



Chairman's Report



Protestant Aid faced further challenges in 2022, with a dramatic increase in demand for our services. This was demonstrated by an overall increase of 22% in General Grant Applications compared to the previous year, resulting in the highest number of appeals for assistance since our foundation.

Our Grants Committee, chaired by David Pierce, along with our Charitable Services Team of Geoff Scargill and Joyce Sparkes, has dealt with a huge workload this year and I would like to record my gratitude for their tireless work. It is expected we will be under further pressure this year as the impact of inflation on low-income households will put many people at risk of serious poverty. Inflation often hits the poorest in society hardest and sadly we expect more and more people to seek our support as they struggle this year.

During 2022, we made a number of Special Supports available with the mounting number of refugees arriving from Ukraine.

We were able to help struggling families, accounting for more than 200 students, through applications received from Primary Schools in Ireland. Protestant Aid also supported the refurbishment of houses for Ukrainian refugees at Kingston College, Mitchelstown, County Cork which recently featured on RTE's **DIYSOS - Big Build.** I would congratulate the Committee on acting so quickly to provide this urgent help for people whose lives have been affected so badly by the invasion of their country.

We continue to be most grateful for the grant of €180,000 from the Department of Rural and Community Development and I am able to report that we again distributed in excess of €1 for every €1 we received in donations across the Republic of Ireland.

Our Nursing Homes continue to flourish, with The Brabazon Trust catering for over 100 residents split between the Nursing Home and Sheltered Housing accommodation and St. John's House providing care for 56 people in its redeveloped facility on the Merrion Road. The precarious position of smaller nursing homes in Ireland has been well highlighted in the media in the last year with many closing their doors due to cost pressures. We continue to seek more equitable rates from the National Treatment Purchase Fund (Fair Deal Scheme) as costs have increased substantially in recent years.

There have been changes to key personnel in the last year as Anne Kavanagh, Director of Nursing in St. John's House and Susan Anderson, Director of Nursing in Brabazon House, retired after many years of dedicated service - we thank them for their contribution over all those years.

COMPASSION IN ACTION

Devastating illness causes financial distress

Unemployed couple John and Mary* have two children, the youngest of whom has mental health issues. John was recently admitted to Hospital and has been diagnosed with Pulmonary Fibrosis. Sadly, he is now under the care of the Palliative Team and will not be returning home. John's income reduced dramatically when he became ill and the family has significant debts. They could not afford the €500 to have their car repaired - vital as they live rurally. A financially and emotionally devastating situation.

PA Response

A grant was given to ensure their car could be repaired and get this family back on the road. Unfortunately, we cannot solve every problem, but thanks to the kindness of our donors we can reduce some of the financial burden our applicants are facing.

*not their real names

I would also like to warmly welcome our new Directors of Nursing, Raechal Samson in St. John's House and Usha Sundar in Brabazon House, and wish them well in their pivotal roles in the coming years.

Our Chief Executive continues to provide much needed support to the Board, particularly as he guides us through an ever-changing landscape of Governance, Risk and Regulation. Achieving the highest standards of good governance and transparency remains a fundamental consideration for the Board and we have recently signed up to the Charity Institute Ireland's (CII's) "Triple Lock" standard which is a mark of 'best practice' in Governance.

Finally, I want to express my sincere thanks to all the Board members who have been so supportive this year - it has been greatly appreciated. Thanks also to our Patron, Archbishop Michael Jackson, who has been and continues to be, consistently supportive of the aims and aspirations of Protestant Aid. His encouraging words and help have been deeply appreciated.



In acknowledging all of the above, it is the donors who make it all possible. Your giving provides us with the resources, making a real difference to the lives of many people and we are so thankful to you for your generosity.

Trevor Watkins Chairperson

Chief Executive's Report



Thank you for taking the time to read our Annual Report for 2022, which I hope you will find informative and thought provoking. We leave behind us another difficult year marked by the war in Ukraine, a continuing housing crisis and rising inflation.

Last year, Protestant Aid was proactive in finding creative ways of helping those struggling with financial hardship as applications for emergency support increased to record levels.

We also launched a special financial package for Ukrainians arriving on our shores, providing much-needed relief to people in an immediate and significant way where there was nowhere else to turn. We are in the midst of an energy poverty crisis with average annual electricity costs rising from around €1,000 to over €2,100 in just a couple years.

Low-income households now face heart-breaking decisions whether to feed the family or heat the house. To be poor - especially with children to support - is a perpetual balancing act.

At Protestant Aid, we see on a daily basis, the harsh realities faced by many and it is clearly the case that employment does not always guarantee a decent standard of living. With the support of you our donors, you have made it possible for us to give people living on the margins some light, dignity and importantly, hope.

In our efforts to deliver on our mission, our Board has developed a new strategy setting out a roadmap for the next phase of Protestant Aid's development with a number of 'core priorities' identified in the next 5 years. At the top of the list is to increase our giving and grow our impact on society. The importance of this cannot be overstated.

Last year, our general grant giving increased by 26% and it is our aim to continue this growth with a commitment to poverty alleviation and social justice. We will also seek to improve efficiencies and operational delivery and progress to a full digital transformation during this new chapter.

In both our Nursing Homes, Brabazon House and St John's House, we will continue our priority of delivering state-of-the-art services and the highest levels of care. We will also aim to deliver a balanced budget for each facility and achieve a 'break even' position or better.

This will include attention on improving our accommodation and continue to ensure we have a fully HIQA-compliant infrastructure. Focus on staff retention will continue to be prioritised as it has far-reaching consequences in a Care Home setting, where continuity of care is a key driver of better outcomes for our Residents.



Last year, we helped more people than ever before and this trend will continue for the foreseeable future. The generosity of you our donors makes it possible for us to carry out our work and for that we are truly humbled and grateful.

I would also like to recognise the efforts of all the volunteers and staff for their dedication and commitment in achieving our goals. Everyone has stepped up to the plate in the busiest year in our 180+ year history. Thank you so much for your commitment.

Lastly, I would like to acknowledge the important contributions of Mr. George Good, Mrs. Yvonne Good and Canon David Gillespie who have recently retired from the Protestant Aid Board - we are very grateful for their many years of dedication to our mission.

David Webb

CEO

COMPASSION IN ACTION

Rising energy bills cause financial stress

Single unemployed mother Andrea* has three young children. She is a regular and faithful parishioner but lives in a socially deprived area where drugs and anti-social behaviour are rampant. A very sad life to date - abused as a child and put into care following her mother's alcohol abuse. She has serious medical issues and is struggling to manage her rapidly increasing energy bills.

PA Response

A generous grant was made to cover outstanding utility bills as well as covering energy costs for the next few months. This removed a lot of financial pressure from the family and provided some light in their lives. The Rector commented on their relief when he passed on the grant cheque, "I wish you could have seen the look of joy on their faces".

*not her real name

Charitable Services Report



Families hurting as energy costs and food inflation bite

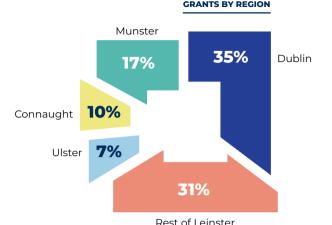
At Protestant Aid, we don't have to wait for newspaper reports to tell us that inflation is biting hard at family budgets - our own experience via our General Grant application programme shows clearly that financial struggles are part of a daily routine for too many families.

When poverty comes knocking The working poor

Traditionally, employment was central to at least moderate prosperity, opening up financial pathways to benefit not just the individual, but all members of the home. All that seems to have changed, with the ESRI reporting that the 'working poor' account for one third of those below the poverty line, with lone parents accounting for another significant number. Tenants were also hit hard - the consistent poverty rate for those living in owner-occupied dwellings was just 2.2% compared with 12.9% for those living in rented accommodation.

Young and elderly particularly vulnerable

Food poverty was more than evident during 2022. Unfortunately, this often has a knock-on effect on a child's education, with pupils who go to school hungry often finding it harder to concentrate in class.



This correlates with the experience of Food Banks, which are reporting record numbers of people seeking help due to soaring food prices.

These increases, in tandem with a surge in heating costs, mean that the 'at risk of poverty rate' for all older people aged 65+, has almost doubled since 2020 (19% compared to 9.8%). As you read these words, Ireland has over 160,000 older people living in poverty or at risk of poverty, representing the highest increase of any age group.

COMPASSION IN ACTION

House burglary adds to financial woes

Philip*, a single unemployed man, is a Service User of HSE Mental Health Services due to chronic mental health issues - he also has physical health issues requiring inpatient hospital treatment. During a recent hospital stay, his home was burgled, with much damage caused. He recently received a large gas bill and was unable to pay this, having had to fund home repairs after the burglary. His Social Worker requested help towards this worrying debt.

PA Response

During what was a very difficult time for this applicant, we were in a position to assist with his gas bill and relieve a huge amount of stress. We received a touching letter of thanks from this client thanking us for 'removing a huge weight' from his shoulders. All made possible by the generosity of our donors.

*not his real name

No pretty face to poverty

2022 was a watershed year for Protestant Aid with a 22% increase in General Grant applications and a 26% increase in funds granted. You will read about some of the cases we dealt with throughout this Annual Report - we encountered some appallingly difficult situations.

There is no pretty face to poverty, with so many families facing a daily grind just to survive.

As always, reasons vary, with inflation often the exacerbating factor in addition to existing problems of family breakdown/separation, physical or mental health issues, homelessness or addiction.

We know of people turning off their freezer to save money, sleeping on their sitting room couch or going to bed early to save on heating costs. Others are skipping meals in an attempt to cut down, increasingly finding themselves destitute, hungry, demoralised and priced out of the cheapest bag of apples at the supermarket. This is the reality for many in 21st century Ireland.

Moments of light

As always, describing situations of financial difficulty is not where it stops for Protestant Aid. I am personally thankful to and for a dedicated Grants Committee team, who combine hard work and compassion when reviewing a huge number of applications - sincere thanks to Canon Katharine Poulton, Glynis Good, Mary Neill, Robert Neill, Bryan Dobson, Robert Bell, Mark Younge and our Chairman, David Pierce, for their unstinting devotion to this task.

The faithful generosity of our donors also continues to provide encouragement to us as well as practical support to those in need, and we remain very grateful for this kindness, as do so many of those who send notes of thanks:

"I just wanted to take a moment and THANK YOU sincerely for all your support over the past few years. You and the Protestant Aid team are amazing, and we are genuinely grateful for all the kindness and compassion you have shown to the families we have put forward to your attention."

Social Worker



Your donations work hard, with every euro you give being redistributed in charitable giving without any deductions. The calls for assistance seem set to grow again, but the help given in partnership with our donors is significant, and thankfully has a positive impact on so many lives that are hurting.

We can only help because you want to help, so please accept our heartfelt thanks, as together we address the financial heartache troubling many families.

Geoff Scargill

Head of Charitable Services.

THANK YOU

"Very many thanks to you and your committee for the kind and generous cheque I received for Helen* yesterday. This will make a big difference to the family, especially during this particularly cold time of year. Please convey to your committee my thanks on the family's behalf, for all the help you have given them (and others). Protestant Aid is such an excellent example of caring compassion in action, making such a difference in the lives of those in need. God bless you all."

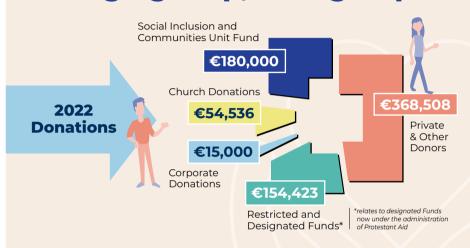
Rector

"You are an answer to prayer. I had been praying about my finances when your cheque arrived in the post – it will be such a great help with my continuing heating costs. Thank you for the concern you show and the generosity in helping me so much. I thank God for you and am so grateful for your help. May God bless you all as you bless me."

Heating Annuitant

*not her real name

Bringing Help, Giving Hope



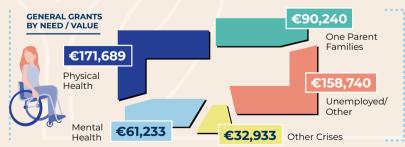
The Department of Rural & Community Development

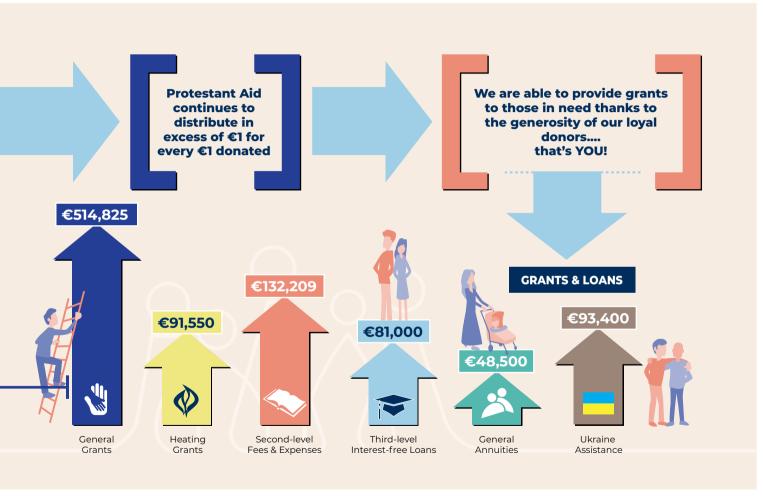
The Department of Rural & Community Development continues to be a consistent and generous supporter of our work over the years and again, 2022 was no exception.

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.

Protestant Aid's financial statements are prepared in accordance with 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 2015) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2014.

Protestant Aid's financial statements fully comply with Charities SORP (FRS102) and will be available on **www.protestantaid.org**





How you can partner with us, as together we Bring Help and Give Hope

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 to Protestant Aid can be made in a number of ways:

BY CHEOUE

 Payable to Protestant Aid and sent to our offices at

Protestant Aid, 202A Merrion Road, Dublin D04 R9W8.

ONLINE

www.protestantaid.org
 using the Donation Form

STANDING ORDER

 We have a Standing Order form that can be downloaded from our website, or is also available from Protestant Aid. Alternatively our bank account details are below:

Bank Account Name: Protestant Aid IBAN: IE39 AIBK 9312 9214 7880 64 BIC: AIBKIE2D

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 ϵ 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 ϵ 250, that could be worth ϵ 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).



George and Yvonne Good are pictured above with Protestant Aid Chairman, Mr. Trevor Watkins, following the announcement of their retirement from the Protestant Aid Board.

George and Yvonne each sat on the PA Board for over 25 years and we are truly grateful for their service. Fortunately, they will both continue to volunteer on a number of PA committees.

Board Appointment



We are delighted to welcome the Dean of St. Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin, the Very Revd. Dr. William Wright Morton to the Board of Protestant Aid. William hails from Derry where he was Dean of Saint Columb's Cathedral from

1997 to 2016. He and his wife Rosemary have three sons.

Dean Morton is well known for his ecumenical work. During his time in Derry, he reached out to all creeds and classes within the community, being an important agent of reconciliation during a difficult time. In June 2018, Ulster University awarded him an honorary degree in recognition of his civic contributions. We are grateful to have the Dean on board and look forward to working together.

PA Network Visitors

A faithful and caring team









Beverley Callender

Elizabeth Temple

Mildred Gilmore

Phylis Grothier

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.

COMPASSION IN ACTION

92-year old widow needs help

Retired widow Jean* 92, lives with her sixty-year-old son, who has mental health issues. Living conditions in her home were poor - the house was mouldy, cold and cluttered. Jean sleeps on her couch as her bedroom is damp. The house needed a cleaning and de-clutter and help was sought towards the cost of a skip and deep clean.

PA Response

Jean had difficult home conditions that needed to be addressed. Several agencies were involved in this case and we were happy to play our part in funding a skip and deep clean. The condition of Jean's home has been transformed and this elderly lady is now living in a cleaner, safer environment.

*not her real name

Help for Ukrainian Families

The pictures on our television 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 as they flee from their war-torn homes, seeking safety and security in a welcoming environment. Many primary schools around Ireland are accepting Ukrainian students into the educational system, playing a vital role in their continuing education.

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. "A heart-felt thanks to you and all those who made this kindness possible"-Primary School Principal.



With most of the €50,000 allocated to this programme already distributed, it is yet another example of how our generous donors allow us to be creative and caring as we take appropriate initiatives during emergency situations.

We were also pleased to grant €50,000 to help fit and equip the houses at Kingston College (Cork) for Ukrainian families, supporting a tremendous initiative by the Bishop of Cork, Cloyne and Ross, Dr. Paul Colton, bringing badly needed housing to Ukrainian refugees.

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.

COMPASSION IN ACTION

Domestic violence splits family

Sheila* is an unemployed mother with five children ranging from 4 to 16. She is a survivor of domestic violence and was forced to get a barring order to ensure her safety. Her youngest child has a Developmental Delay and ASD and requires a high level of support. The family is crammed into a two-bedroom city centre apartment with no lift (three sleeping in one bedroom, two in the other and mum on a couch in the living room) and had little room to move around, so Sheila's Social Worker requested help towards the cost of bunk beds.

PA Response

We responded immediately with a grant that funded bunk beds and storage units so that the families living space would be more functional. The Social worker wrote, "In the midst of all their turmoil, this family were deeply touched and thankful to Protestant Aid for your kindness."

*not her real name

PA Administered Charities

Charities administered under the Protestant Aid umbrella include:

- Brabazon Trust
- · St John's House
- Strand Trust CLG (includes Pembroke Memorial Cottages Trust)
- · Old Men's Home Charity
- · Irish Distressed Ladies Fund
- Kirwan House
- Irish Clergy Sons Education Society
- Church of Ireland Jubilee Fund
- St Mary's Home Pembroke Park Association
- Berwick Trust
- · Claremont Trust

THANK YOU

"Thank you so much for all your help with securing a generous cheque for Jennifer*, I can assure you that the sum will make a huge difference. I know that we can help her over this very distressing period and am grateful for the part you played in this.

Thank you for the work and witness of Protestant Aid, you have certainly done loving Christian service this week."

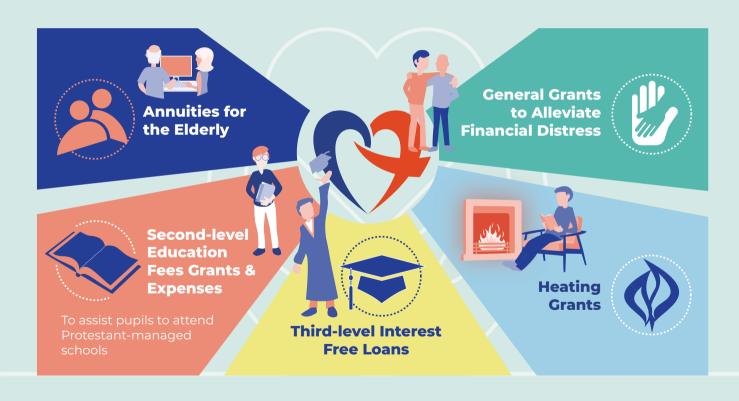
Rector

"I would like to express deepest thanks and gratitude on behalf of our two clients who received your grants. Your support makes a meaningful difference to the financial challenges they face. Sincerest thanks to you and your very generous donors. One a personal note, I was most pleasantly surprised and impressed by the efficiency of your response".

Social Worker

*not her real name

Protestant Aid Grant Programmes



CORPORATE DONORS

Colliers Funeral Service Ltd Dennison Trailers Ecclesiastical Insurance Ei Electronics Grant Engineering Ltd Honeyfarm Holsteins Ltd Irish Cement Ltd PSC Accounting Services Smallmans GBS Sturdy Products Ltd Woodberry Management Services Ltd

PRIVATE DONORS*

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Mr Leslie Weekes Mr Desmond Weir Dr Hugh & Hon Mrs Grania Weir Mr & Mrs 1 R West Ted & Mariorie Whitaker Mrs Mary White Mrs Rosemary White Mrs Deirdre Whitley Victor & Georgina Whyte Mrs Fnid Wilkinson A.1 Williams Mr Alwyn C Williams Mr Barry Williams Mr David Willis Robert & Jane Wilson Mrs Ruth Wilson Jimmy & Margaret Woolmington Mr Terence Woulfe Flanagan Rev Canon Edward Yendall Mr Mark Younge

*We like to include the names of all our donors but due to current data protection regulations, we have been unable to do so where permission has not been received.

OTHER DONORS

Bank of Ireland Begin Together Fund Civil Service Charities Fund COMAC Dublin Chamber of Commerce Masters of South County Dublin Hunt St Mary's Charities St Patrick's Cofl National School, Newbridge Wandesforde National School Windgate Estates / Sheppard Trust

ANONYMOUS DONATIONS

1 x €1,000

1 x €3,419.53

1 x €5,000

3 x €10,000

1 x €13,000

1 x €15.000

4 x €20,000

1 x €50,000

CHURCH/PARISH DONATIONS

All Saints Parish, Blackrock
Athy Union of Parishes with Kilkea
Calary Parish Church
Castlecomer Union
Castleknock & Mulhuddart with Clonsilla
Parishes
Castlepollard & Oldcastle Union
Christ Church Bray

Christ Church Delgany Christ Church Dun Laoghaire Christ Church Gorey Clontarf Parish Church

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