



cmsireland
equipping the church in mission

summer snippets

2019



The Family Gathering



As we come to the end of a year focused around our annual theme 'In the margins' I have been reminded that God's Kingdom work does not usually happen in the spotlight or at centre stage. Rather, we come across Him at unexpected times in overlooked places among seemingly ordinary people.

Our God is extraordinary, after all He chose me and you, and all He asks is that we lay aside our own agendas and follow where He leads – which is often away from the spotlight to the margins. There we find the most extraordinary things happening and *He wants us to be a part of it.*

I hope you have been inspired by hearing 'from the margins' as we have been out and about in parishes, meeting clergy and members, through *inMission*, on our website and facebook pages.

Thank you for enabling these things to happen through your participation, prayers and generosity!

We look forward to welcoming you and some of our global partners to *Ignite* to find out more about what is happening in the margins, to catch up with each other and explore what God has in store for us all in the coming months!

Jenny Smyth
[Mission Director]



CMSI President, Rev. Adrian Dorrian reflects on the *Shine*, our Annual Members' Day and AGM in Swords on 30th March.



"One of the things I love about our CMSI members' days is the fact that, although we get loads of business done, it's much more than an AGM.

It is a family gathering, where we catch up, share stories, bless and challenge each other.

I always leave feeling renewed. I'm very excited about our new board members coming alongside existing trustees to work together in the year ahead."

Relentless Prayer

The CMSI staff team were delighted to be part of this years' Relentless Prayer - an event that takes place during lent and focuses on prayer for North and West Belfast.

We created a prayer space in our Belfast office and we were joined by people from the local community to pray for this area. This is the second year CMSI have been part of this event and we appreciate all that the churches in Belfast are doing to engage with mission on their doorstep.



Learning lessons from our partners

The Diocese of Egypt is CMSI's only partner in the Middle East, and so we count it a great privilege to connect with Bishop Mouneer and the people of his Diocese. Drumbeg and Hillsborough Parishes are linked to the Diocese especially through the strategic ministries of theological training at the Nuba Mountain Bible Institute and Harpur Memorial Hospital which reaches people in the margins with health and social care.



Bishop Mouneer, Nancy & Rev. Dr Bryan Follis

Partnerships often grow through relationships built during visits. Rev. Dr. Bryan Follis, Rev. Willie Nixon and Drumbeg parishioner Nigel Quinn visited Cairo in October 2017 and were involved in a three day clergy retreat each leading teaching and discussion on Church History, Sermon preparation, and missiology. Rev. Dr. Bryan Follis explains how the visit impacted his sense of partnership:

"We know of the attacks on churches and the christian community but to see first-hand the hostility and discrimination suffered daily by individual christians was sobering. Yet it was also inspirational to



Nigel Quinn and Rev Willie Nixon

see how our Egyptian brothers and sisters in Christ deal with this hostility and remain faithful to Christ.

If their conduct was inspirational, it was also challenging to us in the complacent West. For their priority is clearly Christ instead of money and 'things', and they displayed a great willingness to put Him ahead of an easy life. Instead of just blending in with the prevailing culture, the diocese retains an evangelistic mission which is humbling. We have much to learn from the Church in Egypt."



Team with Nuba Bible Institute students

Following two visits to Cairo with CMSI Drumbeg parishioner Nigel Quinn says:

"It really came home to me how great the need was in that part of the world. There are many refugees from Sudan, South Sudan, Syria and other countries in the region who are struggling to get by. There are also many Egyptians who face real hardship through lack of educational and medical facilities and the lack of properly paid employment. The diocese is reaching out to these people groups through its various programmes such as Episcopcare and Refuge Egypt. In turn the church and laity need prayer support from us and also help in practical areas such as clergy training in which some of us have had the privilege of being involved"

As a result of the growing partnership, Drumbeg and Hillsborough Parishes hope to host the Area Bishop of North Africa and his wife in June:

"Our partnership with the diocese was greatly strengthened when we visited Cairo. We are delighted to welcome Bishop Samy and his wife Madeline and continue to build our partnership with Egypt." [Rev. Willie Nixon]

You are invited to come to Drumbeg Parish on Friday 21st June at 7pm for a BBQ and focus on Egypt. Bishop Samy will speak about the Diocese and share his stories of transformation through faith.

Linda Abwa
[Partnership Coordinator, Egypt]

Personnel snapshots



Rev Dr Maurice Elliott (CITI Director) visited St John's Seminary, Zambia in May. The purpose of the visit was for

capacity building, academic teaching and advising on accreditation.

"In St. John's I witnessed a community of learning and fellowship with a true heart for serving Jesus Christ, a willingness to follow His call no matter the cost, and a desire to see people won to a living faith in Him".

It's good to see **Billy Smyth** home after two positive visits to our partners in Yei, South Sudan. Find his blogs on our website.

Over the summer, two **CMSI teams** will visit our partners in Kenya (UDP, Nairobi and Kajiado Diocese) and another will visit Kitwe, Zambia. We also have a team from Limavady Grammar School going to Kenya in July.

July also sees two Short-Term Experience Placements by **Lesley Burton** and **Rev Heather Cooke** to our partners in Nepal (SD Church).



Follow our website and social media for blogs and updates from teams and **STEPS**



We've just learned that our own **Kelly Yates** will be moving on from CMSI after her current study break. Kelly has served on the staff team since

2012. She'll be taking up a new role in Edinburgh with 'Send A Cow'.

Kelly writes: *"It has been a privilege to journey with our link parishes and global partners over the last six years. I would like to thank you for your enthusiasm and dedication to growing fruitful partnerships. You have made my time with CMSI both enjoyable and rewarding. I am pleased to leave behind vibrant links with Uganda, Rwanda and Burundi and will eagerly keep up with your news as you continue to grow in partnership."*

Wheels keep on turning...

Two CMSI link parishes, St Paul's, Lisburn and Dromore Cathedral, have been busy raising funds for their global partners by getting on their bikes! Their efforts are greatly valued by CMSI and our partners in Kenya and South Sudan.

Roger Thompson (*Partnership Coordinator for Kenya*) congratulates St Paul's Lisburn on their recent fundraising efforts.



Rev Arthur Young and George Irwin

"Well done to Rev Arthur Young (Rector of St Paul's, Lisburn) and parishioner George Irwin who completed an epic sponsored cycle ride in April. The pair set off on Easter Sunday from St. Paul's and after 6 days and 386 miles they had

visited all 106 church of Ireland churches in the 72 parishes throughout the Diocese of Connor.

They returned saddle-sore but in one piece to St. Paul's on Friday 26th April and have so far raised over £4,000 towards the parish CMSI Team visit to Kajiado in 2020. They aim to raise a total of £20,000 to help paint the church which was built with funding from St Paul's, and work on an adjacent accommodation block which houses theological students."

Linda Abwa (*Partnership Coordinator for South Sudan*) shares Dromore Cathedral's plans for a big fundraising cycle taking place in June.

"Dean Geoff Wilson of Dromore Cathedral plans to cycle 275 miles taking in 8 Cathedrals in Northern Ireland.

The cycle will raise funds not only for a water project at Dromore Cathedral but also for a water harvesting system in the

Cathedral's partner Diocese of Maridi, South Sudan.

Dromore Cathedral has had a long partnership with Maridi, with many friendships built and projects supported over the years.

Dean Geoff met the new Bishop of Maridi, Bishop Moses Zungo during CMSI's Peace and Reconciliation Conference in Northern Uganda in October 2018 and looks forward to hosting him and his wife in August."



Dean Geoff Wilson

Make it count in many ways

The **Make It Count** initiative was launched at the AGM in March by Board Member, Lou Talbot Bierne:

'In our Make It Count initiative we are encouraging those of you who give to consider not only giving to projects but giving to the Mission Resource Fund – the fund which enables everything we do to happen.

It supports Global Partner visits to Ireland, development of resources used in our link parishes, helps those called to mission service to explore and prepare for their placements, raises awareness of global church issues with schools and communities, pays salaries of our fantastic staff and the work involved in charity compliance requirements.

The Make It Count Initiative leaflet is stuffed full of exciting fundraising



ideas. Do have a peek and see what you are inspired to do!

The gift of Art

We recently received a phonecall from Mrs Elizabeth Foye, one of our CMSI Stars in Bangor, Co Down.

Liz was keen to support the Society by donating a large collection of watercolour paintings by her late husband, Allen Foye.

Allen was a well known painter in Ireland and France. His paintings feature Irish and French landscapes, buildings and boats.

We are currently looking at the best options for displaying and selling this collection. If you like more information or could help with this, please get in touch. We will display some of Allen's paintings at the CMSI Ignite conference.



Online family

CMSI has built up a significant online community with over 2000 followers on our social media pages. It is a great place for us to engage in a regular and informal way with our members and supporters.

Facebook has created a new and easy-to-use fundraising tool.

Many people already donate to CMSI in lieu of gifts, especially for "Big Birthdays" or weddings. Why not consider using this new Facebook fundraising option for your next celebration.

Go to our CMSI Facebook page and follow the 'create a fundraiser' instructions.



CMSI family snippets

Board of Trustees



At March's AGM, Chairman Rev Adrian Dorrian welcomed new members to the CMSI's Board of Trustees. Members elected were **Maureen Clarke, Will Grier, Gracious Nyamupachitu and Geoffrey Walmsley**. They join serving Board members, **Caroline Casserly-Farrar, Frank Dobbs, Norman Jackson, Niall Manogue, David Reynolds and Lou Talbot Beirne**.

Give thanks for this new board, as they help shape and guide CMSI in the coming years.

Give thanks too for our trustees who stepped down from the board at the AGM: **Olwen Laird and Stephen McWhirter**.

Remembering Irene Lockett

- by Jenny Smyth

I was privileged to give a tribute at the Thanksgiving service for Irene held in Willowfield parish on 30 April. Irene was much loved by the CMS Ireland family

and her connection dates back to her years of service in Kenya. There she helped establish the Mothers' Union, the Church Army training college and worked alongside Raymond and Audrey Smith in St Paul's United Theological, Limuru.

On return to Belfast in the 1970's, she was appointed as the CMSI Children's worker, alongside Cecil Wilson, the youth worker. Irene ran CMSI camps for children and promoted the Children's Lent Project. Many people across this island will remember the camps with fondness and recognise the significant part they played in their own faith journey. The Lent Project was widely used in Sunday Schools to introducing children to the worldwide family of God

Irene subsequently travelled to Egypt on a short term placement. Irene forged deep friendships through her CMSI connections and always maintained her dedication to and interest in the work of the society. She was a faithful prayer



warrior and her cheerful presence and deep understanding of mission will be greatly missed – until we meet in glory!

CMSI on tour

Look out for CMSI at various events this summer - we are taking part in exhibits at New Horizon and Bangor Worldwide Missionary Convention. We have created an interactive display, with a personal skills audit, to help people find their place in God's great story of mission.

Ronnie and Maggie Briggs



Many of you will have read in the Easter Link Letter that Ronnie and Maggie have decided to

finish their time in Kenya and return home to Banbridge. They plan to finish their work in Kajiado Diocese in October 2019. They will then have a period of home assignment for farewell visits to their link parishes and to seek what God has planned for them next.

Please pray for Ronnie and Maggie and our Partners in Kenya at this time of significant change. Give thanks for all the work that they have been involved with over many years of Mission Partner service.

We are delighted to have Archbishop Richard Clarke joining us for our conference and he shared this message with us,



"Having had long connections with CMSI in different ways, it is a great pleasure to welcome the Ignite Conference and I look forward to celebrating communion with CMSI at the event."



2019 ignite

CMSI Annual Conference

Saturday 14th September

Dromantine Retreat & Conference Centre, Newry

Friday Extra on 13th

Early Booking Discount
until 30th June!

Dublin

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