



## Anglican Consultative Council to bring “fragrance of Christ” to the world

The next meeting of the triennial Anglican Consultative Council begins in 100 days time, and its Chair, Archbishop

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Paul Kwong, has said that he hopes it will help the Anglican Communion to bring “the fragrance of Christ” to the world. The 17th meeting of the Council – ACC-17 – will take place in Hong Kong from Sunday 28 April to Sunday 5 May. The council is one of four “Instruments of Communion” which helps to “facilitate the co-operative work of the churches of the Anglican Communion, exchange information between the provinces and churches, and help to co-ordinate common action.”

At its last meeting, in Lusaka in 2016, the ACC called on its provinces – the 40 independent national and international Churches within the Anglican Communion – to establish a decade-long Season of Intentional Discipleship. It will continue this theme at this year’s meeting. Amongst the items on the agenda, the meeting will receive the work of the Safe Church Commission, which was tasked with developing a set of international guidelines and resources to ensure Churches were safe places for all people, with a focus on children, young people and vulnerable adults.

The Council sets the direction for the work of the Anglican Communion Office and its staff; and while it is a business meeting, members will gather in a spirit of prayer and worship. The meeting will begin and end with special services in St John’s Cathedral. Each day will include time set aside for prayer and Bible study.

ACC members will also hear from the Anglican Communion’s official Networks, and discuss the work of the staff in the international secretariat based at the Anglican Communion Office in London and at the United Nations in New York and Geneva.

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“In less than four months’ time, ACC-17 will be taking place in Hong Kong,” Archbishop Paul Kwong, the Chair of the ACC and the host of the ACC-17 meeting. “This is the second time that Hong Kong has hosted an ACC. In 2002, ACC-12 took place here.

“As Chair of ACC and Primate of the Host Province I cannot be more excited and honoured to welcome all ACC delegates representing 40 Provinces and coming from 160 countries assembling in Hong Kong.”

He continued: “Hong Kong literally means ‘Fragrance Harbour’ and was named this because of the spices trade in the old days. The aim of this ACC is ‘Equipping God’s people; going deeper in Intentional Discipleship’.

“I believe a disciple gives off the ‘Fragrance of Christ’ in daily life. My wish is that ACC-17 can help our Anglican Communion, becoming the giver of the ‘Fragrance of Christ’ to the world. I look forward to welcoming all of you to come.”

## **Churches Together in Britain and Ireland request churches to pray for the national political situation**

Churches Together in Britain and Ireland (CTBI) has today issued a request that all its member Churches and associated bodies join together, at this the beginning of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, in a time of dedicated prayer for the national political situation in Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

CTBI states, “We believe that this is a time that requires particular prayers for discernment and wisdom, as  
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well as a time for deep listening to God's call to live together in peace and justice."

CTBI especially asks that Churches, and everyone of faith, join together over the coming week, beginning this Sunday, in praying for our politicians and political institutions.

Moderator of CTBI, HE Archbishop Angaelos, Coptic Archbishop of London said "this is a time at which many feel anger and anxiety over the future, and so we need to pray that those who have the heavy burden of political leadership in our country find a unity that brings our communities together in the task of serving the common good. We hope and pray that every person of faith will join us in prayer across our nation, and beyond."

CTBI General Secretary, Bob Fyffe added that resources are being produced to serve the Churches in this task. He also welcomed the supportive comments of Church leaders across the nations of the United Kingdom and Northern Ireland.

The Archbishop of Canterbury and the Archbishop of York said;

'We echo the call of Churches Together in Britain and Ireland to Christians and all those of faith and goodwill to give time for prayer beginning this Sunday in their local churches or as they choose: praying for wisdom, courage, integrity and compassion for our political leaders and all MPs; for reconciliation; and for fresh and uniting vision for all in our country.'

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The words of both Archbishops were endorsed by the Rt Revd Susan Brown, Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland along with The Most Revd John Davies, Archbishop of Wales.

Revd Brian Anderson, President of the Irish Council of Churches, said: “As we come together in prayer at this time of uncertainty we are mindful of the importance of protecting relationships in the interest of the common good. We particularly want to encourage public representatives, and all others who give leadership in our society, to weigh their words carefully, to respect the integrity of those who conscientiously differ from them and to speak with grace.”

Patrick Coyle, Moderator of Cytûn (Churches Together in Wales) also welcomed the initiative saying “this is a critical time in our history when the need to put all our effort, physical and spiritual into supporting our political leaders in their crucial work of building strong communities. I welcome this important call to prayer”.

## **Opening of new Methodist Centre in Moira**

In the next issue of the Methodist Newsletter, the opening and dedication of the new Methodist Centre in Moira is the focus of a special feature by John Switzer and the Rev Robert Loney.

They tell the story of Methodism in Moira from the early beginnings when itinerant preacher John Grace arrived in the town on horseback, and show how that same pioneering spirit has encouraged members of the present congregation to completely renew their buildings and facilities.



‘It took courage, wisdom, discernment and sacrifice for the congregation to see that this window of opportunity had to be embraced,’ writes Mr Loney, ‘which led to an open door and the open door to a fresh understanding of how God wanted us to follow him.’

Read the complete article in the February *Methodist Newsletter* – out next week.

## **Surprise for Down & Dromore lay reader**

The folk in Kilhorne, Annalong, recently sprung a lovely surprise on their Diocesan Lay Reader (emeritus), Mrs Shirley Crutchley, who has just had her 80th birthday.

After Sunday morning worship, the parish celebrated Shirley with a surprise lunch in the hall, complete with a cake topped by a little figure in robes and blue preaching scarf!



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The gentle and unassuming Shirley became a Diocesan Lay Reader in April 1991 and has had a faithful ministry in her parish and the Mourne Area for many years.



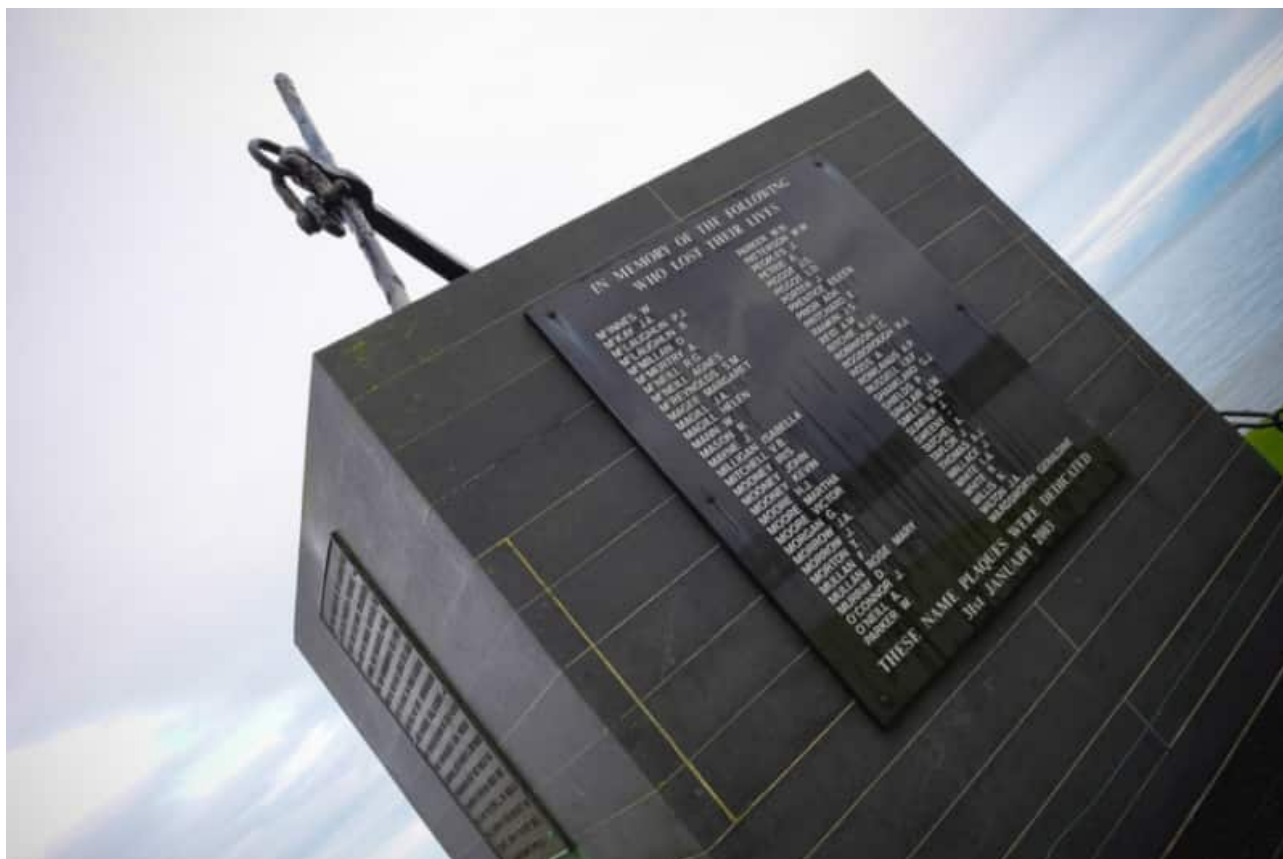
The church also took a collection for the Southern Area Hospice in Newry which amounted to over £1000. A cheque will be presented to Hospice staff in Shirley's home early next week.

## **Memorial service will mark 66th anniversary of Princess Victoria disaster**

Mid and East Antrim Borough Council will mark the 66th anniversary of the MV Princess Victoria ferry disaster with a memorial service on January 31.

More than 130 people perished when the vessel sank between Stranraer and Larne in January 1953.

A special memorial service to remember the victims of the tragedy will take place at the Princess Victoria Memorial at Chainé Memorial Road in Larne.



## **The memorial to the victims of the Princess Victoria disaster at Chain Memorial Road**

Mayor of Mid and East Antrim Cllr. Lindsay Millar, said: “The sinking of the Princess Victoria devastated families and communities here, in Stranraer and further afield.

“More than six decades may have passed, but the pain and sense of loss is still felt by many.

“Despite the valiant efforts of her crew, lifeboat men and other seafarers, the Princess Victoria foundered off the coast of Northern Ireland, within sight of the Copeland Islands near the entrance to Belfast Lough.



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“Some 177 people were on board including 49 members of crew with the disaster claiming the lives of 134 people.

“This had a huge impact on Larne with 27 of the victims being from the town.

“All women and children on board were lost in this tragedy.”

## **Aberdeen congregation votes to cede from the Scottish Episcopal Church**

A congregation in the north-east Scottish coastal city of Aberdeen is preparing to leave the Scottish Episcopal Church. Members of Westhill Community Church voted on Thursday night by 83 per cent to 13 per cent to leave the Anglican Communion's province in Scotland following what they say is the “continued liberal trajectory” of the Church.

Speaking to the *Anglican Communion News Service*, the Rector of Westhill, Canon Ian Ferguson, said: “We have been on a journey for many years – when I say ‘we’, I mean a group of evangelical Episcopal rectors – in talking to bishops about the trajectory the Scottish Episcopal Church has set itself on going. This culminated in a number of decisions that the SEC took which some of us found that we could not accept.

“Our church was not able to feel they could go on the trajectory that the SEC are going and they wanted to maintain their sense of biblical authority and their fellowship with the wider Anglican Communion which is being torn apart by decisions of some provinces.”

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## **Westhill Community Church, Aberdeen**

Responding to the decision, the Bishop of Aberdeen and Orkney, Anne Dyer, said: “the congregation of Westhill Community Church is a much loved and valued part of our diocese, and I am deeply saddened that they have indicated that they want to pursue potential separation from the Scottish Episcopal Church.

“I will continue to work with Westhill as we begin discussions to enable this potential separation, and will continue to pray for the Rector, Vestry and congregation members in the weeks and months ahead.”

The Primus of Scotland, Bishop Mark Strange, said: “I have been informed that Westhill Community Church, Aberdeen has voted to prepare to leave the Scottish Episcopal Church, and therefore the Anglican Communion. I have

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received that news with great sadness and will pray that, painful though this process will be for the Church and for the local Diocese and wider community, we will all remember that we are all striving to serve as disciples of Christ.

“Being a member of the Anglican Communion is important to the Scottish Episcopal Church and we are working hard to strengthen our role in it. Our bishops are preparing to attend the Lambeth Conference in 2020 and have begun inviting bishops from around the Communion to join us in Scotland for pre-conference hospitality.

“We will continue to pray for unity and understanding as we strive to further the mission of God to our nation and around the world.”

Canon Ferguson said that the leadership team at Westhill “are going to take our time to think about what lies next; but what we are strong on is that we will remain Anglican.

“We have received some amazing support throughout the Anglican Communion, in particular the Archbishops of Nigeria, Uganda, and Sydney who have been very



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supportive and welcoming to us. . . For all of us involved this has been a very painful time and a very difficult decision to make but we have been put in that position by the decisions of the SEC.”

## **12,000 US youth and young adult pilgrims, 34 bishops headed for World Youth Day in Panama**

The United States will be sending more than 12,000 youth and young adults, ages 16 to 35, to Panama for the thirty-fourth annual celebration of World Youth Day (WYD). The global event, taking place January 22-27, 2019, in and around Panama City, is expected to draw over 1 million people from all 6 continents.

“The bishops of the United States and I joyfully walk with the young people and young adults of our country as fellow pilgrims,” said Bishop Frank J. Caggiano, Bishop of Bridgeport and the WYD liaison for the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. In all, 32 bishops from the U.S. are planning to attend the global event.

Bishop Caggiano will be one of 20 bishops who also have been invited by the Vatican to serve as English- and Spanish-language catechists in Panama, giving reflections to groups of pilgrims on the 2019 WYD theme, “I am the servant of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word.” (Lk 1:38).

Pope Francis arrives in Panama on Wednesday, January 23, with a special welcome ceremony planned for Thursday, January 24. He will also preside at a Via Crucis prayer

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service (January 25), a candlelight vigil and adoration (January 26), and the Closing Mass (January 27), where he will announce the location of the next international WYD in 2022.

While the pope and the WYD pilgrims meet in Panama this January, several dioceses and communities across the United States will be hosting “stateside celebrations” concurrent with the WYD events for thousands of young people in the U.S. There will be major gatherings for youth and young adults in California, Florida, Hawaii, Indiana, Maryland, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Texas, Washington State, and a multi-diocesan flagship event in Washington, D.C., called “Panama in the Capital” with the Apostolic Nuncio, Archbishop Christophe Pierre, Mark Kennedy Shriver of Save the Children Action Network, and many others.

Details of these events can be found at <http://www.usccb.org/about/world-youth-day/stateside-wyd-celebrations.cfm>

On Wednesday, January 23, the USCCB will collaborate with the Fellowship of Catholic University Students (FOCUS) and the Knights of Columbus on a special one-day event called “Fiat Festival,” to be held at the Figali (Amador) Convention Center in Panama from 3:00 to 10:00 pm ET. The event will feature music, keynotes, panels, video, prayer, and a closing Holy Hour with Bishop Robert Barron and Cardinal Sean O’Malley. It will be live-streamed through FOCUS Catholic’s YouTube Channel.

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## January 19 and 20 in Christian history

**January 19, 1563:** The Heidelberg Catechism, soon accepted by nearly all European Reformed churches, is first published in Germany.

**January 19, 1649:** England's King Charles I, a devout Anglican with Catholic sympathies who staunchly defended the "divine right of kings" while oppressing the Puritans, is executed after being convicted of treason under a Puritan-influenced Parliament.

**January 20, 1541:** A town meeting in Geneva ratifies John Calvin's plan to set up a church court that would meet weekly to judge offenders and maintain discipline.

**January 20, 1569:** Miles Coverdale, publisher of the first printed English Bible and the man who completed William Tyndale's translation of the Old Testament, dies at 81.

**January 20, 1918:** Following the Bolshevik Revolution, all church property in Russia is confiscated and all religious instruction in schools abolished.

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