



CHURCH of IRELAND GENERAL SYNOD
CHURCH in SOCIETY COMMITTEE
Social Justice and Theology (NI) Sub-Committee

**REVD KENNY HALL'S RESPONSE TO THE HIGH RATE OF SUICIDE
AMONGST YOUNG PEOPLE IN THE DIOCESE OF ARMAGH**

We want our young people to realise that no matter what they may be feeling, no matter what they have or haven't done, no matter what the situation, there are people who do care about them and will help them find a way through. There are many agencies, many help lines and many individuals all willing to help. Clergy of all denominations often make themselves available 24 hours a day for people to contact in emergencies, on a confidential basis. We, as clergy, are not there to condemn thoughts or actions. We want to make ourselves available for people to consult, to talk through issues and to guide and direct, whether those issues are family issues, social issues, relationship issues, sexual issues, financial issues, or school/university issues. We are available and willing to help. There is always another direction to take, but sometimes people need help in finding that direction – so please, please seek help.

This year alone too many families have been affected by suicide and, as well as having a devastating impact on those families, it also affects their friends and the communities in which they live. As responsible members of the community we must encourage all people, especially our young people, to talk about their problems with whoever they feel comfortable speaking to, and to seek help when they so desperately need it.