

**CHURCH OF IRELAND YOUTH DEPARTMENT  
REPORT 2022**

**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  
Ms 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

***Office Manager***

Mrs Barbara Swann

## Church of Ireland Youth Department – Report 2022

### **Executive Summary**

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

CIYD will launch their new Strategic Plan in 2022 for 2022-2025 alongside engagement with The Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth (ROI, formerly known as the Department of Children & Youth Affairs) 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 2021 were:*

- Aurora Children’s course, a natural off shoot of our youth ministry accredited course, meeting online;
- 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;
- A “Welcoming Church” Resource - A resource for churches to better support people with disabilities, in partnership with Dublin & Glendalough Youth Council & the Diocese of Leeds;
- Climate Justice work with GFS and Tearfund Ireland;
- Missional Generation partnership – VR (Virtual Reality) and AR (Augmented Reality) resources including a training day for school Chaplains;
- Continued Training Initiatives for paid and voluntary youth leaders across the Church – e.g. Mental Health First Aid accredited training & OCN courses in Youth Ministry;
- A Day of Prayer for the Church’s Ministry with Young People, changing to the Sunday before Advent, with widespread participation;
- Keeping in Touch Project – partly funded by EA to encourage links with young people through COVID.

### **CIYD ACTIVITIES IN 2021**

Like all involved in ministry in 2021, our scope was limited for much of the year due to COVID 19 restrictions and many events cancelled or postponed, but we continued to support and develop with key stakeholders online where possible.

#### **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.

## Church of Ireland Youth Department – Report 2022

- Aurora (Southern Region) – We continued our Aurora Children’s course, albeit more challengingly online in 2021, in partnership with St Peter’s College. It is designed to meet the needs of busy youth leaders, paid or voluntary and is officially accredited. Aurora provides the essential skills, knowledge and understanding needed for effective youth ministry. The training takes place on Saturdays and participants must complete a portfolio of learning and a number of assignments as part of the course. The Aurora Youth Ministry course was paused and will continue in 2022.
- 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.
- Northern Region - The “Connect” programme, partnering with the Irish Methodist Youth Department, continued throughout 2021 with relevant training for youth workers and volunteers. We welcomed formal mental health training for youth workers through the Public Health Agency and we were able to meet in person in September for the first time in 18 months facilitated by Bishop Pat Storey, Rev Heather Morris & Rev Craig Cooney. We concluded the year with a “Connect Christmas” event in December with lunch and a Christmas Communion led by Bishop Ken Good.
- Annual Youth Workers’ Retreat – we of course had to again delay our annual retreat for youth workers and we hope and pray we can get together in 2022.
- Summer Madness – The festival looked very different in 2021 but managed to have a 3 day weekend day event in person on the grounds of the University of Ulster, Coleraine. Numbers were limited and each day was very well attended and very well received. Our National Youth Officer, Mr Simon Henry, was also a host on the mainstage platform at worship sessions each day.

### **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, had to be postponed to 2022 due to COVID restrictions.
- Summer Camps – Throughout the summer months our full-time staff supported limited outdoor Diocesan summer camps and events, in line with COVID restrictions.

### **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.

## Church of Ireland Youth Department – Report 2022

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 online Diocesan events as well as working with certain Dioceses on strategic development of Diocesan Youth Councils and supporting DYOs throughout the pandemic. We were also able to have an in person all Ireland DYOs Gathering facilitated by Innovista Ireland in November.
- Day of Prayer 2021- this well-established Day of Prayer for young people and youth ministry moved in 2021 to the Sunday before Advent, agreed by the House of Bishops. Our Praying for Young People & Youth Ministry booklet continues to be popular and can be used in lots of other ways to develop prayer opportunities in young people, groups and services.

### **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 reprint in 2021. 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.
- "A Response to Covid 19" – online resources to support online youth ministry to continue across the Church of Ireland.
- "Youth App" – In collaboration with Summer Madness, PCI, IMYC & Education Authority, CIYD secured funding to develop an app for youth leaders, youth groups and young people. This will hopefully be launched in 2022.
- "A Welcoming Church" – A resource for churches to better support people with disabilities, in partnership with Dublin & Glendalough Youth Council & the Diocese of Leeds.

### **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 organizations: -

- Church of Ireland Board of Education (ROI & NI);
- Church of Ireland Council for Mission;

## Church of Ireland Youth Department – Report 2022

- Children’s Ministry Network of the Church of Ireland;
- Department of Youth and Children’s Affairs;
- National Youth Council of Ireland Board - Special Orgs, Equality and Inclusion Network & Membership Review Committee;
- Irish Youth Ministry Gathering committee;
- Summer Madness Main-stage committee and seminars teams;
- Youth Link NI Council;
- “Together” Youth Leaders Forum;
- EA (NI) Regional Advisory Group.

### **CIYD ACTIVITIES IN 2022**

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 – Aurora continues to equip leaders through accredited training and we seek to further encourage the establishment of the children’s ministry course alongside it. Training events will continue to take place both to support existing youth leaders and to equip upcoming leaders.
- 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 April to London with keynote speaker the Rt Rev Harold Miller.
- 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 was postponed in 2021 but planned for 2022 with a focus on mental health, faith and church.

#### **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. This will hopefully gain more traction in 2022 having been stalled by COVID 19.
- “Holy Habits” – delayed due to the pandemic, CIYD aims to launch a youth group bible study resource in 2022.

**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**

As difficult as 2021 turned out to be for so many families, their young people and the local Church in many ways God’s Spirit was at work fashioning new ministry and mission with young people, children and families (albeit often disrupted by Covid). With a new emphasis on “online” events and occasions with the young, a deeper appreciation of how important the outdoors is in terms of ministry development and significantly local parish volunteers finding God given resilience in keeping youth and children’s ministry going, 2021 proved a difficult year but maybe one that much can be learnt from.

Please see below a list of key events and initiatives in terms of Armagh Youth and Children’s ministry across 2021.

- 4th February: “Shaken workshop”. (Focus on young people and mental health);
- 25th February/4th March/11th March: The Aurora Children’s Ministry programme (via CIYD);
- 22nd April: “Getting practical. Ideas and resources for outdoor youth ministry during the summer”;
- 16th June: “Establishing the foundations...A Biblical approach to Youth Ministry and Mission”;
- 18th November: Children’s Ministry Network Christmas and Advent Zoom training session.

**In-person:**

- 9th September: School Prayer Service, St. Mark’s Armagh;
- 25th September: Diocesan group (in family groupings) to the Surf School project, Portrush;
- 16th October: AYAC Harvest Hedgerow walk for families;
- 13th November: Bugs, Bees and Native trees, tree planting events with Sunday Schools.

**Other initiatives:**

During the spring and summer of 2021 it was very encouraging to see many parishes and their volunteer teams open up with youth and children’s ministry including outdoor based holiday Bible clubs that engaged many local children. With schools starting back in September 2021 it was noteworthy that parishes across the Diocese in a limited but nonetheless a meaningful way carefully restarted youth groups and youth fellowships with a blend of in-person and on-line ministry.

## Church of Ireland Youth Department – Report 2022

In support of Dundalk Grammar School, four evening sessions addressing youth mental health (from a mental health first aid perspective) were delivered online to 15 teachers (October to November 2021). Subjects addressed included suicide ideation, anxiety and anxiety disorders, psychosis, eating disorders and depression. A Youth Mental Health First Aid certificate offered through Mental Health First Aid Ireland was awarded to each participant.

Across the year, the Youth and Children's Development officer with kind support from a number of young adults in the Diocese and the Diocesan Communications officer Mr Jonathan Hull, delivered weekly recorded youth and children's videos and talks for Sunday Schools and Youth Fellowships.

### **CASHEL, FERNS & OSSORY**

*Thanks to Rev Nicola Halford in Enniscorthy for supplying most of this report.*

Covid-19 continues to hamper many of our youth activities. Many parishes have tried new and innovative ways to stay in touch with young people. Many of our parishes have signed up to the 'Keeping in Touch' project launched by the Church of Ireland Youth Department. *(This free resource includes a postcard, made from seed paper, which can be personalised by church leaders, a wooden token with the word hope and the opportunity to donate 1 euro to a charity of their choice. Each young person will receive a pack.)*

Over Christmas care packages were sent to young people from Enniscorthy and Gorey parishes which included Christmas greetings, books which tell the Christmas story, some photos of memorable Youth Club events and some treats.

#### Waterford Union

- Lent packages were sent to families using resources from God Venture;
- Valentine's Day booklets were sent to members of Gorey Youth Club as well as Easter Hope boxes;
- Continued to email weekly Sunday resources to families which include crafts, prayers and discussion ideas.

#### Enniscorthy & Gorey -

- Lenten photo competition '40days40photos';
- Each day in Lent was set a theme and the young people submitted their photos via email.
- Bishop Michael Burrows and Diocesan Chancellor Charles Galloway judged the photos.

#### Waterford Union-

- Outdoor summer camp from 9<sup>th</sup> until 13<sup>th</sup> July;
- Surf project camp ran from the 16<sup>th</sup> until 20<sup>th</sup> July 2021;
- A design a poster campaign for the summer camp with three separate age groups.

The choral scholarship in St. Canice's Cathedral, Kilkenny continues to be popular with many applications each year.

#### In Kilkenny College:

## Church of Ireland Youth Department – Report 2022

- All students have been actively engaged in promoting positive mental health. A series of activities including poster competition, poetry and story writing and artwork.
- A Santa Run arranged to remember our two students who died raised funds which were shared between charities identified by their families. It was a fun and happy event.
- Consent workshops for senior students have been and continue to be rolled out.
- Weekly Compline attended mostly by Form 3 boys are very well attended and supported.
- Weekly college assemblies focusing on various youth concerns;
- Lots more planned for coming months.

It is hoped that as soon as Government restrictions allow, we shall begin to arrange both parish and diocesan youth events.

### **CLOGHER**

Our General Synod Report this year reflects both the limited opportunities that there have been to engage with Youth Ministry over the last while but also the intentions and aspirations of what we hope and pray lies ahead. As we tentatively but positively journey out of a pandemic we are looking “ONWARDS” to restrictions continuing to ease, and to regaining a focus upon supporting, engaging with and encouraging our young people, youth leaders and clergy in addressing the issues that have arisen due to the pandemic, and resourcing the youth ministry across the diocese. The vision of “ONWARDS” is to look positively at the path ahead, to consider what moving ahead will look like in each individual and specific youth ministry setting, rural deanery structure and on a diocesan level; and to resource the clergy, youth leaders and young people to navigate that journey onwards.

The aims for the 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). We intend to be guided by these elements and to encourage action, vision, participation, and development within these areas.

### **CONNOR**

Through 2021 Connor Youth Council has continued to respond to the Covid-19 pandemic by seeking to encourage Parishes as they support young people. In early 2021 the Council had missed connecting with young people from across the Diocese and therefore organised two online events. There was a games night with various activities and challenges, along with an evening focused on worship and prayer. It was beneficial to connect with young people from various Parishes in this way. Thankfully, Summer Madness held an in-person event in the summer of 2021 and the Council attended and provided a space for Diocesan groups to connect. It was encouraging to see various Parish groups attend this event. The Council recognised that summer 2021 provided an opportunity for Parishes to reconnect with young people and wanted to support this. Therefore, the Council provided an initiative entitled ‘every’ which encouraged Parishes to connect with young people

## Church of Ireland Youth Department – Report 2022

locally. Through the support of CIYD, we were able to give a small grant to Parishes who participated along with in person support from the Diocesan Youth Officer where it was appropriate. The 'every' initiative funded a variety of events such as visits to water parks, games nights in Rectory gardens and sports events. In addition to supporting young people meeting together again, the Council acknowledged that our local youth leaders and clergy would benefit from support. Therefore, the Council organised a training event entitled Rebuild in partnership with the Diocesan Children's Officer, Ms Victoria Jackson. This event allowed the opportunity to share new resources and for local leaders to share ideas about what has worked in their context. 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**

Another strange year for the youth of Cork, Cloyne & Ross, but the Cork Diocesan Youth Council (CDYC) still managed to get a few events in once restrictions lifted. At the beginning of March, a kayaking event was organised but unfortunately, lockdown hit again, and it had to be cancelled. But despite the disappointment of that, we got back on our feet in June with a Bootcamp day, followed by a day at Oysterhaven Outdoor Pursuits Centre, a trip to FootGolf, a day trip out to Cape Clear Island, the annual Quiz and we finally got in our Kayaking trip too! The annual Advent Youth Service had to go back online this year with Zoom which was livestreamed through Facebook.

During lockdown, the Diocesan Youth Officer, Mrs Hilda Connolly, kept up regular contact with the youth of the diocese through Zoom meetings. Plenty of activities, quizzes, discussions, and laughter throughout the weeks. As well as the usual Zoom, Hilda also held a separate zoom to explore the Alpha Youth series. The Young Leaders in Training group have been an asset to Hilda during the Covid pandemic. Their leadership skills and training really came into play during lockdown when they came on board with the youth Zoom nights and came up with new ideas and games each week.

For Easter, CDYC and the young people joined forces with Play It By Ear to create an on-line drama via Zoom based on the Easter Story. Parish youth groups have been quiet over the past year due Covid. But, hopefully, over the coming months, the youth groups around the diocese will be back up and running soon.

### **DERRY & RAPHOE**

2021 hasn't been the easiest of years for youth ministry, but Derry & Raphoe Youth have kept a connection with the young people of the diocese by increasing its social media output. We've been able to use Instagram to reach young people directly to share bible readings, thoughts, and information about events.

During Lent we were encouraging everyone to **Journey to Lent** with Seeds Children's Ministry. This was a huge success and there were so many stories of people and parishes completing their walks safely during lockdown.

DRY held its first photography competition during Lent and announced its winner on Easter Weekend, fitting for its theme of **Hope from Home**. This was a very special time

## Church of Ireland Youth Department – Report 2022

to see all the submissions from young people across the diocese at a time when we were kept apart.

Ms Claire Hinchcliff Neill was appointed as the new Diocesan Youth Officer for the Diocese of Derry & Raphoe. Her vision for our youth ministry falls under two headings - connect and commit. It is the hope that working towards these that the Diocese can see a growth in our youth ministry and a deepening of faith amongst our young people. Connect is all about how we as churches collaborate with each other, our leaders, and young people. We want to see growth through these connections. Once we connect, we can commit. We want to see stronger commitment to faith, to our young people and to each other.

Derry & Raphoe Youth have partnered with Exodus NW and SUNI NW to create **Freedom** – a monthly event held in the Waterside area of Londonderry with the aim of being a space for young people from any background to come and have fun with friends, meet new people and hear a message of faith. This runs on the second Saturday of the month and has had a wonderful atmosphere and reception from all those who have attended.

In our 2022 calendar of events we have brought back some old favourites and included some new ideas. Like many groups we are mixing in person events, online meetings, smaller gatherings outside and trying to keep everyone safe while having meaningful fellowship. We were able to start the year by gathering leaders for a Reflect & Resource day and it was amazing to have leaders wanting to grow their youth ministry. A special thanks to everyone who has been working with the young people of the parish – whether they have programmes up and running or trying to figure out where the next steps are. As a diocese, we are here to support you and your parish work.

In all that we do, we remember the words from 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 <sup>to</sup> him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever!”*

### **DOWN & DROMORE**

The Down and Dromore Youth, Children’s and Families department provides a wide range of programmes, tailored support and resources for parishes, which includes around 50 youth groups and 75 Sunday Schools. Our work was heavily curtailed due to Covid in 2021 but we managed to run:

- 5 Adventure days for around 120 young people and leaders;
- 2 JAM Camp days away for 70 children and leaders in the summer;
- 2 Summer residential camps for around 100 young people and leaders;
- A young leaders residential for 25 young people aged 17-21 in July;
- The Kilbroney Blast discipleship weekend for 60 young people and leaders in October;
- Around 20 Confirmation services involving 30 parishes in the diocese and goody bags for each candidate;
- Saturday Night Live youth events when restrictions eased.

We also used the time to create a number of online and printed resources to help support churches in training, Sunday Schools and worked in partnership to help create new youth resources including the new ‘Jesus Sessions’ and ‘Resonance’.

### **DUBLIN & GLENDALOUGH**

The past year has seen some changes within DGYC. Earlier in this year we said farewell to Ms Susie Keegan as our Diocesan Youth Officer. We have been so grateful to all the work that Susie has been part of over several years and we wish her every blessing in her new role. Ms Emma Fawcett joined us in September 2021 as our new Youth Officer. In autumn we launched a diocesan-wide initiative called “Back to Youth”; encouraging and equipping parishes and youth groups to get their youth ministry back up and running.

Along with CIYD and the Conor Diocese, we loved being part of creating the “Keeping in Touch Project” to help parishes keep connected with their young people. We should be seeing all the planted seed paper bloom wildflowers all around the country anytime now!

We are encouraged that as restrictions are gradually lifting, we are seeing a return of youth ministry and an interest to start up groups that may have stopped. Our website [www.dgyouthcouncil.net](http://www.dgyouthcouncil.net) is an online hub of resources and ideas, and we have young leadership courses, fun days, and a diocesan trip to Summer Madness all on the cards for the next few months.

### **KILMORE, ELPHIN & ARDAGH**

There have been so many changes in the world since early 2020. This has particularly been the case when it comes to youth and children’s ministry. However, in parishes throughout our diocese and across this island, this challenge has been turned to creativity. Clergy and lay leaders adapted to continue to minister to those younger generations for whom lockdowns have been especially disruptive. This is a clear example of the commitment of so many who give time and energy to this vital work, so it is only right begin by acknowledging this and taking the opportunity to thank them all. May God establish the work of their hands (see Psalm 90:17)!

In November 2019 (how long ago that feels!), we held the first of our Diocesan Confirmation Days. This was held in Killesandra Parish Hall, Co. Cavan, and saw Confirmation candidates from the Kilmore part of the diocese gather for fellowship, activities, and teaching on what the life of faith we commit to at Confirmation is all about. Mr Simon Henry of the Church of Ireland Youth Department (CIYD) was our guest speaker, and he entertained and engaged all those present in his own inimitable way. A parallel event took place in the Cooper Memorial Hall and Taunagh Parish Church in Riverstown, Co. Sligo, on 7<sup>th</sup> March 2020 — less than a week before schools closed. Simon also joined us for this Confirmation Day which saw confirmands gather mainly from the Elphin & Ardagh areas. Over 100 young people were present over these two days, and we pray that it will have been helpful to them as they continue their life in the fellowship of Christ and his Church. Thank you to Bishop Glenfield for his support of these events and presence at them, the hosting parishes, the clergy and leaders who organised groups and attended, and anyone else who helped in any way.

Everything changed in the week or so after our event in Riverstown, and we all became more familiar than we ever thought we would with video recording and conferencing equipment and software — especially ZOOM, which is now in all of our vocabularies as a noun and a verb! It is impossible to recount all of the things which have been provided for

young people through these means (both from individual parishes and from the diocese). These provided contact and encouragement which I know has been greatly appreciated by so many young people and their families. A few examples which had a broad range of involvement were the numerous Virtual Nativities for Christmas 2020 (with Play It By Ear Christian drama company), which involved many parishes and schools, and the Saint Patrick's Confession Project in March 2021, in which over 30 young people from the diocese participated. The technologies which have made all of this ministry possible have been a blessing, but they are second best to in-person ministry and so it was a great relief to be able to gather 'in-person' as restrictions eased, albeit initially outdoors with the required precautions.

Opportunities for our customary involvement in schools, such as visits and assemblies, were obviously hindered since COVID-19 restrictions were put in place. Nonetheless, contact has been maintained with schools throughout this period by the sharing of resources, recording of assemblies, support by phone and email, and outdoor assemblies when allowed. The staff of our school communities have done a remarkable job to provide continuity of teaching in difficult circumstances, and they deserve all of the support we can give them as a diocese.

We continue to be grateful for the support we receive from CIYD and its staff. It is true to say that without the generous funding we receive as a youth council from CIYD, what we could offer our children and young people would be greatly diminished.

Above all else, we give thanks to God for his blessings in giving us the hope of Christ. We give him the glory as we strive, in the power of the Spirit, to share that hope with the children and young people he brings us in contact with. Please continue to pray for yKEA, and the whole Church, that we may respond worthily to this call.

#### **LIMERICK & KILLALOE**

The following has been formulated as Mission Statement for Youth Ministry in the United Dioceses of Limerick, Killaloe and Ardfert:

***“To provide opportunities which will facilitate and encourage Christian spiritual growth, fun and fellowship among young people from throughout the United Dioceses of Limerick and Killaloe”***

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

At present despite the tremendous efforts of Girls Friendly Society, Boys Brigade, Sunday Schools, a small number of local parish initiatives and UDYC, there are huge gaps in our current delivery of effective Youth & Children's Ministry in our United Diocese. During 2020 & 2021 considerable discussion by many groups and individuals took place on possible options for the future.

The clergy grouping are keen to prioritize local ministry such as in regional hubs and organizing confirmation day events. U.D.Y.C committee created an online survey on youth ministry, which was shared throughout our social media platforms and by email. The expectation that was derived from our young people and youth leaders prioritized meeting young people from other areas, weekend or week long events, international events, attending Summer Madness, Worship and teaching events. Due to review and Covid 19

## Church of Ireland Youth Department – Report 2022

restrictions, U.D.Y.C events have been put on hold since March 2020.

It is hoped that 2022 is the year that U.D.Y.C can “Re-start and Re-connect”. We were recently granted funding from the Church of Ireland Youth Department to enable us to organise events during 2022 to prioritise re-gathering our community together with a focus on restarting and reconnecting. We look forward to working with Bishop, clergy and all others to develop this vision. U.D.Y.C. of Limerick & Killaloe continues to be very thankful to Individuals, parents/guardians, parishes, diocese, C.I.Y.D. and wider church and community for continued support and help.

### **MEATH & KILDARE**

2021 continued to have its challenges for youth ministry across the Diocese due to Covid restrictions. Confirmation classes are in full swing with over 150 people to be confirmed. These classes use a range of resources including CY (Christianity Explored for Youth) and the “I Believe” CIYD resource. Beyond that, other resources have been distributed to the Diocese including Shaken, and Fuel II.

We have organised events designed to re-start Youth Work after the pandemic, including a gardening party at Geashill. Furthermore the students of Wilson's Hospital School took part in an augmented reality session with Missional Generation utilising AR to teach Biblical stories. We hope that 2022 will have a much busier programme for youth ministry.

### **TUAM, KILLALA & ACHONRY**

Who would've thought that when writing the TKA report for last year that the story this year would've been the same?

Bright hopes that Covid would be gone were dashed as 2021 wore on, leaving the youth programme hanging.

The return trip by the young people from our link diocese of Moray, Ross and Caithness was once again postponed and the usual yearly events, like the Confirmation day and Diocesan fun day didn't happen once again, due to Covid numbers and nervousness from parishes that getting together, even when we might have, was too risky for all involved.

As I write this at the beginning of 2022 I'm hoping and praying for a better year this year!

**EXTRACTS FROM THE AUDITED ACCOUNTS OF THE CHURCH OF  
IRELAND YOUTH DEPARTMENT  
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021**

**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 – Report 2022

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT	Year ended 31 December 2021		
	2021 €	2020 €	
<b>INCOME</b>			
Department of Children, Equality, Disability Integration and Youth	2a	246,971	238,290
Education Authority NI	2b	52,353	-
Funding provided by the RCB		172,352	162,247
Deposit Interest		24	5
Donations		2,966	2,047
Programme – All Churches Trust		-	6,714
Programme Grant		1,824	3,135
Priorities		-	22,379
		<u>476,490</u>	<u>434,817</u>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>			
Office & Administration Expenses	3	(39,332)	(45,578)
Staff Costs	4	(139,130)	(135,939)
Fees & Membership	5	(1,122)	(1,783)
		<u>(179,584)</u>	<u>(183,301)</u>
<b>Operating Surplus for the Year</b>		296,906	251,516
<b>TRAINING, PROGRAMME &amp; GRANT ALLOCATIONS</b>			
Training, Programme & Grant Allocations	6	(270,745)	(232,831)
<b>Surplus after Training, Programme &amp; Grant Allocations</b>		<u>26,161</u>	<u>18,685</u>
Currency translation adjustment		2,763	(2,621)
<b>Net Surplus for the year</b>		<u><u>28,924</u></u>	<u><u>16,064</u></u>

Church of Ireland Youth Department – Report 2022

<b>BALANCE SHEET</b>		<b>Year ended 31 December 2021</b>	
		2021 €	2020 €
<b>TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS</b>	7	641	1,656
		<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Cash held on deposit by RCB	8	300,122	135,009
Cash at bank		9,161	4,1616
Prepayments		2,424	8,800
		<hr/>	<hr/>
		311,707	148,425
		<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>			
Creditors	9	(198,811)	(65,468)
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Net Assets		<u>113,537</u>	<u>84,613</u>
<b>FUNDS EMPLOYED</b>			
Balance at 1 January			
		84,613	68,549
Surplus for the year		28,924	16,064
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Balance as at 31 December		<u>113,537</u>	<u>84,613</u>
		<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

Church of Ireland Youth Department – Report 2022

*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.

	2021	2020
	€	€
2a. Department of Children, Equality, Disability Integration and Youth		
- Youth Services Grant Scheme		
- Capital Funding Scheme	206,479	196,647
- Youth Climate Justice Fund	19,617	31,643
- Youth Covid 19 Minor Grant Scheme	8,375	10,000
	12,500	-
	<u>246,971</u>	<u>238,290</u>

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. Education Authority Northern Ireland

A grant of €52,353 was received from the Education Authority NI. This grant was provided to the Church of Ireland Youth Department to provide a PPE allocation for dioceses, direct Covid support funding for resources and activities and longer term regional development funding.

3. Office & Administration Expenses	2021	2020
	€	€
Insurance	2,825	2,046
Audit Fees	4,446	4,332
Rent	21,116	19,878
Telephone, Postage & Internet	3,778	3,159
Office Expenses	5,918	12,814
Depreciation	1,058	1,268

Church of Ireland Youth Department – Report 2022

Resources	127	967
Sundry	-	1,046
Bank Interest & Charges	64	69
	<u>39,332</u>	<u>45,579</u>
	<u><u>39,332</u></u>	<u><u>45,579</u></u>
4. Staff Costs	2021	2020
	€	€
Staff Salaries	130,944	128,936
Staff Expenses	7,768	5,858
Central Board & Executive	418	1,145
	<u>139,130</u>	<u>135,939</u>
	<u><u>139,130</u></u>	<u><u>135,939</u></u>
	2021	2020
	€	€
5. Fees & Membership		
General Membership Fees	1,122	1,783
	<u>1,122</u>	<u>1,783</u>
	<u><u>1,122</u></u>	<u><u>1,783</u></u>
	2021	2020
6. Training, Programme & Grant Allocations	€	€
Training Events	127,096	57,174
Training Equipment Purchases (Funded)	-	32,366
Programme Events	10,944	9,989
Devolved Funding Grants	119,277	115,315
Summer Madness	-	5,585
Youth Link NI	13,428	12,392
	<u>139,130</u>	<u>135,939</u>

Church of Ireland Youth Department – Report 2022

	270,745	232,831
	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
7. Tangible Fixed Assets	2021	2020
	€	€
<b>Cost</b>		
At 1 January	98,816	104,303
Currency Adjustment	6,048	(5,487)
Additions	-	-
	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
At 31 December	<u>104,864</u>	<u>98,816</u>
<b>Depreciation</b>		
At 1 January	97,160	101,294
Currency Adjustment	1,058	(5,402)
Charge for the year	6,005	1,268
	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
At 31 December	<u>104,223</u>	<u>97,160</u>
<b>Net Book Value</b>		
At 1 January	1,656	3,009
	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
At 31 December	<u>641</u>	<u>1,656</u>
	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
8. Cash on deposit held by the RCB	2021	2020
	€	€
	300,122	135,009
	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
9. Creditors	2021	2020
	€	€

Church of Ireland Youth Department – Report 2022

Accruals	198,811	65,468
	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>

10. Foreign Currency transactions have been translated to Euro at the rate of exchange ruling at 31 December 2021, €1 = £0.8413 (2020: €1 = £0.8937).



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

### **Report on the audit of the non-statutory financial statements**

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#### **Opinion**

In our opinion, the Church of Ireland Youth Department's non-statutory financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2021 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 sheet as at 31 December 2021;
  - the income & 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 have been properly prepared in accordance with the basis of preparation in note (iii) and the accounting policies in the financial statements and for determining that the basis of preparation and accounting policies are acceptable in the circumstances. 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  
16 March 2022