



**Image of the day - PCI's new Rural Chaplain**

Rev Kenny Hanna (third from right) the Presbyterian Church in Ireland's first Rural Chaplain at Mourne Presbyterian Church, Kilkeel, with (left to right) Dr Mike Johnston, Northern Ireland Dairy Council Chief Executive, Dr Elizabeth

November 12, 2021

Magowan, Agri-Food and Biosciences Institute Director, Veronica Morris, Rural Support Network Chief Executive, Ian Stevenson, Livestock and Meat Commission Chief Executive and Sean Fitzpatrick of the Northern Ireland Agricultural Producers Association.

## News Reports

### PCI finances are healthy despite Covid pandemic

**The Presbyterian Church in Ireland is in a relatively good financial position, despite the difficulties and unprecedented challenges of the Covid pandemic of the past 18 months, Billy Kennedy writes.**

Church ministers and elders have been told that the church ended 2020 in a much better position than was feared in the negative climate of the pandemic with a lockdown of churches for a considerable period.

“Overall, there was a surplus of income over expenditure in 2020 similar to the previous year,” David Thomson, convenor of the Presbyterian Church support services committee reported.

Mr Thomson confirmed that the total funds of the church had increased to £77.8m.

Total income fell by about £1m from £29.3m in 2019 to £28.2m in 2020. This, he said, had decreases in a number

November 12, 2021

of areas, including the use of Assembly Buildings in Belfast as a conference facility.

Although income fell, expenditure also decreased from £27m to £25.8m due to the general scaling back of some activities and the use of furlough payments with the Presbyterian Church in Ireland receiving £740,000 from the UK Government's Job Retention Scheme.

The Presbyterian Church in Ireland has 550 congregations, with about 100 of them located in the Irish Republic.

On another financial front, 93.4 per cent of the Presbyterian Church's United Appeal target for 2020 was met. A total of £3,057,174 was received from the congregations against a target of £3,600,000. The deficit was further reduced by late congregational payments into 2021 of £305,849. The targeted United Appeal money is levied proportionally on each congregation.

Individual Presbyterian congregations administer their own accounts, raising the stipend (salary) and expenses for their minister.

The Presbyterian United Appeal finance is used to underwrite foreign and home missions with 27 mission workers in 20 countries. It also supports congregational outreach projects, the work of deaconesses in the church, youth activities, and the role of the 28 Irish Presbyterian chaplains in the armed services, hospitals, universities and prisons.

Courtesy News Letter 6th November 2021

[churchnewsireland@gmail.org](mailto:churchnewsireland@gmail.org)

Page 3

November 12, 2021

## **Stormont can force institutions to compensate abuse survivors, O'Neill warns**

**The deputy First Minister said she hoped ministers would not have to use legal powers and the six institutions would pay up voluntarily.**

Stormont will legally compel institutions to provide compensation to victims of historical abuse if they do not pay up willingly, Michelle O'Neill has warned.

The deputy First Minister expressed confidence that it would not reach the point of the Executive having to force the six bodies to provide redress but she told the Assembly it was an option open to ministers.

Barnardo's, the De La Salle Order, Sisters of Nazareth, Sisters of St Louis, the Good Shepherd Sisters and the Irish Church Missions were identified by the Historical Institutional Abuse report as being required to contribute to the cost of the redress scheme for people who were abused in their care.

Ms O'Neill and First Minister Paul Givan recently met with representatives of the six organisations to discuss the payment issue.

She said that meeting had been "constructive" and "forward looking".

November 12, 2021

The Sinn Fein minister said bilateral engagements with the individual institutions were now ongoing through a Stormont appointed independent facilitator, Paul Sweeney.

Responding to question from UUP MLA John Stewart on what legal powers Stormont had to compel the institutions to pay, Ms O'Neill said:

“We’re hoping that we’re able to get goodwill and these institutions will work with the Executive, that’s the work was under way at this moment in time.”

She added: “So that’s a very focused conversation that’s happening and we expect to get a readout of that over the course the next couple of weeks.

“And then we can progress this on to the next stage.

“I hope we don’t ever have to reach for legal powers.

“But if we have to then so be it.

“But I really hope that we don’t do that to victims and survivors or certainly that the institutions don’t force us to do that to victims and survivors.”

The discussions with the institutions are focused on securing appropriate financial contribution to the overall cost of the HIA Redress Board and specialist support services, as recommended by the HIA Inquiry.

The inquiry chaired by the late Sir Anthony Hart called for payments ranging from £7,500 to £100,000 for victims of historical institutions abuse.



November 12, 2021

“We know victims and survivors of historical institutional abuse have our full support and we’re determined that they will receive the acknowledgement support and redress that they deserve for the pain that they have lived with over many years,” said Ms O’Neill.

“Acceptance of responsibility from all concerned and recognition of the harm caused are both crucial in helping victims and survivors to move forward with their lives.

“We have made good progress in the last year with redress payments being made to victims and survivors but we must continue the momentum towards the full implementation of the outstanding recommendations in the Hart report, including on the contributions from the institutions.”

During Assembly question time, Ms O’Neill was also asked about another outstanding recommendation of the inquiry, a public apology to victims.

The deputy First Minister said an apology project group had been set up to work with victims to ensure the issue was handled sensitively.

“I think it’s fair to say that these have been challenging but also very constructive engagements,” she said.

“It’s our intention to work towards a timely apology being given to victims and survivors.”

Courtesy Belfast Telegraph November 08 2021

November 12, 2021

## **Poland: Bishops call for solidarity with refugees on Belarus border**

**As the migrant crisis escalates on the border between Poland and Belarus, Polish bishops are calling on Catholics to show solidarity with migrants and refugees who have managed to enter the country.**

"Regardless of the circumstances of their arrival, they certainly need our spiritual and material support," Archbishop Stanislaw Gądecki, president of the Polish Bishops Conference said.

Poland has been facing a major emergency since last August, when thousands of migrants from the Middle East and Africa started to flow into the country, as well as into Lithuania and Latvia, from neighbouring Belarus. According to Polish authorities, there have been more than 30,000 illegal attempts so far.

The Polish government, along with the European Union, has accused Minsk of encouraging the massive flow as a form of "hybrid warfare" in retaliation for Western sanctions on President Alexander Lukashenko's government for his brutal crackdown against pro-democracy protests. Lukashenko, who won a sixth term in a disputed presidential election in August 2020 and is supported by Russia, has repeatedly denied the accusations.

In response to the crisis, Poland has built a razor-wire fence, deployed additional troops, border guards and police along its eastern border, and is cracking down on migrants

November 12, 2021



### Caritas Poland in action

attempting to enter the country. The border guards have been pushing migrants back across the border, including families with children, thanks also to a new Polish law that makes that legal. Polish lawmakers have also approved recently the construction of a €347 million anti-migrant wall.

Human rights groups have criticised both Poland and Belarus for their harsh treatment of migrants and refugees, who face cold weather and a lack of food and medical care. At least seven people have died so far trying to make their way into the country. Other people are also reported to have died on the Belarusian side.

While upholding Warsaw's stance on the issue and Poland's right to protect its borders, the Catholic Church in Poland continues to provide relief work for the migrants and actively advocates for the respect of their basic human rights, through its Caritas network and the Catholic Migrant and Refugee Office of the Bishops' Conference of Poland (KEP).



November 12, 2021

In his message, Archbishop Gądecki calls on the faithful and all people of goodwill to support this effort by contributing to the special collection of November 21, stating that the Church's primary mission is the proclamation of the Gospel which calls for solidarity with the most vulnerable. The funds, he explained, will help the Church's humanitarian activities that aim to meet the growing needs of the migrants during the crisis, as well as its efforts, in the long term, to promote the integration of refugees who decide to stay in Poland.

Archbishop Gądecki ended his message by inviting Catholics to pray for peace on Poland's eastern border.

The Church in Poland will hold a special collection for Caritas Polska's work with the refugees on Sunday 21 November.

## **Grab yourself a gargoyle: cathedral launches innovative fundraising drive**

**Gloucester Cathedral has produced a catalogue of stones it intends to auction off, which includes historically significant pieces like the “mythical” creature.**

Sonia Bielaszewska, philanthropy manager at the cathedral, said the friends of Gloucester cathedral hope people will bid for pieces which can become dinner party ice breakers or garden features.

November 12, 2021

The stones, which are too worn to do their job, vary in size from six inches to one and a half metres. They will be available to view in person at the Mason's Yard



in Pitt Street, Gloucester, for six days from Monday, and also via an online catalogue.

There are ten stones up for grabs, each of which will have a reserve price on it. If the reserve price is not met during the sealed bid auction, the cathedral will keep the stones.

Ms Bielaszewska said: “We wanted to give people the option to give them a second home. They may not be suitable for the cathedral but they would do absolutely fine for people’s homes and gardens.”

She added: “Some of them are so historically significant, they deserve a second home...People have expressed an interest in having them as conversation starters on the table.”

Very Rev Stephen Lake, Dean of Gloucester, said: “Imbued with prayer and presence, this opportunity is ideal for you to

November 12, 2021

have a piece of your cathedral, and support its on-going work – forever.”

## **Report warns of 'alarming' lack of planning or strategy from churches for children's ministry**

**A new report has revealed that many churches in the UK do not have a plan or strategy in place for reaching out to children and families.**

The ‘Do we need a new plan for children’s ministry?’ study has revealed that only two per cent of churches in the UK, Brazil, Canada and the US have a clear strategy for children’s and family ministry.

Dr. Sarah Holmes, lecturer at the Liverpool Hope University and co-author of the report, told Premier the results of the research are “alarming”.

“I think if we don't actually plan and be strategic, then we default to the bare minimum, which is what we're seeing. We're finding that congregations generally are not terribly well bought into the importance of sharing faith with the next generation and even often, the leadership team and are not terribly invested in that that side of the ministry.”

Written by academic researchers and ministry practitioners, the report has shown the pandemic has had a severe negative impact on children's faith formation.

November 12, 2021

Dr. Holmes continued: “Many people are reporting that children and families aren't necessarily returning to church following the pandemic. And as I say, this is right across all of the countries that we spoke to, we're seeing this reduced engagement of children and families, and obviously, for the future health of our churches. This is quite concerning. If we're prioritising adult ministry, which seems to be the case at the moment, fast Forward ten, 20 years' time, ‘Who is going to be in our churches?’, we have very few children and young people and families in the now.”

The report also suggested the Church is often viewed as “a service provider rather than a partner” and wants to encourage a better dialogue between parents and the Church to ensure the nurturing of the children's faith.

“We really want to be seeing churches working much more collaboratively, and much more in partnership with Christian parents to say let's work together to nurture the faith in your children, and to see rather than a transaction kind of a service mentality to see that kind of working together thing, so that we can be much more effective in reaching future generations with the Christian faith,” Dr Holmes concluded.

You can read the full report here -

[[] <https://www.nurturingyoungfaith.org/post/does-the-church-have-a-plan-for-reaching-children> ]

## People and places

### PCI's new Rural Chaplain hits the ground running

Rev Kenny Hanna started work this week as the Presbyterian Church in Ireland's (PCI) first Rural Chaplain. Having been commissioned and inducted into this new pioneering role at a special service held in Mourne Presbyterian Church, Kilkeel on Sunday (7 November), he has hit the ground running. On Monday evening he was out with farmers at the Downpatrick Mart, Tuesday saw him at the Mart in Rathfriland and on Thursday he was at the sheep sale in Hilltown.

The new Rural Chaplain will operate in four of PCI's nineteen regional presbyteries - the Presbyteries of Armagh Down, Iveagh, and Newry – which means that Mr Hanna's focus will be on farmers and farming families who work and live in all of County Armagh and most of County Down. The main function of the new role is to provide a chaplaincy service to the rural and farming communities prioritising the pastoral and spiritual needs that are associated with geographical and social isolation of those working in the rural and agri-food sectors.

Mr Hanna's announcement as Rural Chaplain was made last month at the PCI's General Assembly. The new role has been developed by the Church's Council for Mission in Ireland (CMI) and is part of the Rural Chaplaincy Pilot Scheme, which will be for an initial three-year period,



November 12, 2021



Rev Kenny Hanna (third from right) the Presbyterian Church in Ireland's first Rural Chaplain at Mourne Presbyterian Church, Kilkeel, with (left to right) Victor Chestnut, President of the Ulster Farmers' Union (UFU), Peter Alexander, President of the Young Farmers' Clubs of Ulster (YFCU), Stuart Mills, YFCU Deputy President, William Irvine, UFU Deputy President and Barclay Bell, former president of the UFU.

subject to review. The Council provides operational management and support to a range of missional activities on the island of Ireland, including the provision of chaplaincy services in universities and colleges, the healthcare system, the prison service and the armed forces.

November 12, 2021

The Commissioning Service was held by the Presbytery of Newry and was conducted by its Moderator, Rev Robert McClure, minister of Newtownhamilton and Freeduff.

Speaking after his commissioning to the 500 or so members of Mourne Presbyterian, friends and family, along with representatives from various agri-food and rural agencies, farming organisations and sectoral bodies, Mr Hanna, said that he had been “so humbled and encouraged by everyone who has come, especially the key players in the rural sector... I believe that we have a common goal and our common goal is to care for farmers and farming families...”

Mr Hanna, who grew up on the family farm in the Kingdom of Mourne, had been in parish ministry since 2001, serving for the last 10 years as minister of Second Dromara Presbyterian Church. “If anything is to be done of eternal value through this post, Kenny Hanna will not do it, God will do it, and God will do that if we pray... This post is about Jesus, all about Him, centred on farmers and farming families. It is important work because it is about farmers and farming families and they are massively important to me. I also want to make it clear that I am here for any farmer and any farming family from any background,” Mr Hanna said.

He told the congregation that, “farming is in my blood. I’ve been away from our farm for 27 years, but have enjoyed being a part-time farmer when I have had the opportunity...” He also talked about working in partnership with the four presbyteries, the 100 or so congregations across them and “the wider rural fraternity”. He also said the he would be an accessible rural chaplain, both in person and via Facebook and Instagram, along with the Rural Chaplain’s diary, which will appear in the Farming Life. Summing up the rural

November 12, 2021

chaplaincy and his new role he said, “As a farmer and a pastor with a farmer’s heart, I long for farmers and their families to know Jesus the Good Shepherd.”

PCI’s rural chaplaincy will cover an area that reaches from Comber in the north, along the western shores of Strangford Lough, and down the coast to Ardglass and on to Warrenpoint. It also takes in the towns and villages as far west as Benburb, reaching up once more to the southern shores of Lough Neagh.

As part of the service Rev Gareth McFadden convener of CMI’s Rural Chaplaincy Task Group, which undertook the work to establish the role, explained the reasoning behind it. The minister of Kilbride Presbyterian Church near Ballyclare in County Antrim said, “It is a very important role and the vision has been to create this fulltime position to work in the four presbyteries...and is being made in the prayer that what is sown in this pioneering ministry will be blessed by God with a long-term harvest of effectiveness.”

Mr McFadden said the Church has many rural congregations who are active in their local communities “... and much good work is already underway. The Rural Chaplain will not operate instead of, or above congregational ministers in their local setting, but will be a member of the team...adding to the work that meets the needs of the community, especially the pastoral and spiritual needs associated with social isolation of those working in the agri sector.” He also said that the work was about “building relationships within the rural community and sharing the Good News of Jesus relevantly and warmly with people of all backgrounds.”

November 12, 2021

During the service, Mourne Presbyterian's minister, Rev William Bingham, also offered his congratulations on Mr Hanna's call and induction as Rural Chaplain, saying, "...in one sense you go where no PCI minister has ever gone before...We are glad of the enthusiasm you have for this post, we are so glad of this sheer sense of the call of God upon your life to this ministry..."

Preaching on John 10:1-18, which had been read earlier by William Irvine, Deputy President of the Ulster Farmers' Union and an elder in Mountnorris Presbyterian Church, Mr Bingham preached on what makes a 'good shepherd'.

Following the service, PCI's Moderator, Right Rev Dr David Bruce, brought his own personal greeting. Dr Bruce said that he had known Mr Hanna since the latter had become a Christian in the early 1990s. "Across the Presbyterian Church in Ireland we are standing with you today. All 500-plus congregations, north, south, east and west, we are all in one way or another journeying with you, and we are just thrilled and delighted that we are at this stage...Kenny understands the context and setting that God has clearly called him to minister...May you know God's blessing as you go about this strategically important work for the glory of Christ," he said.

## **Series of events planned to raise funds to restore Kinlough church**

As part of a major community effort to restore and preserve for future generations the Church of Ireland in Kinlough, a series of events will take place in the historical building



November 12, 2021

starting with a discussion on Leitrim's experience of World War 1 on Sunday, November 14th.

The most significant renovations in living memory have been on-going over the summer months to restore the clock tower and waterproof the church. The church, also known by its titular title of Rossinver Parish Church, is in the heart of Kinlough Village and was built in 1820.

The base of its tower is reputed to date back much earlier to the 12-14th century due to the different stone found in its base.

The restoration works will cost €45,000.

The parish secured a grant of €20,000 from the Leitrim County Council's Historical Structure Fund 2021 leaving the small congregation of approximately 30 people with a fundraising target of €25,000.

The 'Friends of Kinlough Church of Ireland' group has been formed and tasked with steering this fundraising effort. The group also intends putting on a series of events designed to showcase the Church as an important community amenity as well as a place of worship and a building of considerable historical significance.

The first such event will be a discussion on Leitrim's contribution to and experience of World War 1 with Ballinamore historian Pádraig Griffin, author of 'Leitrim Echoes of the Great War'.



November 12, 2021

The retired teacher and father of Leitrim Olympian, Colin Griffin, spent almost 40 years researching the topic prior to the publication of his acclaimed book in 2019.

The Leitrim list of the dead records 353 men and one woman, Staff Nurse Margaret Annie Cox of the Territorial Force Nursing Service, who died in the war.

The walls of the church include a memorial to Robert St. John Blacker Douglas who was killed in WW1. The free event will take place in Kinlough Church of Ireland at 3pm on Sunday, November 14th.

Light refreshments will be served afterwards in the parish hall prior to the annual Remembrance Service in the church which will take place at 4.30pm. Again, all are welcome to attend the service.

Other events as part of the awareness and fundraising drive will include a table quiz in The Angler's Rest on Thursday, December 2nd at 8pm, a guided tour of the old graveyard including introductions to some of its historied residents, a Come Dine with Us community dinner, and a concert in the new year in the church featuring one of Ireland's leading musicians.

The group has also set up a GoFundMe page to seek contributions to their fundraising target of €25,000. Go to: <https://gofund.me/ba0b8692>

Due to the small congregation, the parish alternates monthly services with the Church of Ireland in Bundoran.

November 12, 2021

To secure the Rossinver Parish Church's future, the 'Friends of Kinlough Church of Ireland' are exploring suitable co-usages for the building and grounds, including engaging with Leitrim Council to identify potential opportunities for the local community.

There was a small national school on the grounds which operated until the 1960s before becoming the parish hall while a library was also once housed for the local community in the church.

The grounds host the village's popular annual dog show and have in the past hosted many social gatherings, concerts, car-boot sales, and fair days. Mae Regan and her late husband Oliver and family erected the clock in the tower in 2003 in memory of their son and brother Gordon who died in a road traffic accident in 2002.

Readers can keep abreast of all planned activities on the Church's Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/Church-of-Ireland-Kinlough-107754342889486/>

Report courtesy the Sligo Newsletter November 10 2021

## Perspective

### **Candour: the quality of being open and honest by Sarah Sellars**

**“You shouldn't need to say ‘I swear’. If you're a truthful person, then it's enough to say what you mean and**

November 12, 2021

**leave it at that. It's better to be honest and careful with the words you choose, and then people will know they can trust what you say."**

As I said these words to my son I was struck by two different thoughts. First, this will be a lifelong challenge for him, as it is for all of us. In navigating the politics of playground, family, church, workplace, other commitments, and the wider community we should be mindful of what we say, how we say it, and how we model it.

For several years I've volunteered on the helpline of a national patient safety charity. Callers usually want to find out what went wrong with their medical treatment or, in tragic cases, that of their loved one, and have been unable to get satisfactory answers. We consider complaints processes, discuss the risks and benefits of litigation, and, occasionally, talk about duty of candour communication they've received from their healthcare provider.

All registered healthcare professionals have a responsibility to speak up when things go wrong, known as their professional duty of candour. This obliges each individual to report incidents and concerns to their organisation or to their professional regulator, to participate fully in investigations, and to be open and honest with patients/service users when things go wrong.

Healthcare organisations in Scotland and England have a statutory duty of candour, and Wales will implement one soon. This requires the organisations themselves to investigate when something has gone wrong. They must

November 12, 2021

apologise to, and share their investigative findings with, the individual or family who have been, or may be, harmed.

Here in Northern Ireland work is ongoing to develop the law in this area and I've been watching with interest. It is enormously important that people get truthful answers and full explanations when things go wrong, and it helps to share that learning to prevent the same thing happening again. However, it strikes me as sad that it is necessary to legislate for honesty, and I struggle to see how a culture of openness can truly flourish this way.

Communication without candour is often not a conscious decision - it might arise from being uncomfortable with speaking or hearing the truth. It's not only about owning up to a mistake. It's the manager who doesn't know how to offer constructive advice when required, but shocks you with criticism at your annual review. It's the person who disassociates themselves from a friend who's making bad choices rather than asking them what's going on, and leaving them to face their difficulties alone. It's the church which preaches about living God's way, but doesn't address problems in its own congregation. It's probably something we can identify in our own experience at one time or another.

In 1 Samuel 17 David visited the Israelite camp to find the Israelite army running from the Philistines when Goliath stomped out to taunt them. But David didn't run. He asked the Israelite soldiers, "Who is this pagan Philistine anyway, that he is allowed to defy the armies of the living God?" Here is the young shepherd, posing the question that no one else did, and pointing out the mistake the King and his

November 12, 2021

army were making in being overwhelmed by fear. We all know what happens next, but take a moment to read what David actually says to Goliath first, in verses 45-47, it was breathtakingly brave!

So this is where the daily challenge lies, conscious candour in our communication, however scary or difficult it may seem. It's not a call to go round censoring or insulting people, although there will be times when measured inquiry or holding others to account is appropriate. It's a call to recognise that the words we use give insight to our character, and will have an impact on those around us.

Do we say something when we see a person or group being wronged? Will we encourage someone when we've seen them quietly making a difference in another person's life? Are we brave enough to challenge a bad decision? Will we speak up when we make a mistake?

A culture of honesty cannot be imposed by statute, it must be nurtured to develop as a corporate practice. I wonder whether, if we work at practising open and honest communication wisely in all aspects of our lives, we can be the catalyst for change.

The second thought? I have turned into my parents.

[Sarah Sellars is a member of Lisburn Cathedral. She's a medical negligence solicitor and is also involved in communications and training for professionals.](#)



November 12, 2021

## Poem for today

### An Irish Airman foresees his Death by William Butler Yeats

I know that I shall meet my fate  
Somewhere among the clouds above;  
Those that I fight I do not hate,  
Those that I guard I do not love;  
My country is Kiltartan Cross,  
My countrymen Kiltartan's poor,  
No likely end could bring them loss  
Or leave them happier than before.  
Nor law, nor duty bade me fight,  
Nor public men, nor cheering crowds,  
A lonely impulse of delight  
Drove to this tumult in the clouds;  
I balanced all, brought all to mind,  
The years to come seemed waste of breath,  
A waste of breath the years behind  
In balance with this life, this death.

**+ Please share CNI with your friends**  
**[www.churchnewsireland.org](http://www.churchnewsireland.org)**

