

April 11, 2019

**CNI**  
CHURCH  
NEWS  
IRELAND

## USA cleric is new Leader of the Corrymeela Community



**The Rev Dr Alexander Wimberly with his wife Kiran and  
their three children.**

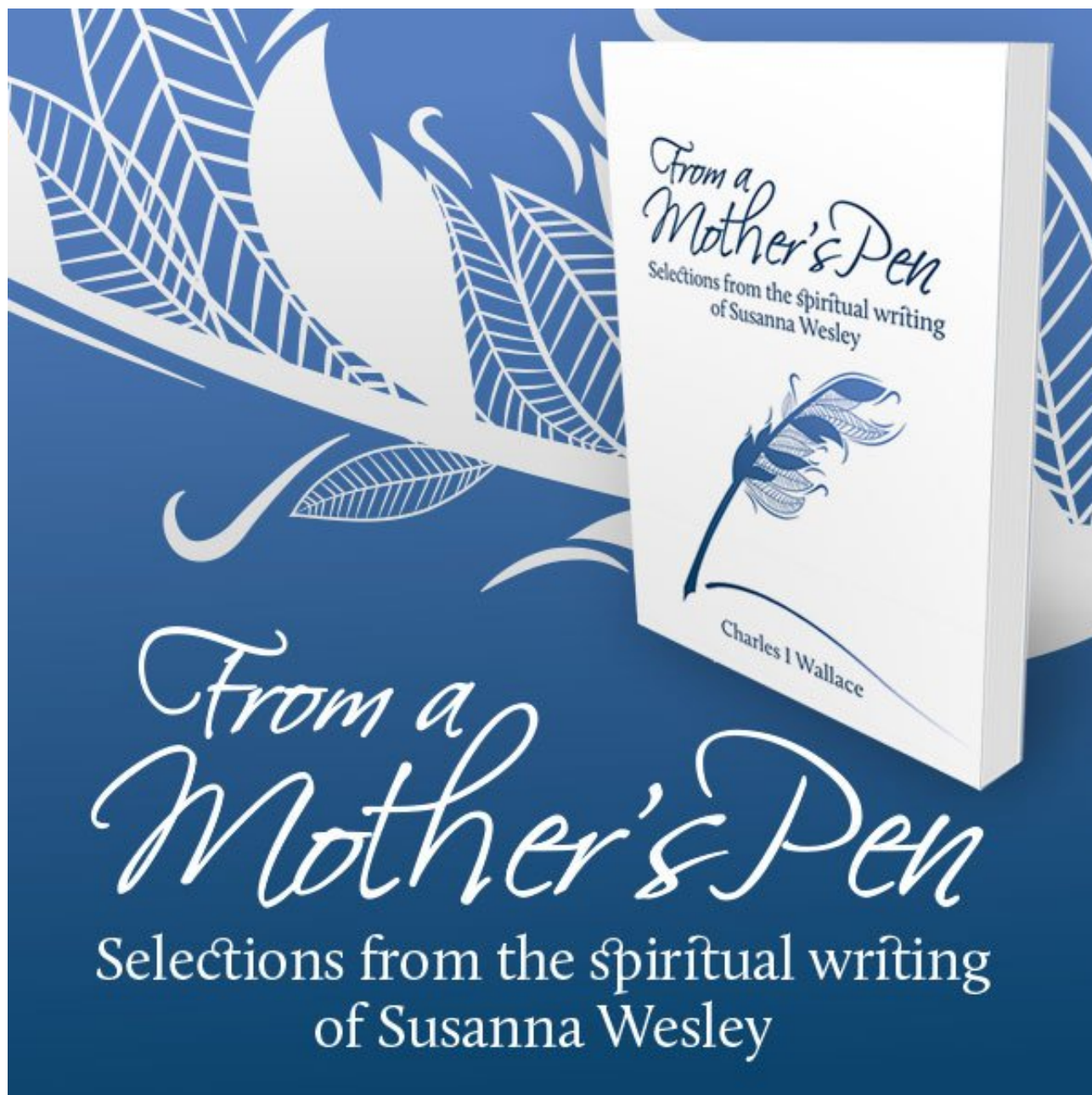
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Page 1

**April 11, 2019**

The Rev Dr Alexander Wimberly has been appointed new Leader of the Corrymeela Community.

Founded by the Rev. Dr. Ray Davey and students from Queen's University in 1965, Corrymeela is Northern Ireland's oldest peace and reconciliation organisation.



**BOOK LAUNCH: 'From a Mother's Pen: Selections from the spiritual writing of Susanna Wesley'. Thursday 16 May, 6.00pm-7.15pm, Wesley's Chapel, London.**

**April 11, 2019**

Alex, who is originally from the United States, worked as minister of the McCracken Memorial Presbyterian Church, Belfast, for almost seven years. He completed his PhD studies in history – focusing on the theme of reconciliation in American Presbyterianism – at the University of Notre Dame after which he returned to Northern Ireland, working in various roles with Corrymeela up until his appointment.

Kate Pettis, chair of the Corrymeela Community's Board of Trustees, said: "Alex combines a warmth of personality with an attention to mission. Having worked with Alex already, I have seen firsthand his insight and leadership, his commitment to inclusion and reconciliation, his intellectual rigor and his focus.

"We are thrilled to appoint him, and look forward to many years of his leadership in this role that combines faith, peace, practice and courage."

Alex is married to the Rev Kiran Young Wimberly and they have three children.

He succeeds Pádraig Ó Tuama as Leader of Corrymeela.

## **Lord Alderdice comments on PCI and Secretary of State**

Yesterday Lord Alderdice, a Presbyterian and a former Speaker of the NI Assembly, gave his opinions on two matters of current concern.



April 11, 2019



He said, “Queen's University’s decision to cut ties with the Presbyterian Church in Ireland’s theological college is a further indication of the slide of PCI into religious fundamentalism. It is very sad but QUB could not be expected to promote academic obscurantism.”

Turning to the current Secretary of State for NI, he remarked, “ I have been sitting in the Lords as a Liberal Democrat for over 20 years and I have never before made such comments about a Secretary of State for Northern Ireland.

“The Government Spokesman who made this superficial response would be well advised to take my comments seriously for they represent the almost unanimous view of people in Northern Ireland.

**April 11, 2019**

“The important issues I have raised repeatedly over the past two years with the Northern Ireland Office have not been seriously addressed and instead the Government has continued to make a mess of handling the political situation in Northern Ireland”.

## **Former Chaplain General inducted at St Andrew's, Guernsey**



**Left to right: Sir Richard Collas, Bailiff of Guernsey; Rev Dr David Coulter, minister of St Andrews in the Grange Church of Scotland; Rt Rev Susan Brown, Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland**

**April 11, 2019**

The induction of Rev Dr David Coulter, a former Chaplain General to the army, has taken place at Guernsey St Andrew's in the Grange. Dr Coulter who is from Northern Ireland, is a graduate of Queen's and was a member of the University's Officer Training Corps. Following RMA Sandhurst he served as an officer in the Royal Irish Regiment prior to training for the ministry of the Church of Scotland.

The Moderator of the Church of Scotland, Rt Rev Susan Brown, attended the induction in Guernsey. The Moderator spent a total of nine days touring round churches, community projects, a zoo and a prison in England.

## **Methodist President visits Cork and Kerry**

The President of the MCI, Rev Billy Davison and his wife Loraine were on the Cork South and Kerry Circuit at the weekend.

The President commented, "We were delighted to meet Rev Andrew Robinson, wife Mary and two year old daughter Erin; they have transferred from the Methodist Church in South Africa to serve here in Ireland.

"On Sunday morning I shared a message with the congregation in Youghal before going on to Ardfallen in Cork where again I preached on the theme of 'Living with Gospel Focus.



April 11, 2019



“In the evening we journeyed to Millstreet, Killarney, where the Lighthouse, one of our new church plants, is located. It was exciting to hear people share about how God is using them in their community and church. Thank you to Karen, Andrew, and everyone for a special weekend of sharing and fellowship”.

## Hollywood church receives funding boost

A much-loved County Down church is to share in a £323,687 funding payout from the National Churches Trust. A £14,000 National Churches Trust Repair Grant will help fund tower and spire repairs at the Grade B+ listed St Philip

**April 11, 2019**

and St James church, Hollywood, making the church watertight and preserving its historic fabric.

Broadcaster and journalist Huw Edwards, Vice President of The National Churches Trust, said: “The UK’s historic churches and chapels are a vital part of our national heritage. But to survive, many need to carry out urgent repairs and install modern facilities. The cost of this work is far beyond what most congregations can pay for themselves.”

“So I’m delighted that the church of St Philip and St James, Hollywood, is being helped with a £14,000 National Churches Trust Grant. The work on the tower and spire repairs will help secure the future of a historic building.”

Revd Canon Gareth Harron, incumbent of Hollywood Parish said:

“Having worked with the National Churches Trust in another parish, I was delighted that Hollywood Parish was successful in receiving a grant in this allocation. We are excited about getting this vital refurbishment up and running and look forward to how the works both preserve the historic fabric of our wonderful church building and enable us to reach future generations in our community.”

St Philip and St James began life in 1842 as a church built to replace an old priory building. It was then tripled in size and can now accommodate 500 worshippers.

The architect for the church was Mr (later Sir) Charles Lanyon who also designed the main building at Queen’s University in Belfast, later named the Lanyon Building.



April 11, 2019

The project will address urgently needed repairs to the tower and spire. The spire is noticeably leaning due to the corrosion of iron cramps. The balustrade to the base of the spire is subject to a marine environment and in a desperate state. Gutters and downpipes are in the process of being repaired.

A total of 34 churches and chapels in England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland will benefit from the latest grants from the National Churches Trust, the charity supporting church buildings of all Christian denominations across the UK. The Trust funds churches of all denominations throughout the UK. Applications for grants can be made online.

## News briefs



 The Methodist Church  
In Ireland

**Job opportunity:**

**Church Family  
Development Worker**

**+++An exciting opportunity -** to initiate, refocus, develop and lead family ministry across the Lisburn & Dromore Circuit within a full time post based at Trinity Methodist

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Page 9

**April 11, 2019**

Church. Email Rev David Turtle at [david.turtle@irishmethodist.org](mailto:david.turtle@irishmethodist.org) for more information and the application pack!



**The 2019 Spring conference of the Church of Ireland Historical Society was held in the Robinson Library, Armagh, last Saturday with guest speakers Dr Rachel Moss, Dr Andrew Sneddon, Dr Susan Hood and Mr David O'Shea. Matthew Houston was awarded the W.B. Neely Postgraduate Prize for 2019, presented by Canon Adrian Empey, Hon Secretary.**

**+++Murder and robbery of Nigerian Anglican diocesan treasurer** - The “gentle and soft spoken” bursar of the Anglican Diocese of Akure in Nigeria’s Ondo State, Gabriel Abiodun, has been shot and killed by robbers who escaped with 500,000 Naira (approximately £1,000 GBP). The



**April 11, 2019**

incident happened last Thursday (4 April) at 9.30 am. Mr Abiodun had returned to the diocesan offices from the bank, where he had just withdrew the money, when the gunmen struck. In addition to his role with the diocese, Mr Abiodun was the paymaster of the Ondo state Ministry of Agriculture. Witnesses say that officials and staff member looked on in shock as the gunman attacked Mr Abiodun before fleeing with the cash. Police in Nigeria are working on the theory that the three attackers followed the bursar from the bank after watching him withdraw the money.



## **The 2019 Spring conference of the Church of Ireland Historical Society**

**+++Heritage: Glendermott Parish Church, Derry -** Built in 1753, it replaced the earlier Ivy Church in the townland of Clondermott which had been used since the Plantation. In 1861 the church was enlarged by the addition of a new



**April 11, 2019**

church aisle. The church walls are covered with memorials to such gentry of the parish as the Knoxes, Ashes, Smyths, Hills and Stevensons. Outside is the statue of a lone bugler, a memorial to those who died in the 1914-18 War. Only in 1860 did Glendermott cease to be a perpetual curacy of St Columb's Cathedral and become a separate parish with David Babington as its first rector. During Babington's incumbency Glendermott lost much of the recently urban Waterside to the new parish of Clooney but still there was a need to extend the first building. In the twentieth century the parish was engulfed by the new suburbs of Altnagelvin and Drumahoe, and it took an able and long-surviving rector, Canon David Kelly (1930-71), to cope with these changes.

**+++Food for thought** - "The smallest good act today is the strategic point from which, months later, you may be able to go on to victories you never dreamed of." CSLewis

## **Today in Christian history**

**April 11, 1079:** Stanislaus, Polish bishop of Krakow, is martyred. Whether or not he attempted to overthrow King Boleslaw II (called Boleslaw the Cruel) is debatable; he certainly excommunicated the evil king. In return, Boleslaw deemed him a traitor and had Stanislaus murdered.

**April 11, 1506:** Pope Julius II lays the foundation for the new St. Peter's Basilica in Rome. Builders delayed its completion until 1626 due to its immense cost, size, and other factors. Indulgences sold to fund the construction drew criticism from Protestant reformers, most memorably Martin Luther.

**April 11, 2019**

**April 11, 1836:** George Mueller, leader of the Plymouth Brethren movement, opens his famous orphanage on Wilson Street in Bristol. By 1875, Mueller's orphanage provided care for over 2,000 children, a work sustained not by regular fundraising but by thousands of "answers to prayer."

## News Links

### [Irish Catholics had a much looser attitude to the church before the famine](#)

[Independent.ie](#)

But Professor Mary Daly from UCD said the famine had an unexpected effect on the Catholic **church** in **Ireland**. The population went from just under ...

### [Ireland's attempts to secularise its schools have turned to farce](#)

The Guardian

**Ireland's** attempts to secularise its schools have turned to farce ... Though the **church** agrees that some divestment is necessary, at local level it is ...

### [The Plantation was meant to establish Londonderry as Ulster's main city](#)

Belfast Newsletter

Stephen said: "One of the key things was it was also meant to strengthen the **Church of Ireland**, very much at the expense of the other two religions ...

### [979 marriages in Donegal during 2018](#)

Highland Radio

**April 11, 2019**

Of the 959 opposite sex marriages, 646 were conducted by the Catholic **Church**, 29 by the **Church of Ireland**, 27 by the Presbyterian **Church**, 20 by the ...

### [Irish people waiting longer than ever to get married](#)

Irish Times

There were 10,027 marriage ceremonies in Catholic **churches**, equating to 47.6 per cent of the total. There were a further 323 **Church of Ireland** ...

### ['Marriage is not just a contract you can abandon when you feel like it'](#)

Belfast Newsletter

... across Northern Ireland”, told the **News** Letter: “Marriage is ideally a lifelong ... The Catholic **Church in Ireland**, **Church of Ireland**, and the Presbyterian **Church** ... In Scotland (which will – like Northern Ireland – be unaffected by the ...

### [A Cultural Home at the Crossroads of Irish Culture is Destination: Scientology, Dublin](#)

PRNewswire (press release)

In this episode, viewers get to know **Church** staff and hear how they are motivated to help others and strengthen the bonds of community in **Ireland's** ...

### [Sponsor a slate to repair cathedral's holy roof](#)

The Times

The **Church of Ireland's** national cathedral is trying to plug a €2 million funding gap by getting the public to sponsor new roof slates. Decades of wear ...

### [Church Vibe group bids to move into empty Armagh bar](#)

Belfast Telegraph



**April 11, 2019**

Armagh is the ecclesiastical capital of Ireland and is graced by two St Patrick's cathedrals - one **Church of Ireland** and the other Catholic. Vibe is one of ...

### [Queen's University cuts ties with Presbyterian-run college](#)

BBC News

By Robbie Meredith BBC **News** NI Education

Correspondent ... the Presbyterian **Church** in **Ireland**, said he deeply regretted the university's decision.

### [A sad day, says Church after Queen's severs links to college](#)

Belfast Telegraph

A sad day, says **Church** after Queen's severs links to college ... The Presbyterian **Church** said yesterday was "a sad day" after Queen's University ... Rev Trevor Gribben, clerk of the General Assembly and general secretary of the Presbyterian **Church** in **Ireland**, said: ... Latest Northern **Ireland** travel news.

### ['Exciting future' for Presbyterian college despite QUB severing links](#)

Belfast Newsletter

The university yesterday formally confirmed that it is cutting ties with the Presbyterian **Church** in **Ireland's** college amid "concerns regarding the breadth ...

### [Thy Kingdom Come: Archbishops invite global church to pray for people to come faith](#)

Episcopal News Service

[Anglican Communion **News** Service] The archbishops of Canterbury and York, Justin Welby and John Sentamu, have invited Christians around the ...

April 11, 2019

### New housing on church land to tackle crisis

The Times

The **Church of England** is to build affordable homes on thousands of acres of its land, as the Archbishop of Canterbury pledged “radical” action to ...

### British Christians are as divided by Brexit as everybody else

The Economist

To some extent, the **Church of England** continues to play this role, ... Crux, a well-informed Catholic **news** agency, said the great majority of senior ...

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April 11, 2019

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