

DEATH OF IAN SMITH

Ian Smith, CMS Ireland's Director of Mission, died at home, on Wednesday 29th July, seven months after being diagnosed with cancer.

He led CMS Ireland for two years having previously served for 23 years with CMS Britain based in Yorkshire. He was a long-time member of the Church of England General Synod and the Church of England Evangelical Council.

During his work with CMS Ireland and Britain Ian's passion for the gospel and his wide experience of mission, throughout the world, shaped his leadership and characterised his relationships with those he encountered in Ireland and beyond.

In Ian's own words, mission was 'in his DNA'. The extension of God's Kingdom was at the very heart of this man of God.

Speaking on behalf of CMS Ireland, Acting Director of Mission Brian Lavery said: "Ian was a man of tremendous faith and vision. His energy, passion and commitment were evident in everything that he did. Throughout his illness Ian's faith remained strong and he talked freely about the comfort he found in prayer and intimacy with God. His example, as a leader and fellow disciple, was a constant source of inspiration, even during his illness."

"Our thoughts and prayers today are with his family – particularly his wife Carol and his children Luke and Colletta."

"Ian Smith was a great champion for mission and a great networker. He leaves a notable mission legacy in the north of England." CMS-Britain spokesman John Martin added. "He particularly cherished links with the Church in Sudan and Burundi."

His funeral will be held in Holywood Parish Church, Co. Down, on Tuesday 4th August at 11:30am.

A memorial service will be held in St Oswald's Church, Fulford, York, tba.