

SUMMER 2026

EVERY CHILD

CEF of Ireland National Newsletter

I MADE
A REALLY
IMPORTANT
DECISION p.8



Preparing for
the future p.11





CEF
CHILD EVANGELISM
FELLOWSHIP®

Since 1937

Reaching children worldwide®

CEF of Ireland is part of the worldwide CEF family, and we have a passion to teach the Bible to children and young people in an engaging and relevant way, through our direct ministries, training, church partnerships and resources. We want children to enjoy our ministries, but more importantly, we want to teach them deep truths in a way they can understand. Our vision is that every child, in every county, would hear the gospel, and that they would be encouraged and enabled to be in God's Word every day.

National Office & Resources Shop

199 Templemore Avenue
Belfast
BT5 4FR

www.cefireland.com
hello@cefireland.com
028 9073 2263

CEF Resources Shop

Biblical children's and youth ministry resources you can trust.

www.cefresources.com
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Welcome!

Our weather here in Ireland is always a conversation starter. We have had a wet autumn, winter and spring, but hopefully that means we will have a dry summer! Summer ministries are certainly easier when you are not having to wonder if it will rain before the club has finished! Please pray that our workers will have enough volunteers to ensure that all the planned summer outreaches are able to take place. Would you be free to help one of our CEF workers this summer?

We greatly appreciate the time that you spend in prayer for the work of CEF. Continue to pray that children and young people will hear and respond to God's voice. Pray that young Christians will be strengthened in their faith, and that those who are without the Saviour will hand their lives over to Him. We also truly appreciate your financial support. Please pray that all the needed finance will come in for the repair of the subsidence issue at Seaview Camp and Conference Centre. We serve a faithful God, and we know that we can depend on Him to meet our needs.



David & Heather Cowan
National Directors



Facebook, Instagram, X:

@CEFIreland

Cover Image:

North East Down Juniors

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Our financial policy is to “ask God and tell His people”. As we seek the Lord’s provision and share our needs with you, please find the relevant details below if you’d like to support us financially:

- Online:** www.cefireland.com/give
- Standing Order:** To set up regular giving, forms are available at www.cefireland.com/give or by contacting our Finance Office (028 9073 0921 or finance@cefireland.com)
- Bank Transfer**
(Northern Ireland & Republic of Ireland) To give via bank transfer, please contact our Finance Office (028 9073 0921 or finance@cefireland.com)
- Phone:** You can give a gift by card by calling our National Office on 028 9073 2263
- Post:** Gifts can be sent to our National Office along with designation instructions (if applicable). Cheques payable to ‘Child Evangelism Fellowship’. Gift Aid declaration forms available at www.cefireland.com/giftaid or by contacting our Finance Office (028 9073 0921 or finance@cefireland.com)

SEAVIEW UPDATE

Many of you will be aware of the ongoing difficulties around the land subsidence at the bottom of the Seaview sports pitch. Just over the boundary wall, a significant amount of land has given way down towards the harbour area. Although Seaview is in no present danger, there is a need to permanently fix the issue so that no further slippage occurs.

Over the past two years, conversations with the adjacent landowner and experts in subsidence and land retention have been ongoing. The project has some unique complications that have made it difficult to identify a solution.

After many tests, reports and tireless work by many dedicated people behind the scenes, two main buildable solutions were identified. The best solution has now been agreed and is, thankfully, also the significantly more affordable

option. However, the outlay is still substantial—around £320,000.

Work is due to commence imminently and is planned to be finished early in the summer.

We are incredibly thankful for those who have been praying specifically about this issue, and we've been seeing answers to those prayers in many ways. We are humbled that over £150,000 has already been given towards this need, before the diggers have even moved in!

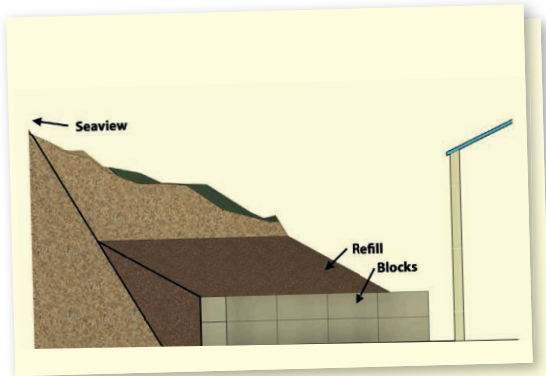
We're conscious that this is a lot of money to spend on an "unseen" project, but the bricks and mortar of Seaview enable over 2,000 children, young people and adults to hear the gospel and grow in their faith each year. We trust that this project will enable that to continue for many generations!

WE WOULD APPRECIATE PRAYER:



Scan the QR code to watch Colin give a tour of the site

- For safety as the team works on site over the next few months.
- For efficiency and the smooth running of the project.
- That no further issues would arise, and that this would bring the problem to a permanent conclusion.
- For Rosemary and Kim, that they would know much strength as they continue to run the centre during the building works.
- That the Lord would provide the remaining funds required to complete the project.



To find out more and to give towards the project please visit:
www.cofireland.com/seaviewproject
or scan below



BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS

Paul & Cheryl McIntyre, Local Workers (Mid Antrim)

We have been in the Mid Antrim area for over two years now, and one of the things we have tried to do in that time is to build relationships with the local churches. We want churches to know that we are happy to work alongside them in reaching and teaching children effectively with God's Word, and we want them to be aware of the resources that are available through CEF to help in children's and youth ministry. This has led to many visits with pastors who have been very encouraging to us in the work, and it has opened up opportunities for training and promotional meetings in these churches. Through these opportunities, we have been able to tell of what God is doing in the area, which has led to many encouragements and growth within the work.

Last summer, we were able to do 5-Day Clubs with some of the local churches. One church reached out to us who had never done a club like this before! We were able to do training with them beforehand, and then we did the club on the church grounds. The church was so encouraged to see nearly 60 children

coming along—children who had never been to the church before.



We were also very encouraged to meet with one church in Cullybackey that wanted to start a weekly children's club. They invited Paul along to speak to the church leadership on the importance of reaching and teaching children with the gospel. This was something they discussed further, and it is exciting to share that they now have a weekly meeting for children, and that they use the CEF Good News Club material.

We pray that relationships with local churches in the area will continue to grow, that they will see that CEF is an organisation which is there to help them, and that we are happy to work alongside them to reach the boys and girls in their area.



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY LEADERSHIP COURSE



A unique 12 week residential training course that will equip you for a gospel-centred ministry among children. With experienced teachers and helpful practical assessments, this course is ideal for those already involved in volunteer children's ministry, as well as those considering full-time ministry.

WHERE

Seaview Camp and Conference Centre, Kilkeel

WHEN

Full course: **20 September - 12 December**

or module one: **20 September - 31 October**

COST

(includes accommodation, food and course materials)

Full course: £1,700/€2,000

Module one: £850/€1,000



www.cefireland.com/cmlc

Closing date for applications is: 14 August 2026



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“I MADE A REALLY IMPORTANT DECISION”

Louise Davidson, Local Worker (North East Down)

It was at the end of Good News Club one evening. I was busy distributing the prizes at the end of the club when a young girl, aged seven, came up to me and said, “I have made a really important decision.” She went on to tell me that she had trusted the Lord. When I had a chat with her, asking a little bit more about this, she said,

“I woke up in the night knowing that I have sin and knowing that I need to be saved from my sin. I thought, ‘Is this really God talking to me?’ and then I asked Him to save me.”

She was very excited to share this news with us. I know the girl’s

teacher, who is also a Christian. The girl had written about her very important decision in her weekend news at school the previous week.

So often in ministry, we faithfully plant the seed, but we often don’t see right at that moment what the Lord is doing. What an encouragement it is to see children put their trust in the Lord, and even more so when they are excited about it and have a desire to tell everyone!

For “whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved” (Romans 10:13).

MORE THAN LOOSE CHANGE

We're so thankful for those who give by cheque, bank transfer, standing order, and through online giving. **Did you know the following?**

It costs around **£3 million** to run the mission each year.

The average gift amount is **£60**.

We process around **1,200** gifts by bank transfer every month.

We have **over 1,000** monthly supporters.

We process around **80** gifts by cheque every month.

Your giving supports **over 180** workers, areas, projects and countries.



But there's another way to give! In fact, it's one of the longest-standing ways to support the work of CEF. If you're in the house of someone who supports the mission, and you look closely, you might see it—sitting on a shelf, or on the kitchen worktop, or on a windowsill. They used to be red (or blue!) but now come in five different colours.

It's our globes, of course! These little plastic money boxes have been used by the Lord to support local workers, missionaries and projects for decades, and we're so thankful to those of you who have globes at home.

We have over **700 globes** in homes across the country that are collected

a few times a year, with many others being dropped into the office from time to time. Last year, these globes raised over £46,000!

We hear wonderful stories of children being given globes to help them learn about giving to mission. We know of others who put £1 into their globe every time they order a food delivery to the house. Others empty their pockets of loose change at the end of the day. Whether the globe is filled with pennies or pounds, it's all used to reach boys and girls with the great news of the gospel!

Would you like a globe? Contact your local CEF worker or the National Office, and we'll gladly get one to you!

GOOD NEWS ACROSS ROMANIA— BUT WHY?

Claire Bain, General Manager (CEF Romania)

Have you ever trained someone to take your place? I have done this many times over the years. The key is not just handing over a list of tasks—it's also explaining the "why" behind the work, so the person stepping in truly understands what they are doing and can even do it better.

We find this principle in the Word of God. We are to love Him with all our heart, mind and strength, to seek Him first—and then everything else we do and say flows from that place.

This is what I wanted to convey at a recent planning meeting for Good News Across Romania, a special evangelistic event taking place in County Hunedoara from 18–25 July.



I was able to share the literature, strategy and prayer booklets we have

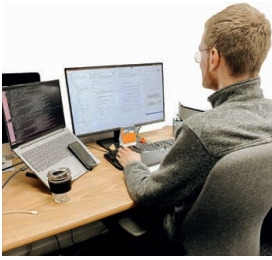
available—but more importantly, I wanted those gathered to understand why we do this.

I was reminded of Peter's words in John 6. Jesus had just fed the 5,000 which was an amazing miracle. Yet when He began teaching about who He truly is, many found it difficult and walked away. He then turned to His disciples and asked, "Do you also want to go away?"

Peter's answer is the reason we have Good News Across Romania. It is the reason we train workers, print literature and pray that children across Hunedoara, Romania and Europe will hear the gospel.

**"... Lord, to whom shall we go?
You have the words of eternal life"
(John 6:68)**

There is no better place to be, and no greater message for the world around us to hear. Please pray with us that children across Romania and Europe will come to know the One who has the words of eternal life.



NATIONAL OFFICE: PREPARING FOR THE FUTURE

Andrew McNabb, Office Manager

One of the questions I'm often asked is, "How many people work in the National Office?" My response is usually, "It depends which day of the week you're asking about!" Some are here all of the time; some work part-time. Sometimes, we're joined by local workers or placement students. Sometimes, we have department leaders who call in for meetings or to get resources. And sometimes, you'll find supporters and customers calling in!

Usually, however, you'll find around 10–15 people regularly serving together here at 199 Templemore Avenue. We have staff who work in administration, logistics, resource sales, safeguarding and finance. The Multimedia Department is also based in the National Office.

However, there has also been a new member of staff that you may have seen appearing in the Spring Week of Prayer booklet or at conferences. Chris Wilkinson joined us just over two years ago, working one day a week as our in-house software developer. Chris spends the rest of his week working for a software development company and, in his spare time, is busy serving in his local church, including at a Good News Club, among other things.

About five years ago, we realised our ageing software tool for processing

supporter gifts was coming to the end of its life, and we needed to prepare for the future. We also realised that giving online was not as straightforward as it could be, and that standing order forms are not always the simplest to set up (with some banks no longer accepting them). So, plans were put in place to develop a new system that would combine our financial and prayer letter databases. Our accounts package in the office is Sage, and so the working name for our new software tool was Basil! We've never been able to think of a better name, so Basil has stuck!

Basil will make the processing of bank statements and other gift income much easier. It will also eventually integrate with our website for easier online giving and self-service management of regular giving and designations. It will also provide much better reporting for workers, especially those who receive Euro gifts (which has been a fairly manual process until now).

As we look to the future, would you pray for the final testing and implementation of Basil? Would you pray that it will be a tool that is used to the glory of God in this little corner of the harvest field?

Any time you're passing the office, come in and say hello!

NORTH DUBLIN

Rosalind Patterson, Local Worker (North Dublin)



Summertime brings many opportunities to reach unreached boys and girls with the gospel.

5-Day Clubs take place in local housing estates, where we go into an area from Monday to Friday, set up on the green and spend an hour with the children. We play games and do activities, but most importantly, we teach the gospel through songs, memory verses and Bible lessons.

We praise God for these opportunities, but there are also challenges when carrying out 5-Day Clubs. As we live in Ireland, the weather tends to be very unpredictable; however, with the introduction of gazebos, we have been able to carry on even when it rains! Worse than the rain is the wind, which can see volunteers chasing flashcards that have not been anchored down! One year, we had to use umbrellas, not for the rain, but to shade the children from the sun.

Animals can pose problems as well, with dogs stealing the balls and frisbees. We have also had a visit from a cat at one of the clubs, which caused a great problem as the leaders didn't like cats. When the cat hid under the blue mat, one of the children had to get it out! Ice cream vans turn up at nearly every club, and the children run off to get ice cream and come back.

Unfortunately, we have not always been welcomed and have faced opposition in the form of verbal abuse and things being thrown at us, but thankfully, most areas welcome us.



There are many encouragements. We have had good conversations with parents as we visit the homes with invitations. Children come running when they see the car and are very keen to recite the memory verses that they learned the year before. Parents and neighbours have brought sweets, drinks and biscuits to the club. In a time of sharing at camp, one of our junior helpers told how she had trusted the Lord as her Saviour after a 5-Day Club in her area.

Many of the children who attend 5-Day Clubs have never heard the good news of the gospel before. Please pray that God will work in their hearts and bring them to a saving faith.

SHORTFALL

AN INVESTMENT WORTH MAKING

Every month, across Europe, CEF workers are out in communities, schools, homes and churches, bringing the gospel to children who may never hear it anywhere else. Behind each of those workers is a network of faithful supporters who make it possible.

One of those supporters is Cristian Olteanu, a businessman from Prahova County in Romania. His story began around 20 years ago, when a businessman from Northern Ireland visited him and explained the blessing of investing in gospel ministry. That conversation changed the way Cristian thought about giving.

“It all began 30 years ago, when I came to faith in God,” Cristian shares. “I had a desire to give to Him, to certain ministries. I gave wherever I saw there was a need.”

But it was at a conference in Sibiu where everything came into focus. Hearing from believers who explained the importance of regular giving, and that workers in ministry depend on consistent, committed support, Cristian made a decision:

“From that point on, I decided to give regularly to missionary work. I came to understand that there are so many people—both young and old, who know almost

nothing about God. I value this children’s ministry very highly.”

Cristian closes with both an encouragement and a challenge to those considering whether to get involved:

“Give, and God will surely accomplish His work. He will provide the necessary resources. The main thing is to make yourself available to God.”

He points to Proverbs 22:6, “Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it,” as the conviction that keeps him giving.

One faithful giver, passing on his burden and passion for souls. Another faithful commitment. Twenty years of partnership. Who will you tell?

The Shortfall project helps support workers across Europe who cannot fully raise their support. To find out more, please visit:

partners.cefeurope.com



DIARY DATES

Easter Conference and Equip26 sessions are now available to watch online!



youtube.com/cefireland

13 & 14 July

National Office closed

13–17 September

Office and Shop closed for our Staff Conference

26 September

Autumn Conference

11–18 October

Autumn Week of Prayer

CEF AUTUMN CONFERENCE 2026

**Firm
Foundations**

26TH SEPTEMBER

7:30PM

LURGAN BAPTIST CHURCH

FAMILY NEWS

We were saddened to hear of the passing of two of our former workers.

Pat Kitchen went to be with the Lord at the end of February, after a long struggle with Parkinson's disease. Pat and his wife, Muriel, served as CEF workers in the Armagh area, as the Belfast Team leaders and Pat was also the prayer co-ordinator for the Wonder Book Project.

Janice Dobbie also went home to be with the Lord in March. Janice and her husband Jim were the CEF workers in the midlands of Ireland for many years. Her passing was peaceful but sudden. Jim and their daughter Grace and son Mark were all with her.

They will truly have heard the Lord say, "Well done good and faithful servant." Please remember both families in these difficult days.

We have been praying much for Jennifer McNeill and are pleased to say that she had a good report from a recent visit to her oncologist. Praise God for this and please continue to remember Jennifer as she undergoes further treatment in the next months.

We also extend our deepest sympathies to Jean Porte on the recent passing of her younger brother. Jean has been a long-time member of the Board of Trustees, the Finance Committee and the South East Antrim Committee. We know that she would appreciate your prayerful support at this time.



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