



First woman to be editor of C of I Gazette

The Board of Church of Ireland Press Ltd. has appointed Connor Diocesan Communications Officer Mrs Karen Bushby as the new Editor of the *Church of Ireland Gazette*.

As this is a part-time position, Karen will continue as DCO - Diocesan Communications Officer - for the Diocese of Connor, a role she has occupied for 13 years.

Karen will be the first female (*and lay?*) Editor in the *Gazette's* history. She has a degree in English and History from Loughborough University, and holds professional

June 15, 2019

qualifications from the National Council for the Training of Journalists.

She has worked in newspapers in Banbridge, Greater London, Omagh, Armagh and Dungannon. In 2002, she moved into freelance public relations, and she was Northern Ireland Co-ordinator of the National Lottery's 10th anniversary in 2004-2005.

Karen, who is an Elder in Banbridge Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Church, was appointed Connor DCO in 2006, and was also part-time Press Officer for Belfast Cathedral for five years. She is married to Matthew and has three children.

Karen said: "I am passionate about news and telling stories that will challenge, entertain and inspire the reader.

"The Church of Ireland is bursting with people and parishes doing fantastic work, and with the support of diocesan communications officers and other contributors, I want to share those stories, while also maintaining thought provoking features which have made the *Gazette* so popular over many decades.

"I appeal for your prayerful support as I take on this new role."

Welcoming the appointment, Adrian Clements, Chair of the Board of Church of Ireland Press Ltd., said: "We are delighted to welcome Karen as the new Editor of the *Gazette*. We are sure that she has the qualities and background needed to continue the development of the new look monthly magazine, ensuring that it will be an essential

June 15, 2019

medium for supporting the mission of the Anglican Church in Ireland.”

Anglican leaders explore global church and state relationships during USPG gathering

Navigating the changing relationship between the state and the church has been the focus of discussions between Anglican leaders from Africa, Asia, Latin America, the Caribbean and Oceania taking part in USPG’s triennial International Consultation in Barbados, this week (7-14 June).

The Chief Executive Officer for USPG, Duncan Dormor, said: “The consultation is focusing on relationships between Church and State across the Anglican Communion. Experiences vary greatly: for some discriminatory practices are commonplace, for others attempts are made to co-opt the influence of the church. For bishops and archbishops the issue of when and how to speak out, and when to remain silent is a fundamental one.”

The consultation has included contributions from Anglican leaders from 17 different Anglican provinces around the world. Rienze Perera, the Archdeacon of Galle in the Diocese of Colombo, spoke out of the experience of the Easter Day bombings in Sri Lanka, as well as the challenges faced by so many who are marginalised and disempowered. A priest from Hong Kong, Chan Kwok Keung, gave a presentation on the current political tensions

June 15, 2019



in Hong Kong and how the Sheng Kung Hui (the Anglican Church in Hong Kong) relates to the government.

Duncan Dormor said: “This issue of Church and State is particularly important for leaders in the Anglican Communion, it’s an issue they have said they wrestle with and of course education is a big issue for many, with the high numbers of church schools. We heard fascinating insights from Archbishop Maimbo Mndolwa in Tanzania, not least the importance of encouraging young Christians to engage in politics.”

The keynote speaker was Kay Sharon McConney, Minister of Innovation, Science and Smart Technology in Barbados. She mapped out a model of how church and state might work together as partners in a “co-creative mission” united by a vision of shared concern for the welfare of the people they serve.

June 15, 2019

A lifelong and deeply committed Anglican, Kay McConney, focused on how the church and state in Barbados must come together to tackle the challenges of caring for the growing ageing population and raising the nation's children "with humanity, in a digital age".

She went on to lay down a missional challenge to the church leaders asking questions about what they might unite against, areas where they will stand together and what they must not let come between them.

The conference is USPGs triennial international gathering.

Connor synod encouraged by diocesan developments

The Bishop of Connor, the Rt Rev Alan Abernethy, was remembered in prayers at the annual Synod of the Diocese of Connor, held in Ballymena on June 13.

Bishop Alan, who is currently undergoing treatment for prostate cancer, sent greetings to the Synod in the form of a video, played in place of his presidential address. In it, he spoke about his treatment, thanked the people of diocese for their prayers, and paid tribute to his three Archdeacons, who have taken turns to act as Commissary.

Synod was chaired by the current commissary, the Ven George Davison, Archdeacon of Belfast.

The minutes of the last Diocesan Synod were agreed, and the Rev Canon William Taggart, Registrar, outlined communications from General Synod.

Tributes were paid to the late Dean Fred Rusk and the late Archdeacon Albert Duncan, both having died in recent

June 15, 2019

months. Mr Jim Neil said that they had each given many years of service to the diocese.

Dean John Bond was welcomed as the new Diocesan Curate, following the retirement of Canon Ken Ruddock. Archdeacon Davison said: "We recognise how big a task it is and it needs someone with the depth of knowledge of the diocese and parish to take this on."



The Report of Diocesan Council and Associated Motions were proposed by the Rev Jonny Campbell-Smyth and seconded by Mrs Andrea Cotter.

Many speakers paid tribute to the Diocesan Development Team, including the Rev Andrew Campbell, Skerry, Rathcavan and Newtowncromellin, who made particular mention of Youth Officer Christina Baillie and her team for the support they had given the parish. The Christmas Cracker outreach event last December had, he said,

June 15, 2019



The Blessing of the Boats - an interfaith gathering - which took place on Sunday 2nd June in Passage West, County Cork. This marked the opening of the Passage West Maritime Festival. It was followed by a parade, entertainment and refreshments in the PACE Centre.

‘empowered our young people towards mission, and on the back of that we have several young people counting the days until Summer Madness and Connor Takes the Castle.’

He thanked Diocesan Development Officer Trevor Douglas for helping develop a parish strategy.

“The support and resources we as clergy have on offer are invaluable as we seek to serve our Lord Jesus Christ in mission,” Andrew said.

June 15, 2019

Archdeacon Paul Dundas, rector of Christ Church, Lisburn, praised the team for activities including Summer Madness, Streetreach, the 'Journey' resource and the All Aboard programme, and said that parishes should also be interested by the Transforming Lives for Good (TLG) project to work with schoolchildren needing extra support.

Paul said Patrick's Mysterious Adventures, staged in Christ Church Parish, had been a clear presentation of the story of St Patrick and his Christian faith, and had passed that message on to hundreds of children and adults. He paid tribute to Connor Children's Project Development Officer Jill Hamilton, Sister Karen Webb from the North Belfast Centre of Mission, and his curate the Rev Derek Harrington for putting the event together, adding that the drama group Play it by Ear had had a great impact.

The Rev Tracey McRoberts, rector of St Matthew's and Mid Belfast Rural Dean, said Connect Base, the North Belfast Centre of Mission, had made a real difference in the area. "It has brought cohesion to parishes through blessing, encouragement, support and a listening ear," she said.

Christina Baillie thanked those who serve on the Diocesan Youth Council, and encouraged others to get involved, and the Rev Philip Benson, Chair of the Youth Council, said that he would like to see more parishes sending young people to the various youth events.

Archdeacon Davison thanked the entire diocesan team. "We owe them a huge debt of gratitude," he said.

Mrs Kathleen Rodgers took the opportunity to speak about the Orphans and Children's Society, which she said had supported some of the activities organised in Connor, but

June 15, 2019



Quilts in Dingle - This exhibition was held on the 8th and 9th of June in aid of the pariah restoration fund. This is one of the many events of a cultural and practical nature that take place in the church through the year.

appealed for more applications for funding from across the diocese.

Mrs Cynthia Cherry spoke on the Diocesan Financial Scheme and Diocesan General Fund Assessment.

Archdeacon Davison made a presentation to the Rev Canon Will Murphy, who has retired as Diocesan Director of Ordinands (DDO) after 27 years, and new DDO the Rev Canon Kevin Graham encouraged delegates to support Vocation Sunday (September 13) and played a video which has been made to generate interest in vocation (featuring, among others, Lisburn Cathedral curate the Rev Danielle McCullagh).

Before the end of the discussion around the Diocesan Council Report, Archdeacon Davison expressed gratitude to Lay Readers who, he said, do a tremendous job.

June 15, 2019

There was a presentation from PSNI Chief Superintendent Simon Walls on the Scamwise NI project to protect people from being scammed. A full report will be posted separately.

Business was suspended as delegates enjoyed a lovely meal in St Patrick's Parish Hall – thanks were expressed to all those who had provided the dinner.

Back in the Synod Hall, Dean Stephen Forde took the opportunity, in relation to reports submitted to synod by both Belfast Cathedral (St Anne's) and Lisburn Cathedral, to encourage people to consider coming along to St Anne's for Choral Evensong and hear 'a top class choir in a beautiful place of reflection.'

Synod agreed a motion proposed by the Rev Amanda Adams that the partnership with Yei Diocese in South Sudan be continued for two years from 2019.

Before the close of business. Mr Ken Gibson, Hon Lay Secretary, thanked the three Archdeacons on behalf of the laity, and the Rev Alan McCann added his thanks on behalf of the clergy.

The evening continued with a keynote speech by Phil Potter, retired Archbishop of Canterbury's Missioner and Leader of the Church of England Fresh Expressions Team, on the topic 'A Heart for Mission.' You can download [PHIL POTTER'S TALK](#).

Archdeacon Paul Dundas then chaired a panel discussion on IDLE (Inter Diocesan Learning Experience) made up of the Ven Andrew Forster, Archdeacon of Ardboe, Diocese of Armagh; Rhonda Willoughby, Naas Union, Diocese of

June 15, 2019

Meath and Kildare); Phil Potter and Sister Karen Webb, North Belfast Centre of Mission.

Plenty of hope for Christians today despite church's changed status in Ireland

The Church may have lost its dominant position in Irish society but there is plenty of hope for Christians today. That was the resounding message from Ecumenical Bible Week's 2019 symposium which took place in the Holy Cross Diocesan Centre, Dublin, on Thursday June 13.

Three speakers – the Revd Dr Patrick McGlinchey of the Church of Ireland Theological Institute, the Rt Hon Sir Jeffrey Donaldson MP for Lagan Valley and Patricia Devlin who is an environmentalist and part of the Orlagh in the City Eucharistic community – tackled the subject: 'How can we be Christian in Ireland Today? Voices of Hope in a Secularised Ireland'. The thought provoking discussion, covering the spheres of theology, politics and ecology, was chaired by Archbishop Michael Jackson

Church and Theology

Proceedings were opened by Dr McGlinchey who outlined the changes which ushered in the secular age. Increased media influences challenged the monolithic religious culture; Vatican II brought about changes in understanding among the faithful which had a knock on effect on the younger generation; there was a distancing among the

June 15, 2019

church-going population; and clerical sexual abuse and institutional cover up alienated people.

However, he said he was convinced that this was not the end of the story and gave three reasons to be encouraged in the face of discouragement. Firstly, the end of Christendom is not evidence that the Christian faith is untrue. He said that we don't have to mourn the time when the church ruled the roost: "Christianity is a movement, not an institution". Secondly, the secular narrative that we no longer need God is not true to human nature. Dr McGlinchey said that we live in an age of distraction and the reality of God is not immediately obvious. Thirdly, the secular withdrawal from God will not be maintained because life will become unsatisfying.

He suggested that there were three imperatives for the Church. We must communicate Christ by living out the faith; individual Christians must allow themselves to be transformed by Christ thus making the invisible God visible; and the Church must become a community that serves.

Dr McGlinchey concluded by delivering three unshakeable grounds for hope: Christ has been raised bodily from the grave; the gates of hell shall not prevail against his Church and while it may be challenged it will not be overcome; and we have a hope which is not just for this life, Christians can die well.

Church and Politics

Sir Jeffrey Donaldson said that while the standing of the Church had diminished, it was not the end of the story and

June 15, 2019

thhappen. “I’ve seen society changing,” he said. “It is now difficult for me as a Christian to speak publically of my Christian faith... Where tolerance is the mark of this more liberal secular society, I wonder how much tolerance there is for freedom of religious belief. I’ve seen it more so in Great Britain but it is increasing in Northern Ireland.”

Living in the public square, Sir Jeffrey said he had seen the media influence on secularising our culture. “It’s very subtle. They’ve stolen our language. They’ve learned that softening their language can win votes. But by their fruits ye shall know them. It’s what the Church does rather than what the Church knows that will help it regain influence, and by having influence I don’t mean having power,” he stated.

As an MP, he deals with people who are broken and said he could see that there was a hole in their lives. Increasingly people are experiencing mental health problems. Living in the fast lane creates pressure, he said. “When I deal with people who are broken I try to show them that there is something different in how I do business. I don’t put the Bible in front of them... but I do try to show them the love of Jesus. Jesus said that we are to be the salt and the light. I say that the salt is not the main thing but it improves the meal. The Church isn’t the main thing in our society and we have to accept that but what we have to offer can change the main thing and make it better,” he explained.

Turning to the issue of human rights, Sir Jeffrey said that social issues were now presented as human rights. He said in Northern Ireland, recognising that the narrative about abortion is changing, they have sought to push back in the debate with a new approach proclaiming that both lives

June 15, 2019

matter. “We have to look at the narrative and we have to show respect. But we were also entitled to receive respect. The media narrative tends to lean against that. People who come from a Christian perspective can be torn apart in the media. We need to stand up and say that if you believe in human rights, then freedom of expression is part of that,” he stated. He reported that the Council of Europe was exploring the concept of reasonable accommodation in seeking ways of accommodating people who have a conscientious difficulty with the laws that have been put in place.

“As a politician and primarily a Christian, I am not despondent or without hope. The relevance of the Church is still there. The message of Jesus is still there. We should be putting Jesus front and centre at the heart of what we do. We shouldn’t be afraid to say it and it concerns me that on the big debates either the media leave the voice of the Church out or that Church leaders don’t want to enter that very difficult arena,” he said. He argued that he did not feel that Christianity could not be progressive but he said he was not sure that taking the life of a baby was progressive. He added that after 30 years of Troubles in Northern Ireland, there was a lot of healing and reconciliation to be done across the island and the Church had a role to play in this.

Church and Ecology

“The house is on fire,” said Patricia Devlin. In searching for all the possible ways of being Christian in Ireland today she said this was the message that spoke loudest to her. “The

June 15, 2019

message of being a Christian in Ireland today has to include ecological conversion,” she stated.

Focusing on Pope Francis’s *Laudato Si* encyclical, she said that climate change called Christians to seek a more equitable distribution of materials and a more equitable version of consumerism. “We who live this style of life must be aware that we can and must learn from those who have less than we have at the very point where we want more and more,” she said.

Human choice can change the tide of global warming, she stated. She added that for the first time in history we are recognising that our choices affect the environment and that we can do something about it.

“Life on earth as we know it is changing. We have 12 years to get control of carbon emissions before irreparable damage is done and I pray that the ecumenical movement can grasp this,” she said. The greatest contribution Christians can make is to understand the challenge and contribute to the transformation of consciousness. Personal, community and global economic relationships need to change and this cannot happen without a change in morality, she contended. This will affect what we eat, what we wear, what we buy, our assets, where we shop, where we go on holidays, where we educate our children ... in short it will change everything. It also means changing our perception of our relationship with God, she said. The good news is that more people are now taking notice and taking action, she said.

Pope Francis’s vision for the environment is tripartite, she stated, involving God, Nature and human ecologies. She

June 15, 2019

explained that the human root causes of the environment crisis stemmed from misuse of creativity and the power of technology, our anthropocentric perspective, practical relativism and our reductionist perceptions of human beings. She said the Church could contribute to change by educating for the covenant between humanity and the environment and facilitating ecological conversion.

“Christians are being challenged to speak for the climate in the public square, in their churches, in their places of work and in their lifestyles,” Mrs Devlin concluded. “I’ve seen society changing,” he said. “It is now difficult for me as a Christian to speak publically of my Christian faith... Where tolerance is the mark of this more liberal secular society, I wonder how much tolerance there is for freedom of religious belief. I’ve seen it more so in Great Britain but it is increasing in Northern Ireland.”

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June 15, 2019

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June 15, 2019

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June 15, 2019

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YMCA one of the oldest ecumenical global movements, Archbishop of York

The Archbishop of York, Dr John Sentamu, joined in the celebrations with one of the oldest ecumenical global movements as it marks its 175th anniversary this year. The worldwide YMCA youth movement, which began as an evangelical young men's Christian service organisation, celebrated its start this month with a thanksgiving service at St Martin-in-the-Fields in London.

June 15, 2019

The Archbishop, who is the President of the YMCA, said: “It has been a great pleasure to join in the celebrations of 175 years of the YMCA. The work they have done and continue to do today to help and support young people is truly fantastic! My prayer is that the work continues for the next century!”



The Archbishop of York, Dr John Sentamu, is President of the 175-year-old YMCA

Denise Hatton, the Chief Executive of YMCA England & Wales, said: “what started with a concern for the welfare of his fellow workers and the formation of a prayer and Bible study group, grew into the YMCA which now reaches 60 million people worldwide.”

The YMCA’s origins go back to 1844, when a 22-year-old George Williams met with colleagues in the upstairs room of churchnewsireland@gmail.org

June 15, 2019

a drapery store just a few yards from St Paul's Cathedral in London, and began the conversations which led to the Young Men's Christian Association being formed.

At that time the YMCA was a pioneering forerunner of the global ecumenical movement.

“Our movement may have been started by a group of young men, but today women are taking full part as participants, volunteers, staff members and key decision makers,” the World YMCA Secretary General, Carlos Sanvee, said. “Therefore, in the run up to YMCA175, we will be sharing messages on our social media platforms from female leaders to reflect on their journey to encourage our young people and our partners to keep fighting for gender equality.”

Also as part of the YMCA 175th anniversary celebrations, the organisation issued a world challenge to young people across the globe to volunteer 175 minutes of their time on or following 8 June 2019 to better the communities they live in and to share their experience online under #YMCAChallenge.

Later this summer, from 4 to 8 August, a global YMCA 175 youth event will take place at London's ExCeL conference centre, with around 70 seminars, lectures and workshops embracing the UN Sustainable Development Goals of health, environment, civic engagement, education, economic empowerment & employment.

More details of the event can be found on the website:

ymca175.com

churchnewsireland@gmail.org

June 15, 2019

June 15 & 16 - Today in Christian history

June 15, 1215: King John signs the Magna Carta, which begins, "The Church of England shall be free.

June 15, 1520: In the papal encyclical "Exsurge Domine," Leo X condemns Martin Luther on 41 of counts of heresy, branding him an enemy of the Roman Catholic Church. After the encyclical, Luther's works were burned in Rome.

June 16, 1846: Giovanni Maria Mastai-Ferretti is named Pope Pius IX. Roman Catholics remember him for his 31-year pontificate—the longest in history—for his declaration of the dogma of the Immaculate Conception and for the First Vatican Council's declaration of the infallibility of the pope.

June 16, 1855: William and Catherine Booth, founders of the Salvation Army, marry, having fallen in love the first night they met. William had escorted Catherine home, and she later wrote, "Before we reached my home, we both felt as though we had been made for each other".

June 15 - News briefs

+++Unpacking youth ministry in the local church - Enrol now for the PCI Youth Ministry Course. Monday nights, 7.30-9.30pm | 23 September – 9 December 2019 (including residential Friday 8 November evening to Saturday 9 November). Venue: Union Theological College, Belfast | Cost: £150. This redesigned course is for anyone over 18 working actively with young people in their local church. It unpacks the why, what, who and how of engaging teenagers for the Gospel. The course will cover some big picture thinking to help clarify where youth work fits in the overall

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June 15, 2019

life of the church and focus on some of the key skills of reaching, embracing and equipping young people to live out faith in Jesus Christ in an increasingly challenging culture. It will help participants reflect on their own practise as they apply the material to what they do, and equip them to be a more focussed and effective youth leader. Full details can be found at www.presbyterianireland.org/ymc

+++Installation at St George's Chapel, Windsor - On Garter Day, next Monday, 17th June, 2019, Lady Mary Peters LG CH DBE will be installed, with the Marquess of Salisbury, in the Garter ceremony at St George's Chapel, Windsor Castle. The Duke of Abercorn and the Viscount Brookeborough are fellow Knights.

+++ Garden Fete & Vintage Rally - The Parish of St Lurach's, Maghera & Killelagh has issued an open invitation to its third annual Garden Fete & Vintage Rally on Saturday 29th June. The fete will take place in the fabulous grounds of Maghera Rectory from 12 until 4pm.

+++Please pray for - Rev Michael Anderson - PCI chaplain in Musgrave Park Hospital, Belfast. Many patients in the Acquired Brain Injury Unit and the Spinal Rehabilitation Unit stay for many months after sustaining life changing injuries. Pray that through the help they are receiving that God will enable these people to come to terms emotionally with such great loss. Pray that their families and friends would be a great source of comfort and strength. Pray that however different and difficult life will be in the future that they can still experience hope, joy and purpose. Pray for great wisdom, sensitivity and compassion for all chaplains as they seek to minister into these situations.

June 15, 2019

+++ Food for thought - Liturgy is the enactment and involvement of the people in the story of God; an action of transition in which people are not the same at the end as they were at the beginning. Archbishop Rowan Williamson to the Dearmer Society

June 15 News Links

[Scottish Synod debates reconciliation in anticipation of Brexit](#)

Church Times

The **Church** had not yet done the hard work on reconciliation, he said. ... heard in Westminster that the Republic of **Ireland** was dragging its feet over Brexit; ... addressed the **Church** in Wales at their assembly last September (**News**, ...

[Statement from Irish Catholic Bishops 2019 Summer meeting](#)

Independent Catholic News

The Summer 2019 General Meeting of the **Irish** Catholic Bishops' of the National Board for Safeguarding Children in the Catholic **Church** in **Ireland**, ... energy and positivity as selfless servants of the Good **News** throughout their ...

[Irish Bishops voice concern over religious intolerance, racism and bigotry](#)

Vatican News

The Bishops, in a statement said they were concerned "about the rising number of incidents of racism, xenophobia, and religious intolerance in **Ireland** ...

[Sexuality and the End of the Catholic Church – RAI with Matthew Fox \(6/8\)](#)

The Real News Network

The refusal of the **Church** to purge abusers and pedophiles from the clergy and accept And of course, look what happened in **Ireland**. So please join us for the continuation of Reality Asserts Itself on The Real **News** Network.

[Sex education in Catholic schools covers facts and values, bishops say](#)

Irish Times

Ireland's Catholic bishops have defended the manner in which sex ... Similar views were repeated by **Church** of **Ireland** Archbishop of Dublin Michael ...

[Finding a home in today's Church](#)

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Page 24

June 15, 2019

The Irish News

The Catholic **Church** can feel like a tired place struggling to adjust to modern challenges, writes Brian McKee. A conference this month aims to replace ...

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