



**Image of
the day -**

**Choral
concerts
to raise
the new
roof at St
Patrick's
Cathedral**

Photo
courtesy of
RTE

News Reports

Rev Dr Samuel Hutchinson - long-serving former clerk and ex-moderator of the Irish Presbyterian Church - dies in hospital following illness

Warm words have been offered for former Presbyterian moderator and clerk Rev Dr Samuel Hutchinson, who died in hospital on Friday after a short illness, aged 84 write Billy Kennedy and Adam Kula in the News Letter.

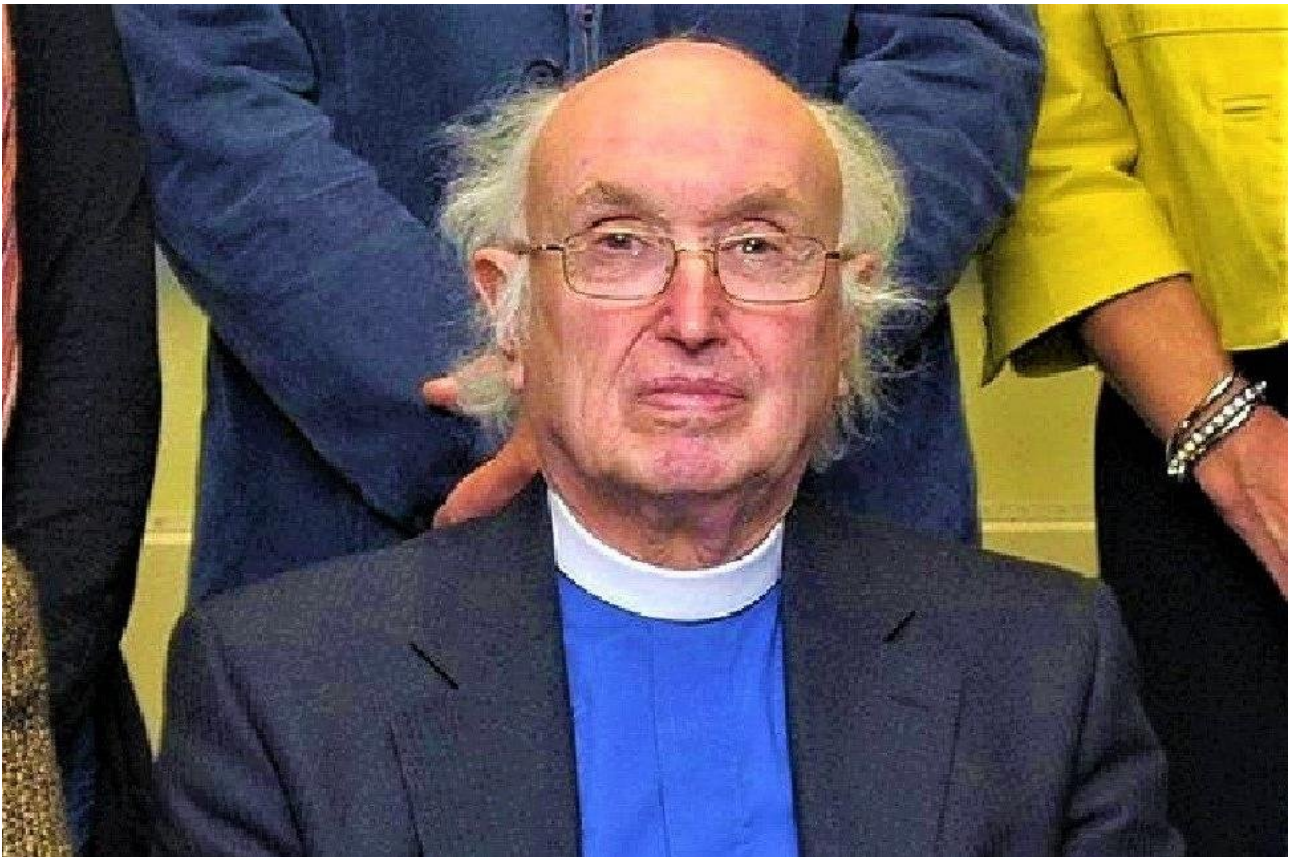
Dr Hutchinson, who is survived by his wife Margaret, was described last night as “a remarkable Christian leader” by another former moderator, the Rev Dr Norman Hamilton.

“Sam Hutchinson was not a high profile public leader, but one who influenced, guided and mentored many of his colleagues, as well as exercising a parallel ministry for the Presbyterian church as a whole, and the wider church of Christ in Ireland,” said Dr Hamilton.

“He was discretion personified, and so very approachable.

“He was Godly, thoughtful, had an enormous memory and was meticulously efficient without being a box-ticker.

“He sought to do what was right, simply because it was the right thing to do as a follower of Christ and as a servant of the Lord’s people and the wider public good.



Rev Dr Samuel Hutchinson

“It was simply a delight to know him, and it was a privilege for all of us in Irish Presbyterianism to have him as one of our outstanding leaders in the church for so many years.”

The Rev Dr Samuel Hutchinson was born in Belfast in 1937, and brought up with the Berry Street congregation (a church which now stands just outside the back of CastleCourt shopping centre in the middle of the city, near St Mary’s Chapel).

He was educated at RBAI, Queen’s University (with a BA in Classics), and then studied at Presbyterian College.

He was posted to Oldpark church in north Belfast, where he was assistant minister, then ministered at Gilford and Clare

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congregations from 1966 before becoming deputy clerk of the Presbyterian general assembly in 1985.

He became assembly clerk in 1990, serving 13 years in that most senior post. He was Presbyterian moderator in 1997-98 and retired from full-time church work in 2003.

Dr Hutchinson was also convenor of the church's Jewish mission, and the racism committee (1979 to 1986) and peace and peace-making committee (1987-1990).

A tribute to him, recorded in the church's own archives from the time when he retired as clerk in 2003, says he had "a wealth of experience seldom found in such high leadership".

It states: "Widely read, he is quietly gracious, a soul of discretion, wise in advice, sound in judgement, careful in counsel, loyal to his church and to its office-bearers at every level.

"He is a peacemaker par excellence. What he does not know about PCI is hardly worth knowing.

"A man of deep personal faith and commitment to his Lord and Master, he instilled confidence and calmness to all whom he met... [he] often left people amazed at the sheer extent of his knowledge and the depth of his understanding.

"Our Church is deeply indebted to him for the selfless service given over the years.

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“In this he was most ably assisted and supported at all times by his wife Margaret.

“We thank her for her loving, gracious and faithful support on so many occasions.

“We wish both Dr and Mrs Hutchinson many years of happy, healthy and busy retirement in the years ahead.”

Dr Hutchinson will have a private funeral committal followed by a service of thanksgiving for his life, held in Railway Street Presbyterian church, Lisburn, this coming Wednesday (November 24) at 3pm.

A funeral notice posted online says he died “peacefully” in hospital, adding: “Family home strictly private. No flowers, letters or telephone calls.” Report courtesy News Letter

Anglican Communion Primates attend online Primates’ Meeting this week

The Anglican Communion Primates will meet online today Monday 22 and tomorrow Tuesday 23 November, for consultation, discussion and prayer.

The Primates will meet via video conference. They will reflect on their ministries and discuss a range of issues for the church and for the world, including COVID-19; COP26; ministry to refugees; and the forthcoming Lambeth Conference.



The Primates at their 2020 meeting in Jordan

The Primates' Meeting is one of Anglicanism's four "Instruments of Communion" and helps to bind together the "independent but inter-dependent" provinces.

The last Primates' Meeting was also held virtually, in November 2020. But plans are in place for an in-person Primates' Meeting in March 2022.

The Primates' Meeting was first developed by the then-Archbishop of Canterbury, Donald Coggan. It aims to provide the senior archbishop or presiding bishop from each province with space for "leisurely thought, prayer and deep consultation."

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On Friday 19 November, a welcome event was held for new primates.

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, has said: “As primates meet online from all over the world, my hope is that it will be a time of encouragement and prayer for one another. I look forward to this chance to listen deeply and learn about the challenges my fellow primates face and the hopes they have for the future of our Church. May God bless us with His Spirit, so we can seek to discern His call for us together.”

A communiqué from the meeting will be issued later this week.

London symposium will consider other side of conversion therapy ban debate

A major symposium is taking place in London this week to assess the UK government's plans to ban so-called conversion therapy.

The gathering on Tuesday 23 November coincides with the government's consultation on the proposed ban, which symposium co-organiser Christian Concern has warned could see Christian parents criminalised for teaching what the Bible says on human sexuality.

Special guests at the symposium include members of the ex-LGBT community who will share their testimonies of how counselling and therapy helped them with unwanted same-sex attraction or gender dysphoria.

Andrea Williams, chief executive of Christian Concern, said the aim of the symposium was to encourage "rigorous" discussion of the issues and present the other side of the debate.

"The event will expose how the government's proposals are based on weak science, flawed research and are dangerous for young people," she said.

"We encourage the media, who often only hear one side of this debate, to come and listen to comprehensive evidence from world-class speakers evidence and decide for themselves."

The international panel of speakers includes psychologist Dr Laura Haynes, sociologist Prof Paul Sullins, researcher and psychologist Dr Christopher Rosik, marriage and family researcher Prof Carolyn Pela, physician Dr Andre Van Mol, academic Dr Walter R Schumm, and pastoral care workers Elizabeth Woning and Ken Williams.

They will consider the scientific basis for the ban and argue that the data and conclusions relied upon to support it are "scientifically flawed", and will harm both adults and children.

However, the symposium is not intended to be exclusive and those who support the ban are being invited to attend.

Williams added, "This unique and important event will bring together international experts at a crucial moment for Christian freedoms on this issue."

People and places



Connor successes

Congratulations to Connor Diocesan Youth Officer Christina Baillie and Church Army Evangelist Karen Webb, who last week graduated with Master's Degrees in Theology from the University of Cumbria. Read more about their achievements at <https://bit.ly/3DOSVKB>.

SAMS missionaries honoured

Gwen Carlisle and Mags Southern, retired SAMS missionaries, served the Lord for over 3 decades in St

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Andrew's College in Paraguay. During their time there they invested in the lives of hundreds of children, young people, families, and staff and made a huge difference. They had the honour last week of each receiving an MBE for services to education in Paraguay. Huge congratulations to Mags and Gwen.

Pride of Cork Award to be presented to Bishop Colton

The Pride of Cork Award 2021 will be presented to the Bishop of Cork, Cloyne & Ross, Dr Paul Colton, next Friday. The award is for people, organisations and communities who are nominated by the people of Cork in a public call for nominations. The Bishop is recognised for numerous reasons, such as his night prayers during the Covid-19 pandemic that gave hope, solace and inspiration, his inclusiveness for all in our society and his ability to speak out and be heard in Civic, Church and State matters, among others. Dr Colton is the longest serving Bishop of Cork, Cloyne & Ross in over 400 years, and as the longest serving bishop still in office in the Anglican Churches of Ireland, England, Scotland and Wales.

Pillar of Presbyterian Social Witness Council retires

Lindsay Conway, Secretary to the Council for Social Witness is concluding 19 years of service in that role. Give thanks for his contribution over that time and pray that God would continue to lead him as he commences his retirement.

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You can read an interview with Lindsay in the latest edition of the Presbyterian Herald here:

<https://www.presbyterianireland.org/Resources/Presbyterian-Herald/Downloads/2021-Presbyterian-Herald-Downloads.aspx>

Pray also for Lindsay's successor, Dermot Parsons, who has been shadowing Lindsay during these last few weeks, as he takes on this key and challenging role in PCI.

Rokeby Lecture in Armagh

The Armagh Robinson Library will continue its 250th anniversary celebrations next week. As part of the City of Armagh's Georgian Week celebrations the Library will hold its annual Rokeby Lecture next Thursday evening at 7.30pm when Dr Kate Heard, Senior Curator of Prints and Drawings at the Royal Collection Trust, will speak about 'Amusement or enrichment? Archbishop Robinson and his prints'. The lecture will be held in The Studio Theatre in the Market Place Theatre. Admission is free with pre-booking essential through the Theatre's booking system here. Later on the same evening and in the same venue there will be a premiere of the film, Bind. This innovative contemporary dance and poetry film has been created in Armagh Robinson Library to celebrate its 250th anniversary.

Training for Ministry with PCI

Six people have applied for Ordained Ministry this year. The application process runs through until Easter, with

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placements, interviews and assignments. Pray that the Lord would guide and give wisdom to applicants and interviewers as together

Love from Cloughfern

Congratulations to long-time parishioner Pat Charlton, who has celebrated her 97th birthday! Pictured here with her granddaughter Clare. Love and congratulations were expressed from all in Cloughfern!



Clergy supply challenge in Italy

New data released by the Church in Italy highlights what has been a concerning trend among Catholic leaders in the country for decades: namely, a drop in the number of local priests and an increase in the average age of Italy's clerics. However, this data also found that while there are less men joining the priesthood in Italy, the decrease in local vocations has to an extent been offset by a significant increase in foreign priests serving in Italian dioceses.

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Webinars, music, resources, broadcasts and books

'Hope Dawns' videos

CMS Ireland is making their 'Hope Dawns' video material available again for your Advent and Christmas services. They produced this material in 2020 along with their friends in Sams Ireland.

cmsireland.org/hope-dawns



PRONI
Public Record Office
of Northern Ireland

An Archive for Everyone

Sharing our Story

– Northern Ireland's Jewish community

SPEAKERS:
Steven Jaffe, Bernard Enlander, Amanda Jackson (née Moss) and PRONI's Lorraine Bourke.

Belfast Jewish Heritage is supported by the Shared History Fund, managed by the National Lottery Heritage Fund.

EVENT DETAILS
DATE: Thursday 2 December 2021
TIME: 3:00 – 4:00pm
WHERE: This is an online event
* Registration is now open

Visit www.eventbrite.co.uk and search 'Sharing our Story' for more details

* Registration is required at least one hour before the event and there are no restrictions on numbers

Department for
Communities
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www.communities-ni.gov.uk

The Jews of Belfast - Sharing our Story

An on-line event hosted by the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland and Belfast Jewish heritage.

Date and time - Thu, 2 December 2021 : 15:00 – 16:00 GMT

churchnewsireland@gmail.org

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Free - registration via the link

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/sharing-our-story-northern-irelands-jewish-community-tickets-203717734227?fbclid=IwAR3pET10v0N9FleaHwEAXvOl1EjaeDCnm9yvxxXljXGl8cELh72L5o4jxB4>

Digital Dispatches from PCI Global Mission Workers

The latest video update from Gary & Mary Reid, PCI Global Mission Workers partnering with the Presbyterian Church of East Africa is available for download to use in church services from

www.presbyterianireland.org/digitaldispatches

Methodist Word Development update

<https://irishmethodist.org/world-development-about>

Ulster-Scots new book launch and Lisburn exhibition

The Ulster-Scots Agency and Irish Linen Centre & Lisburn Museum have announced a new book launch and exhibition as part of the Agency's Ulster-Scots Language Week.

Today, Monday 22 November, a new book by local author Gilbert Watson – History into Poetry, The works of James McKowen (1814-1889) – will be unveiled, alongside an

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accompanying exhibition titled, 'The Bard of Lambeg, James McKowen (1814-89), Poet of Lisburn'.

The book launch at the Irish Linen Centre is invitation only, but the exhibition is open to all. Times for the exhibition are Monday-Saturday, 9:30am-4pm, until further notice.

Perspective

The world of work and our experience of it is changing by John Weaver

Office workers wish to work from home and cafes and bars want them back in the office because city centre trade is falling. Doctors are finding that telephone appointments are giving greater efficiency and an ability to 'see' more patients, while patients long for a face-to-face meeting with their GP. Brexit allows us to restrict the entry of migrants from other countries, but now we are short of lorry drivers, and some suggest that Christmas supplies and choices may be restricted. Energy prices are rising, universal credit is being reduced, and wages are frozen until next year at the earliest, while food prices are on the rise. Many say that they will have to choose between heating their homes and putting food on the table.

In the New Testament we find that the world of work was not only where Jesus was often found, but also through his parables and conversations, it became a key arena through which his followers could discover and understand the nature of their calling. As faithful followers of Jesus is work

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something that gets in the way of our discipleship or an opportunity through which to express it?

Phil Jump and I believe it to be the latter, but our purpose in our book, *Love: Work. Reflections and Prayers for a World at Work*, is not so much to make the case for that, which is well outlined in other publications, but to offer some practical resources to those who share this conviction.

There are many of us who, for various reasons, are not engaged in regular formal employment. However, seldom, if ever, will a day go by when we do not interact and engage with people at work. Even if we are not employees, business owners or traders, when we switch on our radio, visit a hospital, travel into town or read a newspaper, we engage with someone's working day. Whether we recognise it or not, our perception of the world of work in general is bound to shape our attitude to them and the job that they do – a role that is likely to occupy a significant part of their life. If we consider it to be of no importance or interest, we are in effect expressing a similar attitude to him or her as a person. If we believe ourselves to be ambassadors of Christ, this communicates a message that God is not interested in a significant part of who they are and what they do.

Love: Work seeks to offer ways of living out our calling to love God and love our neighbour (Matt. 22:34-40). Such things are easy to say, but through each of the Ten Commandments, which shape our book, we offer a way of putting this into practice by adopting a deliberate attitude of mind that can be an expression of Christian discipleship in just about any context.

Our diversity as a community of God's people is reflected in not only the different gifts and personalities that we each have, but the very different lives that we will find ourselves living as we fulfil our roles and responsibilities in the world around us. These different gifts and callings are nonetheless described as the work of one Spirit (1 Cor. 12:11) and make up the one body of believers.

This is also true in our places of work. Every member of the working community is important and has their part to play in the success of the whole. Within the world of work there is a diverse community including the decision makers, innovators, cleaners, creative designers, labourers, IT experts, administrators, catering staff, supermarket staff, security personnel and manufacturers. Relationships must extend beyond any single workplace, for there is a close interdependence between suppliers, service providers, customers, competitors, regulators and clients. All are needed, or as Paul said of the body of Christ, all are part of the body, whatever our human judgement may be.

As disciples of Jesus, we too are part of the networks and structures that comprise the world of work, and we will play our part in the common purpose of workplace communities, but we do so as the dispersed Body of Christ. We might often find ourselves in situations where we feel we have little flexibility and choice. However, the attitude with which we engage is always ours to determine:

My diary may be filled by others;
My schedules set by systems beyond my control;
My shift patterns and working hours,

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Might not be mine to question.
I can only serve the next customer in the line,
And take nothing but the next assignment that arrives.

But mine is the choice to live as a child of God this day;
Mine to embrace its endeavours as one called to walk in
God's ways;
Mine to determine the attitude I adopt;
Mine to define success and achievement.

So clothe me in the likeness of Christ;
Equip me to be a true disciple;
Inspire me to seek your holy purposes,
Not by separating myself from the things of this world,
But through my engagement at their core. AMEN

John Weaver is a retired Baptist minister and was Principal of South Wales Baptist College and Dean of the Faculty of Theology, Cardiff University. He is a former President of the Baptist Union of Great Britain, and is Vice Chair of the Industrial Christian Fellowship. LOVE: WORK... Reflections and Prayers for a World of Work is available at your Christian bookshop or online.

Poem for today

Under Ben Bulbin by William Butler Yeats

I
Swear by what the Sages spoke
Round the Mareotic Lake
That the Witch of Atlas knew,
Spoke and set the cocks a-crow.

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Swear by those horsemen, by those women,
Complexion and form prove superhuman,
That pale, long visaged company
That airs an immortality
Completeness of their passions won;
Now they ride the wintry dawn
Where Ben Bulbin sets the scene.

Here's the gist of what they mean.

II

Many times man lives and dies
Between his two eternities,
That of race and that of soul,
And ancient Ireland knew it all.
Whether man dies in his bed
Or the rifle knocks him dead,
A brief parting from those dear
Is the worst man has to fear.
Though grave-diggers' toil is long,
Sharp their spades, their muscle strong,
They but thrust their buried men
Back in the human mind again.

III

You that Mitchel's prayer have heard
'Send war in our time, O Lord!'
Know that when all words are said
And a man is fighting mad,
Something drops from eyes long blind
He completes his partial mind,

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For an instant stands at ease,
Laughs aloud, his heart at peace,
Even the wisest man grows tense
With some sort of violence
Before he can accomplish fate
Know his work or choose his mate.

IV

Poet and sculptor do the work
Nor let the modish painter shirk
What his great forefathers did,
Bring the soul of man to God,
Make him fill the cradles right.

Measurement began our might:
Forms a stark Egyptian thought,
Forms that gentler Phidias wrought.

Michael Angelo left a proof
On the Sistine Chapel roof,
Where but half-awakened Adam
Can disturb globe-trotting Madam
Till her bowels are in heat,
Proof that there's a purpose set
Before the secret working mind:
Profane perfection of mankind.

Quattrocento put in paint,
On backgrounds for a God or Saint,
Gardens where a soul's at ease;
Where everything that meets the eye
Flowers and grass and cloudless sky

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Resemble forms that are, or seem
When sleepers wake and yet still dream,
And when it's vanished still declare,
With only bed and bedstead there,
That Heavens had opened.

Gyres run on;
When that greater dream had gone
Calvert and Wilson, Blake and Claude
Prepared a rest for the people of God,
Palmer's phrase, but after that
Confusion fell upon our thought.

V

Irish poets learn your trade
Sing whatever is well made,
Scorn the sort now growing up
All out of shape from toe to top,
Their unremembering hearts and heads
Base-born products of base beds.
Sing the peasantry, and then
Hard-riding country gentlemen,
The holiness of monks, and after
Porter-drinkers' randy laughter;
Sing the lords and ladies gay
That were beaten into the clay
Through seven heroic centuries;
Cast your mind on other days
That we in coming days may be
Still the indomitable Irishry.

VI

Under bare Ben Bulbin's head
In Drumcliff churchyard Yeats is laid,
An ancestor was rector there
Long years ago; a church stands near,
By the road an ancient Cross.
No marble, no conventional phrase,
On limestone quarried near the spot
By his command these words are cut:

Cast a cold eye
On life, on death.
Horseman, pass by

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