



CNI



CMS Ireland Mission Director appointed

Church Missionary Society Ireland has announced the appointment of Jenny Smyth as the society's new Mission Director.

Jenny will take over from Ronnie Briggs, who steps down from the post on 6 February as he

and his wife, Maggie, prepare to return to Kenya as CMS Ireland Mission Partners.

As she assumes leadership of CMS Ireland, Jenny brings with her a vast and varied experience of global mission and of CMS. She served as a CMS Britain Mission Partner in Uganda for eight years before joining the CMS Ireland family in 1996, when she married Billy. Jenny and Billy then served together as Mission Partners in Uganda (first in Kampala, then in Arua) and in Yei Diocese, South Sudan. They returned to Ireland in 2006, with their children Abigail and Caleb.

Jenny served as a Trustee on the CMS Ireland Board for five years before joining the staff team in November 2013, as Partnership Coordinator for DR Congo, Egypt, South Sudan and Zambia.

Speaking about this latest appointment, Jenny comments:

‘It is a wonderful privilege to be called to serve in the capacity of Mission Director as we go forward from our bicentenary thanksgiving year. I pray for the Lord’s enabling as the society continues to develop Partnership Links between our Global

Partners and churches throughout Ireland.

‘Many of our Global Partners are facing huge new challenges as they seek to share the good news of Jesus in their communities and demonstrate His transforming love. In CMS Ireland, we will continue to facilitate these links, challenge Christians to step out in service, to share our time, skills and resources as we support one another prayerfully and practically within God’s worldwide family.’

Ronnie Briggs has been CMS Ireland’s Mission Director since November 2010 and has also been acting as Partnership Coordinator for Kenya and Nepal. He and Maggie are due to return to Kenya at the end of February to begin a new term of Mission Partner service.

Ronnie has this to say about Jenny’s appointment:

‘I am delighted to be able to welcome Jenny as the new Mission Director for CMS Ireland. This role requires a clear call from God and I know that Jenny has expressed that call over the whole process. She brings with her a breadth of experience of both the church here in Ireland and

with many of our Global Partners. Please uphold Jenny and her family in prayer over the next few weeks and months, as she takes CMS Ireland into its next phase of ministry.'

How Black Santa Makes A Difference

A charity training dogs to literally transform people's lives is one of almost 200 to be awarded a share of money raised by the annual Black Santa Sitout at Belfast Cathedral.

Almost £180,000 will be distributed at the Good Samaritans' Service in St Anne's on Sunday 1 February at 3.30pm with special guest Songs of Praise presenter Claire McCollum.

The recipients range from small charities, run by a handful of volunteers, to national charities who need every penny to help the people who rely on them here in Northern Ireland. They include charities working with children and the elderly, charities specialising in music, in sport and arts, charities whose support is a lifeline in deprived communities, charities who strive to find cures and comforts, and charities who work overseas.



Assistance Dogs NI will use its grant to buy equipment for five pups currently in training for a role which will transform life for a child with autism or someone with a disability. The dogs' skills include loading a washing machine,

switching lights on and off, and providing a 'safety anchor' for children.

The dogs help promote independence. They address challenging behaviour, help children to express their emotions, and give people a reason to go outside.

Becca has autism and has an assistance dog named Honey. Becca used to have violent meltdowns and also self-harmed. *"Since we got Honey this has all ended,"* said Becca's mum Michelle. *"Honey has made a huge impact. Our daughter is now happier and much more confident."*

Cahoots NI brings magic, illusion and live music to children. A Black Santa grant will allow Cahoots to take its 'Magic Menu' show into the homes of children receiving treatment for cancer.

The project aims to provide fun and happy memories for children who are isolated for fear of infection and for the whole family at a time of great upheaval.

Older people in rural care homes are able to enjoy live music from professional musicians

thanks to a project by Live Music Now. A Black Santa grant will support this programme, which is also delivered to people with disabilities and learning difficulties in day centres.

The Dean of Belfast, the Very Revd John Mann said: “Sometimes I wonder has Black Santa run its course and if the constant appeal for charity funds is something that needs to be re–invigorated with fresh thinking every few years.

“Then I go out onto the steps of the Cathedral before Christmas, drag out the barrel and, before I have my hat and gloves on, a passer–by digs deep for a coin or note, uttering ‘that’ll start you on your way’ or some such encouragement.

“I just know that this channel to support the wonderful charitable work of others in the community is here to stay. Make no mistake, this is heart–warming and humbling.”

St Patrick’s Dublin organ scholar appointment

Martina Smyth will join the Music Department of Saint Patrick's Cathedral as organ scholar in September 2015.



Martina began her organ studies with Dr David Adams at the Royal Irish Academy of Music in 2009, and was awarded two part-time student scholarships for the academic years 2011 and

2012. Having completed her secondary school education, she has been attending the RIAM as a full-time degree student since September 2013 and is due to graduate with a BA in Music Performance (Organ) degree in 2017, validated by Trinity College, Dublin.

In 2012, Martina won first prize at the Northern Ireland International Organ Competition (Intermediate Category), and then in 2013, she came first in the Feis Ceoil Senior Organ competition.

Currently Martina is the organ scholar at Christ Church Cathedral where she enjoys working with the many musical projects in the Cathedral. She helps accompany the Cathedral Choirs, and enjoys also the many opportunities there are to perform voluntaries. She combines her role in the Cathedral with piano/organ teaching and accompanist work and she hopes to pursue a career in performing and accompanying in the future.

CMS Ireland 'Little Lights' 2015 Children's Resource

On 2 February, Church Missionary Society Ireland will launch Little Lights – the 2015 version

of its annual resource for children and young people.



The Little Lights Children's Resource explores global mission, with a particular focus on DR Congo. Using stories from the bible and examples from around the world today, the material looks at how we can all shine as little lights. The pack includes original material for four sessions and includes DVD films and individual workbooks. It is aimed at 4–15 year-olds and is a great resource for churches who want to encourage a greater interest in mission. There's also an opportunity to raise funds in support of the work of the Church in DR Congo.

The Little Lights pack will be launched on Monday 2 February at 7:30pm, in St Mark's, Dundela, Belfast and the material will also be introduced at a CMSI gathering in Dublin, (Holy Trinity, Rathmines), on Wednesday 4 February (11am).

Following these events, CMSI staff will host a number of informal 'Pit Stops', offering a chance for folk to drop-in and look at the material, chat with staff or pick up project packs.

- Sunday 8 February – St Patrick's Halls, Ballymena; any time between 3pm and 4:15pm
- Tuesday 10 February – St Patrick's Halls, Coleraine; between 8pm and 9:15pm
- Wednesday 11 February – Holy Trinity, Banbridge; between 8pm and 9:15pm
- Thursday 12 February – St Macartin's Halls, Enniskillen; between 4:30pm and 6:15pm
- Thursday 12 February – St Anne's, Dungannon; between 8pm and 9:15pm

For more information on the CMSI Children's Resource and the Pit Stops or to order your resources, visit CMS Ireland's website (www.cmsireland.org) or contact their Belfast office.

Belfast Cathedral library catalogue now online



Archbishop Richard Clarke and Dean John Mann

A catalogue listing books ancient, rare and modern kept in the library of St Anne's Cathedral, Belfast, is now available online.

Last summer, two interns from Queen's University spent several weeks working in the library cataloguing every book in the collection. Their work can now be downloaded from the Cathedral website, allowing anyone searching for an old or rare theological book to check the library's collection with just the click of a mouse.

The book can then be easily located in the library which is open to visitors daily, but it is advisable to ring ahead as it is sometimes booked by groups. When the Queen's interns arrived in July, they found the books had already been placed in categories, and they set about listing them on a spreadsheet including as much information as possible – the author, the title and the ISBN number, although many of the books are much too old to have one.

The library was opened in St Anne's Cathedral in February 2013, and the official opening was attended by the Archbishop of Armagh.

At the opening, the Dean of Belfast expressed thanks to Paul Gilmore, who was on placement in the Cathedral for six months and whose efforts had resulted in the establishment of the library.

<http://belfastcathedral.org/contacts/library/>

Archbishop Welby commissions key members of Community of St Anselm for young Christians

Two key members of the Archbishop of Canterbury's new community for young Christians were commissioned at Lambeth Palace this week.

Archbishop Justin Welby licensed the Revd Anders Litzell as Prior of the Community of St Anselm, and Sister Sonia Béranger as its Director of Community, in an ecumenical service attended by clergy, religious and lay people from a variety of different churches and religious communities.



During the service the congregation laid hands on the new Prior and Director as they prayed for them in English and French.

The Community of St Anselm, which launches in September, is a radical new initiative by Archbishop Justin Welby. Young Christians from churchnewsireland@gmail.com

around the world are invited to spend 'a year in God's time' at Lambeth Palace.

Mr Litzell is an Anglican priest from Sweden, who has experience of the Pentecostal and Lutheran traditions as well as three provinces of the Anglican Communion. Having studied in the USA before becoming ordained in the Church of England, he served a Lutheran parish in Sweden and directed Alpha's Sweden office. Later he moved to London to work with Alpha International. He will pioneer the Community and direct its worship and work.

Sister Sonia is a senior member of the Chemin Neuf community with much experience in the spiritual formation of young people across several continents. Most recently she led Chemin Neuf's community at Hautecombe Abbey in France. As well as being responsible for the Abbey, which receives 100,000 visitors a year, she also ran a training programme for young Christians from different nationalities and denominations. She will be responsible for the spiritual formation and communal life of the Community of St Anselm.

Archbishop Justin Welby said: “This is a moment of extraordinary adventure. We don’t know what the outcomes will be. It is a question for the Holy Spirit of God, and that’s a very, very good place to be.

“Our hope and vision is that those young people who come here will be so changed by their encounter with Christ that in twenty or thirty years, they will change the world.”

Archbishops will no longer receive the pallium in Rome

Metropolitan archbishops will no longer receive the pallium at a formal ceremony in Rome following a decision by Pope Francis.

The Pope has decided that each newly-appointed metropolitan archbishops should be formally vested at a ceremony held in their own archdiocese, by the Apostolic Nuncio, replacing the tradition of the pontiff presenting the pallium on the Feast of St Peter and St Paul in Rome.

Mgr Guido Marini, the master of liturgical ceremonies, wrote in a letter to new archbishops that Pope Francis thought this new initiative

would “greatly favour the participation of the local Church.”



Despite this change, Pope Francis has still invited each new archbishop to join him in Rome on June 29 this year to concelebrate at Mass on the Feast of St Peter and St Paul.

The Pope will also bless each pallium, and present the vestment to the archbishops who are present, privately after the Mass.

The wearing of the pallium dates back to the fourth century predating the miter and the crozier as episcopal symbols. The pallium is a white woolen strip, worn around the neck, which

symbolises the bond between an archbishop and his Pope.

Rowan Williams Challenges Faith Community To Respond To Climate Challenge

Christian Aid Chair Dr Rowan Williams marked Bristol becoming the 2015 European Green Capital with a stark warning about the spiritual imperative to show responsibility to others and the planet.

Dr Williams delivered the keynote speech to 200 people inside Bristol's packed Elim Church.

Reflecting on the day's conference titled Climate Change: A Matter Of Faith, Dr Williams said: "The world's poorest people – those communities who have done the least to cause climate change – bear the brunt of its impact. By being part of Bristol 2015 and taking steps towards a safer and cleaner future, we can stand shoulder-to-shoulder with people around the world. I was delighted to see the strong level of support for the day and the palpable sense of urgency amongst Christians from across the region.

“Bristol 2015 offers churches and faith communities in the city an opportunity to demonstrate their commitment to caring for people and planet.

The conference, organised by Christian Aid, CAFOD, Tearfund and South West Fairtrade, combined theological context with challenges, ideas, inspiration and resources including voices and reflections from Uganda and Bangladesh on the impacts of climate change.

The day began with Dr Williams addressing around 15 of the region’s church leaders at a cross-denominational breakfast where representatives including those from Anglican, Baptist, Salvation Army, United Reformed Church, Quaker churches all signed a pledge to live more sustainably, pray for action on climate change and raise these issues at meetings of their governing bodies.

With tips and suggestions including reducing dependence on fossil fuels, installing solar panels, growing food, switching to green electricity suppliers and lobbying MPs the

conference included practical ideas for both individuals and church communities.

Christian Aid's regional coordinator for Bristol Lydia Nash said: "We have been delighted by the response to the conference which indicates the level of commitment across church communities in Bristol to tackle issues of climate change and to care for the planet. Bristol 2015 is a real opportunity to extend that commitment and to make this a year when lasting change takes root.

"Our work with partners in 45 countries across the world shows us the vital importance of making changes here in Bristol to help improve not only our immediate environment but those of communities where global warming presents an immediate and growing threat." Lunch was provided by FareShare SouthWest who use food industry surplus to feed poorer communities.

Bishop Heather Cook: A request for resignation from the Diocese of Maryland

The [Standing Committee](#) of the Episcopal Diocese of Maryland has requested Heather

Cook's resignation as bishop suffragan in a letter sent through her lawyer on January 27.

On Dec 27, 2014, Heather Cook hit and killed cyclist Thomas Palermo, 41, and has been charged by police with vehicular manslaughter, driving under the influence, and texting while driving, among other charges.

"It was clear that our lay and clergy leaders on the Standing Committee felt that the best interests of the diocese would be served were Heather to resign. Since this does not impede the Episcopal Church's investigation into the matter, it is my hope Heather will see the wisdom in this recommendation," said the Right Rev. Eugene Taylor Sutton, bishop of Maryland.

The Episcopal Diocese of Maryland is acting as swiftly as it can in the context of the Episcopal Church's disciplinary action, [Title IV](#), currently underway. While Cook cannot resign her orders as a bishop while the disciplinary process is underway, nothing prevents her from resigning as an employee of the Diocese of Maryland.

Follow this link to read the [Standing Committee's letter](#).

Mormon Church supports LGBT legal protections

The Mormon Church **announced** this week that it supports anti-discrimination legislation to protect LGBT Americans.

The Church made the announcement during a press conference at its Salt Lake City headquarters, and added the caveat that the religious beliefs of those opposing LGBT rights should also be protected.

Quorum of Twelve Apostles member Elder Darrin Oaks insisted: "When religious people are publicly intimidated, retaliated against, forced from employment or made to suffer personal loss because they have raised their voice in the public square, donated to a cause or participated in an election, our democracy is the loser. Such tactics are every bit as wrong as denying access to employment, housing or public services because of race or gender."

Oaks cited several examples of people of various denominations being persecuted for demonstrating their belief in biblical marriage.

Last year, for instance, Houston Mayor and outspoken lesbian Annise Parker moved to subpoena the sermons of five pastors who openly opposed the Houston Equal Rights Ordinance.

Oaks found such targeting hypocritical.

"It is one of today's great ironies that some people who have fought so hard for LGBT rights now try to deny the rights of others to disagree with their public policy proposals," he said.

Quorum member Elder D Todd Christofferson said the Church's announcement came after years of discussion with LGBT groups, and coincided with the start of new legislative sessions.

Media digest

Ukip fury at Northern Ireland families on £23,000 welfare benefits: 'Sift out unemployable hangers-on', says MLA

<http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/politics/ukip-fury-at-northern-ireland-families-on-23000-welfare-benefits-sift-out-unemployable-hangerson-says-mla-30946949.html>

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