

Standing Committee – Report 2007

APPENDIX B

CENTRAL COMMUNICATIONS BOARD

REPORT 2007

The Annual Report of this Board incorporates reports from the Broadcasting, Internet and Literature Sub-Committees from March 2006-February 2007.

MEMBERSHIP

Rt Rev AET Harper (Chair)	(House of Bishops)
Very Rev JFA Bond	(Standing Committee)
Mr AD Fleck	(Chair - Broadcasting Committee) (Retired December 2006)
Very Rev RD Harman	(Honorary Secretaries)
Ven RG Hoey	(Chair - Internet Committee)
Mrs J Leighton	(Representative Body)
Rev Dr AW McCormack	(Hon Secretary -Broadcasting Committee) (Resigned February 2007)
Dr K Milne	(Chair - Literature Committee)
Dr R Refaussé	(Hon Secretary - Literature Committee)
Mr DC Reardon	(Church House Senior Management)
Head of Communications	(<i>ex officio</i>)
<i>In attendance</i>	Press Officer Synod Services & Communications Support

During the period March 2006-February 2007, the Central Communications Board carried out the following business:

- Reviewed the objectives of the CCB and its sub-committees.
- Initiated a redesign of the Church of Ireland website (to be launched at Synod 2007).
- Reviewed the situation of Church of Ireland Publishing in terms of promotion, marketing and distribution, implementing a website for sales and identifying further need for staffing in the administration of sales and promotion.
- Welcomed the retention of the religious categorisation of programming by RTÉ.
- Established a photo bank on the shared folders of the new IT system in Church House. This resource is accessible by either the Press Office or website staff from either Dublin or Belfast.

In September 2006, the Communications Officer, Ms Sarah Williams, resigned. The Board thanks Ms Williams for her contribution in the communications area.

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The Board also lost the services of Mr Tony Fleck upon his retirement and offers its thanks to him for many years of dedicated service in the area of broadcasting.

The Board extends its thanks to Mrs Jenny Compston for her work in the Press Office and also to Ms Lucy Connolly and Mr Alastair Graham for their work on the website and Internet services.

As part of the Standing Committee review of committees, the CCB considered the benefits of restructuring but concluded that this must await the overall review of objectives initiated by the Honorary Secretaries. The Committee's reasoning is that communications objectives and structures must support prioritised organisational goals and it would be inappropriate to pre-empt this.

Future communications objectives

- Develop a list of publications under the Church of Ireland Publishing imprint and develop appropriate administrative structures to ensure that resources produced are appropriately promoted and marketed for the benefit of the Church.
- Promote the importance of maintaining the category of religious programming at RTÉ, now that this has been reinstated. Promote the continued inclusion of religious broadcasting as a part of public service broadcasting in the UK.
- Promote the use of accessible communications services.
- Continue to develop and update the Church websites.
- Provide communications support to the Hard Gospel Project.

BROADCASTING COMMITTEE

MEMBERSHIP

Mr AD Fleck (Chairman) (retired December 2006)
Ms R Buchanan
Most Rev Dr RL Clarke (Acting Chairman)
Rev EV Cremin (Honorary Secretary)
Rev TW Gordon
Rev TKD Graham
Rev DI Gillespie
Rev Dr AW McCormack (Honorary Secretary) (resigned March 2007)
Rev MA Parker (resigned 2006)
Head of Communications (*ex officio*)
Press Officer (*ex officio*)

Mr AD Fleck, Chairman of the Broadcasting Committee, retired in December 2006 and is to be thanked for his great commitment and engagement with all aspects of the work of the Committee over the term of his service. The Rev Dr AW McCormack also resigned during the course of the year to take up a parish incumbency in London. We wish him well in his future work. The Rev MA Parker left the Committee having made a significant contribution to the pilot scheme to broadcast parish services through the Community Audio Distribution Scheme. The Committee thanks him for this important work. The Bishop of Meath and Kildare, the Most Rev Dr RL Clarke, takes up the position of Acting Chairman and the Rev E Cremin became Honorary Secretary.

The Committee's remit extends to broadcasting matters in both Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland and meets in both jurisdictions, engaging with broadcasters and maintaining an active voice in policy development with government and the official regulators in both jurisdictions.

PART 1- BROADCAST AFFAIRS IN THE UNITED KINGDOM

BBC CHARTER REVIEW 2006

The Committee identified the BBC Charter renewal as a key issue in 2006 because of its implications for the maintenance of public sector broadcasting, which includes religious programming. In addition to maintaining active input to the Churches' contribution to the debate through its membership of the Churches' Media Council (CMcC), the Committee also contributed to ongoing work by communications regulator Ofcom, in terms of the maintenance of a public service element in broadcasting following the digital switchover that will begin towards the end of this decade. With the convergence of services that is likely to follow the move to digital transmission, the face of broadcasting will change dramatically, offering new challenges to the Churches as they seek to make their voice heard in the public arena. The Broadcasting Committee recognises the importance of proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ through the media channels available to every

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new generation. The goal for the Committee is to grow its understanding of the rapid changes taking place in the field of communications and mass media to ensure that this continues to be the case.

BBC NORTHERN IRELAND

The BBC Radio Ulster *Sunday Sequence* programme continues to offer the most active religious magazine format in Ireland, relying on the commitment of the production team, the Rev Dr Robert Tosh and Mr Martin O'Brien, with presenter Dr William Crawley. During the year, *Sunday Sequence* covered many key events in the life of the Church of Ireland and continues to offer an informative critique of the work of the Church.

ULSTER TELEVISION

The Committee appreciates the work of UTV under the guidance of Mr Michael Wilson and his colleagues. The station broadcast a one-hour documentary to mark the retirement of the former Archbishop of Armagh. The documentary, which was widely acclaimed, was produced by Mr Jim Dougall of Dougall Media, and copies of the interviews were supplied to the RCB Library for archive purposes.

The Churches' Media Council (CMeC)

The new representative on the Churches' Media Council is Rev Eileen Cremin. The Churches' Media Council undertakes policy consultations in respect of media regulation in the UK.

The Office of Communications (Ofcom)

The Ofcom consultation on the Digital Dividend Review, takes into its scope the allocation of spectrum, the consequences of auctioning spectrum, the future of public service programming and the needs of citizens as opposed to consumers of programmes and services. This consultation cuts to the heart of the concerns expressed by the Church sector that increasing commercialisation of communications is squeezing out the space for public service element including religious programming. The Committee will fight actively for the preservation of public service provision to include religious programming.

COMMUNITY BROADCASTING

The Committee piloted a project, enabled by Ofcom in Northern Ireland, to broadcast local parish services to those who are house-bound or living in residential institutions. The Committee thanks the Rev Michael Parker and the Very Rev John Bond for their assistance in this project and also those who experimented with both the broadcasting and receiving equipment in the parishes. The project helped to identify some major difficulties, which were communicated back to the regulator, Ofcom, but, where it worked, it proved to be very welcome. It is hoped to develop work in this field in the coming year.

WESTMINSTER MEDIA FORUM (WMF)

The Westminster Media Forum provides insight and in-depth factual information regarding the development of media policy. It has proved invaluable in informing the submissions we have been able to make and to the Church's understanding of the challenges and opportunities arising from the transformation of the media and communications sector.

PART 2- BROADCASTING AFFAIRS IN IRELAND

RTÉ RADIO SERVICES

RTÉ RADIO AND TELEVISION SERVICES

The Committee offers its thanks to the Rev Tom Gordon, who continues to develop the broadcast services at RTÉ, working creatively to generate variety in the liturgy presented within the format available. The island-wide coverage for radio services is now fully restored and there has also been the addition of additional services for Ash Wednesday and Ascension Day to the radio schedule. The Committee also pays tribute to the work of the Rev Dermot McCarthy, who is to retire from RTÉ in the summer of 2007. Father McCarthy led a determined campaign to ensure that RTÉ continues to devote schedule space to religious broadcasting and to maintain the priority of the 'religion' category during the period of RTÉ's restructuring.

Training for services

With the addition of a new magazine format for television, a programme of training for presenters from the Churches is now being considered within RTÉ. This is in addition to the occasional workshops such as that organised in conjunction with Kairos, a media company based in Maynooth. The Rev Tom Gordon has also written a new guidelines booklet for radio services and is finalising a worship resource booklet for RTÉ broadcast services in general.

Religious News Network (RNN)

The station, formerly known as 3R, was renamed the Religious News Network. This station records religious programming and distributes it to local and national stations around Ireland. A new Director of RNN was appointed in 2006, Ms Eileen Good. The station is run on ecumenical lines and is partly funded by a contribution from the Church of Ireland. The Committee pays tribute to the considerable input made to the Church of Ireland programming distributed by the station by the Rev Ian Poulton (Killiney), Mr Garrett Casey (DCO, Dublin & Glendalough) and Mrs Mildred Beresford (Dublin and Glendalough).

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INTERNET COMMITTEE

MEMBERSHIP

Ven RG Hoey (Chair)
Ms M Carter (IT department, RCB)
Mr K Cinnamon (IT department, RCB) (retired March 2006)
Mr A Clements (Head of Finance - RCB)
Rev CWL McCauley (resigned Feb 2007)
Mr Peter Neill
Rev Philip Heak
Mr Nigel Hutchinson
Rev Alan Ruffli
Head of Communications (*ex officio*)
In attendance:
Synod and Communications Support

This year has seen the enlargement of the Internet Committee with Mr Peter Neill, the Rev Philip Heak, Mr Nigel Hutchinson and the Rev Alan Ruffli joining the Committee. Their expertise and experience is very much welcomed.

The Committee wishes to thank Mr Ken Cinnamon, who has recently retired from the RCB IT Department, for his advice and help over the years.

ROLE OF THE INTERNET COMMITTEE

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

The Committee's current work includes the complete redesign of the main website and it continues to explore and present further plans for the use of the Internet in worship, outreach, education and communication.

WEBSITES

The main website is to be found at <http://www.ireland.anglican.org> The site had 1,026,451 visitors ("sessions") between May 2006 and February 2007, which generated over 6,702,623 "hits" (or page/image views).

The General Synod site is found at <http://synod.ireland.anglican.org> and continues to prove popular with Synod members and visitors as a source of information.

REDESIGN OF THE CHURCH OF IRELAND WEBSITE

In June 2006, the Internet Committee retained the services of Mr Ryan Mitchell of RTNetworks for the re-design and re-structure of the Church of Ireland website. The new site will be launched at General Synod this year.

The Committee would like to take this opportunity to thank Ms Michelle Carter, Ms Lucy Connolly and Ms Charlotte Howard for all their work on the re-design project, as well as Mr Alastair Graham who continues to offer support to users of the anglican.org domain.

USE OF THE INTERNET BY CHURCH MEMBERS

The hosting services, offered by the Internet Committee, provide web space and email facilities to the Church of Ireland. Currently 171 parishes have web sites listed in the Church of Ireland Directory. Eleven dioceses have diocesan websites.

The technical aspects of the Committee are managed by the IT department of Church House. An outsourced technical support service provides technical assistance to those who have an anglican.org e-mail address or a website hosted by the anglican.org domain. This support service may be reached at tech@ireland.anglican.org. Hosting enquiries should be addressed to hosting@ireland.anglican.org.

LITERATURE COMMITTEE

MEMBERSHIP

Dr K Milne (Chairman)
Prof R Gillespie
Rt Rev MGStA Jackson
Rev Canon JW McKegney
Rev SA Pragnell (resigned September 2006)
Dr R Refaussé (Honorary Secretary)
Rev B Treacy OP
Ms C West
Very Rev SR White
Head of Communications (*ex officio*)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The functions of the Committee are to

- Promote publication within and beyond the Church of Ireland
- Manage Church of Ireland Publishing
- Evaluate applications for support from the General Synod Royalties Fund

In pursuit of these functions the Committee met on five occasions with the Publications Officer, Dr Susan Hood, in attendance.

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 continued to devote much of its time to furthering the work of CIP.

A website for CIP has been commissioned and will be available at <http://www.cip.ireland.anglican.org>

The following titles were published in 2006:-

- *The authority of scripture. A report of the Church of Ireland Bishop's Advisory Commission on Doctrine.*
- *Local partnerships. A theological & pastoral reflection.*
- Kenneth Milne (ed.) *Journal of the General Synod 2005.*

PUBLICATIONS OFFICER

The Publications Officer attended a British Library seminar on Internet publishing and seminars on copyright & libel and marketing, organized by CLÉ, the Irish publishers' association, and continued to work with the designer, Mr Bill Bolger.

In addition she represented the Committee at the meetings of the Church Publishers' Network in Cardiff and London.

PROMOTION & MARKETING

The Committee, conscious of the need to promote and market CIP publications, has, in addition to commissioning a website, identified a need for additional staffing in the areas of promotion and the administration of sales.