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MS 880

Papers, correspondence and printed materials relating to the clerical and missionary career of the Revd Canon William John ('Billy') Marshall (born 1935)

1929-2004

Introduction

William John ('Billy') Marshall was ordained in 1959 for the diocese of Down, and served initially as curate of St Columbanus' Ballyholme, Bangor, 1959-61. He then went to India as a missionary worker at Dublin University Mission, in the remote northern diocese of Chota Nagpur from 1962 until 1972, which diocese later became part of the Church of North India in 1970, and the inauguration of which is extensively covered in this collection.

Following his ten years of service in India, he returned to Ireland and served with distinction in the Church of Ireland as Assistant Chaplain Trinity College Dublin, 1973-76. In 1976 he completed his doctoral degree for a thesis on the North India/Pakistan Plan of Union, entitled 'The Church of North India / Pakistan: a theological assessment of the plan of union' (a copy of which is available in the RCB Library), and his researches for this are reflected by the large quantity of materials relating to the union and inauguration of the Church of North India, and other Church unions in this collection. In the same year as receiving his doctorate, Marshall also became incumbent of Rathmichael parish, in the diocese of Dublin, where he served from 1976 to 1992, and finally as Vice-Principal Church of Ireland Theological College, 1992-2005. In 1990, he was made a canon of Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin, and became Chancellor of the cathedral in 1992, a position he continued until retirement in 2005.

His connections with the Dublin University Mission continued following his return to Ireland, as chairman of the Executive Committee in Dublin 1981-85, and subsequently as a member of the committee. Two years after DUMCN centenary celebrations, held in March 1990, he returned to India to visit St Columba's hospital and other mission-linked locations in Hazaribag, March 2002, a visit covered by photographs and other memorabilia in this collection.

Other interests covered by the collection include his involvement in a range of ecumenical dialogues, including the Tripartite Conversations (Church of Ireland, Methodist and Presbyterian Churches), concerning various topics of mutual interest, during the 1980s; and the work of the Methodist/Church of Ireland Joint Theological Working Party (JTWP) which facilitated the dialogue leading to the Covenant between the Methodist Church in Ireland and the Church of Ireland, signed at Chrome Hill, Lambeg, county Antrim, 26 September 2002, from 2000 until 2003.

1/ Correspondence

Letters addressed to W.J. Marshall, as follows

1. Rt. Revd Lesslie Newbigin, Bishop of Madras, Diocese of South India, referring to Marshall's study proposal on the Church of North India, which he compliments as 'so thorough, comprehensive and well organised that I cannot really make any suggestions for change'
10 February 1973
2. Most Revd George Otto Simms, Archbishop of Armagh, The Palace, Armagh, congratulating Marshall on the completion of his doctoral work
5 February 1976
3. Rt. Revd George Otto Simms, retired as primate, 6 Cypress Grove Road, Dublin 6 thanking Marshall for writing after he had visited [possibly Rathmichael parish] and for the generous cheque
12 January 1982
4. Rt. Revd George Otto Simms, 6 Cypress Grove Road, Dublin 6, agreeing to write a foreword to Canon Marshall's book *Advent Antiphons*, and commenting on the inspiring surroundings of St Deniol's, from where Marshall had written to him. Simms comments that he has known St Deniol's since his first visit in 1934, and comments: 'The whole setting with the chapel's worship and the impressive library must have given you much inspiration for your work'. He looks forward to reading what Canon Marshall has written...
Sadly, the former primate got a stroke and died before the book was ready, so his foreword was never written.
12 August 1991
5. Canon John Brown, Belfast, congratulating him on his appointment as Vice-Principal of the Theological College, which he considers will be 'to the benefit of the whole Church of Ireland, and commenting on his scholarship and experience in India
20 January 1992
6. Venerable John A. Cable, retired archdeacon of Chota Nagpur, Forestside, New South Wales, Australia, describing recent local bush fires, and also reminiscing about times in India and his more recent visit to Ireland
10 January 1994
7. Venerable John A. Cable, retired archdeacon of Chota Nagpur, Forestside, New South Wales, Australia, mentioning his recent ill-health and further memories and contacts with India
17 November 1994

2/ Manuscript materials relating to the history & inauguration of the Church of North India

1. Typescript entitled *The CNI History* in three parts, by Revd Dr D. M. Kennedy, chaplain and lecturer in history in Wilson College, Bombay, 1956-60.
Kennedy was joint secretary of the Negotiating Committee on Church Union in North India, 1964-70, and of the Inaugural Committee of the Church of North India (CNI), and the text covers the three main periods leading to the historic union of the Church: Pachmarhi to Calcutta, 1956-60; Calcutta to Pachmarhi, 1960-65; and Pachmarhi to Nagpur, 1965-70.
Undated c. 1970
2. Church of Pakistan, Diocese of Karachi, Service of Unification for presbyters and deacons, Holy Trinity Cathedral, Karachi
15 November 1970
3. Printed programme of events for the inauguration
28-30 November 1970
4. The Order of Service for the Inauguration of the Church of North India and the Representative Act of Unification of the Ministry, held in All Saints' Cathedral, Nagpur
29 November 1970
5. The Order of Service for the Declaration and Confirmation of the Appointment of the Existing Bishops and Consecration of the New Bishops, All Saints Cathedral, Nagpur
30 November 1970
6. The Order of Service of Thanksgiving and Dedication of the Church of North India,
30 November 1970
7. Supplementary service sheets and information about the inauguration services, in English and Hindi
4 items
November 1970
8. Copy of the *Nagpur Christian*, being a special edition of the Christian Council of Nagpur celebrating the Church of North India Inauguration
October-December 1970
9. Inauguration handbook, including statements and messages of goodwill from various political figures and religious leaders in India and international
1970

10. Miscellaneous press cuttings relating to the inauguration events
1970

3/ Printed materials relating to the history of the Church of North India

1/ Newspapers and periodicals

1. *Church Union News and Views*, on microfilm
1929-1930
2. *The Clergy Monthly*
November 1970
3. *National Christian Council Review*
October 1969, January 1970, December 1970
4. *Bombay Diocesan Review*
August 1969, May 1970, July 1970, August 1970, October 1970, December
1970
5. *The Lucknow Diocesan Chronicle*
July 1969

2/ Printed books relating to the Church of North India

1. *Plan of Church Union in North India and Pakistan*, 2nd, 3rd and 4th editions bound
together (1951, 1954, 1965)
2. *Uttar Bharat men Kalisiyai Ekta ki Yojna*, being the Hindi version of 4th edition
(1965)
3. W. Stewart, *The Faith We Confess: The UCNI Confession of Faith* (1960)
4. *Looking Forward to Church Union in North India* being leaflet guides towards
union, five items,
Undated
5. Stephen F. Bayne, *Ceylon North India Pakistan: A Study in Ecumenical Decision*
(1960)

6. Myra Scovel, *I Must Speak: the biography of Augustine Ralla Ram* (Allahabad 1961)
7. *The Constitution, Canons and Rules of the Church of India, Pakistan, Burma and Ceylon* (1962)
8. James Kellock, *Breakthrough for Church Union in North India and Pakistan* (Madras 1965)
9. *Pachmari 1965: Study Guide to Plan of Union* (1965)
10. *Forward to Union: The Church of North India A Handbook* (1968)
11. *The United Church of Northern India: Survey 1968* (1968)
12. *Church of North India Draft Constitution* (1971)
13. *Report on Full Communion with the Churches of North India and Pakistan* presented to the Church of England General Synod (1971)
14. *Proceedings of the Consultation of CNI with Related Churches Overseas*, held in Delhi (1972)
15. *Church of North India: Unity-Witness-Service, celebrating five years of unity* (with photographs and statistics) (Undated, 1976?)

3/ Printed books relating to other union plans in other Churches

1. A.J. Arangaden *Church Union in South India: Its Progress and Consummation* (Mangalore 1947)
2. *The Constitution of the Church of South India* (1962)
3. *Scheme of Church Union in Ceylon* (revised, 1963)
4. *The Church of South India (CSI) Theological Conversations 1948-1959* (1964)
5. *Proposed Constitution for the Church of Christ in South India* (1970)
6. *Church of South India-Lutheran Conversations: A Historical Sketch* (1970)
7. *Anglican-Lutheran International Conversations 1970-1972* (1973)
8. *Proposals for Church Union in Ghana: The Inauguration and Constitution of the United Church* (1973)

9. *Basis of Union* (Australia) (1971)
10. *A Plan of Union: Consultation on Church Union (COCU) held St Louis, Missouri USA* (1970)
11. *COCU: The Reports of the Four Meetings held Ohio* (1973)
12. *Plan of Union* (Canada) (1973)
13. *The Joint Commission on Church Union in New Zealand* (1965)
14. *Ministry in a Uniting Church: Commission of the Covenanted Churches in Wales* (1986)
15. *Relations between Anglican and Presbyterian Churches* (1957), with a leaflet by Douglas Lockhart (priest of the Scottish Episcopal Church)
- 16.-18. *Reports of the Anglican-Methodist Unity Commission* (1968). Three items as follows
 - I *The Ordinal*
 - II *The Scheme*
 - A Short Guide*

4/ Papers concerning Chota Nagpur diocese and personnel who served at the Dublin University Mission (DUMCN)

1. Handwritten sermon in the hand of the Most Revd Alan Buchannan, the Archbishop of Dublin, of sermon he preached as Church of Ireland representative at the inauguration of the Church of North India, who preached it on the occasion of the diocesan union, at Ranchi, Chota Nagpur, December 1970. The sermon focuses on prayer, and conveys the archbishop's excitement at being in India, and the importance of the occasion as he states: 'I can hardly tell you how thrilled I am to share your family service. In Ireland I heard of Chota Nagpur since I was a small boy, and now I am actually with you'.
December 1970
2. Address at the memorial service for Joan Barker (1934-1976), missionary in Chota Nagpur, murdered 1976, by the Revd Alistair Macnaughton, retired missionary in Chota Nagpur.
1976
3. Tributes and materials relating to the to life of Arthur Francis Markham OBE, LL.D, 1901-1986, who served as Lecturer in Philosophy at St

Columba's College, in Hazaribagh, from 1923, and later as College Principal from 1930 until 1965, including the memorial address by W.J. Marshall, and order of service, held at All Saints' Church, Highfield, Headington, Oxford, 21 March 1987; typescript of details prepared for Prof. Volkes, and TCD Commencements address (Latin and English) at which he was conferred with the LL.D degree, 1974 by W.J. Marshall; printed item entitled 'An unsung hero' By B.H. [Brian Harvey]

5 items

1974; 1987

4. Memorial address for the Rt. Revd F.R. 'Fred' Willis by Elizabeth Ferrar, bishop of Delhi 1951-66 and long-time servant of DUMCN, All Saints Grangegorman, Dublin, 24 November 1976
5. DUMCN Reports
1984 & 1987
6. Accounts of the murder by beheading of Fr. A.T. Thomas, S.J., near Hazaribag, following a local dispute about land rights.
1997
7. Memorial address for Catherine (Kitty) White, St John's Sandymount, who served in St Columba's Hospital, 1938-1970, by W.J. Marshall, 26 March 1990
8. Newspaper cutting of the obituary of Elizabeth Ferrar, *The Irish Times* 18 August 2001
9. Letter describing a visit to Chota Nagpur by Margaret Messer, York, December 2002
10. St Columba's Hospital, Hazaribagh, Report
2002
11. Newspaper cutting of an appreciation of the life of the Very Revd Brian Harvey, *The Irish Times*
2005
12. A tribute to John Cable, Archdeacon of Chota Nagpur, India, by his brother, David Cable, and a leaflet advertising the work of the John Cable Community Centre, an Anglican retirement village.
Undated
13. Three leaflets about DUMCN, and the Fellowship of the Risen Christ
Undated
14. Press cuttings covering the Story of Marcus Topno, a crippled Indian artist, with three Christmas cards made from his paintings.

Five items
Undated

15. Photographs of the DUMCN Centenary celebrations, held at Dromore, Co. Down, March 1990, and the Revd Marshall's visit to Hazaribag, March 2004, including the hospital and St Stephen's Church
5 items
2002; 2004

5/ Papers relating to various ecumenical conversations

1. Tripartite Conversations (Church of Ireland, Methodist and Presbyterian Churches), concerning various topics of mutual interest: forms of ordained ministry; a paper entitled 'Our ministry today' by Dr D.M. Kennedy; episcopacy and eldership; ministry of word and sacraments; the visibility of community; baptisms, holy communion and confirmation; *The Lima Report on Baptism, Eucharist and Ministry Towards a United Church*, 1984
1974-85
2. Typescript copies of the Ballymascanlon Inter-Church meeting reports
1974-84
3. Working papers, including minutes, submissions and correspondence concerning the Methodist/Church of Ireland Joint Theological Working Party (JTWP) which facilitated the dialogue leading to in the Covenant between the Methodist Church in Ireland and the Church of Ireland, signed at Chrome Hill, Lambeg, county Antrim, 26 September 2002.

The file includes a copy letter from the Most Revd Robert Eames, Church of Ireland Primate and the Revd W. Winston Graham, Methodist President, with Covenant and order of service from the Chrome Hill ceremony. Also a typewritten list of the members of JTWP at September 2002, the JTWP Minutes 2001-03 and copies of various responses to the Draft Covenant from Church of Ireland parishes and councils; Combined Methodist/C of I meetings; Methodist Circuits and various individuals.

[CLOSED]
2000-03

6/ Miscellaneous

1. Two orders of service from Trinity College Dublin chaplaincy, as follows:
Prayers for use on Trinity Monday
Undated
Trinity College Quarter-centenary Service of Thanksgiving
10 May 1992
2. Typescript copy of *Reminiscences of Rathmichael 1951-87*, by a parishioner, H.S. Corran
which was also published in the *Rathmichael Newsletter*
Undated
3. File of miscellaneous papers commemorating the centenary of the birth of C.S. Lewis, in 1898, including several issues of *C S Lewis News*, Bangor, county Down, newspaper cuttings, various programmes of events and information leaflets, and one item of correspondence to Canon Marshall from Maire Byrne, Dublin, 25 February 1998, thanking him for sending his 'thoughtful and thought- provoking lecture' on C.S. Lewis.
1998