

Charities band together to support people fleeing Myanmar



The 13 member Disaster Emergency Committee (DEC), including CAFOD, Christian Aid, World Vision and Tearfund, have come together to call for funds to respond to the severe humanitarian needs of those affected. The DEC said more than half of all new arrivals to Bangladesh are children and one in every ten are pregnant or lactating mothers. The vast majority are living in makeshift shelters made from bamboo and thin plastic.

C of I fund aids Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh

The Church of Ireland Bishops' Appeal has released emergency funds to Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) to support its work with over 500,000 Rohingya refugees fleeing violence in Myanmar and seeking refuge in Bangladesh. Currently one third of Bangladesh is under floodwater and the country is struggling to deal with multiple crises.

The number of people attending MSF's two existing clinics in the Cox's Bazar district has doubled to 550 patients every day and its mobile clinics have seen additional patients in their thousands. MSF has brought in additional doctors, nurses and midwives and is recruiting more medical staff. It has established four new health posts, a new in-patient department, and a surveillance network within refugee camps using outreach workers to identify any disease outbreaks. Church of Ireland support has contributed to the drilling of 15 wells for hand pumps and the provision of 250 emergency latrines in makeshift settlements. Four emergency fields have been provided for sanitation, with hand-washing stations, to prevent contamination of water sources and the

spread of disease. MSF has also started pumping clean water to tap-stands in the settlements with a capacity of 200,000 litres a day.

Bishops' Appeal has also released funds to assist in other crises through the following agencies:

- South Sudan: Emergency responses such as food, water, shelter and medical supplies for displaced people in the country and support for South Sudanese refugees in five refugee camps in Uganda (CMS Ireland);
- Yemen: Medical supplies in response to the cholera outbreak (Tearfund Ireland);
- Sierra Leone: Youth vocational training in communities affected by recent mudslides and high levels of unemployment (Christian Aid)
- Caribbean region: Disaster relief following hurricanes (Christian Aid);
- Ethiopia: Self-help groups to build resilience and reserves, as response to drought and famine (Tearfund Ireland).

Bishops' Appeal is grateful for all support received. Further funds to support the response

in Bangladesh can be sent directly via Christian Aid or Médecins Sans Frontières. The East Africa Appeal, which supports emergency responses in Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia, remains open for donations at www.bishopsappeal.ireland.anglican.org/give

New residential care home gets Presbyterian Moderator's approval

Presbyterian Moderator Rt. Rev. Dr. Noble McNeely has visited Trinity House, the Church's new residential care home it acquired last year, to see for himself the final stages of the £1.5 million redevelopment and refurbishment before it opens in a few weeks time.

Staff and residents from the two homes that are [relocating to it from the Presbyterian Church in Ireland's \(PCI's\) residential care homes in Londonderry and Portrush](#), were asked to name the new home. Trinity House was chosen as it symbolically reflects the coming together of three homes into one, while marking it with a clear Christian identity.

Welcoming the opportunity to get an on site up-to-date briefing on progress, Dr. McNeely said, "As we enter the final stages of getting ready to



Rev. Dr. Trevor McCormick, convener of the Council for Social Witness, Rev. Trevor Gribben, Clerk of the General Assembly and General Secretary of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland, the Moderator and Lindsay Conway, Secretary of the Council for Social Witness on their tour of Trinity House.

open, I have welcomed the opportunity to take a look round our newest residential care home.

“As Christians we are called to be a reflection of God’s love for people, so the care of our older citizens will always be an important ministry for our Church. As people begin to move in, in a few

weeks time, what is now just a building on the verge of completion, will become a welcoming and caring home for 50 people, and I look forward to being invited back to meet the residents and staff when they have all settled in.”

The official handover to PCI is scheduled for this week and the inspection by the Regulation and Quality Improvement Authority the week after, when residents and their families will be able to view and select individual rooms.

PCI’s Council for Social Witness has overall management responsibility for the Church’s residential care homes and its other services. Secretary to the Council, Lindsay Conway, who accompanied the Moderator to Garvagh, along with the Clerk of the General Assembly, Rev. Trevor Gribben, said, “First and foremost, we want to ensure that our residents across all of our homes are provided with the best possible care. Trinity House will increase our ability to provide much needed residential care for older people in the northwest area, including facilities for those with dementia.

“As we prepare to open our newest home, we want to acknowledge that this is both a time of celebration but a time of sadness too; as we

relocate from Ard Cluan in Londonderry and York House in Portrush, Mr. Conway continued.

“While we give thanks for the special care that our dedicated staff have given to hundreds of older people at both homes down the years, we would also ask for the support and prayers of the Church as we relocate to Trinity House and look forward to working with our two congregations in Garvagh.”

Trinity House will increase PCI’s overall residential care for older people, with the creation of 50 en suite rooms, 16 of which will be available for people living with dementia. The new home will also have a dementia friendly sensory garden, the third of PCI’s residential care homes to have one.

Bell ringers tribute to senior bell-ringer of Enniskillen Cathedral

The life of the most senior bell-ringer of St Macartin’s Cathedral, Enniskillen, Mr Stewart Scott, was celebrated on Saturday, 30th September, with the peal of 10 bells ringing as his funeral cortege arrived at the Cathedral.

Stewart was a bell-ringer at the Cathedral for 66 years and as well as leading the team of bell-

ringers, also introduced many newcomers to the art of campanology.

Bell-ringers from Belfast and other parts of Northern Ireland joined with those from St Macartin's as they rung in changes for 10 minutes before the funeral and again as the funeral cortege left following the service.

It was an emotional occasion for all those present including his family. Stewart's brother, Nelson and son, Geoff and daughter, Barbara were also bell-ringers.

The bell-ringing tribute to Stewart was also the theme of the funeral address at the service delivered by the Dean of Clogher, the Very Revd Kenneth Hall, who explained how bells had been traditionally rung to announce historic events and how Christian churches in Europe adopted the practice since the year 550AD.

He said many people in Enniskillen and its community have been blessed by Stewart Scott's ringing of the bells for 66 years. As a Life-time Member of the of the Irish Association of Change Ringers, Stewart had rung in all the towers in Northern Ireland, as well as some in the Republic of Ireland and some in England and Scotland. Enniskillen Cathedral is one of less

than a dozen churches in Northern Ireland with a peal of eight bells or more.

Dean Hall told the congregation at Stewart's funeral that he had the privilege of asking Stewart to lead the bell-ringing to welcome Her Majesty The Queen for the Jubilee Service in St. Macartin's Cathedral in 2012.

During Stewart's funeral service, the congregation sang the bell-ringers' hymn, "Ring Forth Holy Bells" sung to the tune of "O Praise ye the Lord". The burial took place in Rossorry Parish Churchyard. Stewart is survived by his wife Joyce, daughter Barbara and son Geoffrey and was predeceased by a son, Trevor.

Clogher parish celebrates 200th anniversary

Mullaghduin Parish Church, which is part of the group of parishes of Cleenish and Mullaghduin in Clogher Diocese, has been marking its 200th anniversary with a special Service of Thanksgiving and a celebratory lunch for parishioners.

On Sunday, the Bishop of Clogher, the Right Revd John McDowell, unveiled a plaque to mark 200 years of worship.

The church, is situated between Letterbreen and Belcoo and was originally established as a District Curacy out of Cleenish about 1817 when a Chapel of Ease was built at a cost of £1,126. It returned to the grouping with Cleenish Parish, Bellanaleck, in 1978.

There have been numerous improvement schemes to the church and grounds over the 200 years, including the installation of electric lighting in 1979 and complete re-plastering, replacement of windows and doors and interior re-organising in 1983. A new hall to serve the parish of 160 families was built at Letterbreen in 1999.

On Sunday, the Rector, the Revd Canon Geoffrey Bridle, conducted the Service of Thanksgiving

RTE to broadcast from Howth

On Sunday, 5th November, RTÉ Radio 1 Extra will broadcast a service from St Mary's Church, Howth, Co. Dublin, led by Canon Kevin Brew. The programme will start at 11.45am.

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Archbishop Welby “taken aback” by Las Vegas prayer criticism

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, has said that he was “taken aback” by criticism of the decision to ask the Presiding Bishop of the US-based Episcopal Church to pray for the victims of the Las Vegas shooting. Bishop Curry prayed for the victims at the start of Evensong in Canterbury Cathedral, England, on Monday past, the first day of the Primates’ Meeting.

TO n Tuesday afternoon, the Revd Canon Andrew Gross, Canon for Communications and Media Relations for the Anglican Church in North America (ACNA), speaking on behalf of Gafcon, said that the decision to invite Michael Curry to lead the congregation in prayer at the Evensong service “put the Gafcon primates in a difficult spot.” Speaking at a press conference in a hotel near Canterbury Cathedral, he said that they were “forced to look like they are walking together when they are not walking together.”

Later, when asked to respond to the comment during a press briefing at Canterbury Cathedral, Archbishop Welby said that he was “slightly taken aback.”



Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby briefs journalists during the 2017 Primates' Meeting

He continued: “Michael Curry, who is a citizen of the United States, was asked by us – after we had talked with anguish about the events in Las Vegas – we said: ‘Could you lead a prayer as we begin our prayers together at Evensong?’

“People all over the world are praying for Las Vegas,” he said. “I don’t think we ought to bring church politics into Las Vegas. I mean, it is the most dreadful, horrendous, appalling event. I suppose that I would be surprised and disappointed by that comment.”

It is not thought that Canon Gross was speaking on behalf of any of the archbishops attending the Primates' Meeting. ACNA is not a province of the Anglican Communion and its primate, Archbishop Foley Beach, was not invited to the meeting.

Welby 'sad' to discipline Scottish Episcopal Church

Archbishop of Canterbury Most Rev Justin Welby said the Scottish Episcopal Church (SEC) will face consequences for its decision to allow clergy to conduct same-sex marriages.

He made the announcement at a press conference on Tuesday as part of the Anglican Communion Primates' Meeting.

As soon as Welby imposes the consequences, SEC leaders will not be allowed to represent the Anglican Communion and cannot take part in any votes the Communion holds regarding doctrine or new rules.

Thirty-four of the 39 provinces in the Communion were represented by their archbishops. Welby said many archbishops expressed disappointment and anger over the issue but they were unanimously “satisfied” with the consequences the SEC will face.

The Archbishop of Canterbury said that he was personally “very sad” over the issue.

He said: “There were a lot of strong feelings [in the meeting].... but it was a bit different mood than many other Primates’ meetings.

“It was more of a family that has to face the fact that something’s happened that’s causing grief, than a sort of club that doesn’t like one of its members.

“The mood in the room... was grief that one has to do things that no one likes, that I don’t particularly want to do. You want people to be united.”

When asked to explain why the Church and General Synod changed its Canon on

Marriage, Most Rev Mark Strange Primus of the Scottish Episcopal Church said it was a decision that was made with much prayer, theological debate and personal testimonies, but in the end the Church decided to allow those of different views to “walk together”.

He added: “However, I recognise that this decision is one that has caused some hurt and anger in parts of the Anglican Communion and that the decision taken at the last Primates’ Meeting, which was to exclude our brothers and sisters in The Episcopal Church from debate on Doctrine and from Chairing Anglican Communion Committees, is a decision that now also pertains to us.

“We will continue to play our part in the Anglican Communion we helped to establish, and I will do all I can to rebuild relationships, but that will be done from the position our Church has now reached in accordance with its synodical processes and in the belief that Love means Love.”

Conservative Anglican Church group GAFCON said earlier on Tuesday that some of its Primates may walk out of the meeting if sanctions on the SEC don't call for repentance. There were no reports of Primates walking out on Tuesday.

The Archbishops of Nigeria, Rwanda and Uganda refused to attend this week's Anglican Primates' Meeting over what they deem as a weak stance on the issue of sexuality in the Church from the Communion.

Scottish Anglicans defiant as they face 'consequences' for passing gay marriage: 'Love means love'

Scottish Anglicans remain defiant in their decision to permit same-sex marriage, insisting 'love means love' after the Archbishop of Canterbury confirmed they would face 'consequences' for the move.

At the Primates' Meeting today the Most Rev Mark Strange, Bishop of Moray, Ross & Caithness and Primus of the Scottish Episcopal



Church was asked to explain the process undertaken by the Scottish Episcopal Church in its move towards an adjustment of its Canon on Marriage to enable those who felt called to offer marriage to same gender couples the ability to do so.

The Primus said he recognised the vote in June to permit clerics who wanted to conduct gay weddings to do so had caused 'some hurt and anger' among fellow Anglicans around the world.

He accepted the 'consequences' – which Lambeth Palace officials insisted did not amount to sanctions – would restrict the SEC's

involvement in the worldwide Anglican Communion.

But in a strong rebuttal to his conservative opponents he added: 'We will continue to play our part in the Anglican Communion we helped to establish, and I will do all I can to rebuild relationships, but that will be done from the position our Church has now reached in accordance with its synodical processes and in the belief that Love means Love.'

He explained that the process had included much prayer, theological debate, open and, at times, very personal testimony and that opportunity had been provided for groups throughout the Church to discuss this matter and to pray about it; this included the voice of the youth in the Church, the sharing of powerful words and stories from elderly members and hearing representation from those who hold a traditional understanding of marriage, those who see marriage as including same gender couples and those who have encountered exclusion in declaring their love.

The Primus also explained that the nature of decision reached by the General Synod of the Scottish Episcopal Church, is such as to allow those of different views to continue to “walk

together”. It recognises that there are different understandings of marriage and that no member of clergy is compelled to conduct any marriage against their conscience. Only those clergy who wish to solemnise marriages of same gender couples will be nominated to the civil authorities for authorisation to do so.

The Most Rev Mark Strange said “In June the General Synod of the Scottish Episcopal Church voted to change its Canon on Marriage. This decision was ours to take as a self-governing province of the Anglican Communion.

“However, I recognise that this decision is one that has caused some hurt and anger in parts of the Anglican Communion and that the decision taken at the last Primates’ Meeting, which was to exclude our brothers and sisters in The Episcopal Church from debate on Doctrine and from Chairing Anglican Communion Committees, is a decision that now also pertains to us. We will continue to play our part in the Anglican Communion we helped to establish, and I will do all I can to rebuild relationships, but that will be done from the position our Church has now reached in accordance with its synodical processes and in the belief that Love means Love.”

The watered down restrictions imposed on Scottish Anglicans mean they cannot sit on bodies representing the Communion and cannot vote on decisions relating to policy or teaching.

However at least one Scottish delegate cannot be removed from his position on a key Anglican body because of British charity law and there are questions over how strictly the same measures were imposed when applied to US Anglicans at the last primates meeting in January 2016.

The 'consequences' are well short of those demanded by conservative leaders in the Communion and there is a question whether traditionalist primates will see them as too weak.

A spokesman for the conservative grouping GAFCON, which largely includes African primates, insisted the Scottish Episcopal Church as well as the US Episcopal Church, which has legalised gay marriage, and the Anglican Church in Canada, which blesses gay relationships, must 'repent'.

Hinting some traditionalist may walk out of the meeting in light of the decision, he told a journalist earlier on Tuesday: 'Only repentance can lead to a seat at the table.'

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