

**History made, as
Anglicans, Oriental
Orthodox agree on
Christ's incarnation**

Church Leaders Meet Chair Of NI Social Development Committee



(L–R) Revd Dr Donald Ker, General Secretary of the Methodist Church in Ireland, Mr Fra McCann MLA, Mr Micky Brady MLA, Mr Alex Maskey MLA, Chair of the Social Development Committee, Most Revd Eamon Martin, Roman Catholic Archbishop of Armagh, Most Revd Richard Clarke, Church of Ireland Archbishop of Armagh, Mr Mervyn McCullagh, Executive Officer, Irish Council of Churches, Rt Revd Dr Michael Barry, Moderator of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland, Canon Shane Forster, Church of Ireland.

Following a request for meetings over the impact of on-going cuts in the welfare system on the most vulnerable, Church leaders today met with the Chair of the Social Development Committee of the Northern Ireland Assembly, Alex Maskey MLA, and other representatives of Sinn Féin. This follows their meeting on 20th October with Minister for Social Development, Mervyn Storey MLA (DUP).

During the meeting they emphasised that Churches are acutely aware of the harsh realities faced by many dependent on welfare and how the current environment of uncertainty is generating high levels of fear and confusion among those who are already very vulnerable. They stressed that politicians need to act quickly to address that fear.

Pointing to increasing demands for support from Church-based charities, and the uniquely high levels of child poverty, fuel poverty, working poor and disability welfare dependency in Northern Ireland, the Church leaders appealed to all public representatives not to allow the urgent needs of the poorest to become a hostage to the wider political impasse.

They also highlighted the importance of helping the economy in Northern Ireland to become more sustainable, recognising that our particular history of conflict that has left us with some of the highest levels of social need on these islands.

The Church leaders appealed to all parties to keep the needs of the most vulnerable to the absolute forefront of their minds as they engage in the on-going talks to resolve the impasse over welfare reform.

The Church delegation included:

Most Revd Eamon Martin, Roman Catholic Archbishop of Armagh, Most Revd Richard Clarke, Church of Ireland Archbishop of Armagh, Rt Revd Dr Michael Barry, Moderator of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland, Revd Dr Donald Ker, General Secretary of the Methodist Church in Ireland, Mr Mervyn McCullagh, Executive Officer, Irish Council of Churches, Canon Shane Forster, Executive Chaplain to Archbishop Clarke, Fr Timothy Bartlett, Secretary to the Catholic Bishops of Northern Ireland.

Britten's War Requiem at St Anne's Cathedral, Belfast

St Anne's Cathedral will provide a fitting backdrop to Britten's War Requiem, performed for the first time in Belfast in almost 30 years on 14 November.

This unique cross-border collaboration between the Ulster Orchestra and the RTÉ Concert Orchestra marks the centenary of World War One. The concert will also feature the Girls' Choir of St Anne's with Master of the Choristers David Stevens.

Britten's War Requiem was last performed in Belfast Cathedral on November 13 1969, almost 49 years ago to the day.

On the title page of the War Requiem score, Britten quoted Wilfred Owen: “My subject is War and the pity of War. The Poetry is in the pity... All a poet can do today is warn.”

Britten’s large-scale masterpiece intersperses his setting of the traditional Latin Mass for the Dead with poems by Owen, a First World War poet.

War Requiem was commissioned to celebrate the opening (in 1962) of the new cathedral at Coventry, built to replace the one destroyed during the Second World War, and embodies Britten’s deeply held pacifist and humanitarian beliefs.

With Belfast Philharmonic Choir, Leeds Philharmonic Chorus and the Girl Choristers of St Anne’s Cathedral, as well as a select trio of powerful vocal soloists, all set in the solemn serenity of St Anne’s, this will be a truly exceptional spectacle.

To book for this concert visit <http://ulsterorchestra.com/events/brittens-war-requiem> or phone the Ulster Orchestra on (028) 9023 9900

Belfast launch of Search journal

The new look SEARCH Journal and redesigned website had their Belfast launch in The Hub at Queen’s on Monday of this week.

The redesigned journal, published by APCK, features a mix of church and faith-related articles, aiming to stimulate discussion and fresh thinking in the Church of Ireland and beyond. But the articles are shorter, more varied, and easier on the eye.



Revd Rob Clements, Canon Ginnie Kennerley, Bishop Harold Miller and Revd Barry Forde.

The [website](#) features added information, easier payment methods and Facebook and Twitter feeds.

Launching the new suite of resources, The Bishop of Down and Dromore, the Rt Revd Harold Miller said that he greatly valued SEARCH. He praised the journal for the variety of its contributors and contributions, the wide range of book reviews, its topicality, “and the platform it gives to Irish people and especially those in the Church of Ireland, to write independently and in some depth”.

Chairman of SEARCH’s editorial committee, Canon John Bartlett, thanked the Church of Ireland and Methodist Chaplain at Queen’s, Revd Barry Forde for hosting the event and Bishop Harold for his remarks.

He drew attention to the SEARCH strapline, ‘Thinking and believing today,’ and said how important it was to give a platform to allow people to express aloud their thinking about belief. Professor Bartlett also thanked the editor, Canon Ginnie Kennerley, “without whom,” he said, “SEARCH would not exist.”

Canon Kennerley reminded the gathering that SEARCH is for the whole Church of Ireland and to secure the best of northern content and interests, Revd Rob Clements has just joined the editorial committee as northern coordinator.

Highlighting the journal’s engagement with new media, Revd Clements said that “SEARCH doesn’t want to be a dusty journal that’s lost on the shelf but something that we can dialogue with and engage with. I know that as we go forward we want to do things that are new and different and I’m excited to be a part of that.”

High Court reserves judgement on proposal to examine church trustees' alleged failure to comply with receivers

Irish Independent - The High Court has reserved judgment on a bank's application to question trustees of a church over their alleged failure to comply with receivers appointed over some of their properties.

Bank of Scotland (BOS) is seeking to examine the trustees of the Victory Christian Fellowship in Dublin.

The bank, and receivers appointed over certain church properties, want the trustees examined in court because of their alleged on-going failure to provide it with details, including a statement of affairs, regarding the church's assets and proposals to discharge the a debt of €18.7m

The application was opposed by the trustees who say all church activities ceased after the receivers took possession of their three premises in June of 2013.

Last year, Mr Justice Paul Gilligan ruled BOS was entitled to judgment against the Fellowship trustees' Brendan Hade, the church's senior pastor, his wife Shelia Hade, of Fountain Head, Rockbrook, Rathfarnham, Dublin, and Gerry Byrne of Woodstown, Knocklyon, Dublin.

The court also ruled BOS had valid security and was entitled to appoint receivers in May 2013 to the properties at Kilmacud House, Kilmacud Road, Upper Stillorgan; Westland Row, Dublin city centre; and at Firhouse Road, Tallaght. They were put up as security for monies advanced by BOS in 2007.

The church has appealed the High Court's decision to the Supreme Court.

However BOS and the receivers say the appeal does not operate as a stay on the judgment.

Yesterday, receivers Paul McCann and Patrick Dillon, and BOS, sought orders from the High Court directing the Hades and Mr Byrne be questioned before the court in relation to the debt and about any assets they have an interest in.

Ms Justice Aileen Donnelly reserved her decision.

Newry inter-church forum discuss future of church in Ireland

Newly News - Over 30 people attended the Anniversary Symposium of the Newry District Inter Church Forum during October in the Sean Hollywood Arts Centre in Newry.

The theme for the seminar was 'The Future of the Church in Ireland'. and Guest speakers include the Mayor of Newry and Mourne, Councillor Daire Hughes, Father Gerry McArdle, Reverend Karen Mbayo who is the Chaplain at Queen's University, Belfast and Father Andrew McMahan who is based at St Paul's Church in Lurgan and was a curate at Newry Cathedral for 10 years.

The seminar was chaired by Eileen Gallagher from the Irish School of Ecumenics.

The Good Relations Section of Newry and Mourne District Council supports and promotes many of the activities that are organised by the Newry District

Interchurch Forum, which involves representatives from some of the main churches and organisations in the area, including the Roman Catholic Church, Church of Ireland and Salvation Army.

History made, as Anglicans, Oriental Orthodox agree on Christ's incarnation

ACNS - Senior theologians in Anglican Communion and Oriental Orthodox Churches recently made history by signing an agreement on their mutual understanding of Christ's incarnation.

This was not just a minor point of theology, rather it was a subject that divided the Church following the Council of Chalcedon* in 451 AD, leaving the Oriental Orthodox Churches separated from the Eastern Orthodox Churches and the Church of Rome.

The work to reconcile these branches of the Christian family on the question of how the two natures, human and divine, were united in one human being: Jesus Christ began in earnest in the 1990s.

By 2002 an Agreed Statement on Christology had been prepared by the Anglican-Oriental Orthodox International Commission (AOOIC) and sent to the participating Churches and an updated statement was recirculated in 2013. By the October meeting in Cairo, AOOIC members were able to finalise the document and Bishop Geoffrey Rowell and His Eminence Metropolitan Bishop of Damietta signed on behalf of their Churches.

This statement, which is a significant step of reconciliation, will now be sent to "the responsible authorities of the Oriental Orthodox Churches and the Anglican Communion for their consideration and action".

Leading C of E bishop Jonathan Baker to remarry after divorce

Ruth Gledhill, Christian Today - A leading traditionalist bishop in the Church of England is to remarry after divorce having been given permission by the Bishop of London and the Archbishop of Canterbury.

The issue of marriage after divorce dominated the recent Roman Catholic synod of bishops in Rome where liberals and conservatives are divided over whether to admit remarried divorcees to Holy Communion.

The Church of England has a more relaxed attitude to the sacraments but even in the Anglican Communion, there are conservative evangelicals and Anglo-Catholics who would oppose such a remarriage being permitted while a former spouse is still living.

The opposition stems from the traditional Gospel view that marriage is for life.

Bishop of Fulham, Jonathan Baker, who chairs Forward in Faith, the main organisation that represents traditionalists, told Christian Today: "I wrote to clergy last week to inform them that, having received the consent of the Bishop of London, I will remarry in the spring of next year.



[Read here](#)

[Watch Anglican Unscripted](#) - CofE okays Bishop Remarriage

[UK: Divorced Forward in Faith Bishop Given Permission to Remarry](#) by David Virtue, VOL

[Bishop Jonathan Baker's Announcement of Marriage](#) from The Society

[CoE bishop given permission to remarry after divorce](#) by George Conger, Anglican Ink

(updated)

Media Digest:

Guard

Comment article stating Britain's refusal to save migrants is an act of inhumanity and that we cannot stand by while people drown. It mentions the rise in racism and religious bigotry identified by Justin Welby, the Archbishop of Canterbury.

<http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2014/oct/28/britain-refusal-help-migrants-inhumanity>

Times

Further items on the YouGov survey which revealed two per cent of priests do not believe in God. Times news report says a bishop is among the 2 per cent of British Anglican clergy who are "not sure 'God' is more than a human construct", according to the poll. Paper's leader says tolerant, multi-faith Britain has benefited enormously from Anglicanism's doubting lack of stridency.

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/faith/article4250750.ece>

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/opinion/leaders/article4250890.ece>

Daily Mail

Ephraim Hardcastle writes about an apparent divine quip by the Archbishop of Canterbury. It states that while the Visiting the Foreign Office when William Hague was in charge, Justin Welby, said he'd walked over from Lambeth Palace. 'So you walked across the river?' mused Hague. Welby: 'I usually do, but my staff say it's showing off.'

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/debate/article-2811936/EPHRAIM-HARDCASTLE-Archbishop-s-quip-divine-comedy.html#ixzz3HVXB7W7s>

Times

Diary section remarks that Rowan Williams, the former Archbishop of Canterbury, was asked on a Christian radio station on Sunday why he had taken the Swansea village of Oystermouth as his barony when ennobled last year. "Originally I asked if I could have Ystradgynlais as my title because that was where I was born," Williams said. "But I was told that nobody in the House of Lords would be able to pronounce it, let alone spell it."

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/uk/article4251025.ece>

Times

Report that the Rev Calum MacLeod, the minister of St Giles' Cathedral in Edinburgh, has said politicians must pay greater heed to the views of faith groups or risk prolonging damaging divisions in society. It states Rev MacLeod, who is the new minister of the Presbyterian church in Scotland, spoke out as Scotland prepares to decide the next stage of devolution after the "no" vote in last month's independence referendum. The comments follow fierce criticism from the Free Church of Scotland that the Scottish government "ignores" Christianity and that equality legislation introduced by Holyrood had hindered religious groups.

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/uk/scotland/article4251126.ece>

BBC/Times

Reports that Dr Angus Morrison has again been chosen to lead the Church of Scotland, seven months after walking away from the job due to ill health. Dr Morrison had been due to take up the position of moderator this year, but announced in March that he was unable to serve due to illness. He was replaced in the role by Kirk principle clerk Rt Rev John Chalmers. However, he has now recovered following surgery and has been nominated as moderator designate for 2015.

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-tayside-central-29801391>

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/uk/scotland/article4251137.ece>