Impact and Context Report: A 7 Centre of Mission

Church Army’s Research Team

## Introduction

This short report provides an overview of the work that’s been taking place at A 7 Centre of Mission (CoM) throughout the financial year 2022-2023, then situates that work within its local context using national census data.

The first section of this report summarises data provided by Church Army evangelists in order to describe the activities undertaken by the CoM, as well as the CoM’s social impact and the ways in which people are exploring and developing faith through the work of the CoM.

The second section of the report uses data from the *Central Statistics Office’s* 2022 census of the Republic of Ireland to describe the population who live within the area local to the CoM.

## Section 1: Activities and impact

The data in this section of the report summarise the Centre of Mission’s activity between November 2022 and March 2023.

### CoM Activities

This year A7 CoM has facilitated over 315 hours of activity for approximately 4791 people - an average of 26 hours per month. Activities coordinated by A7 CoM include:

* Burnfoot Churches Together Messy Church: Palm Sunday
* Burnfoot Easter Family Event
* Burnfoot Hub Community Consultation Event
* Burnfoot Churches Together: Carol Singing around the Burnfoot Estate
* Burnfoot Hub Tattie Day
* Burnfoot Churches Together: Harvest Celebration

## Growing faith

Growing faith can’t always be seen and is tricky to measure, but there have been some encouraging developments at A7 CoM, including:

* There have been three requests to assist with the baptism of an infant.
* There has been one request for confirmation
* There have been two requests to assist with a funeral
* There are at least 69 people growing in faith
* There are at least 20 people actively exploring faith

### Food provision

A7 CoM have provided 50 food parcels over the course of the year. Details of this provision are given in the table below.

| Food provision | No. boxes/parcels/meals | Details |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Burnfoot Food Share on Christmas Eve | 50 | Food donated by local supermarkets, bagged up and distributed for collection from the Hub. Each food bag contained the ingredients for a Christmas dinner |

### Other essentials

As well as food, the CoM also provided the following essential items or services:

| Provision | No. Items/parcels | Details |
| --- | --- | --- |
| ASDA donated £15,000 of surplus stock, brand new School Uniforms Free of Charge | 400 | Sorted and passed on to four schools in Hawick. A range of shirts, blouses, T-shirts, skirts, trousers, sports-wear, swimwear, coats, shoes, etc. etc. for each school. |

### Volunteers

There are 31 volunteers at A7 CoM. The church backgrounds of these volunteers are shown in the table below:

| Church background | % |
| --- | --- |
| Regular church-goer | 52% |
| Occasional church-goer | 3% |
| Historical church-goer | 3% |
| Never church-goer | 42% |

## Section 2: Local context

This section of the report describes, at a high level, the characteristics of the area in which the CoM operates. Since many Centres of Mission are set up via a partnership between Church Army and a host diocese, each CoM’s area of operation is compared to the population profiles of the local diocese as well as the nation as a whole.

The tables and figures in this section describe the CoM’s area of operation in terms of:

* Age
* Ethnicity
* Religion
* Self-reported general health
* Household composition

All the data in this section of the report were collected in the *Central Statistics Office’*s 2022 census of the Republic of Ireland.

### Methodology

Researchers consulted the lead evangelist at each CoM in order to determine the specific geographical areas in which the CoM operates. These might include, for example, the specific estate on which a CoM runs its activities, or a particular area of housing inhabited by regular attendees of the CoM’s activities. The population characteristics of these areas were approximated via a weighted summation of the populations of the small areas of statistical geography (i.e. output areas) that intersected the area described by the lead evangelist. The weights for this summation were the respective relative intersections of each small area with the area under consideration.

### Age

[Figure 1](#fig-age) and [Table 1](#tbl-age) respectively show the ages of the population at the local, diocesan and national level.

The population within the Centre of Mission’s area of operations is older than that of the wider diocese; one third of people local to the CoM are aged 60 years and older, compared to one quarter of people within the diocese. There are considerably fewer people between the ages of 20 and 44 local to the CoM than there are nationally or within the diocese.

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| Figure 1: Population ages in 10 year bands |

Table 1: Population ages in 10 year bands

|  | CoM | Diocese | Scotland |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 0-9 years old | 9% | 10% | 10% |
| 10-19 years old | 10% | 11% | 11% |
| 20-29 years old | 10% | 14% | 12% |
| 30-44 years old | 16% | 20% | 19% |
| 45-59 years old | 21% | 20% | 21% |
| 60-69 years old | 15% | 12% | 13% |
| 70+ years old | 18% | 13% | 14% |

### Ethnicity

[Figure 2](#fig-ethnicity) and [Table 2](#tbl-ethnicity) show, at a very high level, the self-reported ethnicity of the population across each geography.

The CoM’s area of operations is home to a population who are 98% white. This is 9 percentage points higher than the diocese, in which the representation of different ethnic groups more closely resembles that of the whole of Scotland.

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| Figure 2: Population ethnicities |

Table 2: Population ethnicities

|  | CoM | Diocese | Scotland |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| White | 98% | 91% | 93% |
| Asian | 1% | 5% | 4% |
| Mixed/multiple | 1% | 2% | 1% |
| African | 0% | 1% | 1% |
| Other | 0% | 1% | 1% |

### Religion

[Figure 3](#fig-religion) and [Table 3](#tbl-religion) show the religious beliefs of the population across each geography.

About half of Scotland’s population profess to have no religion. Within the CoM’s area of operations, this figure rises to 58%. Roman Catholics account for only 6% of the population local to the CoM, making them approximately half as prevalent here than they are nationally.

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| Figure 3: Population religions |

Table 3: Population religions

|  | CoM | Diocese | Scotland |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| No religion | 58% | 56% | 51% |
| Church of scotland | 23% | 18% | 20% |
| Religion not stated | 7% | 6% | 6% |
| Roman catholic | 6% | 10% | 13% |
| Other christian | 5% | 5% | 5% |
| Other | 2% | 4% | 4% |

## Local Deprivation

[Figure 4](#fig-deprivation-map) shows a map of relative deprivation of the local area. Small areas that are coloured in red are in the 5% most deprived areas nationally, those coloured orange are in the 10% most deprived, and those coloured yellow are in the 20% most deprived. Transparent areas are outside of the 20% most deprived areas in the nation.

Relative deprivation data is sourced from the 2020 Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD). If you would like to know more about SIMD, you can find out about it [here](https://www.gov.scot/collections/scottish-index-of-multiple-deprivation-2020/).

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| Figure 4: Map of local deprivation (SIMD2020) |