



Primate's challenge as Derry church celebrates 150th anniversary

150 years after its doors first opened officially, All Saints Clooney Church was packed again this weekend for a Service of Thanksgiving and Rededication, led by the Bishop of Derry and Raphoe, Rt Rev Ken Good, and attended by the Primate of All Ireland, the Most Rev Dr Richard Clarke, Archbishop of Armagh.

Clergy from other Christian churches joined local political representatives, former rectors and curates of the parish for Sunday afternoon's Service, at which music was provided by the Britannia Band and All Saints Clooney Choir.

The current Rector, Rev David McBeth, described it as "a great occasion" and thanked those present for helping to celebrate "150 years of this beautiful church". He said he wished to extend particular thanks to Bishop Good for the help he had provided in the organisation of the Thanksgiving Service.

Rev McBeth had invited his congregation to join their thanksgiving "for the beautiful history and legacy which comes before us, for the baptisms, communions, marriages, and to remember those to whom we have said farewell through those beautiful doors". His parishioners responded in their hundreds.

Bishop Good congratulated Rev McBeth, his curate Rev Rhys Jones, the Select Vestry, the parish team at Clooney and the parishioners for the imaginative way in which they had marked All Saints' 150th year. Bishop Good also expressed gratitude to the Primate, who was making his first visit to the church, for attending

the Service and agreeing to preach the sermon.

In his sermon, the Archbishop said he was always astounded at how many churches were built around 150 years ago. He knew of at least three three in Londonderry – including Clooney – and a number of others in the Church of Ireland. It was a dangerous time, a very strange time, he said, to have started to build new churches, because in 1867 the Church of Ireland was heading into very perilous times and by 1869 it had been disestablished and could no longer rely on the state for finance and support.

“So, 1867 was a brave time to have built churches, and this is part of what we should be commemorating and celebrating – not only the faith but the courage of those who built this church and established it.”

The Primate told the congregation that he wanted to take them on a slightly different journey, “not simply a journey of faith and courage but a journey that asks another question: why do we have churches; what are they; and, above all, how do they relate to the Lord Jesus Christ?

“And so, I want to take a different text, a text from Luke’s Gospel. It comes from the familiar

story of the centurion servant who took ill. Our Lord is summoned, but before he even gets to the centurion's house the centurion comes out and says 'I am not worthy that you should come under my roof'. Then he goes on, 'Just say the word and thy servant shall be healed.'

"'I am not worthy that you should come under my roof.' And that should be, in a way, at the very centre of our worship here in All Saints today, as we celebrate the 150 years, as we give thanks and celebrate the witness of so many people. We have to remember above all that we can never command Christ's presence here. We are not worthy to have him in our Church, however beautiful it may be. His presence with us is always an honour. It is never a right that we have deserved or that we have earned. And so our attitude should always be – at a time of celebration – that it is Christ who honours us by being here among us today."

Archbishop Clarke pointed out the symbolic importance of church buildings in our communities. "The appearance of any church building," he said, "from great cathedrals to the smallest country church, is a symbol of God among us, God here on earth among his people."

“Social psychologists tell us that symbols are very, very important for people and the symbol of a church – the presence of a church – does actually underpin people’s faith. It helps them more to believe to see that symbol of a church, that symbol of God who is with us. It doesn’t create faith but it can strengthen faith.”

Archbishop Clarke referred to the recent vandalism at a Church of Ireland church in Mayo. “We might think of this being mindless vandalism,” he said, “but it is, of course, a symptom of something that is far, far deeper. It’s the reminder to us that for many people on our island, the church – and therefore the church building – is not something to honour, not something to respect, but something to despise and even hate.

“And why might that be?”, the Primate asked. “I think that people don’t find the Church asking questions, they don’t see the Church answering questions, they can too often see the Church from outside as a rather self-satisfied institution, in many ways addicted to the struggle of survival but also for struggle to control others. And so, if the Church – this church like any other church – is to serve God by serving the world as it is called to do, it can only do this when it turns its attention out from itself to the world outside.

Paradoxically, the only way that any Christian community can serve its existing members spiritually is when it turns its face outwards, and seeks to care for those around it, and to share itself with coherence and with credibility with those who desperately need to find hope and love and direction and something other than a terrible isolation that afflicts so many people in the world of today.”

Archbishop Clarke said if a church community, even as it celebrated 150 years of its life, was not visibly a place of welcome, of goodness, of acceptance for all, then all that a building may symbolise to those outside it could be hypocrisy.

“We have all come today, from near and far, because this building symbolised something that is so important in our lives – the love of God in Jesus Christ. But we also have to work together to make this symbol of a church – a beautiful church, set here in this city for 150 years – to make that symbol something that accords not only to us but to the wider setting of this neighbourhood, this city and this country, that accords to the love of Christ, the generosity of Christ and the open-heartedness of Christ. So, a church building can never be an end in itself – it was never meant to be the end of anything – if it

is to serve Christ and the whole Church it is to be a place from which men and women and children will go out determined to bring Christ into the world outside.”

After the Service, the congregation walked to the nearby All Saints Centre for a tea, prepared by the ladies of the parish, and for speeches. Some of the children present helped Bishop Good to cut a large cake which was baked specially for the occasion. And the parish present the Bishop with another cake to acknowledge his 65th birthday, which he celebrated at the beginning of the month.

This Christmas, for every pound the public give to the [Christian Aid Christmas Appeal](#) to support people living in poverty, the UK Government will also give a pound. That's double the support for families struggling to feed themselves in South Sudan, meaning even more mothers and infants under-five in South Sudan will be saved from the life-threatening effects of malnutrition.

As many families gather together for a time of plenty and abundance, millions of mothers and young children hit by severe hunger in countries across the world, including South Sudan, are living on the edge of starvation.

Earlier this year, famine was declared in parts of South Sudan, the first time it was declared anywhere in six years. More than three years of conflict had displaced nearly four million people, disrupting harvests and leading to devastating food shortages.

Although famine was averted, the crisis in South Sudan has reached unprecedented levels, with an estimated six million people lacking adequate food. If left untreated, acute malnutrition – the most extreme form of food crisis – can lead to death.

Dr Rowan Williams, Chair of Christian Aid, who visited South Sudan with the organisation in 2014, said: “Hunger is not inevitable. There is enough food in the world to feed everyone. Yet people are still going to bed hungry, and every day thousands of the world’s most vulnerable children die as a result of famine. It is right that we should feel outrage and bewilderment at this.

“In South Sudan, fifty percent of the population is now expected to be experiencing food insecurity. This situation is further exacerbated by the ongoing armed conflict, which has caused millions to flee their homes. The deteriorating economic crisis and huge increase

in the price of cereals – the primary staple food for low income families in South Sudan – has further worsened the situation.

“We are delighted to receive the support of the Government’s UKAid Match again this year, which will double the amount donated to Christian Aid’s Christmas Appeal and help support people living in poverty.”

Christian Aid partner organisation SPEDP (Support for Peace and Education and Development Programme) is providing cash vouchers to people struggling with acute malnutrition so they can buy essential food in local markets to help their families recover.

International Development Secretary, Priti Patel said: “I visited South Sudan earlier this year and saw for myself the devastating impact of famine on families and communities. The UK Government is providing food, water and medical supplies but there are still many malnourished women and children across the country.

“This Christmas, Christian Aid’s ‘Enough for Everyone’ appeal will provide life-saving nutrition programmes in South Sudan. The UK Government will match all public donations to

the appeal pound for pound, helping to double the difference that Britons can make.”

Your donation could help Christian Aid prevent many thousands of unnecessary deaths from malnutrition. Just £5 could provide a cash voucher to provide enough food for a family for four days, and £150 could provide ten families with fishing gear to provide food rich in protein.

Donations made to the Christmas Appeal between 6 November 2017 and 5 February 2018 will be matched up to £2.7 million. We will use your donations for projects such as those featured. The UK Government’s match will fund our work in South Sudan.

Bishop’s call for prayer for those involved in Westminster harassment scandal

The Bishop of Gloucester has called for prayer regarding those involved in the Westminster harassment scandal.

Rt Rev Rachel Treweek said it's important as Christians not to judge **the several Conservative and Labour MPs being investigated** over claims of sexual misconduct.



She said to Premier News how we could pray for those with question marks over them.

She said: "We need to be praying for individuals and we need to be praying for the culture within Westminster - about how we cannot use any abuse of power.

"My starting point in my prayers is that we are all broken people. It's important to remember that as Christians, we are following Christ who died for us out of our brokenness and from there a place of resurrection and hope came.

"Those who feel they are powerful and important need to recognise... that they are no more important than anyone else who works here from someone who cleans the building through to people who work in offices - we are all equal



made in the image of God and we need to live those relationships well and that is my prayer."

Theresa May has promised to "create a new culture of respect" in public life following the allegations of sexual abuse in Westminster.

The Prime Minister's told top business leaders she wants a climate in which victims know their complaints will be properly investigated.

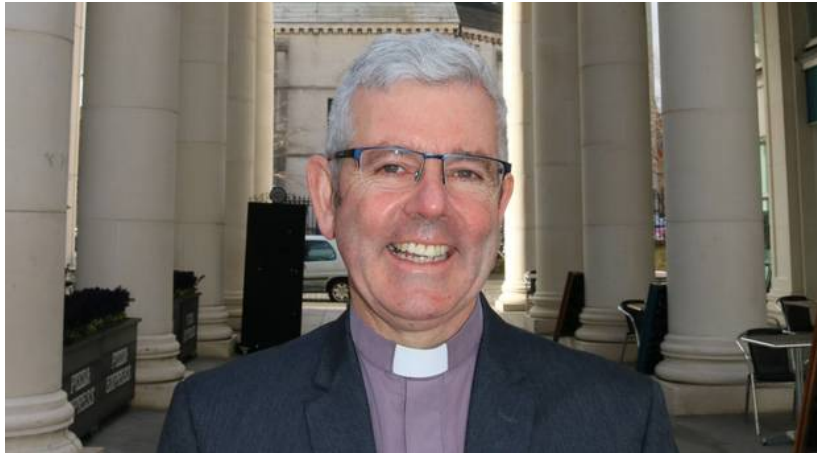
She's meeting with other party leaders on Monday afternoon about how to tackle the issue. Rt Rev Treweek said that it is however important that those guilty of harassment acknowledge their wrongdoing.

She said: "So for me my prayers are not starting from a place of judgement, they are praying for people in their brokenness that they would be willing to acknowledge where things have been done that should not have been done... be willing to be honest about that."

Press Watch: Dean Forde's vow to put church at heart of city is brave, but it may not be easy

Congratulations are in **order** for Archdeacon Stephen Forde who has been appointed as the new Dean of Belfast, in succession to the Very Reverend John Mann who left earlier this year to take up a post in the Diocese of Salisbury, Alf McCreary writes in the Belfast Telegraph

The role of Dean of Belfast is a big **job** and it takes a big man or woman to do it justice.



Archdeacon Forde, rector of Larne and Inver with Glynn and Raloo, has an impressive CV and a wealth of experience for a still-young man of 55.

In the current climate, where important news stories pile on top of one another, the appointment of a new Dean of Belfast might not seem significant to those who do not study, or care about, church affairs.

However, the appointment of a new Dean of Belfast is important not only for the Church of Ireland and St Anne's, but also for the capital city of Northern Ireland.

The main job for any dean is to run the local cathedral as efficiently and as imaginatively as

possible, and that applies to places as far apart as Belfast and Dublin, or Cork and Londonderry.

However, Belfast's cathedral is particularly important as it is at the heart of a city which in turn also lies at the heart of some of the most important **developments** of Church and State in Northern Ireland.

In effect it is a **shop** window of what the Church in society should be. There was a time when St Anne's Cathedral was firmly planted in the arms of the Church of Ireland but not necessarily in the city of Belfast, where it was perceived to be somewhat apart from the centre of affairs.

When his appointment was announced, Archdeacon Forde made the point when he said: "For many years St Anne's Cathedral was at the edge of city life and now it is at the very centre of the thriving Cathedral Quarter.

"My vision is to see the cathedral as a significant spiritual centre at the heart of the city, a cathedral with doors to pass through, not to pass by. It is a cathedral open to all, for those who are seeking God and faith in the 21st century. Building on the legacy of those who have gone before, the cathedral will continue to offer prayer, praise and service."

These are brave words, but easier said than done. Stephen Forde's predecessor Dean John Mann was a quiet, deeply spiritual and gentle person who brought healing to St Anne's when it was badly needed, but his personal profile in a very public role was not as high as that of some of the deans who went before him.

One of the best-known was Dean Samuel Crooks who had the brilliant idea of taking the Church outside the cathedral, **building** and starting the famous Black Santa sit-out on the steps of St Anne's.

Sammy Crooks and his successors not only raised huge sums of **money** for charities at home and overseas, but they also showed that the Church must be part of the daily life of the world in helping the poor and needy - and not just talking to itself in its various and often pompous Synods and General Assemblies.

Dean Houston McKelvey had more than his share of controversies, but he showed leadership in pushing through plans to erect the huge steel spire on the roof of St Anne's and also opening the cathedral for a visit by the Dalai Lama and his many followers.

I remember reporting on that extraordinary event for this newspaper and it was the only occasion

- apart from the funeral of Alex 'Hurricane' Higgins - when it was difficult to gain entrance to the building.

I also recall that after the visit there was a lively correspondence in the Church of Ireland Gazette, during which many conservative Anglicans argued that a non-Christian leader should not have been allowed to take part in such an event in a cathedral. This showed that the Church of Ireland is not nearly as broad-minded as some of its members would like to think. However, I do welcome the initiative at St Anne's in holding a pets' service, a fashion show, and a wide range of concerts. No doubt Archdeacon Forde will ponder on all such issues as he prepares to take up his new role in a cathedral which could play an even bigger role in Belfast than it has done so far. I wish him well.

The Muniments of Swift's Cathedral: C of I Archive of the Month November

Although by no means complete, having suffered the ravages of time, including flood, fire and neglect, the scope of the muniments of St Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin, (Swift's cathedral) is vast. The collection contains records from as

early as the 13th century and continuing on to the present day. Since the transfer of the collection into the safe and permanent custody of the Representative Church Body Library in 1995, these have been accessioned as RCB Library C2/ and organised into nine distinct groups of records, as follows: Volumes; Deeds; Maps; Plans & Drawings; Loose Papers; Photographs; Printed Materials, Seals and Music.

Now for the first time the extensive hand-list or finding aid which provides access to the collection is available online to assist potential researchers who may wish to consult its rich and varied materials.

Timed to coincide with the Swift 350, to mark the 350th anniversary of the birth of Jonathan Swift (born on 30th November 1667 at Hoey's Court, in the parish of St Werburgh), the new online exhibition in the RCB Library's Archive of the Month slot highlights particular aspects of the collection which relate to Swift's tenure as Dean of St Patrick's which he served for 32 years – from 1713 until his death in 1745. It also provides a link to the detailed hand-list available as a searchable pdf.

These include the Chapter Act Books (commencing in 1643) that record the

procedures of the dean and chapter. During Swift's tenure as dean these became notably more extensive, as he was renowned for his efficiency and administrative ability. Another collection of particular interest includes in the miscellaneous loose papers section a folder of papers entitled 'Swiftiana' which was compiled in the late 19th century and features copies of specific papers and correspondence relating to Swift, as well as papers outlining the rediscovery of the grave containing the skulls of Swift and Esther Johnson (known as Stella), during the retiling of the floor of the cathedral in 1882.

Much of the work of organising the cathedral archive into a structured arrangement was carried out to facilitate the research for and publication of the cathedral's most recent and comprehensive published history – edited by the late Canon John Crawford, and Professor Raymond Gillespie – *St Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin: A History* (Four Courts Press, Dublin, 2009), but more recently the collection has been expanded as new items continue to be transferred to the Library's custody, and in particular the Library Administrator, Robert Gallagher, has completed a listing of the extensive collection of the cathedral's photographs, dating from the 1940s, and including some dramatic images of the

cathedral's interior and exterior, as well as many human interest pictures from numerous services such as the annual Remembrance Service, and the Christmas Eve carol service, that have a national resonance. The photographic collection also contains a number of items relevant to Swift and his legacy, including significant services commemorating his life, the display of his death mask and other items in the area of the cathedral designated as 'Swift's corner', and even the dramatic portrayal of his life in a stage production entitled: 'Mr Handel's Visit to Dublin' premiered in the cathedral as part of the Dublin Theatre Festival on 29th September 1969.

The photographs are further complemented by an extensive run of scrapbooks, which commence in 1884 that include a wide range of miscellaneous press cuttings, orders of service, and other memorabilia that flesh out not only Swift's association with the Church of Ireland's National Cathedral of St Patrick, but also many other stories of interest too.

See: www.ireland.anglican.org/library/archive

For further information about the St Patrick's Cathedral Muniments, please contact: Dr Susan Hood

Librarian & Archivist. E-mail:
susan.hood@rcbdub.org

CNI

**Help CNI grow...
... Please commend
CNI daily news to your
friends
www.churchnewsireland.org**

CNI