

Church support 'foundation' of UK foodbanks, says Trussell Trust



As new research released suggests half of children in families who use foodbanks are aged between five and 11, a Christian charity has said the situation could be worse without Church support.

The Trussell Trust found that more than 67,000 three-day emergency food supplies were handed out in July and August last year.

That's risen by more than 4,000 compared with the same period in 2015.



James Milton, operations manager at The Trussell Trust said the importance of the Church in helping those that are in need of food.

Speaking about the Church he said: "They are the foundation of so much that we do. The foodbank network across the UK is faith inspired - its Church based.

"Without that response there would be an awful lot of people in this country that would be going hungry or worse."

The Trussell Trust, which runs more than 420 food banks, said its study showed how close to crisis many families are living.

School holidays can put financial pressure on parents who usually rely on free school meals for their children. As a result, the charity has said it

will offer extra help to families this summer, with additional services including a holiday club.

The new research also shows that the number of people using food banks over the summer holidays is rising too.

There's growing concern for those who struggle to provide the most basic of needs.

Calling for more support for struggling families, Milton said: "There's always more that government can do and we are really grateful for improving relationships with government - the ability to talk to them about what should change and could change.

"Particularly where there are delays or problems in the benefit system which means that someone who is entitled to support isn't getting it or isn't getting it soon enough."

Bishop of Truro, Rt Rev Tim Thornton said the figures were "shocking".

He added: "That so many primary age children are going without food in our country is of great concern.

"It is good that so many voluntary organisations, the vast majority of which are based on

churches, are working to provide help for families during the summer holidays.

A government spokesman said: "Record numbers of people are now in work and we're helping millions of households meet the everyday cost of living and keep more of what they earn.

"We've doubled free childcare to help parents into work, and continue to spend over £90 billion a year on support for those who need it, including those who are bringing up a family or on a low income."

New Church of England revolt warning

A former chaplain to the Queen is leading nearly two dozen prominent Anglicans in warning of a revolt over the Church of England's stance on marriage.

The Rev Dr Gavin Ashenden has joined 22 other conservative figures in signing a letter which appeared in the Daily Telegraph, yesterday, Tuesday.



The Rev Dr Gavin Ashenden

It said: "There are now effectively two expressions of Anglicanism in this country. One has capitulated to secular values, and one continues to hold the faith 'once delivered to the saints'"

The letter comes after the Church of England's governing body in February rejected a report which that only a man and a woman should marry in church.

It claimed clergy holding traditional views are being "marginalised" and warns of an Anglican split similar to one seen in North America.

Former members of the Episcopal Church in the United States and the Anglican Church of Canada formed the Anglican Church in North America in 2009, in response to fears of their



former church taking an increasing liberal direction.

Dr Ashenden told the Telegraph: "We are saying if you don't draw a halt at this point the same thing will happen here and there will be a significant number who will secede and reconstitute an Anglican church to keep faith with authentic Anglican Christianity."

Other signatories of the letter include former Bishop of Rochester the Rt Rev Michael Nazir-Ali and CEO of Christian Concern, Andrea Williams.

The letter tells the Church of England to brace for a "revolt in the form of an independence movement" unless there is a change of direction.

A Church of England spokesman was quoted by the Telegraph as saying: "As with any debating chamber, Synod often debates controversial issues and members can sometimes disagree strongly with each other.

"That is the nature of debate. If there is an issue the Chair will intervene. The expectation is that Synod members are courteous at all times both to each other and invited guests."

Dr Ashenden resigned in January this year after publicly criticising St Mary's Episcopal in Glasgow for allowing the Quran to be read during a service.

Churches promote Fair Trade at the Royal Welsh Show

The Bishop of Swansea and Brecon is adding his support to some of the world's poorest tea farmers in a campaign against a supermarket giant.

Bishop John Davies signed Fair Trade Wales' petition at the Royal Welsh Show this week



Bishop John signs the petition with Julian Rosser

against Sainsbury's decision to replace Fairtrade certification on tea with its own 'fairly traded' scheme. Tea-farmers and workers in Africa say the move will disempower them as they will no longer control the Fairtrade premium.

All visitors to the Royal Welsh Show in Llanelwedd, Mid Wales, this week are being invited to sign the petition, as well as enjoy a cup of Fairtrade tea at the Cytûn, Churches Together in Wales, tent.

Bishop John said, “We all love a cuppa but we don’t want the world’s poorest tea farmers to be exploited by our national drinking habit. The Fairtrade certification protects them – it is a powerful brand which is externally audited and which allows farmers themselves to decide how the money they get is used. The danger, too, is that Sainsbury’s move on tea could set a precedent for other products or for other businesses and that could greatly weaken the Fairtrade certification.”

Julian Rosser, national coordinator of Fair Trade Wales, said, “Fairtrade is trusted by farmers, workers and consumers because it guarantees a minimum price for the product as well as paying an extra premium for communities to invest as they choose. Sainsbury’s has long been a leader in Fairtrade so we’re disappointed to see it weakening its commitment now. We’re saying loud and clear to the company that we love and trust the Fairtrade mark and we want to see it back on their tea.”

[More information about the campaign](#)

No Resting in Peace for Prods

'RIP' as an expression of sympathy after a death is unbiblical and a form of superstition



Wallace Thompson said on a BBC Talkback show that 'Rest in Peace' was not a Protestant expression.

connected to Roman Catholicism, according to Northern Ireland's Protestant Orange Order.

The Order, has asked members to stop using the term, which stands for Rest in Peace or Requiescat in Pace, in a publication marking the 500th anniversary of the Reformation, according to the BBC.

The Orange Order defends the civil and religious liberties of the Protestant community in the province,

The move follows comments by Wallace Thompson, secretary of Evangelical Protestants

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Northern Ireland, who told the BBC's Talkback programme: 'Observing social media, we have noticed that the letters RIP are used a lot by Protestants, and by some evangelical Protestants.'

He said that 'RIP' is a prayer and that he did not encourage prayers for the dead.

'From a Protestant point of view, we believe, when death comes, a person either goes to be with Christ for all eternity, or into hell,' he said.

'That's what we believe the gospel to be and in this 500th anniversary year of the Reformation, I think Luther, when the scales fell off his eyes, realised that it was all by faith alone, in Christ alone, the decision is made during life, on this earth, so that when death comes it has been made and no decision has been made after death.'

The article has drawn fierce criticism online, with Thompson accused of being anti-Catholic. However, he said in response to one questioner his words were 'directed at Protestants who are into culture but have little idea about their faith. That's the target audience!'

He said in a Facebook post he had been 'subjected to some vile abuse in the last few hours, but some folks have stood by me'. Thompson referred to **a column** in the Belfast Telegraph by Ruth Dudley Edwards in which she ranked him with 'thoroughly decent people who take a dim view of Roman Catholicism but would never be disrespectful to or about Catholics'.

Ulster Project teenagers showcase their talent in USA

The 2017 Ulster teens took part in the annual talent show Sunday night at Union Avenue Methodist Church in Alliance, Ohio. The teens sang, performed skits and a traditional Irish dance.

The teens only had a few days during their busy summer to put together the entire show on their own. The only help they received was from two American and two Northern Irish counselors.

"I was very impressed because they did it all on their own without any adult input." said Karen Andrews, chairwoman of the Alliance Area Ulster Project. "It was surprisingly funny."

The show started off with the teens performing a dance while they were being introduced by American counselor Christian Andrews.

After their dance, all the teens gathered around Nicholas Kish as he sang "Hallelujah." The teens sang backup during the song. There were two other songs performed by the teens and counselors. Northern Irish counselor Michael Mullan played the guitar and led the teens in singing Darius Rucker's "Wagon Wheel" and "Hey Ho" by The Lumineers.

There were even a few comedic scenes performed by the teens. An adaptation of the telephone game was performed with many of the teens as well as a skit performed by the Northern Irish teens. The skit involved repeating a scene six times with a different variation in how it was performed each time.

One of the most memorable scenes of the show involved four teens in dresses performing the "Sister Song." Joel Harrison, Niall Black, Kathryn McDowell and Ella Dipold wore dresses as they performed a song causing the audience to laugh at the performance.

A few of the teens performed a rap about what they have experienced over the summer.

"Oh yeah, it's safe to say we grew," the teens said in the rap.

The talent show was one of the last events the teens held before they depart on Wednesday. Their one-month stay is almost as at an end as they prepare for their trip back home where they will be able to spread what they have learned to their friends and family members. Report courtesy The Alliance Review.

See photo gallery at:

<http://www.the-review.com/local%20news/2017/07/25/ulster-teens-showcase-their-talents>

Suicides among clergy in focus

A Cork priest has warned of a growing incidence of suicide among the clergy, citing the death of nine of his peers in the last 10 years, the Irish Examiner reports.

Fr Tim Hazlewood of Killeagh said priests are under the same stress and strain as everyone else and have to battle mental health and addiction problems alongside the rest of the general population.

“In the last 10 years, nine priests have taken their own lives,” said Fr Hazelwood. “There is a perception there that we are not supposed to be weak. Even among ourselves you are supposed to be strong, you are supposed to have ability.

“The reality is that priests represent life. We are the same as everybody else. Some of us have mental health problems, some of us have addiction problems. There is an added stress that is put on to us ourselves and people project that image on to us of perfection. You are supposed to be alright all the time and you are not.”

Fr Hazlewood told The Patricia Messinger Show on C103FM he remembered one Christmas Eve officiating at the funeral of a young girl who took her own life, then having to do the Children’s Mass afterwards. He said days such as that could take their toll on mental health.

“For the last 20 years, priests have had to quietly listen and take on an awful lot of negativity about the profession they love and the life they love and the faith that they love. A lot of priests are very upset over it because that is not what they signed up for or what they represent and yet it is put on them. We have no place to talk about that.”

Fr Hazlewood says some priests fear for their safety. He cites the case of a priest in Cloyne who was verbally attacked at the altar recently by a drunk parishioner.

Fr Hazlewood is a priest in the diocese of Cloyne. A diocesan spokesman said his figures on suicide within the clergy were correct and in line with suicide rates in the general population.

C of I Library online exhibition on Government Convention on Ireland's future in 100 years ago

Previously hidden aspects of the Church of Ireland's input and influence on the Irish Convention which opened in Trinity College Dublin 100 years ago, on 25th July 1917, are brought to light in a new online exhibition from the RCB Library – the Church's record repository and reference library (www.ireland.anglican.org/library/archive).

The Irish Convention is significant because it would be the last time that all of Ireland participated in political negotiations to find a solution to the Irish question before Partition in 1921. By initiating a gathering of Irishmen to decide their own political destiny, the British

Government's ostensible objective was to keep nationalist and unionist Ireland together as a single political entity (albeit at this point within the British Empire).

The Government invited the two Church of Ireland archbishops of Armagh and Dublin – John Baptist Crozier and John Henry Bernard – to attend. Additionally the Roman Catholic hierarchy was represented by the Archbishop of Cashel and three other bishops – of Down, Raphoe and Ross – and the Presbyterian Church in Ireland by its Moderator.

Once in session, the proceedings of the Convention were strictly secular – there were no prayers or religious formalities as part of the proceedings. Nevertheless, the juxtaposition of the church leaders among the political leaders in the front row of the official photograph that appeared in August 1917 (reproduced in the online exhibit courtesy of the National Library of Ireland) signals how highly-valued their input to the Convention was considered in political circles.

The Church of Ireland, then as now an all-island institution, and including members of all political persuasions and none, appears to have been deeply committed to support the Convention

The Week.

Church and Convention.

Tokens of the Church of Ireland's good-will to the Convention have multiplied as the time of its session approached. Her members—alone, to the best of our knowledge, among the various communions in Ireland—have incorporated in their Services special prayers, sanctioned by the Bishops, for Divine guidance in its work.

Aspects of the Church of Ireland's input to the Convention provide the lead in "The Week" column, Church of Ireland Gazette, 27th July 1917.

and promote the stability it offered, particularly in the aftermath of the Easter Rising of 1916. The exhibition draws on the rich resources of the weekly *Church of Ireland Gazette*, now digitized and freely searchable online between 1890 and 1923, for insight to what could be considered as the moderate and middle-ground opinion being written and read by its members and others during this period.

It reveals that for the duration of the Convention's deliberations, the *Gazette* continued to be edited by Warre Bradley Wells.

As previously revealed, (<https://www.ireland.anglican.org/news/6413/reporting-the-rising-a-church>) Wells had witnessed firsthand the events of the 1916 Rising from inside the paper's premises on Middle Abbey Street – initially writing up the graphic detail in the columns and editorials of his paper, and then co-authoring one of the first contemporary histories of the 1916 Rebellion: *A History of the Irish Rebellion of 1916* (published Dublin, 1916, and New York, 1917).

Significantly, as the exhibition demonstrates, Wells co-authored the first independent contemporary record of the proceedings of the Irish Convention written in the immediate aftermath of its demise in March 1918, which was actually published as a sequel to his history of the Rising, as *The Irish Convention and Sinn Féin, in Continuation of "A history of the Irish rebellion of 1916"* (Dublin, 1918). Whilst this book would lament what could have been achieved had the Convention succeeded, back in July 1917 through the pages of his *Church of Ireland Gazette*, Wells used his editorials and lead articles to foster hope: 'The Convention has in its power to rescue us from our tragic confusion' he wrote on the eve of its convening, in the 20th July 1917 edition's lead article.

In the next edition, published on 27th July 1917, two days after the Convention got under way, the paper's opening 'The Week' column was pleased to report the first day's proceedings had resulted in the 'happiest omen' with the unanimous appointment of Sir Horace Plunkett as Convention chairman, adding with some pride that Plunkett was 'a member of our Church'.

The paper further reveals that whilst the actual proceedings of the Convention did not contain any religious content, the Church of Ireland appears to have hosted a pre-Convention 'special Service for delegates in St Andrew's Church, Suffolk Street'. Rather than use the adjacent chapel building within Trinity's precincts, added political symbolism was provided by staging the service in what had been the parish church for the Irish Houses of Parliament.

The only detailed report of this service appears in the *Church of Ireland Gazette* on 27 July 1917, which observed how 'Wednesday's Service' appeared to revive the old tradition being 'the first Service of the kind since the Act of Union', and was well attended: 'about one-third of the congregation were gentlemen chosen to deliberate on the future of Ireland'.

Other interesting stories of Church of Ireland significance presented in the exhibition include Wells' revelation that the operating procedures to regulate the work of the Convention were in fact modelled on those of the General Synod of the Church of Ireland, with Archbishop Crozier selected as 'Chairman of the Procedure Committee', while the typescript memoirs of the RCB Library's founding benefactor – Rosamond Stephen (1868–1951) – include a personal and hopeful exchange of correspondence with Sir Horace Plunkett on the eve of the Convention, and its opening day.

The RCB Library gratefully acknowledges the Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs for supporting this online exhibition, and covering the costs of hosting the *Church of Ireland Gazette* search engine online to the end of the Decade of Commemorations in 2023.

The Church of Ireland Gazette (available in complete hardcopy format in the Library from 1856 to the present) is also fully viewable and free to search from 1890 to 1923 here: <https://research.informa.ie/rcb>

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