

Lambeth 2020 Chaos



Bishop Kevin Robertson and his husband wed

Plans for the 2020 Lambeth Conference are descending into chaos. In a promotional video, the Archbishop of Canterbury stated that "of course all bishops' spouses will be invited." This surely meant that the wife of Bishop Mary Glasspool (New York, USA), the husband of Bishop Kevin Robertson (Toronto, Canada) and the husband of the soon to be consecrated Bishop Thomas Brown (Maine, USA) would be invited.

However, according to a blog written on 15th February by the Secretary General of the Anglican Consultative Council, Dr Josiah Idowu-Fearon, the spouses of the three bishops in same-sex unions were not to be invited. It then emerged that the Archbishop of Canterbury had spoken to each of the bishops in private to explain that it would be 'inappropriate' for their spouses to attend due to Resolution I.10 of the Lambeth 1998 Conference which affirmed the



bible's teaching on marriage being between 'a man and a woman'. Yet the bishops in these same-sex unions will be invited along with those who consecrated them, "married" them, and endorse their life-style which is contrary to the Lambeth Resolution and to Scripture.

"inappropriate for their spouses to attend"

The announcement from the Secretary General has caused ripples throughout the Communion. The Executive Council of The Episcopal Church (TEC) USA has approved a resolution which finds the decision inconsistent with TEC's

[cont'd on back page](#)

Standing with the suffering



G19 conference delegates

From 25th February to 1st March, 138 delegates, including 4 Primates and 31 bishops and archbishops, gathered in Dubai for 'G19'. The conference was designed for those who had been unable to attend Gafcon 2018 in Jerusalem for political reasons and many came from contexts where there are severe restrictions on Christian witness.

Gafcon Chairman, Archbishop Okoh, set the tone in his opening address, reminding delegates of the wonder of the gospel, while Bishop Michael Nazir-Ali gave Bible Readings from Philippians, noting the appropriateness

of this prison epistle because Paul's restriction (his chains) actually became an opportunity for the gospel. And Archbishop Ben Kwashi, Gafcon's General Secretary, spoke powerfully out of his own experience, including three attempts on his life, about the need to be gospel centred in every way, clearing our minds of all thoughts of vengeance and living with simplicity and humility.

Difficult facts about the Anglican Communion in the West were also faced with a powerful presentation from Archbishop

[cont'd on back page](#)

Networks mobilise for cyclone battered Mozambique



Victims of Cyclone Idai in Mozambique

On March 14th Cyclone Idai hit Mozambique and other Southern African countries including Zimbabwe and Malawi. The scale of the destruction is vast and over 500 people have lost their lives, with the death toll still rising due to the outbreak of cholera. Many homes have been destroyed with 90,000 people in temporary shelter in Mozambique alone, while many farmers have lost crops and livestock.

One of the worst affected areas is the diocese of Niassa in Mozambique which is led by Bishop Vicente Msosa who was present at Gafcon 2018 in Jerusalem. Since the tragedy

[cont'd on back page](#)

January to March 2019: What happened...



CANADIAN Bishop in same-sex marriage at Lambeth Bishops' Training

On 7th February, the Archbishop of Canterbury invited 30 newly consecrated bishops to Lambeth Palace for an annual 10 day residential to teach them about the role of a bishop. The bishops travelled from all over the world, but the newly "married" bishop from Canada, Kevin Robertson (front page), who is in a same-sex marriage, also attended the training. Praise God that Gafcon's Bishops' Training Institute (BTI) gives bishops a sound biblical alternative as they begin their ministries.

Gafcon IRELAND Prepares people for Christian ministry



Gafcon Ireland held its second TheologyIreland training conference to equip clergy and laity to better read and understand the Bible. In 2018 Dr Peter Orr ran the foundational "Biblical Theology" course, introducing the whole Bible's storyline, and in January 2019 Peter returned to run this course again for those new to TheologyIreland, and to build upon this foundation for those students who attended last year. Peter ran a course for Laity on preaching from Luke's Gospel and Saturday sessions dealing with various contemporary issues.

SCOTTISH Church leaves SEC



On 17th January, the congregation of Westhill Community Church in Aberdeen, Scotland, voted in favour (87% to 13%) to leave the Scottish Episcopal Church (SEC) because Biblical orthodoxy has been compromised. In June 2017 SEC voted to allow same-sex marriages, becoming the first major church in the UK to do so. The Rector of Westhill Community Church, Canon Ian Ferguson said, "Our church did not feel they could go on the trajectory SEC are going and they wanted to maintain their sense of biblical authority." The church has received support from Gafcon Provinces including Nigeria, Uganda, Sydney and the Anglican Church in North America.



Same-sex partnered Archdeacon appointed in England

The newly appointed Archdeacon of the Isle of Wight, Peter Leonard, is currently Canon Chancellor at Portsmouth Cathedral, and is also the chair of OneBodyOneFaith, an active LGBT+ group, and a member of Isle of Wight 'Pride'. He was previously married with 2 children but has since been divorced and is now with his male partner. He will take up his new post soon after Easter.

Same-sex partnered man to be the new Bishop of Maine USA

The Rev. Thomas James Brown was voted in to be the next bishop of Maine and is set to be consecrated in June 2019. He has been married to the Revd Tom Mousin since 2001. He will be the first openly gay Episcopal bishop in Maine and the third ever elected in the US.

Same-sex couples' 'marriages' blessed in USA Churches



In mid-January, 24 gay and lesbian couples had their 'marriages' or civil unions blessed in two churches in Dallas, USA. The two services were held to bless couples who couldn't marry in the diocese, because the diocesan bishop opposes same-sex marriage. During the ceremonies the couples renewed their vows, were blessed in holy matrimony and had their rings blessed. Bishop Gene Robinson, who was the first practising gay bishop to be consecrated by The Episcopal Church (TEC, USA) spoke at both services. He said, "Today feels like a miracle and that's because it is. Thanks be to God."

New Gafcon Branch in GHANA

Over recent months Gafcon has been developing a branch in Ghana, and on Ash Wednesday, 6th March, it was officially launched at a meeting attended by some 70 people under the leadership of the Bishop of Sunyani, the Rt Revd Dr Festus Yeboah-Asumah. Bishop Festus has a long-standing connection with Gafcon, having been a member of the Gafcon Theological Resource Group which produced the commentary on the Jerusalem Declaration 'Being Faithful: The Shape of Historic Anglicanism Today'.



Christians continue to suffer in NIGERIA

In February Anthony Idris Jata'u, a priest from the Anglican Diocese of Sokoto, Nigeria was abducted and 3 days later found dead. The kidnappers took his wife, three children and two sisters-in-law and have been holding them to ransom, demanding 10 million Nigerian Naira (approximately US\$27,000) for their release. The attacks on Christians in Nigeria continue by Boko Haram and Fulani Herdsmen. In a statement to Nigeria's re-elected President, Muhammadu Buhari, Gafcon's General Secretary Archbishop Ben Kwashi said, "The government has been unable to provide security for the poor. The government must rise to its responsibility to mete out justice and save lives."



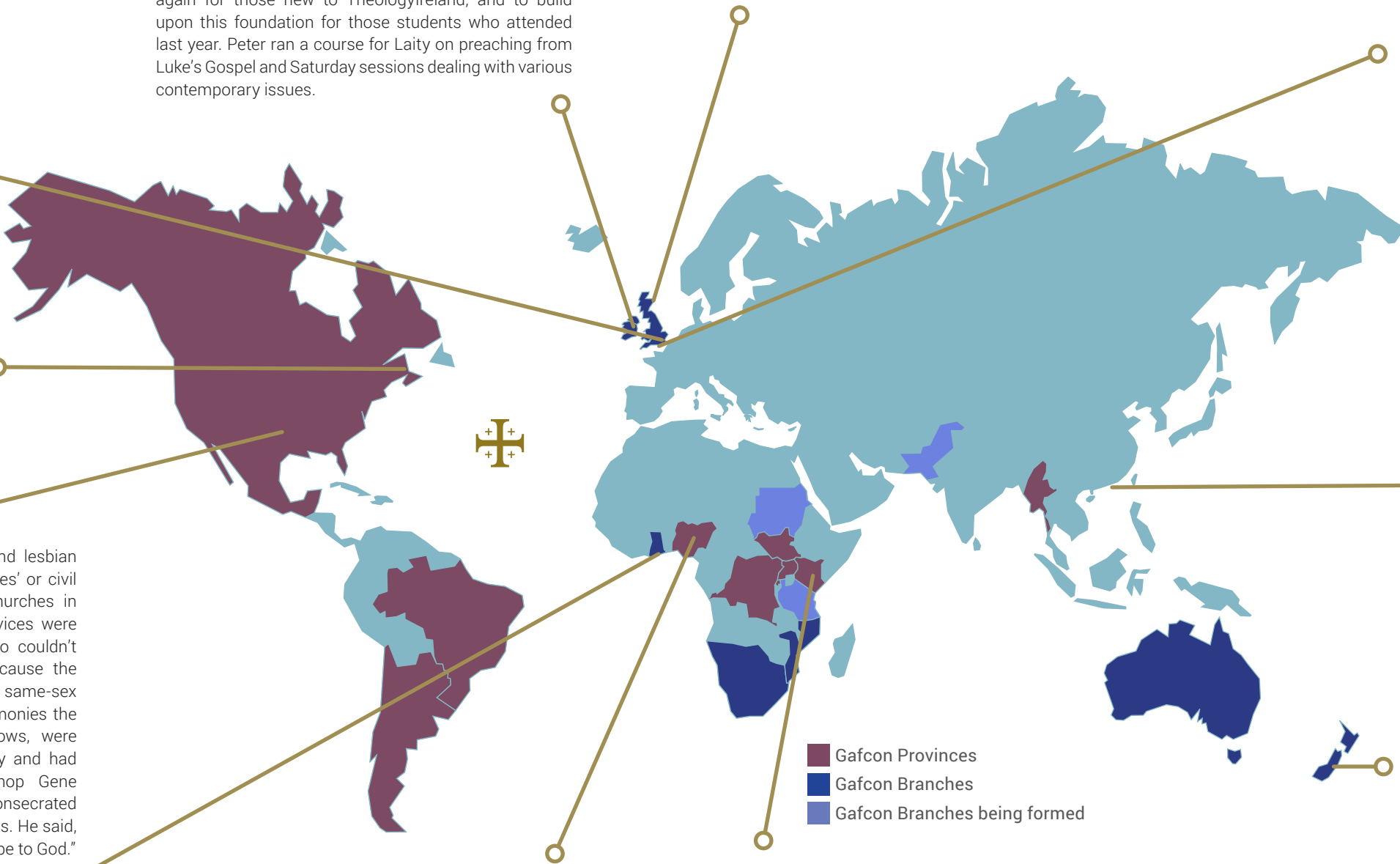
KENYA Archbishop denounces Court on gay registration

On 22 March the Court of Appeal in Kenya overturned a decision that rejected a 2015 application from the National Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission from registering as an NGO. Under Kenyan law NGOs must obtain a license from the state to operate. The 3-2 decision by the appeals court upheld a lower court ruling which overturned the administrative ruling. The Most Rev. Jackson Ole Sapit said, "The Church does not support the ruling on LGBT association. This is not only unconstitutional but also against the teachings of God."



First same-sex Marriage in NEW ZEALAND

The Anglican Church of Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia (ACNZAP) voted last year to bless same-sex marriages, and in February 2019 the first male same-sex marriage took place in a church in central Christchurch. The bishop of Christchurch Peter Carroll attended the ceremony and said "I gave my blessing and approval for it to take place and this is part of our journey as a diocese." So far four parishes have left the ACNZAP and are in the process of putting together a new constitution and canons which is being presented to the Gafcon Primates Council in April.



Fuel for Prayer

Gafcon encourages supporters to give thanks for significant blessings in the last three months, and asks for your prayers as follows:

Praise:

- For a wonderful conference in Dubai which was encouraging and strengthening for faithful brothers and sisters in 'restricted situations.'
- New Gafcon Branch in Ghana, West Africa
- Archbishop Nicholas Okoh's faithful and wise leadership of the Primates' Council as Chairman

Petition:

- The Gafcon Primates Council as it meets in Sydney, Australia (29th April to 2nd May) and Archbishop Foley Beach as he prepares for his new role as the Chairman
- The continued development of the 9 strategic networks launched in Jerusalem
- The fifth Bishops' Training Institute (BTI) will be held in Kenya 14th – 23rd May. Please pray for the bishops and their wives that they will be equipped in effective Gospel ministry.



Launch of Gafcon's Daily Prayer Diary

The Prayer Network has launched Gafcon's daily Prayer Diary. This can be accessed through the website, daily social media posts (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram) or through the recently launched page

on the **PrayerMate App** (QR code). It provides subscribers with a topic each day through to Easter Day and beyond to fuel our prayers as we stand together in gospel partnership.



Lambeth 2020 Chaos

cont'd from front page

definition of marriage.

The Bishop of Liverpool in England, Paul Bayes said that he would attend Lambeth 2020, but without his wife in protest and a Member of Parliament in the United Kingdom called for the Lambeth Conference to face court action because the decision could equate to workplace discrimination.

The University of Kent, which is set to host the conference for the 3rd time says that the decision to ban same-sex spouses is inconsistent with the university's inclusive and progressive ethics, and they will provide accommodation for the same-sex spouses despite Justin Welby's decision to exclude them. The College of Bishops in Toronto has issued a statement in which Bishop Robertson says his partner will attend the conference next year and the words 'excluding same-sex spouses' have been removed from the official Lambeth website.

Standing with the Suffering

cont'd from front page

Foley Beach, Gafcon Chairman-elect, showing how what is often called revisionism is more accurately the Trojan horse of a new paganism which the so called 'instruments of communion', the Canterbury based global institutions of the Communion, have failed to recognise or resist.

The enduring legacy of G19 will be not only the work of the Holy Spirit in individual lives, but also the relationships which have been formed and deepened. Delegates were able to participate in seminars led by the 9 Gafcon network leaders and have recommended that the Gafcon Primates develop a new network 'to provide fellowship, advocacy and intentional prayer' for those in restricted situations so that the gifts of those who suffer 'can be used throughout our Communion.'

G19

DUBAI

Networks mobilise for cyclone battered Mozambique

cont'd from front page

two of the Gafcon networks (Sustainable Development and Prayer) have mobilised to support the diocese and appeals through partner aid agencies have provided practical assistance.

So far some US\$30,000 has been raised for Niassa Diocese and the wider region through Anglican International Development (AID) and Anglican Aid Sydney. Rev Dr Dennis Tongoi, leader of the Gafcon Sustainable Development Network, commented: 'This is an ongoing natural disaster whose impact shall be felt for years to come. The people of Mozambique, Zimbabwe and Malawi will need the participation of the international community not only to manage the immediate challenges of food, clean water, shelter but also the trauma and re-building of families and communities that have lost almost all their infrastructure'.



30th June is the closest Sunday to the anniversary of the pronouncement of the Jerusalem Statement and Declaration at the formation of Gafcon on 29th June 2008. We ask Gafcon supporting dioceses and parishes to make the most of this opportunity to celebrate the unity which the global Gafcon fellowship enjoys in Christ through scripture. It will be a chance to

pray for the challenges we face, encourage one another to contend for the truth and support the endeavours of the movement.

Church leaders will receive details and resources to promote the day in the coming weeks. In the meantime please make a note of the date.



gafcon.org



[/gafconference](https://www.facebook.com/gafconference)



[@gafconference](https://www.instagram.com/gafconference)



[@gafconference](https://twitter.com/gafconference)



[gafcon](https://www.youtube.com/gafcon)

Keep in touch

Follow us for the latest news and daily inspiration. Subscribe to our YouTube channel to see interviews, plenary sessions from GAFCON 2018 and G19 Dubai, plus useful videos on hot topics. Email: secretariat@gafcon.org Tel. +44(0)20 3883 8661

Support Gafcon

Join the movement of faithful Anglicans by going to www.gafcon.org/join

Donate and partner with Gafcon by going to www.gafcon.org/donate