



*Two retired bishops who had served in Londonderry received the freedom of the city*

## Retired Derry bishops receive freedom of the city

Catholic bishop Dr Edward Daly and his **Church of Ireland** counterpart James Mehaffey were praised for their cross community leadership. They were honoured by the council as ‘leaders of our society’.

The former Bishop of Derry and Raphoe, Dr James Mehaffey, has spoken of his pride at being granted the Freedom of the City of Derry, along with his long-time friend, retired Bishop of Derry Dr Edward Daly. The ceremony, in Londonderry’s Guildhall, was one of the last

formal acts by Derry City Council before it merges with neighbouring Strabane next month.

Representatives of the four main political parties were in the chamber, with councillors joined by the Foyle MP Mark Durkan, the Nobel peace laureate John Hume, the Deputy First Minister Martin McGuinness and members of the Mehaffey and Daly families. The recipients' successors, Bishop Ken Good and Bishop Donal McKeown, were also in attendance, along with leading figures from the civic life. It was a doubly historic occasion, with the formal presentation being made by the last ever Mayor of the city, Councillor Brenda Stevenson.

Bishop Mehaffey told the meeting that he was a Freeman of the City of London, "but being a Freeman of the City of Derry means so much more". He thanked Bishop Daly for his friendship and support over the last 35 years. "During my entire episcopal ministry in the Diocese, Bishop Daly has been a true friend and colleague. We have frequently discussed how much we share in common. It has been a great source of strength and companionship in the episcopal ministry."

Dr Daly recalled how difficult inter-church dialogue and church leadership had been in the

1970s and 1980s. Borrowing from the Archbishop of Canterbury, he said it was not just “‘nice people talking to nice people about nice things’. It involved getting one’s hands dirty; it meant talking honestly and bluntly; confronting difficult issues...and being mature enough to reach a Christian resolution.

“I treasure my faith and its values and Bishop James treasures his. But we learned to share rather than impose, to tolerate rather than to squabble. Above all we learned to respect rather than distrust. If that can be achieved in the midst of bitter conflict, surely it can be achieved at any time.”

The Bishop of Derry and Raphoe, Ken Good, applauded the City Council for acknowledging the efforts of ‘two of our community’s great peace-builders’ so publicly.

“Their warm and enduring friendship sustained and encouraged the people of this diocese – and beyond – during the darkest days of the Troubles,” Bishop Good remarked. “They have been tireless champions for peace and reconciliation.

“Bishop Daly and Bishop Mehaffey have shown us, by their example, how to hold clear convictions and yet respect the viewpoint of others; they have taught us that difference need not be a barrier to friendship; they have proved that we can achieve more together than apart. That message was critically important three decades

ago, when this community was tearing itself apart, and it remains just as relevant today.

“It is fitting,” Bishop Good suggested, “that the decision to confer the Freedom of the City upon the two bishops was taken unanimously by the City Council. That is a measure of the progress that has been made in this city and community in recent decades. I hope that the Bishops’ enduring friendship will continue to inspire others – in the churches, the community and in politics – to follow their example and work for peace.”

Bishop Mehaffey was accompanied throughout the Council ceremony by his wife of “almost 59 years”, Thelma, who was born in the city. Dr Mehaffey described her as “a rock’ in his life. “Thelma and I hold different points of view at times and don’t see eye to eye at all times. That helps to enrich and enlarge life.”

Archbishop Eamon Martin of Armagh in a statement said - “I warmly congratulate Bishop Edward Daly and Bishop James Mehaffey on their extraordinary civic achievement in being awarded the Freedom of the City of Derry. This special accolade is a fitting tribute to their Christian ministry and leadership. It is also appropriate that this honour is being conferred on both men at the same time because for many years they have worked hard to build bridges in the City and, in doing so, together they both made a tangible difference to the lives of the people of Derry and beyond.

“Although born in Beleek, Co Fermanagh, the people and the city of Derry hold a special place in Bishop Daly’s heart. Since boarding in Saint Columb’s College in

the 1940s, the lion's share of his exemplary life and ministry has been spent serving the people of Derry. This evening's conferral of the Freedom of the City is a timely acknowledgement of his contribution to improving the lives of those on the margins of society. On a personal level I remember Bishop Daly as the man who ordained me to the priesthood in 1987, and who offered me great pastoral guidance in my first appointment as a curate in the Cathedral Parish in Derry, and thereafter. I wish to thank Bishop Eddie for his support and kindness, and may God continue to bless him in his ministry."

More at -

<http://www.irishtimes.com/news/ireland/irish-news/retired-derry-bishops-receive-freedom-of-the-city-1.2151743>

<http://www.irishnews.com/news/free-derry-honour-for-city-s-former-bishops-1421576>

<http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/northern-ireland/bishop-hails-tapestry-of-cultures-31089902.html>

## **Waterfront rally in support of Ashers bakery draws thousands**

A rally was held in the Waterfront Hall in Belfast on Tuesday night in support of the [Ashers Baking Company](#) ahead of a legal case on Thursday that is being taken against the

Christian bakery by the Northern Ireland [Equality Commission](#).



***Christian Institute support rally for Ashers bakery held at the Waterfront Hall in Belfast.***

Ashers, which has six shops employing 62 people, is being prosecuted for refusing to bake a cake with a slogan stating "Support Gay Marriage". It was also to feature the Sesame Street puppets, [Bert and Ernie](#), with their arms around one another.

The civil court case opens on Thursday morning in Belfast and is expected to conclude on Friday.

Members of the McArthur family which owns the bakery and representatives of the British

[Christian Institute](#), which is supporting the company in the legal case, joined supporters in the Waterfront Hall last night for a pre court case rally.

The 2,500-seater Waterfront Hall was full to capacity with hundreds more who turned up unable to get inside.

[Colin Hart](#), director of the institute, said “that the overwhelming majority of people in [Northern Ireland](#) think that the McArthur family should not be forced to endorse a cause with which they profoundly disagree”.

First Minister [Peter Robinson](#) also entered the argument this week by accusing the commission of spending up to £33,000 to seek court damages of £500 from Ashers.

More at -

<http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/northern-ireland/gay-cake-row-christian-institute-rally-for-ashers-baking-company-held-at-the-waterfront-hall-belfast-31093145.html>

<http://www.newsletter.co.uk/news/regional/waterfront-overflows-with-gay-cake-bakery-supporters-1-6652381>

<http://www.irishtimes.com/news/ireland/irish-news/waterfront-rally-in-support-of-ashers-bakery-draws-thousands-1.2151726>

## **Teachers' warning on conscience clause bill**

Teachers have said the DUP's religious conscience clause Bill would cause classroom discrimination.

News Letter - Paul Givan's Stormont private member's Bill seeks a legal exemption on the grounds of strongly-held beliefs.

He sought to change the equality law following legal action taken against a Christian-owned bakery.

The Equality Commission has brought a civil case against Ashers Baking Company after it refused to bake a cake with a pro-gay marriage slogan.

Chris Keates, NASUWT general secretary, said: "Claims that this Bill is about promoting and protecting religious freedoms are spurious.



“The Bill will allow bigotry and intolerance to flourish and will result in hostility to the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community.

“Our children and young people should be able to grow without the fear of prejudice and discrimination.”

The Bill would create a legal clause that would allow the refusal of goods and services on the grounds of strongly held religious beliefs.

Mr Givan has argued that the law had to be rebalanced and said there should be space for difference.

The Lagan Valley representative explained that the clause would not allow someone to refuse to serve an individual who held contrary beliefs.

Instead, he said, it would only enable them to refuse to carry out a service that they believed contravened their own beliefs, such as the creation of a slogan or message that ran contrary to their religious views.

[http://www.newsletter.co.uk/news/regional/teachers-warning-on-conscience-clause-bill-1-6644735?WT.mc\\_id=Outbrain\\_text&obref=obinsite&WT.mc\\_id=Outbrain\\_text&obref=obinsit](http://www.newsletter.co.uk/news/regional/teachers-warning-on-conscience-clause-bill-1-6644735?WT.mc_id=Outbrain_text&obref=obinsite&WT.mc_id=Outbrain_text&obref=obinsit)

## **Salvation Army hosts 92nd Annual Meeting of Irish Council of Churches today**

The Irish Council of Churches (ICC) will today gather for its 92nd Annual Meeting, hosted by the Salvation Army. Under the theme, 'With Heart to God and Hand to Man', the Salvation Army will demonstrate aspects of their social and spiritual ministry in Ireland and delegates will explore new ways of sharing the love of God in the service of their own communities.

The keynote address will be delivered by Major Anne Read, the Salvation Army's Anti-Trafficking Response Co-ordinator. Ahead of the event, Major Read said that 'Human Trafficking isn't just something that happens in far off countries. It is happening in cities, towns and villages here. We must respond to this form of evil to prevent people being dehumanised, abused and exploited and restore to victims their sense of self worth.'

The Salvation Army has worked with and on behalf of women who have been trafficked since the late nineteenth century, then referred to as 'the white slave trade'. Today, the Salvation

Army works in the UK and globally to reduce human trafficking and respond practically to the needs of those affected by it. The Salvation Army currently holds the government contract to manage the support of all adult victims of human trafficking in England and Wales.

Those attending the ICC AGM will also consider issues of anti-racism, homelessness, dementia, family breakdown and child protection during the course of the day. The ICC comprises over 70 delegates, appointed by their churches, including senior leadership and specialists.

Membership of the Council reflects the changing landscape of Christianity across Protestant, Orthodox, Reformed, Independent and Migrant-led churches in Ireland. Guests from Christian Aid, Evangelical Alliance Ireland, EmbraceNI, The National Bible Society of Ireland and others will also be present.

## **Belfast parishioners' rally in support of affair claim priest**

More than 60 people gathered outside St Peter's Cathedral in west Belfast this week to demonstrate local community support for Fr Ciaran Dallat, the priest accused by his former

lover of abandoning her after their love affair came to an end.

Belfast Telegraph - As the crowd gathered close to the front gate of the cathedral, an unnamed man addressed the crowd briefly, urging everyone present to get as many people as possible to sign a petition of support.

He called on them to bring the signatures back to a candlelit vigil for Fr Dallat being organised for tomorrow night outside St Peter's.

A nun named Sister Georgina then led the rally in prayer as Fr Dallat's mostly female supporters clamoured to sign the petition.

Fr Dallat did not attend the St Peter's event.

More at -

<http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/northern-ireland/belfast-parishioners-rally-in-support-of-affair-claim-priest-31093239.html>

## **Causeway Christians Against Poverty appoints extra staff**

As many still feel the financial squeeze, the Causeway Coast branch of a debt counselling

charity is taking on extra staff to bring more free help to those in need.

Coleraine Times - From this week, the centre based at Causeway Coast Vineyard church will be welcoming a new debt coach to their team resulting in more appointment slots for people suffering from out-of-control debts.

The centre, which opened in 2010, has seen a steady growth in the number of people getting in touch as word has spread of CAP's uniquely in-depth, caring and face-to-face help.

Typically most clients get in touch after personal recommendation while others are referred by family centres, housing associations and council offices. Clients' creditors are contacted by CAP, a workable budget is set for the household and the charity continues to give support and encouragement until the client is debt free.

Centre Manager for the Causeway Coast branch David Kelly said: "We're delighted to be welcoming debt coach Dorothy McKernan onto the team at such a crucial time.

"We have been booked up months in advance as we continue to cope with the fall-out from the economic downturn. This will mean we have

many more appointments available each week and be able to see and help more people, more quickly.”

The most common cause of debt is a change in circumstance, for example job loss, relationship breakdown, accident or illness in the family.

- For more about CAP see [www.capuk.org](http://www.capuk.org) or call 0800 328 0006



## **Bright start as Limerick anti-suicide initiative brings light to dark places**

Eight anti-suicide messages of hope were beamed out over the River Shannon in Limerick on Tuesday night as part of a project to try to cut

the numbers of people taking their lives on the river.

Examiner - The initiative, the brainchild of Leaving Cert student Katie Whelan, was launched at 7.30pm on Thomond Bridge by local Munster rugby star Keith Earls.

Katie, whose young cousin Lisa passed away after entering the river, said: "It was amazing. There were hundreds of people there. We released a load of coloured balloons to remember everyone who has passed away. I want this to be a new beginning now and the start of positive mental health in Limerick."

In recent years, scores of families have been left devastated after their loved ones perished in the River Shannon, resulting in the formation of a plethora of local search and rescue groups, including the Corbett Suicide Prevention Patrol which patrols the riverfront hoping to prevent people from taking their lives.

Katie praised Limerick City and County Council and the services of local graphic design firm Alphaset which has crafted the LED messages for free. "I ran into so many dead ends with so many different companies, and then I sent on my drawings to Alphaset and they said they could

do it,” she said. “A couple of weeks later they had a prototype built which was just amazing to see. We brought it into the council and they gave us the go ahead.”

More at -

<http://www.irishexaminer.com/ireland/bright-start-as-limerick-anti-suicide-initiative-brings-light-to-dark-places-320344.html>

## **Crosses of the world on display in Monkstown**

During Holy Week, the Church of the Good Shepherd, Monkstown (Connor diocese), is holding a display of crosses from different countries and faith traditions.

The A-Cross the World exhibition runs from Wednesday April 1 until Saturday April 4 from 10am until 3pm daily.

Teas, coffees and hot cross buns will be available to those who attend at no charge.

The Church of the Good Shepherd will also be showing the Billy Graham video ‘The Cross’ on Good Friday from 12-3pm in the church. The film



repeats approximately every 30 minutes. Again there will be free teas/coffees/hot cross buns.

## **C of I Bishop to visit 15 railway stations on Good Friday**

Bishop Michael Burrows is planning to visit 15 railway stations in his Diocese on Good Friday (April 3).

At each station he will deliver 'a tailor-made' reflection on the day for the area.

The Church of Ireland Bishop's diocese of Cashel, Ferns and Ossory includes Wexford, Carlow, Kilkenny Wicklow, Laois, Offaly, Tipperary and Waterford.

A spokesman for the bishop said the tour 'was not a fundraiser per se but in consideration of kindnesses afforded to the bishop by Irish Rail, there will be a collection at each stop in [aid](#) of the IR Benefit Fund.'

Bishop Burrows will be in Wexford, the 11th station, at 5.20 p.m., Enniscorthy at 6.15 p.m., Gorey at 7.05 p.m. from where he will leave for Carlow.

## **New Rector Appointed To Lisbellaw**

The Revd Stephanie Woods had been appointed as Rector of Lisbellaw Parish in the Diocese of Clogher. The vacancy arose during the summer when the previous incumbent, the Very Revd Bryan Kerr, took up the position of Dean of Dromore.

Commenting on Stephanie's appointment, the Bishop of Clogher, the Rt Revd John McDowell, said 'I am delighted to be able to welcome Stephanie back to her home Diocese and to working with her in the future. Stephanie will bring many skills to her ministry in the parish and in the diocese, not least her strong work ethic and her pastoral warmth.'

Stephanie comments: 'I am thrilled and delighted to be appointed rector of Lisbellaw with Coolbuck and look forward to working closely with all the parishioners.'

Since August 2012 Stephanie has served as Bishop's Curate in the Drung Group of Parishes, County Cavan, in the Diocese of Kilmore. Prior to this, she served her Deacon internship year in Rossorry Parish Church, Enniskillen, in the Diocese of Clogher. Stephanie is married to the Revd John Woods, who is Bishop's Curate currently serving in the Kildallon and Swanlinbar Group of Parishes in the Diocese of Kilmore.

Stephanie's home parish is Drumkeeran Parish in the Diocese of Clogher, located near the village of Kesh in Co Fermanagh.

Stephanie's training for ordination included a Masters of Theology through Trinity College, Dublin and the Church of Ireland Theological Institute, where she was awarded the Moncrieff Cox Prize for Preaching.

Prior to ordination she completed a Postgraduate Certificate in Teaching Children with Emotional and Behavioural Difficulties at the University of Birmingham, and a Bachelor of Education (Honours) with Theology at Westhill College, University of Birmingham.

From 2003 – 2009 Stephanie taught a composite class of 4–7 year olds at Belleek Controlled Primary School, where she also had responsibility for music and performing arts. From 1992 – 2003 she taught at various schools in Birmingham.

Stephanie is particularly interested in pastoral care, especially for the elderly and those in difficulty, and also has a special interest in children's ministry and youth work. Her vision for the church is a place where those of all age groups and backgrounds feel welcomed and

cared for and where all are challenged and encouraged to become true disciples of Jesus Christ expressing itself in both an individual and corporate ministry response to the local community and beyond.

## **Rossorry Parish Institution**

A large congregation filled Rossorry Parish Church in Enniskillen, Co Fermanagh on the evening of Friday 20th March, to welcome the new rector, the Revd Dr Ian Ellis, who was instituted by the Bishop of Clogher, the Rt Revd John McDowell.

Prior to taking up the position in Rossorry, Dr Ellis served as Secretary to the Church of Ireland Board of Education NI. The preacher at the service of institution was the former Archbishop of Armagh, the Rt Revd Lord Eames.

Ian comments: 'I am really pleased and honoured to be appointed to Rossorry parish and look forward to getting to know the parishioners. It will be a great privilege to live and serve God in the beautiful surroundings of Enniskillen.'

Commenting on Ian's appointment, the Bishop of Clogher, the Rt Revd John McDowell, said 'I am delighted that Dr Ellis has become the rector of Rossorry. He brings many gifts to the parish and to the diocese. Along with his many friends throughout the Church of Ireland I wish him well as he and Heather settle into parish life.'

Assisting the bishop at the service were the Venerable Helene Steed, Archdeacon; the Diocesan Registrar, the Revd Chancellor John Stewart; and the Revd Canon David Skuce, Rural Dean of Enniskillen. The Bishop's Chaplain was the Revd Sampson Ajuka, the Organist was Mrs Catherine Irwin and the parish choir along with the parish praise band led the singing. Guests from other Churches included Monsignor Peter O'Reilly, Fr Brian D'Arcy and Mr Gareth Hayden. Mr Tom Elliott MLA represented civic Society.

## **St Mary's Abbey Medieval Manuscript Comes Home to Dublin to Trinity College Library**

An important early 14th-century manuscript produced at St Mary's Abbey in Dublin has been

returned to its city of origin, after 400 years, courtesy of Trinity College Library.

Lost to the world of scholarship since the 18th century, it has not been in Ireland since the 16th century. It is the first Irish medieval manuscript to be offered for public sale in over 100 years.

It was originally produced by the Cistercian Abbey of St Mary's, after which Mary's Street and Abbey Street are named. It was the wealthiest monastic house in medieval Ireland. So important was it that the parliament, having no permanent building in the city, frequently met there.

An ownership inscription in the manuscript translated from Latin reads, "A book of the community of the house of the nourishing Virgin Mary near Dublin".

"The acquisition of the manuscript is very important for Trinity College Library in our ongoing engagement with the city of Dublin. The manuscript contains a considerable body of new information which will help to re-evaluate the history and culture of St Mary's Abbey and the civic life of Dublin in the 14th and 15th centuries. We will be able to digitise it, conduct scientific analysis, textual and codicological examination of the manuscript which will promote

widespread research and scholarship, and popular interest. It will also promote scholarship within Trinity across a number of Schools including History, Classics, Art and Architecture and the Medieval Studies Centre,” said Librarian and College Archivist, Helen Shenton.

“When Trinity College Library turned to its alumni and friends in the wake of the availability of the St Mary’s Abbey manuscript seeking much needed support for this acquisition the response was unprecedented in its range of supporters. It included numerous bodies and individuals, as well as scholars, across the university and among the wider historically-minded community in Ireland,” added Head of Research Collections and the Keeper of Manuscripts, Bernard Meehan.

A small cluster of other medieval manuscripts from St Mary’s Abbey survives in major libraries. This ‘new’ manuscript will, through research, focus further attention on the other St Mary’s Abbey manuscripts which are held in other major repositories, including the British Library, the Bodleian Library in Oxford, Cambridge University Library and John Rylands Library in Manchester.

The manuscript includes legal texts, such as an early version of the 14th-century *Ordinances*

which restricted the power of King Edward II, an account of the Trojan war by Dares Phrygius; Geoffrey of Monmouth's pseudo-history of the kings of Britain, and works by Giraldus Cambrensis (Gerald of Wales, died 1223), the *Topography of Ireland* and *Conquest of Ireland*. (see extracts below)

The manuscript was produced at a time when resources were not plentiful. Different batches of sheepskin parchment were used. Its quality was varied: some leaves were robust, others were thin and greasy.

After the dissolution of the monasteries by Henry VIII the manuscript fell into private hands; it was eventually purchased by the first Earl Somers whose bookplate is in the volume. The manuscript was acquired by Trinity College Library at Christie's auction in London in November 2014.

Media links at -

[http://www.tcd.ie/news\\_events/articles/st-marys-abbey-medieval-manuscript-comes-home-to-dublin-to-trinity-college-library/5465#.VRKq8ka4AdW](http://www.tcd.ie/news_events/articles/st-marys-abbey-medieval-manuscript-comes-home-to-dublin-to-trinity-college-library/5465#.VRKq8ka4AdW)



## Church of England appoints second female bishop



***UK's first husband and wife team of bishops. The Right Rev Frank White with his wife, the Rev Canon Alison White***

A second woman has been appointed a bishop by the Church of England.

The new Bishop of Hull will be the Reverend Canon Alison White, the Archbishop of York Dr John Sentamu has announced. Revd White is currently priest-in-charge of Riding Mill in the Diocese of Newcastle.

The Archbishop of York, Dr John Sentamu said: “This is a joyous day! I am delighted to be welcoming Alison as the next Bishop of Hull. Whilst she will be working with others across the Diocese of York encouraging faith in urban life, she will have particular responsibilities for the vibrant city of Hull and the glorious coastline and countryside of the East Riding. Alison is a person of real godliness and wisdom – it is fantastic that she has accepted God’s call to make Christ visible together with all of us in this Diocese of York.”

The Revd Canon Alison White said: “In 2010, I was privileged to be invited to take part in the York Diocesan Clergy Conference where I got a profound sense of a Diocese with faith and hope. I know that there is a real vision to be Generous Churches Making and Nurturing Disciples and can’t wait to be part of loving God and growing the Church in this great part of Yorkshire”.

Rt Revd Martin Wharton, the recently retired Bishop of Newcastle said, “I am thrilled that Alison’s priestly and personal gifts have been recognised by the wider church and believe she will be an outstanding bishop who will quickly endear herself to the people of Hull and the East Riding. As the second woman to be appointed

Bishop in the Church of England, we rejoice with her and pray for her.”

Following a degree in English at Durham, Alison studied Theology at Cranmer Hall, Durham, and completed her title at Chester-le-Street in the Diocese of Durham, as deaconess from 1986, deacon from 1987 and priest from 1994. She studied for an MA in Theology through Leeds University. From 1989 to 1993 she served as Durham’s Diocesan Adviser in Local Mission. She then spent 5 years as Director of Mission and Pastoral Studies at Cranmer Hall. She served as Diocesan Director of Ordinands also in Durham Diocese for 2 years and then nationally as part of the Springboard Team for 4 years.

On moving to the Diocese of Peterborough she served 5 years as an Adult Education Officer for the Diocese before moving to the Diocese of Newcastle in 2011.

Alison is married to Bishop Frank White, Assistant Bishop of Newcastle.

The Revd Canon Alison White will be consecrated on Friday 3 July 2015, at 11.00 am, at York Minster. She succeeds the Right Revd Richard Frith, who became Bishop of Hereford in November 2014.

## Archbishop of Canterbury to visit China

The Archbishop of Canterbury will visit China on 27 May to 5 June 2015 at the joint invitation of SARA (China State Administration for Religious Affairs) and CCC/TSPM (China Christian Council/National Committee of Three-Self Patriotic Association of the Protestant Churches in China).

The purpose of the visit is to build on existing friendly relations with the Christian Church in China, and to meet and learn about faith communities and their role in the major economic and social developments in the country.

The programme, which is still being planned, will include visits to Beijing, Shanghai and Nanjing.

Archbishop Justin Welby said: “I am very much looking forward to my first visit to China, and seeing the remarkable economic developments and rapid growth of post-denominational Christianity which is taking place there.

“I look forward to building on the friendship with the Christian church in China established by my

three predecessors, as well as meeting representatives of other faiths.”

## **First ecumenical canons for Down Cathedral**

Bishop Harold Miller of Down & Dromore has invited Brother Eric Loisel (Order of St Benedict) and Revd John Alderdice (Methodist) to become Down 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.

Dean of Down, The Very Revd Henry Hull, said: “I am thrilled at the appointment of 2 ecumenical canons to the Cathedral Chapter.

“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 Alderdice underscores our growing relationship with the Methodist Church and I look forward to welcoming them both to the cathedral as canons.

The new ecumenical canons will be installed, together with Revd Mark Harvey on a date to be announced.

## **New C of I youth facility opened**

A new meeting space and offices for the Church of Ireland Youth Department (CIYD) on the ground floor of Church of Ireland House, Donegall Street, Belfast were officially opened at a lunchtime reception yesterday 25 March.

The President of CIYD and Chair of its Central Board, The Most Revd Pat Storey, Bishop of Meath and Kildare, cut the ribbon after Revd Paul Whittaker (Chair of the Executive Committee) warmly welcomed guests.

The new facility offers an informal, relaxed and modern meeting space for youth-related workers as well as offices for CIYD staff based in Belfast and a hub for useful printed and multi-media resources.



***Andrew Frame (CIYD Youth Ministry Development Officer, N.), Amy McCrea (CIYD Youth Ministry Development Officer, S.), Bishop Pat Storey, Barbara Swann (CIYD Office Manager), Revd Paul Whittaker.***

At the opening, Bishop Pat Storey said that the space – situated on the ground floor of Church House fronting on to Donegall Street prominently and accessed easily from the main entrance lobby of the building – is ‘a resource for the whole island’.

As well as thanking the staff of CIYD for all that they give to the youth work of the Church, she stressed that the purpose of CIYD was ‘all about the challenge and opportunity of ministry to young people and encouraging them to meet with Jesus Christ’.