



Irish news bulletin 8th February

PCI Overseas Secretary on Short Visit to Kenya

Rev Uel Marrs, Overseas Secretary of the Presbyterian Church missions, is in Kenya at the start of a short visit.

Uel arrived safely in Nairobi (6th) and yesterday (7th) he had meetings with Church leaders at the Presbyterian Church of East Africa (PCEA) Headquarters.



Following this, he will travel to the city of Kisumu, on the shores of Lake Victoria in the east of Kenya.

There he will attend the dedication service of PCEA Manyatta Congregation's new church building, on Sunday, (9th).

The previous church building had sadly been destroyed in the violence around the time of elections in 2008.

A new building was completed in December 2013, thanks to a donation from [Orangefield Presbyterian Church](#) in Belfast.

Uel will bring greetings from Orangefield congregation at the ceremony which will be attended by Rev. Festus K Gitonga, Secretary General of PCEA.

From 11th to 13th February, Uel will attend the PCEA's International Mission Conference in Nakuru.

At this at partner church representatives from Ireland, Scotland, Canada, Korea and USA will be gathering along with PCEA church leaders.

During his visit, Uel also hopes to meet up with some PCI mission personnel currently serving in Kenya. He is due to return to Ireland at the end of next week.

March Lecture Series Will Introduce Christ Church Cathedral

A new series of lunchtime lectures aimed at ‘Introducing Christ Church’ gets underway in March. The Cathedral Library and Archives Committee has arranged the series of illustrated talks in Christ Church Cathedral each Tuesday in March.

Each session will feature a different speaker and the lectures get underway at 1.05 pm. They will last about half an hour and will be followed by a short break for tea and coffee and discussion concluding at 2.00 pm.

The series gets underway on Tuesday March 4 when Canon Kenneth Kearon, Secretary–General of the Anglican Communion, will speak on ‘What are cathedrals for’.

On Tuesday March 11 ‘Music at Christ Church’ will be the subject of a lecture by Ian Keatley, Director of Music at the cathedral.

On Tuesday March 18 Professor Raymond Gillespie, National University of Ireland, Maynooth, will speak on ‘Christ Church and its history’.

On Tuesday March 25 ‘The architecture of Christ Church’ will be highlighted in a lecture by Dr Michael O’Neill, architectural historian.

Admission to the lectures is free and the series is supported by the Friends of Christ Church.

New Chapel of Healing in Donaghadee

At a Service of Holy Communion on Sunday last Bishop Harold Miller dedicated a new Chapel of Healing in the north transept of Donaghadee Parish Church.

The building has undergone a major renewal and restoration and the Chapel of Healing was the final phase of the project.

At Donaghadee Parish the ministry of healing is a valued part of parish life. Started by former rector, Revd Canon J C Swenarton, the weekly service is a focus for ministry to those who are ill in the community.



L–R: Billy Murdie, Brian Quinn (Architect), Bishop Harold, Tony Davidson (Artist) and Rector, Revd Ian Gamble.

Each week around 30 people meet to pray for those in need and the new side chapel will provide a home for this ministry and also a place for individual prayer after worship services on Sunday.

At the entrance to the Chapel are two large glass screens which separate the chapel from the nave. One depicts the Descent from the Cross and the other Christ in Glory, with the Tree of Life and River of Life. The artwork reminds us that pain, suffering and death are transformed into healing and victory through Christ.

Lisburn artist Tony Davidson (right), who specialises in church art, drew the artwork for the screens based on themes given to him by the rector. The glass was made by Daedelian Glass of Fleetwood, England. They are a combination of painted, sandblasted and fused glass; the glass is very tactile, creating a stunning visual impact.

Within the Chapel is a “Place of the Scriptures” again in glass and an Ambrey for Holy Oil. The Communion Table is square in design and has a lightness that draws the eye to a cross at the centre of the Table.

Bishop Harold encouraged the congregation in their ministry, as he unfolded the story of the Presentation in the Temple, reminding them of the harsh reality of “the sword that pierces the heart” along with the vision, faith and

perseverance of Simeon and Anna. During the service many came to the Chapel of Healing to receive Holy Communion and to be anointed.

Retreat in Dublin City

Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin, will be the venue for 'Retreat in the City' which takes place from February 21 to 23.

Now in its second year the retreat is designed to help participants find peace in the midst of the busyness of the city centre. Set in the historic surroundings of the cathedral, the retreat aims to teach those present how to create space for peace and to connect with God which will help far beyond the time of the weekend retreat itself. Sessions will teach a practice which can be taken into busy daily lives which are full of noise and mayhem.

The retreat will be led by Sue Grier of Immanuel Christian Retreat Centre in Ramelton, Donegal. Sue has a wide experience in Christian spirituality and will be leading sessions on St Bonaventure's The Tree of Life. As a member of the Third Order of the Society of St Francis she has a particular interest in Franciscan spirituality and the mystical writings of St Bonaventure.

The retreat is non residential and the cost of €85 includes retreat sessions and lunch on Saturday and Sunday. For further information contact Revd Garth Bunting at Christ Church Cathedral Dublin 8 (01-677 8099 or garth.bunting@cccdub.ie).

Healing Life's Hurts

The former minister of Fisherwick Presbyterian Church, Rev. Derek

McKelvey, will speak at the Monday evening healing service in St. Anne's Cathedral on March 3 at 8 pm.



His theme will be 'Healing Life's Hurts'. Brother David Jardine will lead the service. Personal prayer and anointing with oil for healing will be available. Tel: 028 90311532 divinehealing@live.co.uk

Global Vision 2014 Craigavon

There are 4 Global Vision (GV) events in 2014 under Methodist Missionary Society (Ireland)'s 'Global Vision' banner.

The dates are:



- [Global Vision \(Craigavon\) – Saturday 15th February 2014 – Lismore Comprehensive School, Craigavon](#) (download for leaflet and booking form)
- Global Vision, Lakelands – Saturday 22nd February 2014 – Darling Street Methodist, Enniskillen
- Global Vision, Midlands and Southern – Saturday 1st, February 2014 – Ardfallen Methodist, Cork
- Inspire, Global Vision Dublin – Saturday 4th April 2014, Wesley College, Dundrum

These events will offer the chance to hear of God's mission in Europe, Africa, Asia and the Americas. What can we learn? Why not organise a group to attend your local GV?

Mission Partners Barry and Gillian Sloan (Germany) will be at Craigavon and Enniskillen with the United Methodist Church of Germany's 'Big Yellow', a custom-made coach for outreach. It will also be used in mission in Coleraine during the week.

More information will be available nearer the date.

Event Date:

Saturday, 15 February, 2014 (All day)

Venue:

Lismore Comprehensive School, Craigavon

Church or Organisation:

Methodist Missionary Society (Ireland)

- See more at: <http://www.irishmethodist.org/event/global-vision-2014-craigavon#sthash.2p429LCD.dpuf>

Cardinal Brady congratulates new Moderator

Cardinal Seán Brady, Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of All Ireland, has issued a statement congratulating the new Moderator of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland, Reverend Michael Barry:

I congratulate Reverend Michael Barry on his election as Moderator of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland for the coming year. I wish him well as he prepares to take up this demanding leadership role in the Presbyterian Church. I look forward to meeting him soon after he assumes office in June to continue the tradition of co-operation and constructive discussion which takes place among Church leaders.

I wish Reverend Barry, Esther and family, many blessings during the coming year.

Understanding Africa - A short course at Belfast Bible College

Understanding Africa: Effective mission in an African context' is the title of a free, three session course at the School of Missions at [Belfast Bible College](#), beginning on 21st February.

Looking from several angles, participants in the course will survey the history of Africa, explore how Aid and Development has been an influence, and how contemporary cultural issues are shaping modern Africa.

The course will be led by Dr Paul Bailie, Chief Executive of [Mission Africa](#), who has 25 years' experience of working with the Church in Africa.

Paul (who is also a former PCI missionary to Kenya) will be joined by Ian McCammon, who has 15 years' experience in evangelical international development. Ian will cover the three main areas of 'What is International Development?', 'Case Studies of Development in Africa', and 'International Development an Evangelical Puzzle?'

Jonny Beggs will look at the cultural and ethical issues that are shaping Africa today.

This course is open to anyone to attend, whether a current student, someone considering serving in Africa, or someone interested in learning more.

It will run on Friday mornings, from 10.00am to 1.00 pm, on 21st February, 28th February and 7th March 2014 at Belfast Bible College.

For more information, or to register for the course, please contact: Suzanne Sneddon: ssneddon@belfastbiblecollege.com.

Workshop on Music for Weddings

Kildare and Leighlin Faith Development Services is running a workshop for people who lead music at weddings either as an instrumentalist or singer.

Venue: Portlaoise Parish Centre. Date and Time: Tuesday, February 11th 8 - 10pm. Areas to be explored: When and where music can be used during the wedding liturgy and suggestions for what music might be used. Cost: €10 including tea/coffee & take home music pack. Facilitators: Fr Liam Lawton and Julie Kavanagh. Bookings: email: fds@kandle.ie or 059 9164084 by Tuesday February 10th. Please leave name and contact number. This workshop requires a minimum of 20 participants to proceed. Booking essential.

Marriage week

Marriage Week in Northern Ireland (MWNI) is underway this week and runs until Friday 14th of February, supported by the Evangelical Alliance.

MWNI is part of an international movement which celebrates healthy marriages and couples are invited to take some time to reflect, celebrate and support marriage this week and throughout the year.

In an e-mail this week EA-NI states -



MARRIAGE WEEK
Northern Ireland

There are so [many creative ways](#) to celebrate Marriage Week but here are three simple challenges we want to leave you with:-

1. Re-visit your wedding vows

Across the water, Marriage Week UK has launched the Big Promise and on 8 February 2014 at 5:15pm there will be an attempt to break the world record for the highest number of people to simultaneously reaffirm their wedding vows. We wish them well.

Locally, we're challenging you to take some time this week, individually and as a couple, to reflect upon the vows you have made. Re-visit. Re-connect. Re-commit.

2. Make some time for your spouse this week

You mightn't buy into the consumerism of Valentines day but do take some time to celebrate your marriage this week. Maybe your anniversary is a long way off, or maybe it's just passed – either way it's another excuse to celebrate your marriage. Maybe you'll carve out some time alone or organise a dinner party to celebrate with others? Maybe you'll offer to babysit to let another couple have a night out? Either way, spend some quality time together.

3. Attend or run a marriage course in 2014

This is definitely the most costly in terms of time and effort but there are so many great resources out there and so many couples who would benefit from a marriage course. Why not vow to go along yourselves or to host a course in your home or at your Church? Speak to your own church leader and/or these organisations that run marriage courses locally; [Care for the Family](#), [HTB – The Marriage Course](#) or [Christian Guidelines](#).

Care for the Family are running "Marriage Unlocked", a fun evening for couples exploring practical ways to make marriage better. If you can why not go along to Portstewart Baptist Church on 27 February, more information on the evening is at the bottom of the email.

If you've any queries or would like to share your Marriage Week stories or events please just let us know - d.smyth@eauk.org Guidelines are available at this link: <http://marriage-week.org.uk/theme-for-2014/>

Services tomorrow

Tomorrow (Sunday) is Clogher Diocesan Missionary Sunday an initiative of the Diocesan Board of Mission.

Clergy have been asked to speak on mission or to invite a speaker from a recognized missionary society.

Tomorrow morning the 'Golden Rule' series of addresses continues at the 10.45am Choral Eucharist in the Chapel of Trinity College, Dublin, where the speaker will be Dr Yazid Said, Lecturer in Islamic Studies in the Mater Dei Institute of Education at Dublin City University. He will talk about how the Golden Rule ('Do to others as you would have them do to you') is understood and applied in Islam.

In St Fethlimidh's cathedral, Kilmore, two new canons will be installed tomorrow afternoon by the Dean of Kilmore, the Very Revd Raymond Ferguson. The Revd Sandra Lindsay, Non Stipendiary Minister in charge of the Drumgoon group of parishes will be installed as Prebendary of Annagh and the Revd Ivan Ruiters, Rector of the Killesher group of parishes, will be installed as Prebendary of Drumlease.

From inspiration to impact – the vision of Christian Aid Ireland

Christian Aid Ireland has launched a new vision strategy. Christian Aid Ireland states that it “believes that the underlying causes of poverty were made by, and can be ended by, human action. We also believe that we, the wealthiest generations in human history, have the greatest opportunity to overcome poverty.

“It is a scandal that in the midst of so much wealth, millions are still poor, children go to bed hungry and are uneducated, and that families are homeless and without hope...

We will aim to inspire people throughout Ireland and overseas to play an active and positive role in ending poverty.

- We will work to make a profound, inclusive and lasting impact in the lives of people living in poverty. We want to ensure that the voices of the poor are heard.
- We want to grow our income and supporter network so that we can achieve greater impact in ending poverty. We will continue to be open

and accountable on where our income comes from and how we spend it.

- We will aim to build on our good reputation in Ireland as a strong and effective organisation
- We will do our work with integrity and humility, based on our Christian faith.

Christian Aid Ireland works globally for profound change that eradicates the causes of poverty. We believe in tackling the root causes of poverty, not just the symptoms. We believe the world can and must be changed so that there is equality, dignity and freedom for all, regardless of faith or nationality.

We cannot do this alone. We need people like you to give, act or pray with us, because by working together, we can end poverty. We urge you to get involved and help us achieve our vision of ending poverty.

The strategy can be downloaded at -

http://www.christianaid.ie/Images/christian-aid-ireland-strategic-2013_tcm19-74652.pd

I have faith in church to put wrongs right, says Philomena after meeting Pope

Philomena Lee has met with Pope Francis in the Vatican as part of her campaign to have Ireland's stringent adoption laws re-examined.



Irish Independent - Ms Lee travelled to Rome at the invitation of the Vatican to attend Mass and was joined by actor [Steve Coogan](#) and her daughter Jane Libberton.

The visit is the latest on a remarkable journey that Ms Lee has undertaken since the story of her search was depicted in the movie 'Philomena', which has four Oscar nominations.

She hopes the Pope will support the Philomena Project, which aims to make it easier to reunite adopted children with their biological parents.

"I am honoured and delighted to have been in the presence of Pope Francis today," she said.

"I have always put great faith in the church to put the wrongs of the past right.

"I hope and believe that his Holiness Pope Francis joins me in the fight to help the thousands of mothers and children who need closure on their own stories."

A press conference discussing aims of The Philomena Project will take place in Rome today.

Ms Lee, Ms Libberton and founder of Adoption Rights Alliance Susan Lohan will all be in attendance.

Cookery Demonstration and Artisan Food Fair

Neven Maguire will give a cookery demonstration in the Clanard Court Hotel, Athy, on February 19 at 7.45 pm.

Tickets for the cookery demonstration are sold out however you are welcome to attend the artisan food fair and craft market at 5.00 pm. There is no admission charge. Proceeds are in support of Narraghmore, Timolin, Castledermot and Kinneagh parish.