



Handle with prayer

News – ANiC and AEN

Welcome Mill Bay church plant!

Christ Church of the Valley (Mill Bay, BC) is ANiC's 40th official church plant/parish. The new congregation is led by the Rev Andrew Hewlett – one of our Morning Prayer preachers at Synod.

BC Court of Appeal gives mixed decision

The BC Court of Appeal issued its decision from the September 13-16 hearing, agreeing with four Vancouver area ANiC parishes on issues of law, but still dismissing their appeal. The parishes, St John's (Vancouver), St Matthews (Abbotsford), Good Shepherd (Vancouver), and St Matthias & St Luke's (Vancouver), had appealed a 25 November 2009 decision of Mr Justice Stephen Kelleher awarding beneficial ownership of church properties to the Diocese of New Westminster in the case involving the split in the Anglican Church. The Diocese of New Westminster's counter appeal of Mr Justice Kelleher's decision granting a bequest (worth approx. \$2M) to the ANiC congregation of the Church of the Good Shepherd was also dismissed.

Special Counsel Cheryl Chang says:

"In my view, the court did not give due consideration to some critical evidence on issues of doctrine, Anglican hierarchy and authority. Mdm Justice Newbury states (at para 75), "it is antithetical to the nature of Anglicanism to contemplate "Anglican ministry" in a parish that has withdrawn from the authority of its diocese and bishop". However, this ignores the Windsor Report which stated clearly and unequivocally, in reference to this diocese and bishop, that it was more antithetical to Anglicanism for a bishop and diocese to act "*unilaterally... in breach of the legitimate application of the Christian faith as the churches of the Anglican Communion have received it*". Parishes are withdrawing from the ACoC in response to this unilateral and "schismatic" action.

"I am also disappointed that the court concluded Anglican ministry is "*as defined by the ACC*", despite the evidence demonstrating the ACC, in the view of the majority of the world's Anglicans, have erred in their definition of Anglican doctrine, and in our view, breached their own Solemn Declaration or constitution in the process. It is this fundamental difference on the definition of doctrine, and not the departure of some parishes, which has caused a split of the entire Anglican Communion.

"The parishes have 60 days to file for leave to appeal to the Supreme Court of Canada. The Trustees will be meeting with legal counsel, receiving advice, and consulting with the congregations before deciding whether to appeal or leave their church buildings at this time. These are not easy decisions and it is important for the members of the congregations to pray together and take the time to seek God's will and discern the way forward."

See the decision and ANiC's news release [on the ANiC website](#). The Diocese of New Westminster [statement is here](#). This statement concludes, "*Bishop Michael Ingham will now contact the trustees of the four parishes in writing and request a meeting. At those meetings the bishop's intent is to confer with the trustees to appoint interim clergy... to fill the positions of those who have left the Anglican Church of Canada.*"

This week's American Anglican Council [weekly video, "Anglican Perspective"](#), focuses on this court decision. In this two-minute video, Canon Phil Ashley encourages us from Hebrews 10:32-34 which says, "*Remember those earlier days after you had received the light, when you endured in a great*

conflict full of suffering. Sometimes you were publicly exposed to insult and persecution; at other times you stood side by side with those who were so treated. You suffered... and joyfully accepted the confiscation of your property, because you knew that you yourselves had better and lasting possessions.” (NIV)

Shortly after the decision was released, Bishop Michael Ingham [issued a pastoral letter](#) calling on Vancouver-area ANiC parishioners to abandon their clergy in favour of the church buildings and return to the Diocese of New Westminster. The [Anglican Samizdat blog notes](#) the irony in the letter.

The Diocese of Niagara also capitalized on the decision by [issuing a news release](#) saying, “...the Diocese of Niagara has indicated that they will be moving firmly ahead in order to bring the pending lawsuits in the Ontario courts to a final determination.” It quotes Bishop Michael Bird calling on the ANiC parishes to meet with diocesan officials “...to put to an end to any further litigation costs” by using the recent resolution with ANiC parish St Peter by the Park as a model. Again the [Anglican Samizdat provides commentary](#) on the diocese’s statement.

Media coverage:

- National Post – November 15 2010 – [Dissident Anglicans can’t keep churches BC court rules](#)
- Vancouver Sun – November 16 2010 – [Court rules against dissident Anglicans in Vancouver...](#)
- Vancouver Sun – November 16 2010 – [Anglican bishop moves to replace the dissident priests](#)
- CBC – November 15 2010 – [Anglican dissidents lose fight for assets](#)
- Canadian Press – [Dissident Anglicans won’t get back buildings](#)
- Abbotsford News – November 15 2010 – [Anglican church appeal dismissed](#)
- ACoC News – November 16 2010 – [Breakaway Vancouver Anglicans cannot keep buildings...](#)
- Anglican Journal – November 16 2010 – [BC Court of Appeal upholds church property decision](#)
- Anglican Journal – November 18 2010 – [Diocese... Issues statement on court decision](#)
- Canadian Christianity – November 18 2010 – [Tradition Anglicans lose major court decision](#)

You can also see the discussions on the blogs, including messages of support and encouragement: [the AEC blog](#), [the Anglican Samizdat](#), [StandFirm in the Faith](#)

Synod

Synod 2010 is now history. Kate covered the event ably on the AEC blog. A brief summary report of some synod highlights is now [posted to the ANiC website](#) – as are many of the presentations, the approved constitution and canons and other information.

In addition to approving a new constitution and canons, synod also elected several new members of the ANiC Council to replace three retiring board members: Frank Johnson (Ottawa), Joyce Lee (Vancouver), and John McKay (Vancouver). The new Council members are: Elaine Pountney (Victoria), Professor Jonathan Patrick (Ottawa) and Michael Bentley (Vancouver).

During synod, Bishop Don announced that ANiC’s first chancellor Cheryl Chang was stepping down and that Michael Donison of Ottawa would serve as ANiC’s second chancellor. Also, ANiC’s full-time volunteer business manager Ron Bales is retiring from this position in the New Year. And the Rev Archie Hunter will now serve as ANiC’s Episcopal Commissary.

Bishop Don has already written a number of letters as requested by synod, including to Her Majesty the Queen, to the Archbishop of Canterbury, to a number of active clergy who were prevented by illness from attending synod, to the three retiring board members – and more.

Synod heard a number of excellent sermons and presentations, including two from Bishop Michael Nazir-Ali who was in Ottawa as part of 125th anniversary celebrations for St George’s (Ottawa).

Inaugural conference for Asian Mission in Canada, 21-22 March 2011

Bishop Stephen Leung is organizing an [inaugural conference](#) for the Asian Mission in Canada. The conference – which will be held primarily at Regent College in Vancouver, 21-22 March 2010 – will explore the theme: *Discerning contemporary culture: Challenges and Christian ministry in a*

permissive age. Featured speakers include: Dr Brian Stiller, the Rev Warren Lai, the Rev Ken Shigematsu, the Most Rev Dr John Chew (to be confirmed), the Rev Dr David Pao, Dr Toni Dolfo-Smith, Mr Daniel Komori and Dr James Houston – and more. Registration for this conference is now open. Evening sessions at Good Shepherd (Vancouver) are free and open to the public.

Asian Mission launches new website

The Asian Mission in Canada, under the leadership of ANiC's Bishop Stephen Leung, has [launched its new website](#). Check it out and learn about this exciting new ministry.

Ordinations

Bishop Stephen Leung has the joy of ordaining **Paul Seung-Choi Leung** to the (transitional) diaconate at Good Shepherd Anglican Church (Vancouver) on December 5 at 2:30pm. Following his ordination, Paul will serve as curate at Good Shepherd (Vancouver).

On November 28, at 4pm Bishop Don Harvey will ordain **Jane Manary Parent** to the diaconate at St Luke's Pembroke. Jane is the wife of the Rev Tim Parent, rector of St Luke's.

Please pray for Paul and Jane as they prepare for ministry. All are welcome to the ordinations.

Congratulations to four new Vancouver-area priests ordained November 21: **the Revs Keith Ganzer, Aaron Roberts, Doug Beattie, and David McElrea**.

Condolences

We in the ANiC family extend our sympathy to our new Chancellor, Michael Donison, and St George's Associate Minister for Discipleship the Rev Paul Donison, on the passing of Michael's father and Paul's grandfather, Wesley Donison on November 10. Michael was unable to be present for his investiture at synod because he was at his father's side. Please remember the family during this time of grieving, especially Wesley's widow Rosemary.

Order of St Joseph's Guilds

The Rev St Clair Cleveland, who is on the clergy team at Church of the Epiphany (Hamilton), has launched [the Order of St Joseph's Guilds](#). His desire is to bring together artisans and building trades people from across ANiC and ACNA to form guilds that would share information and work together to construct buildings and create furnishings for new church plants and for congregations forced to leave their church buildings and belongings behind. You can see a presentation on this new Order – together with photos of the Rev Cleveland's handiwork – [on the ANiC website](#).

“Pursuing Intimacy with God” seminar at St George's (Burlington), Nov 26-27

The Rev Garth Hunt, ANiC's national prayer coordinator, will lead a “Pursuing Intimacy with God” prayer seminar at St George's (Burlington) beginning Friday evening, November 26 and continuing on Saturday November 27. Full information on this free seminar is [on the St George's website](#).

New Primate for the Anglican Church of the Southern Cone

With the completion of his maximum two terms of service, former Primate Presiding Bishop Greg Venables (Argentina) has stepped down and passed the Primatial torch to [newly elected](#) Presiding Bishop Hector “Tito” Zavala (Chile). Presiding Bishop Venables is well-loved by all in ANiC for his courageous intervention that allowed us to come under his godly “Communion-preserving” Primatial leadership when we could no longer remain with integrity in our former Anglican organization.

With news of Archbishop Tito's election arriving during ANiC's Synod, Bishop Don wrote Bishop Greg: *“Greetings from the Third Synod of the Anglican Network in Canada presently in session in Ottawa. We have received word that your Provincial Synod has elected our dear friend and brother Tito Zavala as your successor as Primate in the Southern Cone. We in this Synod already have expressed our continued gratitude for your loving Primatial oversight to us and now would appreciate it if you would convey our love, prayers, and congratulations to Archbishop Tito.”*

St John the Evangelist (Calgary) takes first step toward Rome

St John the Evangelist, an Anglo-Catholic Anglican Church of Canada parish in Calgary and also [a member of the Anglican Essentials Network](#), has begun the journey of seeking entrance into the Anglican Ordinariate promised by the Pope over a year ago. [VirtueOnline reports](#) that the church vestry unanimously approved this decision and now parishioners will be asked to vote.

Parish news

St John's Sudanese (Surrey, BC) has a new name! Now, it will be known as St John's Anglican Church Surrey. The Rev Emanuel Sadarak is the rector at St John's Surrey.

St Luke's (Pembroke, ON) reports a busy fall including: a wonderful parish renewal weekend with Bishop Malcolm and Archdeacon Paul, a successful church fall supper, and a great weekend with Bishop Charlie in October celebrating two years as a parish and one year in the new building. The emphasis at St Luke's has been on developing small group Bible studies – now numbering seven – encouraging personal devotions, and building a Pastoral Care Team to visit seniors and shut-ins.

St Peter (Hamilton) is now [St Peter by the Park!](#) The congregation chose to walk away from their long-time building having reached an amicable agreement with their former diocese, the Diocese of Niagara. You can see the [diocese's announcement on its website](#). St Peter by the Park also has a newly acquired church building at 55 Victoria Avenue North, Hamilton.

If your parish has news that would be of interest to others in ANiC, please [email Marilyn](#) or call 1-866-351-2642 extension 4020.

Calendar of upcoming events – for your interest and prayer support

Nov 26-27 – St George's Burlington, *Pursuing Intimacy with God* seminar with Rev Garth Hunt
 Nov 28, at 4pm – St Luke's (Pembroke ON) – ordination of Jane Manary Parent to the diaconate
 Dec 5, 2:30pm – Good Shepherd (Vancouver) – Ordination of Paul Leung to the diaconate
 Jan 25-27 – [ACNA 2011 church planting summit](#) in Plano, TX with speaker Tim Keller
 Jan 25-31 – Anglican Communion Primates Meeting (Dublin, Ireland)
 March 21-22 – [Asian Mission inaugural conference](#), Vancouver, BC
 March 29-31 – ANiC's 2011 pastors' retreat near Abbotsford, BC

News shorts – Anglican Church in North America (ACNA)

“Bishops’ Summit on Church Growth and Church Planting” in Virginia

Three ACNA bishops held a church planting meeting in Virginia November 20 that focused on church growth and evangelism. Nine ACNA parishes in Virginia are involved in litigation with their former Episcopal Church diocese. [VirtueOnline reports](#) that the next court hearing is December 17.

US litigation news involving ACNA dioceses

Diocese of San Joaquin – An appeals court has ruled in favour of the ACNA Diocese of San Joaquin, overturning a lower court decision granting the Episcopal Church (TEC) summary adjudication. [According to the Fresno Bee](#), *“The appellate justices tossed out a Superior Court judge's decision that the breakaway diocese couldn't claim a right to the property in a jury trial. The judge essentially had decided that it was a church matter, not a matter for the civil courts.”* [Canon lawyer A S Haley](#) says this decision ensures the ACNA diocese will have its day in court, forces TEC to *“prove through its documents that there is a trust in its favor on all diocesan church property”*, and strikes a blow to TEC's litigation strategy of *“claiming the property of a departing Diocese because [TEC] is somehow "hierarchical"...”*

Diocese of Fort Worth – In response to the multiple lawsuits – all on essentially the same issue – filed against him and his diocese, ACNA Bishop Jack Iker has finally [filed one of his own](#) – against the Episcopal Church lawyers who are harassing him. The suit cites *“malicious prosecution and abuse of process”* for filing suits that have *“no factual or legal foundation”* and asks for *“a remedy against counsel who unreasonably and vexatiously multiply the proceedings in a case.”* The Church of England Newspaper carries [a brief history](#) of the legal wranglings involving Bishop Iker.

More ACNA news

Pittsburgh Post Gazette – Nov 6 2010 – [Anglican diocese expects ‘tame’ convention this year](#)

News shorts – Canada

Protest registered against Diocese of Toronto’s actions

The [AEC blog reports](#) that the Diocese of Toronto [has now published](#) Pastoral Guidelines for the Blessing of Same Sex relationships.

Writing on the [Anglican Communion Institute blog](#), Diocese of Toronto priests the Rev Catherine Sider Hamilton and Canon Dean Mercer registered their concerns about the actions of their bishops both in issuing these Pastoral Guidelines and in ordaining as priest a woman civilly married to another woman, calling his actions “*problematic*”. They conclude, “*In all this, it is perhaps the failure of truth that is most damaging. It is not just that the bishops have introduced doctrinal and moral innovations under the guise of “pastoral response.” It is also the way they have done it. For the sake of public peace, the bishops have proceeded without synodical debate... The bishops in this way have sought to prevent public opposition and have avoided public explanation.*”

The [Rev Dr Ephraim Radner endorses](#) Sider Hamilton and Mercer’s protest and their view that these actions by the diocesan bishops have created a wedge “*between loyalty to Gospel and loyalty to bishop*”. He also calls on clergy and parishioners in the diocese to publically “*make clear what they believe and what they are prepared to do in the face of these Guidelines*”.

In [an article](#) on the Diocese of Toronto action, the Church Times alludes to the hypocrisy of Communion sanctions against the Episcopal Church and the Southern Cone for alleged breaches of Communion moratoria, while turning a blind eye to the gamesmanship in the Anglican Church of Canada (ACoC). The ACoC allows dioceses – including Toronto – to authorize same-sex blessings in contravention of Communion teaching while maintaining the ACoC’s innocence since the blessings were not explicitly approved by General Synod. According to the Church Times, “*A spokesman for the Anglican Communion Office said this week that, as the Toronto guidelines were a diocesan matter, it could not comment on them.*”

ACoC parishioners lose their church buildings

Apparently you don’t have to leave the Anglican Church of Canada to have your building taken away. The [Goldstream News Gazette reports](#) on church closures in the Diocese of British Columbia, including a puzzling case where the congregation was financial viable. Some parishioners from the disbanded congregations report they will not continue in the Anglican Church of Canada – which will further hurt the diocese’s membership and financial viability. Archdeacon Bruce Bryant Scott is quoted responding, “*People get caught up in the idea that the church is a building... In our consumer-oriented society it’s easy to forget who a church is there to serve. The client is not the congregation; the client is God.*”

Counting the cost... of suing ANiC parishes

[The AEC blog](#) discloses the Diocese of Niagara’s financial statements showing costs it incurred for suing Christians for buildings it doesn’t need for parishioners it doesn’t have. By AEC blogger David’s calculations, 13 cents of every dollar given to the diocese was used for this litigation.

Terrific conferences for clergy and church leaders

The 2011 reFocus Canada preaching and theology conference is set for February 28-March 2 at Willingdon Church, Burnaby, BC. This year’s theme is “Growing a Biblical Church” and the speaker line-up is outstanding: Mark Dever (Washington DC pastor), Ray Ortlund (Nashville pastor), Rick Reed (Ottawa pastor), Vancouver church-planter Norm Funk, and John Neufeld (Willingdon Church pastor, Burnaby). Past reFocus speakers have included Bishop Charlie Masters and Canon David Short. Topics for this conference include: “*What is a biblical church? How do we define successful growth? How does this play out in a new church or an existing church? What part does expositional*

preaching play? What does effective evangelism look like? What does membership and discipline look like in a biblical church?" For more information and to register see the [reFocus website](#)

The 2011 [Gospel Coalition conference](#) will be held April 12-14 in Chicago, Illinois. The theme is "They testify about me: Preaching Jesus and the Gospel from the Old Testament". The long line-up of speakers includes: R. Albert Mohler, Tim Keller, Alistair Begg, James MacDonald, Conrad Mbewe, Matt Chandler, Mike Bullmore and Don Carson.

New Anglican diocese forming

[VirtueOnline reports](#) that twelve congregations from across Canada have joined the Traditional Anglican Church of Canada, a new diocese seems to be associated with the Anglican Province of Christ the King and the Anglican Catholic Church.

Diocese of Saskatoon votes for same-sex blessings

[CBC reports](#) that the Anglican Diocese of Saskatoon very narrowly voted to allow same-sex blessings – with the proviso that the bishop approve.

Court considers constitutionality of polygamy

The Canadian Christian Legal Fellowship is asking for prayer as the Supreme Court of BC began hearing arguments on November 22 (Monday), about whether polygamy laws are consistent with the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms. This case could have a profound impact on Canadian society and law. Specific prayer requests [are here](#).

The [National Post article](#) examining the issues says **Vancouver lawyer George Macintosh** argues that "Canada's anti-polygamy laws are relics of a bygone era when "Christian norms and values were deemed appropriate" and "Such values are outdated and conflict with today's multicultural attitudes and with Canada's Charter of Rights and Freedoms." Mr Macintosh was appointed to challenge this country's 120-year-old polygamy ban. The Charter and the ban are irreconcilable, he says. [Note: George Macintosh is the same lawyer who represents the Diocese of New Westminster in its litigation with the Vancouver-area ANiC parishes.]

Other Canadian news

Church of England Newspaper – Nov 12 2010 – [Toronto gay blessing guidelines released](#)
Christian Post – Nov 5 2010 – [Toronto Bishop makes room for same-sex blessings](#)

News shorts – US

Episcopal Church in "cataclysmic decline"

An [article in the Church of England Newspaper reports](#) on recently released statistics for the Episcopal Church of the US (TEC). It now reports barely over 2 million members – where it once numbered 3.5 million in the 1960s – and average Sunday attendance (ASA) of just under 683,000 – "a cumulative loss of over 19.3 per cent in ASA from 2002-2009"..

Bishop Robinson to retire

Gene Robinson, Bishop of New Hampshire, has announced his intention to retire in January 2013 citing "the emotional and physical stresses of his episcopate." [The Church of England Newspaper](#), says he told his synod that "Death threats, and the now-worldwide controversy surrounding your election of me... have been a constant strain, not just on me, but on my beloved husband, Mark."

Communion Partners hold conference

The [Communion Partners held a conference](#) in Orlando on November 16-17 designed to encourage those choosing to remain within the Episcopal Church. Keynote speakers were bishops and clergy from Nigeria, Singapore and Thailand

News shorts – International

Fate of Primates' Meeting in Dublin in January hangs in the balance

There are reports of behind-the-scenes negotiations in an effort to salvage the Primates Meeting

which a number of Primates had previously stated they would boycott. A [Church of England article reports](#) that the Archbishop of Canterbury was contemplating foregoing the planned Primates Meeting for “*small group gatherings of like-minded archbishops*”.

Facebook scammer impersonates Archbishop Henry Orombi

Canon Alison Barfoot of the Church of Uganda writes: *“I have just become aware of a new scam circulating. Someone has created a fake Facebook page for Archbishop Henry Luke Orombi and is impersonating him. I can assure you it is NOT him. Please do not accept an invitation from Henry Luke Orombi or any other similar name from Facebook. If you have already “friended” him, I recommend “unfriending” him. And, whatever you do, do NOT send any money. And, as a rule, NEVER send money through Western Union. That is a sure sign that you are being scammed. Also, the same fraudsters are impersonating other Ugandan bishops. So, please beware, and if you get a Facebook Friend invitation from a Ugandan bishop, please confirm it separately through a known e-mail address with him.”*

More fall-out from the attempted discipline of the Southern Cone

A [paper posted to the Anglican Communion Institute’s blog](#) analyzes the illogic of Anglican Communion Council (ACC) Secretary General Kenneth Kearon’s purported discipline of the Anglican Province of the Southern Cone cross-border interventions by providing Primatial oversight for orthodox Anglicans in North America. In October, ACC Secretary General Kenneth Kearon wrote Bishop Tito Zavala (now Primate of the Southern Cone) informing him that he was no longer a member of the Inter-Anglican Standing Commission on Unity, Faith and Order. The paper’s authors determine that “...*in removing Bishop Zavala, he has acted in an unwarranted manner*” and “*In acting as he has, the Secretary General has failed to distinguish adequately between what the Southern Cone has done and other violations of the various moratoria requested by one or another of the Instruments of Communion.*”

The paper demonstrates that, by its own terms, the ACC over-stepped its authority in removing Bishop Tito. In fact, after examining the issue at great length, the paper concludes “*To summarize, there has never been an unconditional moratorium on interventions in effect. And since TEC rejected the pastoral scheme in the Dar communiqué out of hand in 2007 the conditions applicable to this moratorium have not been satisfied and no operative moratorium has been in effect.*”

Opposition to the Covenant growing... primarily from “liberals”

VirtueOnline offers a [“state of the Covenant”](#) summary delineating the detractors on both sides and the relatively few Provinces to have signed on to date. His conclusion is that “*Whatever hope Dr Williams holds out for it as the touchstone of Anglican unity is dead on arrival. It will not do what he hopes it will.*” Earlier in the month, “liberal” groups in England [expressed their distaste](#) for the Covenant saying it was a tool of traditionalists to impose unAnglican authoritarianism. They join “liberals” in North America in the campaign to defeat the Covenant. Recently a [“No Anglican Covenant” website was launched](#) by these groups.

An [article on VirtueOnline](#) attempts to sort through the mess and in another article [David Virtue also explores](#) the tepid response to the Covenant by the orthodox in the Global South. He concludes, “*If, increasingly, both sides of the ecclesiastical aisle see the Covenant as flawed, then the slow but inexorable break-up of the communion, already begun, will only accelerate as the lines become more sharply drawn and hardened.*”

The Anglican Communion Office (ACO) has begun its own campaign to rescue the Covenant from the fury and wild rhetoric of “liberal” opponents. Canon Alyson Barnett-Cowan, Director for Unity Faith and Order in the ACO [has written](#) to clarify some points and to urge that it be “*debated fairly, with an accurate reading of the text*”. Dr Andrew Goddard, [writing at length on the Fulcrum blog](#), also jumps to the Covenant’s defence and takes the “liberals” to task for “*their ill-informed polemic*”.

Speaking from an orthodox perspective, Bishop John Rodgers of the Anglican Mission (AMiA) [writes](#) that “...*the Covenant should be seen to be precisely what the Archbishop of Canterbury has*

said it is not, a binding commitment to mutual mission and encouragement, to a process of adjudicating differences that threaten to be Communion-breaking, and to a confessional standard of Doctrine to which all who sign are committed and to which they can be held accountable.” However, he says, *“It would strengthen the present form of the Covenant if it were adjusted in two specific ways: first, if the Primates were the body...to oversee compliance and not the Standing Committee, a committee with no historic standing in the Communion. And, second, it would be strengthened were the Jerusalem Declaration added to the standard of Faith to which all signers were committed and held accountable.”*

Drs Chris Sugden and Vinay Samuel, [writing in the Church of England Newspaper](#), recount the intentional weakening of the Covenant through successive drafts to the point where, they argue, if approved and implemented, it would interminably delay judgement and leave *“... little hope of discipline and thus of consistency. We... [would be] left in a permanent state of dialogue...”*

Diocese of Uruguay seeks split from Southern Cone over women’s ordination

The [Anglican Communion News Service reports](#) that, following the Synod of the Southern Cone’s decision not to allow dioceses the option to permit women’s ordination, the Diocese of Uruguay, which had put the motion to the provincial synod, has voted to seek transfer to another province within a year. The [Church Times quotes](#) former Primate Bishop Greg Venables saying the diocese might feel more at home with the Episcopal Church (US) since it doesn’t *“take the same strong stance that some bits of the province take on some of the issues facing the Anglican Communion”*.

The [Episcopal News Service reveals](#) that *“On Nov 6, the Episcopal Church’s [Diocese of Oklahoma](#) voted during its annual convention to enter into a “covenant companion relationship” with the Diocese of Uruguay, according to Oklahoma Bishop Ed Konieczny. Uruguayan Bishop Miguel Tamayo, a native of Cuba, and his wife, the Rev Martha López, were present at the Oklahoma convention when the relationship was approved. Konieczny was in Uruguay the next week for the Uruguayan synod when that diocese approved the covenant.”*

Church of England statistics

The [Telegraph reports](#) that Church of England statistics show that about 1000 of its 13,000 churches *“have formally registered their objection to women priests”* in their parish and 363 refuse to remain under the pastoral care of a bishop that has ordained women. Interestingly, the statistics also show an increase in giving despite a more difficult economy.

5 Church of England bishops resigning to join Roman Catholic Anglican Ordinariate

Five bishops in the Church of England are resigning effective December 31 in order to join the Anglican Ordinariate once it is created. [The statement](#) is signed by the Bishop of Fulham, the Rt Rev John Broadhurst; the Bishop of Richborough, the Rt Rev Keith Newton; the Bishop of Ebbsfleet, the Rt Rev Andrew Burnham; and two retired, honorary assistant bishops, the Rt Rev Edwin Barnes (Winchester) and the Rt Rev David Silk (Exeter).

Responding to word of these defections to the Roman Catholic Church, Forward in Faith North America, which includes many Anglo-Catholics, [issued a statement](#) confirming that it had no plans to follow suit, but would *“...remain an Anglican ministry...”*

A number of Anglo-Catholic churches are currently meeting to discuss the option of the Anglican Ordinariate and the [Telegraph estimates](#) that *“...up to 500 individuals will join the Ordinariate in the first wave, with more expected to follow once it has become established.”*

Plans for the establishment of the Anglican Ordinariate have been slow coming, but the [Catholic Herald \(UK\) reports](#): *“Come January, the Ordinariate will be announced by decree, the Holy Father will choose an Ordinary... and the three active bishops will be ordained into the Ordinariate in order to serve the lay people and clergy who will follow them. Come Holy Week — possibly even at the Easter Vigil — the groups of lay people and former Anglican clergy will be received. This is likely to be an poignant moment, both for them and for the Catholic Church in this country.”*

How will church property be treated when Anglicans begin defecting to Rome?

A [Telegraph article explores](#) the question of parish property in the context of Anglo-Catholic parishes beginning to explore the Pope's offer of an Anglican Ordinariate within the Roman Catholic Church. While some Church of England (CoE) officials are insisting that parishioners will not be able to take their church property with them, William Fittall, secretary general of the CoE General Synod, suggests that a sharing arrangement is "entirely possible". The Archbishop of Canterbury [has also referred](#) matter-of-factly to the sharing of churches. This will be very interesting to watch considering that many ancient English church buildings were erected while still under Roman Catholic Church jurisdiction.

Church of England's Bishop Wallace Benn under attack

The Bishop of Lewes, Bishop Wallace Benn – who is a good friend of ANiC, has been under attack in the British press for recent remarks he made – remarks the media twisted and took out of context. Video of Bishop Benn's remarks [can be seen here](#).

[In reply Bishop Benn wrote:](#)

"Some media reports have suggested that at Reform's national conference I likened those who supported the consecration of women bishops to the Nazis. I did not. Misrepresentation in the Press is a painful and serious matter that can be damaging if it is believed. I wish to put on record that... I never mentioned Hitler or the Nazis... Nor did I even have them in mind as I made clear to Ruth Gledhill (the reporter in question) when she asked me about this on the day before the original article appeared in The Times (November 3).

"I said that the situation in which we find ourselves in the Church feels like people probably felt as they viewed the year ahead in January 1939. There are storm clouds on the horizon and warfare around the corner. We all hope and pray that it won't happen. The analogy was one of time not about opponents. I was referring to the huge culture wars over truth that have been seen in The Episcopal Church in the USA, and are making their presence sadly felt in the Church of England... I also said that the consecration of women bishops should not be a church dividing issue, and it will not be, if proper legislative provision is made for those who hold the traditional position, who are equally loyal Anglicans. As has been recognised in Synod this year, for some of us this is a matter of conscience in obedience to the Scriptural ordering of the Church."

Commentary on Orthodox Metropolitan's rebuke of Archbishop Williams

Professor Stephen Noll [has written an extensive analysis](#) of a speech delivered at an event held in Lambeth Palace (London) which was attended by the Archbishop of Canterbury. Orthodox Metropolitan Hilarion of Volokolamsk, Chairman of the Moscow Patriarchate's Department for External Church was unusually forthright in noting the heresy being tolerated in the Anglican Communion and identifying the role played by the Archbishop of Canterbury in tolerating that heresy. He concludes:

"From time to time – less often than one might wish - the Church and its leaders speak the truth with boldness and clarity, as commended by the Apostle Paul (2 Corinthians 4:2). I believe the Lambeth bishops spoke such a word in the 1998 Resolution on Human Sexuality. I believe GAFCON again spoke plainly in 2008. Metropolitan Hilarion's address, in my view, was such a word to the Church, to the Anglican Communion, and to the Archbishop of Canterbury himself. Unless the Communion and its leaders heed this word urgently – and we are more than twelve years on in the current crisis - it will be weighed in the balance and found wanting by its ecumenical partners, it will be fractured internally, and its days will be numbered as a great historic communion."

Archbishop of Canterbury's leadership style faulted for disintegrating Communion

Having read the [Rev Charles Raven's new book](#) on Dr Rowan Williams, *Shadow Gospel: Rowan Williams and the Anglican Communion Crisis*, [A S Haley, US canon lawyer concludes](#) that a

fracture in the Communion – and in the Episcopal Church – is a certainty. He suggests, “...the Archbishop's inability to withstand the willful acts in derogation of the Communion taken by ECUSA and the Anglican Church of Canada -- even following the Windsor Report -- leaves the other members of the Communion with no choice but to act on their own, whether singly or in concert. The inevitable result of this loose style of leadership will be a fragmentation of the Communion...”

In *Shadow Gospel*, the Rev Raven says there are two “fundamentally opposed visions of Anglican identity” in the Communion.

“The one is confessional and is being articulated with increasing confidence by the leadership of the Global South; the other represents the seduction of the Church by the spirit of the age, as seen in its most developed form in the increasingly apostate behaviour of The Episcopal Church in the United States. This analysis demonstrates that Dr Williams' theology is not only alien to the former, but also powerless to resist the latter and, in practice, the result is a doctrinally incoherent Communion barely held together by a mixture of sentiment and improvisation... [A]t the heart of these difficulties is a shadow gospel; a theological project which can speak the language of orthodox faith, yet subverts the supremacy of Scripture and the essential nature of Christian truth itself.”

“This shadow gospel privileges form over substance and under Rowan Williams' leadership the pragmatic ethos of Anglican Communion institutions has sat comfortably with this emphasis upon ecclesiastical process rather than doctrinal content... But these strategies are manifestly failing and it is now time to take seriously the calls emerging from the Global South for what we might call a 'new wineskin' of governance structures which will free Anglicanism to express its true confessional identity and make a fresh start in the re-evangelisation of the West.”

News in brief from around the world and around the Communion

United Nations – [According to Canada Free Press](#), a resolution before the United Nations “...called “Defamation of Religions” will lay the legal ground work for a country to legalize persecution of their citizens if they believe in a different religion than the state.” The resolution is being advanced by the Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC) which represents 57 states with majority or large Muslim populations.

Pakistan – The [National Post reports](#) that a Christian woman has been sentenced to death on trumped up charges of blaspheming the Prophet Mohammed. Pakistan’s infamous blasphemy law is frequently used against the tiny Christian minority. [Compass Direct News also reports](#) that a young Christian man, after being granted bail in a blasphemy case was murdered – seemingly with impunity. Often the blasphemy charges are laid as a means of gaining control of the Christian’s business or property. In another incident, four members of a Christian family were murdered, presumably by an Islamic terrorist group.

Iraq – The systematic campaign of terror against the once flourishing Christian community in Iraq continues. The [Telegraph reports](#) that “...a spate of bomb and mortar attacks targeted the homes and businesses of Christians in the capital Baghdad, killing six people and wounding 33... Those attacks came less than two weeks after 44 Christian worshippers, two priests and seven security personnel died in the seizure of a Baghdad cathedral by Islamist gunmen and the ensuing shoot-out when it was stormed by troops.” [National Public Radio \(NPR\) has an account](#) of the terrorist attack on the Catholic church that resulted in the deaths of 50 or more.

In a sobering article titled, “[Ethnic cleansing driving Christians out of Iraq](#)”, ABC News recounts the terror of the past two weeks and reports, “This has been going on for seven years, ever since the fall of Saddam Hussein, but... the horror of the past two weeks has taken things to a terrifying new level... Two weeks ago, Al Qaeda-linked militants in Iraq issued a statement saying all Christians are now legitimate targets.”

Egypt – [Barnabas Aid reports](#) that “Fears for the safety of Egyptian Christians are growing after a series of false allegations, violent threats and mass demonstrations against the Church in Egypt.

Muslim anger was ignited last month when entirely unfounded accusations were made on Al-Jazeera TV that Egyptian Christians were aligned with Israel and stockpiling weapons in preparation for waging war against Muslims."

Sudan – An [article on the BBC website](#) explores the situation in the Sudan in the lead-up to the referendum on independence for Southern Sudan. It says, "...fears in the international community are growing of the risk of renewed conflict, with southern worries that former civil war enemies in the north will try to scupper the vote."

Zimbabwe – A seminary in Harare – under the Anglican Province of Central Africa – was the target of a hostile take-over by a former Anglican bishop who is closely aligned with dictator Robert Mugabe. The [Washington Post reports](#) that, although the 20 armed youths were repelled, it is not the end of the matter.

Other international news

Anglican Planet – Nov 4 2010 – [Orthodox prelate warns Anglican leader of harm to Ecumenism](#)

Church Times – Nov 5 2010 – [‘Little Englander’ jibe at Covenant advert](#)

Church of England Newspaper – November 19 2010 – [Uruguay votes to quit Southern Cone](#)

Soul food

Just for laughs

Henry climbs to the top of Mt Sinai to get close enough to talk to God. Looking up, he asks, "God, what does a million years mean to you?"

The Lord replies, "A minute."

Henry thinks for a moment then asks, "And what does a million dollars mean to you?"

The Lord replies, "A penny."

Without missing a beat Henry asks, "Lord, can I have a penny?"

The Lord replies, "In a minute."

www.mikeysFunnies.com

Thought

Hospitality is making your guests feel at home – even if you wish they were.

www.mikeysFunnies.com

Of interest

Liberal Member of Parliament, John McKay [writing in the Anglican Journal](#), argues for a return of faith in the political sphere

Resources

A free study guide to accompany the Rev Ed Hird's book *Battle for the Soul of Canada* [can be downloaded here](#).

Please pray...

For the people, clergy, lay leaders and legal counsel for the **ANiC churches in Vancouver** as they consider their next steps in light of the BC Court of Appeal's decision. Also, for all **other ANiC parishes involved in legal disputes** as they wrestle with their options in light of this decision.

For the ongoing legal challenges faced by ANiC parishes, including:

- The mediation process involving **St George's & St Alban's (Ottawa)** and their former Anglican Church of Canada diocese
- The ongoing litigation involving **St Aidan's (Windsor)** and the ANiC parishes in the Niagara Diocese region, resulting in 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 dioceses** pursuing eviction of and legal damages against ANiC congregations and wardens.

For much needed donations **to the legal cases and disputes** involving ANiC congregations:

For ANiC's **financial officer Pat Decker** who will have surgery for cancer on December 13

For our **bishops and clergy** and their families – especially those battling illness

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

For funding of the **ARDFC's [malaria prevention project in Kenya](#)**.

For **persecuted Christians**, especially in Pakistan, Iraq and other Muslim lands.

For a fair and peaceful referendum in the **Sudan** in January.

For repentance and revival in **our hearts and in our nation** – as well as a hunger for God and a thirst for His Word.

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

*It is good to give thanks to the Lord, to sing praises to your name, O Most High;
to declare your steadfast love in the morning, and your faithfulness by night,
to the music of the lute and the harp, to the melody of the lyre.*

For you, O Lord, have made me glad by your work; at the works of your hands I sing for joy.

How great are your works, O Lord! Your thoughts are very deep!

The stupid man cannot know; the fool cannot understand this: that though the wicked sprout like grass and all evildoers flourish, they are doomed to destruction forever; but you, O Lord, are on high forever.

For behold, your enemies, O Lord, for behold, your enemies shall perish; all evildoers shall be scattered.

But you have exalted my horn like that of the wild ox; you have poured over me fresh oil.

My eyes have seen the downfall of my enemies; my ears have heard the doom of my evil assailants.

The righteous flourish like the palm tree and grow like a cedar in Lebanon.

They are planted in the house of the Lord; they flourish in the courts of our God.

They still bear fruit in old age; they are ever full of sap and green, to declare that the Lord is upright; he is my rock, and there is no unrighteousness in him.