



“I’m scared of being cold”

Poverty’s Perfect Storm

Headline inflation rates of 9%+ have turned from a chilling prospect into a frightening reality, with increases in fuel, gas, electricity and food turning the ‘real’ rate of inflation even higher for families on low incomes, where a disproportionate percentage of earnings are spent on heating and food.

Gone are the days when Energy Suppliers announced single digit increases - they have been as high as 30%, on top of already inflated prices. Recent reports by the ERSI found that 29% of Irish households suffer from ‘energy poverty’, with many people having to cut back just to turn the lights on.

“Feeding the meter or feeding the children is an all too prevalent quandary”

The General Grant Applications pouring into Protestant Aid, while coming from a variety of areas and sources, all tell a similar story of those struggling with rapidly rising prices, on top of other challenges such as illness or accommodation issues.

Back-to-school costs are also a huge concern for many families as they juggle their available resources to make sensible and sustainable choices.

More calls to Protestant Aid for help

The increase in the number of requests for assistance through our General Grant Programme is close to 30%.

Inflation is yet another toxic ingredient to a difficult life, with problems ranging from marriage break-up, poor mental or physical health, unemployment or bereavement.

In addition, Covid-19 has also left an unfortunate legacy of ill-health and business failure for many.

“Wonderful to know that someone cares”



A note came into our postbox recently from a regular donor. They enclosed an ‘extra donation’ in recognition of what they suggested might be ‘additional calls’ for help. It is the thoughtful kindness of this donor and many others who facilitate our ability to meaningfully assist an increasing number of applicants.

As always, every cent coming into us in donations goes out again undiluted, as we continue to meet need within our community.

We recently received a letter of thanks from an applicant for whom we had provided an oil fill - her letter concluded with the words “wonderful to know that someone cares.”

Today, we echo those words to you, our kind and generous donors - **“thank you for caring”**.

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

Chairman's Report



Following some turbulent times during the pandemic, the economy is now thankfully performing well. While employment figures and exchequer returns are also giving further cause for optimism, it must be noted that they are set against a backdrop of rising inflation, creating worrying uncertainty.

CSO figures continue to show that a significant proportion of the population is still living in some level of financial difficulty and with rapidly escalating heating and food costs, this looks set to continue.

In tandem with rising interest rates and increasing rents/mortgages, it is likely that requests for financial assistance to Protestant Aid will continue to increase with some momentum, with many families fighting to maintain a basic standard of living as they continue their struggle to fund even rudimentary needs.

Our General Grant Application Programme is inclusive, with need taking precedence over denomination or ethnicity and reflects the significant deprivation that continues to lurk within our society. Grants distributed to date this year are the highest ever, giving hope and practical assistance to those in difficult financial situations due to ill-health, addiction, separation, homelessness and many other challenging and arduous situations.

It has been a privilege to assist so many families and individuals which, as always, was made possible through the consistent generosity of our faithful donors to whom we are very grateful.

There are changes within our Nursing Homes - we bid a fond farewell to Susan Anderson, Director of Nursing in Brabazon for the last 15 years - her commitment, dedication and professionalism will be missed. St. John's House has a new Director of Nursing in the person of Raechal Samson. We congratulate Raechal on this important appointment and wish her well. We also wish Anne Kavanagh well on her retirement as Director of Nursing of St John's House Nursing Home and thank her sincerely for her sterling leadership since taking on her role in 2019.

Again, a sincere thank you to our donors as together we extend the care and compassion that is needed more than ever.

When you donate, you're helping to bring much needed relief to those who struggle. There is still more to be done - **let's do it together.**

Trevor Watkins, Chairman

Help for Ukrainian Families



The pictures on our TV screens of the war in Ukraine are shocking and distressing to watch from a distance - one can only

imagine the horrific effect that this is having on thousands of families. Thankfully, Ireland is playing its part in accepting many refugees into a welcoming environment.

Many primary schools around Ireland are accepting Ukrainian students into the educational system, and Protestant Aid was on hand to help families with the cost of books and school expenses with a special once-off 'School Welcome Grant' programme.

This was, as always, handled on a confidential basis and resulted in some wonderful responses - yet another example of how our generous donors allow us to be creative and caring.

“Thank you - you cannot imagine the difference to one person's life that you are making”

Education Grant Recipient

Susan Anderson Retirement



Susan Anderson retired from The Brabazon Trust at the end of October 2022, having been an integral part of the Sandymount complex for over 25 years, the last 15 as Director of Nursing.

Susan's hard work, commitment and dedication have been instrumental to the home's success and she will be greatly missed, and remembered, by everyone associated with Brabazon.

“I always felt that Brabazon was different to everywhere else. It has a wonderfully supportive atmosphere where residents and staff are friendly, happy and contented. There is a wonderful ethos in Brabazon and I have loved every minute of my time there.”

We wish Susan, and indeed her husband Steven who is well known to everyone in Brabazon, every happiness in the future.

Reaching Out to Help in Changing Times



Protestant Aid is no stranger to adapting to change and has been doing so since we began our mission over 180 years ago. Change is constant, but in recent years it seems to be accelerating at a faster pace than ever before.

Having experienced the extreme trauma and emotional upheaval of the pandemic, we are now facing new challenges with inflation biting, and a very concerning cost-of-living crisis looming on the horizon.

For many families, it could be the biggest challenge that they have faced in decades.

Struggling to make ends meet is nothing new for the people we support, but it is a sad fact that they now find themselves most exposed to further price rises of essentials such as food and energy. We are already seeing a stark increase in requests for support due to rising household bills, with many families exposed to the risk of fuel poverty because of the amount of time spent at home. The elderly and those with mobility issues are especially vulnerable as they face the prospect of colder homes due to soaring oil and gas costs. The alternative for many will be to cut back on their weekly grocery bill, with some having to do both.

Our Charitable Services Team will be quick to address the needs of households who are approaching the colder months with trepidation.

We have already increased budgets to lend additional support through what will undoubtedly be a difficult winter and we will continue to react in an immediate and effective way to support families and individuals facing financial difficulties.

Protestant Aid is able to make a difference not only because of the incredible generosity of our supporters but also the dedication of our volunteer Board of Management who give their time and energy to help us achieve our life-changing interventions. At its core, the volunteer Board of Management is the backbone of Protestant Aid - they oversee just about everything that makes us function, from regulation, finance, planning and ultimately, making sure that the charity is actively working towards its goal to better the lives of vulnerable groups in society.

Thanks to our volunteers and to our donors, we will continue to reach out to those in need, bring help and comfort just as we have done since 1836.

David Webb, Chief Executive

PA Network Visitors

A faithful and caring team



As always, our team of Network Visitors has continued to bring vital support to Protestant Aid.

They work with Clergy and the Head of PA Charitable Services, visiting applicants where appropriate and fulfilling their role as Goodwill Ambassadors for the organisation.

Giving of their time and energy, these caring individuals make themselves available with grace and generosity and we remain thankful for their support. A big Thank You to Beverley Callender, Elizabeth Temple, Mildred Gilmore and Phyllis Grothier.

“Thank you very much for your favourable response. The generous cheque received by the family in question will help greatly in their time of need”

Rector

New St John's House Director of Nursing



We are delighted to welcome Ms. Raechal Samson to the position of Director of Nursing at St. John's House following the retirement of Ms. Anne M Kavanagh.

Raechal (pictured above with Simon Homan, General Manager, St John's House) formerly worked at St Mary's Home, Pembroke Park and became part of the team at St John's following the amalgamation. Soon after transferring to St John's House, Raechal was promoted to the position of Clinical Nurse Manager where she was an integral part of the nursing management team. We wish Raechal well as she embarks on her new journey in this important role of Director of Nursing, working with a dedicated team in the comfortable and comprehensive, state-of-the-art-facilities of St John's House.

Online Donations

It has never been easier to help!

A widely used feature of our website 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

Legacies

Have you considered leaving a gift to PA in your will? Legacies have become an increasingly important contribution to PA's funds over the years. They are entrusted to PA by those who have left provision in their wills, and because they can be invested wisely, are an invaluable resource towards the continuity of our work. Leaving a gift to PA in your will is an amazing way for your generosity to last beyond your own lifetime.



Donors' Generosity

Protestant Aid is authorised by the Revenue Commissioners as an approved body under the Scheme of Tax Relief for Donations to eligible Charities and other Approved Bodies under the terms of Section 848A Taxes Consolidation Act 1997. This means that if you pay tax and donate €250 or more in one calendar year, by reclaiming tax on your donation we can increase it by an extra 45% - at no extra cost to you. For example, if you donate €250, that could be worth €362.32 to PA. To enable PA to claim this relief all you need to do is to complete a form (CHY3 Enduring Certificate - valid for 5 years or CHY4 Annual Certificate - valid for 1 year).

How You Can Help TODAY!

We remain very grateful to our donors who consistently support Protestant Aid, and therefore actively participate in making a difference to the lives of so many individuals and families within our community. Your partnership is so valuable to us.

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**

Special Thanks

The Department of Rural & Community Development



Pictured above are Protestant Aid CEO David Webb, Heather Humphreys TD (Minister for Rural and Community Development & Minister for Social Protection), Joe O'Brien TD (Minister of State at the Department of Rural and Community Development) and Trevor Watkins, Chairman of Protestant Aid.

The Department of Rural & Community Development continues to be a consistent and generous supporter of our work over the years and again, 2021 was no exception.

Through The Social Inclusion and Communities Unit Fund, the Department provided an annual grant of €180,000 for those with urgent needs that was, as always, distributed without any deductions for overheads. This grant is of vital importance in helping to address widespread need and we continue to be grateful for this generous partnership and support.



Please detach and return with cheque donation

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.