

ISSUE 2 • SUMMER 2025

CIEF NEWS

Church of Ireland Evangelical Fellowship

Promoting Biblical Christianity and Evangelical Unity



THE INSTRUCTIONS ARE MISSING...

If you were to ask an older and life-long member of the Church of Ireland 'What is your name?' you would most likely get a simple answer. Ask a second question; 'Who gave you this name?' and it might unlock a memory of knowledge, 2,000 words long, perhaps last looked at over 50 years ago. These are the first questions of the Church Catechism of 1878, an instruction learned by an older generation as part of their confirmation process; and now largely disused for a variety of reasons.

Have we lost something foundational though? Alongside our church ministry to the heart -how we are and feel loved, accepted and forgiven; is also a ministry to the head -what we know, believe and understand about God. This day-to-day knowledge of who God is, what he says and how we should respond, seems dangerously diminished. The people that took hold of the Promised Land had received God's law and had '...seen all the great things the Lord had done for Israel.' However, the next '...generation grew up who knew neither the Lord nor what he had done for Israel.' And what followed this lack of 'knowing' was '...evil in the eyes of the Lord.' (Judges 2). Thankfully we are not quite a generation that doesn't know the Lord or what he has done, but are we heading towards that place? Heart and head must go together, for love abounds more and more in knowledge and depth of insight (Philippians 1:9)

A revival of catechesis is needed. Instructional foundations, in addition to preaching, that build the knowledge and doctrine of church members; both new and established, young and old. Yes, a culture is now established that turns ears away from truth and towards myths (1 Tim 4:4) but conversely there are many people searching for truth also. And we don't need to be theologically trained, we just need to instruct ourselves and others in the basics of doctrine such as the Lord's Prayer, Apostles' Creed & 10 Commandments. The tools are there for churches to do it (see recommendations section), so perhaps it is time to pick them up...

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HUMAN DIGNITY IN LIFE AND DEATH CONFERENCE

The **Centre for Christianity in Society** exists to connect Christ with contemporary culture by explaining Christianity truthfully, engaging issues thoughtfully and equipping Christians thoroughly for the glory of God and the good of all people.

Their upcoming conference will look at the Christian vision of human life, and respond to the contemporary issues of abortion, AI and assisted dying. *All welcome.*

31st May, 9am-1pm at Vic-Ryn, Lisburn

Tickets £5/£10.

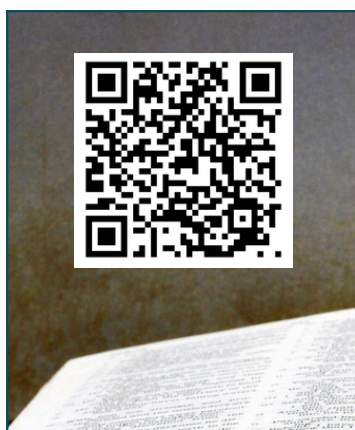
Scan QR code for more details.



FREE 1ST YEAR MEMBERSHIP OFFER

CIEF is an influential organisation within the C of I that seeks to promote biblical Christianity across the whole church and foster evangelical unity. Becoming a member allows you to play a small part in achieving these aims and strengthen the church.

You can sign up for FREE and then only pay the annual subscription if you wish after the first year. [Click this link](#) for details or use the **QR code** beside.



CHURCH OF IRELAND NEWS

NEW BIBLE TEACHERS AND CATECHISTS COMMISSIONED



11 adults in Down and Dromore diocese were recently commissioned into a brand new role as Bible Teachers and Catechists for their local parishes.

Each candidate successfully completed a 15-week basic training course in anglican belief, Christian leadership, group work skills and teaching/preaching.

The group were commissioned to teach and instruct (catechise) the Bible and the key doctrines of Christianity at Sunday services, mid-week gatherings, home groups and other ministries in their parishes. Under the authority of the bishop and the supervision of the minister their role will be to act primarily as a teaching and discipleship support in their local church. It is now planned that this course will run on an annual basis with the aim of providing 'home-grown' leaders in each parish to support clergy.

TELEVISION WITNESS TO THE ISLAMIC WORLD

AMID the tragic stories of Christian persecution and displacement in the Middle east and North Africa (MENA) something incredible is taking place.

People, largely with no church connection, are coming to faith in Jesus Christ. For instance Iran, where the bible and church meetings are illegal, is reputed to be approaching 1 million Christians.

A significant factor in this regional growth is the television ministry of SAT-7, an organisation dedicated to evangelism and church support in the MENA region.

In just 25 years they have grown to include 4 channels; 2 in Arabic (including one dedicated to children), and one in Farsi and Turkish. All available 24/7 and broadcast to the entire region.

25 countries are able to watch via satellite and approaching 40 million internet views took place in 2023. More excitedly this resulted in **103,000 conversations with viewers.** More information on SAT-7 can be found at sat7uk.org.



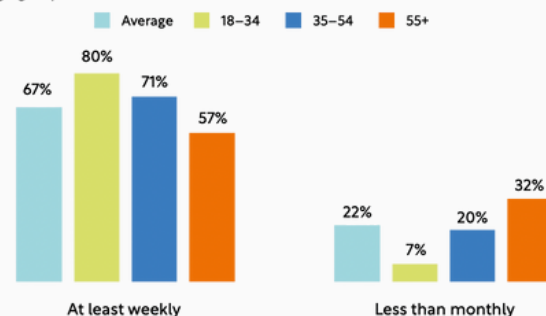
A QUIET REVIVAL: ARE YOUNG ADULTS RE-ENGAGING CHURCH?

It was probably a surprise to some that Ruth, a student with no Christian background, made her decision to follow Christ after an invite to church and student ministries. Statistically however, it should not be a shock. New research from the Bible Society (for England & Wales) indicates that **34% of 18-24-year-olds would attend church if invited by a friend or family member**. Applied to N. Ireland that's around 40,000 18-24's open to attending church if asked -as many as attend the entire C of I.

The research also indicated some astonishing growth in spiritual interest, especially amongst young adults. 45% of 18-24's said there is definitely/probably a God or higher power, 40% said they pray at least monthly and 37% of them are curious to discover more of the bible. In 2018 just 4% of 18-24-year-olds said they attended church at least monthly. Today this has risen to 16%, with young men increasing from 4% to 21%, and young women from 3% to 12%. **This is now the second most likely age group to attend church regularly.** The survey sample also revealed that 58% said they frequently felt 'anxious or depressed' but those attending church were far more likely to feel meaning and hope than those outside of church.

Younger churchgoers read the Bible more often than older churchgoers

How often churchgoers read or listen to the Bible outside of a church service, by age group

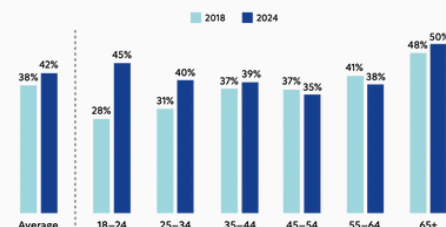


So the obvious question: Why aren't they in our pews? Specifically, why aren't they in *Anglican* pews? Among 18-34's, only 20% of churchgoers are Anglican (down from 30% in 2018), with 41% Catholic and 18% Pentecostal. **The usual answers** often focus on good welcome, vibrant worship, prayer ministry, opportunities for discipleship/service and others in the same age group -and perhaps this is obvious.

However, a key factor seems to be that church denominations and leaders lacking in confidence and consistence of biblical doctrine are less likely to appeal to a generation interested in, but also challenged by, biblical engagement. When a local church leader discovered his 20-somethings taking notes on the sermon it perhaps shouldn't have been surprising. **Something of a quiet revival may be brewing and perhaps our church should be praying to be part of it.**

More young adults are believing in God

Percentage of whole population who agree there is 'probably' or 'definitely' a God/ gods or some 'higher power', by age group



DISCIPLESHIP RECOMMENDATIONS

TO BE A CHRISTIAN CATECHISM

An Anglican Catechism edited by JI Packer has recently released entitled 'To Be a Christian'. Assembled in Q & A format it is highly useful in explaining doctrine in a clear way and with accompanying bible passages. The book is available online but the new App (see QR code) can be used as part of daily readings.



NEW CITY CATECHISM

If you'd prefer less than the 368 questions in the 'To Be a Christian Catechism' there is also a book and App for the 'New City Catechism'. Set across 52 questions it is based on Calvin's Geneva catechism. Copies can be viewed and bought at newcitycatechism.com.



WORLD NEWS

Seventy Christians have been found beheaded last February in a church in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), in what's the latest devastating attack on believers in the north east of the country. It appears that they were kidnapped from 2 villages and taken to a church to be murdered.

The tragic incident, largely unreported by mainstream news, is part of coordinated attacks on Christians there by Islamist groups according to Open Doors.



**CHURCH OF IRELAND
EVANGELICAL FELLOWSHIP
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**MONDAY 16th JUNE 2025
7.30PM VIA ZOOM**

**PLEASE E-MAIL: HELLO@CIEF.CHURCH
FOR THE AGM ZOOM DETAILS**

**FOR A LIST OF RESOURCES &
PUBLICATIONS PRODUCED BY
THE CHURCH OF IRELAND
EVANGELICAL FELLOWSHIP**

[CLICK HERE](#)

**WANT TO BECOME A MEMBER OF
THE CHURCH OF IRELAND EVANGELICAL FELLOWSHIP?**

The Church of Ireland Evangelical Fellowship believes it is called to:

Bring together the diverse evangelical groupings within the Church of Ireland
Encourage and **support** individuals in applying **Biblical Christianity** in their daily lives
Provide **opportunities** for evangelical Christians to **meet together** beyond their own parishes
Provide a **forum** for evangelical Christians to **listen to and understand** one another
Raise **awareness** of what **God is doing elsewhere** in the Church of Ireland and beyond.

[CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFORMATION](#)

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