

## Archbishop Martin preaches at Reformation service in Armagh C of I cathedral



Archbishop Martin was the guest preacher at a service on the theme 'Reconciling the Reformation' held in St Patrick's Church of Ireland Cathedral, Armagh, yesterday, Sunday 8th October 2017.

Entitled 'Reconciling the Reformation', it was an occasion both to affirm its importance in the life

of the Church and to reflect on its implications for the present and the future whilst marking the 500th anniversary of the Reformation was

Luther's inauguration of the European Reformation in 1517 was one of the defining moments of Christian history. This year's anniversary has therefore been the subject of conferences, seminars and acts of worship across the world, often drawing together people from different 'sides' of the original Reformation debates. In this spirit, the preacher at 'Reconciling the Reformation' will be Archbishop Eamon Martin.

Commenting on the service, the Dean of Armagh, the Very Revd Gregory Dunstan, said,

"In recent years, with their joint Christmas messages, pilgrimage to the battlefields of Flanders, and wreath-laying at the war memorial in Armagh, Archbishop Martin and Archbishop Clarke have shown us how much of our history we can remember together, and how many of today's concerns we share. It was a great pleasure to invite Archbishop Eamon to share in this celebration, and to help the churches in Armagh to look to the future together."

## First ordination in Dundalk Parish since 1214



**The Rev'd Captain Geoffrey Walmsley and  
The Most Rev Dr. Richard Clarke, Archbishop  
of Armagh and Primate of All Ireland in St.  
Nicholas' Church, Dundalk**

The flickering candlelight reflected the sense of history as the first ordination in over 800 years took place in St Nicholas' Church of Ireland parish church on last Friday evening, The Argus reports.

The Rev'd Captain Geoffrey Walmsley became the first Deacon to be ordained at the historic church since 1214.

It was an emotional occasion for the Kilkeel native, who was watched by his wife Christine, son Thomas and daughters Sarah, Grace and Chloe, as he was ordained by the Most Rev Dr Richard Clarke, Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of All Ireland.

Rev'd Captain Walmsley has been in Dundalk for the past three years and intends to continue ministering in the group of parishes which also includes Haynestown, Ballymascanlon, Bush and Creggan, when he is ordained to the priesthood following the completion of his theological studies next year.

The church was beautifully decorated for the historic occasion and the music, chosen by Rev'd Captain Walmsley himself, was performed by the choir and organised.

Clergy from neighbouring parishes and other nominations gathered with parishioners to congratulate the newly ordained Deacon.

## **New book celebrates the impact of Mothers' Union in Derry and Raphoe**

The Mothers' Union in Derry and Raphoe diocese has launched a new book called 'Faith in Action' to mark the organisation's 130 years of service in Ireland.

Members and friends from all over the Diocese and much further afield attended the launch in the Diocesan Centre in London Street, Londonderry. They included the All-Ireland President of Mothers' Union, Phyllis Grothier – who had travelled from County Carlow – and Lady Christine Eames, who is a former Worldwide and Diocesan President. The audience's age profile spanned almost a century, ranging from a 9-week-old baby to a lady of 92 years who still serves on her parish's Select Vestry.

Speaking at the event, the current Diocesan President, Mary Good, said the book was inspired by a visit she made to the Worldwide



Conference of MU, in May 2016, when delegates were encouraged to tell the transforming stories of people who had been impacted by Mothers' Union. "They talked about sharing 'our best kept secret'," Mrs Good said, "that the Mothers' Union is an amazing group of women and men, old and young, married and single, all over the world, who have made a remarkable difference in the lives of many in their churches and surrounding communities."

Mrs Good said they wanted the book to represent all corners of the diocese and all ages, and to reflect as much as was possible of the branch's impact over its 100 years in existence. "It was a challenge," she said, "but we finally got there. We realise how much courage it takes to

tell your story. Some, that are difficult to recall, bring up memories of very sad days; but hopefully we can also see that in each of these stories the reality of God's hand and care was present through the Mothers' Union."

Among those listening to Mrs Good at the book launch were a young mother, Nichola Hampton, and her baby Lila, who is just nine weeks old. It is though Lila may have been the youngest person ever to have attended an MU meeting in the diocese.

The 'Faith in Action' book is divided into two sections. The first details the stories of individual members who have something to say about their journey and Mothers' Union's part in it. The second section highlights the various initiatives in which Mothers' Union is involved.

The Bishop of Derry and Raphoe, Rt Rev Ken Good, thanked the team who produced the new book. He said it was a "good news story" that needed to get out. The Bishop told the audience that he had never had to be persuaded of how great an organisation the Mothers' Union was. "I believed it," he said, "and I've believed it for a long time. It has touched many lives. In many, many parishes it is the backbone of the parish,

actually, so I don't need any persuasion. So, I'm very thankful that this book just tells their story."

Former Worldwide President and Diocesan President of Mothers' Union, Lady Christine Eames, congratulated the team on the "sheer, hard work" that had gone into the publication. "It's been such a privilege and such a pleasure to see how branches have responded to 130 years of Mothers' Union in Ireland. I look forward so much to looking at the book and reading the stories and to knowing that the Mothers' Union in this part of the world has a history to be proud of."

Moira Thom, who is head of fund-raising and communication for Mothers' Union in Ireland, said it was important to tell the story of the impact the organisation had had on people's lives and the difference that it had made in parishes and communities. She said the new book, 'Faith in Action', would go a long way towards doing that.

The All-Ireland President, Mrs Grothier, said today was a very special day in the life of the Diocese of Derry and Raphoe. She said the book, 'Faith in Action', shared "the joy, the pain, the love, the interest and the outreach that marks Mothers' Union – that marks everything



that we do.” Mrs Grothier said last week, in Edinburgh, she had heard MU members described as ‘ambassadors for Christ’. “Well this is what I feel that we are in Mothers’ Union. Mothers’ Union at its best is sharing that love, that love of Jesus Christ for each one of us and that love for one another”.

Mrs Grothier said some argued that Mothers’ Union needed to get away from the tea party idea. However, she reminded the audience of the success of the ‘Mums in May’ initiative, in which funds are raised in many branches through holding tea parties. Last week, Mrs Grothier said, the Archbishop of Canterbury’s adviser for reconciliation, Canon Sarah Snyder, spoke of the ‘ministry of the cup of tea’. “There is a wonderful ministry,” Mrs Grothier said, “in the sharing of that fellowship and joy as you share that cup of tea and, of course, if you raise some money for Mothers’ Union that’s a bonus.”

Mrs Good thanked TBF Thompson Trust, the Honourable the Irish Society and the All Ireland Mums in May Fund for supporting the publication. She also thanked those who had shared their stories in the book and helped spread the good news about the Mothers’ Union.

## Church Wardens make history with wedding in St Patrick's, Ballyclug



Saturday September 30 2017 was an historic day at St Patrick's, Ballyclug, part of the parish of Kilconriola and Ballyclug, (Connor diocese) for the two Churchwardens from St Patrick's, Ballymena decided to 'Tie the Knot.'

The parish believes that this is the first time two Churchwardens in office at the same time have married each other!



Rector's Church Warden Ruth Dixon, now Mrs Alex McNeill, needed someone to take the plate at Evensong one night a couple of years ago, and sitting down the North Aisle was a gentleman that fitted the bill.

She went down to ask if he would be kind enough to take a plate, and as she leaned over the pew the pair bumped foreheads. And so began their romance!

This year Ruth and Alex were elected Church Wardens for 2017/18 and about a month afterwards a ring appeared on her finger. Alex

had popped the question on a visit up the coast to Whitepark Bay.

The marriage was conducted by Ruth's brother, the Rev Campbell Dixon, Priest in charge of St Mark's, Ballysillan.

There was a guard of honour formed by Church Wardens of Ballyclug, St Columba's and Glebe Wardens of St Patrick's, and as the Church Wardens of St Patrick's are ex officia Bellringers, the ringers also formed a guard of honour.

## **Evening of poetry and music in memory of the Revd Canon Liz McElhinney**

A very special, celebratory evening of poetry and music in recognition of the life of the Revd Canon Liz McElhinney is set to take place in Shankill Parish Church, Lurgan, on Friday 10 November at 8.00 pm. The event will feature readings of a selection of Liz's inspirational poems by the internationally acclaimed actor Ian McElhinney, as well as musical contributions from the cross-community Lurgan Musical Society, Shankill Parish Choir, soloist Nicola



Brown and traditional Irish musicians led by Sean Hanily from Dublin.

As a former Church of Ireland minister, teacher and social worker, Liz was widely loved and known across many walks of life. When she was diagnosed with Motor Neurone Disease (MND), she chose to focus her creative abilities on writing reflective and inspirational poems over a period of 15 months. These poems form a core part of the concert and twenty of them have been gathered together in a printed collection entitled *Solid Joys, Lasting Treasure*

complemented by beautiful illustrations by Liz's artist son, David.

The booklet will be included in an admission charge of £10 for those attending the evening. All the proceeds from the event will support the work of the MND Association N.I. Additionally, a CD of the collection of the poems, read by Ian McElhinney, will also be on sale on the evening.

Liz's poems have been described by author and editor Lynda Neilands as 'gems', 'mined and crafted in the valley of the shadow of death, they glow with the light of Christ, the hope of heaven and appreciation of all that is true and lovely on earth', while Liz's creative writing mentor – and editor of the collection – Dr Sharon Heron says that Liz's vision for the poems grew steadily as she wrote of her experience, hoping that 'some glory might be brought to the Lord she loved'.

In his preface to the collection, another of Liz's sons, the Revd Stephen McElhinney, says, 'My mother's special ability was to notice'; she had a unique ability to connect with people but also to 'notice the world in which she lived, which left her 'invigorated physically, mentally and spiritually'. The collection's title is taken from the well-known 18th-century hymn by John Newton, 'Glorious Things of Thee are Spoken'.

*This special legacy evening, in aid of MNDA (NI), is not to be missed and all are welcome. For more information, visit: [www.facebook.com/events/178216399403082/](https://www.facebook.com/events/178216399403082/)*

## **C of I Ordinands commissioned as parish Student Readers**

Four Ordinands were commissioned as Student Readers by Archbishop Michael Jackson at the Church of Ireland Theological Institute on Wednesday evening (October 4). Iain McAleavey and Rodney Magennis (Down & Dromore) and Ross Meneely and Christopher West (Armagh) were licensed as Readers.

The students were commissioned during the Community Eucharist which was attended by members of the nearby Little Company of Mary Convent. They were presented for licensing by Lecturer in Missiology, the Revd Dr Patrick McGlinchey, who coordinates student placements.

In his sermon, the Archbishop focused on the word 'care' while addressing the Ordinands on who they are called to be. "You are called to care for yourself; to care for others; to care for creation," he explained adding, "The word care is the thread that unites those three theological





imperatives of faith, hope and love from 1 Corinthians 13; the word care is what unites the divine gift of incarnation with the human response of a life of service and of challenge; this will often verge towards confrontation in areas of transformation and regeneration of earthly life itself; this comes about in and through the time of death and resurrection that we see revealed in Holy Scripture in the person of Jesus Christ. The word care is what inspires Christians by the Spirit of God worldwide through history and today to witness to truth and love in human degradation as well as in human exuberance. Care is about bothering; about going out of your way to make the way itself possible for difficult and impossible people; about doing things because you are a new creation of God and because you have no



intention of using care itself as a way of drawing attention to yourself – ever.”

The Archbishop said that the readings [Exodus 17.1–7; Philippians 2.1–13; St Matthew 21.23–32] provided valuable advice for ministry. Exodus highlights the importance of trying to avoid getting caught in the middle of exasperated people but he suggested that if they found themselves caught in the middle they must try to get into a position where they can continue to speak to everyone.

Matthew 21 highlighted the fact that many people would judge their public ministry but he urged them to take this in their stride. Philippians 2 reminded them that the mind of Christ is their guide and mentor “as we live afresh, each one of us, the incarnate life, holding together those spatial and spiritual impossibilities: heaven and earth – how? – by virtue of the fact that it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure. [Philippians 2.13]”.

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## Anglican Communion calls for repentance over divisive 'missionary' bishops



The Anglican Communion has called for a “season of repentance and renewal” after people in several countries have become consecrated as Anglican bishops and started churches without the permission of the bishop in the diocese or province, but rather another bishop across the border.

At a press conference for the Communion's Primates' Meeting on Friday, Archbishop of Canterbury Most Rev Justin Welby said such cross-border intervention “breaks trust and weakens the communion”.

According to the communique for the Primates' Meeting, the archbishops “recognised that there

were opportunities for joint initiatives and mission partnerships for the benefit of the Gospel...”

However, Archbishop Justin added: “The problem is where... one group subverts the efforts of another church group.

“Whether it’s us doing it to others or others doing it to us is irrelevant.

“Either way that is harmful to our partnership in mission and that is something that we all need to repent and seek renewal.

“Jesus created the Church to be one so that the world might know that he came from God... and that’s really crucial, and failure to do that is a cause for repentance.”

The Anglican Communion discussed the difficulties of cross-border interventions during its meeting this week and Archbishop Justin added that they “don’t have a magic wand for it”.

While addressing the issue they reaffirmed the principles outlined in the Council of Nicaea, formed in 35 AD, that condemned such acts from bishops.

Archbishop Justin refused to name people in particular who have become bishops without proper permission. However, in June he cited the Council of Nicaea when **rebuking Rev Canon Andy Lines**.

Rev Lines was consecrated as missionary bishop by GAFCON, a worldwide group of conservative Anglicans. It's his responsibility to cater to disaffected Christians in Scotland, England and across Europe who are unhappy with a church's teaching on issues such as sexuality.

The ordination came after the Scottish Episcopal Church decided to allow same-sex marriages. However, Archbishop Justin said the subject of missionary bishops is just one area in which Anglicans will be called to seek repentance and renewal for ahead of the 2020 Lambeth Conference.

During the week long meeting that came to an end on Friday, the Primates spent the bulk of their time discussing issues such as climate change, human trafficking, the refugee crisis, persecution against Christians and violent conflict.

The Primates also heard about issues arising from living alongside those of other faiths in various provinces, and with that have announced the development of the Anglican Inter Faith Commission.

The press conference ended with Archbishop Justin, Most Rev Josiah Idwu-Fearon Secretary General of the Anglican Communion and Most Rev Jackson Sapit Primate of All Kenya talking about the vital role wives play in supporting bishop or archbishops.

They said wives of leaders in many parts of the world are expected to step to a challenging role without any training or support.

Caroline Welby has spearheaded a new program called Women on the Front Lines to address the problem. The program combines spiritual, business and practical training to support wives of bishops and archbishops.

## **GAFCON responds to Primates' Communique**

GACFON, the worldwide conservative group of Anglicans, has said the outcome of the Communique from the Primates' Meeting is "disappointing, but it is not surprising".



**Rev Canon Andy Lines was consecrated as missionary bishop by GAFCON, to cater for disaffected Anglicans in Scotland, England and across Europe.**

The organisation, which says it is "standing together to retain and restore the Bible to the heart of the Anglican Communion", issued a statement following the Archbishop of Canterbury calling for repentance over missionary bishops at the Communion's Primates' Meeting on Friday.

GAFCON said it's "hopes for the meeting had been disappointed".

Leaders of GAFCON and the Global South met in Cairo last month to pray that "the outcome of the upcoming [Primates] meeting would be decisive and lead to coherent and responsible action regarding the issues which continue to

tear apart the fabric of the Communion, issues that have eternal consequences".

Most Rev Justin Welby didn't specifically name people in particular who have become bishops without the permission of the bishop in the diocese or province, but rather from another bishop across the border.

However he condemned those who had.

**Speaking to the heads of 33 Anglican provinces around the world**, Archbishop Welby said: "The problem is where... one group subverts the efforts of another church group.

"Whether it's us doing it to others or others doing it to us is irrelevant.

"Either way that is harmful to our partnership in mission and that is something that we all need to repent and seek renewal.

"Jesus created the Church to be one so that the world might know that he came from God... and that's really crucial, and failure to do that is a cause for repentance."

GAFCON said while the Primates' Meeting has been portrayed as "good disagreement" over

issues of sexuality, and that the theological convictions underlying the different positions can be set aside for the sake of institutional unity, this was false.

The group added in a statement: "... this does not reflect the reality. We are not "walking together."

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