

**CEF of Ireland**  
199 Templemore Ave  
Belfast  
BT5 4FR

**EVANGELISE  
DISCIPLE  
ESTABLISH**



**CEF**  
CHILD EVANGELISM  
FELLOWSHIP  
Since 1937 Reaching children worldwide

**Report of the Trustees  
For the year ended 31 March 2024  
For  
Child Evangelism Fellowship of Ireland  
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)  
Registered Company Number NI622619 (Northern Ireland)  
Registered Charity Number (Northern Ireland) 100984  
Registered Charity Number (Republic of Ireland) 20201509**

*Child Evangelism Fellowship of Ireland is a Company limited by guarantee registered in Northern Ireland (NI622619) at the CEF National Office, 199 Templemore Avenue, Belfast BT5 4FR: a Charity, registered with the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland (NIC 100984); and, with the Charities Regulator in the Republic of Ireland (RCN 20201509).*

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The trustees who are also directors of the charity for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006, present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2024. The trustees have adopted the provisions of Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019).

**OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES**

**Objectives and activities**

The Charity's purpose is as set out in the Company's Memorandum and Articles of Association and may be summarised as:

To advance in Ireland and elsewhere the evangelical Christian faith, especially amongst children and young people by various methods and means of religious teaching.

The following are key elements of the programme to achieve this objective:

1. To reach, evangelise and teach unreached children with the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ
2. To follow-up and disciple Christian children and see them established in local churches
3. To train teachers in the Lord's work
4. To distribute relevant literature
5. To encourage the Christian public to get involved in the work of Child Evangelism Fellowship in Ireland and overseas

**Public benefit**

In setting our objectives and planning our activities for the year the Trustees have given careful consideration to the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland's guidance on public benefit to ensure that the activities have helped to achieve the Charity's purposes and provide a benefit to the beneficiaries.

- a) The direct benefits which flow from purpose 1 include children and young people understanding that God loves them and that He died for them and wants to save their eternal souls and give them abundant life today.
- b) The direct benefits which flow from purpose 2 include encouraging children and young people who have of their own free will accepted Christ as Saviour to attend and get involved in local fellowships of like precious faith.
- c) The direct benefits which flow from purpose 3 include young people and adults better equipped with leadership skills trained in the presentation of the gospel within Child Care guidelines
- d) The direct benefits which flow from purpose 4 include giving people a clear understanding of the gospel and what CEF does
- e) The direct benefits which flow from purpose 5 include young people and adults of their own free will deciding to serve the Lord through the auspices of CEF

**The Culture of Child Evangelism Fellowship**

**The Importance of Godly Leadership at Every Level**

Spiritual leadership is the highest form of authority. The men and women who lead must have a personal heart for God in order to be able to discern the will of God and lead the ministry effectively. Regardless of the skill of a leader, if he or she lacks a heart for God, the work will be eroded at its very foundation.

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**OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES**

**The Importance of the Spiritual Welfare of our Workers**

It is vital that we are never satisfied to simply teach our staff the methods of how to reach children and how to train others to do so, but we must purposefully invest in the spiritual lives of our staff. When CEF staff are men and women who are primarily driven by passion for God and His glory and have a clear call from the Lord, the work will prosper. If we keep our focus on God and on His calling, then we will be sustained in times of challenge.

**The Importance of Prayer as Our Foundation**

It is not the work we do, the meetings we hold or the decisions we make that bring the greatest advances in the work; it is the time spent before the throne of God in prayer, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that brings power, labourers and resources into the ministry.

**The Importance of Evangelising Children**

There is no limit to the number of organisations that do many good things that are important to boys and girls in need. We are thankful for them and believe that God uses them to help hurting children. CEF, however, has been called by God to make it our highest priority to present the Gospel so children may be saved and disciplined in God's Word. We must keep to our call.

**The Importance of a Clear and Biblical Presentation of the Gospel**

The fact that a young child can comprehend the simple message of salvation and become a child of God is the foundational principle of CEF. Everything else that we do is based upon this fact. The good news of Jesus Christ is the power of God unto salvation. We must present it clearly and accurately.

**The Importance of a Commitment to Excellence, for the Glory of God**

Every aspect of the work, no matter how big or small, has significance. This includes the training we conduct, the materials we produce, the facilities we use and the way we present ourselves. In every area we must strive for excellence to the glory of God!

**ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE**

**Structure:**

**Board of Trustees** - The Board of Trustees continue to encourage and advise the National Directors in their responsible position. The Board meet along with the Directors monthly, on ten months of the year. They also include an extra full day programme to enable more in-depth discussion on crucial matters. There has been a focus throughout the year on improving all the policies and procedures connected with, and necessary for, the organisation to function cohesively and to ensure all the charity regulations are maintained.

The Board seek to ensure the skills and gifting required to cover all practical aspects of CEF ministry are covered within their number. They are kept aware of any potential new members with the necessary skill sets to enhance the profile of the members experience. Mr Philip Beattie resigned from the Board, of Trustees, effective September 2023 and Mrs Ashleigh Robinson resigned from the Board of Trustees, effective August 2024.

**Leadership** - continues to outline the guidelines for CEF ministry and encourages all field workers to operate within these structures. The emphasis is placed upon each area worker building a ministry which involves local volunteers and enhances local church outreach to children through envisioning, training, and equipping. The current leadership structure has been reviewed and the Board are agreed on the future format to be enacted. The Board of Trustees have also identified David & Heather Cowan as National Directors Designate to replace David & Rosemary Edwards when they step down from the position. David & Heather have been local workers in the Lagan Valley area of Northern Ireland for over thirty years. David & Heather began shadowing David & Rosemary from 1st April 2024.

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One of the leaderships main concerns is the shortage of full-time workers as there are 4 areas in Northern Ireland without a worker and the 6 target counties in the Republic of Ireland remain vacant, along with many others. A postcard has been produced and distributed to encourage supporters to pray for new workers. On average a full-time CEF worker in an area equates to 1000 young people having contact with the Christian message and teaching, hence the desire for new workers as we seek to fulfil our vision statement of Every Child, Every County, Every Day.

o Ministry Departments - The ministry department leaders meet regularly with the leadership to discuss the on-going ministry and to seek means of developing the work to enable more children to be brought into contact with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. All aspects of ministry are discussed, prayed over, and planned as we seek to increase the scope of ministry throughout the island of Ireland. This group seeks to set the tone for ministry in Ireland and ensure we are adapting and remain relevant to the society we are seeking to minister to. David Cowan was the representative for on-field workers so we will be seeking to replace him with another field worker. The on-field representative assists us in ensuring ideas that are discussed are relevant and workable for our colleagues who are directly teaching children.

The departments are.....

- o Education - responsible for training courses e.g., Teaching Children Effectively, Summer Outreach Training Course, Annual Equip Conference. The hope is that through these various courses the participants are challenged concerning the urgency in evangelising and discipling the young people of Ireland and they then become actively involved either full or part-time.
- o Multimedia - responsible for developing resource material, writing and design of such. This team have proved to be extremely creative and produce material of a high standard which enables the on-field workers to promote the ministry with confidence.
- o Safeguarding - responsible for policies and implementation of such to protect children, workers, volunteers and ensure safe practices are enacted. This ministry is vital for the welfare of all concerned and needs to be conscientiously conducted.
- o Youth Challenge - developing and maintaining ministry to teenagers and young adults. Whilst the organisation is entitled CHILD Evangelism fellowship there is a real need for continuity through the age groups as many of those who attend do not have a church background to receive teaching.
- o National Office - hub of the ministry, supporting all field work practically and financially. The need for the National Office has become more essential as times and methods have changed. The National Office building houses the multimedia department, finance office, safeguarding, National Directors, and the resource centre for provision and collation of material.
- o Rep of Ireland - seeking to establish existing work and develop ministry specifically in the lower half of the Republic of Ireland through attending conferences, contacting church leaders, and offering CEF material and training.
- o Ministry Development - forward planning and thinking while seeking to adapt to the changing generations and needs to enable the vision of 'Every Child' having the opportunity to hear the Gospel of Jesus Christ to be achieved.

**National Office** - The national office is the central and vital hub of CEF ministry in Ireland with a small staff performing an exceptional amount of work to support those in direct ministry, and others, with all they require to maintain the ministry God has led them into. The office building is the focal point for numerous and various meetings. It also provides us with a visual representation to the Christian and general public. It serves as a home for two other departments, safe guarding and multimedia.

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The resource department of the building enables our material to be presented in a modern and easily accessible fashion. We desire to see this facility used to a greater extent and we have been seeking to promote it in Christian circles. A 'welcome' area has been created where visitors can relax and peruse the material on display.

The national office also comprises our finance department. One member has returned from maternity leave on a part-time basis, but we are pleased to report the employee who covered the maternity leave is remaining with us on a permanent full-time basis. Their hours will be divided between the finance office and assisting the Office Manager.

**Area Ministry** - Historically CEF have divided Northern Ireland into several areas, with local authority boundaries being used for general guidelines. This means we have 15 local areas in Northern Ireland where currently there are four areas without a worker, but we are encouraged by the local committees continuing to oversee the ministry, one with assistance from a worker who is currently our Safeguarding appointee.

The four areas in Northern Ireland which have active local committees but no full-time worker are East Belfast, Mid-Antrim, Mid-Ulster, and Fermanagh. We seek to make the need for full-time worker/s known to the Christian public while praying God will supply new personnel for these vacancies. From April 2024 new workers were appointed for the Mid-Antrim area. Due to the decision to appoint David & Heather Cowan as National Directors designate Lagan Valley area has no CEF worker.

Generally, in the Republic of Ireland we follow the county guidelines regarding geographical areas, but we are prepared to make exceptions for large cities. The areas occupied at present are listed below.

N Dublin  
S Dublin  
Cavan  
Cork  
Wexford  
Monaghan  
Donegal (no full-time worker but an active local committee and a volunteer ministering into local schools)

As we seek to develop and expand the ministry in the Republic of Ireland, we continue to promote the need for six Target Counties:

Roscommon  
Louth  
Kildare  
Kilkenny  
Waterford  
Limerick

These counties have been carefully and prayerfully selected with a few reasons in mind. Previously there may have been an established ministry in the county, some ministry may be on-going through a local church or believer, or the county borders an existing thriving work. We seek to promote to the Christian public the need for ministry in these counties and whenever possible conduct a summer outreach into the areas. This year we assisted a church in Waterford city.

The counties where historically we had workers are listed below. We also desire new workers for these counties.

- Donegal (volunteer conducting ministry)
- Sligo
- Mayo
- Galway
- Westmeath
- Waterford - included in the target county list
- Limerick - included in the target county list

**Local Committees** - CEF Ireland is founded on volunteer assistance and all area worker/s are encouraged to form and establish a volunteer local committee. This committee is responsible for the local area work, and they meet monthly along with the worker/s to oversee the ministry.

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Leadership seeks to visit all local committees twice in an 18-month period, and this proves to be very helpful in consolidating relationships. It also ensures plans made at Ministry Team level are reflective and workable for the practical needs on the field. Local committees are encouraged to discuss ministry needs and ideas with their worker and then forward their suggestions to leadership. Representatives from the local committees are asked to attend a full members meeting in May and the AGM in November. This past year has seen two former steering support groups become recognised local committees. Both are in Belfast, one in the East and the other in the North of the city.

**Missionary Deputation** - This ensures all those serving within the mission in the Republic of Ireland and abroad can present their ministry to the Christian public. Each of those on deputation is allocated two areas and the local committee appoint a representative to seek and organise meetings for the worker to present their ministry in their allocated period. We have appointed one of our workers to oversee this vital aspect of ministry.

Leadership seeks to maintain contact with those working outside the island of Ireland, to encourage, support and provide pastoral care for them. In September leadership visited the workers in Romania. There are several workers in Europe who benefit from prayer and financial support through believers in Ireland. Many of these workers also participate in the deputation programme overseen by CEF of Ireland, usually on a three-year cycle. Irish believers also support many European nationals working with CEF in their home countries.

**Shortfall Ministry -**

There are over 600 CEF workers on mainland Europe and many of them are unable to raise financial support within their own country. We seek to support the ministry financially and prayerfully in European countries and are encouraged by local trusts who generously donate towards this need. We promote the need through our quarterly newsletter, local area meetings and on-field workers. The International President of CEF met with representatives of Northern Ireland based trusts to discuss the development of this ministry.

**Inter-mission partnerships**

We seek to meet with other mission agencies and host round table discussions in a relaxed manner. Through this we seek to garner resources and where possible share mission exhibition opportunities and fellowship. This has enabled us to form strong relationships with a few organisations and open discussion with others. We also invite other organisations to represent themselves and share in public conferences we conduct. Our Equip conference in Dublin is a good example of this where we enabled seven other organisations to exhibit their resources and promote their ministry.

**Children's Ministry Leadership Course**

A full 12-week CMLC commenced in late September 2024 in Seaview Camp and Conference Centre We are trusting God to call new workers into CEF Ireland as a result of this course.

**5 PILLARS FOR MINISTRY:**

**1. DIRECT MINISTRY:**

**Good News Clubs**

Traditionally these are a core ministry of CEF and conducted in the autumn/winter months, Good News Clubs are held weekly on average for one hour in homes, churches, schools and community centres and they remain one of our most effective methods of evangelising and discipling children, thus seeking to fulfil our aims and objectives.

Since the foundation of CEF in Ireland in 1950 this ministry has been constant but with a vastly changed society from when these clubs commenced, there has been a steady move from home-based clubs to community centres, schools, and churches. It is also very noticeable that the average age of those attending club is decreasing at an alarming rate.

We encourage our workers to envision church leaders of the benefit of this ministry and exhort them through their local church to become actively involved in regular ministry to children outside of their normal congregation. This would enable the church to take on the responsibility of discipling children who attend and consequently build relationships with families in their area and benefit their church.

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Volunteers are vital to maintaining Good News Clubs and it is essential for all local workers to recruit, encourage and befriend those who step up to the challenge of reaching children through a Good News Club. We are thankful for all the volunteers who commit to making themselves available to enable the children to be evangelised and disciplined on a regular basis. Often, we are informed of adults who first became followers of the Lord Jesus Christ while attending a Good News Club. We find that parents who previously attended a Good News Club are more amenable to their children attending a club, even if they as parents are not believers in Jesus Christ themselves.

#### Christmas Party Clubs

International leadership of CEF encouraged all CEF workers worldwide to promote Christmas Clubs to provide the opportunity to share the true meaning of Christmas. There is clearly a softening of hearts at Christmas to the Gospel message and our workers sought to encourage CEF volunteers, local believers, and church leaders to conduct a Christmas Party Club. Christmas packs for the club were produced and training was made available. In Ireland we were able to conduct 59 clubs reaching 1958 children. There were 44 volunteers trained and one new Good News Club commenced from this outreach.

#### Youth Challenge

This is another key ministry and is designed as a means of progress for young people to graduate from Good News Club to Junior then Senior Youth Challenge. Our Youth Challenge Department leader encourages and assists in any local area where they seek to develop this ministry. Traditionally we have divided the teenagers into two age groups 12 -15, 16+, with ministry and topics presented at a suitable level for these age groups.

Many young people who come through Youth Challenge attend our residential training courses which are designed to equip those who are going to be involved in outreach to young people, whether that be with CEF or their local church. These courses are conducted in our two camp/conference centres, Seaview in Kilkeel Co. Down and Oceanview in Rosstown Co. Donegal. A further course for junior leaders is held in a church hall in Kilkeel, Co. Down.

The national 'Retreat' camp in Athlone, Republic of Ireland, is for older teenagers and those in their early twenties. This is now 'fixed' on the calendar and one of the blessings is it provides a venue for young Christians to fellowship together and encourage one another in their day-to-day walk with God. This is a blessing especially to those who do not have many Christian friends of their own age. This year again there were over 100 young people in attendance.

#### Camps

This summer 34 camps were conducted throughout Ireland by CEF, one was non-residential. We know this to be one of our most effective ministries and one which campers and leaders alike look forward to. This ministry enables young people to not only hear the Gospel being taught, but to see it modelled and lived out in the lives of the leaders. We describe this as 'Proclamation' and 'Demonstration.'

We are thankful for each and every volunteer who sacrificially give up a week, or more, of their holidays to assist in the camps. The camps simply could not operate without these individuals, and we trust they will return annually, as experienced leaders are essential to the smooth running of a camp and demonstrating to new leaders the commitment and work ethic required.

#### School Classes and Assemblies

We are thankful for many Principals who are willing and indeed desirous to have CEF local workers back in school teaching the children in their care.

Local schools were contacted as usual prior to Christmas 2023 and offered the child friendly calendar our Multimedia Department annually produce. This calendar is produced in English and Irish language and is completely designed in-house with 60,000 being freely distributed. We trust this will help build and cement trustful relationships with school principals, leading to further opportunities to teach the children

#### 5-Day Clubs

These clubs, conducted in the summer months and in the open air, remain one of our core ministries enabling children from all backgrounds to hear the Gospel of Jesus Christ. The clubs are often conducted in local housing areas where there appears to be little contact with the Gospel. Local workers endeavour to send teams back to the same areas each summer as this builds relationships with children and parents. This creates an element of trust within the community, and often assures acceptance enabling the team to share the Gospel message.

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This programme is dependent upon volunteers many of whom come through the training weeks we conduct but it is also amazing to see how many volunteers return annually to assist in this form of outreach. Some of the teams fall under the name of Christian Youth in Action (CYIA) and many even spend the week in a residential environment. Other teams are formatted by local churches and the ministry is conducted by the church as they see the benefit of reaching into their community.

The clubs are very simplistic in their programme, some games/activities, singing, teaching a Bible verse and lesson, followed by a quiz. God still blesses these outreaches and young people who may have never heard a clear presentation of the Gospel are able to hear, and for this we thank God. It is encouraging to these teams to see the joy expressed by the children when the team arrives and to receive thanks from parents for taking the time with their children. Often local believers or residents grant permission for the club to be held on their premises, e.g. garden or garage. This is especially helpful if it is raining, it is Ireland!

**Holiday Bible Clubs (HBC)**

Summer presents opportunities to spend quality time with the children and many churches seek to do so through conducting Holiday Bible Clubs. We, as a mission, are passionate about reaching the children but we also seek to partner with the local church as they reach into their communities. We seek to resource, train, and equip the local church to reach the unreached children on their own doorstep.

Often our workers will conduct a club for the church, especially if the church are limited in resources and manpower. We have received verbal thanks from some smaller churches with an elderly congregation who have been encouraged to see their premises used to reach the children of the area. Other churches with greater resources desire to see their own members develop their gifts, and so they may request HBC material from us to conduct their own club. This frees up our workers to probe into other areas of their region to seek venues for HBCs for children living there.

**Momentum Teams**

One of the key goals in Youth Challenge is to highlight the need for our young people to be involved in reaching out to children. To train and equip them to do this, and then to provide opportunities for them to do so. Along with the opportunities across Ireland we have our 'Momentum' programme which provides opportunities for teams to go and help CEF works in other parts of the world.

This summer teams of young people went to Scotland, North Macedonia, Moldova, two teams to Poland, France, and Spain to work alongside other CEF ministries. There they helped with camp ministry for teens and children, Holiday Bible Clubs, 5-Day Clubs, and worked alongside local churches. This helped to develop existing work and establish new ones. Through this many children heard the gospel for the first time, and the young people were blessed and encouraged in their own faith.

**Campfest**

It has been exciting to see two residential weekends conducted by our specialised and trained workers for children with special needs. One was held in Kilkeel, Co Down, and the other in Durrow Co Laois. These weekends were subsidised by CEF to enable parents to attend along with their children and they have proved so beneficial that it is planned for them to become an annual ministry.

**2. EQUIPPING:**

The Multimedia Department regularly meet together along with on-field workers to discuss the current material and discover the need for development of new lesson series, songs, or other visualised resources. They seek to supply good quality outreach tracts/booklets for use seasonally e.g. Christmas, Easter and summer holidays. There are new booklets available to encourage children to share the Gospel with other children. We trust this ministry will grow and children can become evangelists to their friends and peers.

The department also ensure the resource centre in the National Office is stocked with evangelistic and discipling lessons, songs, and teaching aids for the use of the general Christian public. The four-year Good News Club curriculum for general sale is proving to be a popular resource for churches to use with the children in their care.

The department continues to be led by a part-time worker who has many years of experience in CEF ministry. This department is one which affects all aspects of our ministry, and we are encouraged to have gifted individuals working within it. Due to demand for material development, we appointed a part-time graphic designer to assist the team.

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**3. SUPPORTING:**

Our regular donor base is consistent, and we are encouraged by how God has supplied all the financial needs for another year. The core of our support is supplied through local Christians supporting the local ministry or an individual worker/missionary they have taken an interest in. We thank God for the faithfulness of each of our financial supporters.

An important area of support is prayer and we have been seeking to encourage as much prayer support as possible. We conduct two special weeks of prayer throughout the year, Spring & Autumn, and the Multimedia department produce a prayer book with workers/missionaries' requests and photographs.

A few of the trusts in Northern Ireland are co-ordinating to help to meet the financial shortfall that exists for workers in Europe. They collaborate with representation of European leadership and are extremely generous and supportive to the on-field workers in mainland Europe, thus enabling them to continue reaching the children with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. They launched a financial support scheme whereby they would supplement any new donation received by 50%. This has proved beneficial to some of our area workers and missionaries.

**4. SHARING:**

We continue to share about CEF ministry with the Christian public as is possible. This is conducted through social media, print media, deputation meetings, conferences, mail shots and visitation. Each local area is responsible for promoting the local work, national and international as they are able to. It is noticeable where regular promotional meetings are conducted the area tends to prosper financially and in ministry.

The two main national opportunities for sharing are through our Easter Conference and the Autumn Conference. At Easter we have a three-day conference in Portrush; for our workers it is residential, and the public are welcome to attend all the meetings. The numbers attending is usually between two and three hundred at each of the sessions.

The Autumn Conference is an evening meeting which usually attracts around 200 people. This provides us with the opportunity to report and present the ministry and vitally share the needs that exist.

The National Newsletter has been redesigned as we seek to use it to inform and promote ministry. We endeavour to provide readers with detailed articles on ministry within Ireland, and a world view perspective on CEF, informing readers of individual workers in other countries. It is our desire to inform the Christian public of the size and scope of CEF ministry, with a direct focus on the needs that exist in the European countries and among European workers. A large financial shortfall exists in Europe and we, by God's grace, have been able to assist through undesignated financial donations in helping to meet that need. (SEE UNDER SUPPORTING)

We are fully aware that today's generation use social media to explore their interests, so we have been encouraged by the staff member who has been refreshing and updating our media outlets on a regular basis. We have been receiving good feedback on this, especially from the younger believers. We pray this will be a means that God uses to challenge believers to become actively involved in ministry, either part or full time. We believe this to be an essential means of communication in making the ministry known among the public and especially to the younger generation.

The 'Equip' Conference was once again conducted in Dublin and was a resounding success. This was well attended, and we again invited several other mission organisations to display their resources and speak of the opportunities they provide to evangelise young people. We are seeking to make this a regular annual date in the calendar.

**5. TRAINING:**

This area of ministry comes under our Education Department, and we have seen training expand throughout all Ireland with courses being conducted by our members over the whole island. Training has a two-fold purpose:

1. To equip the local church to reach and teach children the truths of the Bible;
2. While conducting training, demonstrate the opportunities CEF provide for individual believers to be active in reaching the children in a full-time capacity

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CEF ministry is founded on volunteers, and it is essential they are well trained and taught to better enable them to share the Gospel. Our vision is that every child in Ireland should have the opportunity to hear the Gospel of Jesus Christ, therefore it is vital to train as many volunteers as possible. This is especially relevant in the Republic of Ireland where we have less full-time workers and are desirous for volunteers to be recruited, equipped, and sent out.

God has said in the scriptures "I will build my church" and this training is an excellent means of equipping the local church to participate in bringing this to pass by reaching into their communities with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

There are several courses available ranging from a bespoke series of classes for an individual church to a 30-hour Teaching Children Effectively Course. Courses specifically for certain age groups are also available and both youth and pre-school course have been conducted successfully. Many of our workers are trained to be able to offer and conduct all the courses available. The Education Department continues to develop on-line courses as this often enables individuals to participate who could not do so for geographical reasons.

#### DEPARTMENT LEADER REPORTS

##### Multi-Media Department

School holidays are a great opportunity to reach boys and girls with the gospel and many of the new resources produced by the Multimedia team this year have been used during those times when the children are off school.

The Christmas Together project has gained momentum in recent years and in 2023 a new 'Joy to the Word' pack was produced and used to reach almost 7,000 children. 16,000 new 'Joy' booklets were also printed for distribution at various events. It was a big encouragement for us to learn that 260,000 'Joy to the World' packs and 605,000 'Joy' booklets were translated and printed by our colleagues in other European countries.

Workers commented that they enjoyed using the new 'Never Forsaken' pack this year and 8,500 of our new 'Happy Easter' booklet were printed.

A new member joined the team as a part-time Graphic Designer in August 2023 and has been working on the new 'Ready Steady Go for God!' pack for Holiday Bible Club. With over 50 different elements in the pack, it was a huge undertaking for the team, but it was well received by churches and children were challenged about the 'One Way' to start their race for God.

Summer also brought a new 'Harvest Festival' camp pack. The accompanying lessons on 'Ruth and the Redeemer' were written in Ireland but the pack was produced by the European Multi-Media Department. Again, God spoke through His Word as children learnt about God's wonderful plans for Ruth and Naomi and for each of them.

##### Republic of Ireland

An article recently stated "Ireland 'is the least Christian' part of the English-speaking world" and yet it's a delight to hear of many Evangelical Churches in different parts of the country. Our prayer is that many of these will invest time in reaching the children of their areas and that the statement above will not be true in the days to come.

In September 2023, a new Christmas pack for Sunday Schools and Christmas Clubs was introduced for anyone interested in teaching children. A lot of phone calls were made along with many emails sent and it was encouraging to hear of the many downloads from the CEF website for this Christmas pack. We were also thankful for the many new orders that came in for the children's calendars.

Opportunities for promotion and teacher training have been slow in different counties and as a result CEF has produced a new series of seminars and our prayer is that there will be an interest in these over the coming months and especially for the new teaching year starting September 2024.

There have been encouragements from different areas, and we are pleased to see believers from various counties booking in for the Summer Outreach Training Course in Rossnowlagh. At present there are bookings from Cavan, Dublin, Monaghan, Waterford, Wexford and Cork.

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Time, distance, and travel are hindrances to the work developing in different counties, yet we are seeking to contact with churches and fellowships to encourage more children's and youth work while still conducting a weekly schools ministry here in West Cork.

We trust the list below is an encouragement to you as these are just some of the counties and towns where Christmas Clubs were held.

Killarney, Tipperary, Offaly, Sligo, Mayo, Galway, Waterford, Kildare, Birr, Clonmel, Tralee and Dungarvan.

**Safeguarding**

As we look back over the past year, we are thankful to the Lord for His help in the overseeing of the Safeguarding Department. The past year has seen a steady move towards the pre covid volume of activity. This can be seen in several ways.

From the early days of the Children (NI) Order 1995 the fellowship has had a Safeguarding policy for its work among the children. This is reviewed on a three yearly basis. The current review has just come to an end and the revised policy will be launched in autumn 2024.

One of the things the department does is to provide vetting checks in both jurisdictions on workers and volunteers. A good relationship has been developed with the Mayo Volunteer Centre who facilitate the Garda Vetting Checks and the fellowship has used Access Ni for the checks in Northern Ireland. We recently had a successful compliance audit from Access Ni. The number of checks carried out year on year is around 1000 including assisting other small organisations with their checks.

Training is conducted internally and externally to small organisations. It is good to support all these volunteers in their work among children and to be able to provide answers to questions in their different settings. We are thankful to God for His protection on the roads.

Finally, I am thankful to God for His protection on the various activities held at our Camp Centres in Kilkeel and Rossnowlagh and at other venues around the country. What a joy it was to visit a number of these events this summer and to see children and young people enjoying themselves. Thanks also goes to those volunteers who work so hard to keep the children safe.

**Youth Challenge**

The purpose of the Youth Challenge department of CEF is summed up in three words: knowing, living, serving.

- o Knowing - helping young people come to know the Lord Jesus Christ as their Saviour and grow in grace (2 Peter 3:18).
- o Living - helping teens to live in a way that is glorifying to God.
- o Serving - helping young people to see the importance of service. Training them to serve the Lord and giving them opportunities to serve thus helping them develop.

The primary way in which we perform this is through regular Junior Youth Challenge (JYC) and Senior Youth Challenge (SYC) groups which meet regularly. Over the past year we have seen these maintained with some new opportunities opening. Supplementing this regular ministry is our camp ministry, both weekend camps and summer week-long camps. These have seen a real growth in the past year with huge interest, especially in the older age groups, in attending these.

Maintaining these ministries and developing new teaching materials for them each year is an important aspect of the work. In addition, a key goal is to complete a redesign and edit of the 5-year cycle of JYC and SYC materials before the end of 2024. Currently this is under work and the goal is expected to be met. In addition, a JYC leaders' course is being conducted online each year to train new workers in Ireland, and a new series of training seminars has been developed and utilised in several local areas. The Youth Challenge department has been progressing well over the past year with time constraints and accommodation limits at residential being our biggest difficulties. In addition, it has been encouraging to see over 60 young people taking part in Momentum mission teams summer 2024.

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One of the key goals in Youth Challenge is to highlight the need for our young people to be involved in reaching out to children. To train and equip them to do this, and then to provide opportunities for them to do so. Along with the opportunities across Ireland we have our 'Momentum' programme which enables teams to go and help CEF work in other parts of the world.

**National Office**

The National Office continues to serve as the administrative, logistical, and creative hub of the ministry. It is our main public facing ministry address, but also serves as the physical location of our Resources Shop, Multimedia Department, material store, finance office and administrative staff. The building also contains several meeting spaces, used to accommodate a wide range of meetings of both paid staff and volunteers.

We were glad to welcome onboard a new member of part-time staff this year in the role of Software Developer, to enable us to bring to fruition a long-planned upgrade to our finance and support databases and enable us to finally retire our physical server, moving all to the cloud. Another IT upgrade came this year in the form of a significantly enhanced phone system, replacing our now technologically obsolete former phones.

The administrative burdens of running the ministry in line with good governance and legal compliance requirements are ever increasing. The "hidden" nature of these roles makes financial support raising for office staff especially difficult. Whilst most office staff are not required to raise financial support, some have a number of financial supporters, for whom we're incredibly grateful.

We have begun over the past year to attempt to increase awareness among the wider staff team, committees, volunteers, and supporters of the financial needs of the office. We're beginning to see a return on this endeavour and will continue this into next year.

**Ministry Development**

We continue to look carefully at how we can develop and strengthen various parts of our ministry. While each department takes ownership of their own development (with input from others), some general ministry development takes place throughout the year.

A project to update the security and stability of our website took place during this year. Although this brought only minor changes to the public face of the website, it brought significant behind the scenes upgrades, enhancing both the security and stability of the site, and its usability for administrators.

We continue to enhance our social media presence and have worked hard to create a faithful representation of our ministry online for supporters and potential supporters.

We were able to represent the ministry at several Christian conferences this year: Keswick at Portstewart, Kinfire, Omagh Show and Bangor Worldwide. As our 75th year approaches, we are already planning to increase public reach over the next 12 months.

A number of placement students were involved in our ministry this year, with a number coming from a local Bible College as part of their studies. While these students provide valuable input to our ministry during their time with us, we predominantly view this as an opportunity to have significant input into their lives and ministry.

**Education Department**

The role of the Department is to provide training-helping local workers or running seminars/courses. We'd love to have seminars/courses all over Ireland, but we are limited in what we can do. Local workers are busy with their own ministry so we can only ask so much of them to help.

In-person Teaching Children Effectively courses have started again, though numbers have been small. Some areas have tried to organise in-person courses, but due to a lack of students they've not taken place. Online courses appeal more to people, so we continue to offer them. In 2023/24 we had five TCE 1 courses, one TCE 2 plus one module of TCE 2 with 130 students involved. Courses are very well received by those who take them. At the end of one course, a lady said, "The course was not what I expected-it was better than I expected!" An online Preschool Teachers' Course was held with 12 students.

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In April we produced a leaflet for churches offering six children's and six youth seminars where they choose four. One church hosts the training and they open it up to other churches in the area. As a result, we've held training in Carlow and Waterford. We're hoping this will develop in the future, particularly in vacant counties. We had four Summer Outreach Training Courses and two junior courses, with over 170 young people. What an encouragement! To see their enthusiasm and desire to serve the Lord is the highlight of the year!

The opportunity to teach in Europe is a real blessing, helping with Instructor of Teachers' courses and Children's Ministry Leaderships Courses and with CMLC Ireland 2024; it has involved a lot of planning and preparation.

#### **FINANCIAL REVIEW**

##### **Financial position**

The results for the financial year ended 31 March 2024 are fully set out in the Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) on page 21. The Total Incoming Resources was £2,764,527 (2023 £2,859,110) and the Total Resources Expended was £3,320,939 (2023 £2,811,487) resulting in Net Outgoing Resources of £556,412 (2023 Net Incoming Resources £47,623)

The Balance on Unrestricted Funds at 31 March 2024 was £3,293,875 (2023 £3,476,082) and is largely made up of the Property Capital Account of £3,207,686 (2023 £3,258,889). The Balance on Restricted Funds at 31 March 2024 was £1,030,407 (2023 £1,404,612) and most of this is contained within the closing bank balance and investments at the year end.

##### **Annual surpluses, deficits and cash management**

The total deficit for the year ended 31 March 2024 being reported is £556,412 and a surplus in the prior year of £47,623.

The Trustees are aware of the importance of the charity's fundraising and other income generating activities together with the importance of cost control. The Trustees are actively examining all aspects of its operations with a view to enhance its income streams and achieving costs savings in order to mitigate annual deficits being reported.

The Trustees are also aware of the impact of financing deficits on the charity's cash resources as reflected in the cash position at the end of the 2024 financial year of £601,620, a reduction from the closing cash balance of 31 March 2023 of £1,017,036.

The Trustees are pleased to report that the charity continues to hold liquid assets within its investment portfolio of £429,446 which can be utilised to support working capital requirements, if required during the next twelve months.

As a faith-based organisation, the Trustees believe that God supplies our needs provided we tell and inform God's people.

##### **Reserves policy**

The Trustees are satisfied that the level of reserves, including cash reserves, as stated in the accounts will ensure, that in the event of a significant decrease in funding, that they will be able to continue the Charity's current activities. It is the policy of this charity to hold adequate reserves in relation to its running costs, including employee costs. It is monitored on a regular basis to ensure this key financial control is maintained.

##### **Going concern**

After making appropriate enquires, the Trustees believe that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. For this reason the trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing financial statements.

Report of the Trustees  
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**PLANS FOR FUTURE PERIODS**

**National ministry (2023/2024)**

The mission and vision of CEF needs to be shared with the Christian public to enable the ministry to be conducted. Evangelise, Disciple, Establish remains our mission and our vision is 'Every Child, Every County, Every Day'. The workers and staff are also encouraged to inform the Christian public of the international breadth of CEF and the fact CEF is a worldwide mission, the largest children's mission in the world. We are endeavouring to promote the financial needs of our European colleagues through the 'Shortfall' project and inform the Christian public how they can assist in enabling the children of Europe to hear the Gospel.

Our vision as stated above remains Every Child, Every County, Every Day. The Board of Trustees & Leadership have been very encouraged by all who work with CEF of Ireland, in any capacity, but we realise the essential need for more full-time workers with us in Ireland.

The National Directors conduct a visitation programme of the local workers in Ireland and have asked each worker to endeavour to organise promotional meetings to share the vision of reaching the children. The goal of sharing this vision is to encourage interest in the ministry among the Christian public and ultimately recruit believers to join us as new workers.

**Ministry**

In this time frame CEF of Ireland have had the privilege of reaching thousands of children and young people with the Gospel. We are thankful that even in difficult times and changing attitudes, CEF of Ireland continue to achieve their aims and objectives of evangelising and discipling the young people. We are thankful for each one who encountered the Gospel message through one of our workers, or volunteers.

In Northern Ireland we have four areas without full-time local workers, East Belfast, Fermanagh, Mid-Ulster & Lagan Valley but the local committees are seeking to maintain ministry to the best of their ability. It is our prayer that the Lord would supply workers for all our areas.

**SEAVIEW CAMP AND CONFERENCE CENTRE**

Seaview Camp and Conference Centre continues to be extensively used both by CEF groups and the wider Christian community. As the 'snag' list has been satisfactorily completed the retainer fee has been paid to the contractor.

**OCEANVIEW CAMP CENTRE**

We continue to oversee the refurbishment of the centre in Rossnowlagh, Co. Donegal. We have been encouraged through support received from volunteers who have provided finance, material, personal skills and time. There are a few tasks still in progress which leadership trust will enhance the centre to church organisations and attract more bookings.

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**STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT**

**Governing document**

**Governing document**

Child Evangelism Fellowship of Ireland is a company limited by guarantee, governed by the Memorandum and Articles of Association. It is registered in Northern Ireland (Registration Number NI 622619) and has obtained charitable status with The Charity Commission for Northern Ireland (Reference Number NIC 100984). The organisation is also recognised as a Charity by HM Revenue and Customs (NI 00311). It is also registered with the Charities Regulator in the Republic of Ireland (RCN 20201509).

The Directors of the company are also the Trustees of the Charity. The following Directors have held office during the year: -

Mr Mark Conroy (Chairman)  
Mr John McCormick (Vice Chairman)  
Miss Jean Porte (Treasurer)  
Mrs Roberta Hamilton (Secretary)  
Mr Clyde Cromie  
Miss Janice Elliott  
Mr Timothy McKee  
Mr John Parsons  
Mr Ken Rainey  
Mrs Linsey Farrell  
Mr James Martin  
Mrs Ashleigh Robinson (resigned 6 August 2024)  
Mr Gareth McBeth  
Mr Phillip Beattie (resigned 4 November 2023)

Mrs Lindsey Farrell, Mr James Martin, Miss Jean Porte and Mr Ken Rainey retired by rotation and offered themselves for re-election. Whilst the Directors have legal responsibility for the company, the National Directors are responsible for the day-to-day operations and report to the Board monthly.

**Trustee Induction and Training**

We continue to monitor training requirements for Trustees and conduct refresher courses when required. All Trustees are aware of their requirement for training, the individual and collective responsibility they have.

**STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES**

The trustees (who are also the directors of Child Evangelism Fellowship Of Ireland for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Report of the Trustees and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) including Financial Reporting Standard 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland".

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that period. In preparing those financial statements, the trustees are required to

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charity SORP;
- 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 charitable company will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Child Evangelism Fellowship Of Ireland (Registered number: NI622619)

Report of the Trustees  
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STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES - continued

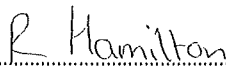
In so far as the trustees are aware:

- there is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditors are unaware; and
- the trustees have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditors are aware of that information.

AUDITORS

The auditors, McIlveen Howard Limited, will be proposed for re-appointment at the forthcoming Annual General Meeting.

Approved by order of the board of trustees on 20/11/24..... and signed on its behalf by:

  
.....  
Mrs R Hamilton - Trustee