



Ecclesiastical Ireland

Newsletter - Summer 2026

Thank you, Your Feedback Matters.

We would like to sincerely thank everyone who took the time to complete our 2025 customer satisfaction survey.

Your feedback helps shape how we support you and ensures our services continue to reflect the real needs of our customers.

As a direct result, we were pleased to donate **€250 to Tiglin and the Irish Cancer Society.**

Did you know...

Customer feedback directly influences product enhancements and risk guidance, helping us continuously improve the support we provide. We would greatly appreciate if you could fill out our customer satisfaction survey linked here, and let us know how you feel about our service.



Welcome

As the days grow longer and communities move into a busy summer season, it is a natural time to reflect on renewal, growth and shared purpose.

Across Ireland, we continue to see remarkable dedication within churches, schools and charities, often led by volunteers and small teams carrying significant responsibility. Supporting that work, and helping protect what matters most, remains at the heart of everything we do.

In this edition, we share updates on our community impact, highlight opportunities for support, and offer practical guidance to help you navigate the months ahead with confidence.

David Lane,
Managing Director, Ecclesiastical Ireland.

Supporting Communities: Our 2026 Charity Partner

Giving back is a core part of who we are.

This year, we are proud to partner with Tiglin, supporting individuals affected by homelessness, addiction and social exclusion. Throughout the year, our colleagues will support Tiglin through fundraising, volunteering and awareness initiatives.

"In Tiglin we help those that find themselves struck by addiction, homelessness and in need of help. Our mission and moto are to see lives restored, rebuilt and living life to its fulness. We cannot do this without the support of charity partners such as Ecclesiastical Insurance".

Ger Ganly, Senior Manager Tiglin.



Benefact Trust – Real Impact Across Ireland

Benefact Trust continues to expand its support, with over €10 million awarded across Ireland since 2020. These grants are helping churches and organisations not only maintain their buildings, but also strengthen their role as vital community hubs.

From upgrading facilities to enabling outreach programmes, this funding is supporting organisations as they respond to changing community needs in practical and meaningful ways.

Funding has helped organisations to:

- Deliver community outreach programmes
- Upgrade and maintain vital buildings
- Support vulnerable groups and local initiatives

For many organisations, access to funding can be the difference between maintaining existing services and extending their reach within the community.

The appointment of a dedicated Ireland-based Grants Officer Heather Pope marks a significant step in making funding more accessible.

In case you missed it

Grants are available for both community impact projects and building improvements. Early engagement can significantly improve your chances of success.

Contact: Heather Pope / +353 86 834 2363 / heather.pope@benefacttrust.co.uk



The Deanery Mews, St Patrick's Cathedral - converted for use as an education and community space. Funded in part by the Benefact Trust. Visited by Francois Xavier-Boisseau - Chairman of Benefact Group with Dean William Morton, David Lane and Gavan Woods, Cathedral Administrator

In Focus: Supporting Schools

Schools today face increasing demands, from governance responsibilities to managing risk in a more complex environment.

Boards of management are increasingly navigating complex legal and regulatory responsibilities, often alongside their voluntary roles and wider commitments.

Our recent regional events for Church of Ireland National Schools brought together school leaders, clergy and subject matter experts to share knowledge and practical guidance.



Susan Ellis (CPSMA) Michael Fleming Ecclesiastical, Christine Cody (RCB) and Paul Collins Ecclesiastical

These sessions provided:

- Legal and governance insights
- Real-life claims experience
- Open discussion and shared learning

The opportunity to step back, share experiences and ask questions in a supportive setting has proven invaluable for many attendees.

Top Tip

Creating opportunities to share experiences with other boards of management can be one of the most effective ways to build confidence and capability.



Rt Revd Adrian Wilkinson, Bishop of Cashel, Ferns & Ossory, Dr Ken Fennelly, General Synod Board of Education, Paul Collins Ecclesiastical, Susan Ellis, CPSMA and Michael Fleming Ecclesiastical

Summer Events: Plan with Confidence

Summer is the perfect time for outdoor events, and open-air gatherings are a wonderful way to welcome new members into our church community. Of course, ensuring the safety of our Church family while having fun is always a top priority.

Hints and tips

At Ecclesiastical Insurance, we offer plenty of hints and tips online to help you manage your events safely. For example, our events toolkit is full of useful information, particularly if the event you plan to hold is larger or involves unusual fundraising activities.

You can also consult our Events document for additional tips [here](#).

We've got you covered

Of course, we are also here for your insurance needs. Many events fall under the umbrella of normal church activities, meaning they're already covered by your public and employer's liability insurance. Plus, the Ecclesiastical Insurance policy goes the extra mile to cover prizes, donated goods, hired property, and even events held away from your church premises. We also double the cover for cash both before and after the fundraising event, and the best part...? There's no extra charge for these extensions, although some conditions may apply, so check your policy documents and schedule to confirm! And don't forget, if you're holding an event that is unusual or could be hazardous, please make sure to get in touch with us so we can ensure that you are covered. If you're letting the premises to an outside organisation, such as a Scout group, check that they have current public liability insurance themselves – perhaps ask to see a copy of their insurance schedule. We want your event to be a success, and we know that there is a lot to think about – but we are here to help our Ecclesiastical Insurance customers with access to our risk management team where you can ask questions from construction to security and even events!

Have a fun and safe summer!

Telephone 01 619 0300 or visit our website on <https://www.ecclesiastical.ie/risk-management/>



Caring for Your Buildings

Ireland has experienced exceptionally stormy and wet winters in recent years. Following Storm Eowyn, 2025 brought a significant number of property claims related to high winds and falling trees. While that event is behind us, similar conditions are likely in the years ahead.

Many church properties are aging and require ongoing maintenance. The following practical steps can help reduce the likelihood and severity of future damage:

- Keep gutters, gullies and drains clear to prevent blockages.
- Inspect roofs regularly—binoculars can help—to identify loose or missing slates or tiles. Replacing them early is far less costly than repairing roof structures.
- Check for large trees close to church buildings. Seek professional advice on trimming or removal, as falling trees can cause major damage.

You can also consult our winter guidance document for additional tips [here](#).

Did you know

Many property claims could be reduced or avoided through routine preventative maintenance.

Renewal Time: A Moment to Reflect

Your insurance policy renews every 12 months, providing a valuable opportunity to review cover levels and policy details. Over the past year, some customers were unable to claim for certain damage because cover (e.g., storm cover) had been removed to reduce premiums.

An annual review should consider:

- **Property sums insured:** Have you added extensions or purchased new equipment in the last year?
- **Loss of revenue:** Has rental income increased due to new tenants or growing membership?
- **Policy conditions:** Are you meeting maintenance obligations, including keeping gutters and drains clear?
- **Upcoming works:** Are any building projects planned that we need to know about?

Our team is available to support you. We are happy to meet in person to review your cover and any additional needs.

Top Tip

Even small updates, such as new equipment or increased lettings, should be shared to ensure your cover remains accurate.

Meet the Team: Graham Hohn

Many of you will already know Graham Hohn, our Strategic Account Manager, who continues to play a key role in supporting our church and education customers across Ireland.

With over 40 years' experience, Graham works closely with customers to ensure their cover remains clear, relevant and aligned to their needs.

His approach is centred on building relationships and simplifying what can often feel like a complex subject.

Feedback and customer responses are very important to us, and reflect what we have to offer at Ecclesiastical. During the year, Graham will contact selected customers to arrange some in person introductory meetings.



Going Digital & Reducing Impact

We continue to offer customers the option to receive documents electronically, improving convenience while reducing environmental impact.

In case you missed it

Switching to digital documentation ensures quicker access to important information and supports our ongoing sustainability efforts. If you would like to receive your insurance documents via email, please let us know by emailing directbusiness@ecclesiastical.com. When mailing, please ensure to include your policy number and email address.

Looking Ahead

As we move into the months ahead, we recognise the dedication it takes to care for buildings, lead organisations and support communities.

Our role is to stand alongside you, offering guidance, reassurance and practical support when it matters most.

**Thank you for the work you do,
and for allowing us to support you in it.**

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