

## Cork youth of 1980s meet current members



### Past and present members of Cork youth at Altar Rectory

On Sunday, 23rd July former members of the Cork Diocesan youth scene from the early 1980s were hosted at a reunion barbecue at the Altar Rectory, Toormore, Co Cork at which they were

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**NEWS July 29**



**Young people from the Cork Diocesan Youth Council who went kayaking at Schull Pier on 23rd July.**

joined by current members of the Cork Diocesan Youth Council. The occasion was part of the 300th anniversary celebrations of the Church of St Brendan the Navigator, Crookhaven, Co. Cork.

In the 1980s, young people from the Diocese visited this church on the Mizen Peninsula, in the

far west of County Cork, to clean, tidy, cut the grass, and make it ready for its usual summer season of Sunday evening Services. It was always a fun and bonding annual outing for them which took place over a weekend each June.

Between 25 and 30 young people would have been involved every year. They stayed in primitive conditions in Ballydevlin Schoolhouse.

Those were 'gender stereotypical' days; the boys did the outside work clearing the churchyard, and the girls dusted and cleaned indoors! Others of the girls stayed at the schoolhouse to do the cooking over one gas ring. There was one bucket for a toilet! Thankfully in all these respects times have changed!

Those conditions and memories, including trawling through old photographs, were among the topics of conversation when eight of them gathered on Sunday 23rd July at the invitation of the current rector, Canon Trevor Lester. It was interesting to see how many are still involved in significant ways in the life of the Diocese.

Canon Lester and his wife Oriel hosted a barbecue at their home, Altar Rectory. They were joined by a large group of current day members of the Youth Council led by Mrs Judy Peters

(Chairperson of Cork Diocesan Youth Council) and Hilda Connolly (Youth Officer). The younger ones had been kayaking off Schull Pier during the day.

## **Crookhaven complines and concerts mark 300 years**

St Brendan's Church, Crookhaven celebrates 300 years this summer. A series of Compline Services are being held each Sunday evening in July and August at 8.30pm. There is a different guest preacher for each service including Bishop Paul Colton tomorrow, July 30, Archbishop Richard Clarke on August 6 and Rabbi Dame Julia Neuberger on 20 August 20. On Tuesday August 1 at 8.30pm there is a concert of traditional Irish music performed by Mooncoin and on Thursday August 3 at 8.30pm there will be a talk on the local history of Crookhaven.

## **Rebel Prods still available**

Last November Ashfield Press published Rebel Prods: The Forgotten Story of Protestant Radical Nationalists and the 1916 Rising by the late

Valerie Jones. A former lecturer at the Church of Ireland College of Education and Diocesan Communications Officer for Dublin & Glendalough. Dr Jones died in February 2014 and the book was brought to fruition by her daughter Heather, Associate Professor in History at the London School of Economics, and her son Mark. Its publication was supported by the Church of Ireland's Historical Centenaries Working Group as one of its contributions to marking the centenaries of 1916 and by the General Synod Royalties Fund.

The book provides the first overall study of the role of Protestant radical nationalists in planning, and participating in, the Easter Rising and reveals that a far larger number were involved than previously known. The revolutionary generation of 1916 spanned the deep religious divisions in the Ireland of the time – while still a predominantly Catholic uprising, the 1916 rebellion was more religiously diverse than its later historical image suggests. This study reveals the significant contribution of Irish radical Protestants to the Rising and their fate in the new Irish Free State.

Heather and Mark decided that the royalties from the book should be presented to the Irish Cancer Society and, on the recommendation of the Literature Committee, the Standing Committee of the General Synod agreed that the profits from the sale of the book in the on–line book store on the Church of Ireland website should also be given to the Society. These presentations were made earlier this month.

Ashfield Press have kept the book in print and so Rebel Prods: The Forgotten Story of Protestant Radical Nationalists and the 1916 Rising is still available to order through the Church of Ireland Online Bookstore. (<https://store.ireland.anglican.org/store/product/120/rebel-prods-the-forgotten-story-of>)

## Music matters

Tomorrow, (Sunday) morning in **Christ Church, cathedral, Dublin**, the Cathedral Eucharist will be sung by In Cantorum, a choral group based in Athy and co–founded by Dean Philip Knowles and Eileen Doyle. In **St Patrick’s cathedral** the services will be sung by the choir of St Paul’s parish, Glenageary.

Next Thursday evening at 8pm the Irish Guitar Quartet will give a recital in St Barrahehene's church, **Castletownshend**, Co. Cork, and the guitar theme will continue in Dublin on Friday when Gerard Boyle and Luke Tobin will play classical and world music for two guitars in **Sandford** parish church, Ranelagh, at 1.10pm.

On Friday evening Duo Chagall (Arun Rao, cello and Gillian Williams, violin) together with Lance Coburn, piano, will perform Schumann's Piano trio in G Minor, Ravel's Sonata for Violin and Cello and Brahms' Piano Trio in B in **Calary Church**, Co Wicklow, at 8 pm. Tickets can be booked from John at (01) 2818146 or [derekneilson@eircom.net](mailto:derekneilson@eircom.net)

In **Castletownshend**, the 37th annual St Barrahehene's Music Festival takes places with a programme of renowned musicians in July and August. Each concert fills the church and attracts people from far and near to the parish and small coastal village. An addition to the programme this year is a Saturday concert this weekend, 29th July, by the Choir of St Mary's Church, Wimbledon. The programme which started on 20th July with *Trio Avalon*, followed by *Musici Ireland* (27th July) continues with *The Irish Guitar Quartet* (3rd August), *Ensemble*



*Dagda* (5th August), *Jessie Kennedy and Guests* (10th August) and *The Stavros Youth Choir* from Russian (19th August).

## Connor summer magazine available online



The Summer issue of Connor Connections is now available to read online and to download in pdf format at <http://connor.anglican.org/connor-connections/>.

The print version of the magazine is distributed free to all parishioners in the diocese.



## **Joyous day in Juba as first internal provincial Archbishop is enthroned**

The Anglican church in South Sudan has enthroned its first Archbishop for one of its eight internal provinces created in Nov 2013, in a service which was attended by the Vice President of the republic of South Sudan, Dr James Wani Igga.

The enthroned Archbishop of the central equatorial internal province, the Most Revd Paul Pitya Benjamin Yougusuk, is the son of the late second Archbishop of Sudan, Benjamin Wani Yugusuk.

The Vice President paid tribute to Archbishop Paul for his peacemaking efforts – pointing out that he has always worked for peace just like his father. In an African idiom he referred to the Yugusuk family as “a lion that gives birth to a lion” meaning that a thief is likely to give birth to a thief and so an archbishop produces an archbishop.

Archbishop Paul brokered a peace deal between insurgents operating in the western equatorial



state, who were in conflict with the government; the conflict resulted in the displacement of thousands of civilians from that area.

The Vice President also thanked the Archbishop and Primate of the episcopal church of South Sudan, the most Revd Daniel Deng Bul, for expanding the church even though the country is tarred by violence which has caused millions to flee their homes. He encouraged the Archbishop to unite the population and called on the church leaders to continue preaching messages of peace.

## **Episcopal Church leaders oppose Trump's ban on transgender people in military**

Episcopal Church leaders are making clear their objections to President Donald Trump's announcement on Twitter of his plan to ban transgender people from serving in the U.S. military.

Presiding Bishop Michael Curry said July 28 that he opposes Trump's effort and "affirm[s] the moral principle of equal rights for all persons, including the LGBTQ communities."

Curry said his conviction "is not born primarily of a social ideal, but of the teachings of Jesus of Nazareth and the witness of our biblical and theological tradition." He said he objected "as a follower of Jesus Christ, as presiding bishop of the Episcopal Church, and as a citizen who loves this country."

Citing the Declaration of Independence's claim of equal and inalienable rights of all, Curry said: "discrimination based on gender identity or sexual orientation is a violation of the fundamental ideal of equality in America."

The presiding bishop thanked transgender individuals now serving in the armed forces. “We are grateful for your service and for your sacrifices. We support you and all service members and veterans,” he said. “You are our neighbors, brothers and sisters in God’s human family, and fellow citizens of this country we love.”

The presiding bishop’s complete statement is here.

Trump’s July 26 early morning tweets about banning transgender people from the military caught the Department of Defense and Congress by surprise.

Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman Gen. Joseph Dunford said July 27 that the military had not yet been notified by the secretary of defense, who he said must issue “implementation guidance.” Defense Secretary Jim Mattis was on vacation when Trump tweeted.

Meanwhile, Christian conservatives applauded Trump’s announcement.

Later on July 26, the Justice Department, announced it would wade into a private

employment lawsuit to argue that federal law banning sex discrimination did not include protection for workers based on sexual orientation.

Also on July 26, Trump announced the nomination of Kansas Gov. Sam Brownback as U.S. ambassador at large for international religious freedom. Brownback is well-known for his opposition to gay rights.

Trump's actions come as Curry and House of Deputies President the Rev. Gay Clark Jennings are closely monitoring the Texas legislature's consideration of a bill requiring transgender people to use bathrooms in public schools, government buildings and public universities based on what the bill calls their "biological sex" as stated on their birth certificate.

The General Convention is scheduled to meet July 5-13, 2018, in Austin, Texas. Curry and Jennings have said that they must be able to ensure that "all Episcopalians and visitors to our convention, including transgender people, are treated with respect, kept safe, and provided appropriate public accommodation consistent with their gender identities."

The Rt. Rev. Carl Wright, Episcopal Church bishop suffragan for the armed forces and federal ministries, said in an emailed statement July 28 that “as chief pastor to Episcopal clergy who minister to all military members, regardless of race, religion, ethnicity, national origin, gender, or sexual orientation, I am troubled by the President’s recently tweeted remarks disrespectful of transgender military members.”

Wright said that the Christian faith teaches that God loves all people equally and unconditionally. “While it could be true that there are atypical costs associated with the healthcare of troops who are transgender, surely such costs would be no different than those of medical conditions incurred by other distinct groups,” Wright wrote. “We can’t retreat on the issue of full inclusion of all Americans in the defense of our great nation. I pray the President will reconsider.”

He also encouraged “any LGBT personnel, who might be experiencing discrimination, feeling unsupported, or questioning this latest announcement to feel free to seek an Episcopal chaplain in their area” or to contact him directly. The Very Rev. Randy Hollerith, dean of Washington National Cathedral, said July 27 that he too was disappointed by Trump’s decision to

exclude the transgender community from military service.

“We are stronger as a nation when we respect the identities of all and allow people to serve their country based solely on their ability,” Hollerith said. “To those that believe this decision advances Christian values, it does not. Rather, it is a gift to those who seek to misuse religion to justify discrimination against the transgender community.”

The dean said, “transgender people across the country should know they are beloved by God and respected citizens of this country – principles that should be reflected in our laws, and in the teachings of the church.”

Washington National Cathedral stands with transgender people, Hollerith said. “You will always be welcome in our house.”

Diocese of Virginia Bishop Shannon S. Johnston, Virginia Bishop Suffragan Susan E. Goff and Assistant Bishop Edwin F. Gulick said July 28 that they concur with Curry’s statement. They also noted the diocese’s recently released guidelines for the inclusion of transgender persons in the diocese’s camps and schools.



“Be assured of our unwavering support for God’s beloved children, no matter their gender, gender identity or sexual orientation,” they wrote in a statement.

Integrity USA President Bruce Garner wrote July 27 that his organization, which advocates for the full inclusion of LGBT people in the life of the Episcopal Church, “stands in support of transgender women and men serving in our military.”

Garner noted in a blog post that Integrity’s position is backed by Episcopal Church canon law including transgender persons in its anti-discrimination stance.

General Convention in 2012 added gender expression and identity to two canons that prevent discrimination in the church. One makes clear that the ordination discernment process is open to them, and another guarantees their equal place in the life, worship and governance of the church.

Those moves drew protests from some Episcopalians and prompted the Diocese of South Carolina’s deputies and then-Bishop Mark Lawrence to leave the convention.

Three years later, General Convention passed a resolution calling for a liturgical rite for people claiming new names. It also passed a resolution asking for recommendations to the 2018 meeting of convention on requests to amend church records and registries, and to reissue church certificates to match the legal name changes of members of the church.

Garner urged Integrity members to continue their advocacy.

“Remember that when the civil and human rights of any begin to be chipped away by prejudice, bigotry, meanness and nastiness, there is nothing to prevent those same bigots from going after the other civil and human rights we have,” Garner wrote. “Speak out. Silence will still equal death.”

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