



The essential daily brief on the Irish churches

New Canons Installed in St Columb's Cathedral

Two new Canons have been installed in St Columb's Church of Ireland Cathedral in Londonderry. They were installed at a Service in the Cathedral on 16th March 2014.



The new canons are Rev Harold Given who is Rector of Tamlaghtfinlagan (ballykelly) & st findluganus as well as Rev Mike Roemmele, Rector of Camus-Juxta-Bann (Macosquin).

The new Canons were joined by their family, friends and parishioners who came to witness their installation. Canons are non-residential members of the Cathedral Chapter (the ruling body of the Cathedral) appointed by the Bishop as a mark of their contribution in ministry to the work of the Diocese. The new Canons will continue their parish ministry.

A spokesperson for the diocese said "We congratulate both Harold and Mike for their faithful and imaginative ministry in their parishes and on their appointment".

Music - St Patrick's Dublin this sunday

This Sunday (23rd March) at 11.15am - a service of Choral Matins sung by the Cathedral Choir (Boys' & Men's voices) with music by Bairstow (Lamentations of Jeremiah), Dyson (Benedictus in D) & Stainer (God so loved the world).

Then at 3.15pm for the 3rd in the Lenten series of 'Sermons in Music' is this week sung by the Girls and Gentlemen of the Cathedral Choir with music by Gregorio Allergi (Miserere mei). Both services will as usual be streamed live via the Cathedral website <http://www.stpatrickscathedral.ie/live-screening.aspx>

Details of all major services throughout Lent, Passiontide and Easter at - <http://www.stpatrickscathedral.ie/media/file/Passiontide%20Fliers%202014.pdf>

Diarmaid MacCulloch on Faith and sexuality

Diarmaid MacCulloch, Professor of History at Oxford University will speak in Dublin on Friday 9 May about faith and sexuality.

Professor MacCulloch's "A History of Christianity" was made into a BBC TV series. He was ordained as a deacon in the Church of England and is an openly gay man.

Prof MacCulloch will be interviewed by Bryan Dobson, the RTE TV broadcaster. Possible questions may be conveyed in advance to Mr Dobson by e-mail

info@changingattitudeireland.org

The event is co-sponsored by Changing Attitude Ireland the Church of Ireland chaplaincy at Trinity College Dublin. It will take place at 13.00 at St Audoen's (C of I) Church near Christ Church Cathedral Dublin. Admission free.

Please note that St Audoen's Catholic Church High Street is next door to St Audoen's Cornmarket, where the event will be held (not in St Werburgh's). From Christ Church, walk past Dublinia (connected to Christ Church by an arch) westwards along High Street, towards the Brewery. The two St Audoen's Churches will appear at the end of that block, one towering over the other immediately beside it.

Healing Ministries training

The team of Divine Healing Ministries will be doing training for those who would like to be involved in the healing ministry in May.

This will take place every Thursday during the month of May at 8 pm in St. Anne's Cathedral Hall. People can come if they want to learn more about the healing ministry, if they wish to use the skills learnt in their own church, or if they would like to work with us.

There is no charge for the course but on the last night participants will have a chance to make a freewill offering.

Institution

The Institution of Rev Malcolm Ferry as Rector of St Augustine's will take place on 14 May 2014 at 7pm. The preacher will be Bishop John McDowell.



Bowl and Towel image of ministry

Methodist President, the Rev Dr Heather Morris writes of the image of the bowl and towel on her presidential scarf in the April Methodist Newsletter (out Thursday 27 March) and the call to serve others.



'A people who say "yes" to God's invitation to follow will have servants' hearts – will have been grasped by the wonder of the example of the Son of God who serves – will have begun to glimpse the truth that in the gentle power of the Holy Spirit, loving service points beyond itself to the God who still loves the world.'

The April magazine also features the photograph of a special, three-dimensional picture, displayed on the floor at Global Vision Craigavon. On loan from the Methodist Church in Germany, it shows Christ pouring water into a bowl. Viewers may become optical participants in the scene, having their own hands or feet washed. So as we serve others, Christ continues to serve us, providing us with spiritual resources to continue his mission on earth.



The Rev Dr Heather Morris (President of the Methodist Church in Ireland), Eimer Downey and Keith McCauley lay a wreath at St Patrick's grave following the annual St Patrick's Day Service in Down Cathedral. Looking on are the Rt Rev Harold Miller, Bishop of Down & Dromore (left) and the Very Rev Henry Hull, Dean of Down (right). Photograph – John Kelly

US diocese visits Down

Down and Dromore's link with Albany Diocese continues.

A group of four clergy and two spouses from the USA were hosted. They arrived on Friday 14 March and were present at the St Patrick's Day Celebrations in Saul and Downpatrick .



The group has had a guided tour of Stormont, hosted by Jo-Anne Dobson MLA, and also returned to Down Cathedral as guests of Dean Henry Hull. And of course a visit to Down and Dromore isn't complete without dropping in at the Titanic Quarter and The Dock Cafe.

The Albany guests leave today 20 March.

Book Well of Christian resources

Following the closure of The Good Book Shop at Church of Ireland House, Belfast earlier this year, its former manager Richard Ryan has established 'The Book Well' as an online Christian bookshop independently set up to continue resourcing the ches.

Its website which was launched at the beginning of March now sells items such as Hymn Books, Prayer Books, Church Stationery items, Bibles, Directories and other Christian books.

Products can be purchased or requested directly from The Book Well website: www.thebookwell.co.uk. Orders can be shipped all over the UK and Ireland, and can also be collected from the Church of Ireland Youth Department in Elmwood Avenue, Belfast or Church of Ireland House in Donegall Street, Belfast.

You can also contact Richard on +44 (0)7581143596.

Churches criticise Budget alcohol announcement

Three major British Churches have criticised government plans to scrap the alcohol duty escalator as announced in the Chancellor's Budget speech today.

The Baptist Union of Great Britain, Methodist Church and United Reformed Church say that George Osborne's announcement is 'irresponsible', signalling good news for the drinks industry, while the taxpayer is left to bear the social and financial costs of problem drinking.

The full statement follows:

"Once again, George Osborne has presented a budget with good news for the drinks industry, but little reassurance that the Government cares about the harm caused by alcohol misuse. In 2013, as well as abandoning its

commitment to the medically-backed policy of minimum unit pricing for alcohol, the Government abolished the alcohol duty escalator on beer. The escalator required duty on alcoholic drinks to rise at 2 percent above inflation from 2008 to 2015. For decades, successive Governments have kept duty on alcohol at historically low levels, particularly for wine and spirits; it would be even lower without the escalator.

"As alcoholic drinks have become more affordable - an estimated 61% more affordable since 1980 - the harm caused by alcohol misuse has increased, and already costs the UK £21bn per year. The duty escalator on alcoholic drinks other than beer is the only surviving measure



against dangerously cheap and strong ciders and spirits. Abolishing it is irresponsible and sends a signal that the Government supports business profits while passing the social and financial costs of problem drinking on to the taxpayer.

"Research shows that introducing a minimum unit price on alcohol would have a significant impact on problem drinking. Doctors, healthcare professionals and charities have long expressed their support for such a measure and we would strongly urge Mr Osborne and his colleagues to look again at this option. "

Popular Dublin multi-racial gospel choir celebrates 10 years

Irish Times feature at -

www.irishtimes.com/news/social-affairs/religion-and-beliefs/popular-dublin-multi-racial-gospel-choir-celebrates-10-years-1.1725475