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All-Ireland President of Mother's Union commissioned



Mrs June Butler, All Ireland President of the Mothers' Union
with Bishop John McDowell, Archbishop Richard Clarke and
Bishop Harold Miller

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Mrs Phyllis Grothier with her successor Mrs June Butler

The Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of All-Ireland, Most Revd Richard Clarke, has commissioned Mrs June Butler MBE as All-Ireland President of Mother's Union. June succeeded Mrs Phyllis Grothier in January 2019 and will serve a three-year term, Annette McGrath writes.

Many members and friends travelled to Down Cathedral for the service on Sunday past, March 24, when the Archbishop also commissioned the All-Ireland Board of Trustees.

Congratulating the newly commissioned President, Archbishop Clarke said, "On behalf of the Church of Ireland, I would like to wish June Butler every blessing and happiness in her role as Mothers' Union President. I have no doubt that she will bring energy and creativity to her new position."

June is a parishioner of Saintfield Parish in Down Diocese and the Bishop of Down and Dromore, Rt Revd Harold Miller, gave the address. The Bishop of Clogher, Rt Revd John McDowell, read the Gospel. June's late husband Kevin was Chairman of The Lindsay Chorale and it was especially poignant that they led the worship and sang several pieces.

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Mrs June Butler with Mrs Paddy Wallace, a former All Ireland MU President



June Butler brings to her Presidency

40 years of experience in the public and private sector and her recent tenure as MU Diocesan President for Down and Dromore. She was Assistant Chief Electoral Officer for Northern Ireland from 2001-2009 and in 2011 was awarded the MBE for her contribution to electoral services in the region. She is a familiar face at the Church of Ireland General Synod and will be known to many as the former Diocesan Secretary of both Down and Dromore and Connor.

Within Mother's Union, June is particularly engaged with matters of policy and attended the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women in both 2017 and 2019 as part of the MU delegation. She is also a Trustee of several other bodies, including the RUC George Cross Foundation. June still finds time to enjoy her three daughters and their families including five grandchildren.

Speaking after her commissioning June said, "I feel both humbled and so privileged to have been elected by the members as the All Ireland President of Mothers' Union. I am particularly grateful to those who took the time to travel

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Last week June Butler was in new York representing the Mothers' Union at the UN Commission on the Status of Women

from across Ireland to attend the commissioning service today, and also for the love and support of my fellow Trustees, my family and close friends.

“This is a wonderful organisation whose members work so hard to help families, individuals and children in need across our world. The members in Ireland not only become involved in meaningful projects and local community outreach but also provide funds to help others in the 84 countries where Mothers' Union is established. As our new Worldwide President, Sheran Harper recently said “We are a unique and extraordinary gift from God”.

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“By leading the dedicated members throughout Ireland, I will endeavour to continue our traditional areas of work as well as being innovative in planning for our future as an organisation and in addressing the difficult emerging aspects of our world.”



Three members of Derry and Raphoe Mothers' Union have been commissioned by the Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of All-Ireland, Most Rev Richard Clarke, as All Ireland Trustees of MU.

Mrs Kay Clarke was commissioned as a Vice-President of the Union, Mrs Kaye Nesbitt was commissioned as Unit Coordinator of Finance and Central Service, and Diocesan President Jacqui Armstrong was also commissioned as a Trustee.

Presbyterian Church to open new visitor exhibition in Belfast

The Lord Mayor of Belfast, Councillor Deirdre Hargey, will officially open the Presbyterian Church in Ireland's new visitor exhibition at its Assembly Buildings headquarters in Belfast city centre on Wednesday morning.

Across different stand-alone interpretive themed panels, interactive exhibits and specially chosen artefacts, the permanent exhibition tells the story of Presbyterianism in Ireland over the last four centuries and the work of the Church at home and overseas today.

The exhibition has been made possible through the City Council's Social Outcomes Fund. The Lord Mayor will perform the opening ceremony, while the Moderator, Dr Charles McMullen, will dedicate it.

The titles of the interpretive themed panels are:

- Presbyterians come to Ireland
- Beliefs and organisation
- Meeting Houses
- Mission in Ireland
- Union Theological College
- Ardens Sed Virens - Burning yet flourishing
 - five centuries of Presbyterian witness in Ireland
- Controversies – religious and political
- Beyond these shores– the influence of mission

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- Meeting the need – engagements with society
- Contemporary church life
- Gathering and worship

The interactive exhibits and audio-visual installations enable visitors to locate the denomination's 500-plus congregations across Ireland, interact with a 19th century map of Presbyterians in Ireland and view short films on the history life and work of the Church.

The special artefacts include an iron portable baptism bowl and pewter communion ware, an early 'pocket sized' 1655 copy of the King James Bible, a New Testament and a Book of Psalms in Irish. There are also some smaller items of interest on display such as communion tokens, a pulpit timer and other pieces that tell their own stories – like the imperial Chinese travel document issued to a Presbyterian missionary traveling to Manchuria. The Moderator's 1905 Chair, which is used at the Church's annual General Assembly is also on display.

Archbishop Jackson conveys sympathy to Irish Islamic community

A memorial gathering for the victims of the New Zealand mosque terror attacks took place on Friday (March 22) in the Islamic Centre of Ireland in Blanchardstown, Dublin. The gathering was held after Jumah (Friday) Prayers one week to the day after the atrocity.

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Following verses from the Qur'an and the Jumah Sermon there was a Call to Prayer and a minute's silence in memory of the 50 people who were killed in the Christchurch mosque shootings. There were also Funeral Prayers for the victims. The gathering was addressed by New Zealand's Ambassador to Ireland, Brad Burgess, Archbishop Michael Jackson, Rabbi Zalman Lent, and the head master of Castleknock College, Christopher Kinder, who spoke in Te Reo Maori. The memorial concluded with all participants holding hands for a minute's silence.

In his address Archbishop Jackson expressed sympathy, sadness and solidarity with the Muslim people of New Zealand, all the people of New Zealand, and with Muslim people in Ireland.

Resilience

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“My priority is to express sympathy and sadness both on my own behalf and on behalf of all who journey with me in sorrow. I do so as a fellow human being and also on behalf of the Church of Ireland and the Christian tradition. I express such sympathy and sadness along with a deep sense of outrage and tragedy that even one person at prayer should die through calculated and premeditated violence. I express it to the Muslim people of New Zealand, the total population of New Zealand and to the Muslim people of Ireland with whom I have had the privilege and opportunity to work creatively and constructively for almost ten years now,” he said.

Fivemiletown C of I damaged by vandals

A Church in Co Fermanagh has been damaged by vandals, the PSNI has said.

Police say they are investigating graffiti and damage caused to the Church of Ireland church in Newtownbutler, which happened “in the last few days”.

Writing on the PSNI Fermanagh Facebook page, an officer said: “Please folks these places of worship have a lot of emotional meaning to a lot of people.

“Think about your actions and how it could affect the people in your own community.”

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Ulster Unionist councillor Victor Warrington said: “The despicable act of vandalism on Newtownbutler Church of Ireland over the weekend has caused much anguish and disgust among local people.

“To attack any place of worship is a sad reflection on our community. This type of behaviour has to be unreservedly condemned and I would appeal to anyone with information to contact the PSNI immediately.”

The PSNI Fermanagh officer added: “Anyone who has information in relation to this can you please call 101 and quote CC699 of 23/3/19. Otherwise you can always call crimestoppers confidentially with any information.”

Youtube the key to youth evangelism?

New research suggests a high percentage of Gen Z have changed their mind because of something on Youtube.

With 94% of 'Generation Z', those born after 1995, on social media daily, a Christian organisation says the church needs to be there too if they are going to hear the gospel.

The Christian charity Youth For Christ have conducted research into the online habits of young people to see how the church can reach them appropriately.

In the report, released on Monday, 'Generation Z' were found to be much more involved in Youtube than they were

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in previous research, seeing themselves as 'curators' rather than consumers of content.

In May 2017, Youth for Christ found that 94% of young people engage with social media daily and 75% engage with YouTube everyday. The report also identified YouTube as the most effective space for sharing Jesus with young people online.

A second blind survey of 1001 11-18 year old young people was then done across England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.

Half the children and young people were asked about their habits and attitudes towards social media, whereas the second set were asked about their use of YouTube.

Youtube had the most popularity when it came to how young people wanted to spend their time online and it ranked top when asked to state their top three platforms.

Music streaming and vlogs were the most common reasons for going on Youtube and within vlogs, 61% said they like to watch youtubers talking about their passions.

Speaking about how these results can help the church evangelise to young people, Church Resources Director, Laura Hancock, told Premier: "A high percentage as well said stuff they'd viewed online has changed their mind or opinion.

"As an older generation we have wisdom that we can pass on to younger generations about how to effectively share

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faith - where they have the tools maybe we have the wisdom.

"It's an incredible window to share faith if you're actually able to communicate in that space in an effective way".

News briefs



+++Bishop Colton's 20th anniversary - This week marks the twentieth anniversary of Bishop Paul Colton's episcopal ordination. Ad multos annos.

+++Exploring ordination - The next meeting of the Down & Dromore Exploring Ordination Group is on Wednesday 10 April at 7.30 pm in Dromara Church Halls. The group meets four times in the year and is an informal and very helpful part of the discernment process.

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If you are interested in coming along for the first time please *speak to your rector*. [Download the information leaflet](#) that explains all the steps in the selection process and training for ordained ministry (and Diocesan Reader ministry).



+++On the Methodist circuits - The President, Rev Billy Davison and his wife Loraine shared in a special united service on the Springfield and Church Hill Circuit on Sunday morning. From left to right Mr Stanley Gordon, Church Hill Council member, Society Steward Mrs Charlotte Gordon, Rev Mandy Durrell, Circuit Steward Mrs Myrtle Abercrombie, Church Treasurer Mrs Sylvia Wood.

+++Co-chairing Anglican Jewish Commission - Today the Archbishop of Dublin is in Manchester for a three day

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meeting of the Anglican Jewish Commission of which he is the co-chair.

+++Limerick concert - The lunchtime concert in St Mary's cathedral, Limerick, on Wednesday will feature David Cantillon (clarinet), David Szabo (piano) and friends.

+++Dean on the move - Sunday was the Very Revd Gary Paulsen's last service as Dean of Killaloe. He will be instituted to the incumbency of the Fermoy union of parishes in the Diocese of Cloyne on 7 April.

+++Food for thought - Prayer reconnects us to God, charity to our neighbour, fasting to ourselves. God, my brothers and sisters, my life: these are the realities that do not end in nothing, and in which we must invest. Pope Francis

March 26 in Christian history

March 26, 655: Deusdedit becomes the first English-born Archbishop of Canterbury. He served until 664.

March 26, 752: Stephen III assumes the papacy after Stephen II dies. But Stephen III is sometimes called Stephen II, since the *real* Stephen II hardly counts: he died a mere four days after his election!

March 26, 1831: Richard Allen, founder of the African Methodist Episcopal Church and the first black bishop in America, dies at age 71.

News Links

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Cyclone Idai: Presbyterian Church launches special appeal

Belfast Newsletter

The **Irish** Presbyterian **Church** today launches a special appeal to its 600 congregations for those affected by the disastrous cyclone Idai in southern ...

Church of Ireland Archbishop of Dublin expresses solidarity with NZ Muslims

RTE.ie

Church of Ireland Archbishop of Dublin Michael Jackson has been expressing his sympathy and solidarity with the Muslim people of New Zealand and ...

'Outpouring of love and support' for Islamic community

Irish Times

The **Church of Ireland** Archbishop of Dublin Dr Michael Jackson said his priority ... The New Zealand Ambassador to Ireland Brad Burgess thanked the ...

Anger over pupils' 'sins' listed on artwork at Mass, claims it breaches 'GDPR and seal of confession'

Independent.ie

Children at Cratloe National School, Co Clare, were asked to write their sins on artwork to be displayed at first confession Mass in the local **church** on ...

Act on church was despicable

The Irish News

DESPICABLE was an apt description of damage caused to a **Church of Ireland** place of worship in Co Fermanagh. It is believed that graffiti was ...

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[Tributes as pioneering Independent journalist Lorna Reid dies](#)
[Independent.ie](#)

Service on Tuesday at 4pm in St Philip and St James' Church, Booterstown, Dublin. Burial on Wednesday at 2pm in Ballyseedy **Church of Ireland** ...

[Lebanon hostage Terry Waite unveiled for Orkney festival](#)

Press and Journal

As an envoy for the **Church of England**, he travelled to Lebanon to try to secure the release of four hostages, including the journalist John McCarthy.

[What's behind increasing antisemitism and anti-Israel propaganda?](#)

The Jerusalem Post

... it is important to remember that the Anglican Church represents the **Church of England**. Anglicans are the third largest Christian group in the world ...

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