



The Corrymeela Community has had a clear mission statement throughout its 50 years

Corrymeela opens "space of celebration"

Corrymeela, Northern Ireland's longest established reconciliation community, is in the midst of a year of celebrations to mark its 50th

anniversary, with a flagship weekend festival starting outside Ballycastle tomorrow.

William Scholes in Irish News - Called Aperture, it is billed as a "festival of diversity" with arts, debate, politics, faith, music and celebration part of the mix.

"The Aperture festival will be a wonderful and temporary community for three full days on the north coast," said Pádraig Ó Tuama, Corrymeela community leader.

"This family-friendly festival, marking Corrymeela's 50th anniversary, will give shape to a wide range of ideas and the authentic personal stories behind Corrymeela, placing it all in the context of a celebration of 50 years of community.

"We will celebrate local and international peace building. We will celebrate our common ground and our differences and we'll explore how far we've come and how far we have to go.

"We will listen to voices often ignored and in a space of celebration; dialogue and diversity talk about our differences and celebrate the amazing work of community."



Poets, musicians and theologians are among those involved, as well as politicians and circus acts, though not on the same bill.

Music at Aperture comes from artists including Duke Special, Iain Archer, The Sands Family, Goldie Fawn, Jun Tzu, Master and Dog, Rory Nellis and Voices Together.

Keynote speakers include Nuala O'Loan, Marian Partington - whose sister was killed by Fred and Rosemary West - Glenn Patterson, Tony McCauley and Sigi Rieuwerts.

There will be panel discussions on human rights, the Good Friday agreement, aid and faith.

:: Aperture, the Corrymeela 50th Anniversary Festival runs from today (Friday) until Sunday August 2. More information at [www.corrymeela.org /50](http://www.corrymeela.org/50)

Presbyterian Moderator visits Malawi

Very Rev Dr Ian. McNie, Moderator of the Irish Presbyterian Church is making an 18-day visit to Malawi, the south-east African nation known as the 'warm heart of Africa'. The visit is to support the work of PCI's missionaries in the country and to see first hand the work of the Church of Central Africa Presbyterian (CCAP), one of PCI's partner churches.

Speaking before he left for Lilongwe, Malawi's capital, Dr. McNie said, "The primary purpose of the visit is to encourage and support the amazing work that our PCI missionary personnel are doing in so many areas of Malawian life. This includes Diane Cusick from Bushvale Presbyterian Church, Ballymoney, our longest serving missionary in the country, who has been there for 20 years now.

"It will also be an opportunity to meet the Rev. Levi Nyondo, General Secretary of CCAP's Livingstonia Synod, who I welcomed to Belfast

for our General Assembly in June. We will visit the Church's three Synods, meet with other CCAP leaders and visit some of their projects. In these visits we will be able to see first hand the work that our brothers and sisters in Christ are involved in and pray with them and for their work," he said.

Engaged in youth and children's ministry, education, healthcare and theological education, the Presbyterian Church in Ireland supports 11 missionaries in Malawi.

The Moderator, who is accompanied by his wife Anne and the Church's Global Mission Secretary, Rev. Uel Marrs, will travel across the country visiting each missionary, except two who are currently on leave.

Around 70 per cent of the country's 15 million people claim membership of a Christian church. PCI's relationship with Church of Central Africa Presbyterian, Malawi's largest reformed denomination began in the mid-1950s. In 1958 Rev. Bill Jackson became the first missionary from PCI to go to Malawi and in the intervening 57 years, over 100 missionaries from PCI have followed in his footsteps.

"In recent years many individuals and teams from PCI congregations have also made short

mission trips to Malawi, spreading the Gospel by both word and action. While many are able to go, even more people at home in congregations across Ireland, support the work of our missionaries around the world, and I would like to acknowledge their faithfulness and immense generosity,” Dr. McNie said.

While he is in the country, the Moderator said that he was also looking forward to seeing Msongwe CCAP church in Mzuzu that his own congregation helped to build. Currently a team from his congregation, Trinity Presbyterian Ballymoney, is working in the Msongwe area running various children’s clubs and youth outreaches, alongside distributing large quantities of maize to needy groups, as well as Ekwendeni Theological College and School for the Blind, Mzuzu Crisis Centre for abandoned children, and some remote villages on the lakeshore. This maize is grown on a farm run by Trinity Church, where they employ local people.

Gallipoli centenary service in Lisburn Cathedral

The Northern Ireland World War 1 Centenary Committee will hold a service in Lisburn Cathedral on Sunday, August 9 at 3pm to

commemorate the centenary of the Gallipoli Campaign of 1915 and to honour all who took part.

Representatives of the Northern and Southern Irish Governments will attend along with the High Commissioners of Australia and New Zealand and the Turkish Ambassador. Each of the eight Irish regiments* which took part in the campaign will also hopefully be represented.

The service will be followed by light refreshments in the Cathedral Hall after which the Defence Adviser at the New Zealand High Commission in London will speak about the Gallipoli Campaign from an Anzac perspective. This service will mark especially the centenary of the attack by the Anzac on the high ground at Chunuk Bair and which was followed shortly later by the landing of 10th (Irish) Division at Suvla Bay. Both of these events incurred very serious casualties, and this service is in remembrance of their actions and losses in particular.

Following the failure of the Anglo-French naval force to drive a passage through the Dardanelles in order to capture Istanbul, the allies decided to capture the Turkish forts overlooking the straits

by a land invasion. At dawn on 25 April 1915, troops of the Mediterranean Expeditionary Force landed on the Gallipoli peninsula. The plan was for the 29th Division and the Royal Naval Division to advance rapidly north from Cape Helles, and for the Australians and New Zealanders (Anzac) to land on the west coast with the intention of crossing the peninsula and so preventing Turkish reinforcements from moving south.

The landings at Cape Helles did not go well because of strong Turkish resistance and the initial targets of the village of Krithia and the high ground of Achi Baba were never achieved. The Australians and New Zealanders fared little better. Because the Royal Navy had underestimated the effect of the tidal current on the west coast, they were landed some 2000 metres north of their proposed landing place and under intense fire from the Turkish defenders.

After three months of bitter fighting the allies at Cape Helles had made little headway against determined opposition, while the Anzacs were pinned down by a series of Turkish attacks augmented by constant accurate sniper fire. The British government reluctantly decided to break the stalemate by making a fresh landing at Suvla Bay using the 9th Army Corps. The 10th (Irish)

Division was a part of this force, and it included units from all the Irish infantry regiments. They made an opposed landing at Suvla Bay in early August. Immediately prior to this landing the Australians and New Zealanders made a determined attack to capture the high ground at Chunuk Bair. The Wellington Battalion captured this high ground and held it for 48 hours before being overwhelmed by a Turkish counter attack. The New Zealand attackers were the only troops of the entire force that caught sight of their ultimate objective – the Dardenelles – whilst holding Chunuk Bair.

The eight Irish Regiments at Gallipoli were:

18th Royal Irish Regiment

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers

Royal Irish (later Ulster) Rifles

Royal Irish Fusiliers

Connaught Rangers

Leinster Regiment

Royal Munster Fusiliers

Royal Dublin Fusiliers

Congo violence recalled by Irish missionary family

A documentary on BBC tomorrow will reveal the dramatic story of how the McAllisters, from Belfast, survived a violent rebellion in Congo in

the mid-Sixties. Una Brankin writes in Belfast Telegraph.



The McAllister family from Belfast was forced to flee a bloody war in Africa and 50 years on they made an emotional return to support their fellow missionaries

All eyes will be on Congo next year, when Co Down superstar Jamie Dornan plays an army commander who leads an Irish UN battalion into a siege in the troubled African country. The Netflix movie is based on a true story from 1961, but an even more dramatic one, arguably, is the

subject of a powerful and moving new television documentary.

A Deadly Mission Belfast To Congo spotlights Belfast-born missionary, Bob McAllister, his late wife, Alma, and their three children, who were violently attacked and held captive in the Orientale province during the rebellion and international hostage crisis of 1964.

The one-hour film, which includes archive footage from the time, follows 90-year-old Bob and his children, Bill and Ruth - 50 years on - as they make the emotional journey to Congo to join Bob's second son, David, head of a humanitarian relief agency in the country, to remember their fellow missionaries slaughtered by the Simba rebels.

While this remarkable story is told in documentary form, it was actually childhood memories of Hollywood westerns that helped save Bob's life when he was gunned down with a fellow missionary at their compound on November 24, 1964.

"The rebel groups had been going around the villages, massacring people," Bob recalls. "A lot of them were marijuana dealers, doped up and trigger-happy. The American rescuers had come and told us there were 18 seats reserved for us

on the last plane out, but I said, 'We have to pray'.

"The Americans said we were crazy and told us to run, but we said we'd stay. I remember the plane going by overhead."

Knowing the rebel groups were on their way, Bob and his US colleague, Hector McMillan, gathered the women and children into a building on the compound and stood guard. Half a century on, from the comfort of his armchair in an Armagh city sheltered-housing apartment, Bob is calm as he recalls what happens next.

"When they came, they shot Hector first and he was killed right away. I said, 'You have shot my best friend', then they shot me, too. I was only grazed in the head by a bullet, but I fell down and played dead, because I remembered that's what you did when you were playing Cowboys and Indians. I just lay there and held my breath as best I could until they passed us by and went into the forest."

Astonishingly, Bob says he didn't feel any fear.

"I was never afraid. I was cautious and careful, and defended the kids as best I could," he says, looking across the room at his son, Bill, who remembers the attack vividly. Along with the rest

of his family and Hector's family, Bill survived the gunfire inside by also playing dead.

"We had broken into family groups and I remembered the bible verses about Daniel being protected from the lions. Simba is the Swahili for lion, and I thought that was cool; that we would be protected, too," Bill tells me, an American inflection from his Stateside travels.

"I remember being in the room and hitting the dirt as they opened fire.

More at -

<http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/life/features/this-family-was-forced-to-flee-a-bloody-war-in-africa-and-50-years-on-they-made-an-emotional-return-to-support-their-fellow-missionaries-31411064.html>

The Church of Ireland and the Labour leadership race

In the comedy John Wayne film *The Quiet Man* set in southern Ireland there is a scene involving an Episcopalian vicar who delivers a sermon to an empty church every Sunday. The locals don't want to see him out of a job and removed from the village so all the Catholics turn out and cheer as the Anglican Church of Ireland bishop comes

to visit. The ploy works and the vicar keeps his job.

The Labour leadership contest is becoming a little like that scene from *The Quiet Man*. No-one wants to see the Labour party go out of business so all sorts of people are joining at the moment to vote in the leadership election, and cheer them on. This, however, is masking the true state of Labour party support. Successive Labour leaders have failed to deal with alleged corruption in local town halls, especially in the North of England and Scotland.

The widespread suspicion is there are too many jobs for the boys involved in Labour politics along with other problems over redundancy payments and early retirements too. Any voice of protest is quickly muzzled.

If Labour is seen to effectively tackle corruption in Labour-run town halls its support will return in time.

- Letter to The Scotsman by Nigel F Boddy.

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Methodists to confer on changing face of family ministry



A new report looking into the diversity of family life and a new Core Skills for Family Ministry training course will be launched at the We are Family ministry Conference on 11-12 September.

Delegates can expect to attend workshops exploring the six different sessions of the new training course, network with other family workers from across the country and hear a keynote speech from Carrie Longton, co-founder of parenting website Mumsnet.

Gail Adcock, Family Ministry Development

Officer for the Methodist Church said: “Many churches across the country have family workers or provide pastoral care to families in some capacity. But, as seen in the report, what constitutes a family is changing.

"The We are Family Conference will be a fantastic opportunity for anybody who works with families to better understand the wide diversity of families today, and be better equipped to tackle some of the different challenges that the changing face of family ministry brings.

"As the word 'family' develops new meaning and incorporates a growing variety of types so too must the family ministry of the Church develop, to better equip and support all families – whatever they might look like.” The We are Family conference will be held on 11-12 September 2015, at Liverpool Hope University, L16 9JD. Residential, non-residential and day delegate tickets are still available, starting from £60.

Church of Scotland urges action on religious freedom in Nepal

Concerns about proposed restrictions to religious freedom in Nepal have been raised by the Church of Scotland with the UK and Scottish Governments. The Moderator of the General Assembly has written to the Foreign Secretary, Philip Hammond MP, and the Scottish Minister for International Development, Humza Yousaf MSP.

The Moderator has expressed his grave fears at the plans currently being debated in the Nepali parliament, which may deprive people of the right to choose their religion. This directly contravenes the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights and International Convention on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) – despite Nepal agreeing to it as far back as 1991.

Rt Rev Dr Angus Morrison writes:

"The growing threat to religious freedom around the world is, I believe, one of the most pressing issues of our time. As Moderator, I wish to encourage people of good will everywhere to take this matter with the utmost seriousness, and together to do everything we can to promote the cause of freedom of religion and belief for all, including the crucially important right to change one's religion. On behalf of our partners and friends in Nepal, I therefore request

that you raise this matter with the Government of Nepal, and thus help to ensure that, in its proper sense, freedom of religion for all people in Nepal is enshrined in the country's new constitution."

There have been fears that with the attention on other serious issues facing Nepal, these changes could be put in place without any international scrutiny. Dr Morrison hopes there is still time to encourage the Nepali government to rethink its plans.

The Church has a long history of engagement in Nepal which began in 1870 when a mission station was founded in Kalimpong, in the frontier territory between India, Nepal, Tibet and Bhutan. There has been continued support to Nepal from the United Mission to Nepal (UMN) since 1954. Nepal has been officially secular since 2008. Of the population, 81% are Hindu, with Christians officially accounting for just 1.4 %. It is thought the true figure is at least double this – making for a sizeable minority who could be under threat from the new proposals.

Human rights within Nepal were particularly poor in the years 1996-2006, but more recently the situation in the country has improved. The Church is concerned the threat of restrictions to

religious freedom could indicate a worrying change in the direction the government is heading. .

Ties between the Church of Scotland and Nepal remain strong. At this year's General Assembly the Rev Ram Kumar Budhathoki of Nepal Ebenezer Bible College gave a heart-felt speech on the state of the country following the devastating earthquakes, which he experienced with his congregation and left many thousands dead.

Later in the year there will be a delegation to Nepal followed by practical support for the United World Mission. Sandy Sneddon, of the Church's World Mission Council says "The Church of Scotland will launch a campaign in September to support UMN's rebuilding and rehabilitation work in Dhading district. In August I will visit Nepal for discussions with UMN and to visit the area where the work will be focussed. I will also meet with our three mission partners serving with UMN and Ram Kumar Budhathoki, whose story touched so many people at May's General Assembly."

Media digest

IRISH TIMES

Climate of fear has spread through rape crisis centres over cutbacks

<http://www.irishtimes.com/opinion/climate-of-fear-has-spread-through-rape-crisis-centres-over-cutbacks-1.2301140>

IRISH EXAMINER

Community group condemns violence outside church

A community development organisation for Travellers has condemned the violent scenes witnessed outside a church last Sunday, and praised the ...

<http://www.irishexaminer.com/ireland/community-group-condemns-violence-outside-church-345319.html>

BBC

Report on an inquiry panel investigating the deaths of dozens of elderly patients at a Hampshire hospital which is appealing for relatives to come forward. Chairman, the former Bishop of Liverpool, James Jones is quoted. He said six investigations into the deaths had already taken place and since the panel was launched, the number of families it was in touch with had tripled.

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-33706602>

Tel

Article on how Ofsted has been accused of "ignoring" the bullying of Christian students following a in-depth investigation into radicalisation of pupils at a group of schools in Birmingham. It states Colin Hart, director of the Christian Institute, has written a letter to [Nicky Morgan](#), the Education Secretary saying Ofsted and the Department for Education (DfE) have given "inadequate attention" to the "bullying of Christian pupils". Mr Hart said official reports from the Birmingham schools listed explicit examples of anti-Christian "intolerance", but "none of these are noted in the Ofsted reports on those schools".

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/education/educationnews/11771487/Ofsted-accused-of-ignoring-the-bullying-of-Christian-students.html>

Tel

Article by Christopher Howse on the restoration of the carved rood screen at St Augustine church in Ramsgate, due in part to a Lottery Heritage Fund grant of £810,000. He says the Rector, the Rev Marcus Holden has helped transform the church in the past five years, ensuring it is now open every day. He states

churchnewsireland@gmail.com

Lord Lloyd-Webber has also backed the restoration and his foundation has donated £25,000.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/comment/11771432/Restored-the-treasure-that-Augustus-Welby-Pugin-swore-by.html>

Ind/Times/Exp/Star/BBC

Reports that Alan Barnes, the disabled pensioner who received hundreds of thousands of pounds in donations after he was mugged outside his house, has said he is moving to Scotland after receiving a "calling" from God. They state Mr Barnes, who is a devout Christian, said that the thought came to him when he was praying and he will move to the Shetland Islands to work for the church.

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/people/disabled-pensioner-alan-barnes-to-move-to-shetland-islands-because-of-message-from-god-10424358.html>

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/uk/scotland/article4512463.ece>

<http://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/594800/Alan-Barnes-disabled-mugging-victim-Shetland-God>

<http://www.dailystar.co.uk/news/latest-news/456567/Disabled-pensioner-Alan-Barnes-Scotland-God>

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-tyne-33708301>

FT

Article on the ethics around international borrowing, lending and debt which quotes St Luke's gospel.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/96f2f2a0-3454-11e5-bdbb-35e55cbae175.html?siteedition=intl#axzz3hLaNHMR3>