

The LORD is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer; my God is my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold. Psalm 73:26 [NIV]

Focus on Christian Police Association Northern Ireland (CPANI)

CPANI are such an amazing team. I have very vivid memories of a time of worship on the Giant's Causeway in April 2018 when CPANI hosted our CPA National Conference that year. Also, since taking up my role, I have found it a real privilege to join the Holiday Bible Week that CPANI have held in August for many years. Like many events HBW 2020 had to be cancelled. However, as we normally feature this superb time of fellowship and reflection on Northern Ireland as part of our September issue, I felt that we should continue to remember all the excellent work that our family in CPANI carries out in support of the Mission and Vision of the CPA. It is my great pleasure to introduce this update from the team in CPANI. Please do continue to pray for all in CPANI and for everyone in the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) – Lee Russell – Exec Director

"The COVID 19 pandemic put an abrupt halt to our planned Holiday Bible week in the beautiful seaside town of Portstewart. With a new venue, HBW 2020 was intended to be a relaunch of the event, keeping some of the precious traditions of the past whilst reaching out to a new generation of police officers, staff and families. Unfortunately those plans will have to wait until 2021, but we look forward to welcoming as many visitors as possible to our stunning North Coast next year.

With many of the folk we are in regular contact with being retired police officers and staff, we made a conscious effort to reach out to this more senior



demographic during lockdown. Whilst some had ready access to forms of social media, many could potentially feel isolated and lonely if they did not use this technology. CPANI has a number of clergy who volunteer as fieldworkers and our retired folk were identified and contacted by our fieldworkers who offered prayerful and spiritual support via telephone. Many of these folk support CPA spiritually and financially year on year.

Outreach to our serving officers and staff came in the form of a Monday morning email of encouragement, or 'Thought for the Week'. This was an opportunity to pause, reflect and reset for the week ahead.

We are pleased to be engaging with PSNI along with the other diversity staff associations, HR and the Police Federation NI in the 'Your Voice' Forum. This is a quarterly forum, led by the Chief Constable and the Deputy Chief Constable. It focusses on workplace issues and seeks to gain valuable views from all our PSNI staff associations on how the organisation runs it business.

Sadly, we still live in a society in NI where there are those who would seek to do us harm, simply because of the job we do or the uniform we wear. We have greatly appreciated the support and prayers from our brothers and sisters in Christ across the UK and beyond. Policing is, and will always be, a dangerous and challenging job, no matter what country we work in. However, it is one that is worth doing, and for many of us, an opportunity to shine the light of Kingdom Values into some of the darkest corners of society."



The CPANI Leadership Team recently met with PSNI Chief Constable Simon Byrne (centre)

On & Off Duty

National Police Memorial Day – 27th September

Reverend Canon David Wilbraham MBE – NPMD Coordinator



I do hope that you have managed to stay safe, well and occupied over these past months which have brought challenges to us all at both a personal and professional level. For those who have had pressures and, in some cases, family tragedy to face, our thoughts and prayers are with you. Sadly, current circumstances mean that we cannot physically gather in the way we usually would to mark National Police Memorial Day and that is hugely regrettable, not least for those of you who attend year-on-year to share memories and support each other. However, we remain committed to our NPMD on Sunday 27th September. You may choose to join family, friends, and colleagues to watch the service in a socially-distanced gathering, or you may watch it in your

own homes in quiet reflection. Significantly, we will join as a nation to pay our respects and remember the officers who gave us their all from Northern Ireland, Scotland, England, and Wales. The service will be available to watch from 3pm on Sunday 27 September. We look forward to us being together, albeit virtually, for NPMD 2020.

The service will be held on a website that you can access via the button. Please note that it is not available to view until 3pm on Sunday 27 September.

Please download the full details via https://mcusercontent.com/f800a7ca474522cda9a95fc1f/files/6b814a35-2df0-49dc-abae-33564243f972/NPMD_EVENT_LEAFLET.1.pdf

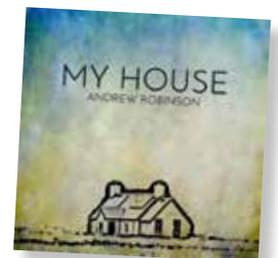
“My House” – the latest EP by CPA Worship Leader Andrew Robinson

Andrew Robinson is one of our key leaders within the CPA worship team and is also very active in his local CPA branch. This year, Andrew released his crowdfunded debut studio EP “My House”. This project has enabled Andrew to take his acoustic singer-songwriter style and develop it into a fresh new sound, recording and producing the EP with the team at Lion House Productions. The songs inspire, challenge and encourage listeners to build their lives on God, listen to his voice and step out in faith by not settling for a comfortable and mediocre existence.

There is a depth of life experience and vulnerability in Andrew’s music that captivates the heart and soul, encouraging others to live for God and help them to realise that we all have the same struggles and questions

about life, but there is eternal hope, which is reflected in each song.

Andrew wants to share his music with as many people as possible and believes that all of his songs are a gift from God to be shared. You can listen to his music on any of the main streaming platforms i.e. Spotify, iTunes, Amazon, but he is also keen for everyone to have access to his music without any hindrance and is giving away CD’s and digital downloads for free. If you would like a free CD or digital download of any of his music please go to his website www.andrewrobinsonmusic.com/music and complete the form. You can also sign up to his mailing list for regular updates about new music.



Update on Hertfordshire CPA

by Gary Bentley – CPA Branch Leader

Since becoming the Leader of the Hertfordshire branch of the CPA I have been forging links with local churches and have been speaking to the members and the local chaplains to identify opportunities to give CPA inputs. I have attended the Chaplains quarterly meeting at HQ to introduce myself and to look into how best to ensure that all stations have reflection rooms. Our Deputy Branch Leader is Danielle Einchcomb and she has been liaising with all the Chief Inspectors to continue this work. I and Danielle compile monthly reflections for our members, to give food for thought and comfort to them and we have received several emails from members



From the Coast to Coast Walk

saying how much they needed to hear the words of the reflection for particular seasons in their life.

This year, prior to the Coronavirus restrictions, Hertfordshire hosted four officers from Sierra Leone, two of whom are Christian and I arranged via the membership, a visit to a church service in Welwyn Garden City. The officers thoroughly enjoyed the worship – they even knew all of the songs – and the sermon and several of the congregation came up to us afterwards and chatted to them at length and prayed with them before we left.

In addition, this year I also contacted as many churches as possible in Hertfordshire (including the Cathedral in St Albans) regarding the CPA coordinated International Day of Prayer for the Emergency Services. As a result I was invited to give inputs at several Zoom services leading up to and on the day itself.

On a more personal note, my wife and I celebrated our 10th Wedding Anniversary in June. Recently we walked the Coast to Coast Walk, almost 200 miles over a two week period.



Gary Bentley at Christchurch Baptist church (pre restrictions)

From the Frontline Dave Valente – Operational Inspector and CPA Trustee

The response to the Coronavirus crisis has changed Policing unlike anything else during my 20 years' service. Crime was down for a period of time. We were fast to adapt to the needs of the public, whilst still ensuring we looked after our own health. Sanitisers are in cars, at Station entrances and on desks. Whatever we are having to do, it's still a joy to serve and help others.

It's also remarkable to observe how humanity has completely reviewed its focus and values. Some of the lowest paid, and hardest working keyworkers including nurses, carers, shop staff, delivery drivers were applauded and recognised for all they do. They are recognised as heroes, for the previous unsung valuable work that they have always done.

Jesus words are still poignant in these unprecedented times. "So the last will be first, and the first will be last." Matt 20v16.



Insp Dave Valente

From the Director

Following on from the inspirational testimony of Jim Green in the August issue, I was able to speak with CPA member Mrs Perrett whose husband (Ron Perrett) was mentioned in Jim's extended testimony. Mrs Perrett is 90 years old and joined CPA in the 1950's. She is still an active supporter of our Mission and our Vision and she passes on her prayers and blessings to you all. We are so blessed by all our members, friends and community partners. Such a rich history of support to our Mission and Vision.

Lee Russell MA – Executive Director



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OUR MISSION is to

- Be a National Voice for Christians in Policing.
- Encourage and support Christians in the Police Service.
- Communicate in words and action, the truth, message and hope of the gospel of Jesus Christ to colleagues and the community we serve.
- Build bridges between the Christian community and the Police.

OUR VISION is to see

- The CPA as a national charity which actively leads on issues relevant to Christians in Policing.
- An active and growing branch of CPA in every Police Service in the UK and every Christian in the Police Service to fulfil their potential in Jesus Christ.
- Colleagues and those we serve to know Jesus Christ personally.
- Police and Churches working together in every community to reduce crime and improve quality of life.

President Deputy Chief Constable Paul Netherton OBE **Chair of Council** A/Inspector Marie Reavey
Editorial Team Lee Russell (Executive Director) Tony Gale (Executive Support Manager) Allan Spencer (volunteer support)
Administrator Lindsey Monk

ON & OFF DUTY is the CPA monthly digest of news and articles. We also update a monthly Prayer Diary intended to inform and encourage those associated with the CPA. Please forward any items to office@CPAuk.net by the 20th of each month.

NB. All articles published will also be available for unrestricted viewing via the Internet. The views expressed in this publication are not necessarily those of the CPA Council.

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