



Rev. Charles Detha, Rev. Alfred Samani, Rev. Marlin Lomi and Rev. Uel Marrs.

Indonesian Partner Church Leaders Visit to Presbyterian Church

The Irish Presbyterian Church's exploration of a relationship with churches in Indonesia began in

1969, becoming a partner with Gereja Kristen Sumba (GKS) in the 1990s. The last visit by a delegation from Sumba was at the 2005 General Assembly.

Sumba, an island a little smaller than Northern Ireland, has a population of 650,000, 80 per cent of whom are Christian. GKS has been growing steadily since the 1980s, more recently at the rate of 15 congregations per year and has a membership today of 425,000. With 166 congregations and 32 presbyteries, they have 194 full-time ministers, of which the majority are women. Its General Assembly meets every four years.

Having arrived on Sunday, 12th April for a two-week visit, GKS General Chairman, Rev. Alfred Samani hoped that the visit would further develop the already strong links that exist between the two churches and provide opportunities to discuss the next steps in that relationship.

Rev. Samani said, "We have come together to develop a new form of partnership, one that is appropriate to meet the complex challenges both churches face, seeking ways to strengthen the

mission and ministry of our churches for the glory of God and the extension of Christ's Kingdom."

During their Northern Ireland visit the delegation, which also includes Rev. Marlin Lomi, GKS General Secretary and Rev. Charles Detha, Secretary of its Department of Guidance and Training, will meet members of the Council for Global Mission and visit various congregations and PCI projects, along with a visit to Christian Aid. For GKS, the church is very much a manifestation of God in the community, church being integral to the daily life of its members, and with this in mind they will meet with PCI's Council for Social Witness.

The Moderator, Rt. Rev. Dr. Michael Barry said, "We are delighted to welcome our visitors to Belfast and Assembly Buildings. Each year we welcome many delegations from overseas and we hope that this visit will help to develop the partnership and provide opportunities to learn from one another; meeting face-to-face enables us to do this most effectively."

Mervyn McCullagh, who served as a missionary of the Board of Mission Overseas (now Council for Global Mission) in Indonesia from 1998 to

2010 and interpreted for the visitors said, "It is wonderful to see the relationship between PCI and GKS develop and blossom as we welcome our friends from Sumba to Northern Ireland at this time."

Christ Church Cathedral's Music Outreach Programme

Ian Keatley, Organist & Director of Music at Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin, comments on two events in the programme - a Diocesan Music Day on Sunday 10th May, and a Conducting Workshop for Parish Church Musicians on Thursday 7th May -

On the Diocesan Music Day Parish church choirs are invited to sing Evensong together with the combined cathedral choirs. Participating choirs, or individual singers, should attend a rehearsal at 2.30pm. Evensong will be followed, at 4.45pm, by a reception. If you would like to take part or require more information, please do not hesitate to Mr Keatley at ian@christchurch.ie or 01 677 8099.

The music for this service is: Parry I was glad, Stanford in C and Ayleward Responses.

The cathedral will provide a booklet containing all the sheet music on the day. If you would like copies of any of the music beforehand, please contact Mr Keatley at ian@christchurch.ie or 01 677 8099.

Parish organists and choir directors in the United Dioceses are invited to come to a choral conducting workshop, which Mr Keatley will lead, on Thursday 7th May from 6.45pm to 7.30pm. Participants will be invited, if they wish, to conduct the cathedral choir in a simple motet. A sample of suggested repertoire will include:

Ave verum (Byrd), Almighty and everlasting God (Gibbons), God be in my head (Walford Davies), Locus iste (Anton Bruckner). Only a small number of places is available, so if you would like to take part, or require more information, please do not hesitate to contact Mr Keatley by Tuesday 5th May at ian@christchurch.ie or 01 677 8099.

Mr Keatley said, "Outreach and education is a priority for me and the cathedral music team. We have put in place an outreach programme that seeks to build upon already existing strong and positive relationships with the parish churches of the dioceses.

“The cathedral choir has visited Kilbride Church near Bray, and St Maelruain's Church in Tallaght, to support their worship.

“As we aspire to meet the actual needs of parish church musicians in the diocese, we are also running a series of training workshops and look forward to sharing ideas on repertoire for parish music-making next term.”

Change in first day arrangements for C of I Synod

The General Synod of the Church of Ireland will take place from Thursday 7th May to Saturday 9th May 2015 at the Armagh City Hotel, Friary Road, Armagh.

This year, in a change to the usual format, the General Synod will begin with the Synod Service of Holy Communion to be held in St Patrick's Cathedral, Armagh at 10.30am. The business of the General Synod is scheduled to commence in the conference centre of the hotel at 12.00 noon.

The Archbishop of Armagh, The Most Revd Dr Richard Clarke, will deliver his presidential address shortly after 12.00 noon on the first day, Thursday 7th

Armagh cathedral memorial wall in memory of RUC

A memorial wall in memory of RUC and Service Personnel victims of the Troubles is to be located in St Patrick's Church of Ireland cathedral in Armagh.

To support the memorial wall project a special DVD has been produced paying tribute to all Security Force members who served in County Armagh. It is titled 'Holding the Line in Co Armagh' and copies are available at Jo-Anne Dobson's office at Rathfriland Street, Banbridge and at the UUP Advice Centre at Bridge Street, Portadown.

A fund-raiser for the initiative was held recently in Mahon Road Methodist Church, Portadown. 301 RUC officers were murdered across Northern Ireland in the troubles.

Ethical fundraising workshops for church and faith based groups

Two workshops are taking place in or close to the Diocese of Down and Dromore. Each will take the form of a practical session delivered by James Lavery from Community Change who specialises in all aspects of community and strategic fundraising. The training is suitable for:

- Any community and voluntary based group/organisation interested in sourcing funding from suitable 'ethical' funders/trusts.
- Volunteers or staff who work within the community/voluntary sector.
- Any group that works with faith based organisations.

What will be covered?

- Overview of a range of 'ethical' funders/charitable trusts
- Overview of funders interested in funding faith based activities
- Understanding the Do's & Don'ts of funding applications
- Exploring what makes a successful application
- Different fundraising ideas
- Easy to understand, practical examples

- Using social media for fundraising
- Questions and answers

Armagh and Bangor events

Thursday 23 April 2015 from 10.00 am – 12.30 pm

Armagh Business Centre, 2 Loughgall Road, Armagh, BT61 7NH

Thursday 14 May 2015 from 10.00 am – 12.30 pm

NDCN Community Hub, Unit 25–26, Bangor Flagship Centre, Main Street, Bangor, BT20 5AU

Cost (includes refreshments)

Community Change Members: £20.00 per attendee

Non-members: £30.00 per attendee

To register for either workshop please contact Deirdre on 028 9023 2587 or via email at office@communitychange-ni.org

Divine Healing Ministries training

Training – for those who would like to be involved in the healing ministry will take place in St Anne's Cathedral every Thursday from April 30th to May 28th at 8pm. This will be for those who would like to use their skills with Divine

Healing Ministries or in their own church. Training will be led by Brother David Jardine and members of his team. There will be no charge for this course, but on the final evening there will be a chance to make a voluntary donation.

Please contact the office (10am – 1pm) – telephone 028 9031 1532 or email divinehealing@live.co.uk.

Plans Underway for 2015 Dublin and Glendalough Kids' Camp

The United Dioceses of Dublin & Glendalough have announced details of their 2015 Kids' Camp. The camp will take place from Sunday June 28 to Friday July 3 2015 in St Columba's College, Whitechurch, Dublin 16.

The week will be full of the best of what camp has to offer: plenty of games, outdoor pursuits, swimming, music, arts and craft, good friends, laughter and fun. It's a place where kids can hang out and just relax. There will be great adventures in a safe and caring environment. Kids will be enabled to be themselves and will have opportunities to explore their faith in God.

This year's camp will be co-led by Philip McKinley and the Revd Baden Stanley. The cost churchnewsireland@gmail.com

for the week will be €175 which includes all food, accommodation, trips and activities. Tuck shop money is all that is required at camp.

The Camp is open to those finishing 4th Class up to 6th Class and bookings should be made by Monday 25 May 2015 and places are on a first come first served basis. For further information contact Lynn Storey: dublinandglendaloughkidscamp@gmail.com, mobile – 087 6957061.

Philip McKinley is a Theology Graduate from Trinity College and has worked previously for the Hard Gospel Project, Irish Council of Churches and Blanchardstown Methodist Church. He is also co-founder and singer with the multi-ethnic Discovery Gospel Choir, which is based in St George and St Thomas' Church, Cathal Brugha Street.

Philip is currently working for ACET Ireland and is also a short-term Youth Worker in Whitechurch Parish. Speaking in advance of the Diocesan Kid's Camp, Philip said, 'I have very fond memories of the Camp down in Gurteen College, Co Tipperary, when I was invited as a speaker some years ago. The camp has also been of great benefit and support to members of the Discovery Gospel Choir down through the

years, so it is a pleasure for me to be able to assist lead the Camp this year, especially as it's located in my old alma mater St Columba's College'.

Union College Professor training Church members and leaders in France

Rev. Gordon Campbell has been Professor of *New Testament Studies* at [Union Theological College](#) since 2007. From 1998 to 2005 he taught New Testament at [Faculté Jean Calvin \(FJC\)](#) in Aix-en-Provence, which trains men and women for ministry in various Reformed or Evangelical denominations in France, Belgium, Switzerland and French-speaking Africa.

As part of PCI's on-going partnership with FJC, Gordon (a member of PCI's Leadership Development Committee) has returned to Aix every year since to help in delivering the New Testament curriculum.

In a **new venture**, Gordon is due to visit Brittany to deliver a day's intensive teaching to Church members and leaders drawn from Evangelical Churches across Northwest France and to preach at worship locally the following day.

On Saturday 11th April, as part of an initiative called *Focus Brittany*, 23 students will converge on a small Church near Dinard, on Brittany's north coast, for a day's teaching from Gordon on the Book of Revelation.

One third will follow up the intensive day with some guided reading and a written assignment for Gordon to mark.

The remaining two thirds will take away what they have learnt and apply it in their Bible reading, preaching (in some cases) and daily living.

Justin Welby becomes first patron of debt counselling charity CAP

The Archbishop of Canterbury is to become the first patron of debt counselling charity Christians Against Poverty, signalling once again his determination to put the issue of poverty on the front line.

His new patronage also shows however that his key objective is not so much engaging with political debate but actually taking steps to address issues such as debt and poverty at a practical, grass roots level.

"Most of us know people who've been in debt," he says in a video to launch the charity

"Many of us, probably most of us, have had moments when either we've been in debt or we've begun to wonder how on earth we're ever going to make ends meet. CAP deals in helping people to get free of the prison of debt and it's something I feel passionately about. And having seen them at work and having seen how effective they are, I wanted to be a patron and to support them in any way I could."

The charity has grown in nearly 20 years to a network of hundreds of churches across the UK. Archbishop Welby got to know its work during a visit to the Bristol diocese last year.

Archbishop Welby said: "First of all they tackle the issues where they really exist, they go to people's homes, they treat people as human beings, they keep them with their dignity, they're not trying to make money out of them, they're there to love them and to enable them to find their own way forward. It's not just about telling them what to do, it's about a sense of ownership and liberation for them.

"Secondly, they are linked to local churches. Over 20 per cent of CAP branches link in in

some way to a Church of England church but all of them link in to Christian churches. That's really exciting because it means there's a community for those who want it. CAP don't force them into the church or anything like that but they offer them scope to find the support and love of a Christian community. That's wonderful."

The charity is also working in areas such as addiction that can lead people into a spiral of debt.

Founder and international director John Kirkby said: "We're delighted and grateful to have the Archbishop as our first ever patron. This is not something I would ever have imagined when I started all this in my spare bedroom in 1996.

"The Church of England is a major player in fighting poverty. Around 20 per cent of CAP services only happen on the ground, in communities, because of committed Anglicans who want to see a change. About 60 of their churches are running debt centres with us, for example."

Since his appointment as Archbishop of Canterbury in March 2013, Archbishop Welby has been outspoken about poverty and, in particular, the availability of easy credit from

payday lenders. Last year he launched the To Your Credit initiative to promote responsible lending and financial advice.

Of the charity's 280 debt centres, 60 are based at Church of England churches with more expected to open next month.



Archbishop Tutu to co-author book on happiness with Dalai Lama

The Dalai Lama is collaborating with Archbishop Desmond Tutu for a new book that explores the

topic of joy, publishers Penguin Random House said on Thursday.

The two spiritual leaders are set to meet in Dharamshala later this month for the Buddhist leader's 80th birthday celebrations where they will work together to create "The Book of Joy," themed on "finding enduring happiness in an uncertain world."

The meeting allows for the two Nobel Peace Laureates to spend a week together in "deep dialogue and playful laughter as they share their experience of how to find joy in the face of life's challenges."

<http://www.firstpost.com/world/dalai-lama-archbishop-desmond-tutu-come-together-to-write-book-on-happiness-2198854.html>

Media digest

UTV

NI Abortion legislation change ‘substantial support’

The Justice Minister David Ford has claimed that there is a substantial body of support to make limited changes to the law on abortion.

<http://www.u.tv/News/2015/04/16/Abortion-legislation-change-substantial-support-35596>

<http://www.northernireland.gov.uk/index/media-centre/news-departments/news-doj/news-doj-160415-substantial-support-for.htm>

NI Suicide rates down but no room for complacency

Suicide rates in Northern Ireland are declining, but there is no room for complacency, the Health Department has said.

<http://www.u.tv/News/2015/04/16/Suicide-rates-down-but-no-room-for-complacency-35571>

Irish Examiner

Inter - faith call for conscience clause in referendum

Muslim, Quaker, and Christian groups have called for a “conscience clause” to be included in the marriage equality referendum which would allow people to ignore gay marriage rights in certain circumstances.

The Irish Council of Imams, Islamic Cultural Centre of Ireland, and individual members of the Reformed Presbyterian and Quaker churches made the call in a petition sent to Justice Minister Frances Fitzgerald in recent days.

The document states that the religious bodies disagree strongly with the proposed “aggressive secularism” constitutional changes. It was written after a number of recent controversial cases of businesses refusing gay couples as customers.

<http://www.irishexaminer.com/ireland/religions-unite-against-referendum-324040.html>

Irish Independent

'Children should not be used as pawns by campaigners in this referendum to spread fear' - Minister James Reilly

<http://www.independent.ie/irish-news/politics/children-should-not-be-used-as-pawns-by-campaigners-in-this-referendum-to-spread-fear-minister-james-reilly-31147986.html>

Journal.ie

James Reilly doesn't want children being used as pawns to spread fear

http://www.thejournal.ie/james-reilly-children-fear-2051514-Apr2015/?utm_source=twitter_self

PR Week

Report on what four major religions are doing to keep themselves relevant to an increasingly secular society, with specialist religious reporting in decline. It examines how the Church of England runs its media relations with CofE Director of Communications, Arun Arora, quoted. He says the CofE gets some good press coverage of local and national issues and has a powerful advocacy role through the media.

<http://www.prweek.com/article/1341671/spreading-word>

BBC

Report that a former Church of England priest has been charged with abusing a boy more than 25 years ago. Jonathan Graves, 57, of Jervis Avenue, Eastbourne, is accused of indecent assault against a boy aged 11 to 13 between 1987 and 1990. He also faces three other charges.

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-sussex-32325948>

Mail

Report on plans to mark the 70th anniversary of VE Day from May 8 to 10. It states the three-day commemoration will begin with a Service of Remembrance on VE Day (May 8) at The Cenotaph and a national two-minute silence at 3pm, marking the moment Winston Churchill

announced the end of the war. Cathedrals are being encouraged to ring their bells at 11am on the Saturday. On the Sunday there will be a Service of Thanksgiving at Westminster Abbey attended by The Queen, followed by a parade to St James's Park, where the Royal British Legion will host a lunch reception for 2,000 veterans.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3040925/Status-Quo-Katherine-Jenkins-headline-VE-Day-concert-Event-series-commemorations-mark-70th-anniversary.html#ixzz3XRa9Wd3t>

Times

Report that growing competition for places at the best schools is leading councils to scrap a rule giving priority to siblings. Wandsworth, in southwest London, has decided to remove sibling priority from September 2016 to give new parents a better chance of securing places. It states that in most areas, council-run schools give priority to siblings of existing pupils.

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/education/article4412856.ece>

Guard

Article on how Christianity is under siege in the very place where it was born. Jane Corbin reports on her six-week trip across the Middle East in which she met church leaders and

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embattled congregations, and says that Christianity is hanging by a thread, and may not survive in some places.

<http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2015/apr/15/middle-east-christians-islamic-persecution-iraq-war>

Spectator

Columnist Jeremy Clarke recounts how his son was warmly welcomed into church on Easter Day.

<http://www.spectator.co.uk/life/low-life/9500292/a-child-in-church-its-a-miracle/>

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