray are protected and never alone, he said.

## **Irish Bishops' condolences to victims of Tunisia shooting**

Bishop of Meath Michael Smith, presiding at the ordination Mass of Father Robert McGivney (28) who was ordained to the priesthood on Sunday, acknowledged the widespread grief and sadness in the locality following the tragic death of Lorna Carty.

Bishop Smith said, "Today is a supremely important moment in Robert's life and a happy occasion for the Diocese of Meath. Yet our thoughts are also with the Carty family in Robinstown following Lorna's senseless killing.

"Lorna worked here in Navan in one of the medical centres and is known to, and loved by, very many people. The brutal circumstances of Lorna's death are sadly becoming more frequent. This is the world in which Robert is called to serve as a priest. Ordination includes bringing comfort to the suffering and being a minister of Christ's peace in a difficult world.



“We extend our sympathy and our prayers to Lorna’s husband Declan, to her children Simon and Hazel and extended family and friends.”

The C of I Bishop of Meath and Kildare has expressed condolences to all those who have been caught up in the hotel shootings in Tunisia.

Bishop Pat Storey said, ‘On behalf of the Church of Ireland community in my diocese I wish to express our shock as news of the terrible events in Tunisia become clearer. Our diocesan family will hold the families of the bereaved and injured in our prayers.’

She continued, ‘We feel this loss all the more keenly as it appears some of the victims are from our own locality. Our thoughts and prayers are with those, especially our neighbours, who have been plunged into such pain and distress by this cruel attack on human life.’

The Bishop of Elphin, Kevin Doran said, “I was very sad to hear this morning that Larry and Martina Hayes, parishioners of our diocese, were among those whose lives were stolen from them in a mindless act of violence in Tunisia last week. I offer my deepest sympathies and prayers to their daughter, their extended family and their

neighbours and friends in the South Roscommon area around Athlone.

“The unprovoked killing of a husband and wife, who wanted nothing more than to relax together for a few weeks in the sun, is another reminder of how much unresolved anger there is in our world. To suggest that such violent acts can in any way be justified by religious belief, whether Christian or Islamic, is totally false. The one God in whom both Christians and Muslims believe is a God of peace.

“It is particularly sad that we hear this news about Larry and Martina on a day when we gather to celebrate the jubilees of married couples in our diocese. May they, who have had their joy on earth taken from them, enjoy peace and happiness for all eternity in the Kingdom of Heaven.”

## **Christ Church lectures on ‘Women and the Church’**

A series of four lectures, given by four women: a historian, an archaeologist, an art historian and a priest, is exploring the role of women and the church ranging from the medieval period to the modern day.

The first of the lectures was given on Tuesday by Dr Maeve Callan of Simpson College in Indianola, Iowa, who has recently published her book *The templars, the witch, and the wild Irish: vengeance and heresy in medieval Ireland* (Cornell University Press & Four Courts Press, 2015). Her lecture was titled 'Witchcraft, heresy, magic & gender in the fourteenth-century Anglo-Irish colony'.

The second lecture will be given on Tuesday July 7 by Tracy Collins, a professional archaeologist who is a co-director of Aegis Archaeology and who is submitting her Ph.D. on 'An archaeology of female monasticism in medieval Ireland' in the Department of Archaeology in University College Cork at the end of the year. Her lecture title will be 'Nuns in medieval Ireland: the other monasticism'.

Emerging from the medieval period, the third lecture will be given on Tuesday July 14 by Dr Clodagh Tait, who has lectured in University College Dublin, the University of Essex and Mary Immaculate College at the University of Limerick. Her topic will be 'Motherhood from the pages of seventeenth-century parish registers'.

The concluding lecture will be given on Tuesday July 21 by a former member of the cathedral chapter and one of the first women ordained in the Church of Ireland, the Revd Canon Dr Virginia Kennerley, entitled '25 years at the altar: Have women priests changed the church?'.  
All lectures begin at 1.15 pm in the music room and admission is free.

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## **Magna Carta and the Making of a Metropolis**

Magna Carta and the making of a Metropolis will be the focus of a Public Seminar on Thursday July 2 at the Wood Quay Venue in Dublin. The half-day symposium is to mark the 800th anniversary of Magna Carta and the Fee-Farm charter granted by King John to Dublin a fortnight later on 3rd July 1215. Admission is free and all are welcome. Tickets are available at -

<https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/magna-carta-and-the-making-of-a-metropolis-tickets-17137731416>

Timetable at -

<http://dublin.anglican.org/news/events/2015/06/-Magna-Carta-and-the-Making-of-a-Metropolis--Public-Seminar>

## **Crinken parish celebrates 175 years of worship**

175 years of worship and witness at St James' Church, Crinken, were celebrated on Sunday (June 28) with a service which rejoiced in the past and looked to the future with hope. Many former worshippers returned to Crinken to mark the occasion with current members and they were joined by two former rectors, Dean Charlie Combe and Bishop Ken Clarke, who preached.

The current rector, the Revd Trevor Stevenson, noted that 175 years to the very day, on June 28 1840, the church had opened and God's word had been celebrated there ever since, through the Sacraments, countless witnesses going out from the church and numerous souls coming to faith there.

A history of Crinken was provided by Noel Griffin who said that St James' Church was established and built as a result of two widows, Margaret Clarke and Georgina Magan, who wanted to set up a church where they could worship more freely. He said that the trustee church had been committed to evangelical ministry and also had a missionary legacy. He also paid tribute to



***Bishop Kenneth Clarke, the Revd Trevor Stevenson and Dean Charles Combe outside St James' Crinken.***

organist, Edgerton Ashmore, who had played the organ at Crinken for 45 years.

During the service four members of the church spoke of what Crinken means to them.

In his sermon, Bishop Clarke, addressed three groups of people: the young, the middle aged and the more mature. He left it to each individual to decide which group they belonged to, but added that whatever age we are, we are called to be disciples of Christ. He said that one of the marks of Crinken for the last 175 years was that it loved the Kingdom of God. "Is one of the

supreme marks of our own life an enduring passion for the Kingdom of God? Or have we lost our way?” he asked. “The problem sometimes is in our Christian lives that we default into snoozing, boozing and cruising.”

Drawing on the reading [2 Timothy 4:1–7], the Bishop said there were messages for the young, the middle aged and the mature. For the young, Paul urges Timothy (an emerging young leader) to be radical, on the edge and counter culture but also to lead by example.

For the middle aged, he suggested that many people needed a mid course correction and needed to be realigned. Bishop Clarke pointed out that there is so much more to be done in the second part of their lives and urged them not to miss out on it.

For those at the more mature stage of their lives he pointed to Paul’s words: “I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith” and said that it would be wonderful to be able to say that as they approached the end of their lives.

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## **Bishop of Oxford role 'to stay unfilled until September 2016'**

A new Bishop of Oxford is unlikely to be in place until at least September 2016, leaving the role vacant for almost two years, the Archdeacon of Oxford has said.

BBC News - The Right Reverend John Pritchard stepped down on 31 October last year.

Interviews were held in May [but all the candidates were rejected](#).

Writing in the [Oxford Mail](#), the Archdeacon of Oxford said the diocese [was now facing "an extended vacancy"](#).

The Venerable Martin Gorick said: "We have been told that we will have to wait until March 2016, before Oxford will be considered again.

"It's unlikely that we will have a Bishop of Oxford in post now until at least September 2016, which will be two years since Bishop John retired.

"We miss that leadership and the friendship of a trusted senior colleague."



In May, the Archbishop of Canterbury said the Crown Nominations Commission had "been unable to discern the candidate whom God is calling at this stage".

The Right Rev Colin Fletcher, Bishop of Dorchester, will continue to serve as acting bishop for the diocese, which covers Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire.

## Media digest

### Mail/Times

Article that the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge will appear in public for the first time as a family of four at **Princess Charlotte**'s christening. It states the ceremony next Sunday will be conducted by the Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, who will also give an address. He will be supported by The Reverend Canon Jonathan Riviere, the Rector of the Sandringham group of parishes.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/femail/article-3143270/William-Kate-joined-children-church-Sunday.html#ixzz3eW4O7aQ5>

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/uk/royalfamily/article4483298.ece>

### Mail

Columnist Richard Littlejohn writes about Pride Week, saying the Archbishop of York, John Sentamu agreed to drape the rainbow gay rights flag across York Minster, saying it was the Christian thing to do. He writes that it is a pity that hardline gay activists don't take the same compassionate attitude towards devout Christians.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/debate/article-3143888/LITTLEJOHN-gay-ISIS-flag-Relax-don-t-waving-banner-sex-aids-not-way-behave.html#ixzz3eWFSaZXF>

### **Tel/BBC/ITV/ibTimes/Mirror**

Reports that a large part of Exeter city centre in Devon has been evacuated after two suspect packages were found. They state the first was found beside the railings of St Sidwell's School CofE school, which was evacuated and headteacher Kathryn Rowden is quoted saying: "Obviously our first thoughts were for the safety of the children and staff. I cannot comment on the motive for this. But I would point out that St Sidwell's is a Church of England school and we have children of all faiths, and some with no faith, who learn together and play together very harmoniously."

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/law-and-order/11705592/Exeter-city-centre-closed-off-after-bomb-scare.html>

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-devon-33308628>

<http://www.itv.com/news/westcountry/2015-06-29/exeter-brought-to-a-standstill-following-discovery-of-two-suspect-packages/>  
<http://www.ibtimes.co.uk/uk-two-suspicious-packages-detonated-near-exeter-school-mosque-1508499>

<http://www.mirror.co.uk/news/uk-news/exeter-bomb-scare-school-mosque-5967346>

### **Guard/Mail/BBC**

Further reports on victims of the Tunisian beach attack, including Lisa Burbidge, from Whickham, Tyneside, who was among the 38 people killed. *BBC* says flowers have been laid on the green outside St Mary's Church, where prayers have been held for Mrs Burbidge and her family. The Revd Barry Abbott, Rector of Whickham St Mary the Virgin is quoted. *Telegraph* reports on David Cameron's comments on tolerance.

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/jun/27/tunisia-beach-attack-the-victims>

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3143785/Former-Birmingham-footballer-70-father-celebrating-30th-wedding-anniversary-latest-Britons-confirmed-dead-Tunisian-beach-massacre.html>

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-tyne-33317636>

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/terrorism-in-the-uk/11707052/Our-tolerance-for-other-cultures-is-at-once-our-strength-and-weakness.html>

## **Mail**

Report on proposals to turn a hospital chapel at North Manchester General into a Muslim prayer room. It states Father Ged Murphy from St Patrick's RC Church has launched a petition over the plans for St Raphael's chapel. The Rev John Hall, chaplaincy co-ordinator at The Pennine Acute Hospitals NHS Trust, said: "We have a number of different chapels and rooms at North Manchester General Hospital and we are currently looking at how these are used so that we have the best possible arrangements that meet everyone's needs."

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3143936/Priests-fury-plan-turn-Catholic-hospital-chapel-prayer-room-Muslims-leaving-no-space-own.html#ixzz3eWCNg5Pc>

## **BBC**

Report that a carved stone dating from the Anglo-Saxon period has been stolen from a North Yorkshire church. The artefact was displayed in a window recess in All Saints Church in Hovingham, near Malton. Originally part of a stone cross, it dates from the late 8th or

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early 9th Century and has ornate carving, said North Yorkshire Police.

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-york-north-yorkshire-33318759>

### **Mail/Times/Mirror/Ind/Tel**

Further reports and comment on the Tunisian beach massacre on Friday. They state prayers were said for victims at Abronhill Parish Church in Scotland and the Rev Joyce Keyes is quoted paying tribute to two victims - a retired couple who were active members of his church.

[http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3142209/Boys-Brigade-leader-grandmother-four-latest-named-15-Britons-killed-Tunisia-beach-massacre.html?ITO=1490&ns\\_mchannel=rss&ns\\_campaign=1490](http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3142209/Boys-Brigade-leader-grandmother-four-latest-named-15-Britons-killed-Tunisia-beach-massacre.html?ITO=1490&ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490)

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/world/africa/article4482615.ece>

<http://www.mirror.co.uk/news/world-news/tunisia-terror-attack-slaughter-innocents-5965900>

<http://www.independent.co.uk/voices/comment/tunisia-hotel-attack-backdrop-to-this-slaughter-is-a-history-of-violence-against-muslims-10351413.html>

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/africaandindianocean/tunisia/11697302/Tributes-paid-to-Tunisia-victims-James-and-Ann-McQuire.html>

## **Mail**

Report on a TV programme, which it claims has set out to show that arranged marriage works, Married At First Sight, which starts on Channel 4 on July 9, assessed 1,500 volunteers before sending three couples down the aisle. It states participants discussed their understanding of marriage with the Revd Nick Devenish, a Church of England priest in the Lake District. Marriage Foundation's Harry Benson is quoted saying the programme makers 'profoundly misunderstand the nature of commitment'.

## **BBC**

Report that a new memorial for babies who have died before or soon after birth has been unveiled at St Alkmunds Church, Whitchurch Shropshire and was consecrated by the Bishop of Shrewsbury. The rector, Rev Canon Judy Hunt, said the Baby Loss Memorial was in the newly extended Garden of Remembrance. She said an inquiry in Shrewsbury recently highlighted the

"difficulty for families if they do not have their babies' ashes".

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-shropshire-33241358>

### **Huff Post/Guard**

Further reports that the US Episcopal Church has elected its first African-American presiding bishop. North Carolina Bishop Michael Curry was elected as the denomination's leader during the Episcopal General Convention in Salt Lake City.

[http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2015/06/27/episcopal-church-michael-curry-black\\_n\\_7679264.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2015/06/27/episcopal-church-michael-curry-black_n_7679264.html)

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/jun/28/episcopal-church-elects-first-african-american-presiding-bishop>

### **Mail/FT/Guard/Ind**

Further reports on reaction and celebrations over US Supreme Court same sex ruling legalising gay marriage across America. Mail says county clerks in Texas who object to gay marriage can refuse to issue marriage licenses to same-sex couples, according to Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton. Former Arkansas governor Mike Huckabee encouraged civil disobedience over the ruling.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/wires/reuters/article-3142663/Texas-attorney-general-says-county-clerks-refuse-gay-couples.html#ixzz3eQP68Xqs>

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/52ec97e0-1dd0-11e5-ab0f-6bb9974f25d0.html?siteedition=intl#slide0>

<http://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2015/jun/28/mike-huckabee-predicts-gay-marriage-ruling-will-prompt-civil-disobedience>

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