

C of I issues guidelines on social media use in church life

The Church of Ireland has produced a set of guidelines for using social media and digital communications which seek to foster healthy and active online engagement while helping to manage risks and prevent misuse. All involved in the life of the Church are encouraged to use them.

Social media offers a wide opportunity for groups and individuals to engage creatively and positively with others. It is a key contemporary way in which we can share stories about parish and diocesan life, the Church and the Christian faith as a whole. At the same time, the nature of social media means that it is important to think about how to use it well.

In particular, the newly published guidelines advise exercising courtesy and responsibility at all times. The guidelines invite users to remember that they are the face of the Church

and to ask the following questions of themselves when posting a comment or image on social media:

- Would this breach a confidence?
- Would I want this on the front page of a newspaper?
- Would I want my family and friends to read this?
- If it concerns a disagreement, have I tried to resolve it privately first?
- Would I (in the case of clergy and lay readers/leaders in Church) say this from the pulpit or in general to members of my congregation either individually or collectively?
- Is what I'm writing reflective of a Christ-like compassion, even if challenge is present?

The guidelines also provide useful pointers to wider good practice and to safeguarding issues and the Safeguarding Trust policies.

The social media and digital communications guidelines have been developed by the Church of Ireland Press Office and the Central Communications Board and were approved by the Standing Committee of the General Synod at its September 2017 meeting. They are available at: www.ireland.anglican.org/policy



Scarecrow Harvest Festival aids Air Ambulance

Garvaghy Parish in Down & Dromore had a novel idea for celebrating their recent Harvest Festival and raised funds for Air Ambulance NI at the same time.

The country parish populated the church with specially made scarecrows who starred in clever displays on the theme “Thanks be to God”.

Parishioners had great fun representing the things they wanted to give thanks for: Gardening, Children, Marriage, Fellowship, Heath and Health Care Providers, Fishermen and the Harvest of the Sea, Music, Farming and Food, All Creatures Great and Small, Education, Rest and Relaxation and Sharing. Jesus birth was represented and, rather movingly, a scarecrow figure knelt, head bowed, at the Cross.

Despite a very wet Saturday afternoon, a steady stream of people came to see the exhibits and to enjoy refreshments in the hall.

The Harvest services conducted by the rector, Revd Captain Colin Taylor were well attended and a variety of singers and musicians contributed to the worship alongside the Garvaghy Parish Choir.

The Scarecrow Festival raised £903 for the Air Ambulance Northern Ireland and a slightly smaller amount for the parish.

New C of I priests warned about the mindsets of modern hierarchies

The Revd Rebecca Guildea and the Revd Ross Styles were ordained to the Priesthood on



The Laying on of Hands during the Service of Ordination to the Priesthood of the Revd Rebecca Guildea and the Revd Ross Styles

Sunday afternoon (September 24) in Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin. Archbishop Michael Jackson presided at the service. Rebecca will serve as an NSM in the Dioceses, assigned to St Patrick's Parish, Greystones. Ross will serve as Curate to the Christ Church Cathedral Group of Parishes.

The preacher was Canon Kevin Brew, Rector of St Mary's, Howth, who guided the large congregation of family, friends and well wishers through the Ordination Service and the promises made during ordination. He noted that Rebecca

and Ross were embarking on ministry in a rapidly evolving Church and while many of the things that would have been taken for granted when he was ordained were no longer the same, the Ordination Service and the promises of ordination had provided a framework which had stood the test of time. He said that the ordination vows put a shape on ministry.

Canon Brew said that Rebecca and Ross brought their own distinct gifts to ministry. “There are things you are very good at and there are things you will not be so good at. That is how God has made you and this is what you offer to God in service,” he said. Quoting Jean Vanier, founder of the L’Arche Community for people with intellectual disabilities, he said: “God creates with what he puts in our hands”. “Originally used in the context of the Eucharist, I think it has a great deal to say about vocation, your vocation, your ministry – the gifts God has placed in your hands, the gifts you offer back to God,” the preacher explained.

In the course of their ministry in addition to leading worship and pastoral work, Canon Brew said they would be asked to do many things from chairing Vestry meetings to weeding paths. But he urged Rebecca and Ross to remember that their whole ministry must be based on the



The Revd Ross Styles, Archbishop Michael Jackson, the Revd Rebecca Guildae and Canon Kevin Brew following the Service of Ordination in Christ Church Cathedral.

bed rock of commitment to the Gospel. “That must come through in our ministry of teaching, our pastoral work and yes even in the stacking of chairs, the clearing of weeds. We live in a world of hierarchies and even in the life of the Church it is easy to slip into the mindset of hierarchies,” he said. He added that pastoral ministry and the ministry of word and sacrament

were not separate but two sides of the same coin which would enrich each other.

He reminded Rebecca and Ross that they could not bear the weight of ministry alone “but only by the grace and power of God” and said it was important, despite all the calls that will be made on their time, to devote time to study, prayer and reflection.

“In a few minutes you will take your vows of ordination. You come responding to God’s call on your life, that sense of compulsion, almost coercion we were thinking about earlier. You bring your strengths and your weaknesses – God has a way of working through both. May God bless you in your ministry of word, of sacrament, of prayer, of service among the people of the Christ Church Group, of Greystones – and wherever else God leads you in the years to come. In your quiet times with the Lord, may you know his presence, his refreshment and his peace. May God bless you and your families – never take your families for granted,” Canon Brew concluded.

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Family memorial window dedicated in Holywood church

A beautiful new window, created and installed in memory of members of the Marshall family was dedicated on Sunday 24 September in the Church of St Philip and St James, Holywood.

The Archbishop of Armagh and primate of All Ireland, the Most Revd Dr Richard Clarke preached at the Service of Holy Communion and dedicated the new window. The Archbishop is a former curate of the parish.

Representatives of the family circle were also able to be present at the service.

The Marshalls lived in the parish from the 1950s to the 1980s. They were keen musicians and involved in Holywood Music Festival and local orchestras.

Although the family left some years ago, they still cherish the parish and its church.

The window is in memory of the whole family but in particular two sisters, Grace and Joy

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The window shows St Philip, with elements that also reflect the life of St James, and the inscription "Come and See" will soon be carved into the stone beneath the window.

It was designed by Ann Smyth and made by CWS Design.

C of I Appointments to church and inter-church bodies

The Standing Committee of the General Synod has made the following appointments -

- The Revd Peter Rutherford was appointed to the Church and Society Commission (CASC) in place of the Very Revd Maria Jansson who was unable to take up membership; the Bishop of Limerick has been appointed as Chair of CASC.
- The Very Revd Katharine Poulton was appointed as the Church of Ireland's clerical representative to the Anglican Consultative Council.
- It was agreed that the following be appointed to attend the Irish Inter-Church Meeting on the 23rd and 24th November at Dromantine: the Revd Helene Steed (day one) and Ms Gina Coptý (day two); the Revd Jonathan Campbell-Smyth; the Revd Ruth Jackson-Noble; Mrs Jean Denner; a member of CIYD and an Ordinand at CITI.
- The Revd Dr William Olhausen was appointed to attend the Israel-Palestine

Consultation at St George's House,
Windsor 6–8th December.

- The Revd Christine O'Dowd Smyth was appointed to represent the Church of Ireland at the Reuilly Meeting to be held in Dublin, 13–15th November (conversations with the French Reformed Churches).
- The Revd Cathy Hallissey was appointed to the Commission on Christian Unity and Dialogue.
- The Revd Canon Dr Ian Ellis was nominated to attend the Churches Together in Britain and Ireland (CTBI) Work programme Consultation in Missenden Abbey, Buckinghamshire, 28–29th November.

Hundreds of thousands expected to join mass rosary prayer along Polish border

Poland's bishops have urged Catholics to join a mass rosary prayer along the country's border to mark the end of the Fatima centenary, and pray for the salvation of their country.



Catholics will gather along Poland's 2,000-mile border to pray for their country

Organisers expect up to a million people to join the “Rosary on the Borders” event on October 7, the feast of Our Lady of the Rosary and the anniversary of the Battle of Lepanto – where “the Christian fleet” saved Europe from “Islamisation”.

“We believe that if the rosary is prayed by about a million Poles along the borders of the country, it may not only change the course of events, but open hearts of our compatriots to the grace of God,” the organisers say on [their website](#).

The Polish bishops' conference **has endorsed** the event, and asked all Catholics to join the rosary prayer even if they are physically unable to make it to the border.

“Families may pray in their homes, sick in hospitals, and parish communities in their churches,” they said.

“A hundred years ago, Mary gave these three Portuguese children a message of salvation: repent, give reparation for sins against my Immaculate Heart and pray the rosary,” the bishops added. Rosary on the Borders is a “special opportunity” to fulfil that calling.



Dozens of young adults embrace Anglican monastic programme

Dozens of young people have been welcomed to Lambeth Palace by the Archbishop of



Canterbury as they embarked on ten months of "monastic-inspired" living.

The Most Rev Justin Welby met 27 Christians from around the world at the beginning of the Community of St Anselm, an annual programme which is entering its third year.

Posting on Instagram yesterday, the Anglican leader said: "We've been celebrating today as 27 young Christians from churches around the world made a commitment to put Christ before everything else. "

"This is the third group of young people who've given a year of their lives to the Community of St

Anselm here at Lambeth Palace. It's always an intensely moving and humbling thing to witness."

Participants may not necessarily give up their regular jobs or studies but they commit to a programme of prayer, worship, study, volunteering and spending time together.

The Community of St Anselm, which offers residential and non-residential options, aims to build "a community that loves and grows and prays amid the pressures of normal daily life."

Archbishop Justin added: "The Community's vision is simple. We seek to give people an opportunity to recognise two things: the complexity of each other, and the simplicity of seeking to put Christ at the centre of everything.

"It's our hope and prayer that this experience stays with them for the rest of their lives."

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