

# DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2022

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**Centre for  
Christianity  
in Society**

[www.christianityinsociety.org](http://www.christianityinsociety.org)  
[contact@christianityinsociety.org](mailto:contact@christianityinsociety.org)





## Our mission

The Centre for Christianity in Society exists to connect Christ with contemporary culture by explaining Christianity truthfully, engaging issues thoughtfully and equipping Christians thoroughly for the glory of God and the good of all people.

## Our values

We affirm the core beliefs of the Christian faith (we subscribe to the [Statement of Faith of the World Evangelical Alliance](#)) and work within four values based on 1 Peter 2 verse 17:

- *Fearing God* - as servants of God, we aim for absolute truthfulness in everything we say and integrity in all we do, integrating insights from quality scientific and sociological research with biblical truth.
- *Honouring the authorities* - we seek proper permission to work in any context into which we are invited and aim to help people in authority in the Church and in the world to fulfil their responsibilities well.
- *Honouring everyone* - since every person is created and loved by God, we aim to relate to everyone, irrespective of their beliefs, with truth (honesty and transparency) and grace (humility and sensitivity).
- *Loving the family of believers* - as diversely gifted people united in God's love, we work collaboratively and inclusively with all individuals, churches or organisations that share our core beliefs and values.

## Our story

The Centre for Christianity in Society was formed as a Company Limited by Guarantee in 2021 (Company Number NI682889) and was registered with the Charity Commission in Northern Ireland in May 2022 (Charity Number NIC108788). Its roots go back several years to a group of friends who previously worked together in the Northern Ireland Christian Apologetics Network and subsequently Sophron Network. Our desire in each of these phases has been to collaborate in the cause of communicating the gospel persuasively in Northern Ireland and equipping others to do the same.

We believe the need for compassionate and clear communication of Christian truth has never been greater than in this moment. We are confident that the Lord has provided gifted communicators of good character and gospel conviction to respond to this need. We want to connect those people with the need.





## Our people

### MANAGEMENT TEAM



Dr Paul B Coulter  
Executive Director

A medic, pastor and theologian, Paul coordinates the ministries of the Centre and oversees their delivery.



Gareth Kimpton  
Operations Manager

A civil servant with a Masters in Christian Studies, Gareth manages the practical aspects of the Centre's work.

### DIRECTORS / TRUSTEES



Dr Keith Gardiner  
Chair of Board



Dr Paul B Coulter  
Executive Director



Michael Shaw  
Vice Chair of Board



Rachel Shields  
Director

### ASSOCIATES / SPEAKERS

Much of the work of the Centre is carried out by Dr Paul Coulter and other Directors, but we are growing a network of people who can speak and write on themes of ethics and apologetics. Our approach is to license these gifted people of proven character to operate in our name within our mission. We want them to be widely publicised and well resourced.

We have worked and continue to work with experienced speakers such as Dr David Glass, Prof John Gillespie, Rev John Kirkpatrick and Stephen Shaw QC.

We have trained two associates, Sarah Coffey and Tim Houston, and are in discussions with other people in their 20s and 30s about becoming associates with us.

*Further details about our people and our story are available on our website:*

[www.christianityinsociety.org/about](http://www.christianityinsociety.org/about)



## Our ministries

### Explaining Christianity truthfully

Presenting the Christian faith clearly to seekers and sceptics through:

- Comment on Christian and mainstream media
- Speaking in evangelistic events for churches
- Producing resources that explain the core truths of the faith



24 studies exploring the Christian faith for use by individuals or groups



Six weeks of lessons, studies and Bible readings for new and growing believers

### Engaging issues thoughtfully

Informed comment on issues impacting society through:

- Podcast episodes
- Videos of presentations and discussions
- Online articles and printed booklets

### Equipping Christians thoroughly

Courses and seminars training Christians in apologetics and ethics, including:

- Graceful Apologetics Foundations and Engaging Issues courses
- Knitted Together, a seminar on abortion
- Straight Paths Course laying foundations in ethics and seminars in specific issues





## Our plans for 2022

### What we do ...

### What we *hope* to do by the end of 2022 ...

#### Explaining Christianity truthfully

Speak at churches and special evangelistic events (often with Q&A) as invited

Proactively contact churches to offer speakers for evangelistic events with a Q&A element or focused on issues and advise them in organising them

Catalyse 'Sceptics Corner' type events (café style talks with Q&A) in neutral venues across NI through local partnerships of churches and individuals

Host evangelistic resources (Understanding Christianity materials and Q&A video series) on our website and YouTube

Promote our online evangelistic resources widely locally and beyond, including translation into other languages, through social media

Adopt the legacy of resources from an established apologetics ministry that is winding down

Contribute to media (radio and newspaper) whenever invited and possible

Promote our availability to media outlets (including television) and train media spokespeople

#### Engaging issues thoughtfully

Write occasional articles for our website

Write more articles, including more authors, and promote them widely through social media

Produce a 'Connecting Christianity' series of printed booklets on key issues facing Christians in this cultural moment (e.g., abortion, gender and sexuality, transhumanism)

Create occasional videos and podcast episodes

Increase the frequency of video and podcast creation and promote them widely through social media

Provide a semi-regular series of short video and written 'Christian perspectives on...' various issues

#### Equipping Christians thoroughly

Run our Graceful Apologetics Foundation Course online through a flipped classroom (videos watched at home and discussed together), training people in apologetics

Promote the Foundation Course more widely to train more people, including a physical venue as well as online, re-shoot videos professionally, and add our follow-up Graceful Apologetics Exploring Issues Course

Contribute to the leadership of the European Foundational Apologetics Network (European Leadership Forum)

Continue to provide this contribution and plan towards inclusion of other CCS people in its future planning

Seminars on ethical issues including abortion, gender and sexuality and assisted dying

Promote the availability of these seminars widely to equip more churches and believers

Delivering a core ethics course (Finding Straight Paths) in churches when invited

Promote the availability of this course and develop a video based online delivery mechanism like Graceful Apologetics



## Our needs

### People

We are seeking additional volunteers to help us with our financial management and with communications. In time, we would like to employ an administrator to help with bookings and publicity of our services. We are also keen to connect with anyone with a heart for our ministry and experience or signs of gifting to provide our services.

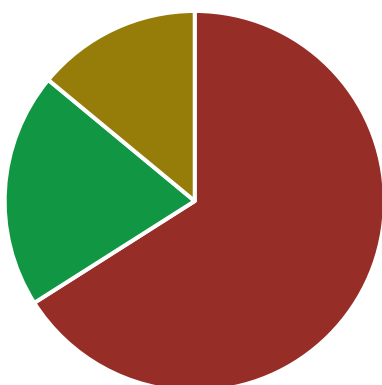
### Prayer

We believe that nothing of eternal significance happens without prayers. We are seeking faithful prayer supporters who will stay informed of what we are doing and will commit to interceding for us and for those we are seeking to communicate with.

### Pounds

#### PROJECTED EXPENDITURE

To achieve our goals for growth in 2022, we require a total of £50,000

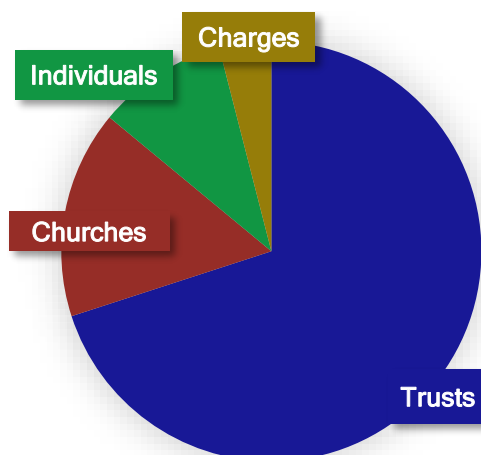


| Need                             | Amount         |
|----------------------------------|----------------|
| <b>Operations</b>                | <b>£33,000</b> |
| Administrator salary and pension | £19,000        |
| Ministry expenses                | £10,000        |
| Operational costs                | £3,000         |
| Memberships of networks          | £1,000         |
| <b>Communications</b>            | <b>£10,000</b> |
| Publicity                        | £5,000         |
| Website redesign                 | £5,000         |
| <b>Resources</b>                 | <b>£7,000</b>  |
| Connecting Christianity booklets | £5,000         |
| Videography and editing          | £2,000         |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                     | <b>£50,000</b> |

#### ANTICIPATED SOURCES OF INCOME

We have already begun to receive donations from individuals and are approaching churches and grant-making trusts in the hope that they might support us.

Our hope is that we will receive 70% (£35,000) from trusts, 16% (£8,000) from churches, 10% (£5,000) from individuals and 4% (£2,000) from charges for courses and printed resources.





## Endorsements

We have every confidence that the subjects we request help with will be handled with biblical accuracy and contemporary relevance.

**Rev John Kirkpatrick, minister, Portrush Presbyterian Church, and moderator elect PCI**

As a church family, we really benefited from the insight from the Centre for Christianity in Society on reaching out with the good news in today's world. A variety of speakers was helpful, and they were very willing to work with us on achieving our purpose.

**Keith McIlwaine, Associate Pastor, Hamilton Road Baptist Church, Bangor**

Paul Coulter's grasp of the issues around the value and beginning of life were extremely insightful and he communicated the issues in a manner that was accessible and helpful for the chaplaincy students.

**Rev Dave Gray, former Presbyterian Chaplain, Queen's University Belfast**

Paul's input each evening was incredibly helpful and stimulating. His insight was informative, his presentation was clear and his ability to address questions was excellent

**Pastor David Dunlop, Windsor Baptist Church, Belfast**

I was particularly pleased that when addressing a live, sensitive and possibly volatile subject Paul kept the good news of Jesus Christ central.

**Davy Ellison, Elder, Antrim Baptist Church, and Director of Studies, Irish Baptist College**

Paul did two sessions with us this autumn (he has done many more in the past). The most recent were on "The Sanctity of Life" & "The Certainty of Death". Both were presented very clearly and very helpfully - especially so against a background of the prevalent issues around abortion and assisted dying. Very useful to all and especially to our young people.

**Robert Hamilton, Pastoral Worker, Scrabo Hall Church, Newtownards**

Dr Paul Coulter has been a great blessing to me and many others through his ministry. His careful application of Biblical truth to significant cultural issues such as abortion and sexuality, has never been more important. Dr Coulter has the ability to communicate in warm, winsome manner, which promotes healthy dialogue and understanding.

**Ollie Neill, Youth and Young Adults Worker, Crescent Church, Belfast**





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# Connecting Christ with Contemporary Culture

