

US Episcopal pilgrims visit St Fin Barre's Cork



Centre front (r-l) the Dean of Cork, the Very Reverend Nigel Dunne, the Right Reverend Dr Paul Colton, Bishop of Cork, Cloyne and Ross, and the Right Rev. Dr Mary Glasspool, Bishop Suffragan of New York.

A group of pilgrims from The Episcopal Church, USA (Anglican) led by the Right Rev. Dr Mary

Glasspool, Suffragan Bishop of New York, visited St Fin Barre's Cathedral last week. They were welcomed by the Bishop of Cork, the Right Rev. Dr. Paul Colton and the Dean of Cork, the Very Rev. Nigel Dunne.

The group came from both the Diocese of New York and the Diocese of Los Angeles and were touring places of worship and other sites in Ireland. Welcoming the group to the 12 noon daily Eucharist, the Dean of Cork noted that they had not had sufficient time to kiss the Blarney stone on their visit there earlier in the day and suggested that they would still be able to join in the many words of the liturgy and in singing the offertory hymn!

Speaking after the service, the Dean noted just how familiar the words of the Book of Common Prayer rite were to the visitors and how the common liturgical tradition of Anglicans across the world signified the great sense of unity shared across national and provincial boundaries.

Bishop Colton also spoke of the importance of Anglicans encountering each other with that sense of unity, at a time when the public perception of the Anglican Communion was often one of disharmony and disagreement.

Bishop Glasspool and her fellow pilgrims were delighted with the worship, hospitality and guided tour received at the Cathedral. Bishop Glasspool commented afterwards that this was the warmest welcome they had received on their tour so far. The group continued to Cashel and Dublin before returning to the United States.

C of I appoints lecturer in Anglicanism and Liturgy

The Church of Ireland Theological Institute (CITI) has announced the appointment of Dr Bridget Nichols to the post of Lecturer in Anglicanism and Liturgy.

Dr Nichols completed undergraduate and graduate studies in South Africa and has a doctorate in Literature and Theology from the University of Durham. She has lectured at the University of Durham and the University of Sunderland and has been a Visiting Scholar at Sarum College, Salisbury. Current research interests include psalter collects and the nature of liturgical language. Dr Nichols has served as chaplain to the Bishop of Ely and as a member of the Ely Diocesan Vocations Advisers' Team,



and writes a column on the weekly Sunday readings for *Church Times*.

The Rev Canon Dr Maurice Elliott, Director of CITI, said: 'CITI is delighted to welcome Dr Bridget Nichols to the staff faculty team. She is a person of rich ecclesial experience and high academic pedigree. I have no doubt that both the ordinands in training and indeed the wider

church will benefit greatly from her wisdom and her warmth.'

The Most Rev Dr Michael Jackson, Chairperson of the CITI Governing Council, said: 'I am delighted that Dr Bridget Nichols has been appointed to the staff of CITI as Lecturer in Anglicanism and Liturgy. Dr Nichols has a broad range of research pertinent to this post. She will add her talents to a hard working staff team in CITI and will be able to take her place in the Theology Department of the University of Dublin, Trinity College. I wish her well as she comes to live and work among us.'

Dr Nichols will take up her post towards the end of July 2017.

Chief Executive of Christian Aid, is to be the next First Church Estates Commissioner of C of E

Loretta Minghella, the Chief Executive of Christian Aid, is to be the next First Church Estates Commissioner, Downing Street announced this week.

The First Church Estates Commissioner is the Chair of the Church Commissioners' Assets Committee, a statutory committee, responsible for the strategic management of the Church Commissioners' £7.9 billion investment portfolio.

Welcoming her appointment, the Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby said: "Loretta Minghella is a hugely skilled and distinguished leader with an exceptional record of service. She has significant experience in the financial markets, law and charity sector and has an outstanding track record in business, investment and economic affairs.

"The Church Commissioners support the mission and ministry of the Church through the effective stewardship of their investments and support of transformative projects across the country, based around the Church of England's unique network of parishes, schools, buildings, chaplaincies and dioceses, with the willing service of its numerous Church members. As one of the largest charitable givers in the UK, the Commissioners' stewardship is matched by ethical and responsible investment practices which seek to reflect and support the Church's wider responsibilities to society and the common good.

"I am delighted that Loretta has chosen to use her great skills and experience in serving the church and greatly look forward to working with her."

The Archbishop of York, John Sentamu said: "It is such good news that Loretta will be the successor to Sir Andreas Whittam Smith. Her background has prepared her well to be the First Church Estates Commissioner. A Christian who delights in Jesus Christ and has a warm heart for everyone. I rejoice greatly at her appointment."

Dr Rowan Williams, Chair of Christian Aid's Trustees, said, "Loretta will bring to her new role a unique set of skills and passions, and we wish her all success with these challenges. We are very sad to lose such a wonderfully talented Chief Executive, but we know that she leaves an organisation in good heart, with a clear and transformative vision of the future. Our debt to her is huge, and we send her on her way with the greatest gratitude."

Speaking after her appointment, Ms Minghella said: "It is a great honour to be appointed to this post. As First Church Estates Commissioner, I will be able to build on all my experience both in financial services and at Christian Aid and that's

part of what is exciting about it. The main attraction is to be able to contribute to the Church's role in helping people find meaning in the love and life of Jesus Christ, generating and maintaining funding for the Church and guiding its leadership role in the ethical and responsible investment of its assets. Whilst Sir Andreas Whittam Smith will be a tough act to follow, I know there is a highly talented team at Church House. I am looking forward to working with them and my fellow Commissioners in the service of the Church."

Appointed by HM the Queen on the advice of the Prime Minister, the First Church Estates Commissioner is also a member of the Church Commissioners' Board of Governors, the General Synod and the Archbishops' Council. Ms Minghella was appointed following a thorough recruitment process, and will take up her new role on 1 November.

British Methodist President and Vice President elect named

The Methodist Conference has elected the Revd Michaela Youngson to serve as President, and Bala Gnanapragasam to serve as Vice-President,



starting their year of office when the Representative Session of the Methodist Conference meets in Nottingham next year.

Michaela has been Chair of the London District since 2012. With a passion for social justice and for developing strong ecumenical relationships, Michaela is committed to working within the diverse and rich context of the Connexion. She is a regular contributor to the BBC Radio 2 Early Breakfast Show's 'Pause for Thought'.

"I am delighted and humbled at the confidence shown in me by members of the Conference. The context of mission for the Methodist Church is challenging and exciting and I feel hugely

privileged to be able to contribute to that in a new way," said Michaela.

Bala Gnanapragasam believes strongly in mission and social justice. He serves on the board of Christian Aid and MHA (formerly known as Methodist Homes for the Aged). He is also a trustee of the London HIV/Aids Chaplaincy. He was the first Synod Secretary for the London District.

Born in Sri Lanka, Bala came to the UK in the 1960s and has previously served as an elected councillor for the London Borough of Lewisham. He has also served as the Chair of University Hospital Lewisham. Bala said: "It is both humbling and an honour to be elected to this position. I look forward to serving our great Church."

The role of President of the Methodist Conference is reserved for presbyters (ministers) and Vice-President for lay people or deacons.

GB Methodist Schools launch new video

A new video highlighting the history, values and impact of Methodist Schools across the country

has been launched today at the Methodist Conference.

'Doing all the good we can' features a series of interviews with pupils, teachers and parents as they share their thoughts and experiences of Methodist Schools.

Speaking in the video, Barbara Easton, Director of Education, says: "Our schools are about giving children the very best educational opportunities, wherever they are, in whichever sector, however old the children."

With around 25,000 pupils, 5,000 staff and estimated effect on some 100,000 people in Britain, Methodist Schools have a wide-reaching impact on children's education.

However, Methodist Schools are not just concerned with matters of education, but also issues of society and wellbeing.

"We've got a bunch of school values," says Ollie of Holly Hill Methodist/Church of England Infant School. "We've got gentleness, kindness, thankfulness, patience, love ... there's way too many for me to even say them all!"

Methodist Schools come from a rich historic tradition, having been involved in education for over 200 years.

Youth of Limerick shine on diocesan pilgrimage to Lourdes

Bishop of Limerick Brendan Leahy has said that the presence and commitment of young people on the diocesan pilgrimage to Lourdes has given great hope at a time of great challenge.

Speaking following the closing ceremony of the five day pilgrimage, Bishop Leahy said that the 100 young people on the young people's programme and other volunteers had brought great joy to the wider group, not least 70 assisted pilgrims.

“It's been an amazing few days, one which in which you get a great sense of renewal in what you see happening around you, particularly the spirit of volunteerism. I was particularly struck by young people on the pilgrimage. Year on year they come here and lift all of us with their sense of enthusiasm, fun and their commitment.

“They are a great beacon of hope. At our closing ceremony, prepared by the young people themselves, they spoke of the message of hope and joy that Lourdes brings. That's so important. As they reminded us, we need to have joy in the moment and not be waiting to get a course at

college, a particular job, have a family or successful career.

“Yes, it’s important to plan for the future but the young people on our pilgrimage have shown that they live in the moment too. That’s essential as you have to seize what’s in front of you and make the best of it.

“But it wasn’t just the youth. Young and old, there was a great sense of camaraderie and renewal, amongst pilgrims and volunteers. It was a special time. Great credit goes to Canon Donal McNamara, Director of the Pilgrimage and the many who throughout the year generously help in preparing and fund-raising for the pilgrimage.”

Bishop Leahy said that generally there was a wonderful sense of peace on the pilgrimage. “One woman commented to me that she feels the peace at home when she returns from Lourdes and that’s essentially what Lourdes does – brings peace. And that’s what we need as the world in many respects is a broken place.”

Rector of Knocknamuckley instituted

Bishop Harold Miller of Down & Dromore has instituted Revd Geoffrey Haugh as rector of Knocknamuckley in Dromore Diocese.

Parishioners, clergy, family and friends and a large contingent from Hollywood Parish filled the church for the service on 27 June 2017. Geoffrey invited the rector of Holywood, Revd Canon Gareth Harron, to preach.

Ordained in 2013, Geoffrey spent a year as deacon in Ballymore, Tandragee, under the tutelage of Canon Shane Forster before becoming curate assistant in St Philip and St James, Holywood. He spent almost three years in Holywood and covered the interregnum.

Before his call into ministry, Geoffrey worked for 20 years in animal medication and animal feeds sales.

He grew up on a small farm in the Birches between Portadown and Dungannon and attended Milltown church and Derrylard Sunday school and was a member of the BB.

Geoffrey became an active leader in both Sunday School and youth organisations and he and his wife Karen led youth camps

together for many years. Both have also been active beyond these shores: Karen on a mission trip to Kenya and Geoffrey leading teams to both The Arctic and New Delhi.

Geoffrey was influenced by a number of Sunday school teachers and clergy and is especially indebted to the late Canon Reggie Twaddell and his wife Evelyn for their guidance and support in his ministry journey.

The couple, who have 4 daughters, have made deep friendships that they hope will last many years. “We have been supported in ways that display God’s love in many beautiful ways, which we will never forget,” says Geoffrey.

On answering God’s call to take up the position of rector in St Matthias, he says, “Myself and Karen, after praying for many months, have a real sense of God’s peace and assurance in answering this call.” I am eager and excited to begin serving God amongst the people of Knocknamuckley.

Church of Scotland steps up support for armed forces



The Church of Scotland has pledged to strengthen its commitment to serving military personnel, veterans and their families.

Moderator of its governing body the General Assembly, Rt Rev Dr Derek Browning signed the Armed Forces Covenant at Edinburgh Castle.

The Covenant states: "We recognise the value serving personnel, regular and reservists, veterans and military families contribute to our organisation and our country.

"Therefore we, the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, will endeavour in our business and charitable dealings to uphold the key principles of the Armed Forces Covenant."

The Church has pledged to support employees who are veterans and "look favourably" upon staff requests for leave and flexible working by



Armed Forces' Day in Bangor, Northern Ireland

spouses with partners on deployment and compassionate leave.

Six per cent of Scotland's population has served in the Armed Force. Including their families, the Armed Forces Community represents nearly one in ten people.

Gordon Craig, convener of the Church of Scotland Committee on Chaplains to HM Forces said: "The wording of the Covenant will allow the Kirk to demonstrate its support of this group of people pastorally, liturgically and organisationally."

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Under the document, presbyteries will appoint Veterans' Champions who will support parish ministers in signposting people to appropriate care.

Church of Scotland ministers will be encouraged to learn more about local military bases, reserve centres and Cadet training facilities.

The Armed Forces Covenant has already been signed by more than 1,500 organisations across the UK, including the Church of England.

The Church of Scotland's signing of the Armed Forces Covenant coincided with Armed Forces Day 2017, which saw events held across the country.

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