

Church of Ireland Youth Department Report
Seconder: Ms Hilda Connolly
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Archbishop/Bishop and members of Synod, it is my pleasure to second the report of the Church of Ireland Youth Department.

Last year at Synod, the Church of Ireland Youth Department spoke about the impending start of their new Youth Ministry Development Officer for the Southern Region, Luke Hawkins.

Luke has hit the ground running; so much so, his first trip (or his initiation!) was to Cork to speak at a youth residential weekend in September. And thankfully, we didn't turn him off; nearly a year on and he is zipping around the country doing trojan work and he is still working away with CIYD.

I would like to take this opportunity, on behalf of all the Diocesan Youth Officers, to welcome Luke "to the family" and to thank all the staff at CIYD – Simon, Luke and Barbara, for all their hard work, support and patience throughout the year.

The resources and tools that they make available are of enormous help to us, the youth groups and youth leaders in our areas.

Starting with Missional Generation – the company that works in partnership with the Church of Ireland Youth Department. They have designed programmes which allows young people to explore the Bible and their faith in a digital interactive way

The Prayer Journal was produced for the Day of Prayer for Youth Ministry but we also found to be an ideal resource to give to our Confirmation Candidates.

I am looking forward to the new resource, *Holy Habits*, which is due out later this year.

In the Book of Reports, you can see from the diocesan reports on page 222 to page 228, that Simon and Luke are always at our beck and call! We would be lost without them. Not just in a professional way but also pastorally.

I have to mention the amazing opportunities the Church of Ireland Youth Department offers through funding and planned events.

The Young Leaders Fund is a financial help to young people who want to study further in youth leadership or ministry.

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But the Next Steps is a bursary fund supported by the Priorities Fund to aid and support young people to undertake third level qualifications and development within the wider youth ministry sector.

So for our young people the “world is their oyster” with the incredible support and encouragement that CIYD offers them.

It is not just the young people here that CIYD seek to look after.

The Pancakes and Prayer initiative is collaborating with Bishops’ Appeal and the Fields of Life charity to engage young people and parishes to fundraise for schools in South Sudan.

CIYD have to be recognised for their ongoing training and care for the Diocesan Youth Officers and youth leaders.

The Connect Days are always planned out with relevant speakers on particular topics.

The MindMatters trainings on youth mental health have been incredibly informative and useful in our own work with young people.

The Tearfund trainings on global justice are eye-opening

And not to mention the retreats that CIYD organise to ground us and keep us sane and refreshed in our youth ministry.

And on that note, we would like to take this opportunity to thank our President, Bishop Pat Storey.

Our Chairperson, Mrs Brigid Barrett, and Treasurer, Ed Hardy, who are volunteers in their role and it has to be noted the amount of work that they do behind the scenes.

Thank you also to all the members of our Executive Committee and Central Board and again the staff of the Church of Ireland Youth Department, Simon, Luke and Barbara.

And not forgetting the youth leaders and Diocesan Youth Officers for their consistent work and commitment to the young people of Ireland.

Your Grace, I am pleased to second the report of the Church of Ireland Youth Department.