



LIGHTING A PATH

Helping in a post-pandemic world



There have been countless surveys and reports published on the financial effects of the pandemic and none of them make for pleasant reading. In our modern world, the traditional Dickensian images of poverty may have been replaced by less dramatic imagery but the circumstances can be just as distressing.

A recent NGO survey found that more than two in five adults have experienced financial hardship as a result of the Covid 19 pandemic - perhaps not surprising when at its peak, this virus left up to 25% of the workforce unemployed and dependent on State support.

The manifestation of this hardship is not about cutting back on holidays, restaurant meals or other luxuries - the survey showed that 24% of adults are cutting back on food, heating or electricity, 22% are using savings to meet ordinary living expenses while 14% are falling behind on mortgages, rent and utilities, with 7% going into debt via personal loans and credit cards.

As you read these words, this is the reality that many families are facing and, as usual, most affected are often those with children, renters, the unemployed and people with health issues or going through family difficulties.

There are others too who don't fall into any traditional category because financial problems are a new and unpleasant experience for them - people who have always managed and in the past have been more used to giving than receiving.

We are pleased to be in a position to assist applicants in a variety of ways and whether it is through General Grants, Educational Assistance, Annuities, Heating Grants or Third-level Loans, it is only possible through a prism of compassion that we share with donors whose generosity continues to astound.

While many of the applications we receive on a daily basis present situations and circumstances that are sad and often challenging, we know that what triumphs in the end is the hope and support provided by so many people who have made the decision to put others first.

Thank you from Protestant Aid and also from all those for whom you have provided some light along a dark path - in the words of a recent grant recipient "you are quite literally a Godsend".

100% of your help gets to where it is needed most!

As always, **100%** of your donations are used to alleviate financial distress without deductions for administrative or other costs.

"We are grateful for the continued strong support we receive"

"Our donors give generously, knowing that 100% of their gifts go to where they are needed most"

Geoff Scargill,
Head of Charitable Services

Chairperson's Report

Continuing to rise to the challenge

For most of 2020 and continuing into 2021, our society has been challenged by a pandemic not seen for several generations.

A major challenge for us was to keep all residents in Brabazon and St John's House in a safe environment and I am most grateful to the teams there who have given exceptional service to our organisation, through some very difficult times.

In January 2021, Protestant Aid successfully moved offices to the superb surroundings of St John's newly rebuilt Nursing Home, which has drawn compliments from all corners.

In addition to the work in our residential homes, we have maintained a strong focus on supporting the ever-increasing needs within our community. COVID-19 has drawn the spotlight to the widening divide of wealth in our society and the evidence is that those who are less well-off have suffered to a far greater degree.

Our Grants Committee have been empathetic and caring when dealing with the many sad cases that are referred to us. Their work receives many notes of thanks which is very rewarding.

In Protestant Aid, we pride ourselves on distributing every euro received from our donors. The year-on-year increase in need within our community reminds us how vital the generosity of our donors is and we are grateful to all those who have consistently supported our work over the years.



The work we do is critical to those who request help; we would like to be in a position to do more as the need increases and are optimistic that our donor base will expand so that this can become a reality.

It is you, our donors, who play the vital role of providing us with the resources to make a serious and positive difference to the lives of many people.

We thank you for your generosity to date and look forward to your continuing support.

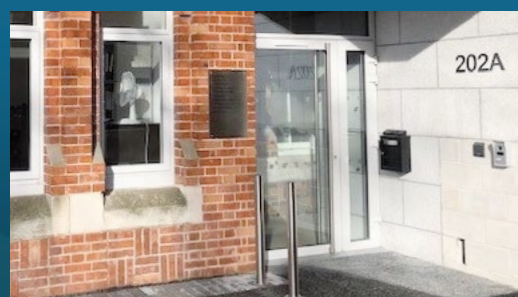
Trevor Watkins,
Chairperson

Protestant Aid has moved offices (new address, same compassion)

After many years in 74 Upper Leeson Street, Protestant Aid has now moved offices to 202A Merrion Road, Dublin 4, D04 R9W8. T: 01-6684298. e: info@protestantaid.org

"Our new offices give us the practical dimensions and space to work efficiently and represent a new era for PA as we continue with our vision of assisting those who need our help."

David Webb, CEO



CEO Report

Ensuring support gets to where it is needed most

Thank you for taking the time to read our 2021 newsletter. The past eighteen months have been incredibly challenging for so many people and have had a profound effect on how we live and work.

Recent times have also shone a light on the difficulties faced by people living with vulnerabilities and has provided further evidence that the work of Protestant Aid is as important now as when we began our mission 185 years ago!

We are certainly living through transformational times and whilst society moves forward, the hardship and pain caused by job loss, depression, addiction, disease, ill health and abuse, remain a constant challenge for many.

We are planning towards the weeks and months ahead and see the likelihood of a large rise in applications for help as Government supports begin to be phased out. We are particularly concerned to hear of the expected growth in mental health problems over the coming months which will be considerable and wide ranging, including anxiety, depression and post-traumatic stress symptoms.

So far, significant support has been provided to individuals and families left behind during lockdown but the mental health impact of the COVID-19 pandemic will persist and be long lasting for many years. As we seek to support those who are struggling with financial hardship, we need your help now more than ever.

I would like to thank everyone that has supported us so far this year, and in particular through these exceptional times. It's thanks to your generosity that we're able to go 'over and above' to provide vital financial supports to those who find themselves unable to pay the next utility bill or afford the next food shop.

We are grateful that many of our supporters continue to leave gifts and legacies to Protestant Aid in their Wills which enable us to plan long-term funding for our grant schemes. If you would like to consider leaving a gift in your Will to Protestant Aid further information can be found on our website or alternatively please feel free to contact our office directly.

We continue to be amazed by the acts of kindness and generosity amongst our staff, volunteers, Network Visitors and supporters.



Our staff have worked tirelessly to ensure our services have continued uninterrupted during this difficult time, especially our frontline staff in our nursing homes.

Our staff have set an extraordinary example of commitment, professionalism and solidarity to care for our residents, and each other, often in the toughest of circumstances.

We are passionate about what we do and every role across the Charity is part of a great team - doing incredible things for those in need. Please keep safe and well.

David Webb,
CEO

Thank you

"Please accept my most sincere thanks for the Protestant Aid grant to the family I recommended. This will be of immense benefit to them - your kindness and thoughtfulness is deeply appreciated. I feel I can never thank you enough for so graciously meeting the needs of so many for whom life is extremely difficult - your work is treasured".

Dean

PA network visitors

Challenging times for a caring team

Our team of Network Visitors has had particular challenges during this COVID-19 year. Notwithstanding, contact was made with existing General Grant applicants, where appropriate. As always, each member of the team works on a voluntary basis, giving selflessly of their time to make visits and write reports.



Beverley Callender Elizabeth Temple Mildred Gilmore Phyllis Grothier

They are generous and caring individuals who use their empathy, sensitivity and confidentiality to support the work of Protestant Aid as together, we endeavour to assist those who need help during these difficult times. A sincere 'thank you' to each of them.

Online donation facility

A feature of the website that has already been widely used is the facility to donate online. This eliminates the need for cheques, envelopes and postage and the entire process is seamless and easy. Please consider donating today at www.protestantaid.org

Special Thanks

The Department of Rural & Community Development continues to be a consistent supporter of our work over the years and last year was no exception. The Department again provided an annual grant of €150,000 as well as an additional €30,000 amount for those with urgent needs. These grants are of vital importance and we are grateful for this generous partnership in addressing need.

Donors' Generosity

We are able to provide grants to those in need thanks to the on-going generosity of our loyal donors who consistently contribute every year by cheque, standing order, or online.

Personal donors, both PAYE taxpayers and the self-employed, are reminded that the tax element of donations over €250 can be reclaimed from Revenue by Protestant Aid at no cost to the donor. There are also tax advantages for corporate donors. Those giving a gift of assets can do so without the imposition of Capital Gains Tax.

Legacies

In recent years, legacies have become an increasingly important contribution to PA's funds and because they can be invested wisely for use in the future, they are an invaluable resource. They are entrusted to PA by those who have left provision in their wills for the continuity of PA's work, so current supporters are asked to consider Protestant Aid and its work when making out their Will.



How you can help the battle against poverty...TODAY!

We remain very grateful to our donors who consistently dig deep to help Protestant Aid make a real difference to the lives of so many families within our community. Thank you for being our partners.

Donations can be made in a number of ways:

- **By Cheque** - posted to our offices at Protestant Aid, 202A Merrion Road, Dublin D04 R9W8.
- **Online** at www.protestantaid.org using the

DONATE NOW BUTTON

- **Standing Order** - If you wish to contribute in this way, please find our bank details below, or alternatively use our Standing Order form which is available from Protestant Aid (or can be downloaded from our website).

Protestant Aid Bank Account Details

A/C Name: **Protestant Aid**
IBAN: **IE39 AIBK 9312 9214 7880 64**
BIC: **AIBKIE2D**

By Cheque

I would like to make a donation of:

€

Name:

Address:

Tel:

Email:

Please return to:
Protestant Aid, 202A Merrion Road, Dublin D04 R9W8.

Thank you for being our partners in tackling poverty.