



Irish news 12th February

Volunteers needed for Friendship House

Presbyterian Women are looking for volunteers for Friendship House, their community project in Sandy Row, Belfast



Volunteers are needed to help run and develop their programmes for next year, starting in September. South Belfast Friendship House is situated in Blythe Street and is committed to providing a Christian witness in the Sandy Row community.

It is ideally situated on a residential street adjacent to shops, factories and other community facilities. It is a place in which fellowship and support are available. The work undertaken in the House continues to grow and develop. The After School Club, the Young Mums' Group and the Older People's Work all aim to improve the quality of life for the people in this area of South Belfast. The staff of the House also reach out into the community by offering friendship to the residents of a neighbouring Men's Hostel.

In the early days of South Belfast Friendship House, the PWA was responsible for its management and funding. In 2004 the Board of Social Witness also became involved in the management of the House.

South Belfast Friendship House is now funded and managed by PW, in partnership with the Board of Social Witness. It continues to have a crucial role in working with families in this area of South Belfast. It has been renovated and extended to include a new multipurpose room and was

reopened in March 2010 was by The Rt Hon The Lord Mayor, Councillor Naomi Long. The act of worship and Rededication was conducted The Rt Rev Dr Stafford Carson, Moderator of the General Assembly.

The House is managed by Deaconess [Jenny Robinson](#) with Eunice Moore, Senior Project Worker, and Natalie Johnston, Youth and Children's Worker. A team of volunteers also help with the day-to-day activities.

[Click here to find out more.](#)

<http://www.presbyterianireland.org/Related-Bodies/Presbyterian-Women/Mission/South-Belfast-Friendship-House#volunteer>

World Day of Prayer

On Friday 7th March at 8pm in the Church of Our Lady and St. John, Carrigaline, there will be an Ecumenical Prayer Service on the theme 'Streams in the Desert' which was written by the women of Egypt.

World Day of Prayer Service will be broadcast on RTE – mark it in your diaries 9. February 2014 at 11.10am.

It's the Service on Sunday on RTE 1 and RTE Radio 1. The link to the live stream online is www.rte.ie/player. You can access the online live stream from all over the world.

World Day of Prayer is a worldwide movement led by Christian women who come together to observe a common day of prayer each year. www.wdopi.org

Charles Wood Summer school

This year's Festival and Summer School will take place from 17-24 August in Armagh.

David Hill is the Artistic Director, Philip Scriven is Organist and Associate Conductor, and Judith Gannon is Assistant Conductor. The organisers state that details on how to apply to become a member of the Charles Wood Singers will be available soon.

Clonard Holy Hour

The monthly holy hour for hope and healing in the community will take place at 7pm in Clonard Monastery, Belfast.

It follows on from the 615pm Mass. The holy hour is to pray for the intentions of those affected by suicide, car crime and other social issues affecting the people of Belfast.

PCI link with Malawi hospital strong

The David Gordon Memorial Hospital (DGMH) in Livingstonia, Malawi has published its its first Newsletter of 2014, giving up-to-date information on the hospital's work.

It includes short reports on 'Christmas at the Hospital', 'Coping with Malaria Peak Season' and 'Shallow Wells Protection', as well as prayer requests.

PCI's [Dr Lyn Dowds](#) continues to serve as the main doctor at the hospital.



DGMH – one of five hospitals run by the [Church of Central Africa Presbyterian \(CCAP\)](#) – is a 130 bed mission hospital, situated on top of the [Livingstonia Plateau](#), in Northern Malawi not far from the western shores of [Lake Malawi](#). There is no public transport and no paved road to the hospital, so getting supplies to DGMH is often difficult.

DGMH, like the CCAP's other mission hospitals, struggles to find the funding to meet its running costs. Over the years a number of PCI congregations, as well as individuals, have given generous support, which has been greatly appreciated by staff and patients alike. In the current difficult economic climate, the need for support is even more acute.

Download: [DGMH January 2014 Newsletter \(pdf 412Kb\)](#)

Mothers' Union rejoice at Myanmar centenary

Members of the Mothers' Union in Ireland have remembered the church in Myanmar through difficult times. This year the MU in Myanmar is celebrating its centenary.

Myanmar became a member in 1914 and a 3-day Centennial celebration was launched in Yangon recently with the attendance of about 15,000 members across the country.

Mothers' Union is an international Christian Charity, founded in 1876 in the Church of England by Mary Sumner, to support families worldwide. It has more than 4 million members in 83 countries

A video of the Myanmar MU celebrations is at - <http://www.anglicannews.org/multimedia/video-myanmar-mothers-union-celebrate-100-years.aspx>

Dublin Black Santa Funds to be distributed

The funds collected during the 2013 Black Santa Sit Out at St Ann's Church, Dawson Street, will be distributed to the various charities on Sunday March 2 at 11.00 am. The preacher will be the Bishop of Meath and Kildare, the Most Revd Pat Storey.

Among the charities to benefit this year will be St Vincent de Paul, The Salvation Army, Protestant Aid, Trust, The Simon Community, The Solas project run by St Catherine's in Thomas Street, Bishops' Appeal and the Laura Lynn Foundation.

In Conversation With ... Stephen Coulter

Contemporary Christianity continue its series "In conversation with..." The next is on Reality through Relationship: Some thoughts on approaching the past.

Dr. Stephen Coulter is currently director of Systemic Psychotherapy Training at Queens University, Belfast. He has a long career in social work, specialising in child and family work, and in Systemic Family Therapy, with a particular interest in working with traumatised families. Stephen is a member of Kirkpatrick Memorial Presbyterian Church.

This is the second in the current series looking at who we are, where have we been and where are we going.

Tuesday 18 February, 7:30pm. Contemporary Christianity office. 3rd Floor, 21 Ormeau Avenue, Belfast, BT2 8HD . [Click here for map](#)
