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The **Methodist** Church 

 THE CHURCH  
OF ENGLAND

## **C of E and Methodists to consider full communion**

The Church of England and the Methodist Church in Britain are to consider proposals that would bring them into a new relationship of full communion, after a period of some 200 years of formal separation.

The proposals are presented in 'Mission and Ministry in Covenant' a joint report from the two churches' faith and order bodies. It sets out how the Methodist Church could come to have

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bishops in the historic episcopate, and how ministers from one church could become eligible to serve in the other.

The report builds on the theological convergence established by 'An Anglican-Methodist Covenant', signed in 2003, and the subsequent work of the Covenant's Joint Implementation Commission.

In 2014 the General Synod of the Church of England and the Methodist Conference mandated their faith and order bodies to bring forward proposals that would enable the interchangeability of ministries in the two churches.

The report sets out a way by which the Methodist Church would become one of the churches with which the Church of England is officially in communion, alongside other members of the Anglican Communion and Lutheran churches in the Porvoo Communion.

"I am grateful to the joint working group for their careful but imaginative work on bringing forward a workable plan for enabling interchangeability of presbyteral ministry in our two churches," said the Rt. Rev. Christopher Cocksworth, Bishop of Coventry and chairman of the Church of

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England's Faith and Order Commission. "The solution is built on the centrality of the historic episcopate and the bishop as minister of ordination. The scheme as proposed will enable dioceses, districts and local churches to engage in creative pastoral planning for the good of the mission of God in this country."

The Rt. Rev. Jonathan Baker, Bishop of Fulham and Anglican Co-Chair of the joint working group, added: "The separation between Anglicans and Methodists in Great Britain is a tear in the fabric of the body of Christ. The proposals in this report are offered as a means of helping to repair that tear. They maintain the catholic, episcopal ordering of the church while at the same time acknowledging the real and effective ministry exercised by ministers in the Methodist Church" he said. "I warmly commend them for prayerful reading in the churches."

## **Primus elected in Scotland**

The Episcopal Synod of the Scottish Episcopal Church has elected the Rt Revd Mark Strange, Bishop of Moray, Ross and Caithness as Primus. Bishop Mark, 56, is the youngest member of the College of Bishops and was consecrated in his current diocese in 2007. He succeeds the Most

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## **The Most Revd Mark Strange, new Primus of the Scottish Episcopal Church**

Revd David Chillingworth, who stepped down this month after eight years in post.

*"I am deeply privileged to be the Bishop Moray, Ross and Caithness and am very aware that it has been 82 years since a Bishop of Moray became Primus. I pray that I may be worthy of this trust. I will continue to serve in my beloved highlands while I also step out into new and exciting journeys of faith in both Scotland and the wider international church."*

Bishop Mark said: "I am humbled by the confidence shown in me by my colleagues and I

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will seek to serve the church as Primus with love and strength.

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Brought up in Aberdeen, where he was both a choirboy and server at St Andrew's Cathedral, Bishop Mark studied Divinity at the University of Aberdeen, attended Theological College in Lincoln and has served in both the Diocese of Worcester and in the Diocese of Moray, Ross and Caithness. For a number of years Bishop Mark was also Convener of the church's Youth Committee and ran the annual summer youth camps at Glenalmond.

Bishop Mark takes up this role as a Primate within the Anglican Communion at a point where the General Synod of the Scottish Episcopal Church has voted to permit same sex marriage. That decision is expected to be on the agenda of the forthcoming Primates Meeting in Canterbury, which Bishop Mark will attend.

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He is married to Jane -- a teacher in Inverness -- and they have a son and two daughters.

## **Down Cathedral service for L'Arche International delegates**

Down Cathedral played host to hundreds of international visitors on Sunday 25 June, as one of several venues in the town who welcomed delegates from the L'Arche International Federation.

Over 600 delegates have been in Northern Ireland over the past week, and the venue on Sunday for their 2017 conference was the Ancient City of Down.

As well as the Cathedral, delegates attended worship in Downpatrick Presbyterian Church and St Patrick's Roman Catholic Church in the morning before visiting Holy sites in the area including Saul, Struell Wells and Inch Abbey. Their day in Downpatrick closed with a Festival Service in St Patrick's in the afternoon.

Greeting the delegates at the Cathedral, the Revd Adrian Dorrian from the Lecale Area Mission Partnership (of which the Cathedral is part) extended the good wishes of the Dean and

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Chapter. In the context of a service based on a new form of Morning Prayer, the theme was a simple one: 'Jesus loves me'.

L'Arche is a network of communities worldwide where people with disabilities and those without live alongside each other in community. L'Arche's values encourage people with disabilities to play a vital and active role in society, which in turn has a transformative effect on the society.

Speaking about the service, Mr. Dorrian said: 'We are used to welcoming visitors to the Cathedral, especially at this time of year, but the chance to say "100,000 welcomes" to the wonderful people from the L'Arche Communities worldwide was truly a blessing for us.'

## **Clontarf Ecumenical Conference to become an annual event**

An Ecumenical Conference entitled 'One Lord, One Faith' was held in the Church of St John the Baptist, Clontarf on Saturday, commemorating the 500th anniversary of the Reformation in Germany. Introducing the event, Mary Cunningham, co-organiser with the Rector, the Revd Lesley Robinson, highlighted the many and

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growing list of ecumenical initiatives in Clontarf, including a Good Friday Way of the Cross, an Easter Sunrise Service, the Pentecost Camino and Ecumenical Bible Study. She credited Fr. Gabriel Daly's book, *The Church Always in Need of Reform*, as being the inspiration for the decision to commemorate Luther's 95 Theses, noting that both were Augustinian friars, some 500 years apart. She also paid tribute to their mutual friend, Fr Sean Fagan, a 'much loved and respected theologian', who passed away last year.

## **Muslim Foundation of Cork Welcome Church of Ireland to Iftar**

Two clergy from the Church of Ireland Dioceses of Cork, Cloyne and Ross - the Rev. Elaine Murray and the Rev. Tony Murphy - were welcomed to the Muslim Foundation of Cork's Community Interfaith Iftar (Breaking of the Fast in the Holy Month of Ramadan), held in Blarney Street from 8pm till 11pm on Friday 23rd June.

In attendance also were the deputy Lord Mayor of Cork, Councillor Fergal Dennehy, members of the Cork 3 Faith Forum and other guests. The Imam, Imam Ahmed Ihab, welcomed all the guests and gave a wonderful explanation of the



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deeper meaning of Ramadan, explaining how the fasting helped to focus people's minds on exactly what their priorities should be and how attitudes of patience and gratitude was enhanced during the long hours of fasting, especially for Muslims in the northern hemisphere.

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The children recited from the Holy Quran and gave a little presentation on the joys of Islam. As many of the guests had decided to fast from sunup in solidarity with the community, the refreshments were gratefully received. Never have watermelon and dates tasted so delicious! After short prayers, a tasty meal was served and enjoyed by all.

A lovely gift of an engraved glass plaque was received by the Rev. Elaine Murray on behalf of Bishop Colton who could not be present due to a prior engagement. The Rev. Elaine Murray also received a gift of a 1 kilo packet of dates from a representative of the United Arab Emirates embassy. During Ramadan, the Cork Muslim community had been donating to the Emirates Red Crescent, a volunteer humanitarian organization that supports official authorities in times of peace and war.

## **Belfast to Dublin parish cyclists raise £2500 for 3 causes**

Mount Merrion's Revd Adrian Green and his team have just completed a fundraising bike ride from Dublin to Belfast, a distance of 134 miles.

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To date they have raised over £2500 for three very good causes.

Adrian explains how they came to make the journey to Dublin on two wheels instead of the usual four and how, in a manner of speaking, they finished back where they started!

“It all began with a throw away comment about doing a bike ride from Mount Merrion Parish (Belfast) to Mount Merrion Parish (Dublin) in order to help with our building fund. I never really intended for it to happen until my kids bought me a road bike for Christmas and then there was no backing out.”

Adrian decided to go for it on 23–24 June 2017 and three others from the church staff team agreed to join in; Revd Lucy Burden (Deacon Intern), Joe Green (CAP Manager) and Aaron Boyce (Worship and Community Outreach Pastor).

None of the four had any experience of cycling and with a busy start to the year, training didn't start until March.

Around that time Jessica, a little baby in the congregation, died at 17 weeks old from a life limiting condition called Trisomy 13. The team

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**L-R: Andrew Campbell (Jessica's dad) holding Harry Moffett, Tina Campbell (Jessica's mum) holding Sophie Campbell , Laura Green (support vehicle), Joe Green (cyclist), Linda Green (support vehicle), Revd Adrian Green (cyclist), Revd Lucy Burden (cyclist), Aaron Boyce (cyclist), Hollyanne Boyce (support vehicle), Revd Gillian Wharton (Rector of Mount Merrion Parish Dublin).**

then decided to widen the scope of the fundraising to include the neonatal unit at the Ulster Hospital who had provided such excellent care for Jessica, and the Belfast based charity No More Traffik, which works towards putting an end to human trafficking.

On a drizzly and windy Friday morning the four set off from Mount Merrion Parish Church (Belfast). With three punctures and a few

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refreshment stops along the route they covered 101 miles before reaching their overnight stop in Drogheda.

On the Saturday morning they completed the last 33 miles to Mount Merrion Parish Church in south Dublin where they were greeted by the Rector, Revd Gillian Wharton, and some parishioners of both churches. The team were then treated to a lovely lunch before heading back to Belfast; by car this time!

Adrian says: “Having completed 134 miles in just under 11 hours cycling, we had a great sense of achievement but more importantly, joy at the amount of money raised. We’d like to thank everyone who has so generously supported us.”

It is still possible to make donations via the team’s [Just Giving page](#). The total amount raised will be split evenly between the 3 causes.

## **Book on Tipperary peacemaker Fr Alec Reid launched in Nenagh**

A new book celebrating the life and work of Nenagh peacemaker Fr Alec Reid was launched

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in Nenagh Arts Centre this Tuesday, June 27, Tipperary Star reports.

Written by Fr Martin McKeever, CSsR, One Man, One God, The Peace Ministry of Fr Alec Reid CSsR, provides unique insight into what motivated Fr Alec, what inspired him, and what kept him going during years of disappointment, frustration and seeming failure.

Through this book the reader will not only get to know Fr Alec the man, the Christian, and the priest, but also gain an understanding of peacemaking that can be applied to any situation of conflict.

Few people made a bigger contribution to the Northern Ireland peace process than Fr Alec Reid. As a member of the Redemptorist community in Clonard monastery for over 40 years, Fr Alec's peace ministry emerged from a religious community deeply rooted in west Belfast.

Fr Alec saw himself as a servant of Christ in a situation of political conflict. Moved by the suffering of people on both sides of the divide, he felt prompted by the Holy Spirit to work for an

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end to violence. His contribution to peace in Ireland is immeasurable and there would be no peace process without his hard work and determination.

One Man, One God is the first book to examine in detail the extraordinary ministry of this good and simple priest.

Fr Reid died in November 2013, aged 82. He acted as a clandestine go-between ferrying messages to and from republicans and the British and Irish governments in the earliest stages of the peace process in the 1980s.

The book will be launched by Methodist minister Rev Harold Good, whose presence as the IRA put their weapons beyond use was vital in convincing those sceptical of republicans' intentions.

Fr Martin McKeever is a Redemptorist professor of moral theology in Rome. Born and raised in Belfast at a time when political violence was rampant, Fr Martin was ordained in 1987. Following ministry in Ireland, he moved to Rome in 1989 to study at the Alphonsian Academy

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where he was eventually appointed to teach in 1997.

Following two terms as president of the Alphonsian Academy, Fr Martin dedicated most of his sabbatical year to this book on the peace ministry of Fr Alec Reid.

*One Man, One God, The Peace Ministry of Fr Alec Reid C.SsR*

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