



Church of Ireland  
Board of Education (NI)

AUTUMN 2015

# NEWSBRIEF

NEWS, UPDATES AND RESOURCES IN EDUCATION, SAFEGUARDING TRUST AND CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

## HELLO FROM THE SECRETARY

*17 Thus says the Lord, your Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel: I am the Lord your God, who teaches you for your own good, who leads you in the way you should go.*

*Isaiah 48:17*

**I have now been in post just four months and I am still finding my way through the work. Canon Dr Ian Ellis has left a wonderful legacy and has been extremely supportive over the last few months.**

For those of you who don't know me, I am married to Dawn and we have

three wonderful boys under the age of nine. I have lived in Bangor all my life and enjoy travel and driving. I trained as a maths teacher and after teaching for a period of years moved into youth work. From 2003 to 2011, I was Training Co-ordinator for Connor Diocese. For the last two years I have worked for the NI Council for Voluntary Action. I am passionate about education and learning. I am looking forward to ensuring that the Church of Ireland has a strong voice in education and promoting a philosophy that all young people should have an enjoyable and fulfilling journey through their formal education.



Please pray for the work of the Board of Education and do not hesitate to drop in and see us if you are in Church of Ireland House.

**Dr Peter Hamill**

## Children's Ministry!



**The Board of Education hopes to develop its support for children's ministry and we are currently planning to deliver a training programme with CITI in the North West in the spring of 2016 based on the Core Skills Programme.**

We are also developing a support programme to enable some children's ministry leaders to attend a conference in England.

Building Blocks will not be taking place this year in NI. Scripture Union are running a conference for those engaged in schools works and we will send out further details when we get them.

We are keen to develop support in children's ministry and if you have any ideas or suggestions on how we could centrally support children's ministry across the dioceses please contact Peter on: **T: 028 9082 8860**

# SAFEGUARDING REVIEW



The current version of **Safeguarding Trust** was launched in 2008 and we now feel it is time for a review. Over the next few months we will be carrying out this review and each parish will be asked to submit their thoughts and comments through an online survey. We hope to launch the updated version in 2016 and will make all materials available online for easy access.



## ACCESSNI



**AccessNI** has now been running successfully for a few months as an online process. This is working well and turn around times have been drastically reduced. There is still a paper part of the process and when volunteers or workers complete an online application please make sure that the rector completes the validation form and sends it in to this office, allowing sufficient time for the process to be completed before the applicant takes up their role. Full details of the **AccessNI** process can be found on [www.sgt.ireland.anglican.org](http://www.sgt.ireland.anglican.org)

## VULNERABLE ADULTS

In order to inform parishes of the current legislation for working with vulnerable adults we are holding a series of seminars for clergy.

### TOPICS TO BE COVERED

- Definition of a vulnerable adult.
- Legal requirements when dealing with vulnerable adults including **AccessNI**.
- Best practice for churches working with vulnerable adults.

All events will take place from 10.00am to 12.30pm.

### OCTOBER

Tuesday 6th - St Macartin's Cathedral Halls, Enniskillen  
Thursday 8th - St Patrick's Parish Halls, Ballymena  
Tuesday 13th - St Peter's Parish Halls, Antrim Road, Belfast

### NOVEMBER

Tuesday 3rd - St Mark's Parish Halls, Armagh  
Thursday 5th - Derry Diocesan Centre, London Street, Londonderry  
Tuesday 10th - Seagoe Parish Halls, Portadown

To register for an event please contact Claire Geoghegan by email at [cgeoghegan@diocoff-belfast.org](mailto:cgeoghegan@diocoff-belfast.org) or by calling 028 9082 8860





# GOVERNORS

Part of the role of the Secretary to the Board of Education is to nominate Transferor Governors on behalf of TRC to school boards of governors. The church still has the right to nominate church representatives to schools and it is important that we fill these vacancies when they become open. Thank you all who fulfil such a key role and give so much to their local community. We have been contacting some rectors to help fill the current vacancies and are grateful to their support in finding suitable people.

## EDUCATION AUTHORITY UPDATE



**The Education Authority is a new body which came into operation on 1 April 2015. As a single organisation the Education Authority replaced the five Education and Library Boards which had previously delivered education services across Northern Ireland.**

The constitution of the Education Authority was set out in the Education Act (NI) 2014 and provided for the establishment of a Board to have overall responsibility for the operation of the Education Authority. This Board comprises a Chairperson, Mrs Sharon O'Connor, who was appointed by the Minister of Education Mr John O'Dowd and 20 members nominated by a range of interests. There are 8 political nominees representing the DUP, Sinn Fein, the SDLP and the Ulster Unionist Party. The interests of Irish-medium Schools, Integrated Schools, Voluntary Grammar Schools, and Controlled Grammar Schools are represented by one nominee for each sector. Four persons represent the interests of Catholic maintained schools.

Finally, representing the interests of all schools in the public sector are the four Transferor representatives who are nominated by the Church of Ireland, Presbyterian and Methodist churches. Historically these churches owned and managed the majority of schools that were transferred to state

control following partition in 1921. In return for their significant investment in schools' estate, the churches that "transferred" their schools were given rights of representation on school boards of governors and area Library Boards. This right of representation was extended to the new Education Authority which means that the churches, working together, can continue to contribute a vision of education based upon the values of the Christian faith. The Transferors' representatives nominated to serve on the Education Authority are Rev. Amanda Adams (Church of Ireland), Rev. Robert Herron, Miss Rosemary Rainey and Mr Edgar Jardine.

The primary concern of the Education Authority when it came into operation on 1 April 2015 was to ensure continuity of services so that nothing would disrupt the educational experience of children or their teachers. The transition has gone well. The Board has met on a number of occasions, a senior management structure has been approved and five directors will shortly be appointed who will be responsible for further developing and implementing a programme for change which, over time, will ensure that educational policies will be delivered in the same way across the country, so that all children are treated equally and fairly no matter where they live.

Whilst the Education Authority has been given a budget of £1.5 billion it is nevertheless required develop a cost effective model for the delivery of educational services, which in practice means streamlining educational administration whilst at the same time tackling pupil underachievement and raising standards. Consequently the Board has been working with staff to consolidate operations to reduce waste and duplication and to redesign and improve efficiency across every service that the Authority is responsible for. The target set for the Education Authority is to achieve savings of £26 million in its first year of operation whilst maintaining service delivery with further savings thereafter.

It is a challenge, faced in a climate of great uncertainty but the goal of streamlined, cost efficient, equitable educational structure, focused on helping every child reach his or her potential with the help of well trained, motivated and professional staff is worth the effort. It is certainly a goal that the Transferors are fully committed to working towards but only in a way that is consistent with and informed by our Christian values.

*Rev. Amanda Adams*

# NEWS FROM THE DIOCESES

## KIDS BIG ADVENTURE

**DATES:** SAT 10<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER – CLOUGHFERN PARISH  
SAT 17<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER – BALLYMONEY PARISH  
**TIME:** 2-5PM

“RIPPLE” (Children’s Ministry Connor) is back with “Kids Big Adventure” 2015. This year the theme will be God’s Big Garden – and the focus will be on creation and the fall of mankind and looking at how God responded by sending Jesus.

The event is open to all churches with children’s groups in Connor diocese and is being hosted in 2 venues this year. We really hope and pray that even more children and their leaders from Connor Diocese will come along and make Kids Big Adventure part of their yearly programme.

We would love YOUR church to be involved so why not plan to come along and participate this year! It’s a chance for the children in Sunday Schools and other children’s organizations to meet other children from across the diocese, have fun, connect with others and feel part of something bigger than their own church setting. It inspires us all to know that there are lots of children and leaders meeting all around the diocese learning about Jesus and trying to follow Him. For leaders, it is a chance to talk to others who are doing the same (sometimes challenging) job



of teaching and enthusing children in their journey of faith.

Oh and did I mention we have a leaders café so that leaders can chat over a coffee and a homemade bun!

For more information check out the Ripple website at:  
[www.rippleconnor.org.uk](http://www.rippleconnor.org.uk)

## RESOURCES

### CORE SKILLS FOR FAMILY MINISTRY

Developing key skills for church-based family ministry.

Consultative Group on Ministry among Children - £12.99.

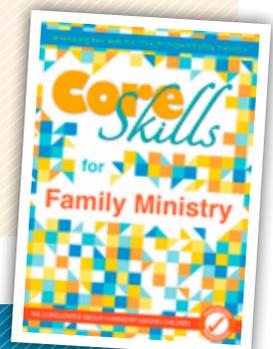
User-friendly modular training course for children’s and family work practitioners.

Core Skills is an interdenominational modular scheme offering foundational training for all those involved with church-based family ministry. It offers six stand-alone sessions on:

- Biblical, historical and contemporary understanding of family.

- Family ministry today.
- Seasons of family life.
- Role of family relationships.
- Family well-being and wholeness.
- Faith in families.

For more info visit:  
[www.brfonline.org.uk](http://www.brfonline.org.uk)



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