



**Survey of Youth Work  
in the Church of Ireland  
for the Church of Ireland Youth Department**

**2024**

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# 1 Introduction

In late 2023, as youth work activities began to recover from the effects of COVID, the Church of Ireland Youth Department (CIYD) commissioned an audit of youth work activity occurring under the auspices of the Church of Ireland, across the entire island of Ireland.

It was agreed that the purpose of the audit would be threefold:

- To enable CIYD to have an accurate picture (post-COVID) of the number of young people involved in activities in parishes within dioceses.
- To enable CIYD to utilise this information to report to Funders.
- To enable CIYD to utilise this information to provide support to youth work happening in parishes around the country.

The survey was undertaken between March and July 2024 with parishes throughout the Church of Ireland invited to complete an online survey via Google Forms. The purpose of the survey was to ascertain an accurate picture (post-COVID) of the extent and nature of youth work activity (with 11 – 25 year-olds) across the Church of Ireland at both parish and diocesan level.

The survey findings will provide the Church of Ireland Youth Department, and the wider Church, with information and analysis to enable new investment and provision of support and capacity building to all in the Church of Ireland who work with young people and to enable the Church of Ireland Youth Department to develop and improve the services and support they provide at diocesan and parish level into the future.

The survey findings will also enable the Church of Ireland Youth Department to provide accurate information to Funders on the impact of their work throughout the country.

A total of 312 responses were received. This represents 288 parochial units out of a potential 450 parochial units in the Church of Ireland, resulting in a 64% response rate.

An additional short survey was undertaken in July 2024 with Diocesan Youth Officers/Diocesan Youth Councils to ascertain the level of youth work activities occurring at diocesan level.

The survey shows that there are over 6,053 11-18 year olds involved in parish-based youth activities, the majority of which meet on a weekly basis.

In addition, from the information provided by the Diocesan Youth Councils on their youth activities for the year 2023, it is clear that more than 2,825 young people were involved in over 64 events and activities at diocesan level as well as 4 Diocesan Youth Councils facilitating young people to attend Summer Madness.

This parish-based youth work is facilitated and led by 1,860 adult volunteers, without whom it would not be possible to offer the wide variety of parish-based youth activities. In a percentage of parishes, the parish-based youth activities are supported and run by 42 paid youth workers (mainly on a part time basis).

In addition, 538 adult volunteers support youth work undertaken at diocesan level, this is supported by 7 Diocesan Youth Officers, which are paid positions.

When the figures are extrapolated to represent 100% of parishes, youth work in the Church of Ireland is impacting the lives of 15,347 young people (or 25,539 young people when we include the work of uniformed youth organisations within our parishes).

## 2 Methodology

The Google Form was compiled, subsequently amended and approved by the Executive of the CIYD. The researcher, Olive Good, contacted all Diocesan Secretaries for the email addresses for every parish within their dioceses. Some dioceses provided these, whilst others offered to circulate the email for the researcher. In the case of three dioceses the information was not forthcoming in a timely manner and therefore the researcher compiled a list of email addresses from Diocesan websites and Church of Ireland Directories.

With the assistance of Diocesan Secretaries, emails were sent to every Rector at the beginning of March 2024, explaining the purpose of the survey, providing them with the link to the survey and encouraging them to complete the survey.

Where there was a vacancy in the parish, every effort was made to get information to a relevant person in the parish by email.

In addition to direct emails, the survey was publicised on social media and circulated by the Press Officer, Peter Cheney, to every Diocesan Office for publicity. CIYD also publicised it on their social media channels. Dioceses were very supportive in publicising the survey on their websites and social media channels as well.

Reminder emails were sent to all parishes who had not yet completed the survey at the beginning of May to encourage them to complete the survey.

At the General Synod in Armagh in May 2024, CIYD publicised the survey at their stand and Simon Henry (Youth Officer) spoke about the survey in the CIYD Report to Synod and encouraged parishes to complete it. Peter Cheney (Press Officer) used General Synod as another opportunity to highlight the survey on social media channels.

The researcher made contact with a number of Diocesan Youth Officers at General Synod to elicit their help in encouraging parishes to complete the survey. Following on from this she held online meetings with a number of Diocesan Youth Officers to elicit their assistance with the survey and provided each Diocesan Youth Officer with a list of the parishes who had completed the survey to date.

Additional publicity for the survey was circulated to Diocesan Offices and once again it was highlighted on social media channels in the middle of June by the Press Officer. A final publicity push was undertaken by the Press Officer at the beginning of July.

The response rate for each of the dioceses was monitored and at the beginning of July additional individual emails were sent to clergy in Cork, Cloyne & Ross Dioceses; Cashel, Ossory & Ferns Dioceses; Clogher Dioceses; Kilmore, Elphin & Ardagh Dioceses and Derry & Raphoe Dioceses as all of these dioceses had a less than 50% response rate to the survey at that point. Diocesan Youth Officers also undertook a final push with parishes to encourage them to complete the survey in advance of the 12 July deadline.

With the closure of the parish survey, Diocesan Youth Officers were emailed to thank them for their assistance with the survey to date and to ask for submissions from them and their Diocesan Youth Council in relation to diocesan youth work activities in the period 2023 for inclusion in the report.

### 3 Accuracy and completeness of data

Whilst 312 responses to the parish survey were received, this represented 288 parochial units as some parishes had submitted responses for each church in their parishes, some parishes had submitted more than one survey and in a couple of situations, more than one person submitted a survey for the parish. In all of these situations the information was compared and where necessary amalgamated into one response for a parochial unit.

Therefore, the total number of responses on which the survey findings were used and interpreted is 288. All percentages and other calculations were made against this figure. All questions were not answered on all 288 responses and in these circumstances, any percentages provided relate to the population who responded with information and not to the overarching population of 288.

Whilst respondents were asked for breakdown of attendance figures by age groups, this was not always provided. Where it was not provided, it has been assumed that the figure provided relates only to over 11s. There were also a number of responses which did not include an attendance figure for various activities, in order to include a figure for these activities the researcher has taken an approximate figure of 5 attendees at an activity in a parish with less than 100 families, 10 attendees at an activity in a parish with 100 - 500 families and 20 attendees at an activity in a parish with 500 – 1,000 families.

Where a respondent has given a range of attendance, e.g. 10 – 15, the higher figure has been taken as the attendance as being the maximum number of young people involved in an activity.

## 4 Survey Results

### 4.1 Responses, Size and Designation of Parishes

The link to the agreed questionnaire (see Appendix 1) was circulated to all parishes in March 2024 and responses were received during March – July 2024. 308 responses were received by the deadline of 12 July, with 4 additional responses being received before this report was completed.

There are 450 parochial units within the Church of Ireland, with 312 responses received, the response rate was 69.3%. However, as the survey represented only 288 parochial units, a more accurate response rate would be 64%. It should be noted that at any time during the period of the survey there were approximately 73 vacant parochial units within the Church of Ireland, the response rate for vacant parochial units was significantly lower than for parochial units with incumbents. Of the 288 parishes represented in the survey returns, 249 were parishes with incumbents and 39 were from vacant parishes. The response rate therefore was 66.2% for parishes with incumbents and only 52.7% for parishes with vacancies.

*Table 1: Diocesan breakdown of responses compared with parishes in the dioceses.*

| Dioceses                             | Survey responses | Parishes Represented | No of Parishes | Response rate |
|--------------------------------------|------------------|----------------------|----------------|---------------|
| <b>Armagh</b>                        | 24               | 20                   | 43             | 47.60%        |
| <b>Cashel, Ossory &amp; Ferns</b>    | 22               | 22                   | 32             | 68.75%        |
| <b>Clogher</b>                       | 25               | 20                   | 32             | 62.50%        |
| <b>Connor</b>                        | 42               | 40                   | 74             | 54.00%        |
| <b>Cork, Cloyne &amp; Ross</b>       | 14               | 13                   | 22             | 59.00%        |
| <b>Derry &amp; Raphoe</b>            | 26               | 23                   | 47             | 48.90%        |
| <b>Down &amp; Dromore</b>            | 74               | 70                   | 80             | 87.50%        |
| <b>Dublin &amp; Glendalough</b>      | 32               | 32                   | 55             | 58.10%        |
| <b>Kilmore, Elphin &amp; Ardagh</b>  | 18               | 18                   | 26             | 69.25%        |
| <b>Meath &amp; Kildare</b>           | 15               | 15                   | 17             | 88.20%        |
| <b>Tuam, Limerick &amp; Killaloe</b> | 20               | 15                   | 23             | 65.20%        |
| <b>Total</b>                         | 312              | 288                  | 450            | 63.70%        |

Table 2: Breakdown of responses by vacant parishes and incumbent parishes

| Dioceses                  | Responses from incumbent parishes | Responses from vacant parishes | Parishes with incumbents | Vacant parishes |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------|
| Armagh                    | 17                                | 3                              | 33                       | 10              |
| Cashel, Ossory & Ferns    | 13                                | 9                              | 18                       | 14              |
| Clogher                   | 16                                | 4                              | 27                       | 5               |
| Connor                    | 38                                | 2                              | 66                       | 8               |
| Cork, Cloyne & Ross       | 13                                | 0                              | 22                       | 1               |
| Derry & Raphoe            | 21                                | 2                              | 41                       | 6               |
| Down & Dromore            | 57                                | 13                             | 64                       | 15              |
| Dublin & Glendalough      | 30                                | 2                              | 49                       | 6               |
| Kilmore, Elphin & Ardagh  | 18                                | 0                              | 23                       | 3               |
| Meath & Kildare           | 13                                | 2                              | 14                       | 3               |
| Tuam, Limerick & Killaloe | 13                                | 2                              | 20                       | 3               |
| <b>Total</b>              | <b>249</b>                        | <b>39</b>                      | <b>376</b>               | <b>74</b>       |

Before responding to questions about youth work and young people, respondents were asked to identify their parish and their diocese, specifying whether they considered themselves Urban, Rural, Suburban or Other. The distribution of parishes by rural/urban/suburban/other designation is represented in the chart below:

Table 3: Designation of parishes

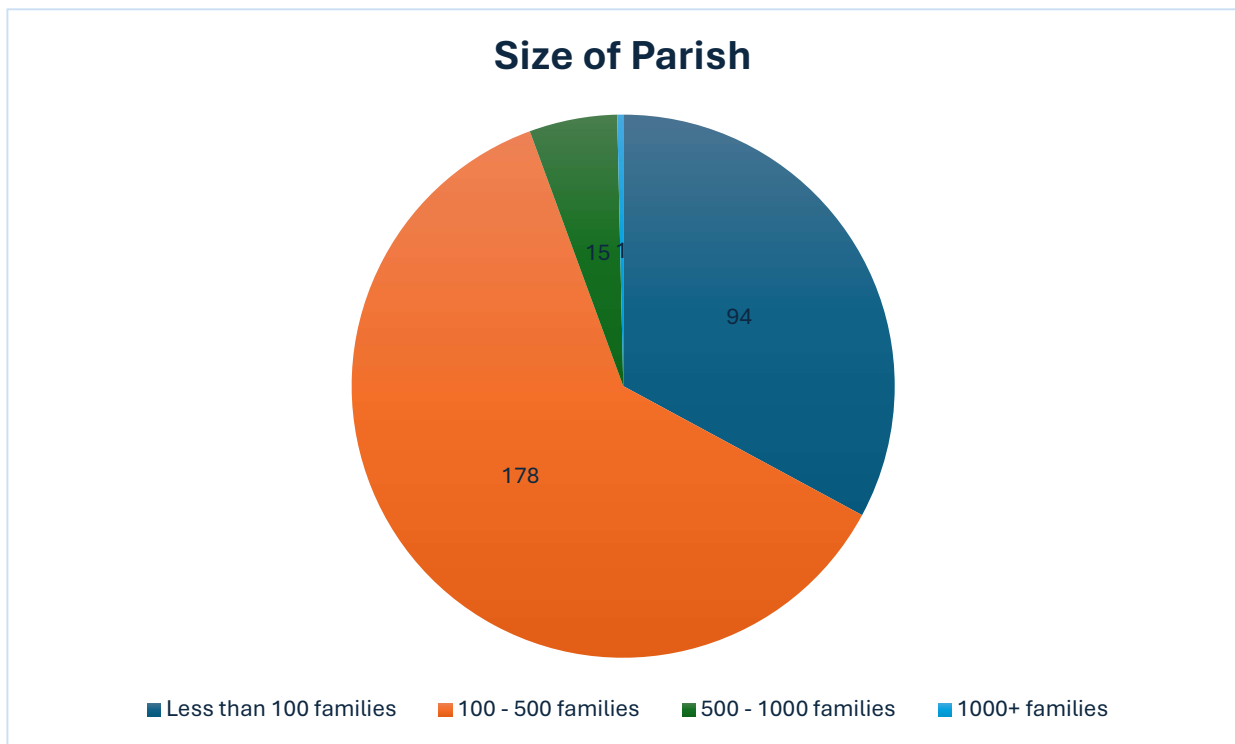
| Dioceses                  | Urban | Rural | Suburban | Other |
|---------------------------|-------|-------|----------|-------|
| Armagh                    | 5     | 15    | 0        | 0     |
| Cashel, Ossory & Ferns    | 2     | 17    | 0        | 3     |
| Clogher                   |       | 19    | 0        | 1     |
| Connor                    | 18    | 13    | 8        | 1     |
| Cork, Cloyne & Ross       | 1     | 8     | 4        | 0     |
| Derry & Raphoe            | 3     | 17    | 0        | 3     |
| Down & Dromore            | 21    | 28    | 19       | 2     |
| Dublin & Glendalough      | 10    | 6     | 15       | 1     |
| Kilmore, Elphin & Ardagh  | 3     | 13    | 1        | 1     |
| Meath & Kildare           | 1     | 6     | 0        | 8     |
| Tuam, Limerick & Killaloe | 4     | 9     | 1        | 1     |
|                           | 68    | 151   | 48       | 21    |



Over half of the parishes (52.6%) self-designate as rural. Clogher Diocese is the only diocese that indicates that they have no urban parishes, whilst Armagh Diocese, Cashel, Ossory & Ferns Dioceses, Clogher Diocese, Derry & Raphoe Dioceses and Meath & Kildare Dioceses indicate that they have no suburban parishes.

Parishes were also asked to identify their size by designating the number of families or family units registered to and/or belonging to the parishes. Of the 288 parishes that responded to the questionnaire, 178 parishes (62%) identified themselves as having between 100 and 500 families or family units. Just under one third (32.7%) identified themselves as having less than 100 families involved. Only 15 (5.2%) parishes identified as having 500 – 1,000 families involved, these parishes were confined to 7 dioceses. Only one parish in Down & Dromore Dioceses identified as having over 1,000 families involved.

Chart 1: Breakdown of parishes by number of families in the parish.



## 4.2 Nature and Scope of Parish-Based Weekly Youth Work Provision

Parishes were asked to indicate if they had any of the following provisions for over 11s:

- Open Youth Club
- Community Outreach/Detached Work
- Youth Fellowship
- Other
- None of the above

121 parishes indicated that they had no parish-based youth work provision for over 11s. Of the other 167 parishes which indicated they had parish-based youth work provision:

- 56 had an Open Youth Club
- 22 undertook Community Outreach/Detached Youth Work
- 85 had a Youth Fellowship
- 59 had some other form of parish-based youth work provision.

Chart 2: Diocesan breakdown of number of Open Youth Clubs in parishes

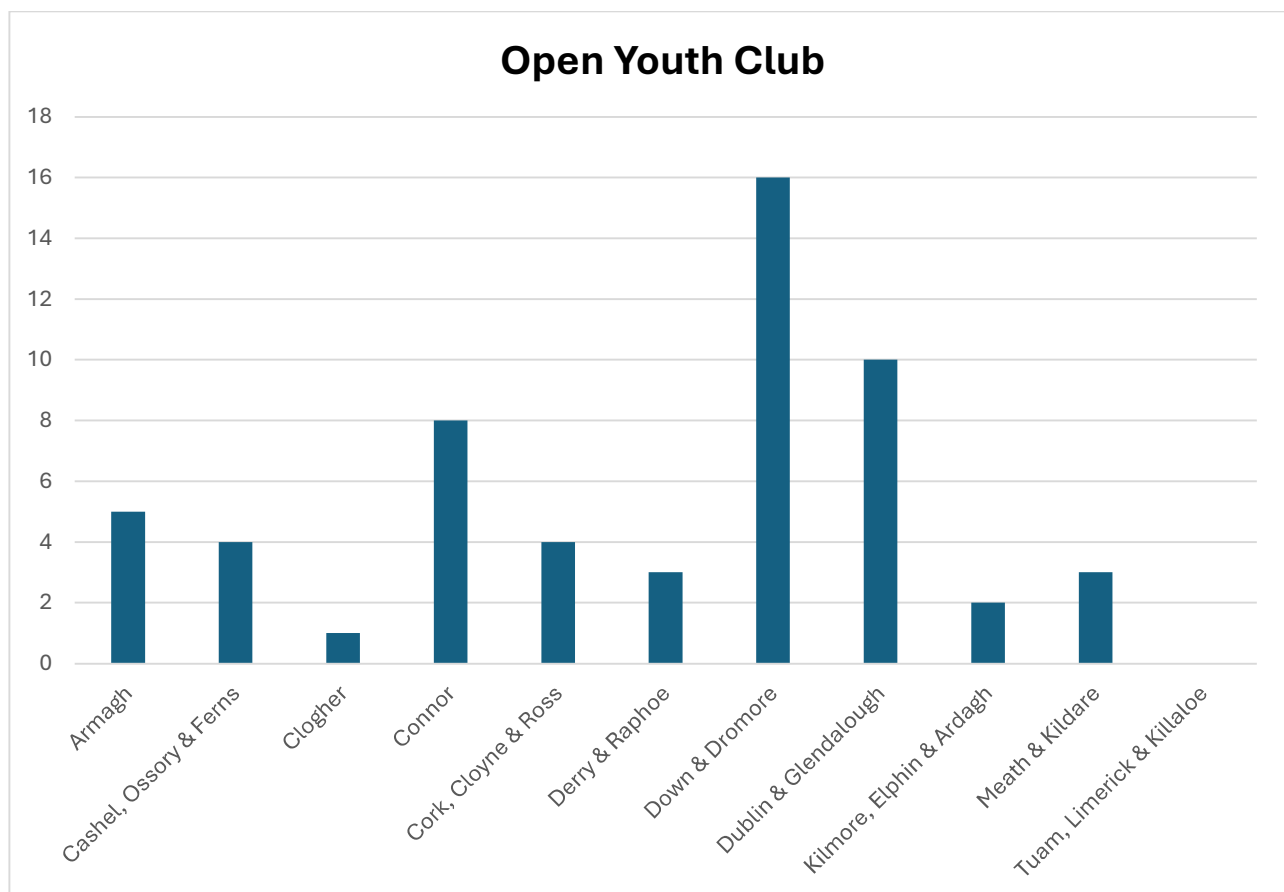


Chart 3: Diocesan breakdown of number of Youth Fellowships in parishes

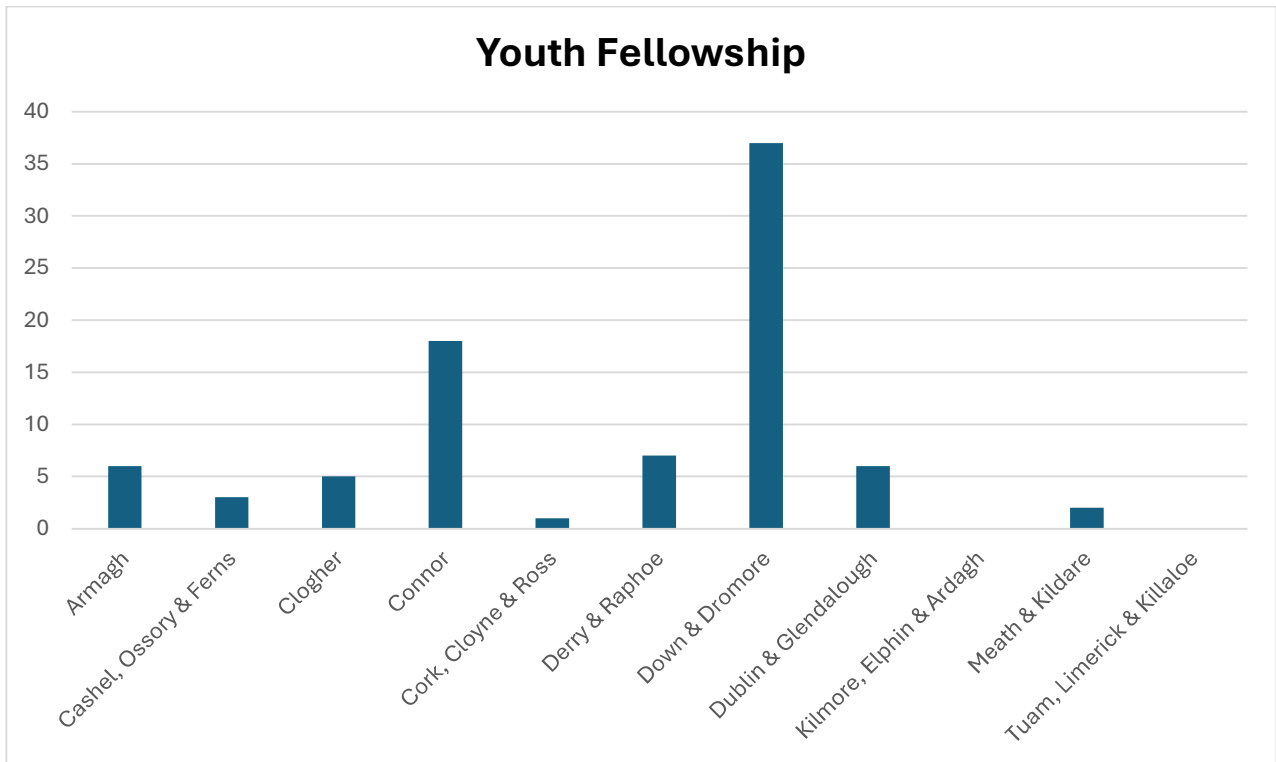


Chart 4: Diocesan breakdown of number of Community Outreach / Detached Youth Work activities in parishes

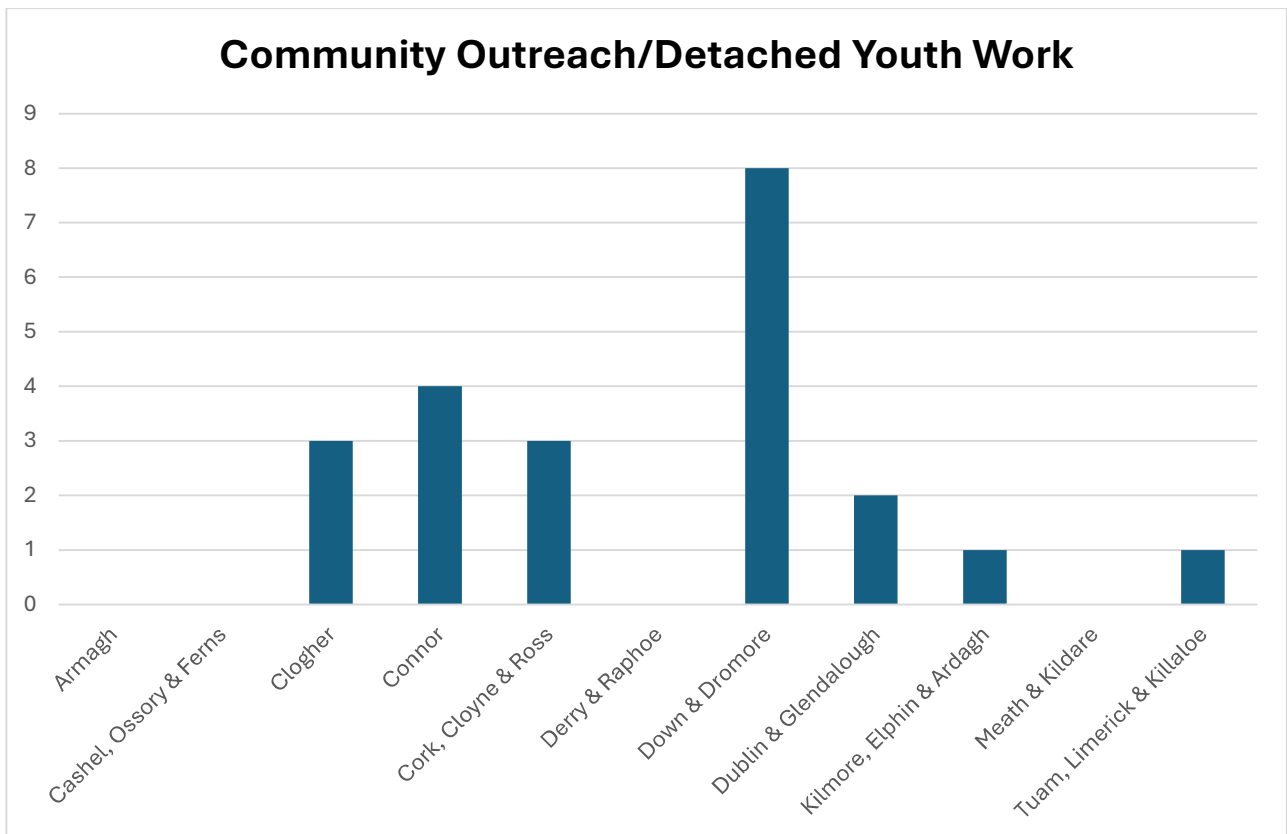
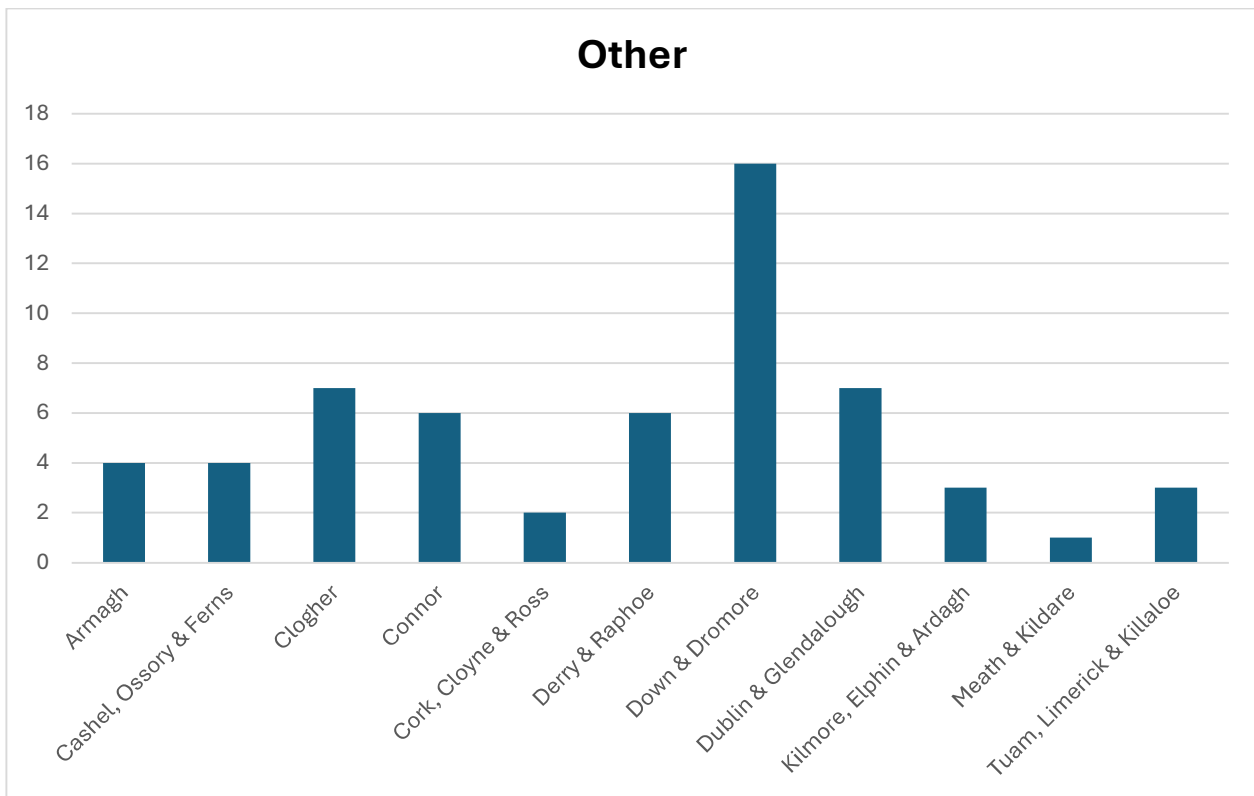


Chart 5: Diocesan breakdown of Other Youth Activities by parish



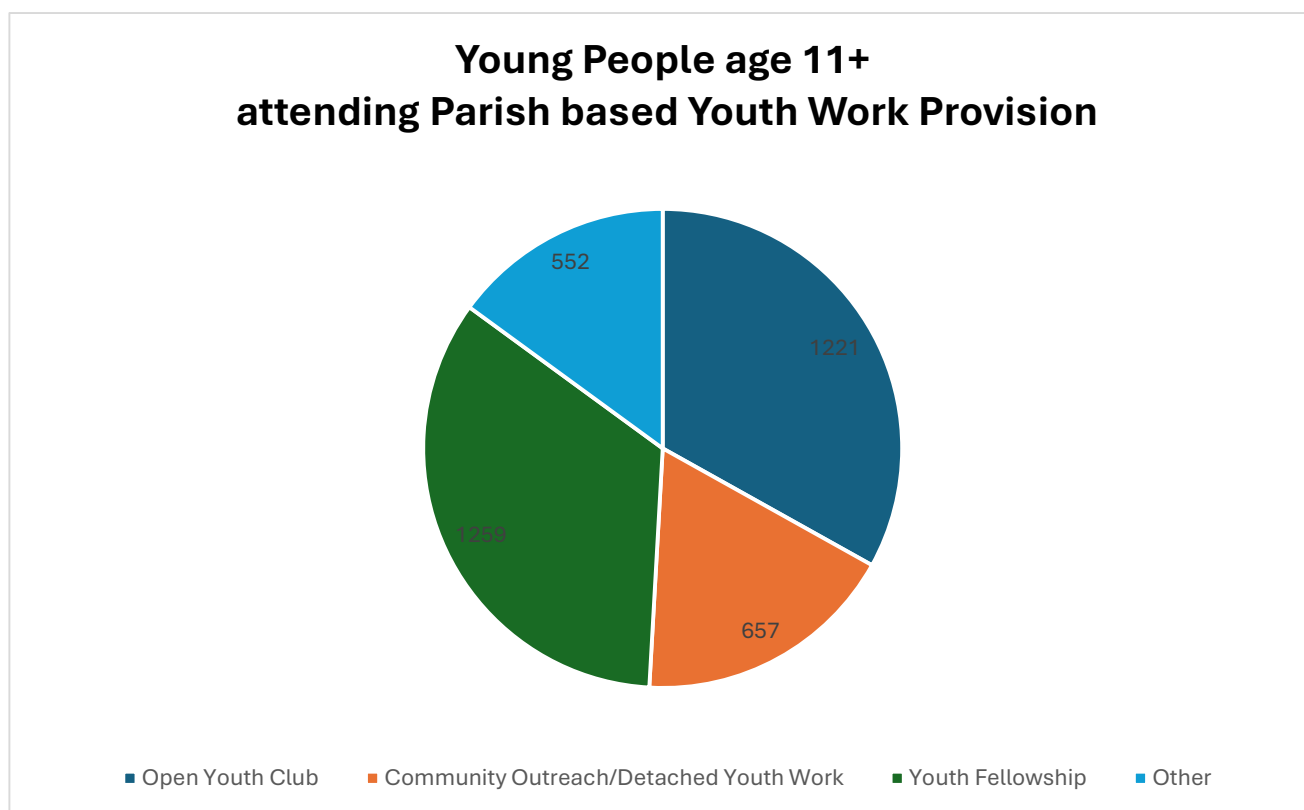
The other forms of parish-based youth work provision consisted of a wide range of activities including:

- Junior Badminton
- Archery Club
- Sunday Schools
- Junior Table Tennis
- Choristers
- Youth Football tournament
- Boys' Club
- Girls' Club
- Small Groups
- Bible Study Groups
- Discipleship Programme
- Art Space Drop In
- Family events
- Youth Café
- Music Group / Praise Band
- Youth or Children's Services
- After school clubs
- Crafternoons
- Acolytes
- Faith Factory
- Mentoring sessions
- After Church/Pre Church Breakfast Clubs
- Ad hoc/occasional events held where a weekly activity can't be supported.

Over half of the parishes (32 of the 59) which indicated they had other parish-based youth work provision, regarded uniform organisations, confirmation classes and schools work as that youth work provision. As these activities were included in separate questions, the figures provided for them under this question were not included in the analysis of this question, however when analysing the questions about uniformed organisations and confirmation classes, it was double-checked to make sure that these statistics were included under that analysis.

In total, there are approximately 1,221 young people aged 11+ involved in Open Youth Clubs, 657 young people aged 11+ involved in Community Outreach/Detached Youth Work, 1,259 involved in Youth Fellowship and 552 involved in Other Youth Work provision. This totals 3,689 young people aged 11+ attending youth work provision.

Chart 6: Breakdown by activity of young people attend parish-based youth work activities



146 parishes of the 288 parishes indicated that they did provide Sunday School/Bible Class or equivalent for young people aged 11+. This involves approximately 1,240 young people aged 11+ on a mainly weekly basis during term time.

Chart 7: Diocesan breakdown of number of parishes providing Sunday School/Bible class or equivalent for young people 11+

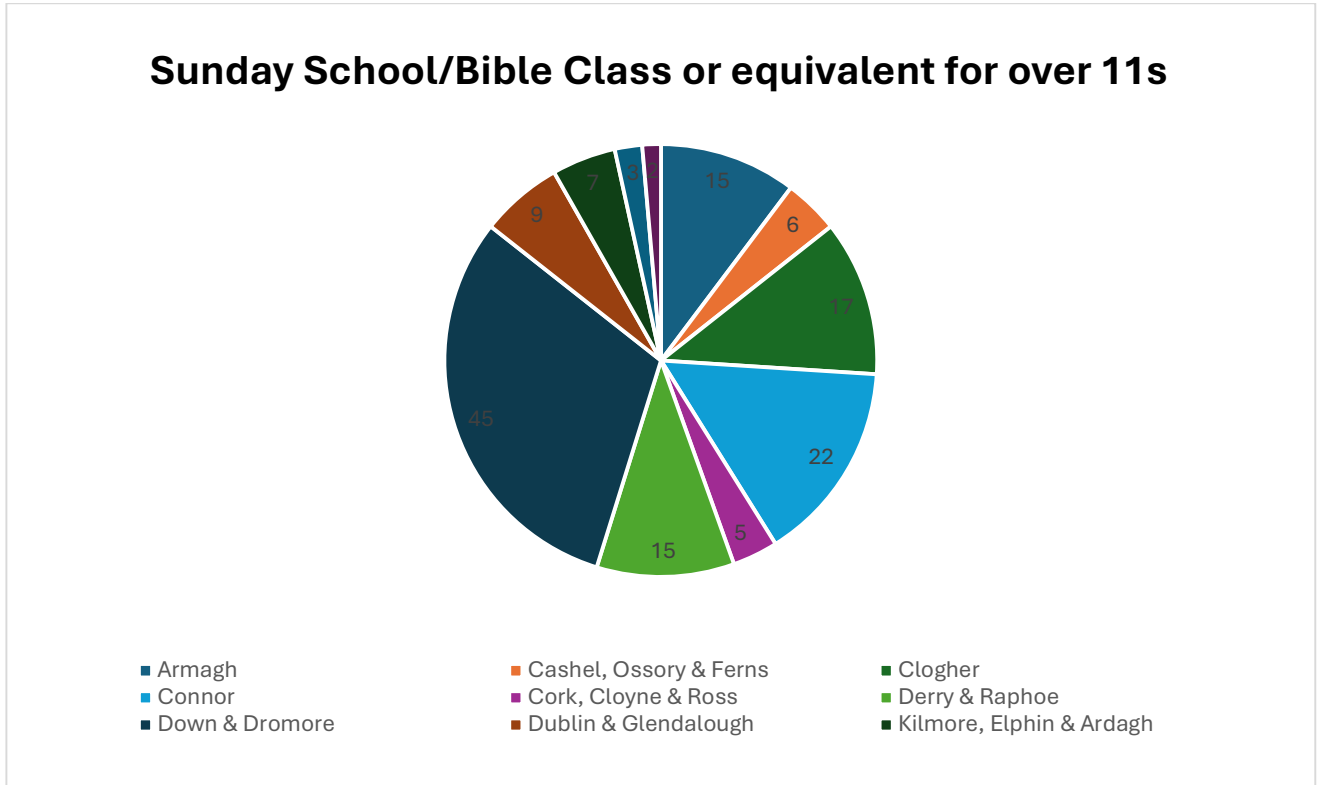
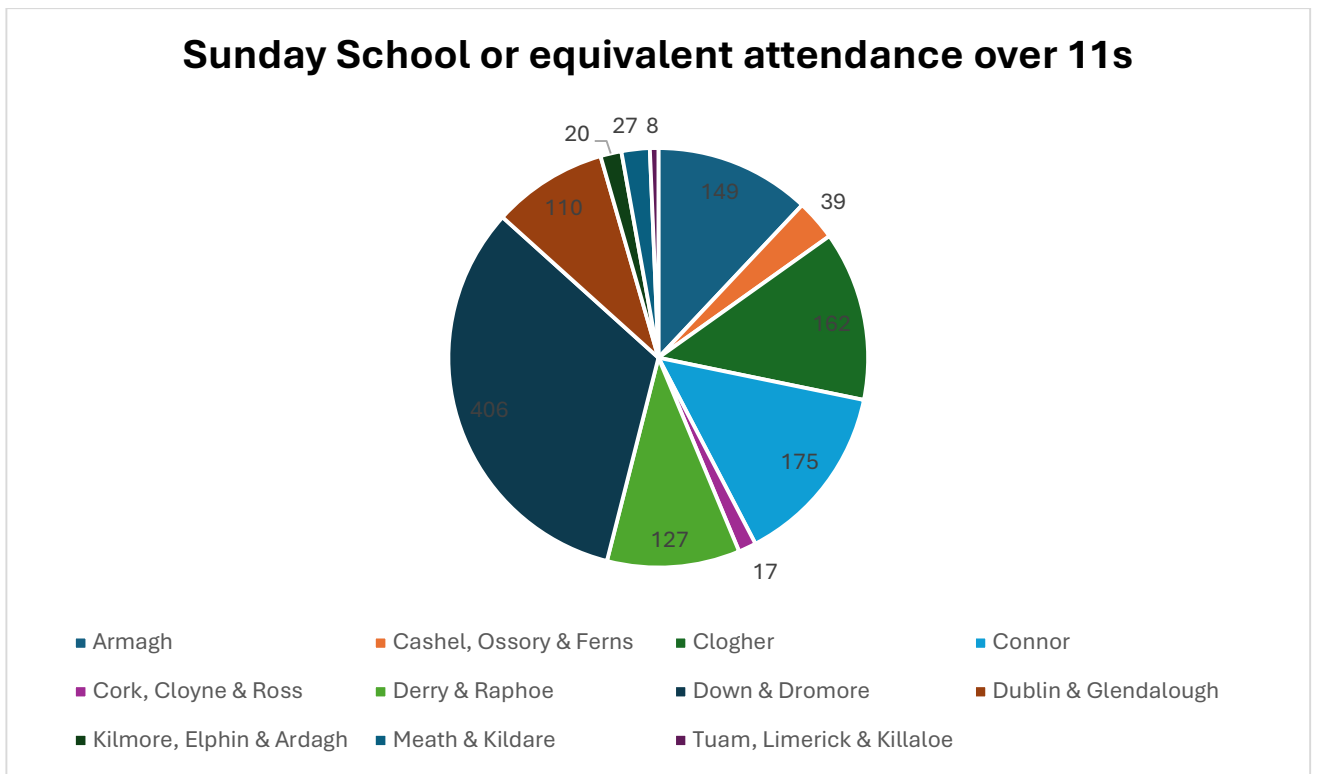
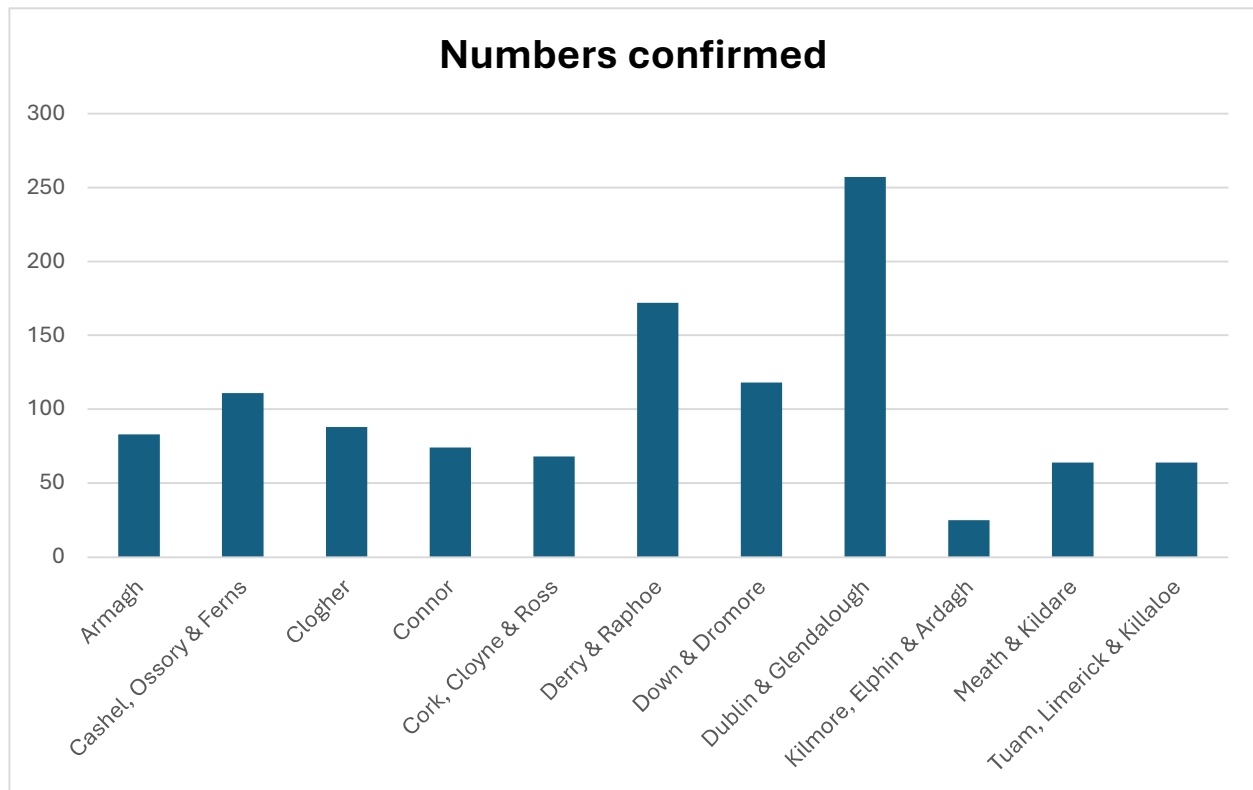


Chart 8: Breakdown by dioceses number of young people 11+ attending Sunday School or equivalent



51 parishes indicated that their Confirmation Classes were separate from Sunday School or Bible Class or equivalent and that 1,124 young people were confirmed in 2023.

Chart 9: Breakdown by diocese number of young people confirmed in 2023.



Over half of the parishes (150) indicated that they had no uniformed organisations operating within their parish. The remaining 138 parishes indicated that they had 200 uniformed organisation units operating within their parishes. Whilst these units are all operated independently of the parish to which they are affiliated to and have a separate leadership and governance structures from their own organisational HQ, it is interesting to note that 20 parishes accounting for 28 uniformed youth organisation units regarded them as part of their parish youth work provision.

The majority of uniformed organisations meet on a weekly basis and work with in excess of 6,523 young people in their parishes. Unfortunately, some parishes included the full number of young people involved in uniformed organisations in their parishes, whilst others only provided figures for those over the age of 11, whilst others provided a breakdown of under 11s and over 11s, so the actual number involved in these activities is probably much higher than 6,523 but those involved over the age of 11 would be less.

Chart 10: Breakdown by dioceses of number of uniformed organisations in parishes

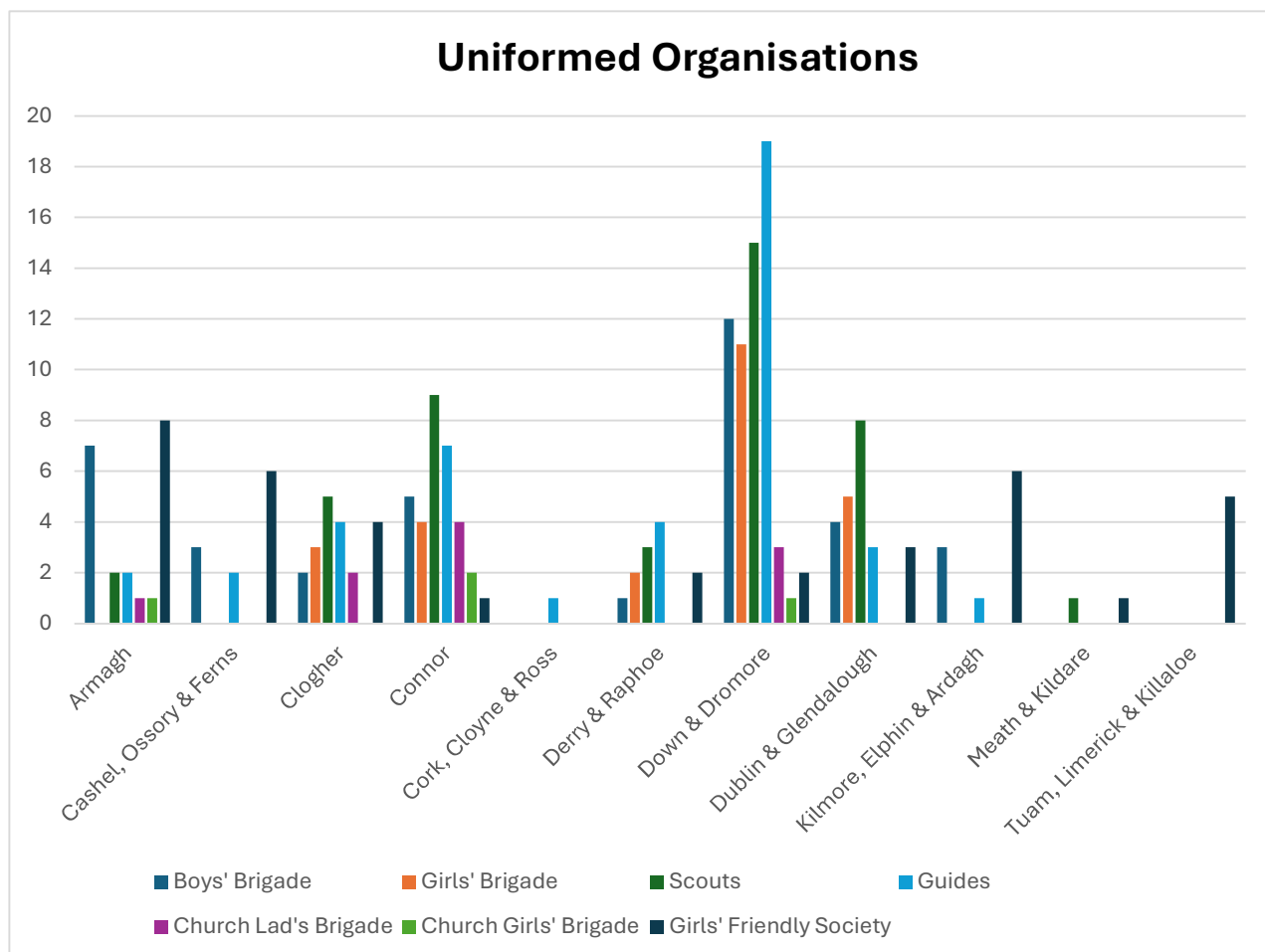
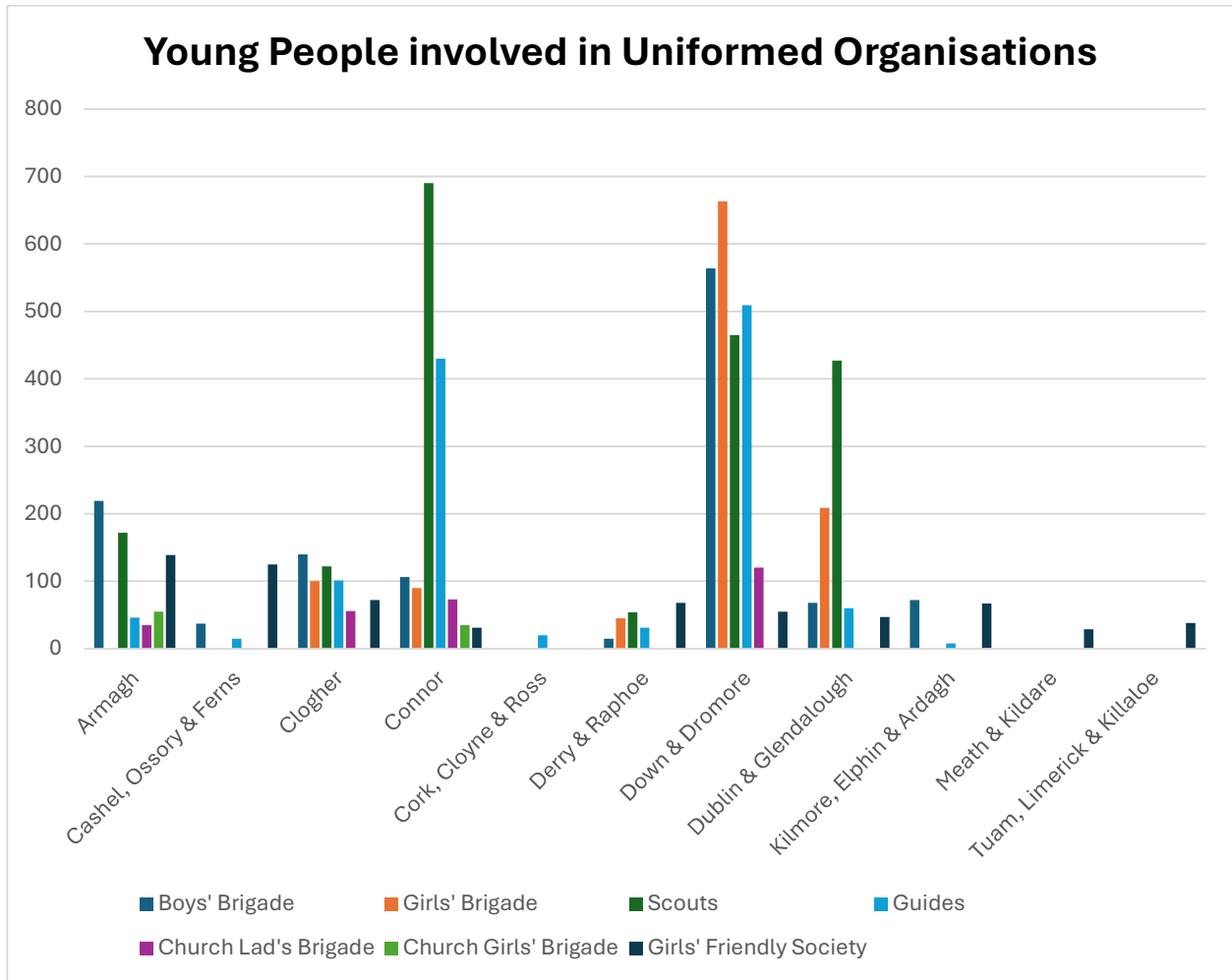




Chart 11: Breakdown by dioceses of number of young people attending uniformed organisations



### 4.3 Summer Schemes / Programmes

54 parishes (18.8%) indicated that they provided a Summer scheme/Summer Programme for the over 11s. These activities varied in length from 1 week, 2 weeks, up to a month or 1-2 months.

Over 2,000 young people were involved in these activities, with 1,387 of those being aged 11+.

Chart 12: Breakdown by dioceses of Summer Scheme / Summer Programme provided by parishes

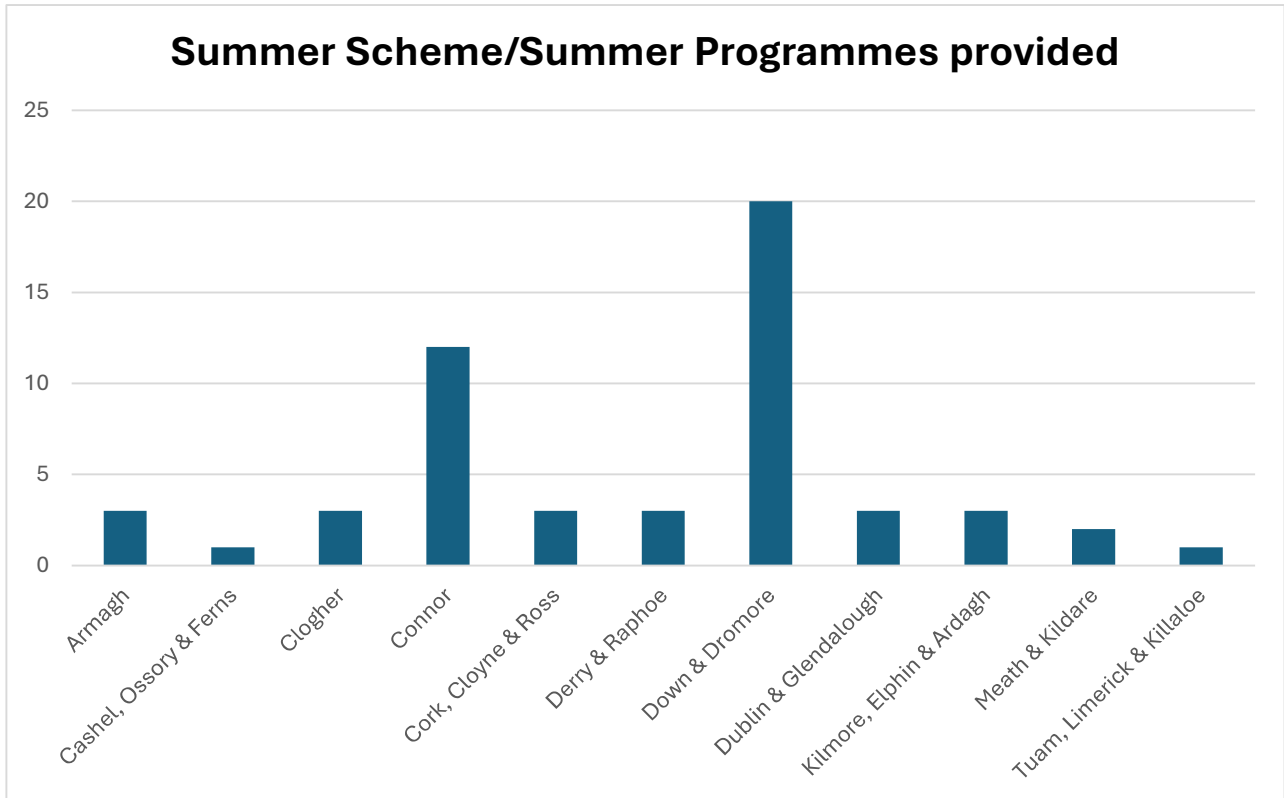


Chart 13: Breakdown of Summer Scheme / Summer Programme by duration of activity

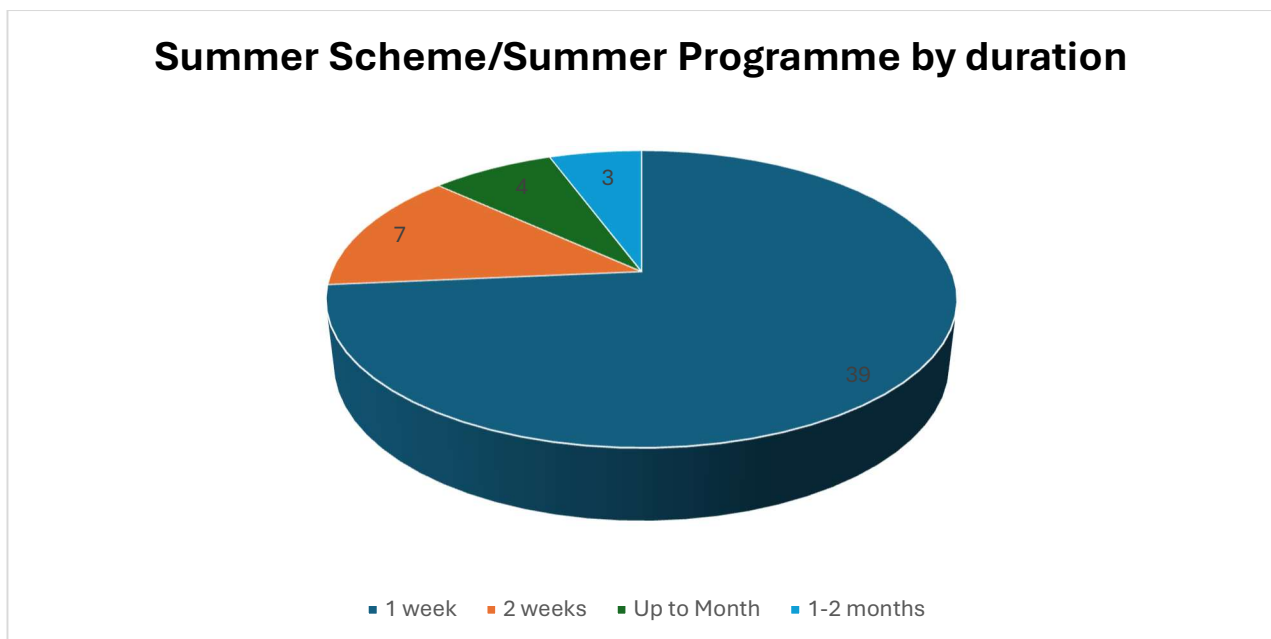
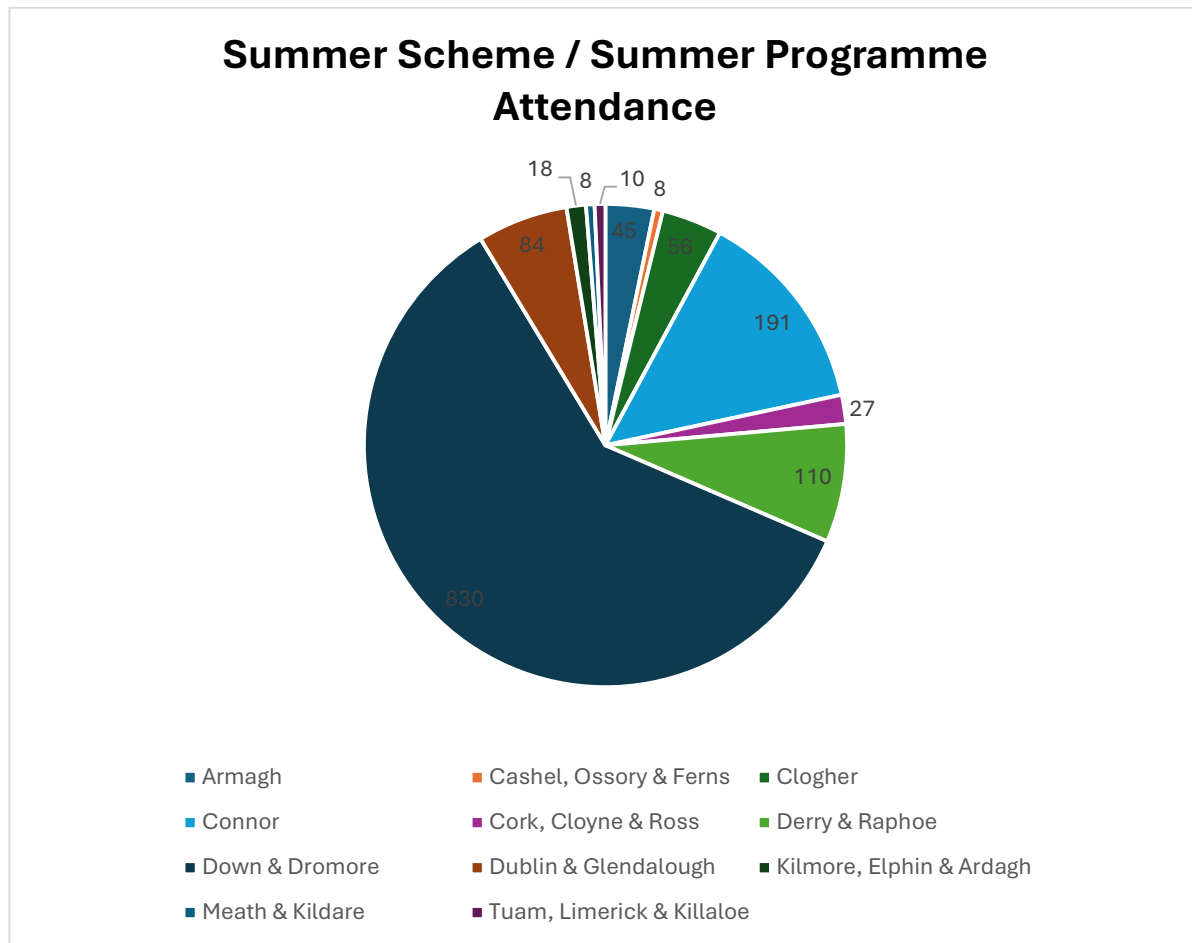


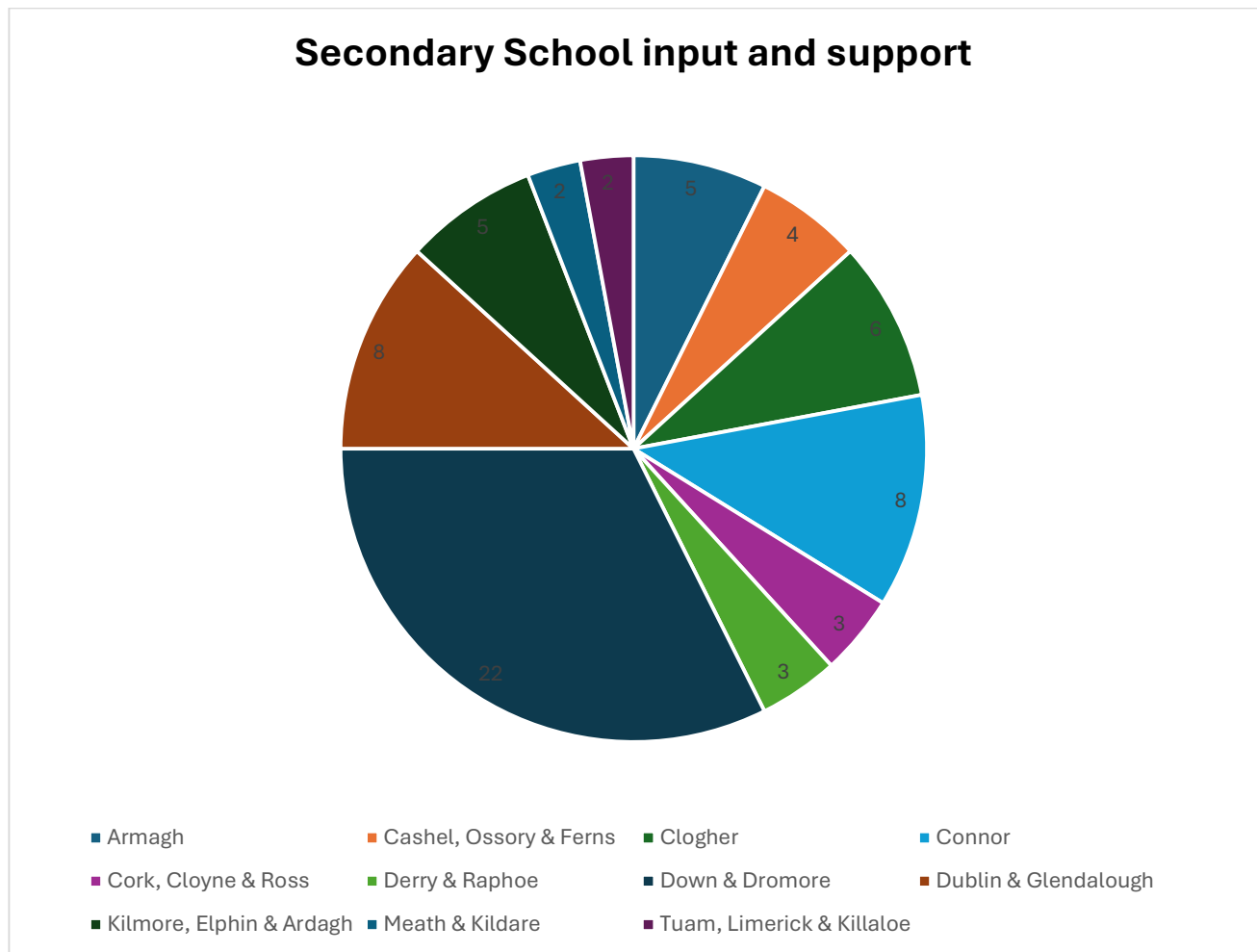
Chart 14: Diocesan breakdown of Summer Scheme / Summer Programme attendance



## 4.4 Youth work input or support to local schools at secondary level

68 parishes (23.6%) indicated that they are providing youth work input or support to local schools at secondary level.

Chart 15: Diocesan breakdown of youth work input or support to local secondary schools provided by parishes



This input or support includes the following activities:

- Taking assemblies
- Support to SU and CU
- Teaching classes
- Bible study group / Youth Alpha / NUA
- Holding or attending special services
- Providing TY Programme
- Pastoral support for staff and students
- Membership of Board of Management or Board of Governors
- Calling into school or attending events at school
- Ecumenical / Prayer Space

- Pioneer
- Schools Interface
- One to one mentoring
- School leavers programme
- Retreat Day
- Chaplaincy
- Boarders attending church
- Confirmation weekend held in secondary school
- Summer Camp held in secondary school

## 4.5 Summer Madness

65 parishes (22.6%) indicated that they facilitated young peoples' attendance at Summer Madness. It should be noted however that whilst parishes may have indicated that they facilitated young peoples' attendance at Summer Madness that did not in fact equate with young people actually attending from those parishes. 9 of the 65 parishes indicated that they had no one attend Summer Madness in 2023 or in 2024.

Chart 16: Breakdown by dioceses of number of parishes facilitating attendance at Summer Madness

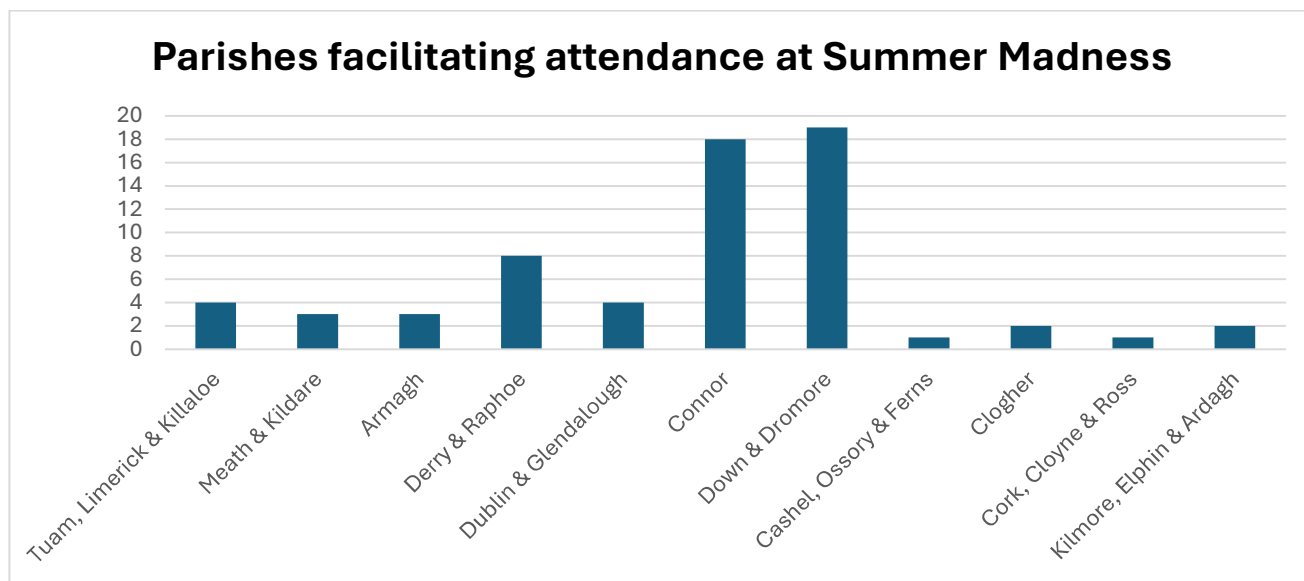
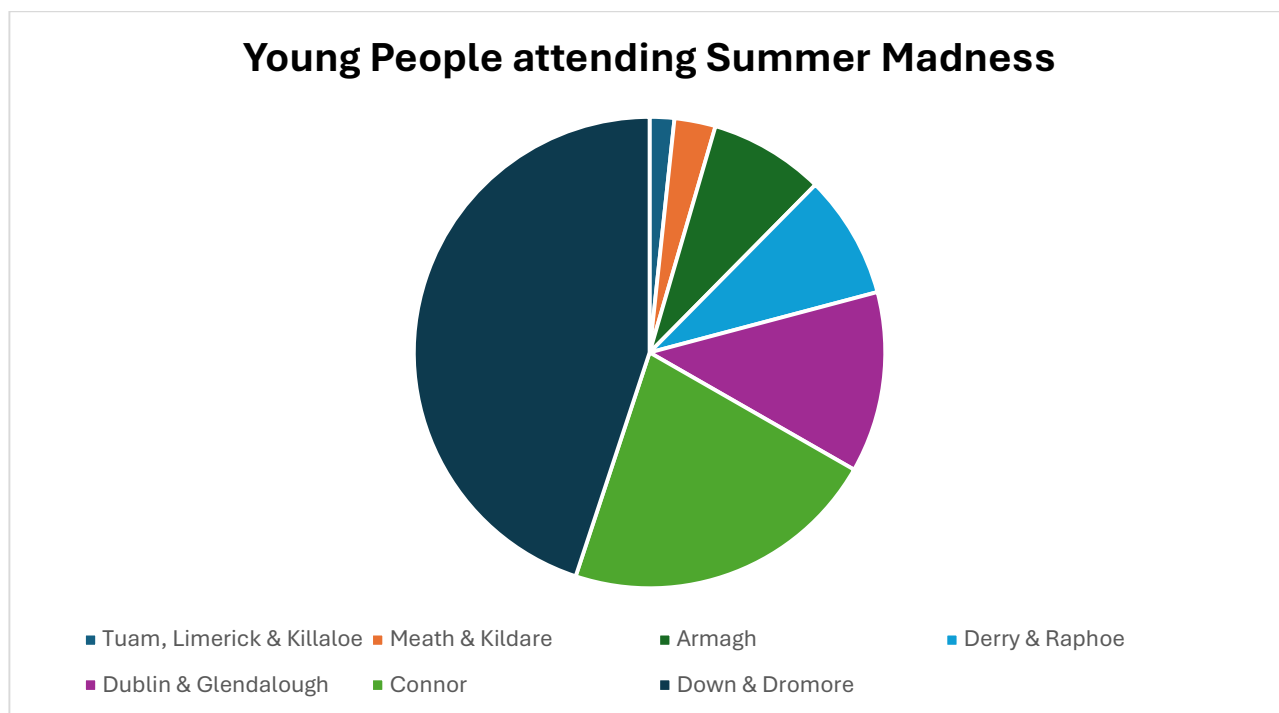


Chart 17: Breakdown by dioceses of number of young people who attended Summer Madness



## 4.6 Terminology

Parishes were asked to indicate what terminology they most frequently use and feel best describes the youth work activity in their parish with 11 year olds+. They were given six choices:

- Youth Work
- Youth Ministry
- Youth Fellowship
- Faith Development
- Personal & Social Development
- Other

The most popular term was Youth Ministry with 99 parishes selecting that term, Youth Work was the second most popular term with 45 parishes making that selection, 36 parishes chose Youth Fellowship and 36 parishes also chose Faith Development. Only 9 parishes chose Personal and Social Development.

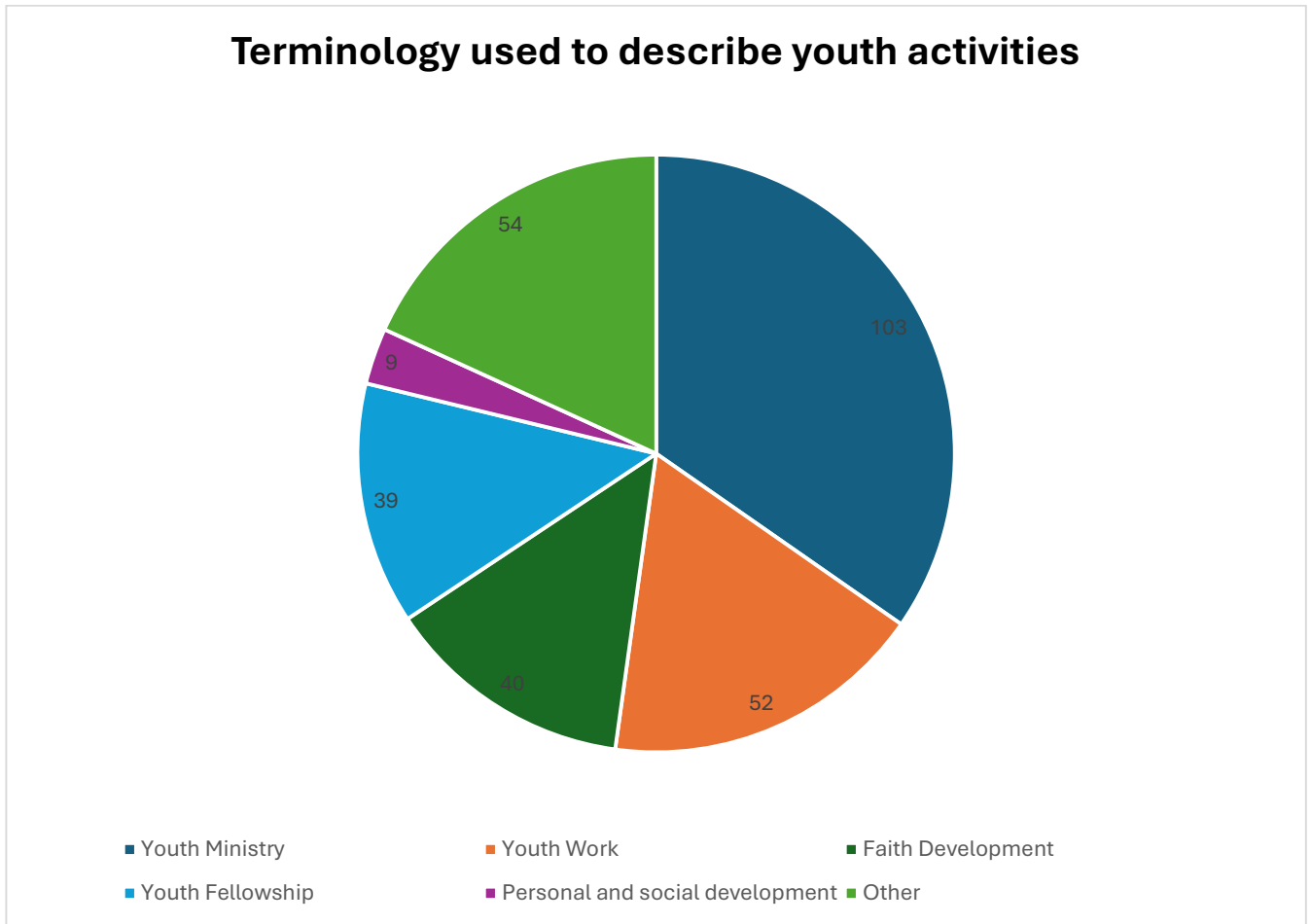
9 parishes selected Other as they felt that no one term was most frequently used or described the youth work activity in their parish and therefore gave their response as a combination of two of the terms given – Youth Fellowship/Youth Work, Youth Ministry/Youth Work, Youth Work/Faith Development, Youth Fellowship & Faith Development, Youth Ministry and Faith Development. To give a true reflection of terminology used by parishes, these 9 parishes have been included under two categories in the chart below.

34 parishes selected Other and gave responses for their terminology as '*nothing, no specific term, minimal, not applicable, no youth, not sufficient youth*'.

The remaining 20 parishes that selected Other, gave one of the following terms:

- Confirmation Class
- Church
- Youth Group
- Encourage and provide funding for Youth Events in the Town/Ecumenical
- Faith Education
- Faith Development and Youth Group
- Faith, personal and social development
- Outreach through Uniformed Organisations
- Family Services
- Choir
- Young People's Bible Study
- Youth Discipleship.

Chart 18: Breakdown of terminology used by parishes to describe youth activities



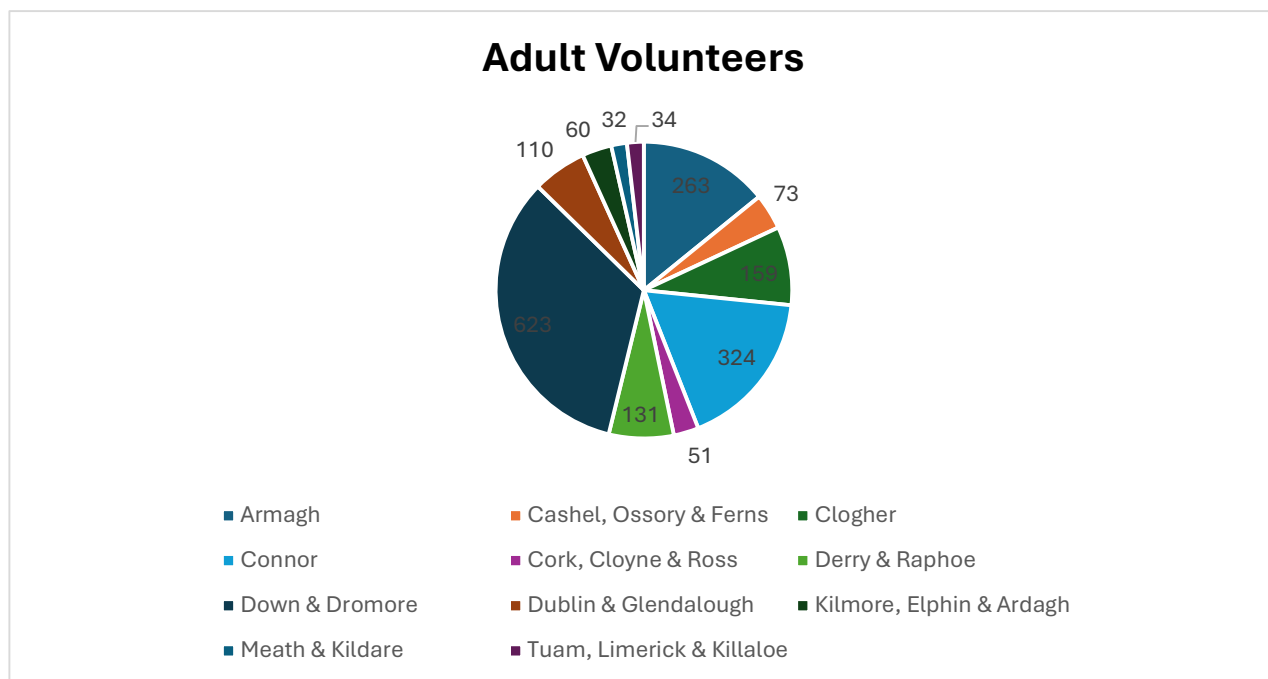


## 4.7 Leadership

### 4.7.1 Volunteers

83 parishes indicated that they had no adult volunteers (over 18s) working in youth provision in their parish. In the other 205 parishes, there were approximately 1,860 adult volunteers working in youth provision in their parish. Unfortunately, all parishes did not provide a gender breakdown of their adult volunteers but of those who did the female volunteers outnumbered the male volunteers by approximately 2:1.

Chart 19: Diocesan breakdown of number of adult volunteers involved in youth activities in parishes



Parishes were asked to indicate what they thought were the main support and training needs of their volunteer youth leaders. The responses were very varied, but a number of main supports and training needs that emerged in the analysis included:

1. Faith related training and resources was highlighted as a need in some parishes in every dioceses throughout the Church of Ireland. This includes:
  - Training in Bible handling and teaching and application of bible teaching / How to teach the Bible in a non-overwhelming way.
  - How to get young people to express their needs and what they understand about the Gospel.
  - How to disciple young people / Discipleship / developing discipleship models.
  - Bible Study.
  - Training in worship sessions and how to involve young people in church services.
  - Prayer ministry training.
  - Bible-based youth ministry / how to include spiritual input into youth group sessions / faith-based activities.

- How to bring faith conversations into relationships naturally / how to lead young people into conversations around the Bible.
- How to share faith in 21<sup>st</sup> century world / How to explain their faith particularly with different age groups / How to share the Christian faith in a relevant way.
- Sunday School teacher training and resources– simple lessons to be able to teach, sold Anglican teaching material.
- Evangelism.
- Theological – making sure what they are saying is from the Bible.
- Religious material resources.
- Mentoring and faith development.

2. Practical training and resource needs to support the youth work taking place in parishes, to assist in getting youth work started in parishes and to upskill the volunteers that are facilitating / leading youth work activities. Training needs identified:

- Programme Planning.
- How to deliver a programme.
- Management / Team Building.
- Leadership skills.
- How to give talks and lead sessions and small group discussions.
- Social Media.
- Mentoring.
- Counselling.
- How to work in an urban deprived area.
- How to engage young people and keep them engaged/How to get young people involved.
- Working with children.
- Child development.
- Activity based training.
- How to get youth work/ministry provision started.
- How to run a youth club.
- How to develop a youth work strategy.
- Formal youth work training.

Parishes indicated there is a need for this training:

- to be made available both online and face to face,
- to be delivered locally (to avoid travel elsewhere),
- to be tailored to various types of parishes e.g. rural locations covering a large geographical area,
- to be made available regularly,
- to be available from diocesan level,
- to be short snippets that don't require large amounts of time commitment

Several parishes acknowledge the training that is currently provided at diocesan level, whilst some stated that current training need to be more accessible.

It was suggested by a number of parishes that there should be a '*standardised structure of learning supports*' or that '*there be a centralised training programme to be consistent throughout the whole church*'.

Resources needed:

- Start up ideas.
- Games and Icebreakers.
- Fresh ideas for programme.
- Music.
- Topics.

Parishes indicated that there is a need for resources to be '*low tech and low prep*', to be able to know what is available and where and what is age appropriate for over 11s.

One useful suggestion for how to access new ideas and resources would be where '*outside youth workers coming in and running a day. It would give the team something new to try while not disrupting the other commitments.*'

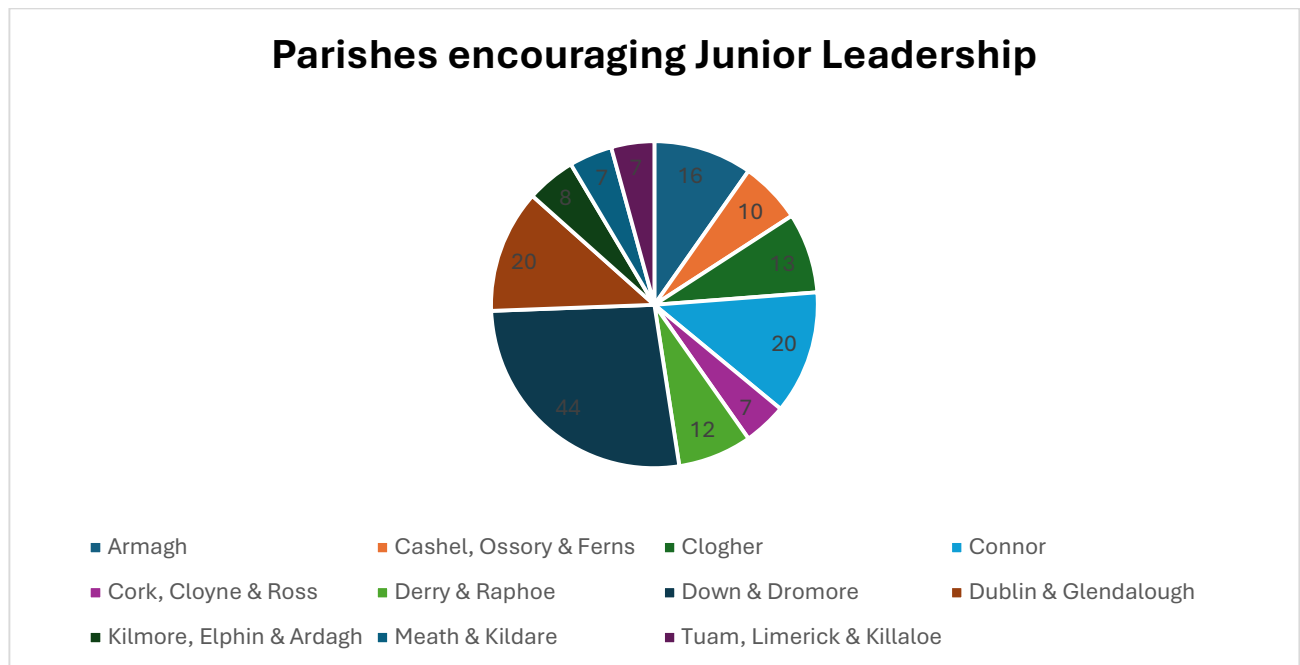
3. Safeguarding Trust – this included training with a number of parishes requesting that it be made available online for easier access and support for the amount of admin this involves. Alongside Safeguarding Trust was the need for basic first aid training, support and training around Health & Safety and GDPR, '*assistance with Access NI*', '*keeping up with legislation*'. These needs were raised by parishes in every diocese except for Meath & Kildare Dioceses.
4. Recruitment of more volunteers and paid youth workers was a common need in parishes in every diocese except for Cashel, Ossory and Ferns Dioceses. Alongside the recruitment of more volunteers and paid youth workers, there is also the need to encourage the volunteers that are in place in parishes around the country, build their confidence, and to develop commitment. A couple of suggestions for how to encourage current volunteers was through '*regular meetings*', there being a '*support person*' for them, '*encouraging them in their own spiritual growth*', getting them to realise '*the difference they can make to others*', '*raising awareness of what youth ministry is and it's vital contribution to the wellbeing of all concerned*', and '*the value of finding and offering time to train as leaders*'.
5. In order to engage with young people, volunteers need to be equipped around how to deal with a large number of issues including:
  - Mental health awareness.
  - Dealing with difficult parents.
  - Understanding the world a teenager lives in and what is relevant to them.
  - Relating to teenagers well.
  - Dealing with children with special needs, additional needs, disabilities, learning differences, neurodivergent or very complex life situations.

- Dealing with difficult behaviours.
  - Engaging with young people with difficult backgrounds or where there is an age gap.
  - Growing in knowledge and understanding of what young people are like themselves so we can meet them where they are at.
  - How to connect with young people in a real and honest way – speak to them about real life issues: friendships, relationships, challenges facing young people e.g. mobile phones use, bullying, anxiety.
6. A small number of parishes identified the main support that their volunteer leaders needed was funding for programmes or training, grants for resources or how to complete funding applications.

## 4.7.2 Junior Leadership

164 parishes indicated that they proactively encourage and facilitate young people (14 - 18 years) to develop into leadership roles in their parish.

Chart 20: Diocesan breakdown of parishes who encourage junior leadership

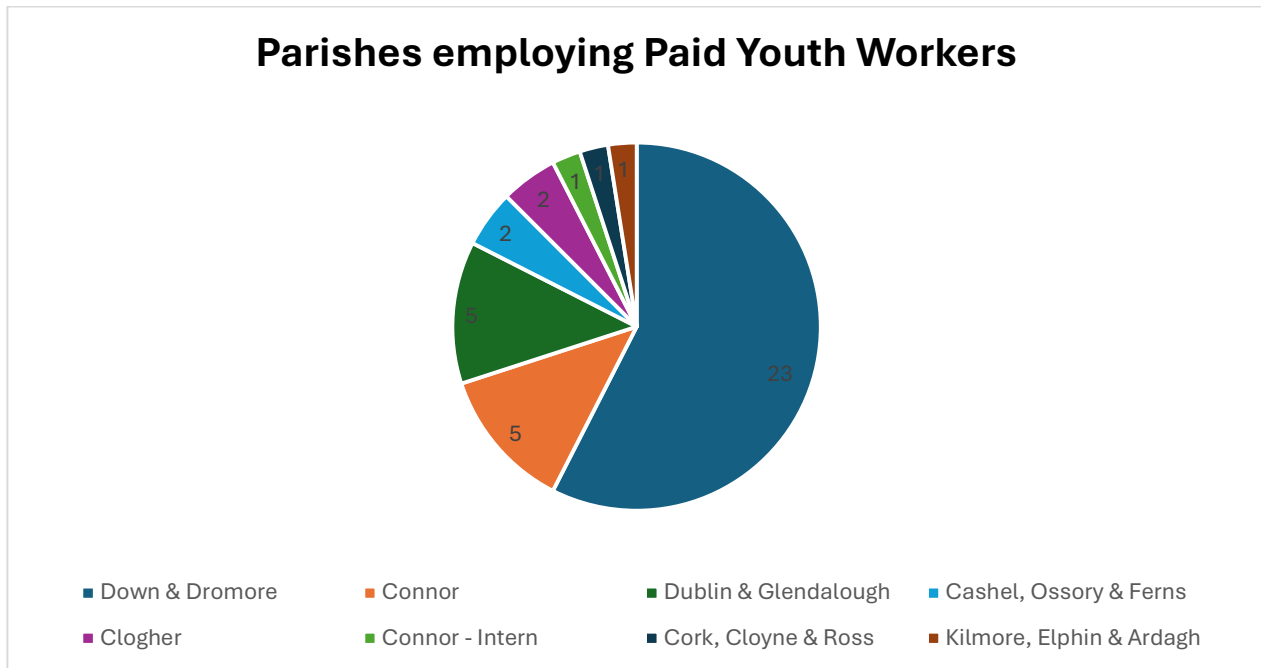


### 4.7.3 Paid Youth Workers

40 parishes indicated that they employ paid youth workers. The majority (23) of these parishes are in one diocese – Down & Dromore. Connor Dioceses and Dublin & Glendalough Dioceses both had 5 parishes that employ paid youth workers. Cashel, Ossory & Ferns Dioceses and Clogher Dioceses both had two parishes that employ paid youth workers. Whilst Cork, Cloyne & Ross Dioceses and Kilmore, Elphin & Ardagh Diocese had one parish each that employ paid youth workers. 1 parish in Connor Dioceses also indicated that they had an intern.

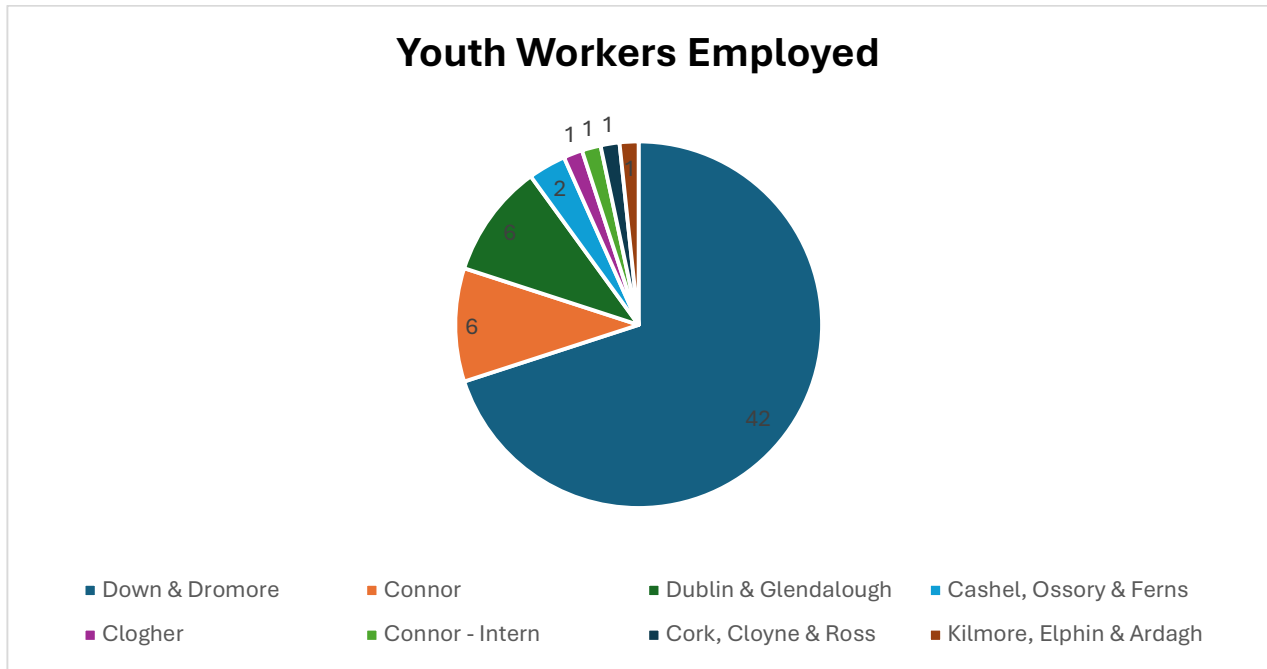
No parishes in Armagh Diocese, Derry & Raphoe Dioceses, Meath & Kildare Dioceses or Tuam, Limerick & Killaloe Dioceses employ any paid youth workers.

Chart 21: Diocesan breakdown of parishes employing paid youth workers.



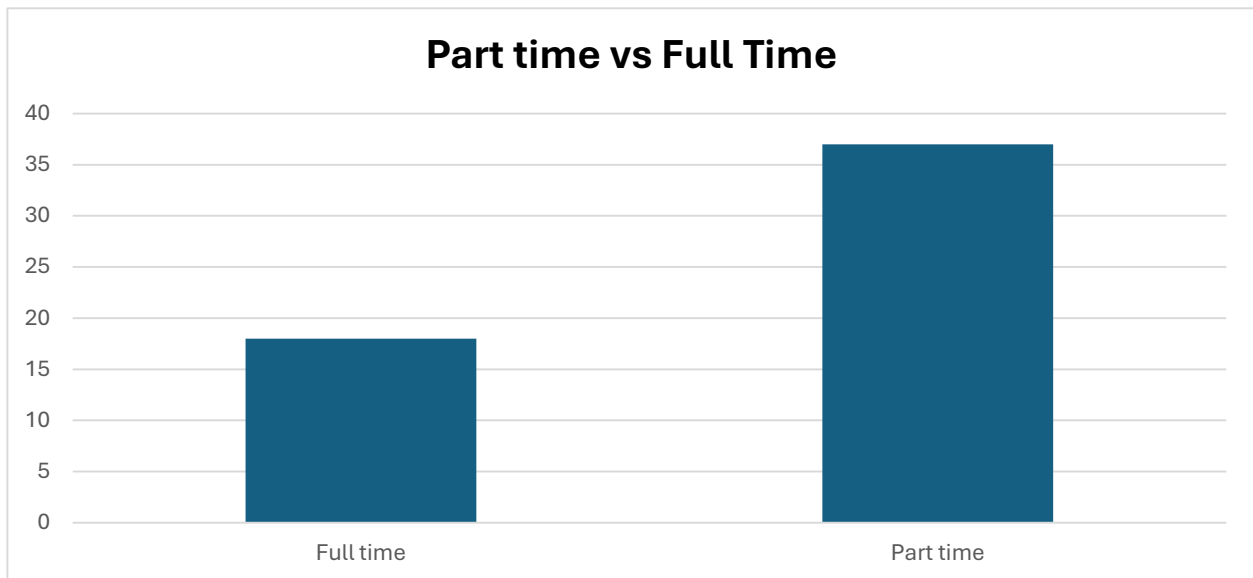
Whilst 40 parishes indicated that they employ paid youth workers, it is interesting to note that a number of these parishes employ more than one youth worker as the total number of paid youth workers in the parishes amounted to 60. Whilst gender was only provided for 43 of those 60 paid youth workers, there are slightly more female paid youth workers than male.

Chart 22: Breakdown by diocese of numbers of youth workers employed



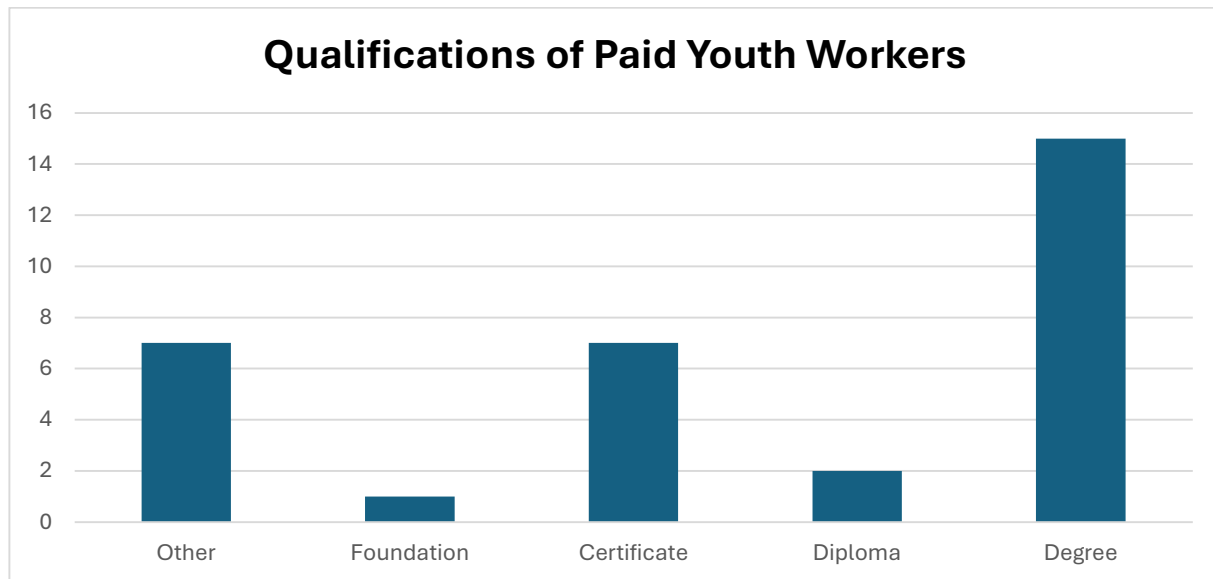
Details of 55 of the 60 paid positions as to whether they were part time or full time, two thirds of those were part time positions (37) and one third (18) were full time positions.

Chart 23: Breakdown of youth workers employed by part-time and full-time positions



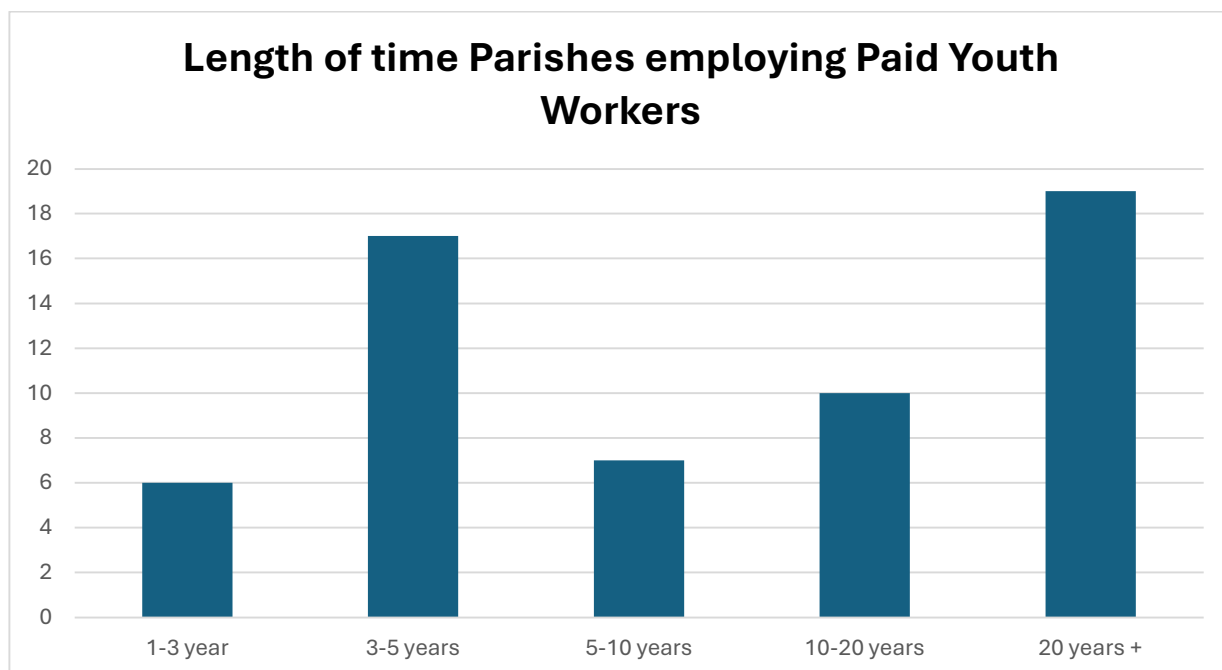
The qualifications of the paid youth workers varied from Foundation level, Certificate level, Diploma level, Degree level or other. For those paid youth workers whose qualification level was provided (32), almost half (15) have degrees.

Chart 24: Breakdown of youth workers employed by qualification



For some parishes employing a paid youth worker is very much a new undertaking, a large number of parishes (19) have been employing paid youth workers for more than 20 years.

Chart 25: Breakdown of youth workers employed by length of time parishes employing paid youth workers





## 5 Diocesan Youth Work

All eleven dioceses responded to requests for information about their diocesan youth work activities that had taken place in 2023.

Kilmore, Elphin & Ardagh Dioceses reported that no diocesan youth work activities had taken place during 2023 due to the role of Diocesan Youth Officer being vacant.

Clogher Dioceses also reported that no diocesan youth work activities had taken place during 2023 due to Clogher Diocesan Youth Council focusing on supporting parishes directly since Covid. They also reported that they have no Diocesan Youth Officer in post at present. Clogher Dioceses are in the process of putting together a new council with the hope of planning a small number of diocesan events as they gain momentum.

The other nine dioceses reported that they had held a wide range of activities during 2023 including:

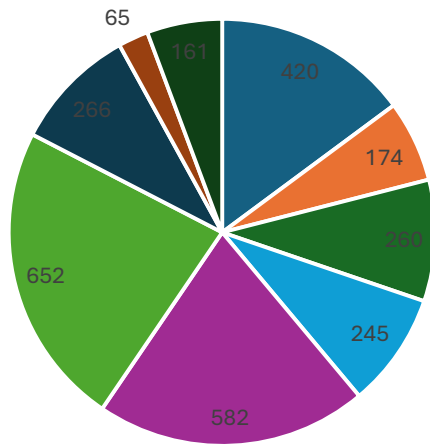
- Confirmation Days or Weekends
- Summer Madness
- Winter Madness
- Youth Weekends
- Big Day Out/ Fun Day
- Multi Activity Day
- Christmas Day Trip
- Moving Schools / 6th Class Day
- Youth Worship Night
- Youth Night
- Summer Camps
- Holiday Bible Clubs
- SERVE
- Youth Leadership training
- Monthly youth events
- Social activities including ice-skating, escape rooms, sailing, cinema, Take the Castle
- Christian Aid Walk
- CIYD Youth Forum

It should be noted that Armagh Dioceses had to cancel a number of events in 2023 due to unforeseen circumstances.

Overall, these activities involved 2,825 young people and 538 volunteers. The majority of the dioceses utilise volunteers that are working with young people in their parishes but this is not always the case and some volunteers only work at diocesan level.

Chart 26: Diocesan breakdown of number of young people attending diocesan youth work activities

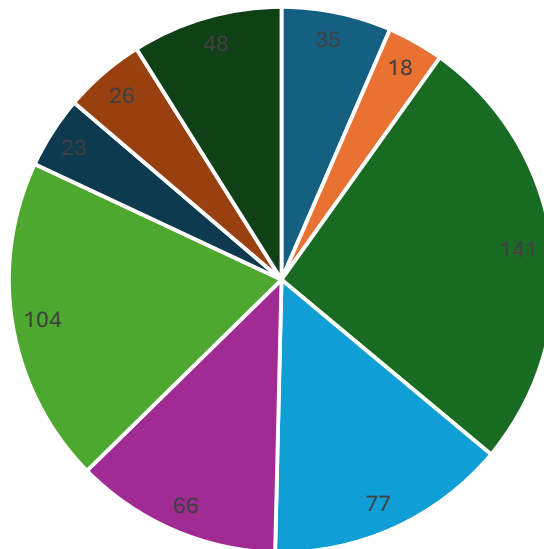
### Young people attending diocesan youth work activities



- Armagh
- Cashel, Ossory & Ferns
- Connor
- Cork, Cloyne and Ross
- Derry & Raphoe
- Down & Dromore
- Dubin & Glendalough
- Meath & Kildare
- Tuam, Limerick & Killaloe

Chart 27: Diocesan breakdown of volunteers at diocesan youth work activities

### Volunteers at diocesan youth work activities



- Armagh
- Cashel, Ossory & Ferns
- Connor
- Cork, Cloyne and Ross
- Derry & Raphoe
- Down & Dromore
- Dubin & Glendalough
- Meath & Kildare
- Tuam, Limerick & Killaloe

## 6 CIYD National Activities

The Church of Ireland Youth Council report included in the General Synod Book of Reports 2024 reported on the following activities which had taken place in 2023 to support and develop youth ministry with key stakeholders.

### **“Youth Ministry Leadership: Support and Development**

In partnership with dioceses, and in response to their specific needs, CIYD organized regular training and support events for those involved in youth ministry in a paid (full-time and part-time) or volunteer capacity.

These events were tailored to the needs and contexts of each region.

- Southern Region – CIYD’s “Connect” programme, training youth workers and volunteers, met regularly throughout the year online, facilitated by Mr Steve Grasham – covering areas such as Mental health, Climate Justice and peer support for Southern DYOs. We were also able to run in partnership with Missional Generation VR & AR training with mobile phone technology and VR headsets.
- Northern Region - The “Connect” programme, partnering with the Irish Methodist Youth Department, continued throughout 2023 with relevant training for youth workers and volunteers. This included Discipling Gen Z with Growing Young Disciples organisation, Talking to Teens about Sex & Relationships with ACET UK and Suicide Awareness training. We concluded our year of events with a “Connect Christmas” event in December with lunch and a Christmas Communion led by the Irish Methodist Church President, Rev David Turtle.
- Annual Youth Workers’ Retreat – We had our annual retreat for youth workers in Manchester, facilitated by the Diocesan staff team in the Diocese of Manchester – it was a great to hear and glean information about the youth ministry and youth projects in the Diocese and spend time away together with like minded folks.
- Summer Madness – The festival continues to thrive at its new home on the grounds of the Portglenone Monastery, Co Antrim. Numbers were very encouraging from the majority of our dioceses and it is heartening to see young people together worshipping and learning more about Jesus. Our National Youth Officer, Simon Henry, was also a host on the mainstage platform at worship sessions each day with the CIYD venue very active with a programme of seminars each day focused on digital discipleship.
- Winter Madness – CIYD was involved with supporting this Saturday evening event in Dublin & Glendalough Diocese in March, with a great turnout and our National Youth Officer Mr Simon Henry on hosting duties.

### **Engagement with Young People**

Whilst most of the work of CIYD seeks to resource Youth Leaders and to be available to assist in Youth Ministry Programmes, where guidance is appreciated and where participation is sought, the organization is also keen to assist directly with diocesan youth programmes.

- National Youth Forum – This annual event, which gathers young people from each diocese to be a voice for affecting change in the church, took place with encouraging attendance from all over the island and lead by Bishop Michael Burrows for our opening

plenary and facilitation by Susie Mapledoram (Youth Officer for Diocese of Manchester) in the second of a 3 year cycle focusing on young people, mental health and their faith journey.

- Summer Camps – Throughout the summer months our full-time staff supported Diocesan summer camps and events.

### **Diocesan Support**

CIYD is heavily involved in supporting Youth Leaders, both employed and volunteer, in the work that they do with young people across both the Northern and Southern Regions. They have also worked to raise the profile of youth work in the wider church. This has been done in a variety of ways:

- Direct work with Dioceses - CIYD staff supported a range of Diocesan events and resources as well as working with certain Dioceses on strategic development and supporting DYOs. We also host our all Ireland DYO Gathering facilitated by Innovista Ireland in November.
- Day of Prayer 2023 - this well-established Day of Prayer for young people and youth ministry, on the Sunday before Advent, continues to be popular with a resource book available in print and download. It can be used in lots of other ways to develop prayer opportunities in young people, groups and services. In 2023 we were able to offer free copies of another print run of our “Prayer Journal” for young people to compliment the current resource.

### **Resource Development and Communication**

CIYD like to be available for recommending and providing resources for youth leaders and clergy in a wide range of areas related to youth ministry.

- ‘I Believe’ – This Confirmation resource continues to prove popular with both clergy and young people alike and merited a recent reprint. The resource has been written with the content of the Church of Ireland Confirmation Service in mind and refers to elements of the Apostles' Creed, The 10 Commandments and the Church Catechism. It is a 12-week course examining essentials of our faith and offers interactive activities to enhance the learning experience for candidates.
- “Exalt” – devotional prayer app for young people in partnership with Missional Generation
- “Fuel Advent” – our 3rd run in the FUEL series, focusing on seasonal readings helping young people focus on regular bible reading habits.
- “Climate Justice Toolkit”- a resource for youth groups in partnership with GFS and Tearfund Ireland
- “Missional Generation” – VR (Virtual Reality) and AR (Augmented Reality) resources
- “Youth Mental Health First Aid” - Partnership with the Irish Health Service for this unique training.
- “Climate Justice Toolkit” Additions – A Journal for young people was released as a complement to the main resource, as well as an Assemblies & schools talks resource for youth workers and clergy.”

The main activities engaging directly with young people were:

- National Youth Forum which had 48 young people in attendance.
- Summer Madness which had almost 700 young people in attendance.
- Summer Camps which the CIYD staff supported.

Whilst a lot of the young people attending these events have been accounted for in the parish survey and diocesan youth work activities, there are an additional 48 young people not already accounted for.

# 7 Summary and Conclusions

## 7.1 Summary

1. Of the 450 parishes within the Church of Ireland 312 responses were received which gave a response rate of 69.3%. However, the responses only represented 288 parishes, therefore a more accurate response rate would be 64%.
2. There are approximately 73 vacant parishes within the Church of Ireland and the response rate for vacant parishes was significantly lower than for parishes with incumbents. Of the 288 parishes represented in the survey returns, 249 were parishes with incumbents and 41 were from vacant parishes. The response rate therefore was 66.2% for parishes with incumbents and only 52.7% for parishes with vacancies.
3. 68 parishes identified themselves as urban, 151 as rural parishes, 48 as suburban parishes and 21 parishes identified themselves in the other category.
4. 94 parishes indicated that they have less than 100 families in their parish, 178 indicated they have between 100 – 500 families, 15 have 500 – 100 families and 1 parish indicated they have more than 1,000 families in their parish.
5. 121 parishes indicated that they had no parish-based youth work provision for young people aged 11+. Of the other 167 parishes which indicated they had parish-based youth work provision:
  - 56 had an Open Youth Club
  - 22 undertook Community Outreach/Detached Youth Work
  - 85 had a Youth Fellowship
  - 59 had some other form of parish-based youth work provision.
6. In total, there are approximately 1,221 young people aged 11+ involved in Open Youth Clubs, 657 young people aged 11+ involved in Community Outreach/Detached Youth Work, 1,259 involved in Youth Fellowship and 552 involved in Other Youth Work provision. This totals 3,689 young people.
7. 146 parishes of the 288 respondents indicated that they did provide Sunday School/Bible Class or equivalent for young people aged 11+. This involves approximately 1,240 young people aged 11+ on a mainly weekly basis during term time.
8. 51 parishes indicated that their Confirmation Classes were separate from Sunday School or Bible Class or equivalent and that 1,124 young people were confirmed in 2023.
9. 138 parishes indicated that they had 200 uniformed organisation units operating within their parishes. The majority of uniformed organisations meet on a weekly basis and work with in excess of 6,523 young people in our parishes.
10. There are approximately 6,053 young people aged 11+ involved in parish-based youth work activities on a mainly weekly basis within the Church of Ireland. This increases to over 12,500

young people involved in youth work activities in parishes when we include the uniformed organisation provision.

11. 54 parishes (18.8%) indicated that they provided a Summer scheme/Summer Programme for the over 11s. 30 parishes offered a summer scheme/programme for 1 week, 7 for 2 weeks, 15 for up to a month and 3 for 1-2 months. 1,387 young people aged 11+ were involved in these activities.
12. 68 parishes (23.6%) indicated that they are providing youth work input or support to local schools at secondary level.
13. 65 parishes (22.6%) indicated that they facilitated young people's attendance at Summer Madness. This involved 532 young people attending Summer Madness.
14. Nine dioceses provided diocesan youth work activities during 2023 which involved 2,825 young people and 538 volunteers.
15. Between the parish-based youth work activities on a mainly weekly basis, the uniformed organisations and other youth activities provided by parishes throughout the summer, diocesan and national youth work activities, the survey revealed that youth work in the Church of Ireland is having an impact on the lives of 17,359 young people each year.
16. Terminology used by parishes to describe their youth activities was broken down as follows:
  - Youth Ministry - 103
  - Youth Work - 52
  - Faith Development - 40
  - Youth Fellowship - 39
  - Personal and Social Development - 9
  - Other - 20
  - Other – no provision, no specific term or no youth - 34
17. 205 parishes have adult volunteers (over 18s) working in youth provision in their parish amounting to approximately 1,860 adult volunteers with female volunteers outnumbering the male volunteers approximately 2:1.
18. The main support and training needs of volunteers were identified as:
  - Faith-related training and resources
  - Practical training and resources to support youth work taking place, to get youth work started and to upskill volunteers
  - Safeguarding Trust
  - Recruitment of volunteers and paid staff and the encouragement and support of current volunteers
  - Equipping volunteers to deal with issues arising and facing young people today
  - Funding
19. 164 parishes indicated that they proactively encourage and facilitate young people (14 - 18 years) to develop into leadership roles in their parish.

20. 40 parishes indicated that they employ paid youth workers accounting for 60 paid workers. Two thirds of those whose details were given were part time positions (37) and one third (18) were full time positions. There were slightly female paid youth workers than male. Almost half of those whose details were provided have degrees. For some parishes (6) employing a paid youth worker is very much a new undertaking, a large number of parishes (19) have been employing paid youth workers for more than 20 years.

## 7.2 Extrapolation of results

As the survey represents only 64% of parishes in the Church of Ireland, to ascertain more accurate we should assume that this 64% is representative of all parishes in the Church of Ireland and treat the figures of young people involved in youth work with a similar percentage.

The following table provides both the figures from the survey and their approximate extrapolation:

*Table 4: Survey result of young people involved in activities and extrapolation figures*

| Activity                                             | Survey Figures representing 64% of parishes |              | Extrapolation figures representing 100% of parishes |              |
|------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|--------------|-----------------------------------------------------|--------------|
|                                                      | Parishes                                    | Young People | Parishes                                            | Young People |
| <b>Open Youth Club</b>                               | 56                                          | 1,221        | 88                                                  | 1,908        |
| <b>Youth Fellowship</b>                              | 85                                          | 1,259        | 133                                                 | 1,967        |
| <b>Community Outreach/<br/>Detached Youth Work</b>   | 22                                          | 657          | 34                                                  | 1,027        |
| <b>Other youth activities</b>                        | 59                                          | 552          | 92                                                  | 863          |
| <b>Sunday School / Bible<br/>Class or equivalent</b> | 146                                         | 1,240        | 228                                                 | 1,938        |
| <b>Confirmation</b>                                  | 237                                         | 1,124        | 370                                                 | 1,756        |
| <b>Uniformed Youth Work</b>                          | 138                                         | 6,523        | 216                                                 | 10,192       |
| <b>Summer<br/>Scheme/Programme</b>                   | 54                                          | 1,387        | 85                                                  | 2,167        |
| <b>Summer Madness</b>                                | 65                                          | 532          | 101                                                 | 831          |
| <b>Diocesan Youth Work</b>                           | 9 Dioceses                                  | 2,825        |                                                     | 2,825        |

With these extrapolated figures we can state that there are 9,459 young people involved in weekly youth work activities within the Church of Ireland. This increases to 19,651 young people when we include the uniformed youth work taking place in our parishes.

When we take into account weekly youth work activities, summer scheme/programmes, diocesan youth work and national activities in the Church of Ireland is impacting the lives of 15,347 young people (increasing to 25,539 when including uniformed youth organisations). This does not include any figures for the schools work that is undertaken by parishes.



## 7.3 Conclusions

The last survey of Youth Work in the Church of Ireland was commissioned by the Church of Ireland Youth Department in 2008. In the intervening years, the world has had to cope with the Covid pandemic and Ireland has faced a cost of living crisis, large numbers of immigrants and refugees arriving on our shores, and a housing crisis. The teenagers and young people of 2024 are very different to their counterparts of 2008 having faced many challenges in their young lives.

During the Covid pandemic, churches, parish halls and centres all were shut down and this had a huge impact on the ability of youth work to happen at parish and diocesan level. Many activities which were not able to take place outdoors or in a virtual space did not happen for two or more years. Young people who were involved in activities pre-Covid had moved onto other activities or had aged out of groups so they did not return to activities once they started to reopen. Volunteers too had found other activities for their spare time or their working arrangements had changed so a large number did not return to volunteering after Covid. Some parishes struggled to get groups restarted. This is all borne out in the statistical findings of the survey.

Only 1 parish indicated that they have over 1,000 families involved in their parish and 15 indicated they have between 500 and 1,000 families involved, these represents 5.5% of the 288 parishes represented in the survey. This is a drastic reduction in the size of parishes from the 2008 survey in which 44 parishes (15.6% of respondents) had identified as having more than 500 families involved in parish activities.

In 2008, 92 parishes indicated they had Open Youth Clubs with 2,502 young people attending on a weekly basis, this has dropped to 56 parishes with Open Youth Clubs with 1,221 young people aged 11+ attending mainly on a weekly basis.

In 2008, 113 parishes indicated they had Youth Fellowships with 1,781 young people attending, this has dropped to 85 parishes with 1,259 young people involved.

In 2008, 100 parishes indicated they had some sort of Community Outreach or Detached Youth Work taking place including after school clubs, choirs, specialised work, international and global awareness activities. These involved approximately 1,000 young people. Now only 22 parishes indicated they had Community Outreach or Detached Youth Work occurring with involving 657 young people.

60 parishes in 2008 had other youth activities taking place involving 1,000 young people, whilst there are still 60 parishes involved in other youth activities this only involves 552 young people.

So overall the number of young people involved in weekly youth work activities in parishes has decreased from 6,283 to 3,689. However, if this survey had been done during Covid or even 2 years ago as the world was learning how to cope with the Covid pandemic, these numbers would likely have been significantly lower, so it is probably better to look at how they have recovered to this level of involvement and how far we have still got to go to fully recover.

There has been a reduction in the number of parishes offering Sunday school/Bible class or equivalent for over 11s, down from 188 to 146. But what is more significant is that despite the reduction in parishes offering Sunday School or equivalent reducing by 22.3%, the number of young people attending these activities has reduced by 45.2% from 2,739 to 1,240.

In 2008 181 parishes confirmed 1,841 young people, but in 2023 233 parishes confirmed 1,124 young people, so in fact some parishes appear to be confirming lower numbers of young people in 2023 than they were in 2008.

The number of parishes who don't have a uniformed organisation have increased slightly from 44.5% to 52.4%. However uniformed organisations continue to be a vital part of youth work activities in parishes. Whilst these units are all operated independently of the parish to which they are affiliated and have a separate leadership and governance structure from their own organisational HQ, it is interesting to note that 20 parishes accounting for 28 uniformed youth organisation units regarded them as part of their parish youth work provision and listed them in the other category when detailing what youth work activities they had in their parishes.

Parishes offering a Summer scheme/programme for under 11s has reduced from 65 to 54, whilst numbers involved have reduced from 1,798 to 1,117. But again as a lot of these activities were not able to occur for at least two years this should be seen as an 85% recovery to previous levels.

The one area of youth work provision which seems to have managed to maintain its levels between 2008 and 2023 is parishes work with secondary schools. 69 parishes indicated in 2008 that they provided some kind of youth work input or support to local secondary level schools, 68 parishes indicated in 2023 that they continued to do this. Whilst schools were impacted by Covid and much of students learning was online or in pods for two academic years, their activities did not have to stop altogether during any period. It is good to see that the relationships between parishes and local secondary schools continues.

65 parishes indicated in the 2024 survey that they facilitate the attendance of young people at Summer Madness, down from 81 parishes in 2008. It should be noted however that whilst parishes may have indicated that they facilitated young people's attendance at Summer Madness that did not in fact equate with young people actually attending from those parishes. 9 of the 65 parishes indicated that they had no one attend Summer Madness in 2023 or this year.

In terms of terminology used for youth work activities in parishes, a significant change has taken place with less parishes using the term youth work (103 in 2008, 52 in 2024) and more parishes using the term youth ministry (84 in 2008, 103 in 2024). It is difficult to say whether this is a conscious decision of parishes or just a reflection of the clergy and volunteers in post at the time of the surveys.

One significant cause of the reduction in parishes offering parish-based youth work activities can be attributed to the fact that there has been a 44.4% reduction in the number of volunteers working in parishes with the over 11s (3,347 in 2008 to 1,860 in 2024). Without volunteers, parishes will not be a position to provide youth work activities. Where parishes have less volunteers than previously, they cannot engage the same number of young people in the activities they are providing. As a lot of diocesan youth work activities rely on young people attending them with their parish volunteers this has an impact on the numbers attending these events also.

The main training and support needs of volunteers have not changed much in the space of 16 years with similar categories of needs being reported in the 2008 report to those in this report with one significant difference. The need for help with recruiting volunteers and supporting and encouraging those volunteers that are already in place is a new need being indicated by parishes in every dioceses except one.

Almost the same number of parishes (163 in 2008 and 164 in 2024) indicated in both surveys that they proactively encourage and facilitate young people aged 14-18 years to develop into leadership roles in the parish.

Forty parishes reported employing either full time or part time workers (6 less than in 2008), but only four dioceses had no parishes employing youth work staff (one less than 2008). Although there were

six less parishes employing youth work staff there are 2 more youth work staff employed by parishes than in 2008 (58 in 2008, 60 in 2024).

## 8 Acknowledgements

Thanks must go firstly to the Central Board and Executive for their initiative in commissioning the survey and report post-Covid to ensure that they and the Church of Ireland were aware of the current state of youth work in the Church of Ireland so ways can be identified to support the current provision and plan for the future.

Thanks to Simon Henry and Barbara Swann in the CIYD office for their support to me and for their assistance in promoting the survey, to Peter Cheney for the press and social media publicity which was invaluable in promoting the survey, to the Diocesan Secretaries for providing clergy email lists or emailing clergy directly in relation to the survey.

Particular thanks must be paid to the Diocesan Youth Officers for all their assistance in chasing parishes to complete the survey and for compiling and providing the diocesan data for the report.

The biggest thank you has to go to all the Rectors, Curates, OLMs, Honorary Secretaries and Youth Leaders in the parishes around the country who took the time to complete the survey which allowed me to compile a comprehensive picture of youth work as it currently stands within the Church of Ireland.

Finally, much appreciation must be paid to all the volunteers and paid youth workers in parishes providing youth work activities without whom it would not be possible to have a youth work provision in the Church of Ireland and whose work has a lasting effect on the lives of our young people, probably way beyond what the volunteers and paid youth workers see as they work with them.

# Appendices

## Appendix 1 – Parish Survey

### CIYD Audit of Youth Work in the Church of Ireland

The aim of this audit is to provide an up to date picture of the extent and nature of youth work activity (with 11 -25 year olds) across the Church of Ireland to enable CIYD to be as supportive and strategic as possible and to ensure accurate reporting to funders and stakeholders.

Please complete the questionnaire, indicating your responses by clicking the appropriate box or with 'x' in the appropriate box or typing the required information in the space provided. Information given should be based on last year's attendance (i.e. 2023). This questionnaire should take approximately 10 - 15 minutes to complete.

All information will be treated confidentially and will be used for the purpose of preparing an overall report for CIYD.

Thank you for your kind support.

olivecgood@gmail.com [Switch account](#)



Not shared



Next

Clear form

## Parish Information

### 1. Name of Diocese \*

- Armagh
- Cashel, Ferns and Ossory
- Clogher
- Connor
- Cork, Cloyne & Ross
- Derry & Raphoe
- Dublin & Glendalough
- Down & Dromore
- Kilmore, Elphin & Ardagh
- Meath & Kildare
- Tuam, Limerick & Killaloe

### 2. Name of Parish \*

Your answer \_\_\_\_\_

### 3. Location of Parish \*

- Urban
- Rural
- Suburban
- Other

### 4. Size of Parish (or combined group/union) \*

- Less than 100 families
- 100 - 500 families
- 500 - 1000 families
- 1000+ families

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## Nature and scope of Parish Based Youth Work Provision

5. Does your Parish have any of the following youth provisions for over 11s in your parish? \*

- Open Youth Club (If yes, please answer question 5.1)
- Community Outreach/Detached Work (If yes, please answer question 5.2)
- Youth Fellowship (If yes, please answer question 5.3)
- Other (If yes, please answer question 5.4)
- None of the above (If none of the above, please go straight to question 6)

5.1 Please provide weekly average attendance and age profile of attendees for your Open Youth Club

Your answer

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5.2 Please provide weekly average attendance and age profile of attendees for your Community Outreach/Detached Work.

Your answer

---

5.3 Please provide weekly average attendance and age profile of attendees for your Youth Fellowship.

Your answer

---

5.4 Please provide details of other types of youth work provision, weekly average attendance and age profile of attendees.

Your answer

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6. Does your Parish provide Sunday School / Bible Class or equivalent for over 11s? \*

- Yes (If yes, please answer question 6.1)
- No (If no, please go straight to question 7)

6.1 Please indicate weekly average attendance and age profile of attendees for your Sunday School/Bible Class or equivalent for over 11s.

Your answer

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7. If Confirmation classes are separate from Sunday School / Bible Class or equivalent for over 11s, please indicate how many young people attended these / were confirmed in 2023.

Your answer \_\_\_\_\_

8. Do you have any of the following uniformed organisations in your Parish? \*

- Girls' Brigade (If yes, please answer question 8.1)
- Boys' Brigade (If yes, please answer question 8.1)
- Scouts (If yes, please answer question 8.1)
- Girl Guides (If yes please answer question 8.1)
- Girls' Friendly Society (If yes, please answer question 8.1)
- Church Lad's Brigade (If yes, please answer question 8.1)
- Church Girls' Brigade (If yes, please answered question 8.1)
- None of the above (If none of the above, please go straight to question 9)

8.1 For each uniformed organisation operating in your parish please provide how often they meet (weekly/fortnightly/monthly) and approx. number of members.

Your answer \_\_\_\_\_

9. Does your Parish provide any type of Summer scheme/Summer programme for \* over 11s?

- Yes (If yes, please answer questions 9.1 & 9.2)
- No (If no, please go straight to question 10)



9.1 If your Parish does provide a Summer scheme/Summer programme for over 11s, how long does it run for?

- 1 week
- 2 weeks
- Up to a month
- 1 to 2 months

9.2 Please indicate the average attendance and age profile of attendees at your Summer scheme/Summer programme.

Your answer \_\_\_\_\_

10. Does your Parish provide any kind of youth work input or support to local schools at secondary level? \*

- Yes (If yes, please answer question 10.1)
- No (If no, please go straight to question 11)

10.1 Please describe the kind of youth work input or support your parish provides to local schools at secondary level.

Your answer \_\_\_\_\_

11. Does your Parish facilitate young people's attendance at Summer Madness? \*

- Yes (If yes, please answer question 11.1)
- No (If no, please go straight to question 12)

11.1 Please give average young people's attendance at Summer Madness facilitated by your Parish.

Your answer \_\_\_\_\_

12. Please indicate what terminology you most frequently use and feel best describes the youth work activity in your parish with 11 year olds+ \*

- Youth Work
- Youth Ministry
- Youth Fellowship
- Faith development
- Personal & social development
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

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#### Youth Work Personnel

13. Approximately how many people work as adult volunteers (over 18s) in youth provision in your parish? Please provide a male/female breakdown of numbers. \*

Your answer \_\_\_\_\_

14. What do you think are the main training and support needs of your volunteer youth leaders? \*

Your answer \_\_\_\_\_

15. Does your Parish proactively encourage and facilitate young people (14 - 18 years) to develop into leadership roles in the Parish? \*

- Yes
- No

16. Does your Parish employ full or part time youth workers? \*

- Yes (If yes, please answer question 16.1, 16.2 & 16.3)
- No (If no, please go straight to question 17)

16.1 Please indicate numbers of youth workers, male/female breakdown and type of contract e.g. full time or part time. If part time please indicate number of hours per week.

Your answer \_\_\_\_\_

16.2 Please indicate the youth work qualifications held by your current youth worker(s) if any

- Foundation level
- Certificate level
- Diploma level
- Degree level
- Other

16.3 How long has your Parish employed youth worker(s)?

- Less than 1 year
- 1 - 2 years
- 3 - 5 years
- 5 - 10 years
- 10 - 20 years
- 20 years+

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## Details of Respondent

Provision of this information is preferred, but optional.

### 17. Name of Respondent

Your answer \_\_\_\_\_

### 18. Role in Parish

Your answer \_\_\_\_\_

### 19. Contact details (mobile number and email)

Your answer \_\_\_\_\_

20. Please indicate if you are happy to be contacted should the researcher require further clarification.

Yes

No

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## Appendix 2 – Diocesan Survey

1. What youth work events were held during 2023 by the Diocesan Youth Council in your dioceses or were organised by you as Diocesan Youth Officer?
2. How many young people attended each event and their age profile?
3. Did the participants attend the events as part of parish groups or as individuals e.g. parish youth group attended event or individual young people attended without being part of a parish group?
4. How many youth leaders helped run each event and their gender breakdown?
5. Were all youth leaders involved in running events from parishes in the dioceses or were any of them recruited at a diocesan level and are not actively engaged in youth work in their parish?