



Image of the day - Wells Cathedral

News Reports

Albany diocesan standing committee reverses policy, opens door to same-sex marriages

The standing committee of the Diocese of Albany, the last remaining American diocese in The Episcopal Church to prohibit same-sex marriage, announced on Nov. 1 that the ceremonies may proceed in the diocese, bringing the diocese into compliance with General Convention's mandate to make marriage rites available to all couples, Egan Millard, Assistant Editor of Episcopal News Service.

“We seek the renewing and rebuilding of our diocesan community,” the standing committee wrote in its announcement, which quoted the 79th General Convention's Resolution B012 and other church documents in explaining the committee's decision. “We pledge ourselves to work with one another in a spirit of mutual respect in the midst of ‘theological diversity in regard to matters of human sexuality.’”

The status of same-sex marriage in the upstate New York diocese has been a point of contention ever since former Bishop William Love refused to implement Resolution B012, the 2018 General Convention measure aimed at ensuring marriage equality in all dioceses where same-sex marriage is legal. Seven other bishops who, like Love, were theologically opposed to same-sex marriage agreed to end



restrictions on the ceremonies in their dioceses, through a process under B012 in which another bishop assumes any pastoral oversight that might be needed for the wedding.

Bishop William Love
Former Bishop William Love. Photo: Diocese of Albany

Love was the only bishop who refused to implement B012, and a disciplinary panel determined in

October 2020 that his refusal violated church canon law and his ordination vows. Love resigned rather than face further disciplinary action and joined the Anglican Church in North America.

Since Love's resignation, the diocese's standing committee has been the ecclesiastical authority while a search for the next diocesan bishop is underway.

In its Nov. 1 announcement, the standing committee – which has some new members as a result of elections at the Oct. 23 diocesan convention – said that “as a body” it is theologically opposed to same-sex marriage. However, in order to comply with B012 in the interim period until the election of the next diocesan bishop, the committee directed

November 4, 2021

clergy who plan to celebrate same-sex marriages to consult with Assisting Bishop Michael Smith, whom the committee called in August to serve during the leadership transition.

Smith, previously bishop of the Diocese of North Dakota, was one of eight bishops who refused to allow same-sex couples to marry using trial rites approved in 2015 by the 78th General Convention. In 2018, he agreed to implement B012 in North Dakota by designating pastoral oversight to another bishop. Smith retired as diocesan bishop in May 2019.

Bishop Michael G. Smith. Photo: Diocese of Albany

The Albany standing committee, in directing clergy to “work out on our behalf the details of a Letter of Agreement for supplemental episcopal pastoral support,” is working within B012’s provision for another bishop to provide oversight for same-sex marriages, though it was not immediately clear what bishop would fill that role.



The diocese had been scheduled to vote at its Oct. 23 convention on whether to amend its canons that still prohibit clergy from officiating same-sex weddings (and the use of diocesan property for such weddings) and restrict ordination to people who are in heterosexual marriages or celibate. However, rather than debating the change, lay and clergy delegates voted 126 to 116 for a procedural amendment that said no canonical changes would be made at the online convention. The next time the diocese will be able to consider the resolutions is at its next in-person diocesan convention, scheduled for June.

Until then, the canons remain on the books. Some other dioceses – such as Dallas – also have similar bans on the books even though their bishops allow same-sex marriages.

Parish income 'badly affected' during pandemic

Church of England parishes have paid 10 per cent less to their dioceses in the past 12 months compared to pre-Covid levels, the House of Commons has heard.

Andrew Selous, the MP who answers questions about the established Church, told the House last week about the large fall in the voluntary payments local churches make in "parish share" towards clergy salaries, pensions, and housing.

Answering a question about the impact of the Covid-19 outbreak on trends in financial giving, the Second Church

November 4, 2021

Estates Commissioner said parishes are giving less to their dioceses because their own income has plummeted.

"In 2020 the amount of parish share received by dioceses was 7% below 2019 levels, and in the year to date it is running at 10% less than in the same period of 2019. Parish income has also been badly affected by the loss of hall letting and other events income," he told MPs.

The Conservative MP for South West Bedfordshire was also asked how the CofE's payroll budget is split between frontline parish clergy, staff in diocesan offices, and the national institutions, such as the Church Commissioners and Central Services.

Mr Selous said:"The Church of England is not a single institution, so it does not have a single payroll budget. In 2019, £255 million was spent on stipends and pension contributions for ordained ministers in parishes and a further £124 million was spent on clergy housing and working costs, £65 million was spent on staff in dioceses and £30 million was spent on staff in the National Church Institutions."

Commenting on the growing CofE crisis, the Guardian newspaper asserted in an editorial last week that "the cash-strapped Anglican hierarchy must tread carefully as it rethinks the role of the traditional parish".

"In the context of a 40% decline in church attendance over the past 30 years, radical action seems unavoidable. Before the pandemic struck, around 5,000 parishes needed

November 4, 2021

financial help from their diocese to meet the costs of ministry.

"Lincoln diocese has an annual £3m operating deficit and has said that after 2025 it will no longer be able to rely on historic assets to get by.

"On the current model, the old ideal of a priest for every parish no longer seems affordable," the paper said.

The Guardian editorial provoked several letters.

Priscilla Bench-Capon from West Kirby, Merseyside, thanked the paper for "highlighting the plight of CofE parishes".

"I am a trustee of my local parish church. Our congregation is largely elderly, and has to find £7,318 each month to pay the diocese, plus money for the maintenance of three beautiful listed buildings, complete with organs, bells and a tower clock, care of two churchyards, insurance, cleaning, a part-time administrator and more," she wrote.

She said her church wants to be "available and welcoming to anyone who turns to us, but it is a struggle".

She argued that "if people want church property in good condition, with professional clergy and open doors, and don't want to see more closures, they should think about helping us to pay the bills".

New Rector welcomed to Taney Parish in Dublin

Parishioners of Taney gave a warm welcome to their new Rector on Friday evening (October 29).

The Revd Nigel Pierpoint was instituted as Incumbent by Archbishop Michael Jackson in Christ Church, Taney. Parishioners, family and friends joined the service both in church and online for what the Archbishop termed “a momentous occasion in the life of Taney parish”.

It is not often that an Archdeacon gets to both present the Incumbent and preach at the Service of Institution. But as the Archdeacon of Dublin, the Ven David Pierpoint, is the new Rector’s brother, he had the honour of doing both. Nigel was also joined in the church by his wife Anne and their children Claire and Stephen.

In his sermon, Archdeacon Pierpoint observed that he had known Nigel for all of his life but was not going to give a glowing biography as it would embarrass them both. However, he said he had seen Nigel at work in ministry in good times and bad and said he thought the nominators had chosen well, although he could be biased. “Nigel will undertake whatever task is ahead of him with energy, commitment and enthusiasm and I wish him well as he is instituted Rector of Taney,” he said.

He said the reading from Hebrews [5: 1–10] was a job description for every high priest in the days of ancient Israel. The high priest was chosen to perform various functions,



Archbishop commits the care of the parish to the Revd Nigel Pierpoint.

among them to serve as mediator between the people and God. The Archdeacon said that there was always a danger that a Rector could forget their role and come to believe they were something special. “We are never to forget that we are to be servants of the servants of God,” he stated. “The Rector is not to be above himself but is to deal gently with those whom he is called to serve.

Turning to the Gospel reading [John 1: 35–42] he said that Matthew and John seemed to be at odds about the beginning of Jesus’s ministry. However, both speak of

November 4, 2021

Jesus's ability to recruit disciples. He said Jesus was a catalyst and his personality, message and dynamism attracted people to drop everything and follow him.

“There was no interview or presentation of qualifications, no job analysis [...] No one today would think this would work. But Jesus knew the kind of people he was looking for and when he saw them he singled them out and made the decision to disciple them. He seemed to be a great judge of character,” he said. “It is not easy to become a new Rector. It is even less easy to be a new Rector in the parish in which you served as Curate. But there is the potential to grow.” He added that Nigel was God's chosen servant in Taney.

Speeches congratulating the new Rector took place directly after the service. Welcoming Nigel on behalf of the parishioners was People's Church Warden Ian Geoffroy who assured him of the continuing support of parishioners.

Archbishop Jackson spoke of the Rector's instinct to befriend people and to enable people to be with God. He wished him well in his new ministry and thanked his brother, the Archdeacon, for all he did for the diocese as well as for preaching. He thanked the Curate, the Revd Christopher West who is taking up a new role in St Macartin's Cathedral in Enniskillen. He described Taney as a dynamic and busy parish with two churches at the heart of its activity.

Taking his turn at the microphone, the new Rector thanked everyone who had been involved in the service and the nominators for nominating him as well as those who help run the parish. “It is an honour and a privilege to be Rector



The Revd Nigel Pierpoint, his wife Anne and their children Claire and Stephen

of Taney... I will give it 110% to be with you all,” he commented adding special thanks to his wife Anne for her support, noting that she had not married a clergyman but she had supported him throughout his ministry.

Born in Santry and the youngest of three boys, Nigel grew up in the Church of Ireland tradition as a chorister in St Patrick’s Cathedral, Dublin. He is married to Anne and they have two children, Claire and Stephen, as well as son-in-law Andy and two grandchildren Henry and Nora. Anne works in Rathdown School as registrar.

Nigel was licenced as a Lay Reader for Dublin and Glendalough in 1995. He commenced training in the Church

November 4, 2021

of Ireland Theological Institute in 2013. He was ordained Deacon in 2015 and Priesthood in 2016. He has served in Taney since his ordination to the Diaconate.

People and places

North coast calendar

The beautiful Ballintoy Parish Church 2022 Calendar is now available for a minimum donation of £5 each. A4 size and month per page format. To get yours contact the rector (patribart@aol.com) or any member of the select vestry.



Limavady organist retires

The parish posted on its Facebook on Sunday past, “We said farewell and thank you to our organist, Margaret, as she retired after 12 years of service. Margaret has served our parish faithfully and we sincerely thank both her and Stanley for their dedication and commitment to our church over this time.

“The choir organised and hosted a delicious dinner in the hall this afternoon to mark the occasion and were pleased to

November 4, 2021

welcome the Select Vestry and Canon and Joan McVeigh to the send off.

“We wish you all the very best Margaret and hope you, Stanley and Daisy enjoy many adventures together in the years ahead.”

Outing for young refugees and asylum seekers



The Rev Nigel Kirkpatrick and Mike Alexander, from the grouped churches of St Colman's, Kilroot and St John's, Ballycarry, took a group of young refugees and asylum seekers on a tour of Co Fermanagh on October 27.

The trip was organised in conjunction with All Nations Ministries, and was for young people who have recently arrived in Northern Ireland. All Nations Ministries said many are living in inner-city accommodation and had not been outside Belfast since coming to Northern Ireland.

November 4, 2021

They journeyed from Lough Navar to Belleek, visiting a working farm en route. The young people were welcomed for lunch by the ladies at Garrison Group of Parishes and thoroughly enjoyed themselves – despite feeling the full force of Fermanagh weather!

We can learn more about the work of All Nations Ministries in the spring edition of Connor Connections, which will be available in February 2022.



Archbishop Welby at COP26

The Archbishop of Canterbury commented - “It was an honour to meet with the President of Seychelles at COP26

November 4, 2021

today - who as well as leading one of the world's smallest and most vulnerable islands, is also an Anglican priest.

“We spoke and prayed together about the climate crisis, and the Christian calling to work for justice and never give up hope”.

New Curate appointed to Enniskillen Cathedral

The Revd Christopher West, who has been serving as Curate Assistant in Taney Parish in the Diocese of Dublin, has been appointed to St Macartin's Cathedral, Enniskillen, in the Diocese of Clogher.

Webinars, music, resources, broadcasts and books

Your church could run a free budgeting course

Ahead of Talk Money Week, Christians Against Poverty (CAP) is offering training to churches so that they can provide free budgeting courses at a time when many people are facing huge financial challenges.

CAP is aiming to train up at least 100 new members of local churches across the UK to become CAP Money Coaches so they can teach people the skills they need to stay in control of their money, and we want to play our part locally by

November 4, 2021

getting as many people as we can here from here signed up for training.

Over 120 CAP Money Courses have already been run across N. Ireland in the last two years, reaching nearly 500 people and CAP is hoping to grow this number significantly.



Local CAP Money Coach, James Myles (photo above), from Willowfield Church says, “The Universal Credit £20 a week uplift ending, the rise in energy prices which are expected to go up again next year, the increasing cost of food and other essentials, and the end of the furlough scheme are having a massive impact on so many people and their finances across our area.

“This is why CAP is so passionate about equipping local churches so they can offer as much support as possible to people at this incredibly difficult time. Churches in East Belfast and across the rest of Northern Ireland have already stepped up during the pandemic to offer life changing help to those who are struggling and running CAP Money is a

November 4, 2021

fantastic way for them to continue making a positive difference locally.

“Christians Against Poverty is launching this initiative, ahead of the Money and Pensions Service’s Talk Money Week which is promoting the importance of financial wellbeing and openly talking about money worries.

“Running CAP Money at our church has been a massive success, with so many local people now able to manage their money a lot better and live happier lives as a result. We are encouraging new churches to sign up and deliver free budgeting courses in their local communities, help people remove the fear of discussing money concerns and give people the skills they need to stay in control of their finances.”

How can churches get involved?

We are currently taking bookings for our next CAP Money training session where churches can have a representative trained by a CAP expert to become a CAP Money Coach and start running local budgeting courses from their church.

The next training online session will take place on Saturday 20 November 2021 from 9.15am – 12.45pm.

Churches can sign up for a small admin fee of £15.00 and will be provided with free resources to help them launch their first CAP Money Course following the training.

For more information, to register your interest in CAP Money or sign on to our next training session, visit:

churchnewsireland@gmail.org

What is CAP Money?

CAP Money is a budgeting course designed to be run by a trained CAP Money Coach through a local church. Its aim is to offer financial education so people can live within a budget and feel in control of their money. It's a free course for anyone who feels they would benefit from taking part.

The course is well established across the UK, over 16,000 courses have already taken place and an incredible 73,000 people have attended a course to improve their money skills!

To find out which local areas are already running a CAP Money Course visit: www.capmoney.org

Why is CAP Money so important?

James says: "The CAP Money Course is ideal for people who have had a change in circumstance or are struggling to manage their money and just need a bit of help to take control of their finances. Talk Money Week is all about encouraging people not to be afraid to discuss their financial struggles so they can then go on to receive the help they need to improve their situation. We don't want people to feel ashamed or to suffer in silence because they are struggling with their cash.

"A local church running CAP Money, especially considering all the financial challenges people are facing right now, will help to give people the confidence to start the conversation,
churchnewsireland@gmail.org

November 4, 2021

manage their money well, reduce financial pressure and stress, and change many lives for the better.”

Talk Money Week, Monday 8 – Friday 12 November 2021.

Social media training for churches

The National Churches Trust will be offering a FREE online event looking at social media for churches at 11.00am on Wednesday 17 November.

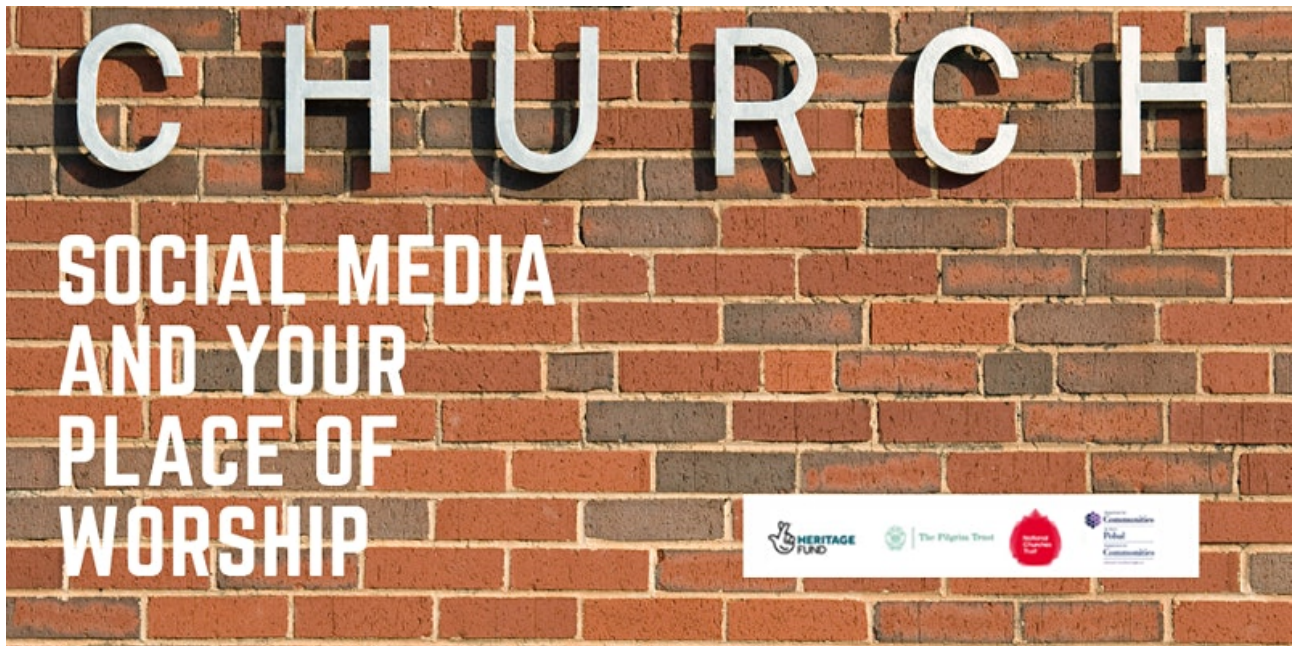
The keynote speaker will be Linda Patrick, Relationship Marketing Manager for the National Churches Trust and there will be time for Q&A and an open floor discussion. The event will last approximately 90 mins.

Programme

- Welcome and introductions from Nina McNeary, National Churches Trust Church Support Officer
- Short introduction to the Treasure Ireland Project Northern Ireland
- Key speaker: ‘**Social Media and Your Place of Worship**’ with Linda Patrick, Relationship Marketing Manager National Churches Trust
- Questions and answers
- Open Floor discussion – your chance to contribute to the discussion on the role of Social Media for Churches in Northern Ireland.
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[Register via Eventbrite at this link.](#)

OR



To access the event just click on the link below. You do not need a Zoom account to attend, just click on the link and it will open in your browser:

JOIN ZOOM MEETING

**Social Media and your Place of Worship Nov 17, 2021
11.00 AM**

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87229364172?
pwd=bFQybnl1OFhMb3dHR0R0Yk9WbXRFDz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87229364172?pwd=bFQybnl1OFhMb3dHR0R0Yk9WbXRFDz09)

Meeting ID: 872 2936 4172

Passcode: 334819

In the meeting

- The Treasure Ireland Team will introduce themselves at the beginning of the meeting;
- Please keep your microphone muted when you are not speaking to avoid erroneous noise;
- Feel free to have your video on or off, we don't mind if you just want to listen;

November 4, 2021

- If you need to leave early, please do so without worrying;

Questions

- Please ask questions at any time via the **chat function in Zoom**;
- The Treasure Ireland Team will monitor the questions and comments and relay them to the speakers during the Q&A.

Technical issues

If you have any technical issues during the session please email Nina McNeary (nina.mcneary@nationalchurchestrust.org) who will try and advise.

Please note that the event will NOT be recorded.

Feast of All Saints

Eglantine Parish worship

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q4tHicL2208&t=11s>]

London church offers virtual reality Advent worship

People from around the world will be able to 'join' in traditional worship at a church in London through Virtual Reality for the first time.



The Blessing of the Light, which draws on one of the ancient evening rituals of early Christianity, has been filmed in 3D in a trial new approach to online worship.

The seven-minute act of worship, filmed at the parish church of St Stephen Walbrook in the City of London, can be accessed on any computer or device, without special VR equipment.

People are able to experience 'standing' among the choir and can explore in 360-degree vision during the worship.

It is led by the Revd Tosin Oladipo, Chaplain to the Archbishop of Canterbury, with music from St Martin's Voices, the professional ensemble from St-Martin-in-the-Fields in London.

November 4, 2021

The Blessing of the Light will be launched on Facebook and the [Church of England YouTube channel](#) at 18:00.

Sunday and Weekday Readings 2022 booklet now available

The Season of Advent begins on Sunday, 28th November, and so starts a new liturgical year and a fresh cycle of daily Scripture readings. Church of Ireland Publishing has announced that Sunday and Weekday Readings 2022 is now available.

This annual booklet is compiled by the Revd Ken Rue, who says: ‘Sunday and Weekday Readings is designed to help worship planners and lesson readers know the appointed readings for Sundays and weekdays. It is also beneficial for those who wish to follow a personal course of Scripture readings which is tied in with the Church calendar.’

It may be obtained from the Church of Ireland’s online bookstore (<https://store.ireland.anglican.org>) or from Richard Ryan at the Book Well,

Belfast (email: info@thebookwell.co.uk; mobile: 07581 143 596). The price is £3.50/€4.00 per booklet.

For further information on Church of Ireland Publishing, visit www.cip.ireland.anglican.org

Continued on next page...

Poem for today

An October Garden by Christina Rossetti

In my Autumn garden I was fain
To mourn among my scattered roses;
Alas for that last rosebud which uncloses
To Autumn's languid sun and rain
When all the world is on the wane!
Which has not felt the sweet constraint of June,
Nor heard the nightingale in tune.

Broad-faced asters by my garden walk,
You are but coarse compared with roses:
More choice, more dear that rosebud which uncloses,
Faint-scented, pinched, upon its stalk,
That least and last which cold winds balk;
A rose it is though least and last of all,
A rose to me though at the fall.

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