

## Thursday, September 5

9/5 Morning A.L.I. update from Fr John...

Began some basic orientation after breakfast. I think I'll share a few bios of fellow participants each day. Here are the first three:

### Participants

Anglican Leadership Institute #8, September 2019



**The Rev. Daniel Anthony Avenell, Australia** is an Anglican minister in the small rural town of Inverell, in New South Wales. Daniel graduated from the Queensland Theological College in 2012. He is married to Jenni and together they have 5 children and 10 grandchildren.



**Bp. Paul Kibirech Korir, Kenya** is the first bishop of the Anglican diocese of Kapsabet. He was consecrated and enthroned to episcopacy in 2016. Bishop Korir holds a doctorate degree from Asbury Theological Seminary Kentucky, 2017. The vision for his diocese is: a sustainable diocese rooted in the Word of God for ministry and service to the Church and society. He & his wife, Selline have two sons.



**The Rev. Carlton Baxter, N. Ireland** spent the first ten years of ministry working as a non-stipendiary minister in several parishes in the Diocese of Down and Dromore while also working in the business world. He spent 15 years as a professional journalist. He is currently a full-time minister in the Parish of Magheralin in the Diocese of Down and Dromore, He and his wife Jane have three children.

9/5 evening A.L.I. update from Fr John...

Had a nice, relaxing day around the Focus grounds today. Although the temperature has actually been a little chillier than expected. No problem; i packed for it. But our African brothers and sisters have been freezing, as they are much more sensitive to cold since they live in a climate that is very warm year-round! Consequently, I have given my Alabama Crimson Tide fleece to a participant named Josephine from Kenya, who is very grateful. And I have tried to explain to her what an honor it is to don the Alabama logo, but some of the other participants from South Carolina have voiced dissenting opinions. 😊

A few other notable nuggets that are appropriate to share...

-In my conversation with Bishop James from Tanzania, I asked him about the biggest challenge he faces in his ministry. He said it is being able to educate priests. He explained that he typically has fifty applicants in a pool from which he can only take ten, due to a lack of funds for seminary education. Consequently, Bishop Paul has over 400 congregations in his diocese, but only 46 priests. And yet, he and Bishop Paul from Kenya both estimated the cost of 3 years of seminary would only be \$1,000 (U.S.D.)!

-I had a nice conversation with Rev Jeremiah from Ethiopia. His answer when I inquired one of his challenges is that many of his churches have only a tree to meet under.

-The participant from India ended up being unable to come due to visa challenges 😞

-Carlton is the priest from Northern Ireland. I enjoyed hearing his perspective on Brexit, which led to an interesting conversation about the relationship between church & state and what good news it is to be free of having to place our hope in any politicians, since we disciples have the King of Kings!

The night ended with the Rt Rev. William Andrews speaking to us. He is the (recently elected) second bishop of the ACNA Diocese of New England. But he is actually from Old England, which is to say he is a Brit. However, he wasn't raised in the faith, but actually had a successful career as a barrister (attorney) before Jesus pursued him and set him on a different path. So he basically shared his testimony, as well as what he sees going on in Anglicanism and his vision for the "rocky soil" of the northeast. Looks like you can read more about his testimony here: <http://www.ad-ne.org/andrew-williams/>



## Friday, September 6

9/6 Noon A.L.I. update from Fr John...

Three more bios of fellow participants:



The Ven. Dr. Emeka Jonathan Onwuakpa, Nigeria is an Anglican Priest by calling & a Quantity Surveyor by profession. He holds a Ph.D. in Theology. He is an Archdeacon, the Vicar of All Saints Anglican Church, Surulere, Lagos & the Diocesan Director of Ecumenism. He has authored 5 books & is committed to sacramental theology & devoted to teaching. He & his wife, Ijeoma have 3 children.



The Rev. Ted Duvall, Mt. Pleasant, SC grew up in and served 22 years in the Episcopal Church, and for the last 8 years in the ACNA as Rector of Christ Church in Mt. Pleasant. He and his wife Katherine have two daughters and a son-in-law.



Bp. James Barnabas Almasi, Tanzania holds a degree in Theology from St Mark's Theological College, Dar ES Salaam & has his Master of Divinity in VTS. He was formally a Provost of the St Andrews/ Christ the King Cathedrals in two dioceses. He was Diocesan General Secretary prior to being the 9th bishop of the Diocese Masasi. He and his wife, Veronica have three children.

9/6 Evening update from A.L.I. by Fr John...

This morning we began with a good ole Meyers Briggs inventory guided for us by a Christian counselor (PhD). For those not familiar, this is tool developed in the 1970s used to assist people toward greater self-understanding of their own temperament (and blind spots) and to increase their understanding of others they encounter and work with (or are married to 😊) who may have temperaments very different from their own. However, those who have been around St Matthias for awhile may remember I used the Meyers-Briggs inventory in our 2014 Lenten Series on Spirituality and Temperament, based on this book <https://www.amazon.com/Prayer-Temperament-Different-Forms-Personality-ebook/dp/B071FKZZS6> .

However, this morning was utilizing the tool in the more typical way of shedding light on leadership dynamics (as well as dynamics within one's marriage). If you wanna take this inventory yourself, visit here: <https://www.mbtionline.com/TaketheMBTI>

Alas, I am still a XSTJ.

During the afternoon we had some free time, so seven of us borrowed a suburban and headed into a town called Vineyard Haven. This is one of five little towns on Martha's Vineyard, and I will include pics below.

Our evening session was the first of four with Bishop Andudu Elnail from the Sudan. He was granted asylum by the United States in 2011 after the Muslim government in Sudan (which already established sharia law) declared jihad on Christians. They came looking for the Bishop, but he happened to be on a 2-week trip to the U.S. for medical purposes. However, they did shoot at his home, burned his offices & Diocesan properties, and made it so he's had to seek refuge in America (he currently lives in Virginia). However, the good news is that 4 months ago the president was overthrown (after 30 years), and a prime minister was just installed this week, with the aim being to have a presidential election in 3 years time. Bishop Andudu was speaking on leading in crisis, and we will continue to hear from in the coming week.

After dinner we wrapped the night with the film Captain Phillips, which seemed to me like a surprising pick for our crowd, but wasn't as ethnically awkward as I feared.



#### Saint Matthias Anglican Church

I should also add that as we were talking about our families over ice cream in Vineyard Haven, when I shared that I have three girls I was told by Bp Paul that in Kenya I would be considered a very rich man. And this is because of the dowry that they would bring upon marriage.

I should have explained that in America the weddings of daughters can tend to have the opposite effect. 😊

Haha · Reply · Commented on by John M Roberts (?) · 1w

