

BOARD FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY (RI)

REPORT 2002

MEMBERSHIP

Rev Canon WD Sinnamon (Chairman)	Dublin
Rev AG Marley	Cork, Cloyne and Ross
Rev JL Sutcliffe	Clogher
Ven WD Johnston	Kilmore, Elphin and Ardagh
Miss V Darling	Dublin and Glendalough
Mrs F Stewart-Maunder	Derry and Raphoe
Mr S McClure	Cashel and Ossory
Mrs C Schmelter	Meath and Kildare
Mrs CH Thomson	Tuam, Killala and Achonry
Mr PDG Read	Limerick, Killaloe and Ardfert

Co-opted members

Mrs A Denard	Mothers' Union
Mr JTN McGaffin	Board for Social Responsibility (NI)

MEETINGS

The Board met once during the year.

RETIRING MEMBER

The Rev JL Sutcliffe announced his retirement from the Board and his imminent return to England. The members of the Board expressed their sincere thanks to him for his contribution to the Board during his membership, and wished him well in his retirement.

TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Board's terms of reference are "the co-ordination and initiation of the Church of Ireland's effort in the Republic of Ireland in matters of Social Concern".

FUTURE ROLE OF THE BOARD

The Board, in a year plagued with the concerns over the foot-and-mouth crisis and its potential disastrous effect on the country and its community, together with the appraisal of the ramifications of the horrors of the September 11 terrorist attack on the Twin Towers, viewed, at its meeting on 25 October 2001, an agenda which included terrorism, racism and the contents of a letter from a most concerned and dedicated member of the Board.

The unanimous request of all members of the Board was that the letter from the concerned member be taken first. It outlined graphically the frustration of all members of the Board with the lack of recognition of the work of the Board and of the results of its deliberations.

Following a long and earnest discussion, it was decided unanimously that the acting Chairman of the Board should write to the Archbishop of Dublin a letter outlining our concerns and asking guidance as to our future role.

Appended below are the relevant points set out in our letter.

“At our past few meetings there has been a major frustration regarding the role of the Board. In the main it has focused on the fact that our deliberations seem to have no clear purpose within the structure of the Church.

We have representatives from the various Dioceses, and have seconded Members from other organisations, and yet we are not asked to discuss anything by the Church, nor do we report back to the Church (other than by a short bi-annual report to the General Synod). We do not receive funding in order to initiate research on our own behalf, nor to publish reports in our name. In short, we wonder what we are for, in the eyes of the Church.

We have attempted, over several meetings, to deliberate on our role, but we feel that we can no longer function without some guidance as to our purpose. In particular we would find it helpful to discover what role we might play in the light of the recent formation of the Church in Society Committee. To preserve our own integrity, we feel that if no realistic role can be found for us, it would be better that we disband.”

BOARD FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY (RI)**ACCOUNTS FOR YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2001**

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

	2001 €
INCOME	
Balance b/f	489.07
Interest and dividends	60.36
Parochial contributions	84.56
	<hr/> 633.99
EXPENDITURE	
Ch bk / Gov duty	2.23
Credit balance c/f	631.76
	<hr/> 633.99