



## Church of Ireland Youth Department

### General Synod Report 2024

#### **MEMBERSHIP**

##### ***Executive***

<i>President</i>	The Most Rev Patricia Storey
<i>Chairperson</i>	Mrs Brigid Barrett
<i>Treasurer</i>	Mr Edward Hardy
<i>Secretary</i>	Mrs Judith Peters

Rev Aaron McAllister  
Rev Philip Bryson

##### ***Central Board – Executive (above) and:***

Rev Peter Ferguson  
Miss Valerie Walker  
Rev Alan Breen  
Miss Amy Sherlock  
Miss Sally Siggins  
Rev Alex Morahan  
Rev Martin O’Kelly  
Rev Canon Malcolm Kingston  
Miss Hannah O’Neill

##### ***Co-options***

Mrs Brigid Barrett  
Mrs Hilda Connolly  
Mrs Christina Baillie

##### **Standing Committee Representatives**

Rev Catherine Simpson  
Mr Edward Hardy

##### ***National Youth Officer***

Mr Simon Henry

##### ***Youth Ministry Development Officer (Southern Region)***

Mr Steve Grasham (resigned December 2023)

##### ***Office Manager***

Mrs Barbara Swann

#### **Executive Summary**

The CIYD team consists of a National Youth Officer, Mr Simon Henry, and a Southern Regional Development Officer, Mr Steve Grasham (resigned December 2023). They are both provided with administration and communications support by our Office Manager, Mrs Barbara Swann.

CIYD launched their Strategic Plan in 2022 for 2022-2025 alongside engagement with The Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth (ROI) and the *National Quality Standards Framework* - a process of self-evaluation and continuous improvement in refocusing its role and areas of ministry for the future.

*Developments of note in 2023 were:*

- “Exalt” – devotional prayer app for young people in partnership with Missional Generation

- “Fuel ADVENT” – a 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of the popular FUEL resource, focusing on seasonal readings to help young people focus on regular bible reading habits.
- The continued success and engagement of the Young Leaders In Ministry Fund, established to celebrate the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Act of Disestablishment and to support Church of Ireland Ministry in the future, for young people aged 15-25 years actively involved in church life.
- NEXT STEPS – A bursary fund to significantly encourage the number of young people and current youth leaders to undertake 3<sup>rd</sup> level qualifications and development within the wider youth ministry sector, supported by the Priorities Fund.
- CIYD National Youth Forum meeting in January, the 2<sup>nd</sup> of a 3-year cycle focusing on mental well-being and faith and church.
- Climate Justice Toolkit launch in partnership with GFS and Tearfund Ireland
- Missional Generation partnership – VR (Virtual Reality) and AR (Augmented Reality) resources including 3 days of seminars and workshops at Summer Madness & youth group & schools toolkits.
- Partnership with the Irish Health Service to provide accredited Youth Mental Health First Aid training.
- Prayer Journal – linking in with CIYD’s A Day of Prayer for the Church’s Ministry with Young People, the Sunday before Advent, this free journal was created in partnership with Missional Generation.

### **CIYD ACTIVITIES IN 2023**

All our activities continued to support and develop youth ministry with key stakeholders.

#### **Youth Ministry Leadership: Support and Development**

In partnership with dioceses, and in response to their specific needs, CIYD organized regular training and support events for those involved in youth ministry in a paid (full-time and part-time) or volunteer capacity. These events were tailored to the needs and contexts of each region.

- Southern Region – CIYD’s “Connect” programme, training youth workers and volunteers, met regularly throughout the year online, facilitated by Mr Steve Grasham – covering areas such as Mental health, Climate Justice and peer support for Southern DYOs. We were also able to run in partnership with Missional Generation VR & AR training with mobile phone technology and VR headsets.
- Northern Region - The “Connect” programme, partnering with the Irish Methodist Youth Department, continued throughout 2023 with relevant training for youth workers and volunteers. This included Discipling Gen Z with Growing Young Disciples organisation, Talking to Teens about Sex & Relationships with ACET UK and Suicide Awareness training. We concluded our year of events with a “Connect Christmas” event in December with lunch and a Christmas Communion led by the Irish Methodist Church President, Rev David Turtle.
- Annual Youth Workers’ Retreat – We had our annual retreat for youth workers in Manchester, facilitated by the Diocesan staff team in the Diocese of Manchester – it was a great to hear and glean information about the youth ministry and youth projects in the Diocese and spend time away together with like minded folks.
- Summer Madness – The festival continues to thrive at its new home on the grounds of the Portglenone Monastery, Co Antrim. Numbers were very encouraging from the majority of our dioceses and it is heartening to see young people together worshipping and learning more about Jesus. Our National Youth Officer, Simon Henry, was also a host on the mainstage platform at worship sessions each day with the CIYD venue very active with a programme of seminars each day focused on digital discipleship.
- Winter Madness – CIYD was involved with supporting this Saturday evening event in Dublin & Glendalough Diocese in March, with a great turnout and our National Youth Officer Mr Simon Henry on hosting duties.

### **Engagement with Young People**

Whilst most of the work of CIYD seeks to resource Youth Leaders and to be available to assist in Youth Ministry Programmes, where guidance is appreciated and where participation is sought, the organization is also keen to assist directly with diocesan youth programmes.

- National Youth Forum – This annual event, which gathers young people from each diocese to be a voice for affecting change in the church, took place with encouraging attendance from all over the island and led by Bishop Michael Burrows for our opening plenary and facilitation by Susie Mapledoram (Youth Officer for Diocese of Manchester) in the second of a 3 year cycle focusing on young people, mental health and their faith journey.
- Summer Camps – Throughout the summer months our full-time staff supported Diocesan summer camps and events.

### **Diocesan Support**

CIYD is heavily involved in supporting Youth Leaders, both employed and volunteer, in the work that they do with young people across both the Northern and Southern Regions. They have also worked to raise the profile of youth work in the wider church. This has been done in a variety of ways:

- Direct work with Dioceses - CIYD staff supported a range of Diocesan events and resources as well as working with certain Dioceses on strategic development and supporting DYOs. We also host our all Ireland DYO Gathering facilitated by Innovista Ireland in November.
- Day of Prayer 2023 - this well-established Day of Prayer for young people and youth ministry, on the Sunday before Advent, continues to be popular with a resource book available in print and download. It can be used in lots of other ways to develop prayer opportunities in young people, groups and services. In 2023 we were able to offer free copies of another print run of our “Prayer Journal” for young people to compliment the current resource.

### **Resource Development and Communication**

CIYD like to be available for recommending and providing resources for youth leaders and clergy in a wide range of areas related to youth ministry.

- ‘I Believe’ – This Confirmation resource continues to prove popular with both clergy and young people alike and merited a recent reprint. The resource has been written with the content of the Church of Ireland Confirmation Service in mind and refers to elements of the Apostles' Creed, The 10 Commandments and the Church Catechism. It is a 12-week course examining essentials of our faith and offers interactive activities to enhance the learning experience for candidates.
- “Exalt” – devotional prayer app for young people in partnership with Missional Generation
- “Fuel Advent” – our 3<sup>rd</sup> run in the FUEL series, focusing on seasonal readings helping young people focus on regular bible reading habits.
- “Climate Justice Toolkit”- a resource for youth groups in partnership with GFS and Tearfund Ireland
- “Missional Generation” – VR (Virtual Reality) and AR (Augmented Reality) resources
- “Youth Mental Health First Aid” - Partnership with the Irish Health Service for this unique training.
- “Climate Justice Toolkit” Additions – A Journal for young people was released as a complement to the main resource, as well as an Assemblies & schools talks resource for youth workers and clergy.

### **National Quality Standards Framework**

This process involves self-evaluation of the organization based on various criteria laid down by the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth.

### **Representation and Collaboration**

CIYD staff and Central Board members continued to represent the Church of Ireland on committees of the following organisations:

- Church of Ireland Board of Education (ROI & NI)
- Church of Ireland Council for Mission
- Board for Ministry with Children and Families
- Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth
- National Youth Council of Ireland Board - Special Orgs, Equality and Inclusion Network & Membership Review Committee
- Summer Madness Main-stage committee and seminars teams
- Youth Link NI Council
- “Together” Youth Leaders Forum
- Education Authority (NI) Regional Advisory Group

### **CIYD ACTIVITIES IN 2024**

Our staff team continue to work closely with Diocesan Youth Officers and key stakeholders in each Diocese so that CIYD can better complement the work of each Diocese and seek to establish new initiatives and links where appropriate.

### **Youth Ministry Leadership: Support and Development**

- Southern Region – Bespoke training events will continue to take place both to support existing youth leaders and to equip upcoming leaders as well as collaboration with diocese in seeking missional opportunities.
- Northern Region – regular training days are planned for the year ahead with our “Connect” programme in partnership with the Irish Methodist Youth Department. A youth workers’ retreat is planned for May to Ibiza to work with the 24/7 Prayer movement & the Anglican church on the island.
- Summer Madness - CIYD will be running the Connect Café as usual and hosting breakfasts and a seminar stream for youth leaders, developing our partnership with Missional Generation. CIYD is also involved in shaping main stage and seminar streams at committee level as well as having our National Youth Officer, Mr Simon Henry, as one of the mainstage hosts.
- CIYD Youth Forum – CIYD’s annual Youth Forum in 2024 will have a focus on mental health, faith and church, and will be a longer weekend based on encouraging feedback from Dioceses.

### **Development and Communication**

- Churches working together – Northern Region - under new Education Authority (NI) funding streams and criteria, denomination youth departments are actively looking at new ways of working together to benefit faith development in young people across the region, as well as becoming individual Regional Voluntary Youth Organisations to the benefit of funding for parishes and groups on the ground.
- “Holy Habits” – delayed due to the pandemic, CIYD aims to launch a youth group bible study resource in 2024.
- “Instagram” – CIYD will continue to focus on our account - **ciyd\_insta** – in 2024 to improve communications with relevant stakeholders and agencies and to promote our own work resources.

### **National Quality Standards Framework**

The NQSF process will continue with the implementation of a Continuous Improvement Plan for those involved in working for and running the organisation.

### **Representation and Collaboration**

CIYD staff and Central Board members will continue to represent the Church of Ireland on committees of relevant organizations.

### **DIOCESAN REVIEW:**

## **ARMAGH**

Whilst parishes have undergone much change in terms of how God's work across a new generation has emerged (post Covid), faithful local volunteer teams, parish support by the Rector and Vestry towards youth and children's ministry and prayerful support from parents remain central to the Good News flourishing through the Church and local communities.

### **Key developments 2022 – 2023**

The work of the Armagh Youth and Children's Board (AYAC) in terms of its ministry to serve young people and children continues to grow. The AYAC "mini-residential" (The Kilbroney Centre, January 2023) saw approximately 60 young people and leaders enjoy a range of activities and ministry (led by Rev Sarah Parkinson). We are grateful that the weather remained dry for the majority of the outdoor pursuits! Another highlight of the year was the Easter Dawn Service led by Archbishop John on Easter Sunday, 2023. Wonderful seeing so many gather to praise the Risen Christ including teens and their bleary eyed youth leaders who took part in the worship following an "all-nighter". Summer Madness continues to be an important occasion in the life of parish youth groups including the Diocesan BBQ when busy youth leaders get some respite from the cooking and washing.

### **The Mind Matters Working Group**

The Mind Matters Working Group met on three separate occasions across 2023. A key emphasis of the Group has been in focussing on the mental health experience of young people and their families with an emphasis (as of 2024) on supporting children and teens facing bereavement. These meetings offered parishes in receipt of funding for their local mental health ministries an opportunity to gather informally for prayer, support and information sharing. The Mind Matters Working Group also provided a sounding board for the Youth and Children's Officer for the Diocese as regards the delivery of the St. John of God/Health Service Executive, Youth mental health first aid programme and a series of awareness evenings across rural deaneries for parents on this critical topic.

### **The Archbishop of Armagh's "Flourish" Initiative**

Alongside Rev David McComb, the experience of supporting parishes across the Diocese in terms of an inter-generational approach to environmental action has been deeply encouraging. Many of the projects have involved young people, children and families by way of locally driven projects and undoubtedly this mission remains critical in terms of the Church's engagement with a new generation and their "flourishing". A summary video as to some initiatives to date can be viewed at [www.armagh.anglican.org](http://www.armagh.anglican.org)

### **Parish Youth and Children's Ministry.**

Parish based youth and children's ministry across 2023 has remained varied and challenging. From supporting Rectors as to the delivery of confirmation, to offering training and consultancy to re-established Sunday Schools to visiting new Parish youth clubs and communicating as to youth and children's ministry resources; youth and children's work whilst facing many challenges remains resilient and faithful across the Diocese of Armagh. A very grateful thanks for all the work of the Church of Ireland Youth Department, funding and the excellent support of the CIYD National Youth Officer, Mr Simon Henry, the practical wherewithal of Mrs. Barbara Swann and the wisdom, initiative and gentle support of Steve Grasham (Church Army).

## **CASHEL, FERNS & OSSORY**

2023 was a very encouraging year for diocesan youth ministry and we are delighted that we have been able to rebuild much of what was lost during the Covid-19 Pandemic. In January 2023, a small group of teenagers and young adults attended the CIYD Youth Forum, accompanied by Rev Canon Nicola Halford. This was a very positive weekend for the young people as they contributed to the conversation regarding young people, their mental health and what role the church can play in this area. In April we held a very large diocesan confirmation retreat in Newtown school.

75 confirmation candidates joined together from across the diocese for three days of worship, games, outdoor pursuits and a lot of fun. Worship was led by Rev Canon Nicola Halford who focused on particular topics relevant to those who are preparing for confirmation such as prayer, the Church and how we serve God by

servicing others. On Sunday morning we joined in the Palm Sunday service with Christ Church Cathedral, Waterford, and we were warmly welcomed by Dean Bruce Hayes and the congregation there. Bishop Adrian also joined us over the weekend and he spoke with the young people about their upcoming Confirmations.

In July, we returned to Gurteen Agricultural College in July for our diocesan residential summer camp. After the success and popularity of last year we decided to extend the week to include a junior weekend for young people in 3rd, 4th and 5th class.

We had 35 young people attend Gurteen for the Junior camp weekend and 50 young people for the Senior camp. We are sincerely grateful to Mr Sean Murphy, CITI ordinand, who was our chaplain and led our worship for the week. It is our hope that this time away in Gurteen will help to deepen the young people's commitment and encourage them on their faith journey.

The large diocesan events held in our diocese are organised by the Bishop's Youth Advisory Group. This group of youth workers and clergy meet approximately four times a year to plan and implement our diocesan youth programme as well as offer each other support and ideas for parochial youth ministry. Parishes within our diocese are continuing to rebuild youth clubs and parochial youth ministry following the disruption of Covid-19.

## **CONNOR**

This year showcased another great collection of Diocesan events for young people from across Connor Diocese to gather and for leaders to be equipped in youth ministry.

We ran our Diocesan Sub Camp during Summer Madness to provide support and catering assistance to groups attending the festival. This year we had 12 Parishes attending and many clergy, young adults and Parishes helping to run the sub camp.

Streetreach is our residential, mission opportunity for young people partnering with a local Parish.

In 2023 we partnered with the Grouped Parishes of Ballyrashane & Kildollagh, the Grouped Parishes of Ballintoy & Dunseverick with Rathlin Island and St Patrick's Coleraine & St Andrew's Ballysally. We held pop up prayer meetings, ran a kids club, did outreach work and served practically.

Our Launch training day ran in September and gave a great opportunity for children's and youth leaders to be equipped and resourced for the year ahead.

At Connor Takes the Castle we had over 100 young people and leaders gathered for a full weekend of fun, activities and learning about God together. This is our Diocesan youth weekend and we were delighted to have Mrs Millie and Mr Lawrence Bellew speak on the book of Jonah and finding our identity in God.

Thanks to CIYD for their ongoing support of the youth ministry in the Diocese and to all those supporting young people across Connor Diocese.

## **CORK, CLOYNE & ROSS**

The Cork Diocesan Youth Council has had another action packed, exciting year.

In February, the "Great Escape" event took place with a trip to Cork City Gaol (Jail) museum for a tour. After the visit to the Gaol, the group had to make an escape of their own at one of Cork's Escape Room games.

In March, the Confirmation Retreat weekend in Bandon took place. It is a great weekend for the young people to meet the Bishop and clergy.

Easter arrived soon after and CDYC were able to run their SUN Up residential weekend with the group spending Saturday doing activities and on Easter Sunday everyone headed to the local beach for a dawn Eucharist Service at 6am to join Dean Jeffers.

Lots more events were held in May, June and July – Sailing was attempted in Glandore, followed by a day trip to Oysterhaven Outdoor Pursuits Centre.

And last summer, the Diocesan Youth Officer, Ms Hilda Connolly, brought 3 leaders to help in the CIYD Connect Café at Summer Madness.

After summer, they took part in Christain Aid walk in Sheep's Head and stayed over afterwards in Bantry Church Hall that evening, followed by church with Canon Willoughby the next morning.

In October, we had a cinema and pizza night in Baltimore Church.

In November, we had a very special occasion to celebrate and that was the 20-year Anniversary of the Cork Diocesan Youth Council. The celebrations began with a BBQ hosted by Bishop Colton and his wife, Susan, in the Palace earlier in the year for the council members and the young leaders.

Also in November, Bishop Colton held a special service in St. Fin Barre's Cathedral where he commissioned the new youth council and also welcomed the youth who came along. He had also treated the young people to a day of Bowling and Crazy Gold before the service.

In December, the Christmas Shopping Trip took place followed by the movie "Journey to Bethlehem."

The new year started off with a visit to the main branch of the Fire Department in Cork's Anglesea Station. There the firefighters went through all the different types of trucks and equipment and what each one is used for.

Afterwards, they visited the Garda Station, and went through the different types of units within the guards and some of the issues they deal with.

Parish youth groups have been working away throughout the diocese and are attracting big numbers again.

As you can see by the report, the Cork Diocesan Youth Council are very much active and working full steam ahead, with plenty more planned for over the coming months.

## **CLOGHER**

### **Aims & Objectives**

The aims for our Youth Ministry Programme continue to be led by our Diocesan aims and objectives for youth work. These aims and objectives focus on our 5 "T"s, which reflect the Anglican Communion's five marks of mission; Tell, Train, Tend (People), Transform, and Tend (Creation).

### **Youth Ministry Grants**

There are encouraging signs but youth work remains tough. Many of our applications were to the end that youth ministries would be better equipped to offer modern, tech savvy, programmes and presentations, for programme costs, community outreach initiatives, equipment for youth spaces and more. It is encouraging to see youth ministries taking up these opportunities to plan new initiatives and endeavours to reach out and disciple young people.

### **Building Together**

A funding stream was made available to encourage and enable the development of partnership building in Youth Ministry. This promoted larger and joined events, ventures, weekends, outreaches, etc... that would bring together 3 or more youth ministries. The aim was to make possible a larger expression of youth ministry (possibly on a rural deanery level) and encourage networking, the sharing of ideas and resources and include a presentation of the gospel and/or an invitation to consider faith in Jesus Christ and become a disciple.

### **Summer Mission Grants**

A funding stream was made available for those who were seeking help with financing a Missions Trip at home or abroad with a particular recognised organisation. Also finance was made available for young people attending a Summer Camp or Conference.

### **Youth Ministry Projects**

It would be great to hear from parishes who have a larger vision for youth ministry than they might be able to act on – perhaps hindered by financial constraints or know how. As we move forward we want to be open to new ideas, new ventures, and building partnerships that can make our plans happen.

### **Looking Forward**

As we look forward may our eyes be firmly fixed not on changing cultural trends, nor on the discouragement of lower numbers or empty seats, but on Jesus Christ the author and finisher of our faith. Even his nearest and dearest abandoned Jesus when difficult circumstances arose but that was not the last word. The fire and wind of the Spirit came and changed that tide and turned what seemed like the end into revival.

### **DERRY & RAPHOE**

Our year has been building on the momentum of groups restarting, the creation of the Toolbox resource with SEEDS using the MindMatters COI and Benefact Trust funding and helping parishes in any way that's needed from speaking, resourcing and training.

We've had our own calendar of events including two Confirmation days, attending the CIYD Youth Forum, our DRY Weekend in Gortin Activity Centre exploring the book of Ruth, attending Summer Madness and running our first Young Leaders' Training course incorporating the Serve programme. It's been exciting to see our young leaders graduate from our training course and hear how they are leaders in their parishes and schools. Alongside all of these, we've had our monthly youth event held in the Waterside, Londonderry run in partnership with Exodus NW and the Methodist church. This is open to any young person of secondary school age and we have seen friendships form and flourish, and faith grow.

The big project in our Diocese was launching the Toolbox resource, a mental health programme for all ages which explored the five steps to mental health wellbeing in a practical way while linking it to our faith. We've seen this used across our Diocese in Sunday schools, confirmation and youth groups, Men's sheds, Mothers' Unions and bible studies.

In all that we do we remember the message of Ephesians 3:20 - *"Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us"*.

### **DOWN & DROMORE**

2023 was a very productive and busy year for the diocese of Down and Dromore, it seen the conclusion of the delivery of an OCN Level 2 Certificate in Youth Work Practice delivered to 10 participants. This is to help the delivery of youth programmes across the diocese and raise up leaders who deliver quality youth work programmes. A huge thanks to CIYD for supporting this project with some funding.

We were delighted to have another number of Saturday Night Lives, we had 2 SNL events. One in Holywood and another in Saintfield, with around 60-70 young people attending both. These were excellent for developing faith and enabling connections across the diocese. Prior to the summer beginning, we ran a Fun Day at St John's Moira, with 50-60 young people coming along and enjoying various activities and a BBQ.

Down and Dromore Diocese had a marquee at Summer Madness, this was there to support the 200 strong group who attended from across the diocese. During July we had our usual Camps, this catered for 120 young people and 20-30 leaders. This was a vibrant and busy programme, with young people being disciplined in the faith encouraged to make friends and new connections.

As a way to support our employed workers and our volunteers, we organised three fellowship evenings (Banbridge, St Marks Newtownards & Knocknagoney) to inspire, equip and engage our volunteers and workers across the diocese. This was a real encouragement and seen over 150 people attend over the 3 nights. There was the delivery of our SERVE Programme once again and this was delivered with 14 young people, a mixture of them came from Magherlin, Moira and Holywood parishes.

There was a celebration and graduation night just prior to Christmas. Prior to the half term break in October, there was the delivery of the Kilbroney Weekend this was delivered with 60 young people from the diocese being encouraged to consider their identity in Christ, thanks to Jack Wilson for so excellently guiding our weekend. Our last event of the year happened prior to Christmas, in the Gathering - where we had our Christmas SNL and an excellent turn out of 60 young people. A huge thanks to the team at The Gathering for hosting us and for Stuart Balmer speaking so excellently on the theme of Christmas Unwrapped.



## **DUBLIN & GLENDALOUGH**

2023 was a full and busy year where we were blessed to see God's hand at work in many different ways. It started with a flourish in January where we hosted a workshop for parents and clergy working with anxious teenagers, youth worship nights, school services and retreats, youth worker support lunches and were part of CIYD's annual Youth Forum.

The next few months saw the production of our Lenten Labyrinth resource with Irish and Ukrainian translations. We also had the pleasure of bringing DGYC and Summer Madness together, in order to run Dublin's first ever Winter Madness. Over 120 local young people gathered together to worship and hear Rev Scott Evans share about the story of the Prodigal Son.

Leaving primary school is a big moment in a person's life. In May we ran three "Moving Schools" events. We invited 6th class pupils and their parents along, and together they talked about some fears, challenges and the excitement of moving to secondary school. A facilitated discussion for parents allowed them to express concerns too, and through it all, we reminded ourselves of the role God can play in it all.

We were delighted to have a few youth groups attend Summer Madness again this year, and summer quickly rolled into term time where we launched the new academic year with our "Big Days Out". These fun packed days are a great excuse to get youth ministry up and running again, and to meet up with other groups.

Autumn was filled with youth groups, school assemblies, youth leader training, resourcing and supporting. Our annual youth worker/chaplain breakfast provided a space to connect with each other and gain training to support our young people.

Finally, our year drew to a close with an amazing worship night run by various youth groups in Wicklow. The focus at it was 'hope', and that is what we are bringing into our next year at DGYC.

## **KILMORE, ELPHIN & ARDAGH**

A survey to get a picture of what is happening across our diocese for children and young people was completed by 15 parishes in 2023 and it was encouraging to see 87% of these parishes having Sunday school or another regular programme for kids. There were several holiday bible clubs in the summer including: Manorhamilton, Swanlinbar, Kildrumferton, Drung and Longford. Clergy and lay-leaders have been involved in assemblies, afterschool clubs, as well as participation in special services for Easter, Harvest and Christmas. There has been an increase in work in secondary schools again this year, including RE classes and youth alpha. Many young people from KEA attended summer youth camps such as Intent, MOVE and Summer Madness. Restart grants for children's and youth ministry supported 7 parishes in our Diocese and we are very thankful for the ongoing funding from CIYD which helps enables initiatives like this. There is a growing need for additional volunteers to lead and assist with youth and children's work in parishes and we continue to pray for God's provision in this regard. In January 2024 three young people from KEA attended the Youth Forum - a very positive start to the year.

## **MEATH & KILDARE**

Youth Ministry in Meath and Kildare has grown in strength in the last year. Largely thanks to links with our Diocesan schools and the success of the Lighten our Darkness initiative in Mullingar we had 26 young people attend Summer Madness and a further 12 attend the CIYD Youth Forum in January. We have found it hard to get people to attend central Diocesan events but have seen greater success in local ministry. Holiday Bible Clubs were held in Naas and Mullingar and there are monthly Youth Clubs organised in Navan and Naas.

Especially successful was '12 Revelations of Christmas'. This was a youth led Nativity ministry in our National Schools and we visited 8 different schools throughout December with students from Wilson's Hospital School. In Wilson's itself the Christian Union has doubled in numbers over the last year and we held an Ash Wednesday Service for the 1st time. Particularly exciting to see is how God is encouraging young people to share their faith. In November we held a Youth-led Songs of Praise service in the school Chapel and in March 2024 we had a weeklong 'Mission Week' supported by members of the Christian Union, CIYD and Youth for Christ.

## **TUAM, LIMERICK & KILLALOE**

The volunteer committee of United Diocesan Youth Council of Tuam, Limerick & Killaloe planned and completed a good range of day, weekend and weeklong events. The programme catered for children from age of eight years (3<sup>rd</sup> class national school) of age right up to young adults in mid-twenties during 2023.

**The following were some of the key highlights from 2023**

- Representation at National Youth Forum organised by CIYD and inputs from Diocesan representatives.
- Meeting with Tuam representatives in May to explore the consolidation of the two youth entities into a unified body.
- Joining and working with the diocese of Meath & Kildare at Summer Madness.
- Connecting with a group of Floridians for worship sessions and a disco at our Senior Week Camp in July. Thank you to Mr Steve & Rev Fran Grasham, Rev Arthur Minion and Mr Edward Hardy for leading the wonderful worship sessions.
- Junior Summer Camp, at Ovoca Manor in August, created opportunities for our leaders to explore and develop new skills and talents, including leading worship, cooking, and organising games and activities.
- A standout moment was collaborating closely with Bishop Michael Burrows to organise and execute a very successful Confirmation Follow-Up Weekend in Wilson's Hospital, Co. Westmeath in October. Thank you to Rev Canon Jane Galbraith, Rev Alistair Doyle and Bishop Burrows for leading terrific, thought-provoking worship times.
- Meeting many enthusiastic young people, volunteers and clergy from the Tuam part of the diocese especially at the Confirmation Weekend and Galway Multi Activity Day. With thanks to Rev Alistair Doyle for leading a very memorable service using Haribo sweets to teach about prayer.
- It was great to see very good numbers of participants at many events throughout the year, especially the Mega Christmas Day trip to Dublin which had over 70 people!
- Our dedicated team of volunteer leaders and committee members who continue to give up their time to help create these unforgettable events.

UDYC of Tuam, Limerick & Killaloe continues to be very thankful to individuals, parents/guardians, parishes, diocese, CIYD and wider church and community for continued support and help.

**EXTRACTS FROM THE AUDITED ACCOUNTS OF THE CHURCH OF IRELAND YOUTH  
DEPARTMENT**

**YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**

**BOARD’S RESPONSIBILITIES**

The Board is responsible for preparing the financial statements in accordance with accepted accounting practice in Ireland including the accounting standards issued by the Accounting Standards Board and published by the Institute of Chartered Accountants in Ireland.

Irish company law requires the Directors to prepare financial statements for each financial year that give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Department and of the surplus or deficit of the Department for that period. In preparing the financial statements, the Directors are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the company will continue in business.

The Board confirms that it has complied with the above requirements in preparing the financial statements.

The Board is responsible for keeping proper books of account, which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Department and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements are prepared in accordance with accounting standards. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Department and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

**CHURCH OF IRELAND YOUTH DEPARTMENT****INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT****Year ended 31 December 2023**

		2023 €	2022 €
<b>INCOME</b>			
Department of Children, Equality, Disability Integration and Youth	2a	250,391	224,173
Funding provided by the Representative Church Body		188,798	163,786
Other Income	2b	6,130	6,600
		<u>445,319</u>	<u>394,559</u>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>			
Office & Administration Expenses	3	(41,692)	(39,200)
Staff Costs	4	(163,563)	(147,315)
Fees & Membership	5	(1,891)	(1,720)
		<u>(207,146)</u>	<u>(188,235)</u>
<b>Operating Surplus for the Year</b>		238,173	206,324
<b>TRAINING, PROGRAMME &amp; GRANT ALLOCATIONS</b>			
Training, Programme & Grant Allocations	6	(272,490)	(234,757)
<b>Deficit after Training, Programme &amp; Grant Allocations</b>		<u>(34,317)</u>	<u>(28,433)</u>
Currency translation adjustment		(1,147)	(2,040)
<b>Net (Deficit) for the year</b>		<u><u>(35,464)</u></u>	<u><u>(30,473)</u></u>

**CHURCH OF IRELAND YOUTH DEPARTMENT****BALANCE SHEET****Year ended 31 December 2023**

2023 €	2022 €
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<b>TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS</b>	7	-	321
		<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Debtors	8	83,905	116,935
Cash at bank		8,987	2,852
		<hr/>	<hr/>
		92,892	119,787
		<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>			
Creditors	9	(45,292)	(37,044)
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Net Assets		47,600	83,064
		<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>FUNDS EMPLOYED</b>			
Balance at 1 January		83,064	113,537
Net Deficit for the year		(35,464)	(30,473)
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Balance as at 31 December		47,600	83,064
		<hr/>	<hr/>

## Notes to the Financial Statements

### 1. General Information

The Church of Ireland Youth Department (CIYD) is the Church's youth policy making body with full reporting rights and responsibilities to the General Synod. CIYD is responsible for the support and development of youth work in the Church. Training, resource materials, and support and advice for youth leaders, young people and Clergy are available.

	2023	2022
	€	€
<b>2a. Department of Children, Equality, Disability Integration and Youth</b>		
- Youth Services Grant Scheme	221,180	212,673
- Youth Climate Justice Fund	13,324	11,500
- Capital Funding Scheme	15,887	-
	_____	_____
	250,391	224,173
	=====	=====

The funds received under YSGS were applied to supporting the costs of the organisation as detailed in expenditure section of Income & Expenditure Account under the following headings: Office & Administration, Staff Costs, Fees & Membership and finally Training, Programme & Grant Allocations. The full grant awarded and received under the YSGS is recorded in the Financial Statements for both current and prior year.

**2b. Other Income**

	2023	2022
	€	€
Deposit Interest	2,537	695
Donations	1,777	2,429
Programme Grant	1,790	3,476
Sundry	26	-
	_____	_____
	6,130	6,600
	=====	=====

**3. Office & Administration Expenses**

	2023	2022
	€	€
Insurance	3,206	2,891
Audit Fees	5,535	4,938
Rent	16,453	22,100
Telephone, Postage & Internet	3,215	3,585
Office Expenses	10,619	4,808
Depreciation	321	321
Resources	54	192

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Sundry	124	108
Bank Interest & Charges	2,165	257
	<u>41,692</u>	<u>39,200</u>
	<u><u>                    </u></u>	<u><u>                    </u></u>
4. Staff Costs	2023	2022
	€	€
Staff Salaries	144,090	131,931
Staff Expenses	16,504	12,385
Central Board & Executive	2,969	2,999
	<u>163,563</u>	<u>147,315</u>
	<u><u>                    </u></u>	<u><u>                    </u></u>
5. Fees & Membership	2023	2022
	€	€
General Membership Fees	1,891	1,720
	<u>1,891</u>	<u>1,720</u>
	<u><u>                    </u></u>	<u><u>                    </u></u>
6. Training, Programme & Grant Allocations	2023	2022
	€	€
Training Events	97,942	76,338
Programme Events	34,842	18,023
Devolved Funding Grants	120,380	113,703
Summer Madness	5,768	13,677
Youth Link NI	13,558	13,016
	<u>272,490</u>	<u>234,757</u>
	<u><u>                    </u></u>	<u><u>                    </u></u>
7. Tangible Fixed Assets	2023	2022
	€	€
<b>Cost</b>		

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At 1 January	99,738	104,864
Currency Adjustment	2,080	(5,126)
Additions	-	-
At 31 December	<u>101,818</u>	<u>99,738</u>

**Depreciation**

At 1 January	99,417	104,223
Currency Adjustment	2,080	(5,126)
Charge for the year	321	320
At 31 December	<u>101,818</u>	<u>99,417</u>

**Net Book Value**

At 1 January	321	641
At 31 December	<u>-</u>	<u>321</u>

8. Debtors	2023	2022
	€	€
Cash on deposit held by the RCB	81,892	114,298
Prepayments	2,013	2,637
	<u>83,905</u>	<u>116,935</u>

9. Creditors	2023	2022
	€	€
Accruals	45,292	37,044
	<u>45,292</u>	<u>37,044</u>

10. Foreign Currency transactions have been translated to Euro at the rate of exchange ruling at 31 December 2023, €1 = £0.8669 (2022: €1 = £0. 8853).





# ***Independent auditors' report to the Board of Church of Ireland Youth Department***

## **Report on the audit of the financial statements**

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### **Opinion**

In our opinion, Church of Ireland Youth Department financial statements:

for the year ended 31 December 2023 have been properly prepared, in all material respects in accordance with the basis of preparation in the accounting policies. We have audited the financial statements, which comprise:

- the balance statement as at 31 December 2023;
  - the income and expenditure account for the year then ended;
  - the accounting policies; and
  - the notes to the financial statements.
- 

### **Basis for opinion**

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (Ireland) ("ISAs (Ireland)") including ISA (Ireland) 800. Our responsibilities under ISAs (Ireland) are further described in the Auditors' responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

### **Independence**

We remained independent of the entity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in Ireland, which includes IAASA's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements.

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### **Emphasis of matter - Basis of preparation**

In forming our opinion on the financial statements, which is not modified, we draw attention to the fact that the accounting policies used and disclosures made are not intended to, and do not, comply with the requirements of Generally Accepted Accounting Practice in Ireland.

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### **Conclusions relating to going concern**

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the entity's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from the date on which the financial statements are authorised for issue.

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the Board's use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

However, because not all future events or conditions can be predicted, this conclusion is not a guarantee as to the entity's ability to continue as a going concern.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the Board with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

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### **Reporting on other information**

The other information comprises all of the information in the Financial Statements other than the financial statements and our auditors' report thereon. The Board are responsible for the other information. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, accordingly, we do not express an audit opinion or, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in this report, any form of assurance thereon.



In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify an apparent material inconsistency or material misstatement, we are required to perform procedures to conclude whether there is a material misstatement of the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report based on these responsibilities.

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## **Responsibilities for the financial statements and the audit**

### *Responsibilities of the Board for the financial statements*

As explained more fully in the Board's responsibilities set out on page 4, the Board are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the applicable framework and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view. The Board are also responsible for such internal control as they determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the Board are responsible for assessing the entity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Board either intend to liquidate the entity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

### *Auditors' responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements*

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditors' report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (Ireland) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Our audit testing might include testing complete populations of certain transactions and balances, possibly using data auditing techniques. However, it typically involves selecting a limited number of items for testing, rather than testing complete populations. We will often seek to target particular items for testing based on their size or risk characteristics. In other cases, we will use audit sampling to enable us to draw a conclusion about the population from which the sample is selected.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the IAASA website at: [http://www.iaasa.ie/getmedia/b2389013-1cf6-458b-9b8f-a98202dc9c3a/Description\\_of\\_auditors\\_responsibilities\\_for\\_audit.pdf](http://www.iaasa.ie/getmedia/b2389013-1cf6-458b-9b8f-a98202dc9c3a/Description_of_auditors_responsibilities_for_audit.pdf).

This description forms part of our auditors' report.



*Use of this report*

This report, including the opinion, has been prepared for and only for the Board and for no other purpose. We do not, in giving this opinion, accept or assume responsibility for any other purpose or to any other person to whom this report is shown or into whose hands it may come, including without limitation under any contractual obligations of the entity, save where expressly agreed by our prior consent in writing.

*PricewaterhouseCoopers*

PricewaterhouseCoopers  
Chartered Accountants  
Dublin  
19 March 2024