



## In the margins - CMSI theme for 2018 - 19

At the *Ignite* conference in Dromantine in September, CMSI (Church Missionary Society Ireland) outlined its annual theme for 2018-2019, which is entitled '*In The Margins - Serving The Least Among Us.*'



Each annual theme highlights an aspect of the work of CMSI and its global partners. It provides a focus for events, publications and presentations.

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Last year's theme "Crossing Bridges" emphasised the role of the Church in spanning divides, making connections and bringing people together.

Throughout the year, CMSI shared stories of God's people crossing over to share His love. "We also celebrated the Church's work in pursuing peace and facilitating reconciliation. Perhaps you added your own peace prayers to our 'Big Bridge'?" a spokesperson for the society said.

The Crossing Bridges event in Stormont was a particular highlight - a chance to learn from CMSI partners in South Sudan, Rwanda, DR Congo, Egypt and beyond. This week sees the second Crossing Bridges event take place, this time in Uganda, where CMSI is hosting a special conference for their South Sudan partners with representatives from some of their Ireland link churches. Please do pray for this significant gathering throughout the next two weeks.



## **In The Margins**

The new annual theme gives CMSI a chance to explore the biblical imperative to care for the most vulnerable members of our societies.

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This is something all of CMSI's partners are doing in lots of different ways, within their own contexts. Each of them manage a range of programmes that seek to serve 'the least among them' – providing help, offering hope, creating space for people to experience freedom, to provide for themselves, to grasp God's gift of life.

CMSI states, "We have the privilege of partnering with the Global Church as it reaches out in love to those who are suffering and those who have been neglected. We want to help churches in Ireland play their part in supporting this work. We also want to be inspired by our partners as we consider how best to respond to people on the fringes of society in Ireland.

"Throughout 2018 and 2019, we want to shine a light on mission...**in the margins**. If you see us at any events throughout the year, do sign the margins of our photos to show your support. And don't be surprised if we ask you to hold our 'in the margins frame' so we can take your photo!"



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## Stand Together for Christian Aid

Stand Together is an inspirational evening of music and song with over 100 singers and musicians!



To be held at Belfast's iconic Ulster Hall, *Stand Together* is a one-off benefit concert for Christian Aid. The evening will be filled with uplifting music performed by a range of groups and performers from across Northern Ireland.

This is an ideal event to invite friends and family to for a great evening out. Plus, you'll learn a little about Christian Aid's inspiring vision to end poverty.



Be dazzled by the sounds of Downshire Brass, one of Northern Ireland's premier brass bands. Appreciate the beautiful harmonies of vocal trio The Victory Rollers, plus enjoy sparkling performances from

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members of the award-winning Belfast Operatic Company. We will also have two fantastic choirs performing on the night – the Ireland Salvation Army children's choir and Joyful Sounds.

Today 1.3 billion people live in extreme poverty. Tonight 800 million will go to bed hungry. Over 12 million children die before their fifth birthday each year. Yet our world has never been richer.

Christian Aid is an international aid and development agency that insists the world can and must be swiftly changed to one where everyone can live a full life, free from poverty.

Stand Together: For dignity. For equality. For Justice.

Tickets

Early bird (until 20 August 2018): £10 unreserved seating, £13 reserved seating

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Standard (after 20 August 2018): £12 unreserved seating,  
£15 reserved seating

Get tickets at <https://ulsterhall.co.uk/what-s-on/all-events/stand-together-benefit-concert-christian-aid/>

## **Post-war gains of civility and respect under threat, warns Justin Welby**

Gains made in the post-war period of civility and respect risk being lost amid the current "terrible storm-ridden climate", the Archbishop of Canterbury has warned.

Speaking in the House of Lords, the Most Rev Justin Welby highlighted "a notable absence of genuine dialogue" and stressed the need to be able to "disagree well".

Highlighting the benefits of diversity, the leader of the Church of England argued that monopoly views, be they secular or sacred, allowed people "to live in bubbles of mutual incomprehension and even ignorance".

He made his remarks during a debate in the upper chamber on the challenges posed by religious intolerance and prejudice in the UK.

It came in the wake of the publication of figures that showed a sharp rise in hate crime last year.

Data from the Home Office revealed the biggest hike was in religious hate crime, which rose by 40 per cent from 5,949 in 2016/17.





Referring to the "rising tide" of anti-Semitism and Islamophobia, the Archbishop said: "This terrible storm-ridden climate is affecting people across a whole range of religious traditions."

He said: "It's clear that debate in Britain across a range of issues risks losing the gains we have made in the post-war period, gains of civility and respect.

"There is a notable absence of genuine dialogue and listening to different views."

He told peers there were "many Christians with whom I disagree on the expression of their views in particular areas".

"However, even where I disagree, I want to uphold the right of these people to say things that are neither fashionable nor conventional today."

Highlighting the recent "gay cake" case where the Christian owners of a bakery won a Supreme Court appeal over a

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claim that they had discriminated against a customer, Dr Welby said: "Although there might be things in that case that I would question, it is a thoughtful, erudite and profound examination of the intertwining of freedom of belief and freedom of expression."

He added: "We must seek a society that is able to voice disagreement freely and to disagree well."

"Monopoly views, secular or religious, merely enable people to live in bubbles of mutual incomprehension and even ignorance."

## **Moderator embarks on landmark visit to South America**

The Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, Rt Rev Susan Brown, has embarked on a landmark trip to South America this week to spend time with local churches and human rights organisations.

The eight-day trip, organised with the Waldensian Church in Uruguay, will coincide with Susan's theme for the year, 'Walking with...' where she wants to walk alongside as many people as possible, both physically and spiritually.

Rt Rev Susan Brown said: "Having served as Convener of the Europe Committee of the World Mission Council I had the honour of hearing about the work of our partner church, the Waldensian Church in Italy."



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“While at their synod a few years back, I met a Waldensian minister from Uruguay. Carola [Tron] is the Moderator of the



Waldensian Church in Uruguay this year and since the Church of Scotland is looking to expand our relationships in that part of the world, it seemed fitting to look to hear, walk with and share in something of their story.”

During her packed schedule, Susan will be accompanied by Ian Alexander, the Church of Scotland’s World Mission Council Secretary, as well as her husband Derek.

The visit began in Buenos Aires, Argentina, on Thursday 18 October, with Susan making her way to an ecumenical centre for migrants and refugees, before visiting the Memorial Park (a centre for illegal detention during the Argentine dictatorship between 1976 and 1983).

During her time in Argentina, Susan also visited the human rights organisation Abuelas de Plaza de Mayo (The Grandmothers of the Plaza de Mayo).

The organisation was founded in 1977, with the aim of finding the children stolen and illegally adopted during the dictatorship. As a result of the work of the Grandmothers,

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the cases of 128 missing children have so far been resolved.

They were nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize for the sixth time this year.

Rounding off her visit to Argentina, Susan will share a meal with church representatives from San Andres Presbyterian Church, Evangelical Church of the River Plate, the Reformed Church and Waldensian Evangelical Church.

Susan will touch down in Colonia-Puerto de Colonia, Uruguay on Saturday 20 Oct, where she will explore the historic city of Colonia del Sacramento and have dinner with Consistorio Dolores (the equivalent of the Church of Scotland's Kirk Session).

Susan and her husband Derek will worship in Dolores on Sunday 21 October with Rev Carola Tron, Moderator of Waldensian Evangelical Church, with Susan being invited to preach during the service.

On Monday 22 October, Susan will travel on to Colonia Waldense, Centro Emmanuel (an ecumenical centre related to agro-ecological practices and theological reflection) and el Saradí for the Waldensian Church Centre for people with disabilities.

Then, Susan and the group will meet with local people from the community to discuss the work of the Church of Scotland.

The rest of her visit to Uruguay will consist of shared worship, meetings and conversation with local church

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representatives, including a trip to Obra Ecu mica Barrio Borro (an ecumenical centre located in the disadvantaged neighbourhood of Montevideo, which provides support to children, teenagers and their families).

## **News briefs**

### **+++Methodist President's coming week**

This week I've been reflecting on [#worship](#) -

"If our songs are meant to teach us, then focusing on the words we sing matters." - Bob Kauflin

"Speaking to one another with psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit. Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord." Eph 5: 19

Thanks for all the wonderful prayer support which is greatly appreciated on our travels.

My schedule for the coming week -

Sunday 21st October, 2018: Ballinamallard and Trillick

Monday 22nd: Day Off

Tuesday 23: Pastoral Meetings and Preparations for Worship

Wednesday 24th: Pastoral follow ups

Thursday 25th: Meeting of Church leaders in Dublin.

Friday 26th: Meeting and Autumn Soul

Saturday 27th: Opening of New Methodist Centre, Moira  
Christian Aid Benefit Concert, Belfast

### **+++Music at St Columb's Cathedral, Derry**

This Sunday, the Ladies Choir sing at the Family service at 10.00am before a service of Choral Eucharist at 11.00am with music by Franz Schubert (Mass in G) and Cesar Franck (Panis Angelicus).

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Then at 4.00pm, we've a service of Choral Evensong. Music is by Charles Villiers Stanford (Evening canticles in C) and Martin How (Fairest Lord Jesus). All are welcome.



**The Moderator of the PCI had communion with deaconesses, Irish Mission and Community workers at the end of a retreat. The Moderator commented: What an incredible team and such fun together. "From east and west, from north and south, people will come and take their places at the banquet in the kingdom of God" Luke 13:29**

**+++Belfast Cathedral organ recital**

Cathedral Organist and Master of the Choristers, David Stevens, plays works by the Bach family for our free organ

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recital this  
Sunday, October  
21, starting at  
3pm. His

programme is:

- JE Bach –  
Fantasia und Fuge
- WF Bach –  
Sonata in B flat  
major
- JC Bach –  
Chromatic Fugue  
on BACH

- JS Bach – Prelude and Fugue in D major BWV 532

The recital begins at 3pm and is followed by Choral  
Evensong. Everyone is most welcome to attend!



### **+++Bereavement at Bethlehem Abbey**

Br. Columba O'Neill OCSO - monk of Bethlehem Abbey, Portglenone - has passed away. "He was such a wonderful man - thoughtful, courteous, insightful, humble and deeply spiritual," said a Protestant cleric in a tribute. Columba's funeral will be held on Saturday at noon, although this has not been confirmed. May he rest in peace and rise in glory.

### **+++Belfast launch of The Beatitudes of Pope Francis**

The Beatitudes of Pope Francis was launched on Wednesday night by Jim Deeds in Holy Family Church, North Belfast. Deacon Brendan Dowd was MC and co-musician. Pope Francis's contemporary beatitudes, emphasised the passionate author, Dr Aidan Donaldson,



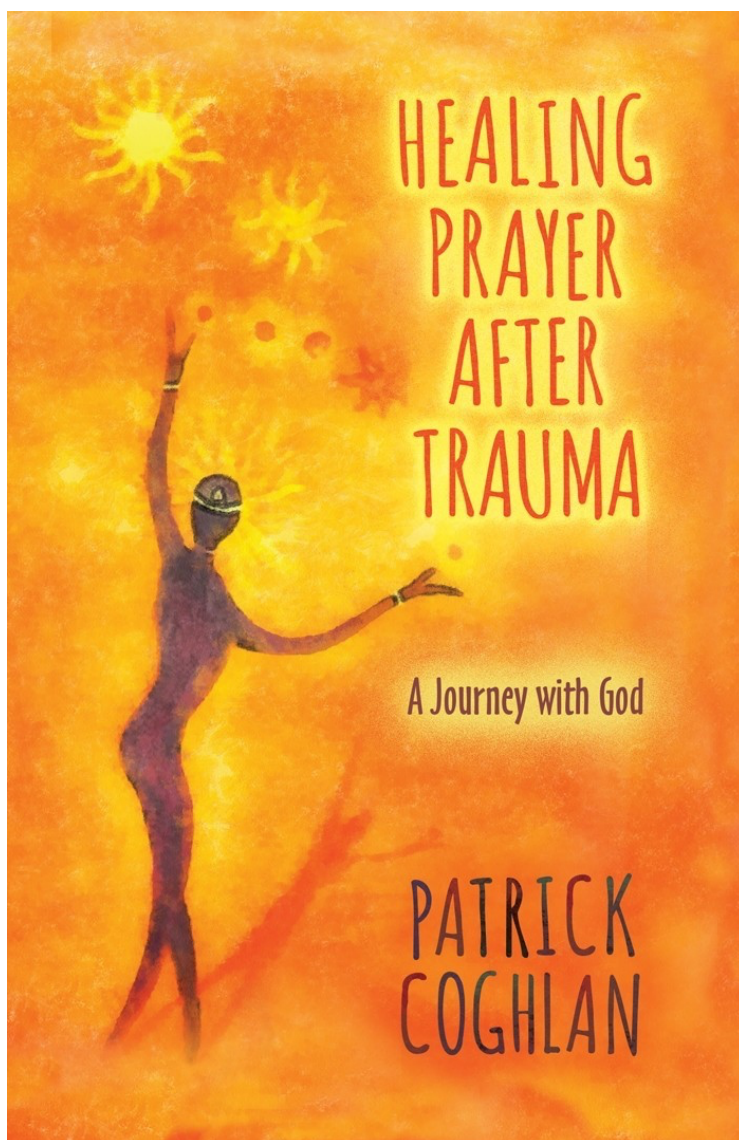
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underlines "his deep-seated concern for, among others, the disenfranchised, for humanitarians, those who work towards repairing our relationship with the earth and those 'who see God in every person and strive to make others also discover him'". This is a great read and a wake up call to Christ present among the poor and marginalised of our world. The only thing missing is a spirituality of the Beatitudes i.e. how to practically live and pray it (maybe his next book!). The subtitle is: A Manifesto for the Modern Christian, it's by Dr Aidan Donaldson and is published by Veritas.

<https://www.irishnews.com/.../new-book-explores-the-francis-.../>

### **+++Healing Prayer After Trauma**

*Healing Prayer After Trauma* explores the possible profound physical, mental, emotional and spiritual impact that a traumatic event, be it recent or historical, can have on a person. Providing the reader with encapsulating snippets of the experiences of his younger self, Patrick Coghlan immerses himself in the text and invites the reader to join him on his spiritual





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journey of healing. Never shying away from his own anxieties, Patrick portrays an honest narrative of his struggles and his ongoing journey to find comfort and acceptance in prayer and reflection. Through carefully chosen prayer, he invites the reader to open a dialogue with God and encourages them to listen to his reply. It is a striking reminder that we are never truly alone. 8.99.  
Published by Kevin Mayhew

### **+++Youth & Children's Worker vacancy**

The Parish of Glenavy is looking for a Children's and Families Worker. For information on this and other vacancies in Connor Diocese, visit <https://connor.anglican.org/vacancies/>

### **+++Iona Community video**

Wonderful video with great historical footage from the original rebuild. Our Iona Centre has always been a place of hospitality, community, & inspiration. With your help, that will continue to be the case <https://iona.org.uk/capital-appeal-information/> ... [#crosstheline](https://youtu.be/P19P1nfoNXk) <https://youtu.be/P19P1nfoNXk> via [@YouTube](#)

## **News links**

### **Church of Ireland backs removal of blasphemy offence**

Irish Times

The **Church of Ireland** is supporting the removal of the offence of blasphemy from the Constitution in the referendum taking place later this month.

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## Church of Ireland supports repeal of Republic's blasphemy law

Belfast Newsletter

**Church of Ireland** supports repeal of Republic's blasphemy law ... Rt Rev Kenneth Kearon, Bishop of Limerick and Killaloe, said that the church found ...

## Church institutions 'sold babies into homes with no proper vetting'

"We were often told we had come from a very bad situation in **Ireland** and we should feel very lucky and happy we had been adopted. We were not ...

## Forced adoption report calls for new investigation

Belfast Telegraph

A new investigation should be opened into **Ireland's** forced adoption system in mother ... Acknowledgement by **religious** orders and church hierarchies

## Women who had children 'forcibly taken' still face discrimination

Irish Times

The Clann Project on Monday published a report – **Ireland's** Unmarried ... Of a **religious** sister at St Patrick's Guild, she said: "I can honestly say that ...

## Religious hate crimes: Rise in offences recorded by police

Most **religious** hate crime - 52% of all offences - was aimed at Muslims. ... While this is fully understood in Northern **Ireland**, it goes less noticed in the ...

## Researcher seeks help in locating relatives of rector born in Louth in 1820

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Dundalk Democrat

Rev Robert Harris was the son of a tax collector. He was rector of St. Mary's **Church of Ireland** Church, Clarecastle, County Clare from, 1851-1884.

**Brexit border blues banished by Maths Week**

Donegal Now

... a **Church of Ireland** school in Co Donegal and St Colmcille National School ... Catholic Maintained, **Church of Ireland** and National School children.”.

**Derry children prove we are all equals in Maths With No Borders initiative**

Derry Now

... wonderful event in Rosemount Primary School in Derry which involved children from Oakgrove Integrated PS; Moyle NS, a **Church of Ireland** school ...

**Explore the Dublin Destinations That Inspired “Dracula”**

Smithsonian

Saint Ann's **Church of Ireland**. Built in the early 18th century, Saint Ann's has been an important landmark in Dublin for centuries and is notable for both ...

**Church of England wins five Digital Impact Awards**

The Church of England

On 16th October 2018 the **Church of England** won in five categories at the national Digital Impact Awards: Best app for #LiveLent; Best website with ...

**Christian MP calls out Church's lack of Amazon scrutiny**

A Christian PM has criticised the **Church of England's** failure to attend Amazon and Google annual shareholders' meetings for at least three years, ...



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## Church accused over failure to quiz tech giants

The Times

The **Church of England** has been absent at Amazon and Google annual ... The church has defended its multimillion-pound stake in companies with ... She said: "Our answer to the **media** was simple: 'It's better to be in the room'."

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