



Handle with prayer

News – ANiC and AEN

Edmonton fellowship forming

If you live in the Edmonton area or know someone who does... an ANiC home fellowship is forming in the Edmonton area. Please contact the Rev Lynette Kent at 780-435-7545.

Prayer service for the Sudan, December 12, 2:30pm at St John's Surrey

St John's Surrey (formerly St John's Sudanese) is hosting a special prayer service for the upcoming referendum in the Sudan. The prayer service will be on December 12 at 2:30-5pm at [St John's Surrey](#), 12642 – 100th Avenue, Surrey, BC. Please join us if you can. But whether you can attend the service or not, please intercede with us for this war-ravaged country where the potential for renewed conflict is so very real. Pray that the referendum regarding independence for Southern Sudan will proceed as scheduled on January 9 – without controversy or conflict – and that both sides will honour the outcome. May God's hand and his wisdom rest upon those in leadership. May the Lord use His Church to bring lasting peace to this troubled land.

Faithful Synod volunteers honoured

Synod volunteers were feted at a Volunteer Appreciation Dessert Fellowship on Saturday, December 4 at St George's Anglican Church (Ottawa) with Bishop Charlie Masters.

More on the recent Vancouver court decision

Writing in his regular monthly meditation – [the 1st Friday of the Month Call to Prayer](#) – ANiC's national prayer coordinator the Rev Garth Hunt reflects on the court decision and urges us to forgive from the heart – by God's grace.

David Virtue, in [offering his commentary](#) on the court decision, quotes an unnamed source close to the legal battle saying, "*[Bishop] Michael Ingham is our own best friend - the very instrument God is using to grow us up to maturity in Christ. We are refined in the refiner's fire. Character is forged in the anvil of God's heat. God knows and He is sharpening us daily for the battle ahead. He has always worked this way since the beginning of Israel.*"

New resource on the website

You'll appreciate [reading a letter written](#) some time ago by the Rev Paul Donison to his parishioners explaining his reasons for relinquishing his Anglican Church of Canada licence to come under the episcopal authority of Bishop Don Harvey.

2011 Liturgical Calendar online

A reminder that ANiC's 2011 liturgical calendar prepared by our registrar, the Rev Tom Carman (St Aidan's, Windsor, ON), [can be downloaded from the ANiC website](#).

The major ACNA church planting event of the year is only weeks away!

The Anglican1000 Church Planting Summit in Plano, Texas is January 25-27. Although the ANiC Church Planting working group is unable to provide subsidies this year, they are eager to have other church planters and potential church planters join the ANiC contingent in Plano. You can register for [Summit 2011 online](#); then [email Bishop Ron](#) to let him know you'll be there.

New Brunswick meetings

Bishop Charlie Masters and the Rev Garth Hunt, ANiC's prayer coordinator, spoke recently at a series of meetings held in five New Brunswick communities. The meetings were arranged by the

Rev Don Hamilton and the Rev Alan Reynolds to help interested Anglicans understand the ministry of the Anglican Network in Canada and the relationship of our province, the Anglican Church in North America, to the rest of the global Anglican Communion.

Developing strong community relations

St Luke's (Pembroke, ON) is deeply involved in its community. Recently, they had a float in the local Christmas parade featuring Bishop Don – who was in town to ordain Jane Manary Parent to the diaconate. (See a photo of the [float here](#) and of [the ordination here](#).) The Rev Tim Parent, rector, says some of the other ways St Luke's stays closely connected with its community are:

- participating in the annual Cancer Relay for Life – raising over \$12,000 in two years
- booths at local home shows and fairs
- participation in parades
- supporting the Salvation Army by manning kettles and providing a team for the soup kitchen
- cooking a free Christmas Dinner for 300 that is provided by several churches and charities for those in need
- ongoing collection for the local food bank
- sending Christmas shoe boxes to Samaritan's Purse

AEC blog welcomes new moderator

Gordon, a member of an Anglican Church of Canada parish, [has joined](#) the team of moderators on the AEC blog.

AEN parish votes to join the Roman Catholic Church

The congregation of St John the Evangelist, a parish in the Anglican Church of Canada diocese of Calgary and a member of the Anglican Essentials Network (AEN) [has voted to accept](#) the Pope's offer of entry into an Anglican Ordinariate once it is set up. This is the first Canadian parish to vote to join the Roman Catholic Church since the Anglican Ordinariate was announced. The [National Post quotes](#) the rector, Father Lee Kenyon, saying, *"We are prepared to lose everything to make this move. But we are hoping the Anglican Diocese of Calgary will deal with us fairly."* In response, [the CBC reports](#) the Archdeacon of the diocese said, *"It's not the case that... they take the property with them. It's not theirs."*

A [column in the Calgary Herald](#) (which later appeared in the Vancouver Province) – entitled *"Anglican church abandoned its parishioners"* – comments both on the St John the Evangelist's vote to join the Roman Catholic Church as well as on the recent court decision affecting the four Vancouver area ANiC parishes. Columnist Susan Martinuk says the reason parishes are leaving is that the Anglican Church of Canada...

"...has increasingly rejected Biblical teachings and Anglican doctrine in favour of popularizing the Anglican faith so that it fits in with today's cultural mores. Many church leaders have denied the authority of Scripture and one bishop publicly denied the bodily resurrection of Christ at an Easter Service.

"As such, the real story isn't that parishioners are leaving the Anglican Church - it's that leaders of the Anglican Church in Canada and the US have left the basic tenets of their faith and, in doing so, abandoned their parishioners. When such trust is broken, it's no wonder that people are leaving and that there is such widespread discontent.

"The real schism that truly broke apart the ACC - occurred in 2002; everything that has happened since then is just fallout. That's when the Diocese of New Westminster in Vancouver (under the authority of Bishop Michael Ingham) voted to bless same-sex couples. Global church leaders immediately met to draft a letter requesting that the Diocese (and Ingham in particular) refrain from the practice..."

Fair warning...

Please note that there will be some changes to ANiC communications from about mid-December through the end of January to accommodate vacations.

Parish news

Church of the Good Samaritan (St John's, NL) has a spiffy new website. [Check it out!](#)

Grace Anglican Church (Clayton, ON) has a [very attractive new website](#) as well.

Peninsula Anglican Church (Saanichton, BC) will henceforth be known as **Cross Road Peninsula Anglican Church** – a name that better describes its mission and ministry.

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

Dec 12, 2:30pm – [St John's Surrey](#) – Prayer service for the referendum in the Sudan

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

More ANiC news

Church of England Newspaper – Nov 26 2010 – [New Westminster legal win in church property fight](#)

News shorts – US

Other US news

Church of England Newspaper – Nov 26 2010 – [Episcopal Church takes a legal hit in California](#)

News shorts – International

GAFCon Primates reject current Covenant, decline to attend Primates Meeting

Following their meeting in Oxford, England in October, the Primates of the GAFCon movement issued the "[Oxford Statement](#)" in which they make the following statements (among others):

- *"As we have made clear in numerous communiqués and meetings those who have abandoned the historic teaching of the Church have torn the fabric of our life together at its deepest level. We have made repeated attempts to bring repentance and restoration and yet these efforts have been rejected. We grieve for those who have walked apart and earnestly pray for them and the people under their care.*
- *"For the sake of Christ and of His Gospel we can no longer maintain the illusion of normalcy and so we join with other Primates from the Global South in declaring that we will not be present at the next Primates' meeting to be held in Ireland [in January].*
- *"And while we acknowledge that the efforts to heal our brokenness through the introduction of an Anglican Covenant were well intentioned we have come to the conclusion the current text is fatally flawed and so support for this initiative is no longer appropriate.*
- *"We remain convinced that the unique character of GAFCON/FCA with its diversity of cultures and its embrace of the Jerusalem Declaration as a common theological confession is a vital contribution to the future of the global Anglican Communion.*
- *"...we are planning a leadership conference in the latter part of 2011 that will focus on the need to "Contend for the Faith in the Public Square." We are also beginning preparations for an international gathering of Primates, Bishops, Clergy and Lay leaders in 2012, provisionally designated "GAFCON 2"."*

You can [hear an interview](#) with Bishop Martyn Minns on BBC – about 34 minutes into the program – in which he comments on the Primates Statement. Or you can [read a transcript here](#). Bishop

Minns explains trust is gone and until the decisions of past Primates meetings are implemented, that trust cannot be restored. He adds that the structure of the Communion is shifting from a hierarchical colonial structure to a global network structure. He says, *“...the Anglican Communion has got a huge contribution to give to the world... in many parts of the world it’s thriving and growing... it’s simply the way in which we operate together that has to change... I believe that the Anglican Communion is incredibly healthy and doing some remarkable things... it’s the institutional structure that’s simply not kept up with its life. And I think that that’s what needs to change. And as you know institutional change has always been very hard. Those in power are always reluctant to give it up.”*

The Anglican Communion Alliance (formerly Anglican Essentials Federation) [posted a response on their website](#) criticizing the GAFCon Primates for *““Stepping away” from both the Primates’ table and the Covenant without offering a constructive alternative... We urge the GAFCON primates to consult beyond their number to bring forward an alternative that would meet with wide acceptance in order to “reform, heal and revitalize the Anglican Communion and expand its mission to the world”.*”

List of Primates declining invitation to Primates Meeting grows

The [Church Times reports](#) that a number of Primates, in addition to the GAFCon Primates, are expected to decline the invitation to January’s Primates Meeting called by the Archbishop of Canterbury. It is expected that among the “no-shows” will be:

- The Most Rev Dr John Chew (South-East Asia)
- The Most Rev Dr Mouneer Anis (Jerusalem & the Middle East)
- The Most Rev Ian Ernest (Indian Ocean)
- The Most Rev Tito Zavala (Southern Cone)
- The Most Revd Onesphore Rwage (Rwanda)

Nevertheless, the [Church of England Newspaper reports](#) that the Archbishop of Canterbury has refused requests to call off the meeting, including a request for postponement contained in a letter from the Chair of the Council of Anglican Provinces in Africa, Archbishop Ian Ernest.

Church of England General Synod votes to further consider Covenant

Calling the Covenant an *“attempt to set out a structure of consent rather than a structure of discipline”*, the Archbishop of Canterbury urged members of synod to vote to consider the Covenant. The [Church Times reports](#) the motion passed with ease in all three houses of synod. A [Living Church article](#) provides additional insight into the synod debate.

Future of Anglican Church debated

[Writing in the National Post](#), Prof Ian Hunter comments on the pilgrimage of five Church of England bishops heading to Rome and questions whether the Anglican Church has a future. [In reply](#), National Post religion reporter Charles Lewis reminds Prof Hunter that Anglicanism is alive and flourishing in Africa.

Discredited committee appoints new members

The [Church of the England Newspaper reports](#) that the Standing Committee of the Anglican Communion, a recently formed and very controversial body, has acted to fill some of the vacancies created when a number of members recently resigned in protest, *“...citing their lack of confidence in its integrity”*. The resignations included: Archbishop Henry Orombi (Uganda), Archbishop Justice Akrofi (West Africa), Presiding Bishop Mouneer Anis (Jerusalem and the Middle East), Ms Nomfundo Walaza (Southern Africa) and Bishop Azad Marshall (Iran). The new appointments are: Bishop Paul Sarkar (Bangladesh) and the Rev Maria Christina Borges Alvarez (Cuba). However, the article notes more irregularities and illegalities in the committee’s appointments.

News in brief from around the world and around the Communion

Nigeria – The Anglican Church of Nigeria [plans to build](#) a third university, this time in Jos, Plateau State. This is the region that has seen so much violence directed toward Christians this past year.

Thailand – Archbishop John Chew, (Southeast Asia) has ordained the first Thai Anglican priest. The [Church of England Newspaper reports](#) that the Anglican Church has been in Thailand for 105 years, but only recently began to actively plant churches and evangelize among the Thai people. Today there are six congregations, three schools and various community ministries.

Egypt – [Compass Direct News reports](#) that Muslim mobs in a small southern village firebombed houses and businesses when they heard a rumor of a romantic relationship between a Christian and a Muslim. *“At least 23 homes and numerous businesses, all Christian-owned, were damaged or destroyed in the village of Al-Nawahid in Qena Governorate, 454 kilometers (282 miles) south of Cairo. Five people were injured, two seriously.”*

Somalia – [Compass Direct News reports](#) that another of Somalia’s few Christians has been killed. This time a 17-year-old girl who had endured months of terrible beatings and abuse from her Muslim parents after converting to Christianity was shot to death.

Malawi – The [Church of England Newspaper reports](#) that there is a newly consecrated bishop in the Diocese of Northern Malawi, paving the way for the election of a new Primate of the Province of Central Africa. The Primacy has been vacant since 2007.

Other international news

Church of England Newspaper – Dec 3 2010 – [GAFCon primates vote of no confidence in the Covenant](#)

Reuters – Nov 24 2010 – [Conservative bishops deliver blow to Anglican pact](#)

Church Times – Nov 26 2010 – [Empty seats in Dublin as Primates opt out](#)

Huffington Post – Nov 30 2010 – [Church of England gives OK to Anglican Covenant](#)

Christian Today – Nov 24 2010 – [...Covenant in question after conservatives withdraw support](#)

Guardian – Nov 24 2010 – [Unity document exposes Anglican divisions](#)

Soul food

Just for laughs

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11-29-2010

YOUR SOCIAL NETWORKING RECORD IS TERRIBLE ... TWO MISSED OPPORTUNITIES TO "LIKE JESUS AS YOUR LORD & SAVIOR" AND REFUSAL TO PROVE YOUR FAITH WITH A SIMPLE "FORWARD TO TEN FRIENDS"

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Thought

"God uses chronic pain and weakness, along with other afflictions, as his chisel for sculpting our lives. Felt weakness deepens dependence on Christ for strength each day. The weaker we feel, the harder we lean. And the harder we lean, the stronger we grow spiritually, even while our bodies waste away. To live with your 'thorn' uncomplainingly – that is, sweet, patient, and free in heart to love and help others, even though every day you feel weak – is true sanctification. It is true healing for the spirit. It is a supreme victory of grace." – [J I Packer](#)

Of interest

- An [innovative Christmas ad](#) depicts the pre-born Jesus as He might have appeared in an ultrasound image. The text announces, *"He's on His way: Christmas starts with Christ"*.
- The **King James Bible** turns 400 in 2011! The [Guardian reports](#) that the influence of this translation of the Bible has been profound – *"one bestseller of unprecedented literary significance"*. It has sold an estimated one billion copies in four centuries.

Please pray...

For **the Sudan** and especially the upcoming referendum on independence for the South. Pray for a fair and peaceful referendum, for lasting peace, and for wisdom for Church leaders

For **Jennifer**, the adult daughter of an ANiC clergy member, who is very ill and needs healing of both body and soul – healing from emotional hurts and from a severe chronic health problem

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

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 other 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 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** supporting parishes in disputes with their former dioceses

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, Somalia and other Muslim lands

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

There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit. And the Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding,

*the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.
And his delight shall be in the fear of the Lord.*

He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide disputes by what his ears hear, but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; and he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.

Righteousness shall be the belt of his waist, and faithfulness the belt of his loins.

The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the young goat, and the calf and the lion and the fattened calf together; and a little child shall lead them.

The cow and the bear shall graze; their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

The nursing child shall play over the hole of the cobra, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the adder's den.

They shall not hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain; for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.

In that day the root of Jesse, who shall stand as a signal for the peoples—of him shall the nations inquire, and his resting place shall be glorious.

Isaiah 11: 1-10