

Summary of Events and Activities in 2024

Funding:

CMHI submitted two successful applications, which resulted in €1,000 from MindMatters and £750 from Benefact Trust. Both grants were for specific projects, one of which is running at present, while the other will be run next summer.

Three more grant applications, written by Catherine, have been submitted in recent months, which, if successful, will allow CMHI to run more events in a greater range of locations.

Training:

We are delighted to announce that our prayer ministry training was run again in 2024 for the first time since Covid lockdown. Congratulations to Mr Oliver Deegan, from Limerick City Parish, who has been commissioned as a prayer minister! Rev Dr Leonard Madden, who is a member of CMHI, and Ms Siobhan Wheeler, an ordinand at CITI, also completed the training but due to movements between parishes, their commissioning will take place at a future date. We have invitations from two parishes to run our prayer ministry training in 2025, and we have trained prayer ministers, who were not commissioned due to the lockdown, but are completing their shadowing at the present time and will be commissioned next year.

Events:

We continue to run new events, and to return to established ones. Lydia, our Ministry Leader, has just finished another set of sessions of Under the Tree, a Bible Study and nature connection which she runs in tandem with the National Bible Society of Ireland. This was one of the first events that Lydia put together when she joined CMHI, and it is great to see it return at different times of the year, in a winter version as well as a summer and spring.

Earlier today, Lydia was at a session of her new event, My Dwelling Place, which is an online Advent series aimed particularly at those who, due to health problems or other reasons, cannot attend church in person. My Dwelling Place creates an online community and explores the nature of home, belonging, and rest in God, with guest contributors speaking about what those concepts mean to them. This event is funded by the MindMatters grant, for which we are very grateful.

Other events that have run during the year include God, Me, and Anxiety – an online course that explores different aspects of anxiety and our response to it, as well as deepening our understanding of God, and His response to us and our anxious parts. This course sold out in a few days, which shows that CMHI is speaking to a need for wholeness and healing that many people experience.

Lydia has also run her Psalm 23 Quiet Day, which originated via an invitation from Churches Together in Ballina. This day, which invites participants to meditate on the psalm, line by line, and encourages artistic response to the feelings evoked, has now been run several times.

We continue to receive prayer requests from people at our events and through our website and social media. Thank you to Ms Jeanne Salter for taking these to the healing service in Christ Church weekly, and thank you to Canon Elaine Murray, whose prayer group in Carraigaline also prays for some of the people who request prayer from CMHI.

Mission Sunday:

We are extremely grateful to the Diocese of Tuam, Limerick and Killaloe for selecting us as one of the beneficiaries of their annual Mission Sunday collection. Their theme this year is Mental Health, and the money collected will be divided between CMHI and the Samaritans. We appreciate this financial support greatly, as well as the many connections that CMHI and TLK have developed in recent years, and the invitations we have had to hold events there.

Annual Healing Service:

It was a delight to hold our annual service of wholeness and healing, and gift day, in Christ Church Bray this year. In so doing, we marked the years of service that Rev Baden Stanley gave to CMHI, and the healing ministry he established in the parish, and looked forward to the development of that ministry under the new incumbent, Rev Dr Leonard Madden. It was also a great privilege to have the former chair of CMHI, Rt Rev Patrick Rooke, as our preacher. Patrick's sermon was truly wonderful, and for anyone who couldn't be there in person, the recording of the service is available on the CMHI YouTube page. As we had many requests for copies of the sermon, if you email Catherine at catherine@ministryofhealing.ie she will send you the text which the Bishop kindly shared with us.

CMHI Board/Treasurer

Ms Mieke Scholte and Rev Aaron McAlister were appointed as Directors at last year's AGM, and it has been wonderful to have them with us over the last year. Thanks to all our Directors for their hard work and their time. We still have two vacancies on the Board, so please do think about putting yourself, or suggesting someone else you know, for this role.

Finally, but very importantly, today marks Rev Ken Rue's last meeting as Treasurer of CMHI. Looking through our archives recently, we came across an email from Ken sent in 2018 in which he agreed to take on the role for a year! Ken has contributed a huge amount to CMHI, covering not only the day-to-day running of our finances, and the annual reporting, but, while the role of Operations Executive was vacant, covering governance and taking on the role of Company Secretary. We have a small gift for Ken to mark our gratitude for all he has done.

Our new Treasurer, who unfortunately cannot be with us today, is Craig Copley Brown, from Limerick City Parish. Craig Copley Brown has been Treasurer of the Limerick Protestant Young Men's Association for the last 5 years. Craig has been a member of General Synod in the past and is currently a member of the Tuam, Limerick and Killaloe diocesan council. He is presently completing his thesis for an MA in History from Trinity College Dublin. We are very glad to welcome Craig on board and look forward to working with him.

Finally, thank you to everyone who supports CMHI in any way – from sharing our social media posts, to attending our events, to giving someone one of our prayer cards, to donating to help our work to continue. It is a privilege and a blessing to work to further Christ's healing ministry on this island, and thank you to all who help that work.