



Image of the day - Remembering CF Alexander

News Reports

'Colin loved the church': Powell recalled as Episcopalian at cathedral funeral

Former US Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman Colin Powell, known as a four-star general and as a onetime secretary of defense, was remembered at his funeral at the Washington National Cathedral Friday as a man of the Episcopal faith.

Longtime colleague and friend Richard Armitage, who served as deputy secretary of state under Powell, recalled how their regular 7am morning calls shifted to 9:30am on Sunday mornings, after his supervisor had returned from church.

"Colin loved the church: He loved the ceremony. He loved the liturgy. He loved the high hymns, which made him extremely happy," said Armitage, who served with Powell in the State Department during the George W. Bush administration, during the private ceremony that was livestreamed on YouTube.

"And he would answer the same way every Sunday. He said, 'Oh yes, I was at church. And I want you to know I'm in the state of grace.' And I would answer the same way every Sunday: 'Colin, if you're not in the state of grace, who among us is?' And that was every day for almost 40 years, the same opening remarks."

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Powell, who died October 18 from Covid-19 complications, was honored at a nearly two-hour private ceremony. Hundreds of people gathered under the cathedral's neo-Gothic arches, including President Biden and two former presidents, Barack Obama and George W. Bush, and their wives, and former Secretary of State and first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton.

"With faith in Jesus Christ, we receive the body of our brother Colin Luther Powell for burial," said Episcopal Church Presiding Bishop Michael Curry, who met the general's casket at the doors of the cathedral with Bishop Mariann Edgar Budde, leader of the Episcopal Diocese of Washington.

Some family members of Powell, 84, had key roles in the service that mixed the high church liturgy of the cathedral with the military precision of uniformed service members bearing Powell's coffin and escorting his family.

His son, former Federal Communications Chairman Michael K Powell, gave a tribute, along with Armitage and former Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, who preceded Powell in that position. His daughter, Annemarie Powell Lyons, read from the Hebrew Bible's Book of Micah: "And what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?"

The Rev Stuart A. Kenworthy drew on that Scripture as he spoke of Powell's faith.

"Colin knew his God through all his years," said Kenworthy in his homily, a role the former Army National Guard

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chaplain also played at the 2016 funeral of former first lady Nancy Reagan. "His faith was of first importance, and his life was marked by those words of the Prophet Micah."

He also encouraged those remembering Powell to embrace their Christian faith.



"God raised Jesus so that you and I might share in his resurrection, and if you turn to him and accept him in faith, he will come into you and raise you into that new and eternal life now," Kenworthy preached.

"Just as he has for your beloved Colin, who now stands upon another shore and in a greater light, with that multitude of saints that no mortal can number."

Prior to the homily, the Rev Joshua D Walters, rector of the Powell family's church in McLean, Virginia, read words of Jesus from the Gospel of John: "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me."

Congregants, masked during the continuing pandemic, stood to sing the hymns "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee" and "Precious Lord." Soloist Wintley Phipps sang "How Great Thou Art."

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In an earlier statement issued after Powell's death, Curry noted Powell was a lifelong Episcopalian.

"I pray for his family and all his many loved ones, and I give thanks for his model of integrity, faithful service to our nation and his witness to the impact of a quiet, dignified faith in public life," the presiding bishop said at the time. "He cared about people deeply. He served his country and humanity nobly. He loved his family and his God unswervingly."

Though not generally known for his ties to religion, Powell was noted for comments he once made about then-Senator Obama's faith.

Obama, in a statement released on the day of Powell's death, spoke of his deep appreciation of Powell's endorsement of his presidential candidacy when the general had been affiliated with past Republican administrations.

"At a time when conspiracy theories were swirling, with some questioning my faith, General Powell took the opportunity to get to the heart of the matter in a way only he could," said Obama in the statement, referring to rumors that he was a Muslim.

At the time, Powell said, "The correct answer is, he is not a Muslim; he's a Christian."

But then Powell added a follow-up: "But the really right answer is, 'What if he is?' Is there something wrong with being a Muslim in this country? The answer's no, that's not America. Is there something wrong with some 7-year-old

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Muslim-American kid believing that he or she could be president?"

Powell also was among the top picks of likely voters who were religious and considering potential vice presidents when the then-senator was seeking the presidency in 2008.

But Armitage and other speakers mostly put politics aside as they recalled the man who was their friend, family member or colleague.

The former deputy secretary of state noted he and Powell had different preferences for hymns. Armitage recited the final verse of "Rough Side of the Mountain," which speaks of standing "before God's throne" when the race of life has concluded.

"Be real quiet," Armitage told the congregation. "Listen real carefully. And you might hear our savior say, 'Colin, welcome home. And here's your starry crown.'"

USPG Director to be Support Officer for Anglican Communion networks

Rachel Parry, Global Relations Director at United Society Partners in the Gospel (USPG), is to join the Anglican Communion Office in January. She is leaving USPG after 24 years to take up the new Commissions and Networks Support Officer role.

Rachel has said: "I am looking forward immensely to continuing to work with longstanding colleagues and friends

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and to making new friendships and relationships, and to playing my part in supporting the Networks and Commissions which are such a crucial part of the wonderful missional fabric of the Communion tapestry that binds us all together.”

In this new role, Rachel will be responsible for actively progressing support for a focus on local mission through the Commissions and Networks of the Anglican Communion. She will support programmatic directors in the Anglican Communion Office to ensure that their work can be more effectively undertaken in the provinces, regions and agencies across the Communion, as well as working with Member Churches and dioceses to support, maintain and grow Companion Links.

Rachel initially took up a temporary role with USPG in 1997, running the annual bursary programme meeting before taking up a permanent position in the Mission Personnel Team. Early in her USPG career, she also studied for a masters in Asian Politics at SOAS, the School of Oriental and African Studies, London University. She was appointed Director of Global Relations in January 2014.

The Secretary General of the Anglican Communion, Archbishop Josiah Idowu-Fearon, has said: “I am delighted to be welcoming Rachel to the Anglican Communion Office. She will bring a wealth of knowledge and experience from her time at USPG, and I have no doubt she will be a huge asset to the Communion. Our commissions and networks are an integral part of how we support local mission, and this new role marks an important point in our journey to better support the work of the Communion all around the

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world. Please join me in praying for Rachel as she prepares for this new role."

People and places

All Saints', Antrim, celebrates 425th anniversary



Archbishop John McDowell, Archdeacon Stephen McBride and clergy at the service to celebrate the 425th anniversary of the dedication of All Saints' Parish Church, Antrim.

On November 7, the Archbishop of Armagh, the Most Rev John McDowell, returned All Saints' Parish Church

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in Antrim where he was curate-assistant from 1996 until 1999.

Archbishop McDowell was the guest preacher at a service marking the 425th anniversary of the dedication of All Saints'. The Archbishop also dedicated the parish's state-of-the-art audio visual system, three flower pedestals, and a stained glass window. The window was designed by CWS Design in Lisburn, and depicts Christ's teaching in Matthew 6:26 – 'Look at the birds of the air.'

Over the period of lockdown caused by Covid-19 restrictions, Antrim's current curate-assistant, the Rev Peter Blake, set up a recording system, allowing more than 20 parishioners to receive a digital device with Sunday's service downloaded on to it each week.



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This is delivered on Mondays and collected on Fridays and the vicar of Antrim, the Ven Dr Stephen McBride, said it had been a lifeline to those who were shielding and unable to follow the online services due to not having a broadband connection.



At the evening service on November 7, the Bishop of Connor, the Rt Rev George Davison, confirmed 15 young adults and three adults in a joyful celebration service. Unfortunately three of the young adults were not able to attend as they had tested positive for Covid-19 during the week, and it is hoped another date for their Confirmation can be arranged in the near future.

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This was one of the largest Confirmation groups in recent years and the clergy are arranging on a monthly contemporary service to encourage the young members and their families to build on the promises made in the Confirmation service.

Archdeacon McBride, who has been vicar of Antrim Parish since 1995, commented on the great team effort of parishioners who had worked exceptionally hard over many years to have the church in such a great state of repair.

Dr Paul Larmour, one of Northern Ireland's leading architectural historians, has described All Saints' Church as the finest example of Elizabethan Gothic architecture in Ireland.

Archdeacon McBride commented on the joy of worshipping in such a beautiful building, but also on the privilege of being vicar to such a supportive and encouraging group of parishioners.

‘Grow together in faith’ – New Rector welcomed to Malahide

There was an air of excitement and delight in St Andrew's Church in Malahide as parishioners gathered to welcome their new Rector on Friday evening (November 5). Canon David Gillespie was instituted Rector of the United Parishes of Malahide, Portmarnock and St Doulagh's by Archbishop Michael Jackson. David was joined by his wife Tanya, and members of his family travelled from Northern Ireland to be with him.

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A Malahide parishioner hands one of the symbols of ministry to Canon David Gillespie during the Service of Institution in St Andrew's Church.

Continuing restrictions on numbers allowed in church meant that some people could not attend the service in person. However, many people watched online including large numbers from his former parish of St Ann's and St Stephan's.

Members of the choir, who had not sung together for over 18 months, provided the music for the service.

The sermon was preached by the Archbishop who focused on Romans 15: 14 and 15 which he said gave a framework of care, church and community.

Archbishop Jackson said it was very important that a Rector cared for his or her own spiritual life and personal

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discipleship. He said it was not possible for a Rector to serve in ordained life without thinking of it as a gift from God.

“Care of one’s self, within the love and the service and the response to the gift from God, is essential to being a happy Rector. And a parish surely wants its Rector to be happy if it, in turn, is to be a happy parish. A Rector is not a Branch Manager or a local CEO of an NGO called The Church of Ireland. A Rector is a servant of God like any parishioner but also with specific responsibilities and opportunities within the parish as Rector,” the Archbishop said.

He added that it was important that the Rector and parishioners find happiness in a positive parish and in a worshipping church. On that front he paid tribute to the Rural Dean, Canon Lesley Robinson and her team, for sustaining a strong sense of worship in the parish “through the period of the most severe and sustained closure of churches and lockdown of church people in living memory”. Parish and Rector now had the opportunity to grow together in faith and in the image and likeness of God as the planned for the present and the future, he stated.

Archbishop Jackson said that community offered churches a particular challenge and opportunity. “The community is not a field ripe for harvesting by any church. The community is people with their own preoccupations, joys and sorrows, to whom the values and the generousities of the church are overwhelmingly unknown today and where we as Christian people are ambassadors of God’s goodness,” he said. He added that there were real opportunities for the parish to meet and enjoy community belonging and the new Rector

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The choir singing at the institution of Canon David Gillespie.

had years of experience of doing this in St Ann's and St Stephen's.

Welcoming Canon Gillespie on behalf of the parishioners, Anne Winslow O'Dea said they were delighted that the day of the institution had arrived. She noted that many more parishioners, friends and supporters would have liked to come but that keeping people safe was a priority. She said that parishioners were very proud of their lay readers, churches, school, relationships with sister churches and the community.

Outlining the search of the parish nominators for their new Rector, she said that for once Covid was their friend as they were able to surf the internet and watch services on line. She said they had connected with Canon Gillespie and he with them and looked forward to a new and fresh vision and to him "welcoming, witnessing and worshipping" with them. She highlighted the parish's historic churches and said that the bicentenary of St Andrew's would be celebrated next

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year. “Every day there is something to be grateful for and tonight is no exception,” she stated. “We thank the Archbishop for your support and we are grateful for the support of Norman and Susan for over 30 years and Lesley’s support for the past 10 months as well as the clergy and lay readers [...] We will work to support you [David]. After the celebrations there is work to do and you can do it. We can do it.”

Representing the local Roman Catholic churches Fr Martin Noone said he was delighted to welcome David and Tanya on behalf of the community. He wished them every blessing and looked forward to working together in the service of the Lord.

Archbishop Jackson thanked David for all the work he had done at St Ann’s and St Stephen’s and in contributing to civic life in the heart of the city. He noted the warm welcome from parishioners in Malahide and said it was clear that people wanted to build a new future together.

Canon Gillespie thanked everyone for their warm welcome and kindness since he and Tanya moved into the rectory and said he was really looking forward to all that lay ahead. He thanked all who had worked on the rectory and those who had organised the service and the Archbishop for his sermon and support. He looked forward to meeting and getting to know his parishioners.



Parents & Tots for Killough

A new Parents and Tots Group has become a popular addition to the outreach work in Killough, a coastal village outside Downpatrick, led by Sarah and Colin Irwin. Sarah and her Mum run the group every Thursday morning and word of toys, tea and chat has spread quickly!

“We got off to a quiet start on 30 September with one mum and her daughter,” says Sarah, “but from then on we’ve had around 15 on average attending every week which has been amazing. I am very excited to see what different opportunities arise from this.”

Killough and the parish is part of the Lecale Area Mission Partnership (LAMP). A part of the diocese’s church planting initiative, Sarah and Colin’s work there began in 2015 when they identified a lack of provision for children and young people. They started a Wednesday night Kids’ Club for primary school children and went on to add a Youth Club to cater for the children who had outgrown Kids Club.

Parents and Tots is for all children up to primary school age with their parents, grandparents or carers and runs on Thursdays from 10.30 to 12.00 pm in St Anne’s Parish Hall. Sarah made a Facebook appeal for toys and equipment and has also been able to meet the setup costs with a grant from The Church of Ireland Orphans’ and Children’s Society (Antrim and Down).



“During the pandemic I completed a community survey, and a parents and tots was one of the needs that was identified. It had been in my plan pre-Covid but I think the timing is perfect. Talking to local mums during Parents and Tots, they have felt very isolated during the pandemic and as there have been no classes or anything, they haven’t been able to socialise with other mums. They’re very thankful for the get-together on Thursday mornings.”

It’s also great timing for Sarah as her little boy Jack was born during the pandemic. Becoming a mother has given her a connection with other mums in the village and, of course, Jack enjoys Parents and Tots too!

Sarah continues, “We had an interesting 18 months during Covid, from welcoming Jack and attempting to do things online. It was tough getting many children to engage with the Zooms we did, so we had to think how we could still connect with those that we have worked with for the last number of years. We did giveaways, door to doors and in the summer months we held some outside clubs and treasure hunts for the whole community. I so am glad we’re at the stage now that we’ve been able to get our Kids and

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Youth Clubs up and running again on a Wednesday and Friday. All of our children and young people have come back, and we have new children also which is so good. Between that and the Parents and Tots Group, I am so excited to see what different opportunities arise for the rest of this term.

Climate Justice Candle visits Church of Ireland Theological Institute

The Eco–Congregation Ireland Climate Justice Candle visited the Church of Ireland Theological Institute (CITI) in Dublin on Tuesday 2nd November 2021 for a Service of the Word with prayer for the COP26 conference in Glasgow.

The candle has traveled throughout various churches across the island of Ireland as part of the ‘Shine a Light on Climate Justice’

initiative, which was launched at the National Ecumenical Prayer Service for COP21 in the presence of President Michael D Higgins in November 2015.

During the Service in the CITI Chapel, prayers were offered for the Anglican Consultative Council delegation which recently gained accreditation as an Observer Non–Governmental Organisation to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). This means that, for the first time, the Anglican Communion as a whole can participate at COP26.

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Pictured left to right with the Climate Justice Candle: Rev Philip McKinley, Rev Martin Steele, Caroline Brennan, Rev Jean Carney, Rev Johnny Lowden and David van der Ziel

Condolences

Canon Bertram Livingston

The funeral of Canon Bertram Livingston will take place in Knocknamuckley Parish Church today, Tuesday 9 November at 1.00 pm followed by burial in the adjoining churchyard. Canon Livingston retired into the Diocese of Down and Dromore in 1994 from an incumbency in Desertlyn, Armagh Diocese. He also served in Connor Diocese as rector of Derryvolgie Parish near Lisburn. Prayers and condolences have been expressed to his wife Mary, daughters Sandra, Helen, Gail and the whole family circle.

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Aurelia Marion Kelly

Aurelia Marion Kelly (Nee Martin) died November 4, 2021 (as a result of an accident). Much loved wife of the Rev Trevor Kelly and dear mother of Andrew and Rebecca, mother-in-law of Laura. Sadly missed by her loving parents Shaun and Stella, sister Lorraine, brothers John and Adrian and the wider family circle. A Service of Thanksgiving for her life will be held on Thursday 11th November 2021 at 2pm in St Colmanell's Parish Church, Ahoghill, Co. Antrim, with committal afterwards in the adjoining graveyard (where everyone will be welcome). Owing to current restrictions admission to the church will be restricted to family and invited friends. House strictly private. Family flowers only. Thank you to the PSNI, Ambulance, Fire and Rescue Services for all their efforts at the accident scene. Donations in lieu if desired may be made payable to James Henry Funeral Services, 100 Broughshane Street, Ballymena, BT43 6EE for Lupus UK and NI Air Ambulance. "For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord" Jeremiah 29 V11

Webinars, music, resources, broadcasts and books

Cromwell's curbs on monks 'more comical than cunning'

Book - The Dissolution of the Monasteries: a New History by Professor James Clark of the University of Exeter

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Thomas Cromwell was not the powerful mastermind portrayed in the Hilary Mantel novels, but instead oversaw the “farcical” closures of monasteries, research has found.

Henry VIII’s chief minister is popularly imagined as a wily fixer but new historical records have cast a new light on how he directed religious reform.

His advice to henchmen travelling the country expelling nuns and monks was unclear, contradictory, or non-existent, which led to mistakes and confusion, according to the first major book on the subject for 50 years.

Professor James Clark of the University of Exeter claims the government used “spin” to claim it was a success and said “you have to move away from the official records to see what was really going on”.

The book, called *The Dissolution of the Monasteries: a New History*, included research from local archives, which painted a new picture of events. Clever locals often got their hands on treasure and materials the government planned to plunder before officials arrived, leading to “comic” and “farcical” scenes.

The Reformation often led to “limbo” rather than rapid change, the book claims. Prof Clark said: “Henry and Cromwell [did] not have total control over what happened, in fact the government lost its grip pretty quickly.

“Time and again provincial England fought back from the changes which others tried to impose on them.

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“Henry and Cromwell struggled to control the process of the Reformation from the beginning.

“There was a [gap] between the ambition of the Tudor government and what it was able to deliver on the ground.”

Poem for today

Down By the Salley Gardens by William Butler Yeats

Down by the salley gardens
my love and I did meet;
She passed the salley gardens
with little snow-white feet.
She bid me take love easy,
as the leaves grow on the tree;
But I, being young and foolish,
with her would not agree.

In a field by the river
my love and I did stand,
And on my leaning shoulder
she laid her snow-white hand.
She bid me take life easy,
as the grass grows on the weirs;
But I was young and foolish,
and now am full of tears.



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