



www.christianityinsociety.org

Development Plan 2022

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. We are growing a network of people across Ireland with the necessary character and gifts to fulfil this mission and seeking to develop a parallel network of prayer and financial supporters.

So far, since its inception in 2021, the Centre has produced strong resources, served numerous churches and trained some people. We have a strong raft of resources and a gifted pool of godly speakers and writers. We have also established as a charitable company and have systems in place to receive donations and enable good governance. We are, however, unknown among many Christians in Northern Ireland and have little reach into the Republic. By the end of 2022, we want to further our mission by developing our ministries, growing our team of associates and volunteers, securing core funding and becoming widely known for the services we offer.

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 series of printed booklets on key issues facing Christians in this cultural moment

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, and add a follow-up Graceful Apologetics Exploring Issues Course
Contribute to the leadership of the European Foundational Apologetics Network (part of 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

What we already have ...

- The grace of God in the gospel and the Spirit of God to empower us and work through us
- A clear mission, gospel commitment and values (see Appendix)
- A trusted track record of serving churches well (see www.christianityinsociety.org/endorsements)
- A Board of four directors and a volunteer Operations Manager (see www.christianityinsociety.org/people)
- A wider group of associates and friends who speak and write for CCS (names available on request)
- Status as a company limited by guarantee (application to Charity Commission underway)
- Carefully prepared policies in key areas including data protection, complaints and cancellations
- Websites/domain names, an email account and social media accounts
- Articles, videos and seminar and course materials of high-quality content

To do what we hope to do, we will need ...

- Dependence on the grace and Spirit of God expressed in prayer from a network of supporters
- Recognition as a charity to ensure good governance and enable Gift Aid (applications underway)
- A paid Operations Manager working two to three days per week to promote CCS and manage bookings
- Volunteers to help with communications and accounting
- Additional email addresses and enhanced website
- Around £50,000 yearly to cover the above needs and enable production of printed booklets

Could you partner with us as ...

- a **prayer supporter**?
- a **volunteer** (especially in communications or accounting, but other suggestions are welcome)?
- an **associate** speaking at apologetics events and/or writing articles and making videos?
- a **donor** contributing towards our financial needs?

To explore any of these forms of partnership, please email us:

contact@christianityinsociety.org

APPENDIX – About the Centre for Christianity in Society

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.

People

The Centre for Christianity in Society is led by a core team of three people – Director Dr Paul Coulter and Deputy Directors Michael Shaw and Rachel Shields. The core team directs its activities on a consensus basis. Around this core is a growing network of volunteers (who help develop CCS), associates (who speak and write for CCS) and friends (who support the work of CCS prayerfully and may, in future, do so financially).

Values

We affirm the core beliefs of the Christian faith 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.

Core Beliefs [Statement of Faith of the World Evangelical Alliance , 2001]

We believe in ...

- The Holy Scriptures as originally given by God, divinely inspired, infallible, entirely trustworthy; and the supreme authority in all matters of faith and conduct...
- One God , eternally existent in three persons, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit...
- Our Lord Jesus Christ , God manifest in the flesh, His virgin birth, His sinless human life, His divine miracles, His vicarious and atoning death, His bodily resurrection, His ascension, His mediatorial work, and His Personal return in power and glory...
- The Salvation of lost and sinful man through the shed blood of the Lord Jesus Christ by faith apart from works, and regeneration by the Holy Spirit...
- The Holy Spirit , by whose indwelling the believer is enabled to live a holy life, to witness and work for the Lord Jesus Christ...
- The Unity of the Spirit of all true believers, the Church, the Body of Christ...
- The Resurrection of both the saved and the lost; they that are saved unto the resurrection of life, they that are lost unto the resurrection of damnation.