

Standing Committee – Report 2005

APPENDIX D

CENTRAL COMMUNICATIONS BOARD

REPORT 2005

The Annual Report of this Board incorporates those of the Broadcasting, Internet and Literature Committees from May 2004-February 2005.

MEMBERSHIP

Rt Rev AET Harper (Chair) (House of Bishops)
Very Rev JFA Bond (Standing Committee)
Mr AD Fleck (Chair) (Broadcasting Committee)
Rev M Graham (Church Internet Co-Coordinator)
Very Rev RD Harman (Honorary Secretaries)
Ven RG Hoey (Chair) (Internet Committee)
Rt Rev MGStA Jackson (Chair) (Church in Society Committee)
Mrs J Leighton (Representative Body)
Ven GSC Linney (retired October 2004) (Representative Body)
Rev Dr AW McCormack (Hon Secretary) (Broadcasting Committee)
Dr K Milne (Chair) (Literature Committee)
Mr DC Reardon (Church House Senior Management)
Dr R Refaussé (Hon Secretary) (Literature Committee)
Director of Communications (*ex officio*)

In attendance: Media Officer

Support Assistant: Synod Services & Communications (February 2005)

A YEAR OF CHANGE AND DEVELOPMENT IN COMMUNICATIONS

During the period May 2004- February 2005, the Central Communications Board addressed a number of objectives:-

- Establishing the working infrastructure for the Church of Ireland Publishing imprint following the allocation of a half day per week to enable Dr Susan Hood to take up the role of Publishing Officer.
- Maintaining and developing the Church of Ireland websites: overhaul and redesign of the main Church of Ireland website at <http://ireland.anglican.org>
- Encouraging and developing the use of the Internet among Church members: consultation services for the Electronic Mothers' Union (EMU) project supporting Internet users in the Church of Ireland: ongoing provision of hosting and email services for the Church.

Standing Committee – Report 2005

- Supporting Dublin and Glendalough Diocese in their communication needs following the retirement of Diocesan Communications Officer, Dr Valerie Jones.
- Evaluating and lobbying for funding for the national media needs of the Archbishops.
- Recruitment of an appropriate individual to fill the 0.5 person role to maintain a central communications function following the reassignment of Ms Elaine Whitehouse, Communications Assistant to act as Assistant to the Chief Officer and Supervisor of General Services.
- Providing appropriate media support to the Archbishop of Armagh in his work as Chairman of the Lambeth Commission.
- Overseeing the reprint of the Large Print Hymnal.
- Restructuring the media monitoring service more cost-effectively.
- Circulation of guidelines on accessible communications to parishes, to enhance the inclusivity of worship; publication of the BCP in Braille and large print editions with the Braille Unit of HM Prison Maghaberry; promotion of accessible website software.
- Establish Committee News as a regular feature of the website and provide inputs based on this to the Gazette and Diocesan Magazines.
- Support Committees of the Church with the organisation and promotion of special events, launches and conferences.

In Spring 2004 the Central Communications Board received word of the reassignment of Ms Elaine Whitehouse (Communications Assistant) to the role of Chief Officer's Assistant and Supervisor of General Services in Church House, and of the retirement of Dr Valerie Jones (Diocesan Communications Officer for Dublin and Glendalough Diocese). The Board records its gratitude to both, but would like to thank Dr Jones, in particular, for many years of contribution to the Broadcasting Committee of the CCB and to the communications work of the Church of Ireland. The Board wishes Ms Whitehouse every success in her new role. The Venerable Gordon Linney, Archdeacon of Dublin retired in October 2004. The Committee thanked him for the major contribution he had made to the Central Communications Board and to the development of the communications infrastructure of the Church over many years.

In November 2004, Ms Lucy Connolly was engaged to undertake the role previously filled by Ms Whitehouse, and in December 2004, the Diocese of Dublin and Glendalough appointed Mr Garrett Casey as Diocesan Communications Officer. The Board welcomes both to the communications team.

Standing Committee – Report 2005

The appointment of the Archbishop of Armagh to Chair the Lambeth Commission created an urgent need for additional media support, met more than adequately by our very experienced Media Officer, Mr Brian Parker. Mrs Jenny Compston provided excellent support in the Press Office with confidence and sagacity on those occasions that Mr Parker was engaged in his special assignment with the Archbishop. Our thanks are due to both.

The retirement of Dr Valerie Jones created an opportunity to review the national aspects of the communications and press needs attaching to the role of the Archbishop of Dublin, and equally, to the role of Archbishop of Armagh. Consequently, a proposal has been successfully put to the Allocations Committee that some contribution should be made to fund the post of DCO in Dublin and Glendalough, and a similar submission is being considered by the Diocese of Armagh.

FUTURE OBJECTIVES

- Review the Church's communications needs, including those of the Archbishops, and the structure of the communications team to best deliver what is required, including a review of the Diocesan Communications structures.
- Complete the redesign the Church of Ireland Website.
- Review the effectiveness and provision of internet-based services in the Church of Ireland.
- Establish a credible list of publications under the Church of Ireland Publishing imprint.
- Further explore telecommunications options for distance meetings.
- Develop an increasingly strong profile in terms of lobbying for religious broadcasting as a part of public service broadcasting in both the UK and Republic of Ireland.
- Develop accessible communications projects and, in particular, the relationship with the Braille Unit at HM Prison Maghaberry.
- Facilitate diocesan communications training through the Celtic Communicators Conference and workshops organised by the Media Officer. Support diocesan publishing by the creation of a photo-bank, provide support and advice on copyright issues, and on issues related to the provision of accessible communications. Provide initial communications support to the Hard Gospel Project.

Standing Committee – Report 2005

BROADCASTING COMMITTEE

MEMBERSHIP

Mr AD Fleck (Chairman)	Dr V Jones (resigned)
Ms R Buchanan	Rev Dr AW McCormack (Honorary Secretary)
Most Rev Dr RL Clarke	Rev FJ McDowell (Honorary Treasurer)
Rev Dr WHG Crawley (resigned)	Rev MA Parker
Rev EV Cremin	Director of Communications (<i>ex officio</i>)
Rev TW Gordon	Media Officer (<i>ex officio</i>)
Rev K Graham	

The year has seen a small number of comings and goings on the Committee. Dr Valerie Jones resigned membership and is to be thanked for her great commitment and perceptiveness over the term of her service. The Rev Dr William Crawley also resigned during the course of the year. He has been given a contract with the BBC network and will simply no longer have time to fulfil Committee obligations. We wish him well in his exciting new future and we are delighted that he has agreed to attend meetings periodically as a consultant. We have welcomed to full membership the Rev Kevin Graham from Northern Ireland.

Throughout the year, as is usual, the Committee has met in discharge of its functions both in Ireland and in Northern Ireland. The following is an account of some salient issues in our work.

PART 1- BROADCAST AFFAIRS IN THE UNITED KINGDOM

THE BBC

BBC CHARTER REVIEW 2006

The process of Charter Review is now well under way. The Committee has so far promoted its views in the potent ecumenical context, which its membership of the Churches' Media Council (CMeC) permits - see more below. The Rev Dr Alan McCormack attended a BBC selective seminar on Informed Citizenship at the invitation of Lord Burns in November 2004. The Committee expects, however, that its work in this area will become more intense in the remainder of 2005. By the time of the General Synod we expect the UK Government Green Paper to have been published and we expect to have made a response separate from the CMeC one. The Committee urges every member of the Church of Ireland, and especially those resident in Northern Ireland, to take a keen interest in the terms of BBC Charter renewal. We recognise that the BBC is a key element in public broadcasting in the United Kingdom.

BBC NORTHERN IRELAND

The Committee continues to applaud the standard of BBC Radio Ulster's *Sunday Sequence* programme. The Rev Dr Robert Tosh and Mr Martin O'Brien are to be firmly congratulated on this consistently excellent programme. Dr William Crawley is a thoughtful, flexible and precise presenter whose interviewing style never lapses into dullness or mediocrity.

ULSTER TELEVISION

The Committee continues to appreciate the work of UTV and has great confidence in the abilities of Mr Alan Bremner and his colleagues to meet creatively the challenges that will be presented by the forthcoming changes in the audiovisual markets. The Committee hopes to support UTV in appropriate ways as its remit for the new context develops.

The Churches' Media Council (CMeC)

The Committee is a member of this excellent ecumenical network based in London. A series of submissions to the BBC Charter Review Panel and the Ofcom Public Service TV and radio reviews, and also the Broadcasting Code has been made in the past year. Members of the Church of Ireland are encouraged to consult these submissions on the website. Dr McCormack sits on the Policy Sub-committee of CMeC where he works closely with ecumenical colleagues to craft these reports. He also attended an initial meeting between CMeC and the British Inter-faith network to see what common ground on media issues might be established in a UK context. The Director of CMeC is Mr Peter Blackman who also attended the Broadcasting Committee's public broadcasting conference in October 2004. Additionally this network organises a thought provoking summer conference which last summer was attended by the Rev Shane Forster, DCO of Armagh Diocese. Members of the Church of Ireland are encouraged to consult the Council's website www.churchesmediacouncil.org.uk and there to read the many valuable submissions on BBC Charter Review and the various Ofcom consultations that the Council has already made.

The Office of Communications (Ofcom)

Consultation

Ofcom continues its thorough approach to consultation. In the past year, the Broadcasting Committee has made three extensive submissions to Ofcom (two in the Public Service TV Review and one in the Programme Code consultation). These are available on the website www.ireland.anglican.org and members of the Church of Ireland are asked to familiarise themselves with their content. This is quite apart from the work that the Committee has done ecumenically through CMeC.

By the time of the General Synod we expect also to have commented on the Radio review.

Standing Committee – Report 2005

LIAISON

The Committee has also met Mr Denis Wolinsky, the Northern Ireland Ofcom director, twice in Belfast. The Committee is now seen as a significant player and partner in the field of public broadcasting in Northern Ireland.

PROJECT

A Church CB radio project is also underway in conjunction with Ofcom, administered by Ms Janet Maxwell and participated in by the Rev Michael Parker and Dean John Bond.

Westminster Media Forum (WMF)

The Rev Dr Alan McCormack has kept a close watching brief on this media network in London. Links have been developed between the Committee and the Forum and quite a lot of the submissions we have been able to make would have been much more difficult and much less informed without the stimulus and the raw data provided by delegacy at the Forum.

PART 2- BROADCASTING AFFAIRS IN IRELAND

RTE

RTE RADIO SERVICES

Radio services continue to be developed under the direction of the Rev Tom Gordon. The Committee pays tribute to his work in RTE and also to that of the Rev Dermot McCarthy. The Committee reviews regularly the form of these radio and television liturgies and is most impressed by the attempt to work creatively in this given context. The Committee also thanks RTE for continuing to devote schedule space to this important programming. We are also delighted that greater financial stability in RTE has seen the re-establishment of a wider geographical catchment area for radio services. This includes all dioceses and (importantly) the return of broadcasts from Northern Ireland.

Training for services

The past year has seen an experiment in a new type of training. Half-funded by RTE in partnership with all the churches and involving a small group of clergy undertaking intensive day courses in Kairos, a media company based in Maynooth. This appears to have worked very well and is to be continued next year.

LIAISON WITH RTE

During the course of the year the Archbishop of Dublin, the Most Rev Dr John Neill, together with the Honorary Secretary, the Rev Dr Alan McCormack, attended the Michael Littleton Memorial Lecture as distinguished guests of the Director General, Mr Cathal Goan. The Lecture was given by the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Dublin, Most Rev Dr Diarmuid Martin, and outlined the importance of religion in the

Standing Committee – Report 2005

marketplace. In February 2005 Archbishop Neill hosted, in conjunction with the Committee, an informal meeting for the top executives in RTE. The Committee has sought to continue its tradition of positive and creative rapprochement with these broadcast executives.

APPOINTMENT TO CHAIR OF RTE AUDIENCE COUNCIL

The Honorary Secretary, the Rev Dr Alan McCormack, was made Chairman of the RTE Audience Council in January 2005. This is a significant appointment and he would be delighted to hear the views of members of the Church of Ireland on any aspects of programming at the station.

INTERFAITH CONFERENCE- PUBLIC BROADCASTING- RELIGION AND DIVERSITY IN THE NEW IRELAND

The Committee hosted the conference on 'Religion and Diversity in the New Ireland' in October 2004. A group of over 40 academics, faith groups, parliamentarians, regulators and opinion formers gathered in Rathmines for what turned out to be an excellent day. The Committee commissioned papers from Dr Andrew Finlay (sociologist, TCD), Dr Jim McDonnell (Media Consultant, London) and Ms Christine Morgan (BBC Religion and Ethics, Manchester). Sessions were chaired by Mr Fleck, Dr McCormack and Bishop Clarke. The themes of 'religious space' in the public broadcasting of the new Ireland were firmly and boldly explored. A number of the papers are now available on www.ireland.anglican.org and members of the Church of Ireland are encouraged to read them. The Conference has become the informing backdrop to the subsequent work of the Committee.

Religious Resources for Radio, Dublin (3R)

A new Director of 3R, the religious news syndication service, was appointed. Mr Liam Cahill comes with decades of experience in RTE and has already made his presence felt. The Committee continues to appreciate the work of all the 3R staff and also in particular the work of Mrs Mildred Beresford in keeping the CD interviews light and effective and in building up good close relationships with local radio across Ireland. The Rev Dr Alan McCormack resigned as a member of the Board of Directors of 3R having facilitated the search process for Mr Cahill. Dr McCormack is replaced on the Board of Directors by Mr Garrett Casey, DCO for Dublin Diocese. We wish Mr Casey well as he strives to represent the interests of the Church of Ireland in this exciting interdenominational project.

CONCLUDING THANKS

In conclusion, the Committee would like to record its gratitude to those many people who made its work easier and more pleasurable in the past year. The staff of Church of Ireland House in Rathmines is to be especially thanked for the kind and gracious way in which it assisted the organisation of the public broadcasting conference.

Standing Committee – Report 2005

INTERNET COMMITTEE

MEMBERSHIP

Ven RG Hoey (Chair)	Rev M Graham (Internet Co-ordinator)
Ms M Carter (IT department, RCB)	Rev CWL McCauley
Mr K Cinnamond (IT department, RCB)	Director of Communications (<i>ex officio</i>)
Mr A Clements (Head of Finance - RCB representative)	Mr Mark Larmour (Consultant)

In attendance: Media Officer

The Internet Committee advises the Central Communications Board on the use of the Internet in the Church of Ireland.

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 site attracted 424,500 visitors ("sessions") last year which generated over 1,488,000 "hits" (or page/image views).

The website is currently undergoing a major overhaul and it is hoped that this will be launched at the General Synod in May.

The General Synod website (<http://synod.ireland.anglican.org>) has proved to be a tremendous resource for Synod members and visitors alike. Over 46,700 visits were made to the website over the year, generating over 558,600 "hits"

A further website "Church of Ireland Online" (<http://churchofireland.net>) provides information which is useful and informative to internet users in the Church of Ireland. It answers many of the common questions which arise from time to time, and gives information on how to handle "spam" or unsolicited email and the danger posed by viruses and other security threats. It also holds the up-to-date on-line Church of Ireland Directories. Over 43,700 visits were made to this site in 2004 generating over 212,600 "hits".

Use of the Internet by church members

The hosting services offered by the Internet Committee provides web space and email facilities to the Church of Ireland. Currently 140 parishes have web sites listed in the Church of Ireland Directory. Ten dioceses now have diocesan websites (Armagh, Cashel

Standing Committee – Report 2005

and Ossory, Connor, Cork, Derry and Raphoe, Down and Dromore, Dublin and Glendalough, Limerick, Meath and Kildare and Tuam).

Accessibility

The Internet Committee acquired a multi-site licence which allows the use of the Text Transcoder software on all authorised Church of Ireland websites (including at the parish level). This permits those who have difficulty accessing websites because of a disability to receive a text-only version of the information on the site, which can then be viewed in large print or played back through an audio reader. This facility will be offered to sites during the coming year.

Supporting Internet users in the Church of Ireland

The Internet Coordinator continues to provide ongoing telephone and site support for Internet users throughout the Church of Ireland.

In 2004 presentations were made to the Armagh Mothers' Union and a meeting of representatives of the Mothers' Union Ireland on "Safe Surfing" (children and the Internet). In addition consultation was provided for Mothers' Union Ireland on their "EMU" (Electronic Mothers' Union) project which is designed to enable and encourage use of email and the Internet among members.

The wider Anglican Communion

Ms Janet Maxwell, Director of Communications of the Church of Ireland, and the Rev Michael Graham, Internet Co-ordinator, continue as members of the Inter Anglican Telecommunications Commission.

Future developments

An estimate was made of the time spent by members of the Internet Committee, especially the Rev Michael Graham, on providing the services outlined above to the Church of Ireland. It currently stands at over 15 hours per week – almost half a full-time employee.

Recent meetings of the Internet Committee have been held simultaneously in Drogheda and Dublin using teleconferencing and the internet to share documents/presentations etc. This saves time and travel costs for participants. It is hoped in future to establish links between further centres.

A proposal to carry out a pilot project on the use of remote internet conferencing software within the wider Church to help reduce travel and meeting costs had to be abandoned due, among other considerations, to a lack of resources for putting together and running the project.

As expressed in last year's report, the Internet Committee feels that it is utilising fully the allocated resources in terms of what it can support, and is in danger of misusing people's

Standing Committee – Report 2005

generous donation of their time and talents. Future development of the use of the Internet within the Church of Ireland depends on a commitment being made to provide adequate resources in terms of personnel and finance.

Until this happens the Church of Ireland will not be able to realise fully the opportunities presented by the exciting developments going on in the world of modern communications. It will gradually fall behind in this area, having been at the forefront of these cutting-edge technological developments in the world-wide Church.

Standing Committee – Report 2005

LITERATURE COMMITTEE

MEMBERSHIP

Dr K Milne (Chairman)	Rev B Treacy OP
Dr R Gillespie	Ms C West
Rt Rev MGStA Jackson	Very Rev SR White
Rev Canon JW McKegney	Director of Communications (<i>ex officio</i>)
Rev SA Pragnell	
Dr R Refaussé (Honorary Secretary)	

The Committee met on seven occasions.

CHURCH OF IRELAND PUBLISHING

As reported to the General Synod in 2004, Church of Ireland Publishing (CIP), a publishing imprint for the Church of Ireland, was established in that year. The Literature Committee has devoted much of its time to furthering the work of CIP:-

- CIP joined CLÉ, the Irish publishers' association.
- design work for a logo and house style was commissioned from Mr Bill Bolger, formerly of the National College of Art and Design.
- marketing and distribution arrangements were agreed with the Sunday School Society for Ireland through its Resource Centre in Dublin and with The Good Book Shop in Northern Ireland.

The following titles were published in 2004:-

Alcohol in the life of young people

Christopher Fauske 'Side by side in a small country': Bishop John Frederick McNeice and Ireland

Marriage Regulations (N.I) 2004

Journal of the General Synod 2003

PUBLICATIONS OFFICER

Dr Susan Hood began work as Publications Officer and the following training was arranged:-

- in house training with the Director of Communications on layout and design;
- training on Microsoft Publisher through an International Academy for Computer Training course;
- training on Quark Express with Mr Bill Bolger.

Standing Committee – Report 2005

GENERAL SYNOD ROYALTIES FUND

The following projects were recommended for financial support:-

- APCK - a grant of €3,422 to print three pamphlets;
- *The Book of Common Prayer* - a grant of €9,900 to print and bind 2,000 copies of corrected sections of desk edition;
- Braille Unit, Maghaberry Prison – contribution of £2,500 for work on the BCP;
- *Church Hymnal* - a loan of £81,000 to print a further 12,000 copies of the large print edition;
- Church of Ireland Historical Society – subvention of £400 to publish a paper by Dr Christopher Fauske on Bishop McNeice;
- Cumman Gaelach na hEaglaise - €5,000 to subvent the publication of *Leabhar na Urnai Coitinne*;
- Matheson Ormsby Prentice - €4,110 for legal work on liturgical publications.