

Standing Committee – Report 2004

APPENDIX C

CENTRAL COMMUNICATIONS BOARD

REPORT 2004

The Annual Report of this Board incorporates those of the Broadcasting, Internet and Literature Sub-Committees from May 2003 to April 2004.

MEMBERSHIP

Rt Rev AET Harper (Chairman)

Very Rev JFA Bond

Mr AD Fleck

Rev M Graham

Very Rev RD Harman

Ven RG Hoey

Mrs J Leighton

Ven GCS Linney

Rev Dr AW McCormack

Dr K Milne

Mr DC Reardon

Dr R Refaussé

Director of Communications (*ex officio*)

In attendance:

Media Officer

Communications Assistant

Chairman Church in Society Committee – Rt Rev

MGStA Jackson

DEVELOPMENT OF CHURCH OF IRELAND COMMUNICATIONS STRUCTURES

In 2003 the Standing Committee approved the nominations to the Central Communications Board and the sub-committees of Literature, Broadcasting and Internet for the next three years. The new members were welcomed and those who had served during the last three-year period, which has seen huge developments in the communications services of the Church of Ireland, were thanked for their foundational work.

During the period June 2003 to April 2004 the overarching aim of the communications team was the development of a synergistic relationship between the key projects undertaken by committees and boards of the Church and the communications support team. The Central Communications Board focused on how strategic communications planning might be achieved. The Rt Rev AET Harper as Chairman of the Board was invited to participate in the Policy and Co-ordination Advisory Committee.

The Committee emphasised the need to continue to monitor the amalgamated roles of Director of Communications and Head of Synod Services, which the Standing Committee reluctantly agreed to following the resignation of the Assistant Secretary to the General Synod, Ms Valerie Beatty. During 2003, Ms Elaine Whitehouse, Assistant to the Chief Officer was made available to provide assistance in the communications area as Communications Assistant. These changes which were intended to facilitate the development of a synergistic relationship between the key projects undertaken by committees under the aegis of Standing Committee and the General Synod and the

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communications support team have achieved much of that aspiration. Very considerable additional pressure has been placed upon the Director of Communications in coping with the additional workload generated by the addition of the Assistant Secretary's portfolio and Mrs Maxwell is to be congratulated on so successfully managing the additional burden. It will remain important to continue to monitor the situation in order to ensure that adequate staff support is made available.

The Rev Brian Parker and Mrs Jenny Compston took over the media monitoring service supporting the Diocesan Bishops and Honorary Secretaries with information packs from the Press Office in Belfast. An additional monitoring service for the Church in Society Committee and other groups working in key project areas is provided from Church House, Dublin. The Media Officer's role was particularly important during 2003/04 providing coverage of the debate arising from consideration of *The Hard Gospel* scoping study report by diocesan synods and also covering the follow up meeting to the Summit on Ministry in February 2004. These projects were significant in the degree of input received from the clerical and lay representatives at diocesan level. Indeed, the consultation exercises themselves have been a major innovation in internal and external communication for the Church of Ireland.

PUBLISHING AND COPYRIGHT

The Literature Committee completed its review of Church of Ireland publishing since 1980. This highlighted certain publishing needs and consequently a publishing imprint, Church of Ireland Publishing, was approved by the Standing Committee during 2003 and has begun to facilitate the production of materials under three headings. These are:

- Materials produced by committees and central church structures.
- Materials commissioned to fill gaps in church life.
- Ad hoc materials relevant to the mission of the church.

More details are provided under the report of the Literature Committee.

Following the introduction of the large print hymnal in 2003, copyright guidelines were produced and circulated to parishes via the diocesan offices to simplify the task of seeking permission to reproduce hymns and music. With the imminent arrival of BCP 2004, the need for a Copyright Secretary was identified by the Standing Committee in response to a proposal from the Liturgical Advisory Committee to manage reproduction issues and to facilitate those parishes wishing to produce special leaflets. Further copyright guidelines in relation to BCP 2004 have been circulated.

ACCESSIBLE COMMUNICATIONS

Accessible communications remains an ongoing part of the work of the communications team. The Rev M Graham, Internet Co-ordinator for the Church, undertook extensive research and subsequently implemented a solution making the Church of Ireland website accessible in line with Royal National Society for the Blind guidelines.

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The Book of Common Prayer (2004) will be available in Desk and Pew editions. A Large Print edition containing the material essential for Sunday worship and a Braille edition will also be available but, necessarily, the pagination of these editions will not replicate that of the standard versions. The Church is indebted to the Braille Unit of HM Prison Maghaberry for the production of the BCP in Braille.

The production and distribution of a large print version of the Church Hymnal continued during the summer and autumn of 2003 so that the Hymnal is now available in the following editions: Full Music, Melody, Large print (words only) and Braille. Standing Committee requested the communications staff to conduct a survey of the unmet need for large print books in the Church of Ireland and this was put in hand in December 2003. The Church of Ireland is grateful to the Braille Unit of HM Prison Maghaberry for continuing to produce and distribute the Braille version of the Church Hymnal during 2003/04.

COMMUNICATIONS SUPPORT OF CHURCH PROJECTS

Two key projects of the Church of Ireland in 2003/04 were the Sectarianism Education Project and the Commission on Ministry. These continued to be supported strategically by the Communications Team. A study pack was created for the Sectarianism Education Project Committee to enable parish groups to begin exploring the issues identified in The Hard Gospel study. This was distributed in January 2003 to all parishes.

The Church in Society Committee continues to use the communications services in Church House Dublin and Belfast to good effect. The Press Office supports the Committee in issuing and gaining publicity for reports and statements issued by the Committee and for special consultation meetings arranged under their auspices. During this year statements and reports have been issued on a variety of topics: the Draft Betting and Gaming (NI) Order (2003), Europe; the development of a joint Charter of Human Rights for the two jurisdictions within Ireland by the two Human Rights Commissions; a report on Alcohol in the life of young people. A new departure for this Committee is to undertake project work that extends involvement in the topics raised to the parish level. Ms Stella Mew's project on stewardship of the environment has seen the implementation of a folder project. The folders were distributed to parishes at the beginning of the year. Subsequently, worship resources for harvest thanksgiving, information leaflets and other material has been distributed. Feedback indicates that this project has been widely appreciated.

Another important issue this year is the reform of marriage legislation in Northern Ireland. The Reform of Marriage Legislation Working Group used internal communications channels and the *Gazette* to ensure that information was distributed to parishes as quickly as possible. Interim record forms have been created and the communications team has liaised with other churches on the production of new marriage record books, which will replace the old state registers for church record purposes. A booklet of guidelines on the new marriage regulations was produced under the Church of Ireland Publishing imprint and distributed to all parishes. Reform of legislation in the Republic of Ireland is underway at the time of writing.

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The Media Officer contacted chairpersons of all Central Church committees in November 2003 asking them to identify topics of media interest in their remits and nominate media spokespersons to speak on their behalf. A number of committees have responded to this and the project is ongoing with media training planned for the future.

POSITION STATEMENTS

A key concern of the Central Communications Board is to make more accessible to members of the Church of Ireland as well as to external audiences key position or issue statements. The Board is working closely with the House of Bishops, the Church in Society Committee, the Honorary Secretaries and others to this end. Statements in 2003/04 were issued by the Bishops and Archbishops of the Church of Ireland, the European Affairs Panel, the Social Justice and Theological (R of I) Panel and the Legislative and Politics Panel.

A full archive of press releases is also maintained on the website, which contains, in addition, all statements released by Archbishops, Bishops or senior clergy.

The Press Office maintains a file with these statements available. They can be faxed to the press or to individuals requiring them for research. All material is updated as new material is issued.

TRAINING

From 9-11 October 2003, the Church of Ireland hosted a three-day training forum for Diocesan Communications Officers from the Church of Ireland, Church in Wales and the Scottish Episcopal Church. This event was well supported. Martin Short, Director of Communications Training for the Church of England, provided training on making the most of communications at the parish level. The event was also addressed by Canon Jim Rosenthal, Director of Communications for the Anglican Communion and editor of *Anglican Episcopal World* and the Anglican Communion News Service. The Ven J Holdsworth, Archdeacon of St Davids, spoke about the conceptualisation of communication and the Gospel.

Communications staff and Diocesan Communications Officers also attended various Church of England training courses on a variety of topics. These courses are available to church personnel at a subsidised rate. The Board recommends their use to dioceses and parishes who wish to develop communications related skills.

MAGAZINE AND WEBSITE COMPETITION

The magazine and website competition will run again this year with sponsorship provided by the Diocesan Board of Education of Down, Dromore and Connor. Training workshops have been organised for all participants. The workshops will take place in Dublin and Belfast and will be co-ordinated by the Media Officer.

DIOCESAN COMMUNICATIONS OFFICERS (DCOs)

The Church suffered a great loss this year with the death of Mr Brian Thornton, Diocesan Communications Officer for Tuam. Brian was a familiar figure at the General Synod and was a tireless worker on behalf of the Diocese of Tuam. He will be sorely missed.

The Diocese of Tuam has subsequently appointed The Reverend Aean Ferguson to act as Diocesan Communications Officer.

The Diocese of Connor has established a Diocesan Communications Committee which has produced a diocesan magazine, Connor Connections. A website has been published.

The Diocesan Communications Officer for the Diocese of Down and Dromore, Mrs Betty McLaughlin, retired in the summer of 2003. Our best wishes go to her for the future.

The DCO network currently extends to Dublin and Glendalough, Cork, Limerick, Cashel, Armagh, Derry & Raphoe, Clogher, Tuam and Meath and Kildare. The Media Officer maintains regular contact with the network in order to facilitate the transmission of diocesan and parish news. The Central Communications Board would encourage all dioceses and parishes to consider the importance of communications as a part of ministry and mission. If any group at parish or diocesan level would like assistance in developing communications capacity, they should contact the Central Communications Board c/o Mrs Maxwell, Director of Communications, Church House, Dublin. The Board can provide advice and support at all levels.

THE BOARD AND ITS SUB-COMMITTEES - FORWARD PLANNING 2003

The Central Communications Board and its Sub-Committees began a review of their objectives in January 2003. From this process a number of projects emerged, including those outlined above. There is broad agreement that communications on both the external and internal levels works best where it is co-ordinated strategically and aligned with the priorities identified by the central church structures. The Board was struck by the ‘Central resourcing for local living’ concept that emerged from the Commission on Ministry diocesan consultations this year. Diocesan communications also require planning and co-ordination with an eye to both the aims of the diocese and the projects initiated by central structures. Communications techniques and technologies can be an enabling element for the whole Church. The Central Communications Board’s vision is for greater use of both communications techniques and technologies to facilitate mission and ministry. The Board is moving on from seeing communications only in terms of talking to the press or producing diocesan magazines and websites, important though these are. Communications technologies offer the Church of Ireland a new way of doing business. Just as Roman roads opened up Europe in the dark ages to the missionaries of the early church, so the super-highway challenges us to a new vision of mission.

EMERGING ISSUE OF CONCERN

It is important that in so swiftly changing an environment as the communications scene the Board should be able to be both reactive in responding to emerging issues and consultation opportunities and proactive in developing policy on specific issues. For

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example, in the United Kingdom the role and standards of public service broadcasting have been highlighted as never before not just by the Hutton Inquiry but also by the approach of the BBC Charter Review and the establishment of the new regulatory body known as Ofcom. The issue of the first Ofcom Annual Plan provides such an opportunity for consultation, and yet, consultation ‘windows’ open only for short periods and the Church of Ireland has not always been well placed to offer the quality of contribution it might wish to make in the time available. There are key issues for the Church and society as a whole to address at this time. In the matter of broadcasting such issues might include:

- Overall programme quality;
- Values in programming and reportage;
- The desirability of ‘benchmarking statements’ by Regulators and by Broadcasters as to values, philosophy, political, social and ethical principles, and the relationship of these to commercial considerations;
- Accountability, transparency and corporate governance;
- Commitment to diversity and pluralism including the commitment to the accessibility of minority interest programming along with socially responsible scheduling;
- Recognition of the normative nature of underlying Christian principles in the cultural, social and community values of the United Kingdom;
- The priority of sustaining fully funded free-to-air public service broadcasting of the highest quality as the best guarantee of programme quality among commercial competitors.

In the matter of IT and internet communication such issues surely include:

- The desirability of developing and implementing effective means of policing the Internet, especially in respect of sites offering utterly unacceptable and arguably criminal material;
- Copyright and the protection of intellectual property rights;
- Responsibility for protecting systems against corruptibility.

The whole business of the Church of God is communication. The Church cannot be neutral in the matter of the encouragement of the development of responsible values and standards within the communications industry especially at so early a stage in the development of the regulatory structures and regimes.

BROADCASTING COMMITTEE

MEMBERSHIP

Mr AD Fleck (Chairman)

Ms R Buchanan
Most Rev Dr RL Clarke
Rev Dr WHG Crawley
Rev EV Cremin
Rev TW Gordon
Dr V Jones

Rev Dr AW McCormack
Rev FJ McDowell
Rev MA Parker
Director of Communications (*ex officio*)
Media Officer (*ex officio*)

The year has been a busy one in the life of the Broadcasting Committee. It has been a year of welcomes and farewells. We have said goodbye to the Ven AJ Forster, the Rt Reverend WP Colton and to Dr K Milne. Dr Milne's service, in particular, on the Committee has been extensive and invaluable - he served for many years as Honorary Secretary before assuming the Chairmanship in 1998. The refreshed Committee determined that such assistance should not pass unnoticed and a function was held in the University Club in Dublin to mark Kenneth's moving on. This was attended by his friends on the Committee, and in the media. We welcomed to full membership The Reverend EV Cremin from the United Dioceses of Cork, Cloyne and Ross who brings with her valuable English experience of religious broadcasting; also The Most Reverend Dr RL Clarke, for many years Chairman of the Central Communications Board; also The Reverend M Parker, from the United Dioceses of Down and Dromore, a young Rector with drive and enthusiasm for broadcasting; also The Reverend Dr WHG Crawley, a Presbyterian minister (who served previously as a consultant on the Committee) who is well known to listeners of BBC Radio Ulster's Sunday Sequence programme. We welcome back into the Chair Mr AD Fleck who we anticipate will lead the Committee's deliberations with his usual sure-footedness and panache.

Throughout the year, the Committee met in discharge of its functions in both Ireland and Northern Ireland.

BBC (NI)

All that was said in last year's report must be reiterated. The Committee continues to be most impressed by the standards and professionalism of religious broadcasting on BBC(NI). Greatly to be admired is the work of The Reverend Dr Bert Tosh and Mr Martin O'Brien in maintaining a high standard of religious programming without which the reflective side of life in Northern Ireland would be much the worse. The work of our own Committee member, The Reverend Dr William Crawley, is a source of encouragement to the members of the Committee - Sunday Sequence is an informative, reliable and creative religious magazine programme.

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UTV

The Committee also continues to appreciate the work of Ulster Television above and beyond what is expected or required in the scheduling of a commercial broadcaster. The UTV Life programme is to be commended for its coverage of current affairs topics including religion in a contextualised way that encourages contemporary society in NI to engage in meaningful consideration of the issues covered.

RTÉ

RTÉ Radio services are continuing to develop under the co-ordination of another Committee member, The Reverend TW Gordon. The Committee reviews these programmes from time to time and finds encouragement in a steadily developing attentiveness to ways in which the dynamics of radio influence how ‘radio worship’ should be done. A report from The Reverend TW Gordon is included as Appendix One.

The standard of religiously orientated programming on RTÉ television is also the subject of periodic scrutiny and again the Committee is impressed with what is managed on a fairly lean budget.

Through the course of the year the Committee’s Honorary Secretary, The Reverend Dr AW McCormack, was invited to represent the Irish Council of Churches on RTÉ’s newly established Audience Council. He would be delighted to hear from members of the Church of Ireland (indeed any of the Christian churches) on various issues of concern across the RTÉ schedules.

PRIORITIES FUND RADIO DRAMA BURSARY

As was reported in last year’s Book of Reports the Committee has been working with RTÉ to develop a Radio drama project. This came to fruition on Easter Monday 2003 when a play, ‘The Dagenham Yank’, by the Cork writer Conall Creedon was transmitted on RTÉ Radio One. The play was a modern reflection on the Parable of the Prodigal Son. The participation of the Church of Ireland Broadcasting Committee and Priorities Fund was duly acknowledged on the air and much good will has been generated in RTÉ as a result of the endeavour. It is hoped in some years time to collaborate in a similar way with BBC (NI).

INTERFAITH CONFERENCE

The Committee has had in mind for some time now the idea of organizing an interfaith conference or consultation on the most appropriate use of ‘religious’ space in the schedule of a public service broadcaster. The recent publication of census statistics in Ireland has been a natural stimulus to this. It now seems to the Committee that the best way to progress this idea is as a response to the wider Church of Ireland initiative ‘The Hard Gospel’ and so it is anticipated that a consultation will be held under this aegis sometime in the autumn of 2004.

CHURCHES MEDIA COUNCIL (CMeC)

The body formerly known as CACLB (Churches Advisory Council on Local Broadcasting) was relaunched as CMeC (Churches Media Council) in the autumn of 2003. The Reverend Dr AW McCormack is the representative on this body which meets four times a year and considers the issues surrounding broadcast communications in the UK jurisdiction. It is anticipated that this body will be ‘hyperactive’ in the run-up to BBC Charter Review in 2006. Already it has met with Mr Alan Bookbinder, Head of Religion and Ethics in the BBC, to consider in partnership with him the best way of recruiting the next generation of religious broadcasters on BBC radio and television. CMeC promises to be a very useful forum for the Church of Ireland to have its voice heard (as part of a concerted Christian voice) in Westminster.

CMeC will follow the example of its predecessor CACLB in staging an annual summer conference. The 2003 conference, held in Swanwick, was attended by The Reverend I Poulton and Mr R Smith.

ICCTRA (IRISH CHURCHES COUNCIL FOR TELEVISION AND RADIO AFFAIRS)

This body (in some ways the equivalent of CMeC in Ireland) meets regularly in Dublin to consider matters relating to broadcasting in a specifically ecumenical context. The Broadcasting Committee is represented by Dr V Jones (the Honorary Secretary of ICCTRA) and Mrs JM Maxwell (Director of Communications).

OFCOM

The Office of Communications (OFCOM) succeeded the various commercial regulatory authorities in the UK (ITC and Radio Authority) in 2003/2004. The Broadcasting Committee participated in the OFCOM Consultation on Religious Licences. Our contribution is included as Appendix Two to this report.

RELIGIOUS RESOURCES FOR RADIO (3 R)

This is a religious news syndication service, based in Dublin, which is supported by the Broadcasting Committee. Twice each month a CD package of religious news items is sent to local radio stations in Ireland for use in their scheduling. There is usually a good take up of the material that is supplied - material whose content would otherwise not be present on the local radio stations. The financing of this service has always been somewhat precarious and the service underwent in early 2004 a management consultancy process (supplied *pro bono*) with a view to creating a more efficient and valuable service.

INTERNET COMMITTEE

MEMBERSHIP

Ven RG Hoey (Chairman)

Ms M Carter

Mr K Cinnamond

Mr A Clements

Rev M Graham (Internet Co-ordinator)

Rev CWL McCauley

Director of Communications (*ex officio*)

In attendance:

Media Officer

The Internet Committee advises the Central Communications Board on the use of the Internet in the Church of Ireland. Its membership comprises Archdeacon Raymond Hoey (Chairman), Mrs Janet Maxwell (Communications Officer), Mr Adrian Clements (Head of Finance), Mr Ken Cinnamond and Ms Michelle Carter (IT department, RCB), The Reverend Craig McCauley and The Reverend Michael Graham (Internet Co-ordinator). In addition Mr Mark Larmour acts as a consultant to the Committee.

The Internet Committee works in three main areas:

- maintaining and developing the Church of Ireland websites
- encouraging and developing the use of the Internet among Church members
- supporting Internet users in the Church of Ireland

CHURCH OF IRELAND WEBSITES

The Church of Ireland website (<http://ireland.anglican.org>) is the main on-line communications gateway for the Church. The number of visitors to the site continues to grow with over 442,600 “sessions” (visits) in 2003 which generated over 1,344,100 “hits” (or page/image views).

During 2003 a major survey took place to identify how the site was being used by the Church of Ireland on-line community. The results of this survey have been analysed and future development of the website will draw on these results.

The General Synod website (<http://synod.ireland.anglican.org>) has proved to be a tremendous resource for Synod members and visitors alike. Over 59,300 visits were made to the website over the year (2003 - 29,600) generating over 532,000 “hits”. Over the week of the Synod itself the site received 3,136 visits. The website for General Synod 2004, which is to be held in Armagh, is already on-line.

A further website “Church of Ireland Online” (<http://churchofireland.net>) is aimed at the Church of Ireland on-line community. It provides information which it is hoped is useful and informative to internet users in the Church of Ireland. It answers many of the questions which arise from time to time, and gives information on how to handle “spam” or unsolicited email and the danger posed by viruses. It also holds the on-line Church of Ireland Directories, allowing these to be kept up-to-date as changes in personnel arise,

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with email addresses being held in a password-protected secure area to prevent email harvesting. Over 40,300 visits were made to this site in 2003 (2002 – 14,000) generating over 176,600 “hits”.

USE OF THE INTERNET BY CHURCH MEMBERS

The use of the free website hosting service offered by the Internet Committee continues to expand. Currently 128 parishes have web sites listed in the Church of Ireland Directory. Eight dioceses now have diocesan websites (Cashel and Ossory, Connor, Cork, Derry and Raphoe, Down and Dromore, Dublin and Glendalough, Meath and Kildare and Tuam). The Internet Committee is delighted to welcome the latest diocese - Connor - to the internet, and also welcomes the “Surf Direct” programme instituted in that diocese, an initiative which complements the ongoing work of the Committee over the last several years in providing training and support for internet users in the Church of Ireland.

The annual Church of Ireland Magazine competition was expanded in 2002 to include websites. The 2003 competition attracted entries that reflected well on the skills and dedication of website managers. Media Officer Brian Parker said: “There is obviously a great deal of time and effort and not a little imagination being put into the production of parish and diocesan websites.”

The results of the 2003 competition were as follows:

Parish Winner: Kiltarnan, Dublin. Pat Naismith

New Site: Highly Commended: Mullavilly Parish. R B Hannam

Outreach: Highly commended for children’s story outreach: Holy Trinity, Glencraig. Christopher Kinnen

Diocesan Winner: Down & Dromore. Betty McLaughlin

Highly Commended: Specialist sites: Laois Youth Site. Philip Heak; Down & Dromore Youth Site. Andrew Brannigan

ACCESSIBILITY

Accessibility for those with disabilities has become an important issue for those who create and maintain websites. Work continues on developing guidelines for webmasters, and the Church of Ireland website (<http://ireland.anglican.org>) is now available in a text-only version for those who require this facility, such as the visually impaired.

CHILDREN AND THE INTERNET

The issue of safety for children using the internet has been addressed and the Internet Co-ordinator has made presentations to interested parties on how children can “Surf Safe”. Guidelines are also issued to webmasters on the appropriate use of images of children on websites.

DATA PROTECTION LEGISLATION

The implications of the Data Protection Acts in both jurisdictions for the storage and dissemination of information on the internet are under review, with appropriate steps having been taken to comply with the latest requirements of the Acts.

SUPPORTING INTERNET USERS IN THE CHURCH OF IRELAND

The Internet Co-ordinator continues to provide ongoing telephone and site support for Internet users throughout the Church of Ireland. If people are newly on-line, are considering a website or would simply like to talk with someone about the internet they are invited to contact the Internet Co-ordinator, the Revd Michael Graham, at webadmin@ireland.anglican.org or telephone +353 (0)41 9839458.

THE WIDER ANGLICAN COMMUNION

The Internet Co-ordinator, The Reverend Michael Graham, was part of the International Advisory Council for Telecommunications in the Anglican Communion (IACTAC), an initiative of Trinity Church, Wall Street, New York, which met in London in April 2000. A report was presented from this meeting which proposed the establishment of an Inter-Anglican Telecommunications Commission to examine the use of the new technologies available in the field of communications for the benefit of the Communion.

The new Commission was formed at the end of 2003 with Mrs Janet Maxwell, Communications Officer of the Church of Ireland, appointed as Regional Commissioner for Europe and the Revd Michael Graham appointed as a Telecommunications Specialist. The Commission held its first meeting in Canterbury in January 2004.

From that meeting the Commission produced the following Vision Statement for its work:

“To share the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ and to extend further the mission and ministry of the Anglican Communion in the world by using telecommunications technologies, and through that to encourage an environment in which people may find meaning and significance in community with one another.”

The work of the Commission continues.

FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS

As identified by the Inter Anglican Telecommunications Commission, the use of modern telecommunications technologies presents an opportunity to further the mission of the Church in the world, including, of course, that of the Church of Ireland. These technologies can also radically change the way the Church does its work.

The Internet Committee feels that it is now utilising fully the allocated resources in terms of what it can support. As technology continues to develop there are many opportunities

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for the Church of Ireland to expand its use of electronic and telecommunications based systems beyond the current vision of ‘communications = media, websites and email’.

However this will require a commitment on the part of the Church of Ireland in terms of resources of people and money to realise fully the opportunities presented by these exciting developments.

LITERATURE COMMITTEE

MEMBERSHIP

Dr K Milne (Chairman)

Dr R Gillespie

Rt Rev MGStA Jackson

Rev Canon JW McKegney

Rev SA Pragnell

Dr R Refaussé (Honorary Secretary)

Rev B Treacy OP

Ms C West

Very Rev SR White

Director of Communications (*ex officio*)

The Committee met on six occasions.

CHURCH OF IRELAND PUBLISHING

Following extensive discussions the establishment of a new publishing imprint, Church of Ireland Publishing (CIP), was recommended and this was approved by the Standing Committee. CIP was registered as a publisher and provided with an allocation of ISBNs.

It is anticipated that the principal publishing activity of CIP will be:

- providing for official publications of the Church of Ireland
- identifying and filling gaps in the Church’s publications programme
- facilitating publication for other church related bodies.

Enquiries have been made concerning the design of a logo and a house style for CIP.

The CIP imprint was attached to the following publications:

- *Church of Ireland regulations & guidelines. Introduction of new marriage regulations (NI) January 2004*
- *Journal of the ... General Synod of the Church of Ireland ... MMIII*

Discussions were held with the Central Liturgical Officer to determine how CIP might be of assistance in promoting the *Book of Common Prayer 2004*.

PUBLICATIONS OFFICER

Dr Susan Hood, Assistant Librarian and Archivist, in the RCB Library, has, in addition to her normal duties, been appointed as Publications Officer.

The functions of the Publications Officer will be as follows:

- to support the Committee in its publications role
- to liaise with individuals, groups and committees who present material for consideration for publication
- to oversee the production of publications
- to create and maintain a distribution network for publications.

On a day to day basis the Publications Officer will report to the Honorary Secretary of the Committee. The provision of formal training for the Publications Officer, through the courses offered by CLE, the Irish Book Publishers Association, is under consideration.

GENERAL SYNOD ROYALTIES FUND

A grant was recommended from the General Synod Royalties Fund for the publication by Columba Press of JAB Mayne (ed.) *Prayer books of the Church of Ireland*.

A subvention of €750 was recommended to assist with the provision of illustrations for *Churches, people and pastors; the Church of Ireland in Victorian Dublin* (Four Courts Press, 2004) by the Rev Canon JWR Crawford.

A grant of up to £5,000 was recommended for the programming fee associated with the production of Visual Liturgy (see page 185).

APPENDIX ONE

RTÉ BROADCAST SERVICES

This year has seen continuing difficulties in RTÉ finances and further consequent reviews in budgeting affecting all aspects of programming. However, the crisis of the previous two years has now somewhat abated and 2004 has seen a less fraught programming schedule. Televised services continue as usual although the geographical confinement to the greater Dublin area continues to be the norm. Exceptions include those distant parishes where travel costs are met by the parish itself in relation to Sunday worship. The schedule over the past year has introduced a small number of reflective type Sunday broadcasts by way of experimentation with a more specifically televisual religious broadcasting style. Parish-based radio broadcasts in 2004 have significantly increased and now form the majority of the Sunday services. Radio services in 2004 have greatly increased and now include a significantly higher proportion (ie the majority) of parish-based Sunday services. Listeners will also note a return to a wider geographical spread. The ‘radio-specific’ style of service from the Church of Ireland College of Education (using a committed group of semi-professional musicians) continues to maintain the presence of the ‘old’ *Book of Common Prayer* services previously almost completely vanished from the airwaves. This form of broadcast also preserves the continued use of the rich heritage of more difficult Anglican liturgical music. All in all the Church of Ireland broadcast services now embrace a wide and balanced spectrum of Anglican worship based on the *Book of Common Prayer 2004*. The dramatic upheavals of the previous two years seem to have also resulted in a noticeably greater interest in broadcast worship from some parishes and a generally stronger commitment to improved standards. The Church of Ireland continues to enjoy a warm relationship with the national broadcaster seen in RTÉ’s strong commitment to regular broadcast worship (the highest of any national broadcaster in the EU). A special Outside Broadcast unit is also being provided for a live televised broadcast launch of the *Book of Common Prayer 2004* on Trinity Sunday.

Rev TW Gordon

APPENDIX TWO

OFCOM CONSULTATION - RELIGIOUS LICENCES

SUBMISSION OF THE CHURCH OF IRELAND

1. The Church of Ireland, along with the Episcopal Church in Scotland and the Church in Wales, is a sister Church of the Church of England.
2. The Broadcasting Committee is constituted as one of three sub-committees of the Central Communications Board and is tasked with monitoring radio and television and with encouraging broadcasters in both Ireland and Northern Ireland (the latter of which comes within the oversight of OFCOM) to provide adequate religious coverage of good quality.
3. In considering the draft guidance for religious bodies applying for Broadcasting Act licences, we could see no reason for disagreeing with the proposals as set out in para 2.4. The fact that a religious body has rites or other forms of collective observance which are not normally directly accessible to members of the general public should not in itself be grounds for denying such a body a broadcasting licence.
4. However, we are particularly concerned at reports that some young or impressionable people are turned against parents, siblings and friends by some religious groups which preach exclusivity.
5. Therefore, we would urge that before a broadcasting licence is granted, OFCOM should satisfy itself that the applicants do not “practise or advocate behaviour which is injurious to the health and morals of participants or others, or which infringe the rights and freedoms of participants or others”.