

February 16, 2019



First Irish Presbyterian medical missionary to Manchuria honoured



February 16, 2019

Receiving the plaque (left to right) Moderator, Dr McMullen, Pastor Chuanyu Ren, Chief Pastor of Christian Church of Liaozhong District Shenyang City and Rev Uel Marrs, Secretary to the Council for Global Mission

The Moderator, Rt Rev Dr Charles McMullen, has received a special plaque in memory of the first Irish Presbyterian medical missionary to Manchuria, Dr Joseph M Hunter. Presented by Pastor Chuanyu Ren, Chief Pastor of Christian Church of Liaozhong District Shenyang City, the plaque, which is in Mandarin and English, marks the 150th anniversary of the founding of the medical mission.

Shenyang is the largest city and provincial capital of Liaoning Province, one of the People's Republic of China's three north eastern provinces in a part of the country formerly known as Manchuria. The Christian Church of Liaozhong District Shenyang City is an officially registered church and has 10,000 members across 16 branches. There are over 200,000 Christians in total living in Shenyang City.

Speaking through an interpreter, Pastor Ren said, "This year, 150 years ago, Dr Hunter arrived in China. We really appreciate what he did for us, for China and the Chinese Christian Church. My mission has been to do something to honour the memory and legacy of Dr Hunter so we do not forget our history.

"It is written 'what we sow in tears and reap with songs of joy', and I say truly from my heart that we should give big thanks to those who came, like Dr Hunter, and others too who gave their lives, so I really wanted to come to Ireland to

February 16, 2019

say thank you and give you this plaque on behalf of the Christian community of Liaozhong District.

Travelling with his wife, Yue Bai, who is also a pastor, their daughter Tianle and their translator, Catherine Qiufen Li, Pastor Ren said that he had a family connection with Dr Hunter. For 20 years one of his great uncles was the principal of the first school that Dr Hunter founded in 1870.

The Manchurian mission was established following resolutions to the 1867 General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland (PCI). Volunteers were then encouraged to take part and Rev Hugh Waddell of Glenarm and Dr Hunter and his wife Elizabeth Jane, responded, sailing for China in February 1869. They landed at the port of Newchwang (now Yingkou) in April of the same year and quickly set up a Mission Station, which came to include a small dispensary, a church, and a school.

Two years after they arrived in Manchuria, Mrs Hunter died of tuberculosis, leaving an infant son, John, who was brought back to Ireland by Rev Hugh Waddell who had to return for health reasons. Dr Hunter remained in China, spending 15 years working in the dispensary, travelling widely, preaching, selling literature and giving out tracts. Sadly, he died while returning home in 1884. He was buried at sea aged 51.

Receiving the plaque, Dr McMullen explained to Pastor Ren that in the late 1980s his wife Barbara had been sent by PCI as an English teacher to China, where she spent two years, “This is an unexpected, but very welcome gift which acknowledges a deep sense of heartfelt gratitude that is still felt by our brothers and sisters in Christ in north east China

February 16, 2019

for the work, mission and legacy of Irish Presbyterians. I am greatly honoured to receive this special gift on behalf of the General Assembly.

“I understand that from the time of Dr Hunter and Rev Waddell until the last missionaries left Manchuria nearly 70 years ago, our Church sent over 90 men and women to that part of the country. This included one of my predecessors as Moderator, Dr Jack Weir, who was the last missionary to leave in 1950.

“Today our denomination as a whole, and our local congregations across Ireland, support many people in key roles in different countries around the world, including our 29 global mission workers. Today global mission is still an intrinsic part of our Irish Presbyterian DNA,” he said.

Pastor Ren’s 12-day visit also included a meeting at Union Theological College as part of his research project on Irish Presbyterians in Manchuria. As Dean of Religions Department at the Minorities in North China Cultural Research Centre of Shenyang Normal University, he is leading a team researching and writing a number of books on the missionaries.

In August, a special event will be held in Shenyang City to mark the 150th anniversary of the arrival of Rev Hugh Waddell, Dr Hunter in Manchuria and Rev Dr John Ross, a Scottish missionary who arrived after the Irish Presbyterians in the 1870s. PCI will also hold an event in the autumn.

Plaque was also presented on behalf the China Christian Council National Three Self Patriotic Movement in Liaozhong District of Shenyang City, of which Pastor Ren is

February 16, 2019

chairman and Shenyang Liaozhong Christian Association of China, of which he is minister.

Parish women focus on Invisible Trafficking

Kilbride Parish Ladies' Group (Connor diocese) met this week in the Parish Room to hear more about the problem of human trafficking in the UK, Ireland and in particular Northern Ireland.

Ash Richmond from the charity Invisible Trafficking, gave a very informative talk on this disturbing practice and its effects on the people involved.

All types of modern slavery were discussed including farm workers, builders, factory workers as well as the sex industry.

People are brought to Northern Ireland from various parts of Europe and beyond, with the promise of work and then they are forced to live in appalling conditions. They are poorly paid and cannot easily escape from the people exploiting them as they have had their passports and other important papers taken from them.

This is a hidden world in what we consider a civilised society and efforts are made by charities like Invisible Trafficking to expose modern slavery and stop it. It was a very enlightening talk on a very emotive subject.

For more information on this subject visit the charity's website - Invisibletraffic.org

February 16, 2019

Inishowen schools farewell to bishop

Two Inishowen schools rolled out the proverbial welcome mat for the Bishop of Derry and Raphoe, Rt Rev Ken Good, on Thursday to bid him farewell ahead of his forthcoming retirement.

Bishop Good, who will step down in May, was invited to visit St Columb's National School in Moville and Donagh National School in Carndonagh. He was accompanied by the Bishop's Curate in charge of the Moville, Greencastle, Donagh, Culdaff and Cloncha (Malin) Group of Parishes, Rev Suzanne Cousins.

The visits were coordinated by the principal of St Columb's NS, Helena Walker, and the principal of Donagh NS, Caroline Carey.

Children in both schools sang hymns for their guest, who asked them what they knew about retirement. One schoolgirl in Moville told him, "It's when you start to get too old."

The Bishop led the two schools in prayers for the pupils, their parents, the teachers and the schools' boards of management.

He received farewell gifts in both schools, as well as cards signed by the children. Bishop Good was also presented with an additional, unexpected gift – on behalf of Donagh parishioners – by local Glebe Warden, Ronald Crowe.

February 16, 2019

Belfast church protest over X-Factor Malta contestant's 'ex-gay' film

A film about how a man left a homosexual lifestyle behind when he became a Christian prompted a protest outside a church in Belfast on Thursday night.

Dozens of people demonstrated against the screening of 'Once Gay: Matthew and Friends', which tells the story of former X-Factor Malta contestant Matthew Grech.

They say the movie promotes so-called gay conversion therapy - a claim denied by film makers at the Core Issues Trust.

Dr Mike Davidson, who heads up the Christian group, said it does not provide the practice but instead offers "standard psychotherapeutic and counselling approaches that explores sexual fluidity..."

In a statement, he added: "Some people, for whatever reason, are just not happy with [being gay] and want to move away from it.

"Clearly, it is the responsibility of anyone working in this area to make sure that they are there of their own accord."

A crowd gathered outside west Belfast's Townsend Presbyterian Church - the chosen venue for Thursday's screening.

February 16, 2019



Among them was John O'Doherty from The Rainbow Project in Northern Ireland, who told Q Radio the film sent the message that "it is not OK to be gay".

"That message causes our community harm, it has led to lose of life... it has broken up families..."

A spokesperson for the Presbyterian Church in Ireland said it "reject[s] homophobia in all its forms."

A statement continued: "The church recognises that 'conversion therapy' is both an emotive term and is defined differently by different people.

"However, two things are very clear. Firstly, no 'therapy' of any kind should be undertaken against a person's will.

"Secondly, where a person chooses to seek help from a counsellor, then it is legitimate for such help to be provided."

February 16, 2019

The lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender rights group Stonewall defines 'gay conversion', or 'cure', therapy as "any form of treatment or psychotherapy which aims to reduce or stop same-sex attraction or to suppress a person's gender identity".

The UK government announced plans last summer to ban gay conversion therapies.

Carrickfergus parishioner awarded an R&A Greenkeeping Scholarship

A parishioner of Holy Trinity Parish Church, Woodburn, Carrickfergus, has become the first student in Northern Ireland to be awarded an R&A Greenkeeping Scholarship.

Callum Burnside, who is also a leader in the parish Boys' Brigade, is currently doing a two-year foundation degree in Horticulture (Sportsturf) at the Greenmount campus of the College of Agriculture, Food & Rural Enterprise (CAFRE).

The R&A Greenkeeping Scholarship Programme was established in 2004 to help boost the careers of those undertaking higher level greenkeeping and sportsturf qualifications. CAFRE is the newest addition to the approved educational establishments participating in the programme, joining Scotland's Rural College (Elmwood Campus) and Myerscough College in England.

February 16, 2019

Callum joins more than over 320 scholars worldwide across 30 different countries.

He was previously awarded the Golf Union of Ireland cadetship in 2017. This involved mastering greenkeeping skills and achieving a work-based Level 2 Diploma in Greenkeeping while undertaking duties at the Greenmount's Greenkeeping and Golfing Academy.

Wendy Cole, manager of Sustainability at the R&A, which organises The Open, golf's oldest major championship, said: "Our rigorous application and interview process ensures that only the best candidates are chosen to be R&A Greenkeeping Scholars.

"Callum demonstrated his passion and commitment to the sportsturf industry admirably and I am delighted that he is our first Greenkeeping Scholar from CAFRE and indeed Northern Ireland.

"We hope to further develop our links with CAFRE moving forward and hopefully we will see more scholars being appointed."

Paul Mooney, head of Horticulture at Greenmount, said: "With just months before The Open returns to Royal Portrush in July there has never been a better time to consider a career in greenkeeping."

The 148th Open will be played at Royal Portrush from 14 to 21 July 2019.

For more information about The R&A Greenkeeping Scholarship programme please visit the Greenkeeping

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February 16, 2019

support section on [randa.org](https://www.randa.org/en/theranda/working-for-golf/greenkeeping-support)



Sir Ken Dodd answers his church's prayers with donation

The family church of Sir Ken Dodd has said its prayers have been answered thanks to a donation from the late comedian.

His wife, Lady Anne revealed part of his estate will fund a complete revamp of St John the Evangelist's church hall in Knotty Ash.

She has continued to attend services there since **Sir Ken died last March.**

Rev Julia Jesson, the vicar there, told Premier her reaction to the news.

"Well, it's very difficult to put it into words", she said.

February 16, 2019



"When we were faced with the challenge of knowing what condition the church hall was in, we spent the summer very much prayerful about how we were going to achieve renovation."

Under a will made several years before his death, Lady Anne was instructed to ensure good causes across Liverpool would benefit from the £27.5m estate.

The vicar of the church receiving the undisclosed sum told Premier how the church will use the money: "We have a desire to maybe prepare meals for children during school holidays - those that are on free meals.

"We want to be able to serve the older members of the community with activities, with lunches."

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Pope Francis names Dublin-born Cardinal as camerlengo

Pope Francis has nominated Dublin-born Cardinal Kevin Farrell as a new camerlengo. The role of camerlengo includes overseeing the preparations for a papal conclave and managing the administration of the Holy See in the period between a pope's death or renunciation and the election of a new pope.

Cardinal Farrell (71), is currently Prefect of the Dicastery for Laity, Family and Life and a former bishop of Dallas.

The office of camerlengo of the Catholic Church, is situated within the pontifical household and has been vacant since the death of Cardinal Jean-Louis Tauran in July last year.

As part of taking on the role of camerlengo, Cardinal Farrell will take an oath before Pope Francis, who will give him a scepter, a symbol of the authority of the camerlengo.

Born in Ireland and ordained a priest in 1978 as a member of the Legion of Christ, Cardinal Farrell served as director of Washington's Spanish Catholic Center, before becoming the archdiocese's finance officer in 1989. In 2002, he became an auxiliary bishop of Washington.

He was named Bishop of Dallas in 2007, where he served until his appointment as the first ever prefect of the Dicastery for Laity, Family, and Life in August 2016, which

February 16, 2019



put him in charge of the planning of the World Meeting of Families 2018 in Dublin and World Youth Day in 2019 in Panama last month.

The camerlengo is one of two head officials of the Roman Curia who do not lose their office while the papacy is vacant. The position of camerlengo, which is regulated by the apostolic constitutions *Pastor bonus* and *Universi dominici gregis*, administers Church finances and property during the interregnum.

News briefs

Prof Bill Addley brought Pastor Chuanyu Ren and his wife, Pastor Bai, along with their daughter, Tianle, to visit Union College this week. Pastor Ren is researching the work of the

February 16, 2019

first Irish Presbyterian missionaries to his region of China, 150 years ago this year.

+++ Churches in Ireland new blog series - is coming to their website this month. Every month they will be interviewing representatives to learn more about each of their Member Churches.

+++President Irish Methodist Church week's schedule -
Sunday 17th February: Glastry and Portaferry
Monday 18th: Home/ Office
Tuesday 19th: Pastoral Follow ups
Wednesday 20th: Meetings Belfast
Thursday 21st: Pastoral Calls
Friday 22nd: Preparations for Worship
Saturday 23rd: Day Off

+++ Songs of Praise this Sunday - Nuns, Whitby, Hard Hats, Hi-Vis jackets? - Must be a job for Rev Kate Bottley. She looks round a brand new priory building and hears how 7th Century Saint Hilda inspires the sisters in Whitby. Full episode online at buff.ly/2RWJznh or @BBCOne 1.15pm Sunday.

+++ St Patrick's Day Festival Eucharist in Belfast Cathedral - at 11am on Sunday March 17. The preacher will be the Rt Rev Alan Harper, former Archbishop of Armagh, and the service will feature special music from the Cathedral Choir.

+++A mission-shaped life - a tribute to Canon Chris Neal. Thanking God for Chris's life and the example he was to.

February 16, 2019

<https://churchmissionsociety.org/our-stories/mission-shaped-life>

+++Injured Irish missionary returns to Kenya - Maggie Brigg's steady recovery following an RTA back in October is such that she is heading back to Kenya next Wednesday (20th) to join her husband Ronnie as they continue serving with CMS Ireland in Kajiado Diocese. Please pray for a safe flight and bruised bones to be fully healed.

+++Creating music with a strong identity - Ahead of the performances of her work at NewMusicDublin 2019, composer Kaija Saariaho speaks to journalofmusic about the starting points for her work, writing her renowned concerto, 'Gaal théâtre', and creating music with a strong identity.

<http://journalofmusic.com/news/how-organise-how-build-how-express-interview-kaija-saariaho>

+++US dioceses names 188 clergy accused of sexual abuse - Five Roman Catholic dioceses in New Jersey on Wednesday released the names of 188 clergy members who have been accused of sexually abusing children dating back decades, including a former cardinal facing defrocking by the Vatican. The disclosure was the result of an internal investigation of archdiocese records and all of the priests and deacons listed have previously been reported to law enforcement and none remain in the ministry, Newark Archbishop Cardinal Joseph Tobin said in a statement.

+++Thought for reflection - As is often said life is a journey and as we all make different journeys daily, you might rely

February 16, 2019

on google maps or Sat Nav to get you to your destination on time. We also need a spiritual map to guide and direct us as we journey with Jesus each day...Rev Billy Davidson, President Irish Methodist Church.

February 16 in Christian history

February 16, 1497: German scholar and reformer Philipp Melanchthon is born in Bretten, Baden. He and Luther were at times allies (he defended Luther against Johann van Eck and Emperor Charles V) and at other times enemies (Luther thrashed him for his views on the Sacrament, but apologized on his deathbed). Melanchthon's argument for justification by faith alone, known as the Augsburg Confession, is now the basic statement of Lutheran doctrine.

February 16, 1801: The African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church receives its charter. Five years earlier, black members of New York City's John's Street Methodist Episcopal Zion Church left the church over racist limitations imposed on them. They had not been allowed to preach or vote until Bishop Francis Asbury allowed them to hold their own meetings apart from the John's Street church.

News links

[Catholic Primate meeting abuse survivors prior to Rome gathering](#)

Irish Times

... Presidents of Catholic Bishops' Conferences and **religious** superiors from ... During a recent retreat in Knock, **Ireland's** Catholic bishops blessed and ...

February 16, 2019

Derry City Cemetery Series: How a master and his apprentice created some of Derry's most historic ...

Derry Now

Seven years later, in 1868 he was appointed as architect to the **Church of Ireland** diocese of Derry and Raphoe by which time he had established his ...

Reeling in the Years 1969

The Clare Echo

Finally, in 1969 the **Church of Ireland** agreed to return the Friary to the Franciscans out of good faith labelling it as an 'ecumenical gesture'.

Get your tickets for Rathmullan Film Fest at pop-up box office this Sunday

Donegal Now

Classic 'The Third Man' will show at St Columba's **Church of Ireland** on the evening of Saturday, February 23, and the festival will close with the ...

Realise your worth, Mullally urges teachers

Church Times

Speaking at the **Church of England's** National Education Conference on Thursday of last week, Bishop Mullally said: "Know that you are of value ...

Tributes paid to the evangelist Michael Green

Church Times

As the Church, we are deeply grateful for his tenacious ministry. ... in Good **News** for Modern Man have comparable confidence in these commentaries? ... The **Church of England** is in a parlous state because it runs down the ministry ...

A joined-up approach to tackling homelessness

Church Times

That year, 597 people died on the streets of England and Wales. ... motion to the General Synod aimed at practical, cohesive action (**News**, 8 February). ... At a national level, the **Church of England** reaches across the shrill divide of ...

A new exposé on homosexuality in the Vatican is coming out next week. What can we expect? - America Magazine

<https://www.americamagazine.org/faith/2019/02/14/new-expose-homosexuality-vatican-coming-out-next-week-what-can-we-expect>

Gospel glamour: how Nigeria's pastors wield political power

With days to go before the presidential election, Chris Okotie, a 1980s pop star turned pentecostal pastor and four-time presidential candidate, insists he is the man for the top job. **More from The Guardian**

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