



Compass Points

News from Colleges and Universities of the Anglican Communion

CANTERBURY CHAPLAIN JEREMY LAW

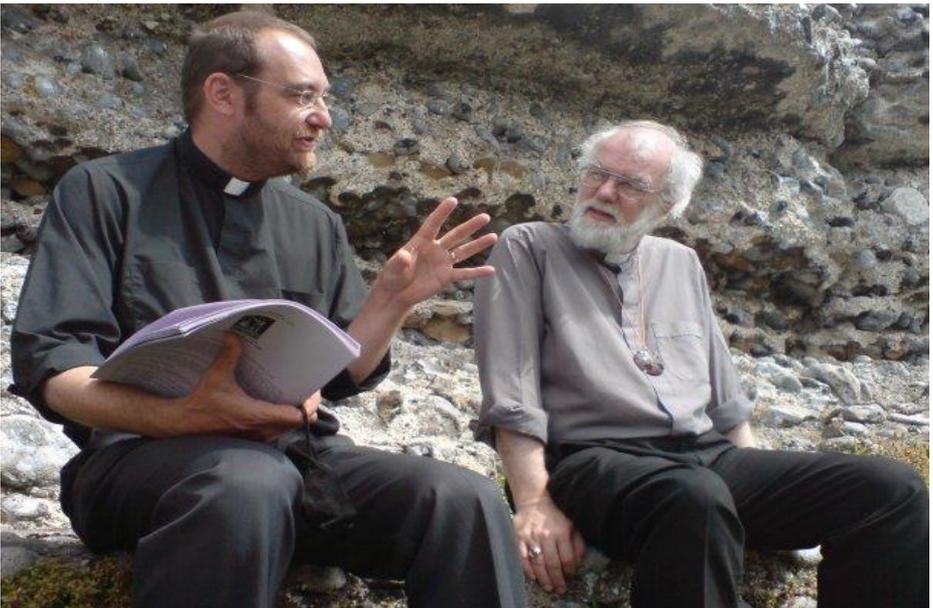
NAMED CUAC'S FIRST 'DISTINGUISHED FELLOW'

In tribute to his 21 years of university ministry, the Board of Voting Trustees of the Colleges and Universities of the Anglican Communion (CUAC) has awarded its first Distinguished Fellowship Award to Dr. Jeremy Law of Canterbury Christ Church University, where he is Dean of Chapel and Chaplain. The award, presented in London in November, honors an individual who models exceptional service to CUAC and its member colleges.

Dr. Law has helped more than twenty students find their place in life as ordained priests and has enabled many others find their vocations in a rich variety of ways that made sense of their own particular humanity.

He has written on such subjects as evolution, ecology, imagination, and Christian education and has played a major role in organizing CUAC's Triennial conferences and in 2014 the first CUAC conference for chaplains from throughout the Anglican world. Education is inherently theological, he has argued, and can never be reduced to a

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Dr. Jeremy Law (left) with his mentor, Dr. Rowan Williams, former Archbishop of Canterbury

HORIZONS



What are the critical ingredients that go into the forming of character that is so pivotal to our kind of higher education?

CUAC's member institutions have just three to four years to deliver these ingredients and put them to work. The collegiate package is comprehensive, with many moving parts -- from academics to sports, to service, to the experience of finding community with other students, all of

which vary from place to place, formed by different cultures both within and without the institution. But how can character be formed in students who might have come to college with different goals in mind?

When in Australia last fall for the Annual CUAC Lecture at Trinity College in Melbourne, I took advantage of the opportunity to visit some of the twelve CUAC colleges in that vast country, where they are small and spread out.

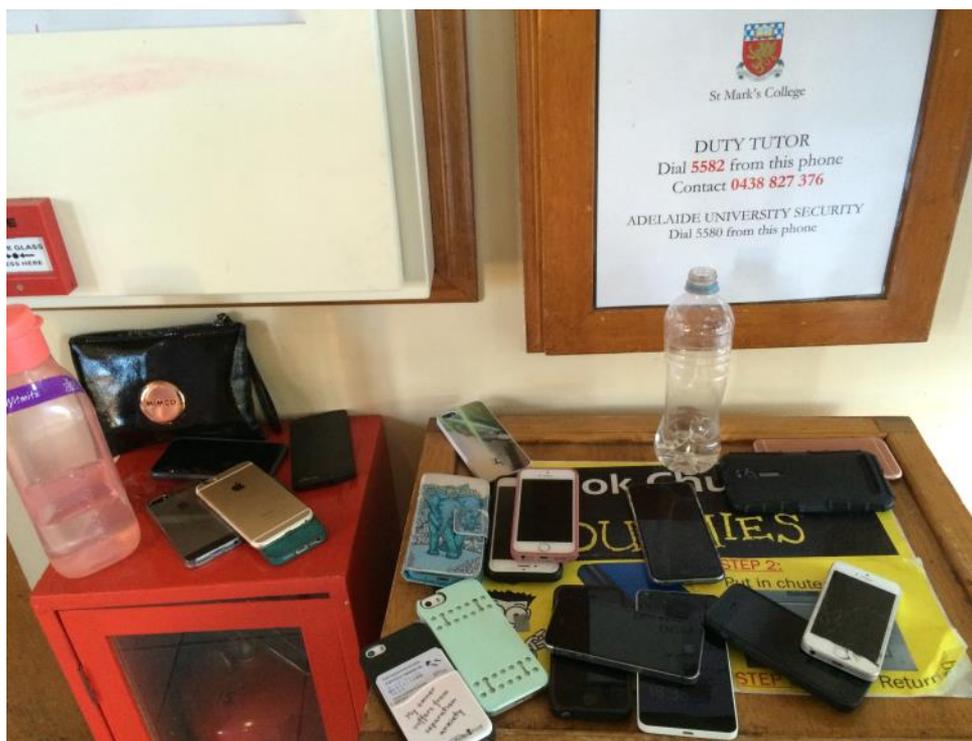
Because of a strong tradition of church-state separation in Australia, all the universities are government run. The major denominations were offered land on the periphery of campuses to establish houses of residence. In visiting five Anglican colleges in Melbourne, Adelaide, Perth, and Sydney, it became clear that a residential college is more than just a place to sleep. Warden Ian Hardy at St. George's, Perth, is keen to distinguish residential *colleges* from just residence halls, for they are places "to teach, learn and grow," engaging students in a community with shared opportunities and expectations. Yet despite these colleges' having a comparatively smaller canvas to draw on, my interaction with students and reports of alums made clear that they were places where the character of the young was being formed. Let me give you an example.

While I have now visited some forty CUAC colleges around the world, I unexpectedly discovered in Australia —twice! — a new and radical practice. I was having dinner in the hall at St. Mark's, Adelaide, talking with students about what they considered special in their collegiate experience. For one thing, they explained, they had banished smartphones and the like from the dining hall. While such ubiquitous devices have almost become a body part among the young, here students saw the danger. They either left them in their rooms or piled them on a table outside the door (see photo). As a result, meals were the one time they could be fully present with one another, apart from electronic distraction. They reported cherishing the quality of such presence. Enforcement was in the hands of students: should a student hear a beep in a pocket or catch another stealing a glance, they would start pounding the table with a spoon, building to a cacophony that would lead to "ponding" the miscreant — i.e., dunking in the ornamental pond outside the hall beneath a statue of St. Mark. Mind you, ponding required consent, and the ponded one could set aside possessions that she/he didn't want to get wet, such as shoes or the offending phone.

As one student put it, “Mobile-free dining hall creates an environment that is free from the distractions of mobile phones, providing the foundation for people to be present.” In our wired world where attention is always diminished by the presence of social media even when the device is quiet, being present is becoming a radical act. When we are present with another person, we can move beyond talk to true conversation, the root of which is the Latin *conversari*, meaning to mix with people in the sense of familiarity or intimacy. But the deeper etymology is the root *versus*, which is Latin for a turn of direction, such as turning the plough at the end of a furrow. Thus, conversation opens us to change through familiarity with another’s point of view.

A commitment to forming character is one of the distinguishing marks of Anglican higher education. All of our colleges and universities have perspectives on how they can best bring this about. Yet it is often in the small details that the larger scheme appears. Perhaps the ban on phones in the dining hall that I found in two Australian colleges speaks volumes about true formation taking place, starting with being present with another in conversation. I can think of no more critical ingredient in forming character whether in college or over a lifetime.

The Rev’d Canon James G. Callaway, D.D.
GENERAL SECRETARY



Mobile phone “check in” outside the Dining Hall at St. Mark’s College, Adelaide

Save the Date!

**CUAC INTERNATIONAL
TRIENNIAL CONFERENCE 2017**

***Identity and Diversity:
Citizenship, Vocation
And The Common Good***

January 4-10, 2017

Chaplains' Post-Conference January 10-12, 2017

Madras Christian College

Chennai, India



The beautifully landscaped grounds of historic Madras Christian College



Deer grazing on the lush Chennai campus

TRIENNIAL 2017 PROSPECTUS

Every CUAC member finds itself today in the midst of a complex and competing set of voices. Religious pluralism and secular ideologies can threaten the meaning of our Christian identity. Claims of economic “efficiency,” student recruitment in a competitive market, the need to promise career success — all these endanger deeper notions of “education for life.”

Our 2017 Triennial aims to tackle these challenges head-on. Site visits will help us make the most of our time in South India as we explore our engagement with poverty, ethnicity, and religious diversity. Our keynote speakers will provide perspective as we form our own ideas: Prof Gavin D’Costa (UK), Prof Christel Devadawson (India), Fr Monodeep Daniel (India), Prof Martyn Percy (UK).

We will explore who we are in a pluralistic world by discovering afresh what Christian higher education does:

- Cultivating intelligent citizens, not mere consumers,
- Revealing one’s vocation, not just chasing a job, and
- Serving the Common Good, not the interests of the few.

Mark your calendars now. On-line registration opens in May 2016.

Kevin Rudd

On Faith, Ethics and Climate Change

Speaking on the eve of the Paris Climate Summit, former Australian Prime Minister Kevin Rudd told a packed house at Trinity College, University of Melbourne, on November 10, 2015, that ethically informed Christians – particularly those in public life – must take a stand on global warming, “the greatest moral challenge of our time.” The occasion was the third Dr Rowan Williams Annual CUAC Lecture, a full transcript and video of which are available at www.cuac.org.

Rudd, who served as prime minister from 2007 to 2010 and again in 2013, is president of the Asia Society Policy Institute, in New York City, and an outspoken critic of climate change deniers, whether in politics or the clergy. He used the Williams Lecture as a “bully pulpit” to examine what role Christian belief ought to play in secular decision-making and to reject “the supreme banality that ‘the Church should stay out of politics.’”

“You would be hard pressed to find a reference in the Gospels to support an entirely privatized or pietistic Christianity which exonerates its adherents from public action,” Rudd said. The question is “what ethical principles should guide this engagement?”

Invoking Jesus’s parable of the Good Samaritan, the theology of St. Francis, and the example of Dietrich Bonhoeffer, he said among these core principles should be “a universal preferencing of the poor, the marginalized, and the oppressed” and a sense that God has made us stewards of “the created order that sustains us all.” Since the impact of climate change – floods, rising sea levels, extreme temperatures, new diseases – would endanger many of the earth’s most vulnerable populations, the ethical response must be clear to any rational Christian. He praised in particular Pope Francis’s recent encyclical *Laudato Si – On Care for Our Common Home* and its willingness to accept scientific consensus that greenhouse gasses, largely from fossil fuels, are the prime cause of accelerating climate change.

Yet too many Christian leaders, he complained, evade their moral responsibility to speak out on these and other ethical issues affecting politics.

“I sat recently in the comfortable pews of an affluent Anglican parish in London where the uncomfortable reading for the day was the parable of the Good Samaritan. This was in the context of the European response to the Syrian refugee crisis. The bold response from the pulpit was that we should pray for our political leaders to have wisdom...Nothing more.”

On the contrary, he suggested, the bold response from the Church should be “to make the state permanently ethically uncomfortable with itself” because of the compromises it will inevitably try to make.

Global warming is ‘the greatest moral challenge of our time’

In questions afterwards, a Trinity doctoral student in theology, Luke Hopkins, asked the former prime minister if his experience as diplomat and politician had changed his personal understanding of God.

“You become much, much more deeply attached to an enduring reliance on God,” Rudd replied, especially in the face of political defeat. “Had I not had a rock of faith on which to rely this would have been infinitely more difficult.”

Rudd was the third Williams Lecturer – “our first from a lay perspective,” noted the Rev’d Canon James G. Callaway. The inaugural lecturer was the former archbishop himself, speaking at Canterbury; the second was the theologian Dr. Sathianathan Clarke, in Madurai, India. Rudd is a graduate of a CUAC member institution, Burgmann College, in Canberra, where he met his wife Therese Rein, a fellow student.

Charles Calhoun



Former Australian Prime Minister the Hon. Kevin Rudd, delivering the third Dr Rowan Williams Annual CUAC Lecture, at Trinity College in Melbourne, where he discussed the relationship between churches and the ethical issues of climate change.

#AdventWord 2016

Worshipping Visually, Across the Globe

For years, Advent has meant the arrival of a calendar, its little boxes filled with chocolate (if you were lucky) or comforting words (if you took a more austere approach to counting the days to Christmas). But in 2014 a new way of awaiting the Christ Child arrived on the scene – a crowd-sourced Advent Calendar called **AdventWord** whose supporters created it each day in real time.

This past year, participants submitted over 10,000 images on Instagram and over 5,000 on Twitter and Facebook, where the page attracted some 4,500 “likes,” 56 percent of them in the age range 18-35. **AdventWord** was released in nine languages, including Portuguese, Tamil, Hindi, and sign language for the deaf. Its participants had created a sacred space on line.

Here’s how it worked: you woke up in the morning and checked your smartphone to receive a daily meditation from the Brothers of the Society of St. John the Evangelist in Cambridge, Massachusetts. There was also a word and an image. You responded by posting to Instagram or other social media an image of your own that reflected that word – the theme for the day – or your response to it.

Words like hope, trust, waiting, faith, love, light, joy...

And then, you woke up one morning, and it was Christmas.



Jamie Coats (director, Friends of the Society of St. John the Evangelist) at Lady Doak College in Madurai, Tamil Nadu, India, with students Nissi Karunya and Gracia Kanth, monitoring the **AdventWord** website.

ETHICS & SOCIAL MEDIA:

A Conference of the Association of Episcopal Colleges

April 8-10, 2016

Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tennessee

How do Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, KiK, Yik Yak, Snapchat, and the like shape human relationships? What is their potential for good or ill in our lives? On college campuses in particular, how might these new and pervasive technologies be better employed to promote human flourishing? How do we apply basic ethical values to this new world of 24-hour “connectedness”?

These are some of the questions students from the ten institutions forming the Association of Episcopal Colleges will try to answer on



April 8-10, 2016, at a conference hosted by the University of the South on the campus of Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tennessee, with a special grant from the Henry Luce Foundation. Two students and a mentor from each of the colleges have been invited to participate. Each student will present a fifteen-minute paper, followed by group discussion. Dr. Emilie M. Townes, Dean of the Vanderbilt Divinity School, is keynote speaker.

“The conference offers the opportunity for students and faculty from sister schools to gather in community, talk about important issues, and foster connections between the AEC schools,” said Canon Callaway.

AEC members are Bard College, Cuttington University (Liberia), Université d’Haiti, Hobart and William Smith Colleges, Kenyon College, St. Augustine College, St. Augustine’s University, Trinity University of Asia (Philippines), the University of the South (Sewanee), and Vorhees College.

Passages

With this issue we are expanding Passages to include recent transitions in leadership among CUAC's members. Readers' submissions are welcome at office@cuac.org.

Presidents/Vice Chancellors

Professor **Karen Stanton** was inducted in York Minister as Vice Chancellor at York St. John University, U.K., last fall.

Professor **Amit Abraham** has succeeded Dr. **John Abraham** as Principal at Scottish Church College in Kolkata, India.

Professor **Ken Hinchcliff** has become Warden of Trinity College, University of Melbourne, Australia, replacing Dr. **Andrew McGowan**, who became dean of the Berkeley Divinity School at Yale University, in New Haven, Connecticut, U.S.

Dr. **Everett Ward '82** was inducted in October as thirteenth President of St. Augustine's University in Raleigh, North Carolina, U.S.

Chaplains

The Rev'd **Rachel Kessler '04**, PhD, is the new chaplain at Kenyon College in Gambier, Ohio, U.S.

The Rev'd **Maurice Charles**, PhD, is now chaplain at Hobart and William Smith Colleges in Geneva, New York, U.S.

The Rev'd **Annie Rowley** is chaplain at York St. John University, U.K.

The Rev'd **Spurgeon Maher**, PhD, is on leave as chaplain at Madras Christian College, serving as Regional Programs Consultant for the United Board for Christian Higher Education in Asia, and the Rev'd **Lalrokhuma (R.K.) Hmar** is now chaplain in charge.

The Rev'd **Rose Guok** is now chaplain at St. George's, Perth, Australia, and also pursuing her doctorate.

At Trinity College, Melbourne, the Rev'd **Christopher Carolane** is now pursuing a doctorate, and the Rev'd **Samuel Dow**, who is also working on a doctorate, is now chaplain.

The Rev'd **Dan Anderson** is chaplain at Robert Menzies College, Sydney, and pastors its ecumenical Trinity Chapel.

Voting Trustees

Dr. **Philip Dutton** has left the board with his retirement as Principal of Burgmann College, Canberra, Australia. He and Valerie are returning to their family home in Wollongong (NSW South Coast) to be with family.

Dr. **Henrique Tokpa** retired as President of Cuttington University in Liberia in September and has become the Liberian Minister of the Interior in Monrovia.

Dr. **Evelyn Kandakai**, former Minister of Education in the Republic of Liberia, has become the interim President of Cuttington University, where she was previously Academic Vice President, and is joining the CUAC board, covering the Africa Chapter.



CUAC board members at the Triennial planning retreat, Madras Christian College, Chennai, India, December 31, 2015. FRONT: Alex Jesudasan, Martin Wharton, Robert Derrenbacher, Canon James Callaway, Mercy Pushpalatha. BACK: Jeremiah Yang, Maher Spurgeon, Jeremy Law, Prince Singh, Mark Garner, Peter Neil.

A CALL FOR PAPERS: The first volume of *Occasional Papers on Faith in Higher Education* is available at www.cuac.org. Papers on topics relevant to the general theme are invited from any interested person or group and may be sent to the Editors at Whitelands College, Holybourne Avenue, London SW 15 4JD UK, or by email, to whitelands.cuac.papers@roehampton.ac.uk.

First ‘Distinguished Fellow’ Award cont’d from page 1

“purchasable” package of information and skills.

“It is relatively unusual these days for someone to live out their priesthood in the world of the university,” said CUAC trustee the Right Rev’d Martin Wharton, retired Bishop of Newcastle. “But this is what Jeremy’s vocation has required of him.” He praised Dr. Law’s abilities as a scholar and as “a generous and gracious colleague with a passionate commitment to the best kind of university education that Anglican universities can provide.”

In presenting the award, the chair of CUAC’s Europe Chapter, the Rev’d Canon Professor Peter Neil, Vice Chancellor of Bishop Grosseteste University in Lincoln, said it was “a huge honor” to have the first such international award go to a chaplain in one of the leading Anglican institutions in the UK. Professor Rama Thirunamachandran, Vice Chancellor of Canterbury Christ Church, praised Dr. Law for demonstrating “the vital contribution chaplaincies make to modern universities.”

In a letter read at the ceremony, CUAC’s General Secretary, the Rev’d Canon James G. Callaway, said Dr. Law “lives at the intersection of Christian beliefs and the spiritual formation of the next generation of students at church-based universities.” He added: “To us he is the contemporary Timothy, of whom Paul said in Philippians, ‘how like a son with a father he has served with me in the work of the gospel’.”

Dr. Law was born in Wales and moved to England as a child, returning to Wales to study geology and earn a First at Aberystwyth University. He began a Ph.D. at Leeds University, but a call to ministry in the Church of England took him to theological college (and another First) and a curacy in Dorset. He successfully pursued a doctorate at Oxford University, supervised by Dr. Rowan Williams, at that time Lady Margaret Professor of Divinity. Ministry and academic life came together in an appointment as Lazenby Chaplain and Lecturer in Theology at Exeter University (1994-2003) and then as Dean of Chapel at Canterbury Christ Church since 2003.

The award was presented on the occasion of the Cathedrals Group’s annual Dearing Memorial Lecture, delivered by the Rev’d Canon Professor Richard Burridge, Dean of King’s College London, on the role and calling of faith-based institutions in higher education. It can be found at www.cathedralsgroup.org.uk.

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