



Handle with prayer

News – ANiC and AEN

ANiC parishioners' survey

Have you made your voice heard yet? All ANiC parishioners 18 and older are asked to complete a short, five minute survey. The information from this survey will help ANiC's development team plan for ANiC's growth and sustainability. For more information and to take the survey now, please [see the ANiC website](#). Parishioners without Internet access can get paper copies of the survey from their rector. Thanks so much!

Virtual clergy retreat

If you didn't make it to the clergy retreat, you can still benefit from the teaching. Podcasts of the four teaching sessions by the Ven Michael McKinnon are [posted to the ANiC website](#). (Thanks to ANiC's registrar the Rev Tom Carman for making the recordings.)

New England youth conference recommended

[St Michael's Youth Conference](#), a 52-year tradition in New England, will be held July 31 – August 6 in West Hartford, Connecticut. In recommending the conference, the Ven Michael McKinnon, ANiC archdeacon for New England, says that St Michael's is thoroughly orthodox and steeped in the Catholic tradition. Its primary goal is to form "an intentional community whereby young adults come to know Jesus Christ as their personal Lord and Saviour. He says, "Please consider sending your 14-21 year-old young adults. It will be an investment in your child's soul. They will experience a fun-filled, life changing, faith-building week as they grow in their knowledge of God, Jesus Christ, the Holy Bible, the sacraments, Church liturgy, Christian moral teaching – and much more! Many participants come back year after year." For more information, contact Archdeacon Michael – who, along with Fr Andrew Carlson, serves on the faculty of the conference – at (508)481-8493 or John3v17 (at) verizon.net.

New ANiC clergyman explains why he left his former Church

The Rev Tony Harvey, who recently was licenced in ANiC after years of ministry, has written a short letter to explain his decision to leave the Anglican Church of Canada. You can read it [on the ANiC website](#).

ANiC member begins mission in Southern Sudan

ANiC has a special connection to the Southern Sudan, with the congregation of St John's Surrey being comprised largely of former refugees from that country. Now, the Rev Lexson Maku of the Church of the Ascension (Langley, BC) has just returned from Southern Sudan. While there he registered his new mission organization, the Afro-Canadian Evangelical Mission, met with community leaders and government officials in Mundri where he was born, and purchased land. He and his coworkers hope to build an orphanage to minister to the large number of orphaned children – the result of decades of vicious warfare – as well as start a vocational training institute to help rehabilitate former child soldiers.

Future plans include the building of an elementary school, providing sources of clean drinking water, and building and equipping a hospital. He says, "Our aim is to reach the orphans with the gospel of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. There is a lot of poverty in Southern Sudan. Please pray for this new nation that will be formed on July 9th." Southern Sudan is one of the poorest, least developed places on earth, with virtually no infrastructure, schools, hospitals or industry. The devastation caused by 50 years of conflict mean the new nation of Southern Sudan is starting from scratch. Please also pray for the Rev Maku that God would prosper his ministry.

Parish news

[St Matthias & St Luke's](#) (Vancouver, BC) is holding a bazaar on Saturday, May 7 to raise funds for its July 22-24 summer camp which will be led by Bishop Don Harvey. The bazaar – a thrift sale and food market with delicious ethnic delicacies for take-out and eat-in – will run from 10am to 4pm at the church, 680 West 49th Ave, Vancouver. See [the poster](#) for full details.

St John's (Vancouver, BC) is holding a fundraiser on May 14 for an upcoming short-term mission trip to Malawi. The fun and entertainment will start at 6pm with a concert, dessert party and silent and live auctions. Admission is by donation.

Calendar of upcoming events – for your interest and prayer support

April 26-29 Titus Institute [Exponential Conference on Church Planting](#) in Orlando

May 7, 10am-4pm – St Matthias & St Luke's (Vancouver) [bazaar fundraiser](#)

May 14, 6-9:30pm – St John's (Vancouver) Malawi mission team fundraiser

May 28 – Moncton, NB [church planting workshop](#)

June (TBD) – Marlborough, MA [church planting workshop](#)

June 6-20 – Asian Mission [short-term mission trip](#) to Thailand and the Karan refugee camps

June 30 – July 14 – Asian Mission [short-term mission trip](#) to China, working with disabled orphans

July 22-24 – St Matthias & St Luke's church camp with Bishop Don

Nov 2 – Clergy Day as well as spiritual life conference for laity – both in Victoria, BC

Nov 3-4 – [ANiC synod](#), Victoria, BC

On the front lines: Growing and planting churches

Profile: Celebration Church in Barrie Ontario

“When we left the Anglican Church of Canada, we made the decision to start anew and take a little time to reflect on what effective ministry in our community would look like,” says the Rev Brian McVitty, rector of one of ANiC's newest parish. *“Our name, Celebration Church, comes from Acts 8:8 where the proclamation of the Gospel brought much joy to the city of Samaria. We wanted a name that reflected who we want to be as a people of God and encapsulated our vision of reaching out to the community.”*

Although [Celebration Church](#) launched in mid-January with a full program, the leadership decided to wait until April for the formal inauguration, allowing time to iron out the wrinkles and settle into life as an ANiC parish in a new building and with a new vision. On April 9th, Celebration invited ANiC clergy and their spouses from all over Ontario to come together for a mini-retreat with Bishop Don Harvey. That afternoon, at the church's official launch service, Bishop Don inducted both the Rev McVitty and the Very Rev Peter Williams (honourary assistant).

Later that week, the church held a city-wide open house in the Barrie convention centre with Bishop Charlie Masters. Thanks to a coordinated advertising campaign, which included 4000 door hangers, radio ads and signage, the open house was well-attended, even drawing the local radio station.

The Celebration congregation comprises about 35 families. It meets in a Baptist church fellowship hall where it not only shares facilities with the Baptist congregation but also Sunday School teachers and some programming.

Asked about the one key thing he wants to communicate to ANiC, the Rev McVitty says, *“It was so helpful for us to take the time to pause and prayerfully reset our compass by reexamining our vision, mission and values before launching.”*

Inspiration for planting and growing churches

- The [Anglican1000 website](#) recommends five church planting books:
 - *Missionary Methods: St. Paul's or Ours?* by Roland Allen
 - *Planting Missional Churches* by Ed Stetzer

- *Viral Churches: Helping Church Planters Become Movement Makers* by Ed Stetzer & Warren Bird
- *Ten Most Common Mistakes Made by Church Starts* by Jim Griffith and Bill Easum
- *Church Planting Landmines* by Tom Nebel and Gary Rohmayer
- The Anglican Coalition in Canada, a ministry partner with ANiC, has planned a Leadership Conference for May 25-27 in Richmond, BC with Dr Terry Walling, a Fuller Theological Seminary professor, church leadership trainer and church planting coach. Details are [on the ACiC website](#).

News – Anglican Church in North America (ACNA)

Holy Week observance

Canon Phil Ashley of the American Anglican Council provides a [two-minute video](#) that discusses the practices of Holy Week and the importance of marking these events as we enter into the “*fellowship of sharing in His sufferings*”.

Bishop Nazir-Ali makes an “*urgent call to the western Church*”

The American Anglican Council is co-sponsoring [a speaking tour](#) next month by highly regarded Bishop Michael Nazir-Ali, an advocate for persecuted Christians around the world, an expert on Islam, and an outspoken critic of UK public policy. Called *Hold Fast: An Urgent Call to the Western Church*, these meetings are designed to encourage confident Christian living in the face of the threats posed by secularism, multi-culturalism and Islamic extremism. Currently scheduled meetings are in Atlanta, GA on May 18, Newport Beach, CA on May 20, and Dallas/Fort Worth, TX on May 24.

Legal update

A second ACNA church in Virginia, Church of the Word (Gainsville), [has reached](#) an out-of-court settlement with the Episcopal Church that forces the church to “*voluntarily disaffiliate from the Convocation of Anglicans in North America (CANA), the Anglican District of Virginia (ADV) and the Anglican Church in North America (ACNA) for a period of five years*”. Canon lawyer A S Haley [expresses his deep concern](#) about this violation of the free exercise of religion guaranteed in the first amendment of the US constitution. He argues that no court in the US would uphold the prohibition in this agreement on association with ACNA.

News -- Canada

Huron College to confer honorary doctorate on TEC Presiding Bishop

A small Anglican college affiliated with the University of Western Ontario [has announced](#) that it will confer an honorary Doctor of Divinity degree on the Episcopal Church’s Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori at its convocation on May 5. Anglican Church of Canada primate Archbishop Fred Hiltz will present the award together with Bishop Robert Bennett (Huron); then the Presiding Bishop Jefferts Schori will give the convocation address to the 13 graduates and their family and friends.

Anglican Church of Canada (ACoC) House of Bishops rejects open communion

In a [statement released](#) after their week-long meeting in Niagara Falls, the Anglican Church of Canada’s House of Bishops has announced its decision to not allow non-baptized church-goers to partake of Holy Communion. They say:

“We have been made aware through media articles and pastoral visits by bishops that in some parts of Canada a practice of ‘open table’ has begun. This involves admitting people to Holy Communion before baptism. We recognize that this practice arises out of a deep concern to express Christian hospitality. However we unanimously reaffirm our understanding that the Eucharist is the sacrament for the baptised. We do not see this as changing for the foreseeable future. At our next meeting, the bishops will discuss and offer guidance to the church on Christian hospitality and mission and how these relate to the Table of Christ.”

However, in response to the ensuing unhappy reaction from members, Archbishop Fred Hiltz [told the Anglican Journal](#) that the bishops “...are open to further discussion on this issue”.

More Anglican Church of Canada (ACoC) news

- The ACoC’s general secretary, the Ven Dr Michael Pollesel, [has announced](#) his resignation effective October 31.
- The next House of Bishops meeting in November [will tackle](#) a General Synod request to consider the implications of Anglican clergy refusing to perform marriage ceremonies.

Evangelical Fellowship of Canada (EFC) in action

- The EFC has [been granted](#) intervener status in a May 18th Supreme Court of Canada case which deals with parental rights and freedom of religion.
- The EFC has written an [open letter](#) to Aeroplan protesting its discriminatory policies in singling out evangelical ministries for exclusion from its “Charitable Pooling” program.
- A very good, short video produced by the EFC, [Rethinking Prostitution in Canada](#), pulls back the veil and reveals the truth about this supposed “world’s oldest profession”.

News – United States

Parishioners demand an accounting of funds used for Episcopal Church litigation

[VirtueOnline reports](#) that a coalition of Episcopalians – calling themselves the “Trust Fund Coalition” – has written Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori and the executive council of the Episcopal Church (TEC) asking for a public accounting of the funds used for TEC litigation. They had become “alarmed by reports that TEC is using trust funds for litigation against dioceses, parishes, and clergy that have transferred to other Anglican jurisdictions”. They have demanded “the names of the trust funds used and the amounts taken from each one”. Previous attempts – by both bishops and laity – to get this information have gone unanswered. The article states that TEC has initiated over 50 lawsuits “to acquire property owned by dioceses and parishes. They sometimes include actions against vestry members. Over four hundred removal actions against clergy have been filed in ecclesiastical courts...” The open letter from the Trust Fund Coalition threatens legal action of its own if TEC fails to provide a “complete accounting of TEC’s financial disbursements for litigation”.

More US news

Church of England Newspaper – April 15 2011 – [Pittsburgh petitions Pennsylvania Supreme Court](#)

News – International

Pray for the GAFCon Primates meeting next week

The GAFCon Primates have requested prayer for their meeting in Nairobi, Kenya the week following Easter. An email from Archbishop Peter Jensen (Sydney, Australia), secretary general of the Fellowship of Confessing Anglicans (FCA), says, “There are still many important issues confronting the Anglican Communion, and it is more important than ever... to provide clear and biblical leadership for Anglicans who want to hold firmly to the truth of God’s word. Please do pray for the Primates in their important deliberations and for outcomes which will aid the proclamation of the gospel around the world.”

Revisionist CoE appointment creates controversy

[Writing in the Telegraph](#), the Rev John Richardson explains why the nomination of the Rev Nicholas Holtam, rector of St Martin-in-the-Fields in London, as Bishop of Salisbury “...poses great challenges for traditionalist Anglicans here and abroad, but it also raises serious questions about the functioning of the Crown Nominations Commission, responsible for choosing Anglican bishops.” The Rev Holtam’s marriage to a divorcee traditionally could disqualify him from the post and thus presents a potential challenge to church order. More seriously, the Rev Holtam is an advocate for changing Church doctrine on matters of sexuality. The Rev Richardson, who also blogs as the Ugley Vicar, denounces the current system for nominating bishops in the Church of England which he says is “shrouded in secrecy” and puts “so much power in the hands of so few”.

A [Church Society statement](#) says, “*In his public ministry Mr Holtam has actively promoted erroneous teaching on the issue of human sexuality which puts him at odds with the declared mind of the House of Bishops, the General Synod of the Church of England and the 1998 Lambeth Conference, [and] makes him unfit for ministry in the Church of England let alone as a Bishop... [W]e call on the Church to repent of its folly, to uphold Biblical teaching and to cry out to the Lord for mercy.*” For samples of the Rev Holtam’s views see [here](#) and [here](#).

Surprisingly, a [Church of England Newspaper article](#) notes that the Bishop of Sherborne, Dr Graham Kings, who was previously considered to be evangelical, is totally supportive of the Rev Holtam and his appointment.

A [CoE commenter on TitusOneNine notes](#) that, in the past 18 months, a number of appointments to the House of Bishops have served to make the Church of England’s episcopacy even more liberal. Speaking of the appointment of the Rev Holtam, he writes, “...*this appointment is the third preferment in the last 18 months of one of the founding steering group of Inclusive Church...*”

Exodus of Anglo-Catholics continues

In a [Telegraph article](#) on the Roman Catholic Anglican Ordinariate, a Church of England clergyman considering the Ordinariate is quoted saying, “*Orthodox Christians in the Church of England are being marginalised by this liberal agenda that keeps on accelerating. You look around the leadership of the Church and there’s no one there who is likely to stop it.*” The article concludes, “*For Archbishop Williams, the battle to stem the tide of Anglicans defecting to Rome has only just begun. Hundreds, if not thousands, are likely to leave if the Church gives final approval next year to current plans to make women bishops.*”

Disestablishment supported

In [Arbiters of the Faith](#), The Rev Dr Andrew Goddard questions whether the time has come to push for disestablishment of the Church of England to free it from undue political interference in theological matters.

Anglican Covenant updates

- In a [fascinating review](#) of the Covenant history and current prospects, canon lawyer A S Haley explains why the Episcopal Church will never sign the Covenant. He also ironically notes that the very factions within the Communion that most stridently oppose the Covenant are “*the ones who control the Covenant amendment and adoption process*” through their domination of the Anglican Communion Standing Committee.
- The general convention of the Diocese of Los Angeles [has declined to endorse](#) the Covenant at its recent meeting and recommends the Episcopal Church does the same.
- Meanwhile, the [Anglican Journal says](#) that, “*With its usual faithful response to requests from the Anglican Communion, the Anglican Church of Canada is preparing materials for next year’s discussions of the proposed Anglican Covenant.*”

Anglican bank for development work under consideration

An Anglican Communion meeting in Nairobi, involving participants from the Global South as well as from the west, has [agreed upon three priorities](#) for relief and development work: “*Economic empowerment, with support for micro-finance, including working on a roadmap towards an Anglican bank... Peace and reconciliation, [and] learning from the experience of the church in countries affected by conflict.*”

Archbishop Kwashi blasts Communion for not supporting persecuted Christians

A [Church of England Newspaper article](#) on the recent visit of Archbishop Ben Kwashi (Jos, Nigeria) to Britain, recounts the many times he, his wife, his house and his churches have been attacked in the past decades. And yet, “*The Kwashis accommodate 50 orphaned children in their home whom they feed and educate.*” In a [video posted to YouTube](#) he and his wife Gloria tell journalist Ruth Gledhill about life in Jos with the recent attacks on Christians. In a [BBC radio interview](#), Archbishop

Kwashi gives testimony to the transforming love of Christ in the face of persecution and speaks of his indebtedness to the missionaries who came to Nigeria and lead his father to the Lord.

In a [Church Times article](#), Archbishop Kwashi comments on the lack of support he has experienced from the Anglican Communion in the midst of the persecution in Jos. While he had experienced no support while at Lambeth 1998 – and chose not to attend Lambeth 2008 – he says it was very different at GAFCon (in Jerusalem in 2008). “*People not only wept and prayed, people showed solidarity. After that, people from GAFCon did visit Jos, did go to Sudan, [and are] still going... [W]e don't want your money, just a visit to encourage... to put your hand on my shoulder and say, 'Brother, we're with you.' That never happened in Lambeth.*”

From around the Communion and the world

Ivory Coast – An [article in the Anglican Journal reports](#) that at least 1500 have been killed in the civil war in the Ivory Coast and about 800,000 have been forced from their homes. Ethnic killing is reported to be ongoing.

Japan – The [Anglican Communion News Service reports](#) that the death toll from the earthquake and tsunami is now well over 13,000 with more than 14,000 still missing. 67,000 people have been displaced and almost 59,000 homes destroyed. The Anglican Church in Japan says that three churches were so badly damaged they have been demolished or are unsafe to use and others sustained earthquake damage. At least one lay member was killed and two others are missing. Some pastoral care is being provided in the hardest hit areas. Relief work is currently focused on supplying food and daily necessities, but this will likely change to providing community services and counselling support as the situation stabilizes.

Nigeria – The [National Post reports](#) that recent national elections have triggered rioting and violence, especially in the predominantly Muslim north. Rioters targeted those thought to have voted for the Christian presidential candidate. State elections are slated for next week, which could result in more violence. Please pray for calm.

Somalia – A young man who had recently converted to Christianity [was murdered](#) on Monday by al Shabaab extremists who are enforcing Sharia law on the people. Sharia law mandates the death penalty for conversion from Islam. The very few Christians in Somali are being systematically killed.

More international news

Church of England Newspaper – April 15 2011 – [American decadence a sign of the end times, archbishop warns](#)

Church of England Newspaper – April 8 2011 – [Tohoku \[Japan\] 'annihilated' archbishop reports](#)

Soul food

Resources

Podcasts of top preachers – You can [listen to sessions](#) from the recent Gospel Coalition conference on *Preaching Christ and the Gospel from the Old Testament*. The conference featured top evangelical leaders in North America. (Be sure to scroll down the page to see the sessions.)

History of heresy – A [1988 Churchman paper](#) summarizes past controversies and heresies in the Church and points out the ever-present threat of compromising, or even losing, the Gospel.

Children's curriculum – The Anglican Church League (Australia) [highly recommends](#) the [Praise Factory](#), a resource for systematic theology curricula for pre-school and elementary age children.

Anglican systematic theology – Anglican Spread blogger the Rev Charles Raven [highly recommends](#) a recently published book by Bishop John Rodgers: *Essential Truths for Christians: A Commentary on the Anglican Thirty-Nine Articles and Introduction to Systematic Theology*. Bishop Rodgers is with the Anglican Mission in the Americas. The Rev Raven says, “...after many years' work, Bishop John has produced a book which will be truly essential for all those committed to rebuilding global Anglicanism as a confessing Communion with a confident and clear witness to the

gospel". The Thirty-Nine Articles, a key part of our "*Anglican Reformation heritage*", are affirmed in the Jerusalem Declaration "*as containing the true doctrine of the Church agreeing with God's Word and as authoritative for Anglicans today*". The Rev Raven says Bishop Rodgers' book is "*an impressive exercise in Anglican systematic theology*", yet highly accessible.

Of interest

King James Bible – A Church of England minister has [undertaken a project](#) to mark the 400th anniversary of the King James Version of the Bible and "*raise awareness about the impact of this translation on the English speaking world*". His project is to explicate a list of 365 phrases that have come into common use – or that he feels should be more commonly in use – that originated in the King James Bible. He deals with phrases such as "carried away", "wit's end" and "miserable comforters". Every day he discusses one of the phrases. His [list of phrases is here](#).

Following the money – An [article on MethodistThinker.com](#) follows the money trail for the multi-million dollar advocacy of the homosexual agenda in Catholic and mainline Protestant churches.

Chilling forecast

The CEO of the UK's Christian Medical Fellowship in a [discussion of demographic trends](#) in the west concludes, "*Unless something is done to reverse the demographic trends, economic necessity, together with the 'culture of death' ideology which is becoming more openly accepted, may well mean that the generation that killed its children will in turn be killed by its own children.*"

Just for fun

Joey's dad invited Rev & Mrs Brown to dinner. Joey's mom made an extra-special meal. It was Joey's job to set the table with the good china and silver.

As everyone sat down to eat, Joey's mom said, "Joey, dear, you forgot to set a knife and fork for Mrs Brown."

"I didn't think I needed to," Joey explained. "I heard Daddy say she eats like a horse."

One lazy Saturday morning the wife and I were quiet and thoughtful, sitting around the breakfast table when I said to her unexpectedly, "When I die, I want you to sell all my stuff immediately."

"Now why would you want me to do something like that?" she asked.

"I figure a woman as fine as you would eventually remarry and I don't want some other jerk using my stuff."

She looked at me intently and said: "What makes you think I'd marry another jerk?"

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Thought

Some cause happiness wherever they go. Others, whenever they go. www.mikeysFunnies.com

Please pray...

For our **bishops and clergy** and their families

For **ANiC projects, church plants and parishes**, and for their proclamation of the Good News to those in their communities who desperately need new life in Christ – especially over Easter

For the four Vancouver-area ANiC parishes and their legal counsel as they await the decision of the Supreme Court of Canada on their application for leave to appeal

For other ongoing legal challenges faced by ANiC parishes, including the ongoing litigation involving **St Aidan's (Windsor)** and the ANiC parishes that were formerly in the **Diocese of Niagara** – and their mounting expenses

For all the **congregations** involved in court proceedings and disputes. Pray for a continued focus on, and blessing upon, their ministry in the midst of this turmoil. Pray for peace for the **wardens and trustees** who are on the front lines and bear the burden of risk and responsibility

For the **leaders and parishioners of the ACoC dioceses** pursuing eviction of and legal costs against ANiC congregations and wardens

For donations **to the ANiC legal defense fund** which supports parishes involved in disputes with their former dioceses

For the implementation by the Diocese of Maseno West (Kenya) of the [malaria prevention project](#), sponsored by the **ARDFC**. May God use it to bless Kenyans and bring many to Christ

For the people of **Japan** and **Christchurch, NZ**. May they turn to God and find comfort and hope

For **persecuted Christians** especially in Nigeria, Egypt, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Iraq, Somalia, and other Muslim lands

For countries in **Africa and the Middle East** where radical Muslims are seeking to leverage the political instability to gain control

For repentance and revival in **our hearts and in our nation**, for a hunger for God and His Word

Pray for the **GAFCon primates** who are meeting next week in Nairobi as they consider the issues in the Communion and set plans that will aid the proclamation of the gospel around the world.

For all those in positions of leadership and influence in the **Anglican Communion**, that they would seek to honour and obey God above all else

And now a word from our sponsor

“Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar, or not?” But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, “Why put me to the test, you hypocrites? Show me the coin for the tax.” And they brought him a denarius. And Jesus said to them, “Whose likeness and inscription is this?” They said, “Caesar’s.” Then he said to them, “Therefore render to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s, and to God the things that are God’s.”

Matthew 22:17-21 ESV

Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness... So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

Genesis 1:26-27 ESV

He is risen! Alleluia!