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* The reports of the Church of Ireland Clergy Pensions Trustee Limited (page 110) and the Church of Ireland Pensions Board (page 152) are incorporated into the Report of the Representative Church Body.

If you require the Book of Reports in another format, please contact the General Synod Office: tel: 01 497 8422 or email: synod@rcbdub.org

CHURCH OF IRELAND

THE REPRESENTATIVE CHURCH BODY

REPORT 2018

The Representative Church Body – Report 2018

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THE REPRESENTATIVE BODY OF THE CHURCH OF IRELAND

Chairman

The Most Rev Dr Richard Clarke, Archbishop of Armagh



The Most Rev
Dr Richard Clarke

Committee Chairpersons

Executive	Mr Henry Saville Canon Graham Richards (Deputy)
Allocations	Canon Graham Richards
Investment	Mr Kevin Bowers
Property	Mr Keith Roberts
Stipends	Mr William Oliver
Library and Archives	Dr Michael Webb
Legal Advisory	Mr Lyndon MacCann SC
Audit	Canon Graham Richards

Chief Officer and Secretary

Mr David Ritchie

The Representative Church Body (RCB) was incorporated by Charter in 1870 under the provisions of the *Irish Church Act, 1869*. Its legal structure is that of charitable trustee or trust corporation with perpetual succession.

The main activities of the RCB involve management of investments, administration of trusts and Gift Aid, payment of stipends and pensions, property and legal transactions and treasury management as well as supporting the core work of the Church by providing finance for the sustentation of the clergy and pensioners, training of ordinands, education, youth, communications etc. The RCB Library is the repository for the archives of the Church and the Library for the Church of Ireland Theological Institute and the Church at large. The committee structure is designed to reflect these activities and responsibilities.

Office

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Church Avenue
Rathmines Dublin 6

Tel 01-4978422 Fax 01-4978821
Email office@rcbdub.org
Website <https://rcb.ireland.anglican.org>

Library

Braemor Park
Churchtown
Dublin 14

Tel 01-4923979
Fax 01-4924770
Email library@ireland.anglican.org

THE REPRESENTATIVE BODY OF THE CHURCH OF IRELAND

In accordance with the Charter of Incorporation (1870) the Representative Body is composed of *ex-officio*, elected and co-opted members. The *ex-officio* members are the archbishops and bishops, the elected members consist of one clerical and two lay representatives for each diocese and the co-opted members consist of persons equal in number to the number of dioceses. (See also *Constitution of the Church of Ireland* Chapter X).

The Representative Body is composed of the following sixty members, shown with recorded attendance figures for the four meetings held during 2017. Two Honorary Secretaries of the General Synod are in attendance at meetings.

A Archbishops and Bishops: *ex-officio* members (12)

- 4 The Most Rev Dr Richard Clarke, Archbishop of Armagh
- 4 The Most Rev Dr Michael Jackson, Archbishop of Dublin
- 3 The Most Rev Pat Storey, Bishop of Meath and Kildare
- 3 The Rt Rev John McDowell, Bishop of Clogher
- 4 The Rt Rev Kenneth Good, Bishop of Derry and Raphoe
- 3 The Rt Rev Harold Miller, Bishop of Down and Dromore
- 3 The Rt Rev Alan Abernethy, Bishop of Connor
- 3 The Rt Rev Ferran Glenfield, Bishop of Kilmore
- 4 The Rt Rev Patrick Rooke, Bishop of Tuam
- 4 The Rt Rev Michael Burrows, Bishop of Cashel, Ferns and Ossory
- 4 The Rt Rev Dr Paul Colton, Bishop of Cork, Cloyne and Ross
- 4 The Rt Rev Kenneth Kearon, Bishop of Limerick and Killaloe

B Elected members (36)

The date in brackets after a member's name denotes the year in which he/she is due to retire (*Constitution* Chapter X Section 3). Outgoing members are eligible for re-election provided they have not reached 74 years of age by 1 January preceding election.

Armagh	2	Ven Terence Scott (2018)
	4	Mrs Ethne Harkness (2019)
	1	Mrs Jane Leighton (2020)
Clogher	3	Ven Brian Harper (2018)
	0	Mrs Julie Parker (2019)
	1	Mr Henry Robinson* (2020)
Derry and Raphoe	4	Rev Canon Henry Gilmore (2020)
	2	Mr Robert Pollock (2018)
	3	Miss Elaine Sproule (2019)
Down and Dromore	4	Ven Roderic West (2018)
	2	Mr Basil O'Malley (2019)
	1	Mr Michael Johnston† (2020)

* elected September 2017 in place of Mr John Keating (retired September 2017)

† elected October 2017 in place of Capt George Newell (retired October 2017)

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Connor	4	Ven Stephen McBride (2018)
	4	Mrs Cynthia Cherry (2019)
	3	Mrs Pauline High (2020)
Kilmore,	1	Very Rev Nigel Crossley* (2020)
Elphin and	2	Miss Maud Cunningham (2018)
Ardagh	2	Mrs Deborah Davitt (2019)
Tuam,	3	Very Rev Alistair Grimason (2020)
Killala and	4	Prof Paul Johnston (2018)
Achonry	1	Mrs Heather Pope† (2019)
Dublin and	2	Ven David Pierpoint (2018)
Glendalough	3	Mr Robert Neill (2019)
	4	Mr Geoffrey Perrin (2020)
Meath	2	Ven Leslie Stevenson (2018)
and	1	Mr Ronald Colton (2019)
Kildare	4	Mr Kevin Bowers (2020)
Cashel,	1	Very Rev Katharine Poulton (2020)
Ferns and	2	Mr William Galloway (2018)
Ossory	3	Mrs Hazel Corrigan (2019)
Cork,	2	Ven Adrian Wilkinson (2020)
Cloyne and	3	Mr Keith Roberts (2018)
Ross	3	Mrs Helen Arnopp (2019)
Limerick	2	Ven Wayne Carney‡ (2020)
and	3	Ms Yvonne Blennerhassett (2018)
Killaloe	3	Mr Roy Benson (2019)

C Co-opted members (12)

0	Ven Andrew Forster§ (2020)
3	Mr Terence Forsyth (2019)
3	Mr Lyndon MacCann SC (2018)
0	Mr Richard Milliken (2020)
3	Mr William Oliver§ (2020)
2	Mrs Judith Peters (2019)
2	Ms Hilary Prentice (2018)
4	Canon Graham Richards (2018)
4	Mr Henry Saville (2018)
1	Mr David Smith (2018)
1	Mrs Wendy Taylor (2020)
4	Dr Michael Webb (2019)

* elected October 2017 in place of Rev Ian Linton (retired October 2017)

† elected September 2017 in place of Mr Julian Ellison (retired September 2017)

‡ elected June 2017 in place of Rev Patricia McKee Hanna (retired June 2017)

§ eligible to attend three meetings maximum due to triennial retirement (re-elected May 2017)

|| elected May 2017 in place of Mr Samuel Harper/Mr Tim McCormick (retired May 2017)

COMMITTEES OF THE REPRESENTATIVE BODY

The Executive, Allocations, Investment, Property, Stipends, Library and Archives, Legal Advisory and Audit Committees are elected triennially from the members of the Representative Body. The current triennium for members and chairpersons ends in September 2019. Membership details together with numbers of meetings held and record of attendances for the year 2017 are shown below.



Mr Henry Saville

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

7 meetings

Mr Henry Saville - 7
(Chair)

Most Rev Dr Richard Clarke	5	Ven Andrew Forster	4
Most Rev Dr Michael Jackson	6	Rev Canon Henry Gilmore	7
Rt Rev Dr Paul Colton	4	Ven Adrian Wilkinson	5
Canon Graham Richards	7	Mr Terence Forsyth	5
Mr Kevin Bowers	7	Mr Lyndon MacCann SC	4
Mr Keith Roberts	6	Mr Geoffrey Perrin	4
Mr William Oliver	5	Dr Michael Webb	6
Advisor:		Mr Robert Neill	5

The Executive Committee has an overall responsibility to protect the interests of the Representative Body and its trusts, to consider and, if thought fit, to give approval to the recommendations of the subsidiary committees, to give formal approval to routine property and trust transactions, to formulate legislative proposals and policy for approval, to liaise with other central organisations and dioceses and to deal with all matters affecting the employment and remuneration of staff including specialist appointments where the Representative Body is a party to any contract of employment.

The Archbishops and the Chairpersons of the Allocations, Investment, Property and Stipends Committees are *ex officio* members of the Executive Committee. Mr Robert Neill was appointed as an Adviser to the Executive Committee following his retirement from the Chair in September 2016. During 2017 Ven George Davison attended Executive Committee meetings as an Honorary Secretary of the General Synod.

Prayer read at the commencement of all Executive Committee meetings

“Almighty God, we meet in your presence to exercise stewardship of the resources of this Church. Grant to us a clear mind and judgement in all things, a willingness to seek your will for the Church and an awareness of the trust and responsibility given to us. Guide us with your wisdom and lead us in the paths of truth. This we ask through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.”

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ALLOCATIONS COMMITTEE

3 meetings

Canon Graham Richards - 3
(Chair)



Canon Graham Richards

Most Rev Dr Richard Clarke	3	Ven Andrew Forster	3
Ms Helen Arnopp	3	Mr Robert Neill	3

The function of the Allocations Committee is to investigate requests for financial support and make recommendations to the Executive Committee or the Representative Body as appropriate, to maintain a ‘watching brief’ on the use and deployment of resources allocated to committees and organisations including their budgetary procedures and accounting policies, to anticipate financial pressures ahead and plan forward accordingly, to ensure that trust limitations are observed in the use of Representative Body funds and to co-ordinate with other financial bodies (Priorities Fund Committee, Investment Committee, Stipends Committee, Pensions Board etc).

INVESTMENT COMMITTEE

5 meetings

Mr Kevin Bowers - 5
(Chair)



Mr Kevin Bowers

Mr Roy Benson	5	Ms Hilary Prentice	4
Mr Terence Forsyth	4	Mr David Smith	4
Mr William Galloway	2	Vacant*	
Advisor:		Mr Tim McCormick†	4

The function of the Investment Committee is to undertake oversight and supervisory duties in relation to the investment of funds managed by the Representative Body (RB). The Committee reports to the RB through the Executive Committee and conducts its business in accordance with the *Constitution of the Church of Ireland*, the Committee’s Terms of Reference, applicable legislation or regulation, the RB’s policy in relation to Environmental and Social Governance (ESG) and the RB’s general policies, principles and values.

* due to the retirement of Mr Tim McCormick in May 2017

† appointed July 2017 following retirement as a member of the Committee

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Mr Keith Roberts

PROPERTY COMMITTEE

5 meetings

Mr Keith Roberts - 5
(Chair)

Mr Ronald Colton	5	Mrs Jane Leighton	4
Miss Maud Cunningham	3	Mr Robert Pollock	1
Mr Julian Ellison*	1	Mr Henry Robinson†	0
Ms Pauline High	4	Ven Roderic West	4
Advisor:		Mr Sam Harper‡	4

The function of the Property Committee is to process all matters affecting glebes, churches, parochial buildings and graveyards vested in the Representative Body in accordance with statutory responsibilities as laid down in the *Constitution of the Church of Ireland*, to manage the buildings directly under the control of the Representative Body, to co-ordinate with diocesan see house committees and care for see houses and all residences provided for the use of church officers, to care for all properties assigned by the Representative Body for the use and occupation of retired clergy and surviving spouses, to assist and provide guidance in the planning and disposal of redundant churches and the contents thereof, to provide technical support and advice to parishes and dioceses, to maintain property records and registers and generally to report to the Executive Committee or to the Representative Body as appropriate.

Note: Representatives of the dioceses who are members of the Representative Body are entitled to attend meetings of the Property Committee when relevant diocesan property matters are under consideration.



Mr William Oliver

STIPENDS COMMITTEE

1 meeting

Mr William Oliver - 1
(Chair)

The business of the second regular meeting was handled by correspondence.

Rt Rev Dr Paul Colton	1	Mrs Jane Leighton	1
Ms Hazel Corrigan§	1	Mr Basil O'Malley	0
Rev Canon Brian Harper	0	Mr Geoffrey Perrin	1
Prof Paul Johnston	0	Ven David Pierpoint	1

The function of the Stipends Committee is to make recommendations concerning Minimum Approved Stipends, mileage rates for locomotory expenses, and the remuneration, expenses and budgets for the episcopate and other church officers, to monitor changes in taxation and State legislation insofar as clerical remuneration matters are concerned, to investigate and make recommendations in relation to grant aid requests from dioceses for the support of the Ministry and the training of newly ordained clergy, to consult with dioceses and make recommendations to provide for the better maintenance of the Ministry generally, to monitor and report on the implementation of the recommendations of the Clergy Remuneration and Benefits Committee as approved by General Synod in 1990 and report to the Executive Committee or to the Representative Body as appropriate.

* retired September 2017 (replacement to be elected)

† appointed December 2017 in place of Mr Sam Harper (retired May 2017)

‡ appointed June 2017 following retirement as a member of the Committee

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LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES COMMITTEE

5 meetings

Dr Michael Webb - 5
(Chair)



Dr Michael Webb

Mrs Ethne Harkness	5	Rt Rev John McDowell	4
Prof Paul Johnston	4	Rt Rev Patrick Rooke	3
		Advisors:	
		Rev Canon Dr Maurice Elliott	3
		Rev Dr Adrian Empey	3
		Dr Kenneth Milne	5
		Rev Robin Bantry White	3

The function of the Library and Archives Committee is to manage the RCB Library and its resources having regard to trusts and objectives, to maintain archives and Church records generally (including records of contents of churches and of church plate), to cooperate with the Theological Institute and Committees using the Library premises and to provide a cost-effective service to the Church and the public at large subject to the approval of the Executive Committee or the Representative Body as appropriate and budget limitations.

LEGAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

0 meetings

Mr Lyndon MacCann SC
(Chair)



Mr Lyndon MacCann

Mr Anthony Aston SC	Rt Rev Dr Paul Colton
His Honour Judge Gerard Buchanan	Mrs Judith Peters
The Hon Mr Justice Declan Budd	Mr Andrew Walker

The function of the Legal Advisory Committee is to advise the Representative Body on any legal or trust matter which the Executive Committee or the Representative Body may properly refer to it.

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Canon Graham Richards

AUDIT COMMITTEE

3 meetings

Canon Graham Richards - 2
(Chair)

Mr Roy Benson	3	Ms Hilary Prentice	3
Mr Robert Pollock*	1		

The Audit Committee's primary function is to assist the Representative Body in fulfilling its oversight responsibilities by reviewing the financial statements, the systems of internal control, the audit process and the risk register. The Committee meets twice yearly with the auditors, PricewaterhouseCoopers, to review the scope of the audit programme prior to audit, the outcomes for the year when the audit is completed and any issues arising from the audit. The Committee reviews the risk register annually.

* retired October 2017 (replacement to be elected)

REPORT ON THE YEAR 2017

The Representative Church Body (RCB) is the charitable trustee of the Church of Ireland for dioceses and parishes in the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland.

The RCB provides centralised services including delivering investment services, trust management, reporting, property, payroll, legal, pension, child protection, communications, library & archives and Synod & committee services for the Church of Ireland.

The RCB reports to General Synod each year on the performance of its responsibility as trustee highlighting achievements and issues arising that are relevant to the wider Church.

• Financial performance

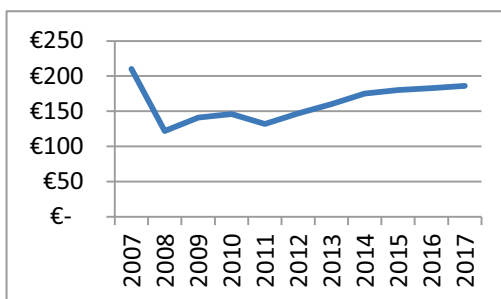
During 2017 the total funds available to the RCB increased by 2.8% to €193.9m (2016: €188.6m). This increase is attributed to investment portfolio gains and is after expenses and allocations. The total funds include General Funds invested assets (€184.8m) with the balance comprising RCB owned premises, debtors and cash.

General Funds

The General Funds of the Church of Ireland are the unrestricted funds of the Church, the returns of which are used to meet the cost of providing services and allocations that are provided to the wider Church.

The financial crash in 2007 and 2008 had a significant impact on the market valuation of financial markets. The impact on RCB General Funds was that General Funds fell in value from a peak of €238m at the end of 2006 just before the recession to a trough of €122m at the end of 2008. Between 2010 and 2014 €25m of capital was transferred from General

General Funds – year-end valuations (€m) 2007-2017



Funds to the Clergy Pensions Fund defined benefit scheme. General Funds have steadily recovered over the last nine years reaching €184.8m at the end of 2017. The pace of growth in General Funds has decreased over the last two years with the expectation that any short-term growth is expected to be modest. It should be noted that these figures are unadjusted for inflation which would reduce the real gains.

Total Return

The RCB uses Total Return as our budget mechanism in order to determine the long-term sustainable maximum withdrawal from General Funds. This mechanism seeks to:

- (a) determine the expected long-term return from General Funds given the investment mix, and
- (b) consider the appropriate General Funds balance so as to smooth short-term movements

Based on these two drivers Total Return offers a formula for sustainable withdrawal.

At the beginning of 2017 a working group comprising representatives from the Investment, Allocations and Executive Committees met to determine an appropriate total return target for the RCB.

The proposal that was approved by the Representative Body was:

Total Return max withdrawal = 3.5% of previous 5-year average opening funds
--

The recommendations of the working group considering Total Return was that the RCB should identify initiatives to close the gap between expected returns and sustainable withdrawal over the next five years, with these initiatives addressing:

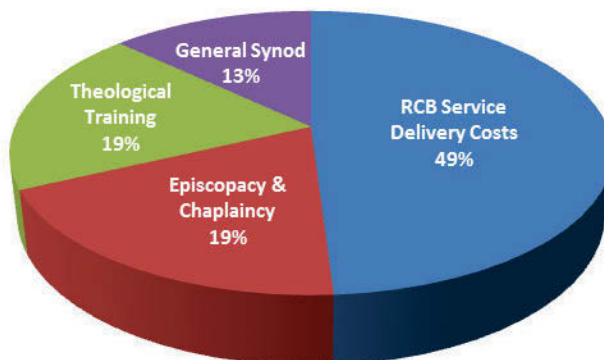
1. Process or structural opportunities to deliver efficiencies
2. Income opportunities
3. Cost reduction opportunities

During 2017, the withdrawal from General Funds exceeded the total return maximum withdrawal resulting in a total return deficit of €0.9m. The budgeted total return deficit for 2018 is expected to be €0.7m with further improvements expected as the five-year average funds reflects the higher portfolio values and as the organisation implements the initiatives that will be identified during 2018.

Allocations

During 2017 expenditure from General Funds was as shown below:

Expenditure from General Funds



	2017	2016
RCB services delivery costs including central Church staff and RCB Library	€3.5m	€3.5m
Episcopacy & Chaplaincy including contribution to episcopal stipends and maintenance of See Houses	€1.4m	€1.3m
Theological Institute costs including course delivery, student accommodation and grants	€1.3m	€1.4m
General Synod including communications, education department and committee support	€1.0m	€1.0m
Total expenditure	€7.2m	€7.2m

The expenses of the RCB above remain broadly in line with previous years.

• **RB Unit Trusts**

Parishes, Dioceses and other Church of Ireland institutions may purchase units in the RB Unit Trusts. At the end of 2017, the RCB held funds valued at €287m (2016: €283m) in trust for third parties. These funds are managed by the RCB investment team with the units paying bi-annual dividends. During 2017 the RB Unit Trusts received net contributions of €2.9m (2016: net contributions €6.9m).

The RCB has taken the decision to standardise the annual administration charge for both Unit Trusts at 20bps, rather than the tiered balance basis that was used for the sterling fund and the income basis that was used for the euro fund. This pricing is considerably below that offered by third party fund managers.

- **Property and trusts**

The RCB acts as trustee for the property of the Church of Ireland. There are over 2,000 properties vested in the RCB for which the RCB safeguards the title documentation, reducing trustee liability and removing the need to maintain current trustees. The RCB does not levy any annual trustee service charge on property vested in the RCB but may charge parishes a subsidised legal fee for transactions including vesting, letting and sale.

During 2017 the RCB established a Campus Review working group to explore optimising the various properties in use by the RCB. Any proposed utilisation would need to be consistent with any trust restrictions on either the use of or application of proceeds from that site.

The Advisory Council for the Church of Ireland Centre (CIC) at Dublin City University (DCU) was established by the Standing Committee of General Synod in 2016. The RCB has established a subsidiary company, Church of Ireland Teacher Education (CITE) DAC, through which the RCB as trustee of the Church of Ireland College of Education Fund Trust makes payments from the Fund Trust as approved by the trustee the RCB. CITE DAC is the legal entity that will apply for a derogation from the Employment Equality Acts required to facilitate recruitment to the Church of Ireland teacher training module at DCU. CITE DAC has entered into an accreditation agreement to facilitate the awarding of Trinity College Dublin degrees to CIC students who started their degree before CIC moved to DCU.

During 2017 the trustees of the Church of Ireland Clergy Widows & Orphans Society took the decision to transfer the administration and the proceeds of the Society's funds to the RCB. The administration of this new trust will transfer to the RCB during 2018 and will be administered by the Church of Ireland Pensions Board in accordance with the constitution of the Society.

- **Climate change**

The RCB Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) Policy advocates a positive and conscientious approach to investment decision making, engagement and collaboration. Investment decision making takes into account ESG considerations. The RCB uses its shareholding to engage with companies to improve their policies in relation to ESG. This engagement is primarily through lobby groups of which the RCB is a member, including the Church Investors Group and the Institutional Investors Group on Climate Change. The Church Investors Group was invited to participate during the September Investment Committee meeting to explain how our engagement is facilitating its lobbying efforts. In November 2017 the RCB became a founding signatory of the Climate Action 100+ campaign, an investor-led initiative which seeks to engage with the world's largest corporate greenhouse gas emitters to curb emissions, strengthen climate disclosures and improve climate governance. It is notable that many of these companies come from the extractive as well as the food & beverages and manufacturing sectors.

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The RCB recognises that a climate change focus on investments can only deliver limited change therefore other initiatives have been initiated aimed at reducing our environmental impact. These initiatives include:

- a pilot scheme to identify energy efficiency initiatives that could improve parish energy usage
- introduction of beehives on RCB property so as to improve urban pollination
- reduction of waste by introducing reusable cups in our offices
- promotion of remote meetings through a new ‘GoToMeeting’ conferencing hub at Church House Belfast to complement the existing facility at Church House Dublin
- partnering with Eco-Congregations and Bishops’ Appeal to heighten awareness of travel pollution #Jars4Journeys

The RCB is committed to raising awareness of climate change and has issued articles in the *Church of Ireland Gazette* to encourage parish and diocesan engagement.

● Parish Resources and communications

During 2017 the RCB continued to develop the Parish Resources section of the Church of Ireland website www.ireland.anglican.org/parish-resources. A new Hot Topics section has been added where users can currently find information on topics such as:

- Environmental sustainability
- General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)

If you have suggestions as to additional content that would be useful for your parish please provide feedback through the Contact Us tab at the bottom of the Parish Resources page.

The RCB is grateful for the generosity of Allchurches Trust in support of this project.

During 2017 the Chief Officer attended many Diocesan Synods and had the opportunity to present the mission and role of the RCB staff organisation and to promote Parish Resources. RCB staff delivered Charity Reporting seminars at three locations in the Republic of Ireland with a total attendance of over 300 participants. This engagement will continue during 2018 with seminars on the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and developments in charity reporting.



- **Organisational and staff development**

During 2017 the RCB commenced a staff Mission and Values initiative. The objective of this exercise was to develop a staff mission statement and values. Focus groups including Heads of Departments and managers developed proposed mission statements which through a consultative process were refined to produce a final version that was presented to the Representative Body and the Standing Committee of General Synod.

The agreed Mission Statement of the RCB staff organisation is:

The RCB Staff exists to inform, to support and to manage resources for the advancement of the mission and ministry of the Church of Ireland.

with the values of the RCB staff organisation defined as:

- **Teamwork**
- **Respect**
- **Expertise**

The mission and values initiative will provide the RCB staff organisation a foundation as we seek to develop our organisational strategy.

Building on the staff survey that was conducted in 2016 a manager training programme was introduced. By the end of 2017 three full day modules had been completed for managers and Head of Departments staff on each of the topics:

- Leadership and Management
- Developing Individual Performance
- Enhancing Team Performance

The training sessions were facilitated by an external trainer and took place at the Church of Ireland Theological Institute. The final training module in the current management development programme entitled *Managing within the Law* is expected to be delivered during 2018. An output of the training has been to develop a new performance appraisal template which is being used to encourage objective-based management within the RCB staff organisation.

- **Acknowledgements**

The membership of the Representative Body and its committees comprises clergy and lay volunteers who give generously of their time and expertise, without whom the work of the RCB could not be achieved.

The Representative Body and its committees acknowledge the dedication of the staff in Church House Dublin, Church House Belfast and in the RCB Library. In particular we would like to thank the following staff who left the RCB during 2017: June Howard, Property Officer; Joanne Richards, Manager Special Projects; Sandra Massey, Synod Administrator.



FINANCIAL AND OPERATIONAL REVIEW 2017

The accounts of the Representative Church Body commence on page 55.

• **Commentary**

- A) The Statement of Financial Activities (SoFA) of the Representative Church Body is shown on page 66. While the RCB has moved to a Total Return model for managing General Funds and for budgeting the annual withdrawal from General Funds, the SoFA is presented in the traditional format which recognises actual income.

The SoFA shows the income and expenditure, investment and currency gains and losses and capital receipts or withdrawals of funds. The SoFA layout shows the income generated from General Funds and Parish, Diocesan and Other Trust Funds along with the costs of operations and distributions which support the wider Church.

The column showing RCB activities is the cost of operations for central service, trustee and governance costs of the RCB. In the General Funds column these costs represent the charge out of costs from the RCB to General Funds, central Church allocations, investment and currency gains and losses and the opening and closing value of funds.

The Parish, Diocesan and Other Trust Funds column shows the income and expenditure relating to trusts, cash managed for the wider Church, Gift Aid claimed for and repaid to parishes, investment and currency gains and losses and opening and closing value of the funds.

RCB activities and General Funds

General Funds' total funds increased in value by €5.11m to €193.92m. This is due to profits on the sale of investments being realised during the year, unrealised gain on investment revaluation and a gain on the staff pension fund under Financial Reporting Standard (FRS) 102, which was partly offset by an excess of expenditure over income and an unfavourable currency exchange.

Incoming resources

The RCB operates a Total Return (TR) model which recognises income and capital appreciation. The TR model facilitates a more diversified longer term investment focus and moves away from a pure income focus. Total income under the traditional income model of €5.62m shows a decrease on the prior year of €0.48m (2016: €6.10m). Investment income of €4.95m shows a decrease of €0.73m (2016: €5.67m) on the prior year, mainly due to the continuing adoption of the TR model and a weakening in the sterling and US dollar exchange rates.

Grants and other income of €0.24m include €0.17m from Allchurches Trust to support specific projects. The RCB is most grateful for this support. Profit on the sale of fixed assets of €0.19m relates to the sale of the temporary See House in Kilmore, Elphin & Ardagh and a property in Portrush.

Resources expended

Expenditure for 2017 shown in the SoFA is analysed in greater detail on page 77 (Note 5).

The cost of generating funds includes payroll costs of investment management, legal and accounting services (which includes services available to the wider Church), external fund management costs, other investment professional service costs and allocated overheads.

Charitable activities costs include payroll and allocated overheads charged to trust and property management, communications, education and the RCB Library.

Governance costs include payroll and allocated overhead costs to support General Synod, central committee expenses and episcopal electoral expenses.

Other operating costs are those relating to professional fees and payroll payments to retired staff.

Total cost of operations of €3.51m is in line with the prior year (2016: €3.49m). Payroll and related costs see an increase on prior year due to an increase in actuarial consultancy fees relating to the staff defined benefit pension scheme. These costs have been off-set by a decrease in professional fees during the year. A significant portion of other costs of operations is represented by actuarial and consultancy costs relating to clergy pensions.

The total of resources expended which are chargeable against General Funds of €2.94 has increased year on year by €0.02m (0.5%).

Allocations expended

Allocations expended in the year of €3.715m (2016: €3.65m) shows an increase on the prior year by €0.62m mainly due a reduction in the unspent allocations for the year of €0.80m. Total underspend for the year amounted to €0.12m (2016: €0.20).

Special pension contributions and charges

In the prior year a once off payment of €0.32m was provided in the 2016 year end financial statements. The amount related to a payment to the defined contribution pension funds of individual clergy members, to reflect the value that might have been accrued in respect of ‘employer’ contributions for clergy serving beyond normal retirement age during the period from 1 June 2013 to 31 December 2016. Employer’s contributions for the year 2017 were paid by parishes to the defined contribution pension scheme.

General Funds gains and losses

General Funds results for the year shown in the SoFA sees the total fund value of General Funds increasing by €5.11m (2.7%) to €193.92m (2016: €188.60m). This

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increase is accounted for by realised gains on the sale of investments, unrealised gains on revaluation and gains on the staff defined benefit pension fund under FRS 102. These gains have been partly offset by an excess of expenditure over income, an unfavourable currency exchange and a property reserve movement due to the disposal of a property which had been revalued in 2016.

During the year €0.35m was transferred from General Funds to support the solvency of the staff defined benefit pension fund, which was closed to new entrants at 1 January 2007.

Parish, Diocesan and Other Trust Funds gains and losses

Incoming resources in relation to the RB General Unit Trusts are represented by investment income, deposit income and Gift Aid refunded. All incoming resources net of expenses are distributed to parishes, dioceses and other trusts. Total funds have increased by €35.82m (11.4%) to €350.71m (2016: €314.90m). This increase is accounted for by unrealised gains of €5.01m on investment revaluations and realised gains of €0.43m on sale of investments and an increase in the property reserve due to the inclusion in 2017 of properties valued at €30m relating to the Church of Ireland College of Education Fund Trust. These gains were partly off-set due to weaker sterling values at year end by €2.52m. Net capital inflows amounted to €2.89m (2016: €6.91m).

B) Balance Sheets

The net assets shown in the Balance Sheets (page 68) belong to three separate fund groupings.

- RCB activities are the assets and liabilities which are used to provide services from the central Church. The net current balance on these is offset against General Funds.
- General Funds are the funds available for the operating expense of the RCB and for funding allocations. Total fund values increased by €5.32m to €193.92m as detailed above in General Funds.
- Parish, Diocesan and Other Trust Funds investments and deposits income shown in the SoFA belongs to parishes, dioceses and mainly to sundry Church of Ireland trusts. Total fund values increased by €35.82m to €350.71m as detailed above in Parish, Diocesan and Other Trust Funds.

• Allocations (page 66)

Allocations budgeted for 2018 are provided for in 2017 as a reserve and will be drawn down in 2018. The amount provided is €3.71m and is gross of subventions. A detailed table of the 2018 budget is available on page 25. Allocations have been supported by a subvention from the Stipends Fund of €0.12m (2016: €0.12m). The Allocations Committee is most grateful to the Stipends Committee for this valuable support.

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• **Simplified income and expenditure**

A simplified table is included below to aid understanding of RCB income and expenditure for 2017 with comparatives for 2016. This is based on the traditional income and expenditure model. Analysis under the Total Return model is included in the table on page 23.

Simplified RCB and General Funds (GF) income and expenditure

	2017		2016	
	RCB €'000	GF €'000	RCB €'000	GF €'000
Investment Income		4,948		5,673
Other Income		672		426
Total Income		5,620		6,099
Expenditure				
Payroll & related costs	(2,111)		(1,971)	
Central Office costs	(323)		(264)	
Depreciation	(252)		(265)	
RCB Library Costs	(222)		(219)	
External Investment Managers costs	(218)		(226)	
Professional Fees	(103)		(219)	
Payroll to retired staff	(102)		(114)	
Central Committee Expenses	(93)		(113)	
Audit Fees	(81)		(96)	
Total expenses to be charged to GF and Parish, Diocesan & Other Trust Funds	(3,505)		(3,486)	
Total expenses to be charged to Parish, Diocesan & Other Trust Funds	565		562	
Total expenses to be charged to GF	2,940	(2,940)	2,924	(2,924)
Allocations expended		(3,711)		(3,649)
Special pension contributions		-		(322)
Total expenditure and allocations		(6,651)		(6,895)
Decrease in resources		(1,031)		(796)
Other recognised gains and losses				
Investment gains		6,125		5,513
Other reserve movements		225		(2,281)
Net gain in funds		5,319		2,436
Total funds brought forward		188,604		186,182
Total funds carried forward		193,923		188,618

Note: This table will reconcile to the SoFA (page 66) under the General Funds column.

- **Total Return**

The RCB adopted a Total Return based approach to managing withdrawals from General Funds in 2012. During 2016 and early 2017 the RCB conducted a review of the Total Return approach and concluded that a sustainable target return of 3.5% (2016: 4.0%) on invested fund assets would be appropriate going forward. Therefore the 2017 long-term sustainable target return was set at 3.5% with the target withdrawal or spend set at 3.5% (based on the five-year average fund value) to meet cost of operations and allocations in 2017 of €5.42 (2016: €5.39m). The actual withdrawal required to support cost of operations and allocations net of other income exceeded the target by 0.58% at 4.08% (2016: 4.5%). General Funds invested assets increased by 2.62% against the prior year balance sheet valuation, no provision was budgeted for asset growth in 2017 (2016: 0.5%). The RCB remains committed to delivering the services required by the wider Church while seeking to encourage efficiency, best practice and the prudent management of costs. The budget for 2018 seeks to reduce further the excess withdrawal from General Fund over the target withdrawal. The table below presents the Total Return model for year ended 31 December 2017 with prior year comparison.

Total Return	2017	2016
	€m	€m
Permitted withdrawal from invested assets under Total Return	€5.42m	€5.39m
Other operating income	€0.67m	€0.41m
Total incoming resources	€6.09m	€5.80m
Cost of operations and allocations	€6.65m	€6.57m
Pension related costs	€0.35m	€0.57m
Total withdrawal required	€7.00m	€7.14m
Excess withdrawal from invested assets	€0.91m	€1.34m

Note: It is not intended that this table will reconcile back to the SoFA on page 66.

- **Staff pension scheme**

At each year end the RCB is required to assess the financial condition of the staff defined benefit pension scheme under the provisions of FRS 102. One of the key drivers for valuing the liabilities under FRS 102 is determined by reference to a discount rate derived from AA rated corporate bonds comparable with the duration of scheme liabilities. It is important to note that FRS 102 does not determine the cash funding requirement or the solvency of the scheme; this is determined by the triennial valuation. The most recent triennial valuation which was conducted at 1 January 2017 concluded that the staff pension scheme was 93% solvent. The results of FRS 102 are set out in detail in Note 11.

- **Currency translation rates**

Year end sterling balances have been translated into euro a rate of €1 = £0.8881 or £1 = €1.126 (2016: €1 = £0.8535 or £1 = €1.172).

ALLOCATIONS BUDGET PROVIDED FOR 2018

Allocations provide financial support for Church-wide activities. The detailed allocations analysis for 2018 with 2017 comparisons is provided overleaf. The table shows the net amounts to be allocated after taking into account income from endowment funds, the episcopal levy, the child protection levy and any other sources of funding which offset the costs of financing ministry and other central commitments.

The summary position of 2018 allocations budget is set out below and is net of subventions. sterling balances have been exchanged at 0.8881 for 2018 budget and 2017 comparisons.

	2018		2017	
	€	%	€	%
A. Maintenance of the stipendiary ministry	1,283,387	35.7	1,271,236	34.3
B. Pension related costs	112,042	3.1	108,383	2.9
C. Training of ordinands	1,188,846	33.1	1,347,120	36.3
D. General Synod activities	996,881	27.7	966,345	26.1
E. Miscellaneous	15,878	0.4	16,000	0.4
	<u>3,597,034</u>		<u>3,709,084</u>	

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2018 ALLOCATIONS BUDGET

	2018	2017	2018	2017
	€	€	£	£
A. Maintenance of the stipendiary ministry				
Episcopal Stipends and Expenses	1,145,558	1,125,387	649,766	636,881
<i>less</i> Episcopal Levy	(467,750)	(465,352)	(465,793)	(453,987)
	<u>677,808</u>	<u>660,035</u>	<u>183,973</u>	<u>182,894</u>
Deans of Residences/University Chaplains	97,285	95,530	136,553	134,485
Queen’s University, Belfast, Bursar	-	-	15,704	15,544
C of I in Queen’s University, Belfast	-	-	2,000	2,000
C of I in Trinity College, Dublin	3,000	3,000	-	-
Clerical Relief - Children’s Allowances	46,000	46,000	28,000	25,000
- Central Church Fund	-	-	20,000	33,000
- Discretionary Grants	4,000	4,000	3,000	3,000
Stipends Related Costs	16,021	15,862	-	-
St Patrick’s Cathedral, Dublin	1,000	1,000	-	-
	<u>845,114</u>	<u>825,427</u>	<u>389,230</u>	<u>395,923</u>
B. Pension related costs				
Clergy Pensions Fund	50,000	50,000	45,100	36,850
Supplemental Fund Benefits				
- Retired Clergy, Surviving Spouses	-	-	-	-
Discretionary Grants				
- Retired Clergy	-	-	10,000	10,000
- Surviving Spouses	-	-	-	5,000
	<u>50,000</u>	<u>50,000</u>	<u>55,100</u>	<u>51,850</u>
C. Training of ordinands				
Training of Ordinands	434,878	555,450	-	-
Theological Institute	845,000	883,560	-	-
Stipends Fund	(100,000)	(100,000)	(15,000)	(15,000)
Bishops’ Selection Conference	25,858	25,000	-	-
	<u>1,205,736</u>	<u>1,364,010</u>	<u>(15,000)</u>	<u>(15,000)</u>
D. General Synod activities				
General Synod/Standing Committee	391,388	409,625	246,342	206,577
Board of Education	37,463	36,274	91,056	88,562
Church of Ireland Youth Department	-	-	145,000	145,000
Child Protection Officers	11,000	11,000	12,300	12,300
	<u>439,851</u>	<u>456,899</u>	<u>494,698</u>	<u>452,439</u>
E. Miscellaneous				
RCB Library	12,000	15,500	3,000	-
Regular Sunday Services in Irish	500	500	-	-
	<u>12,500</u>	<u>16,000</u>	<u>3,000</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>2,553,201</u>	<u>2,712,336</u>	<u>927,028</u>	<u>885,212</u>

- **Commentary**

A. Maintenance of the stipendiary ministry – €1,283,387

The total cost of Group A is budgeted at €1,283,387 and is the cost relating to financing the episcopacy, university chaplaincy, clerical grants and stipends related costs.

The cost of financing the episcopacy is the largest part of this allocation. The episcopal costs are shared on a percentage basis between central Church and dioceses. Dioceses contribute to episcopal costs through the episcopal levy, which is calculated based on the number of cures multiplied by a percentage of Minimum Approved Stipend (MAS). Episcopal costs include stipend, pension, state taxes, travel costs, office and administration costs and financing cost of see houses.

The total gross episcopal costs are budgeted for 2018 at €1.88m (2017: €1.87m). The episcopal costs net of episcopal levy contributions are budgeted at €0.88m or 69% of Group A costs (2017: €0.87m or 68%). The episcopal levy for 2018 is set at 6.4% of MAS, this remains unchanged from 2017. The episcopal levy for 2018 is budgeted to contribute €0.99m or 52.8% (2017: €0.99m or 53.3%) of the total episcopal costs. The cost per cure for 2018 is €1,848 and €2,399 (2017: €1,802 and €2,399). A more detailed breakdown of episcopal costs is shown on page 32.

Other amounts included in Group A support university deans of residence and children's and discretionary allowances paid to clergy. Funding is provided in 2018 to support Belfast city-wide university chaplaincy project which will run up to 31 August 2020.

B. Pension related costs – €112,042

The total cost of Group B is budgeted at €112,042 and is made up of Clergy Pensions Fund costs and discretionary grants to retired clergy and spouses.

Total support through allocations to the Clergy Pensions Fund for 2018 is budgeted at €50k and €45k. This represents the amount committed annually to the Fund as part of the long-term funding proposal to restore solvency over a ten-year period to 2023.

C. Training of ordinands – €1,188,846

Total costs budgeted for Group C represents the costs of training for the ministry. These costs include the running costs of the Theological Institute, training of ordinands costs and the cost of the selection process for entering training.

The total budgeted for 2018 shows a reduction of €0.16m to €1.19m on the 2017 budget of €1.35m. This decrease is mainly due to lower student numbers giving rise to a reduction in total personal allowances, accommodation costs and tuition fees.

The training of ordinands budget includes the cost of student grants, student accommodation, fees paid to Trinity College Dublin and external lecturer fees.

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Married students in 2017/18 receive a personal grant of €7,970 and single student's grant is €6,210. Accommodation grants and travel allowances are provided to students in their final intern year. The total budgeted costs for 2017/18 of training of ordinands are €434,878 (2016/17: €555,450). For the academic year 2017/18 total student numbers are 21 ordinands in full-time training and 13 in part-time training.

The cost category Theological Institute includes the costs of running the Institute and includes academic, administration and facilities costs. The total budgeted for the academic year 2018/19 is €845,000 (2017/18: €883,560). The allocation has decreased by €39k, mainly due to a reduction in budgeted staff hours and additional income raised from conferences and guest accommodation.

Extracts from the accounts of the Church of Ireland Theological Institute for the year ended 30 June 2017 are included as Appendix A (page 90).

D. General Synod activities – €996,881

The General Synod budget of €996,881 is made up of costs relating to General Synod and its Standing Committee, the Boards of Education, the Church of Ireland Youth Department and the centrally funded portion of the Child Protection Officers.

Total costs show an increase on prior year of €30k. This increase is mainly due to an increase in specific committee costs relating to particular projects in 2018 and the resourcing of a full-time role within General Synod rather than part-time.

The cost of the Board of Education in the Republic of Ireland and the Church of Ireland Youth Department are supported by grants from the Irish government. The RCB on behalf of the Church of Ireland wishes to acknowledge its appreciation for this support.

E. Miscellaneous – €15,878

The total cost of Group E is €15,878, and represents an allocation of €15,378 to the RCB Library. €500 is provided for the maintenance of the Irish language as part of regular Church of Ireland worship.

INVESTMENTS AND MARKETS

• Economic environment and 2018 outlook

Globally, economic growth increased in 2017 with all three major geographic blocs (US, EU and China) achieving rates at or close to potential for the first time in 10 years. The lagged effects of multiple asset purchase programmes by governments and zero interest rates were likely helpful in this regard. Also, and possibly more influentially, large corporations have seen strong profits and cash flows that feed into employment resulting in higher levels of economic activity. However, despite strong jobs data and historically low levels of unemployment (close to 4% in US) there has been an unusual lack of wage inflation. This in turn has led to little or no inflation in official numbers, thus allowing a continuation of very low interest rates and “cheap money”.

In Europe we expect monetary policy to remain very accommodative but for Quantitative Easing (QE) to be phased out as planned. The chances of political reform of the EU have receded following the inconclusive German election. Localised bouts of political instability are a feature of the region but thus far have not dented the general pick-up in growth. The US is further on in the economic cycle and there is an ongoing process to normalise monetary policy. This has seen, and will continue to see, very modest incremental interest rate rises and some very tentative sales of assets or QE unwinding. As the latter is venturing into uncharted waters with a new Chair of the US Federal Reserve, this will be closely watched by asset markets the world over. Closer to home, Ireland is set to continue to be a beneficiary of the global growth story, despite the spectre of Brexit.

- **Main investment asset classes**

Equities

The US has continued to lead equity markets higher, characterised by strength in the NASDAQ/Tech sector. In Europe this sector is much smaller, and as a rising euro negatively impacts international earnings, Europe has lagged somewhat, despite less expensive valuation metrics. Due to virtually no net inflows, the gains in high growth sectors (Tech and Industrials/Materials) has been financed by sales of more defensive areas such as Healthcare, Consumer staples and Telecoms/Utilities. This has created considerable divergence that equity markets have a habit of taking to extremes. Parallels exist with the Y2K variance of ‘Old economy’ versus TMT (Tech, Media and Telco’s) although it must be acknowledged the Tech sector does actually generate massive revenues and cash flows.

Although supported by ample liquidity, lack of alternatives and current positive earnings newsflow, equities, particularly in the US are at extremes as measured by long-term investment valuation metrics (Price to Sales, Market Capitalisation to GDP and Shiller PE). As all RCB controlled funds prioritise capital integrity over short-term relative performance, an underweight equity exposure continues to be the active strategy in place for the various funds under management.

Interest rates and bonds

Although there is an ongoing effort by central banks to try to exit zero rates and asset purchases, we believe interest rates will remain low for the foreseeable future. This is based on our assessment of the global economy combined with extreme levels of debt. Thus the shorter end of bond markets is reasonably anchored, whereas longer dated bonds are vulnerable to a withdrawal of support from central banks. In Europe, yield suppression (price distortion) from intervention is substantial, whereas in the US, tapering of bond purchases and minor incremental rate increases have allowed some price discovery (2.3% 10-year bond yield versus 0.35% in Germany). Although inflation is subdued, clearly European bonds offer no real yield, while negative nominal yields (if owned), would represent a liability for funds. In this environment the office has been compelled to seek out higher yielding bonds that carry a degree of credit risk and non-euro denominated bonds that carry currency risk (when not hedged). Also, a sub-category of bond proxy, or substitutes, has been developed over the past number of years.

Property

Property has acted as a useful diversifier versus conventional bonds and equities. Its advantages are relatively high yield and inflation protection as a tangible real asset. Its drawbacks are illiquidity and cyclicity. We have partially countered the liquidity problem through owning globally diversified quoted REITs (Real Estate Investment Trusts) in addition to IPUT and PITCH, while addressing cyclicity through specialist sectors such as student accommodation and social housing funds. Even though we are further on the economic cycle and yields are lower than a year ago, the fundamental economic backdrop is very supportive in terms of demand/supply and low interest rates.

Currencies/precious metals

The policy of hedging non-base currency exposures at extremes of valuation (based on observed long-term trading range and purchasing power parity) has generally worked well with a notable pay-off in euro/sterling in 2016. In 2017 the euro has rallied, somewhat counter-intuitively, from \$1.04 to \$1.19, thus supporting the case for long-term mean reversion. For the year ahead we see sterling as the main risk factor for portfolios. However the currency would act as an economic safety valve for the UK economy in the event of political turmoil and/or poor Brexit outcomes.

The flawed nature of all the world's major currencies highlights the attraction of gold/precious metals as a safe haven store of wealth. The cost of holding this real asset is minimal due to the near zero interest rate policy. As well as a hedge against inflation, it also gives protection against political/economic change. In their long-term efforts to replace the Dollar as the reserve currency, the Chinese authorities are building Gold reserves. Given its non-correlation to risk assets and the above economic and political factors, we continue to recommend a 5- 10% exposure to a broad spectrum of precious metals assets.

- **Fund valuations and performances**

Valuations of the various portfolios as at 31 December 2017 along with three- and five-year fund performance figures are included as Appendix B (page 92).

- **General Funds performance 2017**

Total return for the year was 5.5% versus the benchmark return of 6.8%. The Fund continues to maintain a defensive stance with approximately 43% exposure to equities versus the benchmark weight of 70% on account of elevated valuations in asset markets.

- **Unit Trusts**

The RB General Unit Trust (RI) delivered a total return for the year of 4.1% versus the benchmark return of 6.8%. Once again, this outturn was achieved in the context of the agreed investment strategy to adopt a lower risk profile in equities relative to the benchmark (45% versus BM 70%), due to elevated fundamentals.

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The RB General Unit Trust (NI) delivered a total return for the year of 9.3% versus the benchmark return of 10.6%. These higher returns were primarily driven by sterling weakness, and highlight the benefit of the Fund's diversification across geographies and currencies.

The distribution rate for the RB General Unit Trust (RI) was maintained at 11.5c for the financial year to 30 June, representing a yield of 2.91% at the end of 2017. The distribution for the RB General Unit Trust (NI) was also left unchanged at 10.3p for the financial year for an equivalent yield of 2.70%. Given the projected income flow it was agreed to increase the interim distribution for RB General Unit Trust (NI) to 4.5p (from 4.3p) with effect from December 2017.

The financial statements for the RB General Unit Trusts (RI) and (NI) and extracts from the investment manager's reports for the year ended 30 June 2017 are set out in Appendix C (page 93).

- **Clergy Pensions Fund**

The Clergy Pensions Fund achieved a total return of 4.7% for the year versus the benchmark return of 3.2%. The passive element of the Fund managed by ILIM represented 44% of total assets at the end of 2017 compared to 46% at the end of 2016, with the change mainly attributable to an increase in direct bond holdings, actively managed equities and property investments.

- **Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) review**

In 2017 the Investment Committee monitored and carried out its annual assessment of individual stock holdings within the various portfolios and reported to the Representative Body in December that it was satisfied that the investment managers remain sensitive to the Church's concerns and expectations with regard to ESG issues.

Following the introduction of the RCB Policy on Climate Change (2015) and restrictions for coal (2016) and tar sands (2017) producers, an ethical review was completed by the office and a list of stocks circulated to the external asset managers in order for any required disposals to be transacted. In-house portfolios had no exposure in this area and no resulting disposals. The Investment Committee has the right to exclude individual stocks on ESG grounds from time to time where they feel appropriate (and where engagement has been unsuccessful) and has utilised this right albeit on a limited basis.

Subsequent to the motion passed at General Synod 2017 the RCB has been stepping up its commitment to address the problem of climate change in the broadest way possible. A dedicated section on Environmental Sustainability has been established under the Parish Resources section of the website containing information on various ESG issues including the RCB Policy on Climate Change and a sample Energy Audit for parishes to undertake.

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In November 2017 the RCB joined the Climate Action 100+ initiative as a founding signatory and supporter. The Climate Action 100+ is an investor initiative to engage with the world's largest corporate greenhouse gas emitters (across various industries and sectors) to curb emissions, strengthen climate disclosures and improve climate governance. The initiative was officially launched on 12 December 2017 at the One Planet Paris Climate Summit with the support of 225 investors overseeing a combined \$26.3 trillion in assets.

A number of other initiatives are also being undertaken. A pilot scheme reviewing the efficiency of existing energy management controls is underway in Down & Dromore. Several sustainable initiatives have also been undertaken in the RCB's offices under the #RCBEGREEN initiative.

The RCB's ESG Policy statement is included as Appendix D (page 104) and its Policy on Climate Change is included as Appendix E (page 106).

CLERGY REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

• **Minimum Approved Stipends (MAS) 2018**

The Standing Committee determines levels of MAS annually on behalf of the General Synod in accordance with Section 51(1) of Chapter IV of the *Constitution*. MAS levels are determined in September for the following year, taking into account economic data, conditions, earnings trends and indices at 30 June. Recommendations on MAS levels are initially brought to the Representative Body by the Stipends Committee, which considers movements in inflation and general earnings levels as well as the ability of parishes in both jurisdictions to pay.

Republic of Ireland – The average inflation for the 12-month period to 30 June 2017 was +0.18% (+1.2% to June 2016) with year on year inflation for the same period at -0.4% (+0.4% at 30 June 2016). Statistics indicate a continuing static or downward trend. The movement in the euro to sterling exchange rate has had a direct impact on the prices of certain goods thus the current negative inflation trend. MAS for the Republic of Ireland was increased by 1.7% in 2017.

The Stipends Committee in reviewing the Republic of Ireland MAS recommendation for 2018 considered the level of inflation hovering in the static or low negative range together with the cumulative increase in MAS over a 10-year period ahead of the Consumer Price Index and general wage inflation. The Committee concluded that it was appropriate not to recommend an increase in MAS for the Republic of Ireland for 2018.

Northern Ireland – Inflation has steadily risen throughout 2017. Average Consumer Price Index (CPI) for the 12-month period to 30 June 2017 is +1.7% (+0.2% to June 2016) with year on year inflation for the same period at +2.6% (+0.5% at 30 June 2016). The inflationary trend has been consistent throughout 2017 and indications would be that it continues to remain at this level. It was noted that the Church of England stipends were increased by 1.5% from 1 April 2017 but that this would have

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been based on lower inflation figures during 2015/2016 period. MAS for Northern Ireland was increased by 1% in 2017. In reviewing the Northern Ireland MAS the Stipends Committee took into consideration the increasing trend in inflation, Church of England stipend increases and, as in prior years, the concern to avoid possible above average increases in future years. It was therefore agreed to recommend a 1% increase in Northern Ireland MAS for 2017.

The Standing Committee received and agreed with a recommendation from the Representative Body that no increase be applied to the Minimum Approved Stipend for 2018 in the Republic of Ireland and a 2.6% increase be applied in Northern Ireland. Consequently, levels of Minimum Approved Stipend for 2018 are:

	2018	2017
Northern Ireland	€28,881	€28,149
Republic of Ireland	€37,480	€37,480

• Episcopal costs

The breakdown of total episcopal costs is summarised as follows:

	Republic of Ireland		Northern Ireland	
	€	€	£	£
	2018	2017	2018	2017
(1) Stipends together with state insurance costs	510,548	510,548	304,956	297,120
(2) Pension costs	109,910	109,910	60,347	58,817
(3) Offices of the Sees expenses	324,172	327,705	181,451	180,098
(4) See Houses and other costs	392,050	376,312	168,255	163,291
Totals (gross)	1,336,680	1,324,475	715,009	699,326
(5) Less endowment income	(219,175)	(228,247)	(39,402)	(39,402)
Totals (net of income)	1,117,505	1,096,228	675,607	659,924

Note: Amounts are denominated in the currency relating to the jurisdiction of the See. For allocations purposes, amounts are denominated in the currency in which expenditure will occur.

Notes relating to the figures above:

- (1) Gross stipend and employer's state insurance contribution.
(ie costs that relate to the bishops on a personal basis)

Stipends are multiples of Minimum Approved Stipends as follows:

Archbishop of Armagh	2.45
Archbishop of Dublin	2.25
All Bishops	1.75

- (2) Contributions towards episcopal pensions.

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- (3) Secretarial and office services and allowances relating to expenses of travel and hospitality.
(ie costs that relate to the running of the office of the See)
- (4) Heating, grounds and house maintenance, insurance and service charges, secretary to the House of Bishops.
(ie property maintenance and other costs that are shared across all the Episcopacies)
- (5) Income from investments and rent of See House lands.

- **Locomotory allowances 2018**

It was agreed by the Representative Body in 2016 that from 1 January 2017, the rate of locomotory allowances be set at the relevant revenue authority rates for each jurisdiction, plus an additional rate which would be subject to social insurance payments. As for 2017 the 2018 rates are designed such that the total levels of allowances payable would be similar to those payable prior to 2017 as follows:

Republic of Ireland – Revenue Commissioners approved rates:

Distance bands	Engine capacity up to 1200cc	Addtl rate	Engine capacity 1201-1500cc	Addtl rate	Engine capacity 1501cc & over	Addtl rate
1 0-1,500km	37.95c	40c	39.86c	40c	44.79c	35c
2 1,501-5,500km	70.00c	18c	73.21c	15c	83.53c	7c
3 5,501-25,000km	27.55c	15c	29.03c	13c	32.21c	8c
4 25,001km & over	21.36c	14c	22.23c	12c	25.85c	8c

Northern Ireland – HMRC approved rates:

first 10,000 miles @ 45p per mile
after 10,000 miles @ 25p per mile

Miles	Allowance per HMRC rates at miles figure in bold	Addtl rate	Addtl allowance subject to NIC	Total allowance
up to 10,000	£4,500	12.7p	£1,270	£5,770
10,001 to 15,000	£5,750	5.6p	£840	£6,590
15,001 & above (allowance @ 17,000)	£6,250	3.9p	£663	£6,913

- **Children’s Allowances 2017/2018**

The Children’s Allowances Scheme is designed to assist clergy and surviving spouses with the cost of secondary school education or higher level education leading to primary qualifications including certificate, diploma and degree.

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Grants are paid on a *per capita* basis, without any form of means test, in respect of each child as follows:

	Academic year starting 1 September 2017	
	Republic of Ireland	Northern Ireland
Over 11 attending secondary school	€600	£100
Third level students (up to age 23)	€300	£400
Eligible orphans	€600	£400

Grants may be paid in respect of a child under 11 years of age where that child is in residence at a boarding school or, in exceptional cases, in respect of a student who may be over age 23. In either case, grants are at the sole discretion of the Representative Body.

Grants are also available from other sources and a list of such possible sources is available on the Church of Ireland website at www.ireland.anglican.org/about/education.

- **Clergy car loans**

Car loans for clergy are available from the RCB in accordance with the following formula, linked to the statutory Minimum Approved Stipend (MAS):

	New Cars	Used Cars
Maximum loan	MAS x 2/3	MAS x 1/2
Maximum term	4 years	3 years
Interest rate per annum	8%	8%

This ratio of maximum loan to minimum stipend is designed to maintain a reasonable relationship between borrowing capacity and ability to pay. At 31 December 2017 there were 52 loans outstanding with a total value of €298,478.

- **Central Church Fund – removal (relocation) grants**

Grant assistance is available to clergy towards the cost of moving household belongings to/from a rectory/curatage on a new appointment or retirement. Grants are generally not made to any one individual more frequently than at a three year interval other than in exceptional circumstances or on appointment as a dean or bishop/archbishop.

The approved level for an individual relocation grant is limited to 2/3 of actual cost and is subject to a maximum of €4,000 or £2,000 in the case of moves within the island. In the case of moves to the island the maximums are €5,000 and £4,000.

With prior approval an equivalent grant amount may be paid towards the procurement of furniture in lieu of the cost of a move into the island. Claims for such grants must be supported by receipted documentation.

CLERGY PENSIONS

There are three separate schemes providing pension benefits for Church of Ireland clergy. Contributions in relation to service from 1 June 2013 onwards are held in the Church of Ireland Clergy Defined Contribution Scheme (Northern Ireland) and the Church of Ireland Clergy Defined Contribution Scheme (Republic of Ireland). The Clergy Pensions Fund holds assets to fund the pension benefits earned by clergy up to 31 May 2013.

The RCB acts as Sponsor of all three schemes.

- **The Church of Ireland Clergy Defined Contribution Schemes (NI and RI)**

Details of the operation of the schemes are set out in the members' handbooks and at:

Northern Ireland members: www.zurich.co.uk/save/coiclergy

Republic of Ireland members: www.zurichlife.ie/groups/aspire/60521399

The annual reports of the scheme trustees are included in Appendix F (page 108).

Since 1 January 2017 clergy who remain in the service of the Church of Ireland after reaching their normal retirement age may continue to make contributions to their pension scheme. If a member continues to make such contributions their parish must also make the appropriate contribution. Such contributions put the member clergy on equal footing as the colleague who has not yet reached normal retirement age.

Members of both Schemes are encouraged to review their pension scheme to ensure that it is invested in the most appropriate funds which suit their requirements especially as they approach retirement age.

- **The Clergy Pensions Fund (defined benefit scheme)**

The annual report of the Church of Ireland Clergy Pensions Trustee Designated Activity Company (DAC), which in accordance with Chapter XIV of the *Constitution of the Church of Ireland* is the Trustee of the Clergy Pensions Fund, is included as Appendix G (page 110). The RCB is the sole member of the Trustee Company.

Supplemental Fund and other funds

The Church of Ireland Pensions Board administers the Supplemental Fund and certain other funds on behalf of the RCB. A report on the administration of these funds during the year ended 31 December 2017 is attached as Appendix H (page 152).

Further information on clergy pensions is available from:

The Pensions Administration Manager
Church of Ireland House, Church Avenue, Rathmines, Dublin 6
Email pensions@rcbdub.org Tel +353-(0)1-4125630

PROPERTY AND TRUSTS

- **General**

During 2017 the Church has continued to take steps aimed at reducing our carbon footprint and making our property stock as energy efficient as is practicably possible, taking into account that we have a considerable number of historic buildings, many of which are protected structures. A pilot Buildings Energy Management Scheme was commenced during the year to conduct a survey of the controls for heating, ventilation and lighting systems in 10 parish halls/centres in Northern Ireland to ascertain the existing level of equipment/controls and to advise parishes how to optimise energy efficiencies through better buildings energy management systems. Subject to the results of the pilot scheme, expansion of the scheme to encompass parishes in Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland will be considered.

During the year 54 parishes in the Republic of Ireland received grants totalling €365,282 from the Built Heritage Investment Scheme 2017 and 7 parishes received grants of €180,000 from the Structures at Risk Fund 2017. Both funds are sponsored by the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht to assist with the repair and conservation of protected structures under the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended). Despite the financial assistance received in the form of grants during the year, many challenges remain for the Church in its efforts to maintain the significant number of historic/listed buildings in its care. Continued support and increased levels of funding from Government and Local Authorities in the form of heritage investment schemes is critical to the conservation of buildings at risk. Many schemes are enabling job creation, through leveraging private capital for investment in labour intensive conservation projects to support the employment of skilled conservation professionals, craft workers and tradespeople.

In the Republic of Ireland, the Minister for Finance and Public Reform announced in October 2017 that the Government, in recognition of the work undertaken by the charities sector, would introduce a €5 million VAT Refund Scheme that will allow charities to claim back a portion of VAT on goods and services they purchase. The scheme will take effect from 1 January 2018 but will be paid one year in arrears, i.e. in 2019 charities will be able to reclaim some portion of VAT costs arising in 2018. The scheme, including the amount provided in the fund, will be subject to review after three years.

In the Republic of Ireland, the issue of domestic water charges for all residential property connected to a public water supply or to public wastewater services, continued to be controversial. However, the Water Services Act 2017 repealed the system of domestic water charging and provided that customers who paid domestic water charges to Irish Water would be refunded, commencing in November 2017.

The residential housing market was again a significant feature during 2017 in both the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland. In the Republic of Ireland the price of residential housing in the greater urban areas continued to rise and Northern Ireland also saw price movement upwards. In both jurisdictions, house price inflation is primarily due to a lack of suitable properties arising from a legacy of underbuilding

for over a decade. Although steps are being taken to rectify the situation, in reality, there are still not enough new homes under construction to meet demand. This has also had the effect of driving rents to record highs, despite Government actions in the Republic of Ireland under the Rent Predictability Measure which is designed to moderate the rises in rents where they are highest and rising by designating such areas as ‘Rent Pressure Zones’. However, in many rural areas house prices and rents have seen only moderate increases and in some areas have stagnated, due to the local population migrating to cities where there are greater job opportunities.

- **Roles and responsibilities**

As the legal owner of the vast majority of Church of Ireland properties held in trust for the Church, the RCB has both a statutory function as laid down in Chapter X of the *Constitution of the Church of Ireland* and a general duty of care under the common law. Property transactions by their nature involve strategic, technical and legal issues which must be considered in great detail and processed with accuracy and technical certainty. The procedure for dealing with church property may appear cumbersome and bureaucratic from time to time, given the chain of decision making from Select Vestry through Diocesan Council and finally by the RCB in its corporate legal role. However, this is a consistent, careful and transparent process which reflects this duty of care to past, present and future generations and the legal responsibilities of trustees and custodians.

- **Title and contract issues**

Timely notification of potential property transactions taking account of the time which can elapse for procedural reasons is always helpful especially where a title, underlying trust, covenant or mapping problem emerges on investigation. It is important too that no implied contracts are entered into between local parish representatives and contractors or developers prior to formal approvals being given by the Representative Church Body and all legal formalities having been observed.

- **Churchyard and graveyard walls**

Potentially serious financial loss to parishes due to ageing walls surrounding churchyards and graveyards was again evident in 2017. Parishes are strongly advised to inspect walls regularly, to seek technical advice and to carry out preventative maintenance where possible. Vigilance is paramount when any form of development takes place on adjoining or adjacent sites and parishes should ensure that buttresses, foundations and other supporting structures are not interfered with to the detriment of the churchyard or graveyard walls. The age of many churchyard/graveyard walls, combined with increased levels of rainfall, can have major implications, particularly for retaining walls.

The level of funding available from government or local authorities to assist in rebuilding walls that have collapsed is small in relation to overall reinstatement costs, often leaving parishes with a large financial burden. In addition, parishes should be aware that insurance policies will only cover the cost of repair or reinstatement where damage has been caused by an insured peril and in the case of storm or flood only from proven events.

- **The See House, Limerick**

The Bishop of Limerick and Killaloe moved into the new See House for the United Dioceses of Limerick, Ardfert, Aghadoe, Killaloe, Kilfenora, Clonfert, Kilmacduagh and Emly, at Castletroy, Limerick in July 2017.

- **Stained glass windows – surveys**

The professional survey of stained glass windows in the Church of Ireland by Dr David Lawrence, an expert in stained glass, has resulted in surveys being completed in: St Patrick’s Cathedral Dublin; Christ Church Cathedral Dublin; the Dioceses of Cork, Cloyne and Ross; Armagh; Clogher; Derry and Raphoe; Down and Dromore, Connor; Meath and Kildare; Cashel, Ferns and Ossory; Tuam, Killala and Achonry; Dublin and Glendalough; Kilmore, Elphin and Ardagh; Limerick, Ardfert, Aghadoe, Killaloe, Clonfert, Kilmacduagh and Emly. The survey in the Dioceses of Down and Dromore was finalised in 2017. The survey of stained glass windows in the Church of Ireland is now complete as far as practicably possible and includes the majority of stained glass windows in the Church of Ireland, the details of which are now available on the stained glass database www.gloine.ie. A total of 3,198 windows in 657 churches have been surveyed and the database will hold some 45,000 factual items of data.

The RCB has contributed €548,840 towards the project over the past 16 years. Funding of €241,842 was received from the Heritage Council, together with support from Allchurches Trust and the Department for Communities (NI) (formerly Northern Ireland Environment Agency).

The stained glass database *Gloine - Stained glass in the Church of Ireland* was launched in April 2008 and is available at www.gloine.ie. The database enables the user to search by diocese, church, artist, studio, religious subject matter and date. A zoom and pan function on all images together with a search by map facility together with floor plans of the church buildings are also available on the website.

- **Insurance**

Where church premises are occupied by a third party under a lease or licence agreement, it is obligatory that parishes obtain written confirmation from the insurance company of the occupant that they have a policy of public liability insurance in place. Parishes should not enter into arrangements with third parties to receive contributions towards public liability insurance costs, unless such arrangement has been discussed with and has received the sanction in writing of their insurance company.

It is imperative that parishes ensure all graveyards in their care are adequately covered by a policy of public liability insurance.

- **Safety and parish premises**

The attention of select vestries is drawn to current health and safety legislation in the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland, particularly in relation to the ‘occupier’s’ duty of care to visitors and recreational users of church property. It is imperative that each parish should have a formal Health and Safety Statement and that parish premises should meet the required standards and that regular risk inspections are carried out.

- **Letting of parish lands**

Where parish lands are let under Conacre (tillage) and Agistment (grazing) Agreements, it is critical that such agreements are fully completed by both the Parish and the Tenant in order to comply with the regulations of the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (NI) and the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (RI). If, following inspection by the relevant Department agreements are not in compliance with EU Regulations, financial penalties may be applied.

- **Local Property Tax (Republic of Ireland)**

The Local Property Tax (LPT) on residential properties, which came into effect in the Republic of Ireland as of 1 July 2013, includes residential properties within parishes, on which parishes are liable for payment. LPT is collected by the Revenue Commissioners and is initially paid by the RCB to ensure compliance with Revenue deadlines. The tax is then collected from the parishes (the beneficial owners) through the dioceses during the year.

Revaluation is scheduled for 1 November 2019 but the form of valuation is currently under review by an all-party budgetary oversight committee in consultation with the Revenue Commissioners and the manner in which the tax will be re-evaluated and calculated may not become clear until later in 2018. The amount of LPT due for 2018 depends on the value declared for the property on 1 May 2013 and the LPT rate being applied by the relevant Local Authority for 2018. Nine Local Authorities have adjusted their LPT rate, with four reducing it with rates of 10% and 15%, and the other five increasing the rate by between 2.5% and 10%.

Parishes should consult the Revenue Commissioners website www.revenue.ie for further information on the Local Property Tax.

- **Domestic water charges (Republic of Ireland)**

A new system of domestic water charges was introduced during 2015 for homes that are connected to a public water supply or to public wastewater services. The Water Services Act 2017 has repealed the system of domestic water charging and provided that customers who paid domestic water charges to Irish Water would be refunded, commencing in November 2017. However, the Water Services Act 2017 provides for a threshold of 213,000 litres of water per year to promote water conservation, and in general, a dwelling with water usage above this threshold amount may be regarded as having excessive water usage. Dwellings with more than four residents have an additional allowance of 25,000 litres of water per year, above the threshold amount, for each extra person living there. Excess use charges will be approved by the Commission for Regulation of Utilities (CRU) and will not commence until 1 January 2019 at the earliest. Bills for excess use charges will not be issued until 1 July 2019 at the earliest.

- **Domestic Waste Water Treatment Systems registration (Republic of Ireland)**

The Department of the Environment introduced a Domestic Waste Water Treatment Systems charge under the Water Services (Amendment) Act, 2012. All domestic waste water treatment systems should have been registered by 1 February 2013. This

includes septic tanks, waste water tanks and treatment systems which are receiving, storing, treating or disposing of domestic waste water. It also includes all fittings and percolation areas associated with such tanks and systems and drains which are used to discharge waste water from premises, whether or not a receiving tank is present. The initial registration fee is €50 and registration will last for five years, with no fee for second or subsequent registrations. Failure to register a domestic waste water treatment system located on parish property could incur a fine of up to €5,000.

It is a requirement that registration of the domestic wastewater treatment system must be renewed on or before the date on which the Certificate of Registration is due to expire.

Select Vestries should consult the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment website www.dccae.gov.ie for further information on the registration and inspection system.

- **Grants**

- Church Fabric and Development Fund***

Since 1930 the Church Fabric Fund has been held for the repair of certain church buildings. The Fund is governed by Chapter X Part IV of the *Constitution of the Church of Ireland* and managed by the RCB. In May 2016 the General Synod approved amendments to the *Constitution*, renaming the fund the ‘Church Fabric and Development Fund’, amending Section 20 to extend the scope of the Fund to include the development of initiatives supporting the long-term mission of the Church, and specifying that income of the Fund post-1 July 2016 may be applied to this broader purpose. Rules to regulate the amended provisions have been approved by the Standing Committee of General Synod and are now in force. The changes allow the Fund to be used more widely than before, in order to more effectively serve the wider life, outreach and witness of the Church into the long term.

The amended provisions:

- ❖ allow central funds to be used for:
 - the existing purpose of giving fabric grants for the restoration or repair of certain church buildings (the ‘*Fabric application*’); and
 - the development of the best examples of mission initiatives, and enable scaling of these initiatives across the whole island of Ireland, for the strategic benefit of the wider Church (the ‘*Central Development application*’); and
- ❖ provide parishes which have investments under the Church Fabric Fund provisions with access to their investments, allowing these funds to be used for the purposes of approved mission (the ‘*Local Development application*’).

There is no change in the Fabric application and it will continue to work in same way as before.

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The Central Development and Local Development applications are now available to parishes. Their aim is to facilitate the strategic growth of the Church of Ireland, with the aim of encouraging existing excellence and offering opportunities for future creative initiatives.

The RCB will work together with other grant-awarding bodies within the Church of Ireland to ensure that the variety of grants awarded for different and similar purposes complement each other.

More detailed information, including the application criteria and application forms, can be found under ‘Funding & Grants’ at www.ireland.anglican.org/parish-resources/parish-finances

The Church Fabric and Development Fund has grown from the allocation of a minimum of 20% of the net proceeds arising from the majority of churches sold since 1930 to a capital fund of €6,182,843 and £1,046,815. Grants of €177,200 and £71,900 were allocated by the RCB from the income of the Fund on the recommendation of the Primate in 2017. Applications for grants, subject to criteria, are considered in March and October (details from Church of Ireland House Dublin).

A list of grants allocated during 2017 is included as Appendix I (page 160).

Marshal Beresford Fund

Grants of €44,200 and £51,750 for repairs to churches were made from the Beresford Fund in 2017. The allocation of the income, in accordance with the trusts, is made by the Archbishop of Armagh who does so in conjunction with his recommendations for grant assistance from the Church Fabric and Development Fund. More information about the criteria, deadlines and application forms can be found on the main Church of Ireland website at www.ireland.anglican.org/parish-resources.

Built Heritage Investment Scheme and Structures at Risk Fund 2018 (Republic of Ireland)

The Minister for the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht in November 2017 announced that the Built Heritage Investment Scheme and Structures at Risk Fund will continue again for 2018 with a total funding of €3.3 million. The Schemes will continue to be administered by the Local Authorities and details are available on the website of each Local Authority.

The Built Heritage Investment Scheme (BHIS) is for the repair and conservation of structures that are protected under the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended). The Structure at Risk Fund (SRF) 2018 is for conservation works to heritage structures in both private and public ownership that are protected under the Planning and Developments Acts and are deemed to be at significant risk of deterioration.

<https://www.chg.gov.ie/heritage/built-heritage/financial-assistance-for-architectural-heritage/>

Church of Ireland churches and properties vested in the RCB were awarded €180,000 in grants from the Structures at Risk Fund 2017 and €365,282 from the Built Heritage Investment Scheme 2017.

Heritage Lottery - Grants for Places of Worship (Northern Ireland)

As of September 2017, the Grants for Places of Worship programme from the Heritage Lottery Fund (National Heritage Memorial Fund) (HLF) closed for new applications and funding became available through their existing Our Heritage (up to £100,000) and Heritage Grants (up to £5 million) programmes.

Church of Ireland parishes in Northern Ireland have benefited considerably from the Grants for Places of Worship programme in recent years and will continue to be able to do so for 2017/2018 under the new regime.

Applications for grants up to £100,000 (Our Heritage programme) have a faster, single-stage application process and are more flexible, allowing for a wider range of activities and capital works than previously, but projects that have a focus on much-needed repairs are still welcomed. In addition, 100% of works and activities can be funded without the need for partnership funding, and with 50% of the grant being paid up front, work can begin immediately, easing cash flow. For larger projects, applications for grants up to £5 million (Heritage Grant programme), help is available to develop final proposals between the first and second rounds, and a commitment has been made to closely monitor the awards process to ensure that places of worship continue to be at least as successful as they were under the previous funding programme. The last date for application to the Heritage Grant Programme is 16 August 2018.

Please note that formal approval must be sought from the relevant Diocesan Council and the Representative Body before an agreement may be entered into in respect of a grant.

Further details may be found at the following links:

<https://www.hlf.org.uk/looking-funding/our-grant-programmes/our-heritage>

<https://www.hlf.org.uk/looking-funding/our-grant-programmes/heritage-grants>

<https://www.hlf.org.uk/about-us/our-strategy/changes-our-grant-making>

Big Lottery Fund (Northern Ireland)

The Big Lottery Fund makes grants from National Lottery funds. It has a number of programmes to which parishes in Northern Ireland may apply, depending on the level of funding required, type of work being carried out and eligibility criteria being met.

The ***People and Communities Programme*** funds works to buildings such as church halls, if they are used to bring improvements to the lives of people most in need in their communities, bringing them together to enjoy a wide range of charitable, community, educational, environmental and health-related activities. Grants can be between £30,000 and £500,000.

The ***Awards For All Programme*** makes smaller **grants of between £500 and £10,000** to support local people bringing about positive changes in the community. This can include small improvements grants for premises.

Please note that formal approval must be sought from the relevant Diocesan Council and the Representative Body before an agreement may be entered into in respect of a grant.

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For more information about the available funding, criteria and making an application, see the Big Lottery Fund website www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/northernireland.

Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme (Northern Ireland)

It has been confirmed by the UK Government that the Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme, which was established in 2001 to provide grants towards VAT paid on eligible repairs and maintenance to listed buildings that are used principally as places of worship, has been extended until March 2020 with an annual budget of £42 million.

Full information and application forms may be obtained from www.lpwscheme.org.uk or contact:

Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme,
Topmark (LPOW), 160 Bath Street, Glasgow G2 4TB
Tel: 0845 013 6601 Email: dcms@topmarkadjusters.co.uk

National Churches Trust (UK)

The National Churches Trust Northern Ireland Partnership Grants Programme offers grants of between £2,500 and £10,000 towards the cost of urgent and essential structural repair projects, costing between £10,000 and £100,000 (incl. VAT and fees), or the installation of kitchen and toilets, usually costing under £25,000 (incl. VAT and fees). Information may be obtained from <http://www.nationalchurchestrust.org/northern-ireland-partnership-grants>

Allchurches Trust Limited

Allchurches Trust Limited is a registered charity which seeks to promote the Christian religion. It provides grants to Christian churches for initiatives with an emphasis on heritage, care and the community. It supports projects for the repair of and improvement to historic buildings, preservation of heritage, and initiatives around training, mission and church growth. Grants are made from income derived from Allchurches Trust Limited's wholly owned subsidiary, Ecclesiastical Insurance Office Plc. Information, guidance on applying and the application form can be found on www.allchurches.co.uk.

Historic Environment Fund (Northern Ireland)

The Department for Communities (NI) launched the Historic Environment Fund in September 2016 to help support a range of initiatives to conserve and realise the potential of the historic environment. Through the Fund, Listed Buildings in Northern Ireland will benefit from £500,000 in total funding.

Following a public consultation the framework for the Fund has been organised under four themes: Heritage Repair; Heritage Regeneration; Heritage Revival and Heritage Research.

Heritage Repair, which aims to encourage the sustainability and preservation of the historic environment will include:

- Listed Building Repair
- Historic Monument Repair

Full details on how to apply to the Fund and the application form are available from the Department for Communities (NI) website at

<https://www.communities-ni.gov.uk/articles/historic-environment-financial-support>

LEADER Funding (Republic of Ireland)

LEADER is a European funding initiative which is managed by the Department of Rural and Community Development. It enables local development by devolving decision-making to many different companies known as Local Action Groups (LAGs) throughout rural areas in the Republic of Ireland through the framework of a Local Development Strategy (LDS). The Church of Ireland has benefited from grants for building works which fall into relevant criteria, such as the upgrading of rural heritage and renewal and development works.

Further information on LEADER may be found on the following websites:

Department of Rural and Community Development:
<http://drcd.gov.ie/about/rural/rural-development/leader>

POBAL:
www.pobal.ie/FundingProgrammes/LEADER/Pages/LEADER.aspx

Rural Ireland:
<http://www.ruralireland.ie/policies/leader>

- **Architectural Heritage Protection for Places of Public Worship (Republic of Ireland) – Guidelines for Planning Authorities**

The text of the Guidelines is available on the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht website at <http://www.chg.gov.ie/heritage/heritage-publications/> and filter by Built Heritage Policy.

- **Church Buildings Sub-Committee**

The Church Buildings Sub-Committee was formed in September 2008 and performs the duties previously undertaken by the former Historic Churches Advisory Committee, whose functions were assigned to the RCB Property Committee. The Church Buildings Sub-Committee reports directly to the Property Committee and its membership comprises Ven TR West and Mrs J Leighton (both of whom are members of the Property Committee).

The Committee's principal function is to report to the Property Committee on applications received in respect of Forms of Certificates of Consent to Alterations, also known as the 'Blue Form'.

When submitting a Form of Certificates of Consent to Alterations, to enable the Church Buildings Sub-Committee to consider the matter fully, it is essential that it is

accompanied by supporting documentation, for example, illustrations of proposed stained glass windows, the proposed wording for a memorial plaque, or plans for the reordering of a church.

During the year, the Church Buildings Sub-Committee recommended 40 applications. These included items such as the erection of memorial plaques, the installation of stained glass windows, the removal of pews, alterations to provide better access for the disabled, the installation of sound systems, general restoration works and the reordering of interiors of churches.

In the Republic of Ireland, in instances where a church is included in the List of Protected Structures, it is essential that parishes notify their Local Authority of any proposed alteration and gain the requisite agreement. Ecclesiastical Exemption in Northern Ireland means that Listed Building Consent is not required for internal alterations, but it is highly recommended that Department for Communities Historic Environment Division should be notified where a church is a Listed Building.

In order to assist parishes, a step by step guideline is set out online at <https://www.ireland.anglican.org/parish-resources/land-buildings>

Advice series on Built Heritage

In the Republic of Ireland, the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht has published an excellent advice series on the following aspects of Built Heritage:

- Access - Improving the Accessibility of Historic Buildings and Places
- Paving - Conservation of Historic Ground Surfaces
- Bricks - A Guide to the Repair of Historic Brickwork
- Conservation of Places of Worship
- Energy Efficiency in Traditional Buildings
- Iron - The Repair of Wrought and Cast Ironwork
- Maintenance - A Guide to the Care of Older Buildings
- Roofs - A Guide to the Repair of Historic Roofs
- Ruins - The Conservation and Repair of Masonry Ruins
- Windows - A Guide to the Repair of Historic Windows

The above publications can be downloaded at <http://www.chg.gov.ie/heritage/heritage-publications/> and filter under Built Heritage Advice Series.

Website

The website set up by the Historic Churches Advisory Committee, www.hc.ireland.anglican.org remains in operation and provides information on the care and maintenance of churches.

LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES

- **Summary**

The principal focus of the Library's work continues to be the provision of resources for ministerial training by sourcing, accessioning and cataloguing new books and other reading materials; re-cataloguing the existing book stock; managing the borrowing facility; providing study/research space; and promoting and making more accessible the Library's varied collections.

During 2017 the work of cataloguing new books and converting the card catalogue of printed books to the online catalogue through the Library section of the Church of Ireland website continued, and by the end of 2017 the bibliographic details of 49,700 books were available online at www.ireland.anglican.org/about/rcb-library.

The Library manages and makes available to researchers, records from 1,110 parishes, chapels of ease and chaplaincies, 20 dioceses and 20 cathedrals as well as 1,064 collections of ecclesiastical manuscripts and the non-current records of the General Synod and the RCB.

Assisted by the IT Department, further progress was made to enhance the Library's online presence, with direct links to a variety of information and with more facilities, including lists and indexes of archives and manuscripts available. The work of uploading the handlists of all the parish record collections in the Library's custody (total 1,110) was completed in July, making the content more visible for audiences abroad, and generating more interest and enquiries through the website. Linked to the online search request facility and the secure payment system, researchers find it easy to make enquiries, request searches and order certified and/or digital copies of records. A new online feature about the Library's Conservation Fund, linked to the facility to make online donations, has generated specific funding support and helped the public to understand the Library's role in conservation.

The 'Archive of the Month' initiative continued to be valuable by introducing previously undiscovered aspects of the collections to the public audience in Ireland and abroad, and attracting media attention. Stories of particular public interest included: 'A Roof Over Clerical Heads: Visual Insight to Glebe Houses'; Ballincollig Military Men and their Families; the Muniments of St Patrick's Cathedral Dublin, and the digitization of the Red Book of Ossory, one of the Library's most significant medieval manuscripts. A list of 'Archive of the Month' titles is included as Appendix J (page 161). Additionally a new Twitter account: @rcblibrary commenced in July has provided another avenue for interaction with the public and promoting of the Library's developments.

Additionally, the Library has continued to discharge its curatorial responsibilities for church plate and episcopal portraits; and for the management of publishing projects for Church of Ireland Publishing and editorial dimension of the *Church of Ireland Directory*.

- **Donations received**

The RB allocated €15,500 for the purchase of books and conservation. Additionally €10,000 from the General Royalties Fund matched with a further €10,000 from

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Allocations was provided for the ongoing project to digitize and make available online the *Church of Ireland Gazette*; while a grant of €11,974 was awarded by the Commemorations Unit of the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht for the Library's contribution to the Decade of Commemorations for the online exhibition: "Good Wishes for the Great Adventure": The Church of Ireland and the Irish Convention, 1917. Welcome donations were further received from:

APCK (€2,000)

The Buckley Foundation CLG (€5000)

Cashel, Ferns and Ossory diocese (€800)

Clogher diocese (€500)

Dublin and Glendalough diocese (€1,000)

The George Greene Memorial Fund (€473.27)

Holy Trinity, Killiney parish (Dublin) (€200)

The Irish Section of the Huguenot Society of Great Britain & Ireland (€100)

The Bishop of Limerick & Killaloe (€250)

Limerick & Killaloe diocese (€500)

Kilmore, Elphin & Ardagh diocese (€300)

Monkstown parish (Dublin) (€200)

- **Accessions**

Books and periodicals were purchased to meet the requirements of those in training for ministry and the needs of the wider Church. In particular, continued purchasing was required to meet the needs of ordinands in the Church of Ireland Theological Institute. These purchases were augmented by donations of books from publishers, authors and from a number of individuals, notably John and Jill Bolton (the library of the late Very Revd Frederick Rothwell); the Revd Canon GW Butler; Mrs Nancy Caird (from the collection of the late Rt Revd DAR Caird); the Revd Martin Hilliard; Ross Hinds, publisher; the Revd Canon Cecil Hyland; the Ven Gordon Linney; Mr and Mrs D Lovegrove; Christopher Lundy (from the collection of the late Revd St G Lundy); the Revd Fr Jim McElroy SM; the Revd Canon Neil McEndoo; Etain Murphy (from the collection of the late Revd Canon CWC Quinn); the family of the late Revd WJ Moynan; and Derek Rodgers.

Additional tranches of parish and diocesan records were transferred to the Library from local custody. The principal archival accessions were records from 52 parishes. In addition a significant album documenting the restoration of Limerick cathedral 1859-63 was acquired, and there were transfers of records from four dioceses (Dublin and Glendalough; Elphin & Ardagh and Ferns). There were 29 accessions of miscellaneous manuscript materials, among which were the sermons and photographs of the Rt Revd DAR Caird (1925-2017); the 17th-century theological notebook of the Revd John Chaloner (c. 1658-1732); the lantern slides and photographs of the Revd Gerald Dickson (1882-1975) documenting his time as an SPG missionary in India from 1910 to 1939; and the deeds and related papers of the Stanford and Peter families, 1632-1960.

A list of accessions of archives and manuscripts to the Library during 2017 is included as Appendix K (page 162).

- **Ministerial training**

In support of ministerial training, which is one of the core functions of the Library, induction sessions were provided for ordinands in the Theological Institute, for those in part-time training, for students on the Foundation Year programme, for those training for Reader ministry, and for those considering ministerial training in the Fit for the Purpose programme. The pre-ordering book system to facilitate the reading needs of part-time students in advance of their study weekends in residence has worked well and will be continued. The Library staged two book giveaways for CITI ordinands and staff during 2017, with the residue being shared through CITI with the Bishop Hannington College in Kenya.

- **Cataloguing**

Work continued on converting the catalogue of printed books from cards to computer. Over 2,000 books were processed during 2017, while a further 1,500 duplicate books in the Library's stacks collection were weeded from the system.

Records from 52 parishes were processed and listed, with the summary lists updated and posted on the website. The project to digitize, catalogue and make available online the Library's collections of architectural drawings of churches continued in earnest thanks to sustained commitment from the Church's central funds. This enabled drawings from the following dioceses: Dublin, Emlly, Elphin; Killala, Killaloe, Kilfenora, Kilmore, Kilmacduagh, Limerick and Tuam to be processed during 2017. The work, undertaken for the RCB by architectural historian Dr Michael O'Neill and entirely funded from central sources, aims to be completed during 2019. To date a total of 6,387 drawings of 848 churches and 70 glebe houses/rectories are available at www.archdrawing.ireland.anglican.org.

- **Conservation**

Six volumes of parish records, one 17th-century diocesan registry volume and 30 early printed books were repaired and rebound, including a collection of 19th-century pamphlets originating from the library of the Revd Richard Travers Smith, incumbent of St Bartholomew's parish (Dublin) 1871-1905. Mr Henry Alexander generously arranged for the binding of the issues of the *Church of Ireland Gazette* and the *Church Review* for 2017.

- **Church plate**

Progress continued to be made with the church plate inventory. Additional transfers of plate were received from local custody in Kilnahue, Gorey (Ferns), originally from Trinity Church (Dublin); Rathfarnham, (Dublin), St Thomas & St George (Dublin), while items were loaned to Ahoghill (Connor), Monkstown (Dublin), Kilnahue, Gorey (Ferns) and the diocese of Dublin & Glendalough.

- **Community engagement**

The Library collaborated with:

- The Diocese of Meath & Kildare for the launch of the eighth volume in the RCB Library's Texts and Calendars series: *Episcopal visitations of the diocese of Meath 1622–1799* edited by Dr Michael O'Neill, and published by Four Courts Press in association with the RCB Library. The book was launched at a reception in St Patrick's Cathedral Trim, by the Bishop of Meath & Kildare, the Most Revd Pat Storey.
- The Public Records Office of Northern Ireland in promoting PRONI's work to digitize church records for parishes in Northern Ireland, many of which remain in local parish custody. The initiative was launched at an event in PRONI at which the Librarian & Archivist was invited to speak.
- The Board of the *Church of Ireland Gazette* by continuing to promote the digitization of the *Gazette* as an online resource, and the production of the commemorative online exhibition entitled "*Good Wishes for the Great Adventure*": *the Church of Ireland the Irish Convention, 1917*. By the end of 2017, all editions of the *Gazette* from 1890 to 1923 were freely available and searchable online for a worldwide audience.
- NUI Maynooth for its exhibition 'Jacobite Risings' held in the Russell Library, St Patrick's College Maynooth including books and pamphlets from the St Canice's Cathedral Library, on long-term loan from the RB to NUI Maynooth.
- The Bishop of Cashel, Ferns & Ossory in seeking to have the Red Book of Ossory exhibited locally in Kilkenny, and commissioning an independent conservation report about its condition for this purpose.
- In a bid to make the Library more visible to members of committees and visitors to Church House Dublin, plans were progressed to design display cabinets featuring a selection of Library materials. A recommended cabinet maker had been identified and the cabinets should be completed during 2018, and in good time for the 150th anniversary of disestablishment in 2019.

In addition to all student groups at CITI, presentations were given in the Library to the Rare Books Group of the Library Association of Ireland; postgraduate archival students from the Library School and the Archives School at University College Dublin; postgraduate history students on the Modern and Contemporary History programme at the University of Cambridge, during study visits to the Library. A presentation on the Library's archival collections was delivered to the Meath & Kildare Diocesan History Circle at Moyglare, County Kildare. Two radio interviews on the glebe house architectural drawings and the muniments of St Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin, were conducted on Soulwaves Radio.

Throughout 2017, the Library and Archives Committee engaged with the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht to formally progress a business plan to digitize parish registers.

DONATIONS AND BEQUESTS TO THE CHURCH OF IRELAND

- **Trustee role of the Representative Church Body**

The RCB was incorporated by Charter to hold property and funds in trust for the Church. As a permanent trustee body it administers a large number of trusts donated or bequeathed for specific Church purposes, parishes and dioceses. The RCB, on behalf of the Church of Ireland, wishes to express its gratitude to all those who have made a donation or bequest in this way and are thus supporting the Church in the fulfilment of its work on an ongoing basis.

There is considerable advantage in donating or bequeathing in trust to a permanent trustee body such as the RCB (or the Church of Ireland Trustees in Belfast) rather than to local trustees. For instance, with a permanent trustee body there is no need to appoint new trustees from time to time.

Donations and bequests can be in the form of money, stocks and shares, securities, chattels, houses or lands or the whole or part of the residue of an estate. They can be left to the RCB in trust:

- for the general purposes of the Church of Ireland; or
- for any particular funds of the Church or any diocese or parish; or
- for any particular Church purpose.

The RCB applies funds arising from a specific donation or bequest strictly in accordance with the purposes declared in the trust instrument or Will. However, the Church of Ireland is in great need of unfettered funds to help finance its ongoing responsibilities – training ordinands, providing retirement benefits for clergy and their spouses and generally maintaining ministry. An unfettered donation or bequest can be given or left to the RCB in trust “for such charitable purposes in connection with the Church of Ireland as the Representative Body of the Church of Ireland may from time to time in its absolute discretion approve”, giving the Church the flexibility to finance its most pressing needs from time to time. (Please see suggested *Form of Bequest* below.)

- **Tax relief on charitable donations**

Northern Ireland

The Gift Aid scheme gives tax relief on charitable donations and is available to all taxpayers resident in Northern Ireland. Tax can be reclaimed on donations of any amount, provided the amount reclaimed does not exceed the total amount of tax paid that all Charities and Community Amateur Sports Clubs (CASCs) will reclaim on donations made by the donor in the relevant tax year. Information on how to avail of Gift Aid is available from Church House Dublin.

The total value of donations collected under Gift Aid on behalf of parishes in 2017 was £5,109,375 to which the income tax recovered by the RCB added £1,277,346 to give a total of £6,386,721 compared with £5,850,660 in 2016. Parishes are increasingly adopting electronic accounting methods as an aid to SORP compliance and filing their own claims directly with HMRC.

The Representative Church Body – Report 2018

Since 6 April 2013, charities that receive small cash donations of £20 or less are able to apply for a Gift Aid style repayment, without the need to obtain Gift Aid Declarations for these donations, under the Gift Aid Small Donations Scheme (GASDS). The RCB assists parishes who wish to make claims through GASDS. From 6 April 2017 the amount of small donations on which the repayment can be claimed is capped at £8,000 per tax year per church. The value collected under GASDS on behalf of parishes in 2017 was £545,732 to which the income tax recovered by the RCB added £136,433 to give a total of £682,165 compared with £542,197 in 2016. Information on how to claim under GASDS is available from Church House Dublin.

Republic of Ireland

Effective from 1 January 2013, tax relief for donations to approved bodies under Section 848A of the Taxes Consolidation Act 1997 is applied as follows:

- All donations of €250 or more from individuals (PAYE and Self-Assessed) are treated the same, with the tax relief in all cases being repaid to the charity.
- Tax relief is available at a blended rate of 31% in respect of all taxpayers, regardless of their marginal rate.
- An annual limit has been introduced of €1m per individual, being the amount which can be tax relieved under the scheme.

Further information is available from Church House Dublin.

- **Form of Bequest**

The following suggested Form of Bequest grants the Representative Body, as Trustee, permission to invest in any investments or securities at its sole discretion. Circumstances may alter from time to time and this Form of Bequest gives the Trustee freedom to act in the best interests of the parochial or other fund concerned.

The Representative Body also recommends consulting a Solicitor to ensure that any bequests made under Will are valid and satisfy legal requirements.

“I GIVE, DEVISE AND BEQUEATH [*here insert clear particulars of the benefaction ie, a particular sum of money, specific property, a share of the residue etc*] to the Representative Body of the Church of Ireland in trust for [*here insert clear particulars of the object for which the benefaction is to be applied eg, parochial funds of the parish of in the diocese of or, as a perpetual endowment for the stipend of the incumbent of the parish of in the diocese of or, for such charitable purposes in connection with the Church of Ireland as the Representative Body of the Church of Ireland may from time to time in its absolute discretion approve*].

I direct that any funds received by the Representative Body in pursuance of this my Will may be invested in any investments or securities whatsoever in its sole discretion and in all respects as if it were absolutely and beneficially entitled thereto.”

- **Donations, bequests and funds received**

A full list of funds received by the RCB in 2016 on behalf of parishes, dioceses and special trusts is included as Appendix L (page 172).

- **Trusts for graves**

The RCB does not accept any trust for the provision, maintenance or improvement of a tomb, vault, grave, tombstone or other memorial to a deceased person unless a specific benefit will accrue to the parish concerned.

MISCELLANEOUS AND GENERAL

- **Financing of the episcopacy – quinquennial report**

The Representative Body in accordance with Section 36 of Chapter VI of the Constitution reports that since 2013 the total number of cures (as defined in the chapter) has decreased by 1 (1 in Northern Ireland and 0 in the Republic of Ireland).

The rate of contribution, having been increased from 5.4% to 6.0% of Minimum Approved Stipend for 2013, was increased to 6.6% for 2014 and 2015, reduced to 6.5% for 2016 and was further reduced to 6.4% for 2017 and 2018.

In 1984, the first year after the relevant Statute was enacted, total contributions or levies financed approximately 41% of costs. This proportion was 43% at the time of the last quinquennial report in 2013 and stood at 53% in 2017.

Overall, since 1983 the number of cures has decreased by 67 to 447. Cures in Northern Ireland now total 252, having decreased by 23, while cures in the Republic of Ireland total 195, having decreased by 44.

- **Clergy and Ministry Protection Fund (previously Severance Fund) levy – quinquennial report**

The Representative Body, in accordance with Statute Chapter XVI of 2003 as amended by Statute Chapter III of 2015, reports that since the last quinquennial report in 2013, the suspension of the diocesan levy continued until 2016. Contributions had initially been levied from the dioceses from 2004-2007 at a rate of 1% of Minimum Approved Stipend and due to a low level of use of the Severance Fund during its early years a surplus built up in the Fund that allowed the levy to be suspended from 2008 until 2016.

After an initially low level of use, the number of applications to the Fund increased, reducing the balance standing to credit of the Fund. In addition the provisions of Statute Ch III of General Synod 2015 broadened the scope of the Fund to include cases of permanent clergy incapacity through illness, renaming it the Clergy and Ministry Protection Fund. Following these changes the levy was reinstated for 2017 at a rate of 0.5% of Minimum Approved Stipend and was maintained at this rate for 2018.

The balance of funds as levied from the Dioceses in relation to the Fund as at year end 2017, net of deposit interest and expressed in euro, was €415,626.

The Representative Church Body – Report 2018

- **Deposit interest (rates)**

The rates of interest allowed or charged by the RCB are linked to the rates ruling from time to time in the money market. The following rates of interest were applied in 2017:

QUARTER ENDED	€		£	
	Dr %	Cr %	Dr %	Cr %
31 March	3.50	0.05	1.25	0.35
30 June	3.50	0.05	1.25	0.35
30 September	3.50	0.05	1.25	0.30
31 December	3.50	0.05	1.25	0.30

These rates only apply to revenue balances to credit of diocesan and other accounts and not to permanent capital other than in cases where, for some reason, there may be a delay in making a long-term investment (eg proceeds of sales of glebes). Interest is calculated on daily balances and time weighted.

- **Inflation statistics (5-year review)**

Year on year (December)	UK (CP Index)	Republic of Ireland (CP Index)
2013	2.0%	0.2%
2014	0.5%	-0.3%
2015	0.2%	0.2%
2016	1.6%	0.0%
2017	3.0%	0.4%

RESOLUTIONS RECOMMENDED TO THE GENERAL SYNOD

The Representative Body recommends that the following resolutions be adopted by the General Synod:

I. Allocations

That the General Synod hereby authorises the Representative Body to make the following allocations from General Funds in 2018:

	€
A. Maintenance of the stipendiary ministry	1,283,387
B. Pension related costs	112,042
C. Training of ordinands	1,188,846
D. General Synod activities	996,881
E. Miscellaneous	15,878
	<hr/>
	3,597,034
	<hr/> <hr/>

II. Safeguarding

That, in accordance with the Statute Chapter III of 2006 or such legislation as may be passed by the General Synod in 2018 in place of that Statute, the General Synod hereby affirms the decision of the Representative Body that the rate of contribution from each diocese towards costs relating to Safeguarding in respect of the year 2019 be set at 0.9% of the Minimum Approved Stipend in force at 1 January 2019 multiplied by the sum of the number of cures, including vacant cures, in such diocese at 30 June 2018.

THE REPRESENTATIVE BODY OF THE CHURCH OF IRELAND

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS – PAGE 1

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2017

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THE REPRESENTATIVE BODY OF THE CHURCH OF IRELAND

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND OTHER INFORMATION

PAGE 3

CHAIRMAN

- Mr HJ Saville

MEMBERS (*ex officio*)

- The Archbishop of Armagh
- The Archbishop of Dublin
- Canon GC Richards (Allocations Committee)
(Deputy Chairman)
- Mr K Bowers (Investment Committee)
- Mr JK Roberts (Property Committee)
- Mr W Oliver (Stipends Committee)

MEMBERS (elected)

- Rt Rev Dr WP Colton
- Ven AJ Forster
- Rev Canon H Gilmore
- Ven AM Wilkinson
- Mr TH Forsyth
- Mr LJW MacCann
- Mr DG Perrin
- Dr MJT Webb

BANKERS

- Bank of Ireland
College Green, Dublin 2
- Bank of Ireland
Talbot Street, Dublin 1

CUSTODIANS

- Northern Trust
Canary Wharf, London E14 5NT

AUDITORS

- PricewaterhouseCoopers
One Spencer Dock, North Wall Quay, Dublin 1

OFFICERS

- Chief Officer and Secretary
- Head of Finance
- Head of Property and Trusts
- Head of Synod Services and Communications
- Head of Investments
- Senior Solicitor
- Mr D Ritchie
- Ms K Williams
- Mr TJ Stacey
- Mrs JM Maxwell
- Mr R Asher
- Mr M McWha

OFFICE: Church of Ireland House, Church Avenue, Rathmines, Dublin 6.

The Representative Body of the Church of Ireland is an incorporated trust established by royal charter to hold property and financial assets on behalf of the Church.

General Funds are used to support the general mission of the Church, with parish, diocesan and other funds held for the benefit of the particular Church entity which is the beneficial owner. The outcomes for the year ended 31 December 2017 for General Funds and for other trust funds are set out in the financial statements.

During 2016 and early 2017 a review of the total return approach was conducted and concluded that a sustainable target return of 3.5% (2016: 4.0%) on invested fund assets would be more appropriate going forward. The sustainable target return from General Funds invested assets for 2017 was set at 3.5%. During 2017 €7.0 million (4.1%) was withdrawn from General Funds to meet the cost of central Church operations and to support wider Church activities. This withdrawal at 4.1% is in excess of the longer term 3.5% target withdrawal from General Funds under the total return approach. The RCB seeks to manage its withdrawal from General Funds prudently over the short and medium term to preserve capital for the present and future Church.

Funds held for the benefit of individual Church of Ireland trusts increased in value by €35.57m with the inclusion of a property movement of €30m relating to the Church of Ireland College of Education Fund Trust property at Rathmines and receipts of new funds amounting to €2.9m. Distribution of income is made biannually from these funds and together with the refund of Gift Aid reclaimed for NI parishes amounted to €10.4m.

Statement of Trustee's Responsibilities

The Representative Body, as Trustee, is responsible for preparing the annual report and the financial statements in accordance with the accounting policies of the Representative Body. In preparing the financial statements the Representative Body is required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- disclose and explain material differences from applicable Accounting Standards;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that it will continue in business.

The Representative Body, as Trustee, confirms that it has complied with the above requirements in preparing the financial statements.

The Trustee is responsible for keeping proper books of account which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the organisation. It is also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the organisation and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

HJ Saville
Chairman, Executive Committee
13 March 2018



Report on the audit of the financial statements of the Representative Church Body of the Church of Ireland

Opinion

In our opinion, the Representative Body of the Church of Ireland's financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2017 have been properly prepared, in all material respects, in accordance with the basis of preparation outlined on page 8 and accounting policies on pages 8 to 11 of the financial statements.

We have audited the financial statements, which comprise:

- the Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2017;
- the Statement of Financial Activities for the year then ended;
- the Cash flow statement for the year then ended;
- the accounting policies; and
- the notes to the financial statements.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (Ireland) ("ISAs (Ireland)").

Our responsibilities under ISAs (Ireland) are further described in the Auditors' responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Independence

We remained independent of the entity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in Ireland, which includes IAASA's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements.

Emphasis of matter - Basis of preparation

In forming our opinion on the financial statements, which is not modified, we draw attention to the fact that the accounting policies used and disclosures made are not intended to, and do not, comply with the requirements of Generally Accepted Accounting Practice in Ireland.

Conclusions relating to going concern

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which ISAs (Ireland) require us to report to you where:

- the Trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is not appropriate; or
- the Trustees have not disclosed in the financial statements any identified material uncertainties that may cast significant doubt about the entity's ability to continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting for a period of at least twelve months from the date when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

However, because not all future events or conditions can be predicted, this statement is not a guarantee as to the entity's ability to continue as a going concern.



Reporting on other information

The other information comprises all of the information in the Annual Report other than the financial statements and our auditors' report thereon. The Trustees are responsible for the other information. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, accordingly, we do not express an audit opinion or, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in this report, any form of assurance thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify an apparent material inconsistency or material misstatement, we are required to perform procedures to conclude whether there is a material misstatement of the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report based on these responsibilities.

Responsibilities for the financial statements and the audit

Responsibilities of the Trustees for the financial statements

As explained more fully in the Trustees' Responsibilities Statement set out on page 4, the Trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the applicable framework and for being satisfied that they have been properly prepared in accordance with the basis of preparation on page 8 and accounting policies on pages 8 to 11 of the financial statements and for determining that the basis of preparation and accounting policies are acceptable in the circumstances.

The Trustees are also responsible for such internal control as they determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the Trustees are responsible for assessing the entity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Trustees either intend to liquidate the entity or to cease operations or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditors' responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditors' report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (Ireland) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Irish Auditing and Accounting Supervisory Authority website at: https://www.iaasa.ie/getmedia/b2389013-1cf6-458b-9b8f-a98202dc9c3a/Description_of_auditors_responsibilities_for_audit.pdf. This description forms part of our auditors' report.



Use of this report

This report, including the opinion, has been prepared for and only for the Trustees/Executive Committee as a body for management purposes as required by the Constitution of the entity in accordance with our engagement letter dated 20 November 2017 and for no other purpose. We do not, in giving this opinion, accept or assume responsibility for any other purpose or to any other person to whom this report is shown or into whose hands it may come, including without limitation under any contractual obligations of the entity, save where expressly agreed by our prior consent in writing.


PricewaterhouseCoopers
Chartered Accountants
Dublin
16 March 2018

The significant accounting policies adopted by the Representative Church Body (RCB) are as follows:

(i) **Basis of preparation**

The RCB was incorporated by Royal Charter in 1870 under the provisions of the Irish Church Act, 1869. Its legal structure is that of charitable trustee or trust corporation with perpetual succession. The RCB undertakes the following activities:

- The administration of trusts together with the provision of investment and treasury management services. A charge is recovered from the beneficial owners of the investments under the RCB's management in respect of the costs incurred by the RCB in providing the investment and treasury management services.
- The provision of other management services including payroll services provided for the dioceses, property and legal services to parishes, dioceses and the wider Church, and the provision of support to the core work of the Church generally. The costs incurred by the RCB in providing these services are recovered from the investment income earned on investments managed by the RCB on behalf of the General Synod.

The financial information in relation to the activities of the RCB and the assets under its management is presented in columnar format in the Statement of Financial Activities (SoFA) on page 12 and the Balance Sheet on page 13.

• **RCB activities**

The SoFA represents the costs which are incurred directly by the RCB in providing investment, administrative, legal, property and other services to the dioceses and parishes of the Church of Ireland. A charge in respect of the costs of investment and treasury management services is recovered from the beneficial owners of the investments. Other costs are recovered from the investment income earned on investments managed by the RCB on behalf of the General Synod.

The column headed 'RCB Activities' on the Balance Sheet represents the assets and liabilities of the RCB. Church and other related property assets are held by the RCB as trustee on behalf of the wider Church, but the RCB is not the beneficial owner. Such assets are not reflected on the Balance Sheet.

• **General Funds**

The column headed 'General Funds' in the SoFA represents the investment income earned from investments which are under the management of the RCB but are held for the benefit of the wider Church of Ireland. The costs incurred by the RCB in the provision of investment and other services are recovered from the General Funds investment income earned. Allocations represent amounts expended on wider Church activities as detailed in Note 6.

The column headed 'General Funds' in the Balance Sheet discloses the assets which are under the management of the RCB, but which are held for the benefit of the wider Church of Ireland.

- **Parish, diocesan and other trust funds**

The column headed ‘Parish, diocesan and other trust funds’ in the SoFA shows the investment and deposit income earned from investments which are under the management of the RCB but which are beneficially owned by the dioceses, parishes and specific trusts. It also shows income tax reclaimed on behalf of parishes in Northern Ireland under the Gift Aid scheme. A charge to the beneficial owners is made in respect of investment and management services provided by the RCB.

The column under this heading in the Balance Sheet discloses, for information purposes, the assets which are under the management of the RCB, but which are beneficially owned by the dioceses, parishes and specific trusts.

- (ii) **Valuation of investments** – The RCB has classified investments as financial assets at fair value.

Initial measurement

Purchases and sales of financial assets (including investments, options and futures) are accounted for at trade date for financial statement purposes. Realised gains and losses on disposals of financial assets are calculated based on the difference between the average cost of the assets sold and the sale proceeds at the date of sale. Transaction costs for financial assets are recognised directly and included in the cost of the investment. Transaction costs associated with the disposal of a financial asset are offset against the sales proceeds received.

Subsequent measurement

After initial measurement the RCB measures financial assets at fair value, including financial instruments (put and call options and futures). Fair value is the amount for which an asset could be exchanged, or a liability settled, between knowledgeable, willing parties in an arm’s length transaction. On the last business day of the year when markets are open for business, the fair value of financial assets is based on their official closing prices on a recognised exchange. Both realised and unrealised gains and losses on arm’s length transactions are recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities on page 12.

In the case of financial assets not traded on an exchange, fair value is determined using observable market data where it is available. These valuations are subject to review by the RCB to ensure the valuations used are appropriate.

- (iii) **Securities lending** – The RCB participates in a securities lending programme operated by the RCB’s custodian, Northern Trust. The securities are loaned to external counterparties for a set period of time and in return the RCB recognises as income the fee received for the loaned securities. Under the terms of the securities lending agreement the RCB retains all the risks and rewards of ownership of the loaned securities.

THE REPRESENTATIVE BODY OF THE CHURCH OF IRELAND

ACCOUNTING POLICIES

PAGE 10

- (iv) **Financial instruments** – Financial instruments are used as part of the RCB’s portfolio risk management strategy and as part of the portfolio investment return strategy. The use of financial instruments includes stock options and futures.

The stock options and futures are stated at market value at year end.

The market value of contract positions is recognised either as an invested fund asset or as a current liability in the Balance Sheet and gains and losses on the contract are recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities.

- (v) **Income recognition** – Income includes interest and dividends receivable during the financial year and, in the case of General Fund assets, reflects bought and sold interest on bond transactions in the accounting period and fees received from the stock lending programme.

- (vi) **Foreign exchange translation** – The Functional and Presentation currency of the RCB is euro. This is considered to be the currency of the primary economic environment.

Assets and liabilities in currencies other than the functional currency of the RCB are translated into euro at the exchange rates ruling at the balance sheet date. Transactions in currencies other than the functional currency of the RCB are translated into euro at the rates ruling at the transaction date. Gains and losses on foreign exchange transactions are recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities on page 12. Sterling is the most significant currency other than euro for transactional and balance sheet purposes, and at the year end the rate was €1 = £0.8881 (2016 €1 = £0.8535).

- (vii) **Taxation** – The RCB has been granted charitable taxation status by the Revenue Commissioners and by HM Revenue and Customs in the tax jurisdictions of Ireland and the United Kingdom respectively. It is recognised as a charity under section 207 of the Taxes Consolidation Acts, 1997, with the registration number CHY2900, and under Section 505 of the Income and Corporation Tax Act 1988, under registration number XN45816.

Neither the RCB nor any other entity for which results are shown is generally chargeable to Irish and UK taxation on its income or capital gains. Withholding tax refunds received are recognised at the point when they are recovered.

- (viii) **Loans** – Loans in the General Funds Balance Sheet are stated at book cost at the balance sheet date.

- (ix) **Financial Risk** – The RCB manages a variety of risks, including market price, interest rate, foreign currency and liquidity, through the maintenance of a widely diversified portfolio of actively traded financial assets. Note 13 to the financial statements sets out the exposure and the detail of treatment adopted.

THE REPRESENTATIVE BODY OF THE CHURCH OF IRELAND

ACCOUNTING POLICIES

PAGE 11

- (x) **Tangible fixed assets and depreciation** – Land is stated at cost. Other fixed assets are stated at cost less accumulated depreciation and are depreciated over the period of their expected useful economic lives. Depreciation is calculated using the following annual rates: Premises: 2% to 10%; Furniture and fittings: 8% to 10%; Office equipment: General 20%, System software 10%, Other software 20%.

On 1st January 2016 the RCB added properties to its Balance Sheet, which although owned, had not previously been included in the financial statements. These properties were valued at 1st January 2016 and these valuations will be considered the properties deemed cost for future accounting periods.

On 31st December 2017 the RCB added a property to its Parish, Diocesan and Other Trust Funds Balance Sheet. This property relates to the Church of Ireland College of Education Fund Trust property at 96 Upper Rathmines Road. Depreciation is not provided as the current estimated residual value is not less than the carrying value and the remaining useful life currently exceeds 50 years.

Church buildings and silverware are not considered to be beneficially owned by either the RCB or General Funds, and hence are not included as either Tangible Fixed Assets or as Heritage Assets.

- (xi) **Allocations** – Allocations are recognised in the General Funds column in the year in which they are expended.

Included in Reserves is an amount provided for allocations in 2018.

- (xii) **Retirement benefits** – Defined benefit pension scheme assets are measured at fair value. The year-end bid price is taken as the fair value of these assets. Defined benefit pension scheme liabilities are measured on an actuarial basis using the projected unit method. The excess of scheme liabilities over scheme assets is presented on the Balance Sheet as a liability. The defined benefit pension charge included in Resources Expended on the Statement of Financial Activities (SoFA) comprises the current service cost and past service costs. An excess arising of the expected return on scheme assets over the interest cost on the scheme liabilities is presented in the SoFA as part of the cost of operations. Actuarial gains and losses arising from changes in actuarial assumptions and from experience surpluses and deficits are recognised in the SoFA in the year in which they occur.

- (xiii) **Cost of operations**

The cost of generating funds comprises the payroll costs of investment management, legal and accounting services, including those made available to the wider Church, external fund management costs and associated allocated overheads.

The cost of charitable activities comprises the payroll and associated allocated overheads charged to trust and property management, communications, education and the RCB Library.

The cost of governance activities relates to the payroll and associated allocated overhead costs incurred in supporting General Synod, central committee expenses and episcopal electoral expenses.

**THE REPRESENTATIVE BODY OF THE CHURCH OF IRELAND
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2017**

PAGE 12

	2017			2016		
Notes	RCB activities €'000	General Funds €'000	Parish, Diocesan and Other Trust Funds €'000	RCB activities €'000	General Funds €'000	Parish, Diocesan and Other Trust Funds €'000
Incoming resources						
Income from investments	-	4,948	8,723	-	5,673	8,569
Income from property and loans	-	125	-	-	121	-
Deposit Interest	-	7	82	-	19	106
Reserve Income	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tax refund Gift Aid	-	-	1,592	-	-	1,497
Grants and other income	-	235	-	-	168	-
Profit on Sale of Fixed Assets	-	188	-	-	-	-
Subvention from other Church funds	-	117	-	-	118	-
	-	5,620	10,397	-	6,099	10,172
Resources expended						
Cost of operations						
Cost of generating funds	5	1,857	-	1,752	-	-
Cost of charitable activities	5	956	-	912	-	-
Cost of governance activities	5	487	-	490	-	-
Other operating costs	5	205	-	333	-	-
RCB costs recovered	5	(3,505)	565	(3,487)	2,924	563

Net incoming resources before allocations and distributions	-	2,680	9,832	-	3,175	9,609
Allocations and distributions						
- Allocation expended in year	6	3,711	-	-	3,649	-
- Special pension contributions and charges	12	-	-	-	322	-
- Distributions		-	9,832	-	-	9,609
		-	9,832	-	3,971	9,609
(Decrease) in resources before gains and losses	4	(1,031)	-	-	(796)	-
Recognised gains and (losses)						
Gains/(Losses) unrealised on revaluation	4,7	1,539	5,013	-	(2,784)	19,611
Gains realised on invested assets	4,7	4,586	430	-	8,297	64
Currency movements	4,7	(969)	(2,515)	-	(4,023)	(8,905)
Property reserve movement	1	-	30,000	3,853	-	-
Other recognised gains/(losses)	4,12	1,118	76	(2,110)	(15)	-
Transfers between funds	1,12	(832)	832	(1,743)	1,743	-
Net gain in funds		5,033	32,928	-	2,422	10,770
Total funds brought forward		188,604	314,895	-	186,182	297,216
Capital receipts	1,7(c)	286	2,888	-	-	6,909
Total funds carried forward		193,923	350,711	-	188,604	314,895

Signed: HJ Saville

GC Richards

Date: 13 March 2018

**THE REPRESENTATIVE BODY OF THE CHURCH OF IRELAND
BALANCE SHEET
YEAR END 31 DECEMBER 2017**

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	2017		2016			
	RCB activities €'000	General Funds €'000	Parish, Diocesan and Other Trust Funds €'000	RCB €'000	General Funds €'000	Parish, Diocesan and Other Trust Funds €'000
TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS			30,000	7,945	-	-
INVESTMENTS						
Loans	-	925	-	-	1,117	-
Invested fund assets	-	184,772	287,533	-	181,458	283,445
			317,533	7,945	182,575	283,445
CURRENT ASSETS						
Debtors	216	676	-	85	565	-
Cash on short term deposit	-	2,950	33,178	-	3,646	31,450
Bank balances	1,268	-	-	1,273	-	-
	1,484	3,626	33,178	1,358	4,211	31,450
CURRENT LIABILITIES						
Creditors	(811)	-	-	(1,171)	-	-
Financial Instrument	-	(386)	-	-	(1,785)	-
	(811)	(386)	-	(1,171)	(1,785)	-
NET CURRENT ASSETS	673	3,240	33,178	187	2,426	31,450

TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		8,047	188,937	350,711	8,132	185,001	314,895
LONG TERM (LIABILITY)							
Staff pension scheme (deficit)	11	(3,061)	-	-	(4,529)	-	-
BALANCE WITH GENERAL FUNDS		(4,986)	4,986	-	(3,603)	3,603	-
TOTAL NET ASSETS		-	193,923	350,711	-	188,604	314,895
FUNDS EMPLOYED	4,7(c)	-	193,923	350,711	-	188,604	314,895

Signed: *HJ Saville*

GC Richards

Date: *13 March 2018*

**THE REPRESENTATIVE BODY OF THE CHURCH OF IRELAND
CASH FLOW STATEMENT
YEAR END 31 DECEMBER 2017**

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	Notes	2017	2016
		RCB activities €'000	General Funds €'000
			Parish, Diocesan and Other Trust Funds €'000
NET INCOMING RESOURCES BEFORE ALLOCATIONS AND DISTRIBUTIONS	8	30	5,422
ALLOCATIONS AND DISTRIBUTIONS			10,061
Allocations expended and distributions		-	(3,649)
Unit Trust Cash introduced		-	-
Special pension contributions and other charges		-	(247)
		30	1,526
CAPITAL EXPENDITURE AND FINANCIAL INVESTMENTS			
Purchase of investments		-	(91,338)
Sale of investments including currency movements		-	86,863
Sale of properties		-	411
Gains and losses including currency movements		-	(7,771)
Advances of glebe, miscellaneous and car loans		-	6,730
		(81)	(26)

THE REPRESENTATIVE BODY OF THE CHURCH OF IRELAND**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS****PAGE 15**

1 (a) TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS - RCB

	Premises	Furniture and fittings	Office equipment	Total
	€'000	€'000	€'000	€'000
<u>Cost</u>				
At beginning of year	8,943	578	1,934	11,455
Additions	-	7	41	48
Disposals	(286)	-	-	(286)
Currency adjustment	(114)	-	(6)	(120)
At end of year	<u>8,543</u>	<u>585</u>	<u>1,969</u>	<u>11,097</u>
<u>Depreciation</u>				
At beginning of year	1,456	473	1,581	3,510
Charge for year	184	18	50	252
Disposals	(31)	-	-	(31)
Currency adjustment	(4)	-	(4)	(8)
At end of year	<u>1,605</u>	<u>491</u>	<u>1,627</u>	<u>3,723</u>
<u>Net book value</u>				
At beginning of year	<u>7,487</u>	<u>105</u>	<u>353</u>	<u>7,945</u>
At end of year	<u>6,938</u>	<u>94</u>	<u>342</u>	<u>7,374</u>

1 (b) TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS - PARISH, DIOCESAN AND OTHER TRUST FUNDS

	Premises	Furniture and fittings	Office equipment	Total
	€'000	€'000	€'000	€'000
<u>Cost</u>				
At beginning of year	-	-	-	-
Additions	<u>30,000</u>	-	-	<u>30,000</u>
At end of year	<u>30,000</u>	-	-	<u>30,000</u>

Property to the value of €30m was brought onto the Parish, Diocesan and Other Trust Funds balance sheet under fixed assets during 2017. The property relates to the Church of Ireland College of Education Fund Trust property at 96 Upper Rathmines Road, which has been independently valued by a professional valuer. This valuation has been used as deemed cost for the purposes of inclusion in the financial statements. Depreciation is not provided as the current estimated residual value is not less than the carrying value and the remaining useful life currently exceeds 50 years.

THE REPRESENTATIVE BODY OF THE CHURCH OF IRELAND

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - CONTINUED

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2(a) GENERAL FUNDS – ANALYSIS OF FUND ASSETS

	2017 €'000	2016 €'000
<u>Investments at valuation</u>		
Ireland		
Government bonds	10,293	6,108
Corporate bonds	14,800	22,713
Equities	29,447	28,283
Property Unit trust	14,502	13,766
United Kingdom		
Bonds	152	-
Equities	24,223	19,417
Managed Investment Funds	8,870	8,309
Europe		
Bonds	5,103	3,331
Equities	35,673	31,021
North America		
Bonds	5,628	6,179
Equities	23,751	22,779
Managed Investment Funds	1,595	1,560
Rest of the world		
Equities	942	804
	<u>174,979</u>	<u>164,270</u>
<u>Other assets</u>		
Cash	9,593	17,188
Financial Instrument (positive)	200	-
Total Invested Assets 2(a)	<u>184,772</u>	<u>181,458</u>
2(b) FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS		
Financial Instrument (negative)	<u>(386)</u>	<u>(1,785)</u>

THE REPRESENTATIVE BODY OF THE CHURCH OF IRELAND

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - CONTINUED

PAGE 17

2(b) FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS (CONTINUED)

General Funds use derivatives as part of its portfolio risk management strategy and as part of the portfolio investment return strategy. The use of financial instruments includes stock options and futures.

As at 31st December 2017, the market value of sold equity options amounted to €0.32m (2016: €2.09m) and is shown as a financial liability on the balance sheet. The market value of purchase index options amounted to €0.19m (2016: €0.30m), is included in invested assets on the balance sheet.

The market value of purchased futures amounted to €0.003m (2016: €0.34m) and is shown in invested assets on the balance sheet. The market value of the sold futures amounted to €0.06m and is shown as a financial liability on the balance sheet (2016: Nil). Realised and unrealised gains/(losses) on derivatives are included in the columns profit on investment sales and revaluation movements in note 4.

Sold call options are covered by quoted equity positions and cash collateral. Sold put options and futures are covered by cash collateral. Cash and non cash collateral at year end to cover options and futures amounted to €8.4m, of which €3.1m is cash and €5.3m is non cash.

2(c) INVESTMENT AT FAIR VALUE

FRS 102 requires the classification of fair value measurements using a fair value hierarchy that reflects the significance of inputs used in making the measurements.

The fair value hierarchy has the following levels:

Level 1 - Valuation based on quoted prices in an active market.

Level 2 - Valuation techniques used to price securities based on observable inputs which is based on the underlying value of the assets which have been independently valued by professionals.

Level 3 - Inputs for the asset or liability that are not based on observable market data.

THE REPRESENTATIVE BODY OF THE CHURCH OF IRELAND

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - CONTINUED

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2(c) INVESTMENT AT FAIR VALUE (CONTINUED)

The following is an analysis of the RCB's financial assets and liabilities measured at fair value as at 31 December 2017 and 31 December 2016. No assets or liabilities are valued at Level 3.

	2017		2016	
	Level 1 €'000	Level 2 €'000	Level 1 €'000	Level 2 €'000
Financial assets at fair value				
Debt Securities	35,977	-	38,331	-
Equity	76,464	19,834	66,098	17,647
Precious Metals	12,052	-	11,869	-
Managed Funds	10,840	5,125	10,441	4,333
Cash	9,593	-	17,188	-
Managed Funds - property	-	14,502	-	13,766
	<u>144,926</u>	<u>39,461</u>	<u>143,927</u>	<u>35,746</u>

The RCB invests the majority of its assets in investments that are traded in an active market and can be readily disposed of.

2(d) SECURITIES LENDING

The invested assets of General Funds include securities on loan at year end with a market value of €13m (2016: €3.58m). The loaned securities continue to be carried as investment assets in General Fund investments in the Balance Sheet. The lending agreement requires collateral to be provided by the borrowers of the securities. General Funds hold non cash collateral of €13.8m (2016: €3.81m) in respect of these securities. This collateral is not recorded as an asset with a matching liability in the Balance Sheet. The income received due to securities lending activities is included in income from investments in the SoFA and totals €49k for the year (2016: €71k).

3 PARISH, DIOCESAN AND OTHER TRUST FUNDS

	2017 €'000	2016 €'000
RB General Unit Trusts	287,327	282,975
Cash	206	470
	<u>287,533</u>	<u>283,445</u>

**THE REPRESENTATIVE BODY OF THE CHURCH OF IRELAND
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - CONTINUED**

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4 FUNDS EMPLOYED

	Balance at 1.1.17 €'000	Decrease in resources before gains and losses €'000	Currency translation movements €'000	Pension & reserve movements €'000	Recognised gains/(losses) €'000	Profit on investment sales €'000	Property movement €'000	Revaluation movements €'000	Balance at 31.12.17 €'000
Capital invested	184,173	(1,031)	(819)	(237)	-	4,586	286	1,539	188,497
Property Reserve	4,220	-	(106)	-	-	-	(286)	-	3,828
Invested assets	188,393	(1,031)	(925)	(237)	-	4,586	-	1,539	192,325
Less - Staff pension deficit	(4,529)	-	-	350	1,118	-	-	-	(3,061)
Net capital invested	183,864	(1,031)	(925)	113	1,118	4,586	-	1,539	189,264
Designated reserves									
Allocations reserve for following year (Note 6)	3,867	-	(41)	(113)	-	-	-	-	3,713
Staff pensions reserve	97	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	97
Sundry designated reserves	776	-	(3)	-	76	-	-	-	849
	188,604	(1,031)	(969)	-	1,194	4,586	-	1,539	193,923

THE REPRESENTATIVE BODY OF THE CHURCH OF IRELAND

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - CONTINUED

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5 COST OF OPERATIONS	2017 €'000	2016 €'000
Cost of generating funds		
Payroll and related costs	1,590	1,492
Less - payroll costs recharged	(252)	(243)
	<u>1,338</u>	<u>1,249</u>
External Investment managers and other costs	218	226
Office supplies, repairs and taxes	169	138
Depreciation	132	139
	<u>1,857</u>	<u>1,752</u>
Cost of charitable activities		
Payroll and related costs	782	745
Less - payroll costs recharged	(237)	(226)
	<u>545</u>	<u>519</u>
Office supplies, repairs and taxes	106	87
Depreciation	83	87
RCB Library	222	219
	<u>956</u>	<u>912</u>
Cost of governance activities		
Payroll and related costs	425	392
Less - payroll costs recharged	(197)	(189)
	<u>228</u>	<u>203</u>
Office supplies, repairs and taxes	48	39
Depreciation	37	39
Audit fees	81	96
Central committee expenses	93	113
	<u>487</u>	<u>490</u>
Other operating costs		
Professional fees	103	219
Payroll payments to retired staff	102	114
	<u>205</u>	<u>333</u>
Total cost of operations	<u>3,505</u>	<u>3,487</u>

THE REPRESENTATIVE BODY OF THE CHURCH OF IRELAND

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - CONTINUED

PAGE 21

5 COST OF OPERATIONS (CONTINUED)

RCB cost of operations arising are recovered from General Funds and Parish, Diocesan and Other Trust Funds where appropriate.

The activities falling under each function heading are set out in Accounting Policies (xiii), on page 11 of the financial statements.

6 ALLOCATIONS

	2018 €'000	2017 €'000	2016 €'000
(a) Reserve for following year			
Maintenance of the stipendiary ministry	1,283	1,271	1,232
Retired clergy and surviving spouses	112	108	120
Training of ordinands	1,305	1,464	1,484
General Synod activities	997	966	996
Miscellaneous financing	16	16	11
Reserve for following year (see Note 4)	<u>3,713</u>	<u>3,825</u>	<u>3,843</u>
		2017 €'000	2016 €'000
(b) Expended in year			
Allocation Expended in Year		3,825	3,843
Less - allocations (unexpended)		(114)	(194)
		<u>3,711</u>	<u>3,649</u>

The reserve for 2018 Allocations included in designated reserves in Note 4, is the gross amount committed by General Funds to be spent on wider Church activities in 2018.

THE REPRESENTATIVE BODY OF THE CHURCH OF IRELAND

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - CONTINUED

7 PARISH, DIOCESAN AND OTHER TRUST FUNDS

	Balance at 1.1.17 €'000	Currency translation movements €'000	Capital changes/ movements €'000	Profit/ (loss) on sales €'000	Revaluation movements €'000	Property added €'000	Balance at 31.12.17 €'000
(a) INVESTED CAPITAL							
Parish trusts and glebe sales	167,699	(1,376)	1,512	430	2,633	-	170,898
Diocesan stipend and general funds	33,571	(455)	794	-	856	-	34,766
Diocesan miscellaneous trusts	12,947	(109)	213	-	252	-	13,303
Diocesan episcopal funds	9,184	(56)	-	-	151	-	9,279
Less: diocesan car loans	(262)	2	44	-	-	-	(216)
	<u>223,139</u>	<u>(1,994)</u>	<u>2,563</u>	<u>430</u>	<u>3,892</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>228,030</u>
Sundry trusts	58,464	(366)	1,499	-	830	30,000	90,427
General Synod funds	11,990	(83)	3	-	207	-	12,117
Trusts for retired clergy and spouses	4,745	(72)	(197)	-	84	-	4,560
	<u>298,338</u>	<u>(2,515)</u>	<u>3,868</u>	<u>430</u>	<u>5,013</u>	<u>30,000</u>	<u>335,134</u>

THE REPRESENTATIVE BODY OF THE CHURCH OF IRELAND

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - CONTINUED

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7 PARISH, DIOCESAN AND OTHER TRUST FUNDS (CONTINUED)

(b) PARISH, DIOCESAN AND OTHER FUNDS RESERVES

	2017 €'000	2016 €'000
Designated		
Diocesan stipend & general funds	4,890	5,801
Parish endowments	215	241
Miscellaneous diocesan trusts	545	508
General Synod trusts	10	15
Other trust funds	7,726	7,699
Clergy pensions & related funds	429	384
Trust creditors	1,009	837
	<u>14,824</u>	<u>15,485</u>
Undesignated		
Auxiliary and Sundry Projects Funds	<u>753</u>	<u>1,072</u>
Summary - reserves		
Designated	14,824	15,485
Undesignated	753	1,072
	<u>15,577</u>	<u>16,557</u>

(c) SUMMARY - PARISH, DIOCESAN AND OTHER TRUST FUNDS

	2017 €'000	2016 €'000
Capital funds invested	335,134	298,338
Designated and undesignated reserves	<u>15,577</u>	<u>16,557</u>
	<u>350,711</u>	<u>314,895</u>
Net receipts/(withdrawals)		
Capital receipts (7a)	3,868	5,668
Movement in reserves (7b)	(980)	1,241
	<u>2,888</u>	<u>6,909</u>

**THE REPRESENTATIVE BODY OF THE CHURCH OF IRELAND
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - CONTINUED**

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8 CASH FLOW RECONCILIATION

The Cash Flow Statement has been prepared in line with the measurement principles of Financial Reporting Standard No 1.

Reconciliation of surplus of incoming resources before allocations and distributions to net cash inflow:

	2017			2016		
	Notes	RCB €'000	Parish, Diocesan and Other Trust Funds €'000	RCB €'000	General Funds €'000	Parish, Diocesan and Other Trust Funds €'000
Net incoming resources before allocations and distributions		-	2,680	-	3,175	10,061
Other recognised losses		465	(465)	(293)	293	-
Change in other debtors		(131)	(111)	117	400	-
Change in creditors		(360)	-	63	-	-
Change in financial instruments		-	(1,400)	-	1,554	-
Net amortisation of fixed assets	1	244	-	241	-	-
Profit on sale of properties		(188)	-	-	-	-
Net cash inflow		30	704	128	5,422	10,061

		2017			2016		
	Notes	RCB €'000	General Funds €'000	Parish, Diocesan and Other Trust Funds €'000	RCB €'000	General Funds €'000	Parish, Diocesan and Other Trust Funds €'000
9 ANALYSIS OF CHANGES IN CASH DURING THE YEAR							
Net cash (outflow)/inflow		(5)	(7,808)	1,803	26	4,752	256
Effect of foreign exchange rate changes		-	(149)	(339)	-	(637)	(1,389)
(Decrease)/increase in cash		(5)	(7,957)	1,464	26	4,115	(1,133)
Balance at 1 January		1,273	20,499	31,920	1,247	16,384	33,053
Balance at 31 December	10	1,268	12,542	33,384	1,273	20,499	31,920
10 ANALYSIS OF CASH BALANCES							
Cash on short term deposit		-	2,950	33,178	-	3,646	31,450
Cash at bank		1,268	-	-	1,273	-	-
Cash held by investment managers		-	9,592	206	-	16,853	470
		1,268	12,542	33,384	1,273	20,499	31,920

THE REPRESENTATIVE BODY OF THE CHURCH OF IRELAND

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - CONTINUED

11 RETIREMENT BENEFITS

- (a) The RCB operates a contributory defined benefit pension scheme with assets held in a separately administered fund. The most recent triennial valuation was as at 1 January 2017 and is available for inspection by the scheme members. The scheme is closed to new members. The accounting policies in respect of the scheme are in line with the treatment applied under FRS 102.

At each year end the RCB is required to assess the financial condition of the staff DB pension scheme under the provisions of FRS 102. One of the primary drivers for valuing the liabilities under FRS 102 is determined by reference to a discount rate derived from AA rated corporate bonds of comparable duration to the scheme liabilities. As the prevailing yield on these bonds is low and can be volatile from one year to the next, FRS 102 has in recent times tended to produce a relatively high and volatile valuation of the liabilities. FRS 102 does not determine the cash funding requirement or the solvency of the scheme, this is determined under the triennial valuation.

The 1 January 2017 triennial valuation showed that the market value of the assets of the scheme was €12.94m which represented 93% (2014 triennial: 74%) of the benefits that had accrued to members after allowing for expected future increases in earnings.

The figures for the year ending 31 December 2017 under FRS 102 show the fair value of the assets of the scheme to be €13.6m (€12.9m), and that this represents 81.5% (2016: 74%) of the value of benefits that had accrued to members as at that date. The fair value of assets has improved by €0.6m (4.7%) during the year and the actual return on the plan assets was €0.35m during the year. The present value of scheme liabilities as calculated by the actuary under FRS 102 has decreased from €17.5m to €16.6m in 2017. As required by FRS 102 the valuation was prepared using the 'projected unit cost' method.

The actuarial calculation of the amounts to be recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities is shown in Note 11c. The current service cost and net finance cost are included in resources expended. The key assumptions are shown in Note 11g.

- (b) Financial Reporting Standard 102 'Retirement Benefits' disclosures

The amounts recognised in the Balance Sheet are as follows:

	2017	2016
	€'000	€'000
Present value of funded obligations	(16,611)	(17,464)
Fair value of plan assets	13,550	12,935
Pension liability in the Balance Sheet	<u>(3,061)</u>	<u>(4,529)</u>

THE REPRESENTATIVE BODY OF THE CHURCH OF IRELAND

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - CONTINUED

PAGE 26

11 RETIREMENT BENEFITS - CONTINUED

(c) **The amounts recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities are:**

	2017 €'000	2016 €'000
Interest cost	318	384
Expected return on plan assets	-	-
Net finance expense	318	384
Current service cost - included in costs of operations	315	305
	<u>633</u>	<u>689</u>
Actuarial gains/(losses)	2017 €'000	2016 €'000
Return on scheme assets	358	332
Experience gains/(losses) on liabilities	(407)	27
Change in assumptions underlying the present value of the scheme liabilities	407	(27)
	<u>358</u>	<u>332</u>

	2017 Pension Assets €'000	2017 Pension Liabilities €'000	2017 Pension Deficit €'000	2016 Pension Deficit €'000
(d) Movement in Scheme Assets and Liabilities				
At 31 December 2016	12,935	(17,464)	(4,529)	(2,666)
Current service cost	-	(315)	(315)	(305)
Plan amendments	-	-	-	-
Interest income	239	-	239	321
Interest on scheme liabilities	-	407	407	(27)
Expected return on scheme assets	-	-	-	-
Return on scheme assets	358	-	358	332
Experience gains on liabilities	-	(318)	(318)	(384)
Changes in assumptions	-	597	597	(2,224)
Benefits paid	(500)	500	-	-
Premiums paid	(29)	29	-	-
Contributions by plan participants	47	(47)	-	-
Employer contributions paid	500	-	500	424
At 31 December 2017	<u>13,550</u>	<u>(16,611)</u>	<u>(3,061)</u>	<u>(4,529)</u>
Note - actual return on plan assets			597	653

THE REPRESENTATIVE BODY OF THE CHURCH OF IRELAND**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - CONTINUED****PAGE 27**

11 RETIREMENT BENEFITS - CONTINUED

(e) Risks and rewards arising from the assets

At 31 December 2017 the scheme assets were invested in a diversified portfolio that consisted primarily of equity and debt securities and properties. The fair values of the scheme assets as a percentage of total scheme assets and target allocations are set out below:

	2017	2016	2015
(as a percentage of total scheme assets)	%	%	%
Equities	36	34	33
Bonds	40	42	44
Property	9	13	9
Cash/Other	15	11	14

(f) Basis of expected rate of return on scheme assets

The fixed interest fund run by investment managers contains a mix of gilts and corporate bonds with different earnings potential. Therefore a range of different assumptions has been used to estimate the expected return.

In line with FRS 102 the expected rate of return on assets is based on a discount rate of 2.1%.

(g) The principal actuarial assumptions at the balance sheet date:

	2017	2016
	%	%
Discount rate	2.10	1.85
Future salary increases	2.25	2.00
Future pension increases	1.25	1.00
Inflation rate	1.75	1.50

THE REPRESENTATIVE BODY OF THE CHURCH OF IRELAND

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - CONTINUED

PAGE 28

11 (g) RETIREMENT BENEFITS - CONTINUED

Assumptions regarding future mortality are set based on advice from published statistics and experience. The average life expectancy in years for a pensioner retiring aged 65 is as follows:

	2017	2016
Male	23.1	23.7
Female	25.0	25.7

Amounts for the current and previous four years are as follows:

	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013
Present value of the defined benefit obligation (€'000)	(16,611)	(17,464)	(15,049)	(15,663)	(14,197)
Fair value of plan assets (€'000)	13,550	12,935	12,383	11,500	9,681
Pension (deficit) (€'000)	(3,061)	(4,529)	(2,666)	(4,163)	(4,516)
Experience adjustments on plan liabilities as a percentage of scheme liabilities at the balance sheet date	2.5%	0.0%	3.0%	5.0%	2.00%
Experience adjustments on plan assets as a percentage of scheme assets at the balance sheet date	2.6%	3.0%	4.0%	11.0%	3.00%

12 SPECIAL PENSION CONTRIBUTIONS AND CHARGES

The movement in the Staff Pension Scheme amounting to €1.1m consists of €1.4m, being the reduction in the actuarially calculated deficit under FRS 102 after accounting for a capital injection during the year into the fund of €350,000. The capital injection will be €350,000 for the remainder of the funding proposal.

THE REPRESENTATIVE BODY OF THE CHURCH OF IRELAND

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - CONTINUED

PAGE 29

13 FINANCIAL RISK

The main risks to the RCB relating to its holding of investments and other financial instruments are market price, foreign currency, interest rate, liquidity and credit risk.

(a) Market Price Risk

Market risk arises mainly from uncertainty about future prices of investments and other financial instruments held. It represents the potential loss the RCB might suffer through holding market positions in the face of price movements. The Investment Committee considers the asset allocation of the portfolio in order to minimise the risk associated with particular countries or industry sectors whilst continuing to follow the RCB's investment objective.

(b) Foreign currency risk

A portion of the financial assets/net assets of the RCB is denominated in currencies other than euro with the effect that the Balance Sheet and total return can be affected by currency movements.

The following sets out the RCB's total exposure to foreign currency risk.

	2017 Total €'000	2016 Total €'000
Currency		
Sterling	42,351	43,546
US Dollars	28,976	31,041
Canadian Dollars	4,349	4,086
Swiss Francs	3,733	3,795
Swedish Krone	1,902	-
Danish Krone	1,454	1,465
Norwegian Krone	939	417
Turkish Lira	648	427
Total of other currencies	942	804
	85,294	85,581

The rates of exchange used at 31 December 2017 for significant currency exposures:

Sterling	
US Dollars	0.8881
Canadian Dollars	1.2005
Swiss Francs	1.1703
Swedish Krone	9.8342
Norwegian Krone	9.8432
Danish Krone	7.4458

THE REPRESENTATIVE BODY OF THE CHURCH OF IRELAND

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - CONTINUED

PAGE 30

13 FINANCIAL RISK (CONTINUED)

(c) Interest Rate Risk

The RCB has interest bearing assets but does not have interest bearing liabilities.

The interest profile of the RCB's interest bearing financial assets at 31 December 2017 was:

	2017		2016	
	Total interest bearing €'000	Interest bearing at fixed rate €'000	Total interest bearing €'000	Interest bearing at fixed rate €'000
Euro	31,038	15,052	38,331	21,630
Total	31,038	15,052	38,331	21,630

Fixed interest rate financial assets

	2017		2016	
	Weighted average interest rate %	Weighted average period for which rate is fixed (years)	Weighted average interest rate %	Weighted average period for which rate is fixed
Euro	7.05	23.38	6.62	17.64

(d) Liquidity Risk

Liquidity risk is the risk that an entity will encounter difficulty in meeting obligations associated with financial liabilities.

The RCB invests the majority of its assets in investments that are traded in an active market which can be readily realised.

THE REPRESENTATIVE BODY OF THE CHURCH OF IRELAND

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - CONTINUED

PAGE 31

13 FINANCIAL RISK (CONTINUED)

(e) Credit Risk

The RCB may be exposed to a credit risk in relation to parties with whom it trades and will bear the risk of settlement default. The RCB minimises concentrations of credit risk by undertaking transactions with a number of brokers and counterparties on recognised and reputable exchanges.

APPENDIX A

**Extract from the accounts of
THE CHURCH OF IRELAND THEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE**

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

For the year ended 30 June 2017

	2017 €	2016 €
Income		
Grants from General Synod	821,770	790,000
Divinity student fees	127,852	146,423
Receipts from guests and conference	121,134	84,920
Non-stipendiary ministry training	4,095	2,335
Clergy study courses	2,856	3,530
Foundation course	27,481	26,150
CME/lay training	84,707	131,678
Chaplaincy certificate	-	4,000
CME/lay training – release of deferred income	28,000	-
	<u>1,217,895</u>	<u>1,189,036</u>
Expenditure		
Academic expenses	507,884	544,372
Administration expenses	114,381	111,744
Operating expenses	311,172	292,933
Establishment expenses	245,902	218,983
	<u>1,179,339</u>	<u>1,168,032</u>
Surplus for the year	38,556	21,004
Balance at beginning of the year	21,004	54,456
Funding adjustment in respect of previous year surplus	(21,004)	(54,456)
Balance at the end of the year	<u><u>38,556</u></u>	<u><u>21,004</u></u>

Income and the surplus arose solely from continuing operations. There were no other recognised gains or losses other than those dealt with above.

The Representative Church Body – Report 2018

**Extract from the accounts of
THE CHURCH OF IRELAND THEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE**

BALANCE SHEET

As at 30 June 2017

	2017	2016
	€	€
Fixed assets		
Current assets		
Sundry debtors	128,739	82,932
Bank deposit accounts	3,319	2,319
Bank current accounts	35,145	46,451
Cash on hand	6	4
	<u>167,209</u>	<u>131,706</u>
Creditors – amounts falling due within one year	(124,784)	(108,328)
	<u>42,425</u>	<u>23,378</u>
Net current assets	42,425	23,378
Total assets less current liabilities	42,425	23,378
Creditors – amounts falling due after more than one year	(3,319)	(2,319)
Net assets	<u>39,106</u>	<u>21,059</u>
Capital and trust funds		
Accumulated surplus	38,556	21,004
Ferrar Memorial Fund for Liturgical Library	32	6
Gregg Memorial Fund for College Library	518	49
	<u>39,106</u>	<u>21,059</u>

APPENDIX B

ANNUALISED FUND PERFORMANCES – COMPARATIVE TOTAL RETURNS

	valuation (millions) 2017	valuation (millions) 2016	2017 %	3-year annualised 2014-2016 %	5-year annualised 2012-2016 %
General Funds (Combined)	€184.4	€179.7	5.5	6.8	9.4
Benchmark			6.8	6.9	9.9
Relative Performance			-1.3	-0.1	-0.5
Parochial, Diocesan Funds etc					
RB General Unit Trust (RI)	€225.2	€222.2	4.1	7.4	9.9
Benchmark			6.8	6.9	10.2
Relative Performance			-2.7	0.5	-0.3
RB General Unit Trust (NI)	£55.2	£51.8	9.3	10.7	10.5
Benchmark			10.6	11.3	11.2
Relative Performance			-1.3	-0.6	-0.7
Clergy Pensions Fund	€173.6	€170.2	4.7	5.8	8.8
Benchmark			3.2	3.7	7.3
Relative Performance			1.5	2.1	1.5
<i>Bond Market Indices /Benchmark Components</i>					
ML Irish Govt Bond Index			0.6	2.0	6.2
ML European Broad Mkt Bond Index			0.7	1.7	3.6
ML Sterling Broad Mkt Bond Index			2.6	4.5	4.8
<i>Equity Market Indices /Benchmark Components</i>					
Dow Jones Stoxx 600 (€)			11.2	7.8	10.3
S&P 500 (USD)			21.8	11.4	15.8
FTSE 100 (£)			12.0	9.6	9.5

All values shown are as at end of calendar year.

APPENDIX C

GENERAL UNIT TRUSTS

**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND
EXTRACTS FROM INVESTMENT MANAGER'S REPORTS**

YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2017

	Page
RB General Unit Trust (Republic of Ireland)	94
RB General Unit Trust (Northern Ireland)	99

THE RB GENERAL UNIT TRUST (REPUBLIC OF IRELAND)
INVESTMENT MANAGER’S REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2017

FUND OBJECTIVE

To maintain at least the capital value of the Fund in real terms over time while paying a stable, sustainable and competitive distribution rate.

PERFORMANCE

Annualised Returns:

Annualised Total Returns %:	1 Year	3 Years	5 Years
RB General Unit Trust (RI)	7.0	8.8	11.5
Benchmark*	11.1	8.3	11.7
RB General Unit Trust (RI) Capital	3.6	5.2	7.6
ROI Inflation (CPI)	-1.6	-0.4	0.0

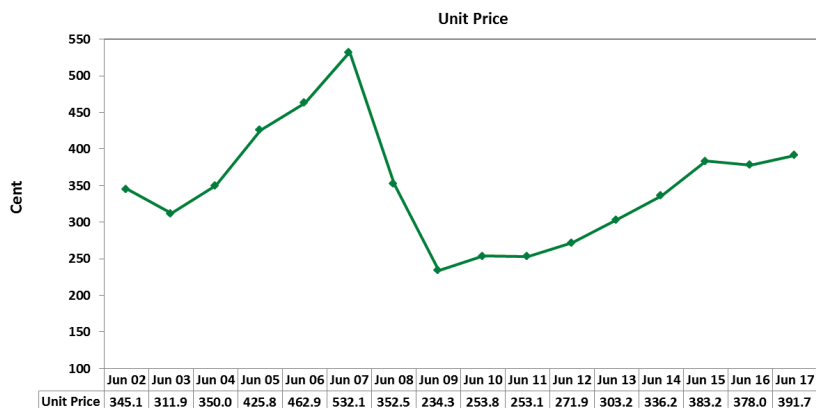
* Benchmark from 1 January 2014

Equities 70%: 2/3 Stoxx Europe 600; 1/3 S&P 500

Bonds 30%: 1/3 Irish Govt, 1/3 Euro broad market, 1/3 Sterling broad market

During the period under review the capital value of the Fund increased by 3.6% while the total return (capital and income) was 7.0%. While the absolute returns have been good over all time periods, performance lagged the benchmark over the past year given its lower risk profile in the midst of the on-going bull market in global equities, particularly in the U.S. However, the Fund’s absolute and relative performance compares favourably with the benchmark over 3 years and is largely in line with the benchmark over 5 years.

The historic price of a unit is detailed in the below chart.



THE RB GENERAL UNIT TRUST (REPUBLIC OF IRELAND)
INVESTMENT MANAGER’S REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2017

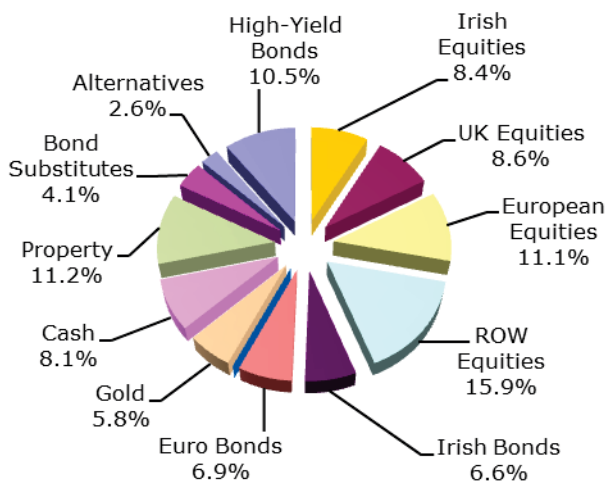
TRUST ASSET DISTRIBUTION

The market value of the investments, including the value of the capital deposit account was €223.4m.

The ten largest holdings at 30 June 2017 were:

	% of Fund		% of Fund
1. Cash	8.1%	6. Viridian 7.5% 01/03/2020	2.0%
2. Irish Property Unit Trust	7.3%	7. Vaneck Gold Miners ETF	2.0%
3. NAMA 5.264% 2049	2.8%	8. NAMA Equity	2.0%
4. BOI 10.1% Pref	2.4%	9. United Drug	1.9%
5. BOI 15.24% Pref	2.1%	10. AIB 12.5% 2035	1.7%

The investment profile in terms of distribution of the assets (by value) at 30 June 2017 is displayed in the following chart:



INCOME DISTRIBUTION TO UNIT HOLDERS

The interim and final distributions were maintained at the 2016 levels of 4.2 cent per unit and 7.3 cent per unit respectively, resulting in a total distribution for the year of 11.5 cent per unit.

THE RB GENERAL UNIT TRUST (REPUBLIC OF IRELAND)
INVESTMENT MANAGER’S REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2017

The Trust has a dividend reserve policy that targets a level of 2% of Fund value. The Dividend Equalisation Reserve (DER) will not be allowed to exceed 4% of Fund value and at least 80% of net income in any individual year will be distributed to unit holders. A healthy reserve aids the management of a stable and sustainable distribution going forward.

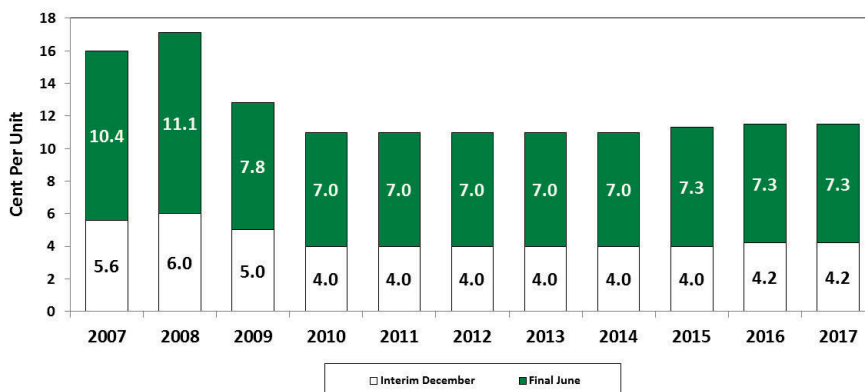
Based on the value of a unit at 30 June 2017 of €3.92, and a full year distribution of 11.5 cent, the distribution yield was 2.94%. (The comparative figures for 30 June 2016 showed a yield of 3.04% based on a unit value then of €3.78 and a full year distribution of 11.5 cent). At 30th June 2017 a transfer of €0.164m was made to the Dividend Equalisation Reserve resulting in a DER of €4.51m or 2.02% of the net asset value of the fund.

There were net inputs of €7.50m into the Fund for the twelve months to 30 June 2017, reflecting new cash of €7.88m less redemptions of €0.38m.

Environmental and Social Governance (ESG)

In the reporting period, the Investment Committee monitored and carried out its annual assessment of individual stock holdings within the various portfolios and reported to the Representative Body in December that it was satisfied that the investment managers remain sensitive to the Church’s concerns and expectations with regard to ethical and socially responsible investment. A new policy on Climate Change was approved and the Committee is continuing to monitor best practice and developments in this area and to seek to lower the climate change impact within its portfolios.

Income Distributions (2007 – 2017) - Financial Year-End 30 June



In-house Investment team
 The Representative Church Body
 July 2017

The Representative Church Body – Report 2018

THE RB GENERAL UNIT TRUST (REPUBLIC OF IRELAND)
STATEMENT OF TOTAL RETURN YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2017

	30-Jun-17 €'000	30-Jun-16 €'000
Income	7,051	6,866
Expenses	(27)	(24)
Net income	<u>7,024</u>	<u>6,842</u>
Distributions	<u>(6,860)</u>	<u>(6,645)</u>
Transfer to dividend equalisation reserve	164	197
Net gains / (losses) on investment activities		
- Net realised gains	1,839	14,723
- Net change in unrealised gains/(losses) on investments	5,837	(17,581)
- Net change in currency exchange gains	<u>-</u>	<u>13</u>
Net increase/(decrease) in net assets from investment activities	7,840	(2,648)
Funds brought forward	212,533	209,538
Proceeds from units issued	7,877	6,109
Cost of units redeemed	(379)	(466)
Funds carried forward	<u><u>227,871</u></u>	<u><u>212,533</u></u>

Signed on behalf of the Trustee:

HJ Saville

GC Richards

Date:

18 October 2017

The Representative Church Body – Report 2018

THE RB GENERAL UNIT TRUST (REPUBLIC OF IRELAND)
YEAR TO 30 JUNE 2017

	30-Jun-17 €'000	30-Jun-16 €'000
Investments	<u>206,052</u>	<u>185,896</u>
Current assets		
Debtors	15,188	15,141
Cash at bank	<u>7,565</u>	<u>14,525</u>
	<u>22,753</u>	<u>29,666</u>
Current liabilities		
Financial instruments	741	2,823
Creditors (amounts falling due within one year)	<u>193</u>	<u>206</u>
	934	3,029
Net current assets	<u>21,819</u>	<u>26,637</u>
Total net assets	<u><u>227,871</u></u>	<u><u>212,533</u></u>
Trust capital fund	<u><u>227,871</u></u>	<u><u>212,533</u></u>

Signed on behalf of the Trustee:

HJ Saville

GC Richards

Date:

18 October 2017

THE RB GENERAL UNIT TRUST (NORTHERN IRELAND)
INVESTMENT MANAGER’S REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2017

FUND OBJECTIVE

To maintain at least the capital value of the Fund in real terms over time while paying a stable, sustainable and competitive distribution rate.

PERFORMANCE

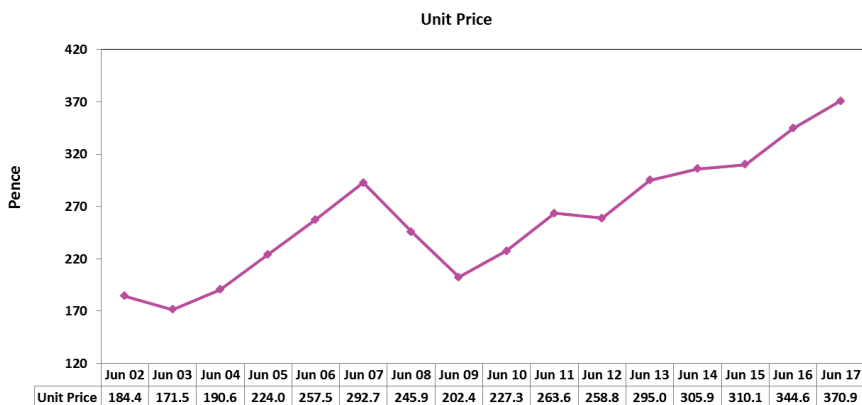
Annualised Returns:

Annualised Total Returns %:	1 Year	3 Years	5 Years
RB General Unit Trust (NI)	11.1	10.4	11.5
Benchmark*	16.2	11.8	11.9
RB General Unit Trust (NI) Capital	7.6	6.6	7.5
UK Inflation (CPI)	2.7	1.0	1.6

* *Benchmark from 1 January 2014*
Equities 70%: 2/3 Stoxx Europe 600; 1/3 S&P 500
Bonds 30%: Sterling broad market

During the period under review the capital value of the Fund increased by 7.6% while the total return (capital and income) was 11.1%. While the absolute returns have been good over all time periods, relative returns have lagged the benchmark somewhat given its lower risk profile in the midst of the on-going bull market in global equities, particularly in the U.S.

The historic price of a unit is detailed in the below chart.



THE RB GENERAL UNIT TRUST (NORTHERN IRELAND)
INVESTMENT MANAGER’S REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2017

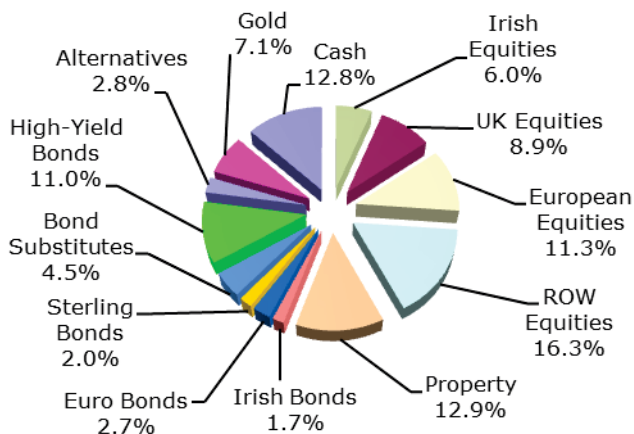
TRUST ASSET DISTRIBUTION

The market value of the investments, including the value of the capital deposit account was £53.6m.

The ten largest holdings at 30 June 2017 were:

	% of Fund		% of Fund
1. Cash	12.8%	6. United Drug	2.1%
2. Irish Property Unit Trust	5.1%	7. BOI 10.1% Pref	2.1%
3. Avenue Properties (NI)	3.8%	8. BOI 15.24% Pref	2.0%
4. AIB 12.5% 2035	2.6%	9. Brit Ins 6.625% 2030	2.0%
5. Vaneck Gold Miners ETF	2.2%	10. JPM 6.3% perpetual	1.9%

The investment profile in terms of distribution of the assets (by value) at 30 June 2017 is displayed in the following chart:



INCOME DISTRIBUTION TO UNIT HOLDERS

The interim and final distributions were maintained at the 2016 levels of 4.3 pence per unit and 6.0 pence per unit respectively, resulting in a total distribution for the year of 10.3 pence per unit.

THE RB GENERAL UNIT TRUST (NORTHERN IRELAND)
INVESTMENT MANAGER’S REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2017

The Trust has a dividend reserve policy that targets a level of 2% of Fund value. The Dividend Equalisation Reserve (DER) will not be allowed to exceed 4% of Fund value and at least 80% of net income in any individual year will be distributed to unit holders. A healthy reserve aids the management of a stable and sustainable distribution going forward.

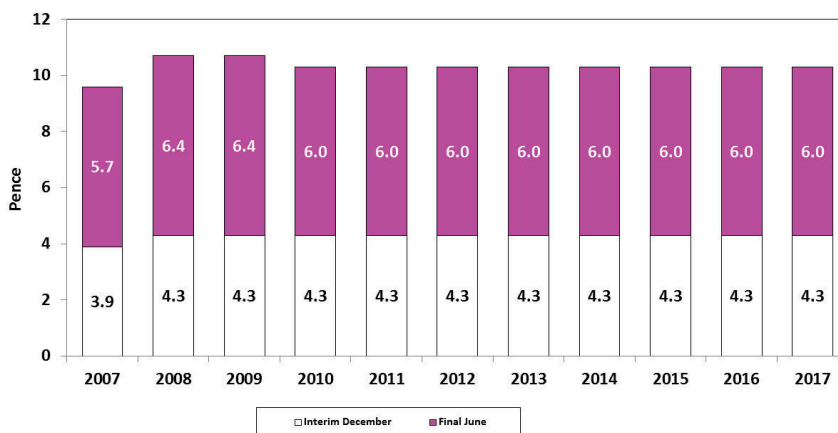
Based on the value of a unit at 30 June 2017 of £3.71, and a full year distribution of 10.3 pence, the distribution yield was 2.78%. (The comparative figures for 30 June 2016 showed a yield of 2.99% based on a unit value then of £3.45 and a full year distribution of 10.3 pence). At 30th June 2017 a transfer of £0.094m was made to the Dividend Equalisation Reserve resulting in a DER of £1.02m or 1.89% of the net asset value of the fund.

There were net inputs of £0.42m to the Fund for the twelve months to 30 June 2017, reflecting new cash of £0.60m less redemptions of £0.18m.

Environmental and Social Governance (ESG)

In the reporting period, the Investment Committee monitored and carried out its annual assessment of individual stock holdings within the various portfolios and reported to the Representative Body in December that it was satisfied that the investment managers remain sensitive to the Church’s concerns and expectations with regard to ethical and socially responsible investment. A new policy on Climate Change was approved and the Committee is continuing to monitor best practice and developments in this area and to seek to lower the climate change impact within its portfolios.

Income Distributions (2007 – 2017) - Financial Year-End 30 June



In-house Investment team
 The Representative Church Body
 July 2017

The Representative Church Body – Report 2018

THE RB GENERAL UNIT TRUST (NORTHERN IRELAND)

STATEMENT OF TOTAL RETURN YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2017

	30-Jun-17 £'000	30-Jun-16 £'000
Income	1,696	1,566
Expenses	<u>(11)</u>	<u>(8)</u>
Net Income	1,685	1,558
Distributions	<u>(1,591)</u>	<u>(1,569)</u>
Transfer to dividend equalisation reserve	94	(11)
Net gains / (losses) on investment activities		
Net realised gains	630	1,043
Net change in unrealised gains on investments	3,160	3,884
Net changes in currency movements	<u>5</u>	<u>-</u>
Net increase in net assets from investment activities	<u>3,889</u>	<u>4,916</u>
Funds brought forward	50,345	45,458
Proceeds from units issued	599	392
Cost of units redeemed	<u>(175)</u>	<u>(421)</u>
Funds carried forward	<u><u>54,658</u></u>	<u><u>50,345</u></u>

Signed on behalf of the Trustee:

HJ Saville

GC Richards

Date:

18 October 2017

The Representative Church Body – Report 2018

THE RB GENERAL UNIT TRUST (NORTHERN IRELAND)

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 30 JUNE 2017

	30-Jun-17 £'000	30-Jun-16 £'000
Investments	<u>47,311</u>	<u>47,010</u>
Current Assets		
Debtors	4,954	1,759
Cash at bank	<u>2,767</u>	<u>2,533</u>
	<u>7,721</u>	<u>4,292</u>
Current Liabilities		
Financial instruments	353	908
Creditors (amounts falling due within one year)	<u>21</u>	<u>49</u>
	374	957
Net current assets	<u>7,347</u>	<u>3,335</u>
Total net assets	<u><u>54,658</u></u>	<u><u>50,345</u></u>
Trust capital fund	<u><u>54,658</u></u>	<u><u>50,345</u></u>

Signed on behalf of the Trustee:

HJ Saville

GC Richards

Date:

18 October 2017

APPENDIX D

ENVIRONMENTAL, SOCIAL AND GOVERNANCE POLICY – INTEGRATING ESG INTO INVESTMENT DECISIONS 2018

As the Trustee of the Church of Ireland, The Representative Church Body is tasked with supporting the ministry of the Church for generations to come. This objective is supported through the prudent management of investments. As a religious organisation, stewardship obligations are more than purely for financial benefit and the RCB has a responsibility to invest in a manner consistent with the witness and ethos of the Church of Ireland. This leads us to consider long term environmental, social and governance factors (ESG) when we make investment decisions, manage our investments and engage with companies in which we invest. The RCB takes the view that that this approach will also contribute positively towards the long term sustainability of the asset base.

What is ESG?



The impact of ESG on financial performance tends to emerge gradually over time. These factors can have clear, *direct* impacts on a company's short term profitability, for example, through greater regulation leading to higher operating costs. They can also have *indirect* impacts on a company's long term performance by influencing branding, customer loyalty, ability to attract talent etc.

The RCB believes that organisations which manage ESG factors effectively are likely to create sustainable value over the long term and hence are considered an essential component of investment analysis. This approach is adopted both by the in-house investment team and by any active manager appointed by the RCB.

The RCB actively seeks to avoid investment in businesses which would be inconsistent with the ethos and mission of a Christian organisation. For this reason it does not invest in companies where a significant source of revenue (in excess of 10%) is derived from strategic military sales and/or from the manufacture of tobacco products. From time to time companies may have or acquire exposure to interests which we would prefer to avoid via subsidiaries and/or takeovers and these are reviewed on a case by case basis by the Investment Committee.

Climate Change and environmental stability are recognised by the RCB as a distinct and critical ethical investment issue. The RCB is supportive of the transition to a low carbon economy and to lowering the climate change impact of its investment portfolio and will engage collaboratively to achieve progress on this topic. Investment exclusions have been implemented for companies where more than 10% of turnover is derived from the mining of thermal coal (highest carbon emissions) with a similar restriction being applied to companies involved in tar sands production. As appropriate within the context of the agreed investment strategy and risk parameters, the RCB aims to increase its exposure to green alternatives and to seek companies with good environmental policies that are committed to reducing their carbon footprint.

How is ESG implemented?

Integrate ESG into Investment Decisions	Actively Engage as Owners	Make an impact through Collaboration
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Integrate material ESG factors into due diligence, investment analysis, monitoring and asset management 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Act as a constructive, active owner by advocating progress on defined areas and exercising our voting rights as shareholders 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Collaborate with other like minded global investors via the Church Investors Group (CIG) and Institutional Investors Group on Climate Change (IIGCC) to advocate for better performance on ESG factors in companies and markets in which we invest

Companies may also be excluded from time to time because of unethical behaviour or consistent breaches of core ESG principles. Exclusion should always be a measure of last resort once the company’s will and commitment to improve its practices have been assessed.

As shareholders, we seek to be active, engaged and informed owners. We endeavour to monitor ESG factors and to engage with companies to promote improved management of ESG in order to enhance long-term outcomes in the companies for the benefit of Church of Ireland beneficiaries. Engagement is most frequently undertaken as part of a wider collaborative group through our membership of both the Church Investors Group and the Institutional Investors Group on Climate Change (IIGCC).

Third party research is used to identify companies globally that may be ineligible for investment under our policy. Such research is not exhaustive and resources are limited, but RCB is committed to having a strong ‘ethical’ as well as a strong financial ‘balance sheet’.

The Investment Committee monitors ESG issues on an on-going basis and conducts a detailed ESG review of its investments annually to ensure that the investments held for all funds remain consistent with the RCB’s ESG policy and that the investment managers continue to be sensitive to the Church’s expectations on environmental, social and governance issues in their investment decision-making process.

APPENDIX E

RCB POLICY ON CLIMATE CHANGE 2018

The RCB is supportive of public policy to support a diverse energy mix and a transition to a low carbon economy. As Christians and responsible investors, the RCB on behalf of the Church of Ireland seeks to mitigate and lower the Climate Change impact within its investment portfolios.

The RCB's investment strategy is aligned to the Church of England's investment strategy in its commitment to make the transition to a low-carbon, climate resilient and sustainable economy. Significant commitments have been made across various renewable energy investments including Wind, Solar and Forestry. The Funds have additional exposures through holdings in various Infrastructure Funds with exposure to solar and wind assets as well as individual equity holdings that contribute to environmental sustainability in various ways such as animal feed additives that reduce methane emissions in cattle, climate smart agriculture and crop nutrition.

The Investment Managers screen the portfolios at least annually from an Environmental, Social and Governance perspective and flag any issues of concern to the Investment Committee. The Investment Committee is satisfied with the overall disposition of the energy component of its portfolios and the balance between an increasing renewables exposure and a reducing fossil fuel element.

The fund's exposure to the energy sector has reduced substantially in the past 5 years and will continue to reduce over the coming years given the significant commitment to various renewable investments. Exposure of the Unit Trusts (the investment vehicles for parishes in Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland) to oil and gas producers continues to decline and now stands at less than 2.5% of fund value (from 10% at the end of 2011). The RCB acknowledges that those companies which are most exposed to and least prepared for transition to a low-carbon economy may be candidates for engagement and/or ultimately divestment.

As part of its ongoing commitment to Climate Change the RCB expanded its ESG policy in 2016 to include a restriction on companies involved in the production of tar sands in addition to the restriction on thermal coal implemented in 2015. It is expected that the Climate Change Policy will continue to evolve over time alongside its due diligence on all Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) factors with particular regard to their impact on shareholder returns. The Investment Committee will continue to seek out companies with exposure to renewable energy and commitments to reduce their carbon footprint and will undertake to review the investment case for companies that appear not to be aligned with the long-term transition to a low-carbon economy.

The RCB supports shareholder engagement in the area of environmental sustainability – it does this through its membership of the Church Investors Group (CIG) and the

The Representative Church Body – Report 2018

Institutional Investors Group on Climate Change (IIGCC), who provide investors with a collaborative platform for engagement with public policy makers and exchange of expertise on Climate Change issues. Engagement and shareholder resolutions have been undertaken with a number of companies to achieve increased transparency and reduced CO2 emissions.

The RCB joined the Climate Action 100+ initiative at the end of November 2017 as a founding signatory and supporter. The Climate Action 100+ is an investor initiative to engage with world's largest corporate Greenhouse Gas emitters (across various industries and sectors) to curb emissions, strengthen climate disclosures and improve climate governance. The initiative was officially launched on 12 December 2017 at the One Planet Paris Climate Summit with the support of 225 investors overseeing a combined \$26.3 Trillion in assets.

The RCB's investment portfolio is only an element of the wider issue of Climate Change as the Carbon footprint of the Church as a whole should be considered. Each Diocese is encouraged by the RCB to reflect on how it may contribute to a more 'Climate Friendly' community within the Church of Ireland. The RCB is committed to the principle of long term sustainability and efforts to mitigate the impact of man-made climate change.

March 2018

APPENDIX F

CHURCH OF IRELAND CLERGY DEFINED CONTRIBUTION SCHEMES (NI AND RI) – REPORTS OF THE SCHEME TRUSTEES

The Church of Ireland Clergy Defined Contribution Pension Scheme, Northern Ireland (“the Scheme”)

Background

The Scheme commenced on 1 June 2013 and is a Defined Contributions Scheme. The individual member's benefits are determined by reference to the contributions paid into the Scheme by and in respect of that member and based on the investment return on those contributions.

Management of the Scheme

Trustee Solutions Limited (TSL) is the professional independent trustee of the Scheme appointed by the Representative Church Body to carry out the purposes of the trust and represent the best interests of the beneficiaries. TSL is a wholly owned subsidiary of Pinsent Masons LLP, an international law firm.

The member's rights and obligations under the scheme are managed by the Trustee in accordance with a Definitive Deed and Rules dated 17 June 2013. The Scheme is a registered pension scheme for tax purposes under Part 4 of the Finance Act 2004.

Administration

Administration services are provided by Zurich Assurance Ltd who invests the Scheme contributions in accordance with the investment options selected by the member. Members of the Scheme receive annual benefit statements showing the value of their investment funds, together with an illustration of their benefits at normal retirement age. Members can also check how their funds are performing by logging into the Zurich member website.

Investments

Mercer Limited is appointed by the Trustee as consultant and to manage the Scheme investments. Mercer provides quarterly investment reports to the Trustee reviewing how the investments have performed over the previous quarter and since inception. To date, all of the investment funds available to members have performed in line with the appropriate benchmarks.

Governance

As part of the ongoing monitoring, auditing and assessment of Zurich's services Mercer provide quarterly operational governance reports to the Trustee. Zurich's products and services are monitored by Mercer each quarter against the required market-leading position. No issues have arisen during the ongoing monitoring and assessment of Zurich's services during the year.

Value for Members

The Trustee keeps a close eye on the Scheme to make sure it offers good value for the members, by being efficiently run and offering investments that meet members' needs. Our good value assessment is based on:

- Investment strategy, charges and current returns on investments.
- Accurate timely administration, including a move to Zurich's Corporate Savings Platform which provides new features and benefits.
- The services and benefits of Scheme membership.
- High standards of Scheme governance.
- Comparison with other Schemes where possible.

The Chair of Trustees has signed off the annual Chair's statement explaining how the Scheme meets the statutory governance requirements. This is included within the Scheme's annual report and accounts.

Trustee Solutions Limited
March 2018

The Church of Ireland Clergy Defined Contribution Pension Scheme, Republic of Ireland (“the Scheme”)

The Scheme is Defined Contribution in nature and commenced on 1 June 2013.

Irish Pensions Trust Limited (“IPT”) is the professional trustee of the Scheme.

The primary role of IPT is to ensure that the Scheme operates efficiently, the trust is executed correctly, and, at all times, act in the interests of the beneficiaries.

The Registered Administrator of the Scheme is Zurich Life. Mercer Ireland is the consultant and investment advisor. PricewaterhouseCoopers audit the financial statements.

The Revenue Approval Number is SF – 3946 and the Pensions Board reference number is PB – 269291

At the end of the last reporting period (31 May 2017) the Scheme had 190 active members and 21 deferred members. The value of the assets at that date was € 6.133m (€4.163m at 31/5/2016) and the Scheme was compliant with all Revenue and Pensions Act (as amended) requirements.

Irish Pensions Trust Limited
March 2018

The Representative Church Body – Report 2018

APPENDIX G

THE CHURCH OF IRELAND

CLERGY PENSIONS TRUSTEE DAC

REPORT ON THE CLERGY PENSIONS FUND

FOR THE

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2017

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THE TRUSTEE AND ITS ADVISORS

Trustee	The Church of Ireland Clergy Pensions Trustee Designated Activity Company
Registered Office	Church of Ireland House, Church Avenue, Rathmines, Dublin 6 Tel 01-4978422 Email pensionstrustee@rcbdub.org Web www.ireland.anglican.org/clergypensions Company Registered in Ireland No 492302 The Representative Church Body is the sole member of the Company.
Trustee Directors	<i>Nominated by the RCB Executive Committee</i> Mr Terence Forsyth Mr Richard Milliken Mr Geoffrey Perrin* <i>Nominated by the Church of Ireland Pensions Board</i> Rt Rev Dr Paul Colton Mr Bruce Maxwell (Chair)
Company Secretary	Mr David Ritchie, Chief Officer and Secretary, Representative Church Body
Fund Management and Advisory	The Representative Church Body, Church of Ireland House, Church Avenue, Rathmines, Dublin 6
Investment Managers	The Representative Church Body (<i>address as above</i>) Irish Life Investment Managers, Beresford Court, Dublin 1
Investment Custodians	RCB – Northern Trust, Canary Wharf, London E14 5NT ILIM – Citibank, 1 North Wall Quay, Dublin 1
Scheme Actuary	Mr Liam Quigley, Mercer, Charlotte House, Charlemont Street, Dublin 2
Consulting Actuaries	Mercer Actuarial Services, Charlotte House, Charlemont Street, Dublin 2
Auditors	PricewaterhouseCoopers, Chartered Accountants and Registered Auditors, Spencer Dock, Dublin 1
Solicitor	Mr Mark McWha, Senior Solicitor, Representative Church Body
Bankers	Bank of Ireland, College Green, Dublin 2 Bank of Ireland, Talbot Street, Dublin 1
Sponsor	The Representative Church Body, Church of Ireland House, Church Avenue, Rathmines, Dublin 6
Registered Administrator	The Representative Church Body, Church of Ireland House, Church Avenue, Rathmines, Dublin 6
Enquiries	The Company Secretary, Church of Ireland Clergy Pensions Trustee DAC, Church of Ireland House, Church Avenue, Rathmines, Dublin 6

The Clergy Pensions Fund is Pensions Authority Scheme no PB1667.

* retired on 31 December 2017 and succeeded by Mr Nigel Bell from 1 January 2018

INTRODUCTION

The Trustee presents its annual report on the operation of the Clergy Pensions Fund for the year ended 31 December 2017. The report covers the main areas of Fund activity including financial statements, actuarial and investment management, and also looks at developments during the year. The content of this report conforms to the Occupational Pensions Schemes (Disclosure of Information) Regulations, 2006 prescribed by the Minister for Social Protection under the Pensions Act 1990.

OPERATIONAL REPORT 2017

Financial position of the Fund

Year on year there was a small increase in the Fund assets with a closing value of €173.9m, having met benefit payments of €6.8m together with administrative and other costs of €0.2m.

Contributions to the Fund in the year were €2.4m, being the total value of diocesan pension levies and a contribution from the RCB. Investment return, including income and realised and unrealised investment gains, totalled €7.8m net of investment management expenses. The Fund is managed with the objective of meeting the cost of future liabilities from a combination of contributions, income and growth in investment value.

The Fund performance in the year contributed a total return of 4.7% against a benchmark return of 3.2%.

The referenced Government bond yields (French and UK) fell slightly in 2017 thereby increasing the liabilities of the Fund. However, long-term yields across Europe are artificially depressed by the actions of the European Central Bank (ECB). If Europe follows the path of the US, and allows a gradual return to more normal monetary conditions, then yields will rise and fund liabilities fall.

The development of the Fund is monitored by the Actuary and a full valuation is carried out at intervals of not more than three years and the final results presented to the Trustee. The last completed triennial valuation was as at 30 September 2015. This was the first full valuation since a Funding Proposal was agreed with the Pensions Authority in 2013, in response to the result of the previous triennial valuation which showed that the Fund did not satisfy the Minimum Funding Standard under Section 44 of the Pensions Act. The overall objective of the Funding Proposal is to restore the solvency of the Fund by 2023 through the implementation of a series of funding and cost saving initiatives.

In the 2015 triennial valuation the Actuary confirmed that the Fund did not satisfy the Minimum Funding Standard. Although there had been some improvement in the funding position this was not sufficient to warrant any change in the measures taken under the Funding Proposal. The next triennial valuation is due to take place in 2018.

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The Actuary is also required to undertake an annual assessment of the Fund. He has stated as at 31 December 2017 that he is “reasonably satisfied that the current Funding Proposal remains on track to achieve its objective” of solvency by 2023.

A summary of the key elements of the Funding Proposal is contained in Annex 2 to this report (page 142).

Copies of the Actuarial Funding Certificate and Funding Standard Reserve Certificate as submitted to the Pensions Authority following the most recent triennial valuation are included as Annex 3 to this report (page 143).

A copy of the Actuary’s Statement as at 31 December 2017 is included as Annex 4 (page 146).

Administrative duties

The Trustee is pleased to report that the Fund has been administered in accordance with all regulatory requirements during the year. Various duties in relation to the operation of the Fund were carried out during 2017 by the RCB administration department, the Church of Ireland Pensions Board and the RCB Investment Committee. The Trustee wishes to thank each of these for their assistance and support in its management of the Fund.

Membership

Details on the membership of the Fund are reported by the Church of Ireland Pensions Board in Annex 1 to this report (see page 136). The Fund was closed to new members and to future accruals of pensionable service on 31 May 2013.

Discretionary increases to pensions in payment

In accordance with the Rules of the scheme, annual discretionary increases to pensions in payment are permitted up to a maximum of 5% as the Trustee, on the advice of the Actuary and with the approval of the RCB, may determine. In view of the solvency position of the Fund and in accordance with the current Funding Proposal it was agreed during 2017 that no discretionary increases in pensions in payment be applied in 2018.

Pensionable Stipend

Pensionable Stipend is used to calculate the value of pension benefits payable. In accordance with the provisions of Chapter XIV of the *Constitution of the Church of Ireland*, levels of Pensionable Stipend for Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland are fixed annually by the Standing Committee on the recommendation of the Representative Church Body and the Trustee.

In accordance with the Funding Proposal for the Fund, it was agreed by the Standing Committee in September 2017, on the recommendation of the RCB and the Trustee, that Pensionable Stipend levels with effect from 1 January 2018 should remain unchanged from 2017 at £25,498 per annum in Northern Ireland and €36,219 per annum in the Republic of Ireland.

Statutory increases in UK pensions for service post April 1997

Under UK pensions legislation statutory increases must be applied to a pension which relates to service completed in that jurisdiction for the period (i) 6 April 1997 to 5 April 2005 or normal retirement age, if earlier, by the annualised rate of inflation up to a maximum of 5% and (ii) 6 April 2005 to date of retirement, whether that be on or before normal retirement age, by the annualised rate of inflation up to a maximum of 2.5%.

The UK annualised rate of inflation to September 2017 was 3%, therefore increases were applied on 1 January 2018 to the service periods outlined under both (i) and (ii) in the previous paragraphs.

There is no similar pensions legislation in the Republic of Ireland.

Deferred pensions

Deferred pensions are revalued in accordance with the relevant statutory provisions.

Additional Voluntary Contributions (AVC) fund

The report on the AVC Fund for 2017 is contained in the report from the Church of Ireland Pensions Board, set out in Annex 1 to this report (see page 138).

CONSTITUTION AND GOVERNANCE OF THE FUND

The Clergy Pensions Fund is a defined benefit scheme and is established under Chapter XIV of the *Constitution of the Church of Ireland* as amended from time to time by the General Synod.

The Fund has been approved by the Revenue Commissioners as a retirement benefits scheme under Part 30, Chapter I of the Taxes Consolidation Act, 1997, and is treated as an ‘exempt approved scheme’ for the purposes of that Act. In addition, the Fund, has been approved by the Board of the Inland Revenue of the United Kingdom as a retirement benefits scheme for the purposes of Chapter I, Part XIV, Income and Corporation Taxes Act 1988 and is treated as an ‘exempt approved scheme’ for the purposes of Section 592 of that Act in relation to its provision of pension benefits to those members of the clergy who are living in Northern Ireland.

The Trustee

The Church of Ireland Clergy Pensions Trustee Designated Activity Company is the sole Trustee of the Church of Ireland Clergy Pensions Fund and is responsible for the stewardship of the Fund assets in accordance with the provisions of Chapter XIV of the *Constitution of the Church of Ireland* (the Trust Deed and Rules of the Fund).

The powers and duties of the Trustee are set out in section 12(1) of Chapter XIV. In accordance with the provisions of Chapter XIV certain duties have been delegated by the Trustee to the Representative Church Body, the Church of Ireland Pensions Board and

The Representative Church Body – Report 2018

the RB Investment Committee. The Statement of the Trustee’s Responsibilities in relation to the financial statements is set out on page 122.

The Trustee Directors are appointed by the Representative Church Body, in accordance with the Articles of the company, on the nomination of the Church of Ireland Pensions Board and the Executive Committee of the Representative Church Body. Mr DG Perrin retired from office on 31 December 2017 in accordance with the Articles and Mr NS Bell was appointed a Director with effect from 1 January 2018.

The Trustee Directors and the administrators have access to a copy of the Trustee Handbook and Guidance notes issued by the Pensions Authority. The Trustee Directors have completed appropriate training for their duties and responsibilities. No costs or expenses were incurred by the Fund in respect of Trustee Director training during the year.

Management and administration of the Fund

The Representative Church Body was appointed by the Trustee as the Registered Administrator for the Fund. The duties of a registered administrator include preparing the Trustee Annual Report and Accounts, which should include at least the specific information set out in the regulations to the Pensions Act, and providing annual benefit statements to members. In addition to this, the RCB provides administration relating to investments, benefits and accounting controls.

The Church of Ireland Pensions Board also carries out certain duties relating to the administration of the Fund as delegated to the Board by the Trustee in accordance with the provisions of Chapter XIV of the *Constitution of the Church of Ireland*. A report from the Board is included in Annex 1 to this report (page 135).

Actuarial advice is provided by Mercer Actuarial Services, Dublin.

The RCB in-house investment team take overall responsibility for investment management, using Irish Life Investment Managers (ILIM) for the passive management of a proportion of the Fund (44% at year end 2017). Investment management is undertaken by investment managers in accordance with a formal fund management agreement. The costs in relation to administration, administrative actuarial advice and investment management are charged to the Fund.

During the year ended 31 December 2017 Northern Trust was the custodian of most of the funds managed by the RCB for the Fund, and Citibank was the custodian of the unit-linked funds held by Irish Life Investment Managers (ILIM) for the Fund. In addition to the records maintained by the custodians, ILIM maintains its own records of securities, and these securities are held beneficially in the name of Irish Life Assurance plc on behalf of the Trustee of the Fund.

Statement of Risk

Under law, the Trustee is required to describe the condition of the Fund and the risks associated with the Fund, and disclose these to members.

The Trustee is satisfied that it is taking all reasonable steps, including the appointment of experienced professional advisers and administrators, to protect the members of the Fund from the effects of these risks. However, it is not possible to guard against every eventuality, and it is necessary to take some investment risk and other risks in order to manage the affordability of the plan benefits and the capacity of the Sponsor and the Church to meet this commitment.

The full risk statement, which was last updated in 2015 and is reviewed annually, can be found in Annex 5 to this report (page 147).

Investment policy

The investment objective of the Fund is to optimise returns while meeting the future liabilities of the Fund over the long term through diversified portfolios of fixed interest, equity, property and cash holdings. The Trustee reviews investment objectives to ensure that they remain appropriate to the profile of the Fund.

The investment policy for the management of the assets of the Fund is set out in a Statement of Investment Policy Principles (SIPP), which was last updated in 2015 and is reviewed annually, and can be found at Annex 6 (page 149).

Following the closure of the Fund to new members and to future benefit accrual, agreed at General Synod 2013, a revised investment strategy was adopted by the Trustee. This was done in consultation with the Sponsor and having taken expert investment and actuarial advice, in order to satisfy the Funding Proposal agreed with the Pensions Authority.

A proportion of the equity and fixed interest elements of the Clergy Pensions Fund is managed by Irish Life Investment Managers on an indexed (passive) basis replicating the performance of particular indices. The balance of the Fund is managed by the RCB's in-house investment team according to the investment strategy adopted by the Trustee. Certain equities are excluded in accordance with the Representative Church Body's Environmental, Social and Governance Policy.

Internal Dispute Resolution

Under Irish pensions legislation all pension schemes are required to have an Internal Dispute Resolution (IDR) Procedure. Disputes arising in connection with the administration of a pension scheme may not be brought to the Pensions Ombudsman unless they have, in the first instance, been processed through that scheme's IDR Procedure.

The trustees of every occupational pension scheme are required to establish internal procedures for resolution of disputes and to set out certain steps which must be included in those procedures. The Trustee has put in place such an IDR Procedure, which was last updated in 2015 and is reviewed annually. The Procedure is available at www.ireland.anglican.org/clergypensions or from the Pensions Administration Manager.

Member information

An Explanatory Booklet, designed to give a broad outline of the Fund and the benefits provided, is available to any member on request from the Pensions Administration Manager.

Benefit Statements as at 31 May are issued annually to all Fund members.

Further information

Queries about the Fund generally, or about individual members' entitlements should be directed to The Pensions Administration Manager, Church of Ireland House, Church Avenue, Rathmines, Dublin 6 (email pensions@rcbdub.org, tel +353-(0)1-4125630).

Copies of Chapter XIV of the *Constitution of the Church of Ireland*, which constitutes the Trust Deed and Rules, can be obtained at www.ireland.anglican.org/clergypensions or from the Pensions Administration Manager.

Financial statements

The financial statements of the Clergy Pensions Fund are set out in the following pages.

THE CHURCH OF IRELAND CLERGY PENSIONS FUND

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS – PAGE 1

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2017

THE CHURCH OF IRELAND CLERGY PENSIONS FUND

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2017

PAGE 2

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THE CHURCH OF IRELAND CLERGY PENSIONS FUND

TRUSTEE AND ADVISORS AND OTHER INFORMATION

PAGE 3

Trustee

The Church of Ireland Clergy Pensions Trustee DAC
Church of Ireland House
Church Avenue
Rathmines
Dublin 6

Actuaries

Mercer Actuarial Services
Charlotte House
Charlemont Street
Dublin 2

Auditors

PricewaterhouseCoopers
Chartered Accountants and Registered Auditors
One Spencer Dock
North Wall Quay
Dublin 1

Investment Managers

The Representative Church Body
Church of Ireland House
Church Avenue
Rathmines
Dublin 6

Irish Life Investment Managers
Beresford Court
Dublin 1

Sponsor

The Representative Church Body
Church of Ireland House
Church Avenue
Rathmines
Dublin 6

Solicitors

Mr Mark McWha
Senior Solicitor
The Representative Church Body

THE CHURCH OF IRELAND CLERGY PENSIONS FUND

STATEMENT OF THE TRUSTEE'S RESPONSIBILITIES

PAGE 4

The financial statements are the responsibility of the Trustee. Irish pensions legislation requires the Trustee to make available for each scheme year the annual report of the scheme, including audited financial statements and the report of the auditor. The financial statements are required to show a true and fair view, in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Practice in Ireland, of the financial transactions for the scheme year and the asset and liabilities (other than liabilities to pay benefits in the future) at the end of the scheme year and include a statement whether the financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice - Financial Reports of Pension Schemes (revised December 2014) (SORP), subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements.

Accordingly, the Trustee must ensure that in the preparation of the scheme financial statements:

- suitable accounting policies are selected and then applied consistently;
- reasonable and prudent judgements and estimates are made; and
- the SORP is followed, or particulars of any material departures are disclosed and explained.

The Trustee confirms that it has complied with the above requirements in preparing the financial statements.

The Trustee is required by law to have appropriate procedures in place throughout the year under review, to ensure that:

- contributions payable are received by the Trustee in accordance with the timetable set out in section 58A of the Act where applicable to the contributions and otherwise within 30 days of the end of the scheme year; and
- contributions payable are paid in accordance with the rules of the Fund.

During the year such procedures were always applied on a timely basis and contributions have been paid in accordance with the rules.

The Trustee is responsible for ensuring that proper membership and financial records are kept on a timely basis sufficient to enable an Annual Report to be prepared for the scheme containing the information specified in Regulation 7 of the Occupational Pension Schemes (Disclosure of Information) Regulations 2006. It is also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the pension scheme and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities, including the maintenance of an appropriate system of internal control.



Independent auditors' report to the trustee of the Church of Ireland Clergy Pensions Fund

Report on the audit of the financial statements

Opinion

In our opinion, the Church of Ireland Clergy Pensions Fund's financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the financial transactions of the scheme during the year ended 31 December 2017 and of the amount and disposition of the assets and liabilities (other than liabilities to pay pensions and other benefits in the future) at that date; and
- have been properly prepared in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Practice in Ireland (accounting standards issued by the Financial Reporting Council of the UK, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland and promulgated by the Institute of Chartered Accountants in Ireland and Irish law).

We have audited the financial statements, included within the Annual Report, which comprise:

- the statement of net assets as at 31 December 2017;
- the fund account for the year then ended;
- the accounting policies; and
- the notes to the financial statements.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (Ireland) ("ISAs (Ireland)") and applicable law.

Our responsibilities under ISAs (Ireland) are further described in the Auditors' responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Independence

We remained independent of the scheme in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in Ireland, which includes IAASA's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements.

Conclusions relating to going concern

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which ISAs (Ireland) require us to report to you where:

- the trustee's use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is not appropriate; or
- the trustee has not disclosed in the financial statements any identified material uncertainties that may cast significant doubt about the scheme's ability to continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting for a period of at least twelve months from the date when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

However, because not all future events or conditions can be predicted, this statement is not a guarantee as to the scheme's ability to continue as a going concern.



Reporting on other information

The other information comprises all of the information in the Annual Report other than the financial statements and our auditors' report thereon. The trustee is responsible for the other information. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, accordingly, we do not express an audit opinion or, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in this report, any form of assurance thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify an apparent material inconsistency or material misstatement, we are required to perform procedures to conclude whether there is a material misstatement of the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report based on these responsibilities.

Responsibilities for the financial statements and the audit

Responsibilities of the trustee for the financial statements

As explained more fully in the statement of trustee's responsibilities set out on page 4, the trustee is responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the applicable framework and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view.

The trustee is also responsible for such internal control as the trustee determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error. The trustee is also responsible for ensuring that contributions are made to the scheme in accordance with the scheme's rules.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustee is responsible for assessing the scheme's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustee either intends to wind up the scheme or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditors' responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditors' report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (Ireland) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Irish Auditing and Accounting Supervisory Authority website at: https://www.iaasa.ie/getmedia/b2389013-1cf6-458b-9b8f-a98202d9c3a/Description_of_auditors_responsibilities_for_audit.pdf.

This description forms part of our auditors' report.

Use of this report

This report, including the opinions, has been prepared for and only for the trustee as a body in accordance with section 56 of the Pensions Act 1990, as amended and for no other purpose. We do not, in giving these opinions, accept or assume responsibility for any other purpose or to any other person to whom this report is shown or into whose hands it may come save where expressly agreed by our prior consent in writing.



Other required reporting

Occupational Pension Schemes (Disclosure of Information) Regulations, 2006

In our opinion:

- The financial statements include the information specified in Schedule A to the Occupational Pension Schemes (Disclosure of Information) Regulations, 2006 which is applicable and material to the scheme;
- the contributions payable to the scheme during the year ended 31 December 2017 have been received by the trustee within thirty days of the end of the scheme year; and
- such contributions have been paid in accordance with the rules of the scheme.

PricewaterhouseCoopers
PricewaterhouseCoopers
Chartered Accountants and Statutory Audit Firm
Dublin
16 March 2018

THE CHURCH OF IRELAND CLERGY PENSIONS FUND

ACCOUNTING POLICIES

PAGE 8

The significant accounting policies adopted by the Trustee are as follows:

(i) Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with The Occupational Pension Schemes (Disclosure of Information) Regulations (2006), and the guidelines set out in the Statement of Recommended Practice, Financial Reports of Pensions Schemes (Revised December 2014).

(ii) Investments

A proportion of the invested assets is managed by Irish Life Investment Managers and is held in unitised funds. This fund tracks a range of published equity and bond indices. The value of the units at the year end reflects the relative performance of these indices and the value of the relevant underlying stocks. The balance of funds are managed by the Representative Church Body. The split of the invested assets is shown in Note 6 to these accounts.

(iii) Investment Income

The invested assets managed by Irish Life Investment Managers are held in unitised funds. The income is attributed to the funds as it arises and is not separately reported. Income from directly held assets under Representative Church Body management is paid to the Fund and accounted for in the period.

(iv) Financial Risk

The Trustee is responsible for managing financial risk arising in connection with the invested assets of the Fund. This responsibility is discharged through the diversification of the investment portfolio across sectors and geographies and focus on established stocks quoted on published exchanges.

(v) Foreign Currencies

Balances and transactions denominated in foreign currencies have been translated into euro at the rate of exchange ruling at the year end. (2017 €1 = £0.8881; 2016 €1 = £0.8535).

(vi) Benefits

The pension benefits are secured by contributions to a separately administered defined benefits scheme in accordance with the provisions of Chapter XIV of the *Constitution of the Church of Ireland* as amended from time to time by the General Synod. Benefits are accounted for in the year in which they fall due. Liabilities to pay pensions and other benefits in the future are not accrued.

THE CHURCH OF IRELAND CLERGY PENSIONS FUND

ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

PAGE 9

(vii) Contributions

Normal contributions from the dioceses/parishes are accounted for on an accruals basis. Augmentation contributions are accounted for in accordance with the agreement under which they are paid, or in the absence of such an agreement, when received.

(viii) Transfers to and from other Schemes

Transfer values represent the capital sums either receivable in respect of members from other pension schemes of previous employers, or payable to the pension schemes of new employers for members who have left the Scheme. They are accounted for on a cash basis or, where the Trustee has agreed to accept the liability in advance of receipt of funds, on an accruals basis from the date of the agreement.

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THE CHURCH OF IRELAND CLERGY PENSIONS FUND

STATEMENT OF NET ASSETS

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2017

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

PAGE 11

CONSOLIDATED FUND

	Notes	2017 €'000	2016 €'000
INVESTMENT ASSETS	6	<u>173,650</u>	<u>170,178</u>
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash due from the Representative Church Body		229	487
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Creditors		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
NET CURRENT ASSETS		<u>229</u>	<u>487</u>
NET ASSETS		<u><u>173,879</u></u>	<u><u>170,665</u></u>

Signed on behalf of the Trustee: WP Colton

NS Bell

Date:

13 March 2018

THE CHURCH OF IRELAND CLERGY PENSIONS FUND

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

PAGE 12

1 FUND STATUS

The Clergy Pensions Fund, which is a defined benefit scheme, is established under Chapter XIV of the *Constitution of the Church of Ireland* as amended from time to time by the General Synod. The Fund has been approved by the Revenue Commissioners as a retirement benefits scheme under Part 30, Chapter I of the Taxes Consolidation Act, 1997, and is treated as an 'exempt approved scheme' for the purposes of that Act. In addition, the Fund has been approved by the Board of the Inland Revenue of the United Kingdom as a retirement benefits scheme for the purposes of Chapter I, Part XIV, Income and Corporation Taxes Act 1988 and is treated as an 'exempt approved scheme' for the purposes of Section 592 of that Act in relation to its provision of pension benefits to those members of the clergy who are living in Northern Ireland.

The Fund closed to new entrants and to future accruals as at 31 May 2013. A Funding Proposal to bring the Fund back to full solvency was submitted to and accepted by the Pensions Authority in 2013. The Funding Proposal included revenue to be raised through the introduction of a levy of 13% of Minimum Approved Stipend, to be collected through the dioceses.

2 FORMAT OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The financial statements summarise the transactions and net assets of the scheme. They do not take account of liabilities to pay pensions and other benefits expected to become payable in the future. The actuarial position of the Fund, which takes account of such obligations, is dealt with in the Trustee's report, the actuarial funding certificate and the actuary's annual certificate within this report, and these financial statements should be read in conjunction with them.

3 SUMMARY OF CONTRIBUTIONS

	2017	2016
	€'000	€'000
Diocesan levies	2,304	2,335
Representative Church Body	<u>91</u>	<u>93</u>
Total	<u>2,395</u>	<u>2,428</u>

The value of Northern Ireland contributions in sterling is £1.08m (2016: £1.09m) and was translated to euro at the year end rate of 0.8881 (2016: 0.8535).

The value of Republic of Ireland contributions is €1.17m (2016: €1.15m).

THE CHURCH OF IRELAND CLERGY PENSIONS FUND

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - CONTINUED

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

PAGE 13

4 BENEFITS PAID

	2017	2016
	€'000	€'000
Pensions to retired bishops and clergy	4,483	4,605
Pensions to surviving spouses and orphans	2,177	2,300
Commutation of pensions	133	145
Death benefits	-	245
Total	<u>6,793</u>	<u>7,295</u>

The cost of Northern Ireland benefits in sterling is £3.21m (2016: £3.45m). This cost excludes administration charges and the pension levy.

The cost of Republic of Ireland benefits in euro is €3.18m (2016: €3.25m). This cost excludes administration charges and the pension levy.

5 ANALYSIS OF INVESTMENT INCOME

	2017	2016
	€'000	€'000
Investment income	2,593	2,285
Interest	21	33
Miscellaneous trust income	6	4
Securities Lending	1	1
Total	<u>2,621</u>	<u>2,323</u>

The investment income above relates to the income paid to the Clergy Pensions Fund by investments managed by the Representative Church Body (RCB). The balance of the funds is held in a unitised fund passively managed by Irish Life Investment Managers (ILIM). The income on these funds is reinvested in the fund and is not separately reported.

THE CHURCH OF IRELAND CLERGY PENSIONS FUND**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - CONTINUED****FINANCIAL STATEMENTS****PAGE 14**

	2017		2016	
	Market Value €'000	% of Fund	Market Value €'000	% of Fund
6 INVESTED ASSETS				
ILIM managed				
Equities				
UK	15,946	9.2%	17,114	10.1%
Europe ex UK	15,833	9.1%	15,284	9.0%
Global	15,363	8.8%	15,260	9.0%
Bonds				
European	13,365	7.7%	16,294	9.6%
UK	15,212	8.8%	14,913	8.8%
	<u>75,719</u>	<u>43.6%</u>	<u>78,865</u>	<u>46.4%</u>
In-house managed				
Property	13,868	8.0%	13,165	7.7%
Bonds and Bond Substitutes	41,644	24.0%	34,184	20.1%
Equities	18,216	10.5%	13,858	8.1%
Other	11,355	6.5%	10,818	6.4%
Cash on deposit	12,848	7.4%	19,288	11.3%
	<u>97,931</u>	<u>56.4%</u>	<u>91,313</u>	<u>53.7%</u>
	<u><u>173,650</u></u>	<u><u>100.0%</u></u>	<u><u>170,178</u></u>	<u><u>100.0%</u></u>

THE CHURCH OF IRELAND CLERGY PENSIONS FUND

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - CONTINUED

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

PAGE 15

7 CONTINGENT LIABILITIES

As stated in the accounting policies on page 8 of the Financial Statements, liabilities to pay pensions and other benefits in the future have not been taken into account. On that basis, in the opinion of the Trustee the scheme had no contingent liabilities at 31 December 2017.

8 ADMINISTRATIVE AND INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT EXPENSES

The costs of investment management and administration are substantially borne by the Fund. The balance of these costs is borne by the Sponsor.

9 RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

- (a) The Trustee: The Trustee of the Fund is as set out on page 3 of the Financial Statements.
- (b) Remuneration of the Trustee: The Trustee does not receive and is not due any remuneration from the Fund in connection with its responsibilities as Trustee.
- (c) Sponsor: The Representative Church Body acts as the Sponsor for the Clergy Pensions Fund. Contributions to the scheme are made in accordance with funding arrangements agreed with the Actuary from time to time.
- (d) The Administrator: The Representative Church Body is the Registered Administrator of the scheme and is remunerated on a fee basis.
- (e) The Investment Manager: Irish Life Investment Managers and the Representative Church Body were appointed by the Trustee to manage the Fund's assets. Irish Life Investment Managers is remunerated on a fee basis calculated as a percentage of the assets under management. These fees are borne by the fund.

THE CHURCH OF IRELAND CLERGY PENSIONS FUND

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - CONTINUED

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

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	2017 €'000	2016 €'000
10 SUB DIVISIONS		
REPUBLIC OF IRELAND		
Contributions	1,174	1,152
Net benefits and other payments	(3,335)	(3,407)
Net transfer between sub divisions	(485)	(2,280)
Net (decrease)	(2,646)	(4,535)
Net returns on investments	3,973	2,580
Balance 1 January	83,611	85,566
	<u>84,938</u>	<u>83,611</u>
NORTHERN IRELAND		
Contributions	1,221	1,276
Net benefits and other payments	(3,615)	(4,041)
Net transfer between sub divisions	485	2,280
Net (decrease)	(1,909)	(485)
Net returns on investments	3,796	2,412
Balance 1 January	87,054	85,127
	<u>88,941</u>	<u>87,054</u>
CONSOLIDATED FUND		
Contributions	2,395	2,428
Net benefits and other payments	(6,950)	(7,448)
Net (decrease)	(4,555)	(5,020)
Net returns on investments	7,769	4,992
Balance 1 January	170,665	170,693
	<u>173,879</u>	<u>170,665</u>

11 APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The financial statements were approved by the Trustee on 13 March 2018.

ANNEX 1

**REPORT OF THE CHURCH OF IRELAND PENSIONS BOARD
TO THE CHURCH OF IRELAND CLERGY PENSIONS TRUSTEE DAC**

Members/Meetings of the Board

There were three meetings of the Board in 2017, two prior to and one after the General Synod.

Elected by the House of Bishops

Rt Rev John McDowell (0)

Elected by the General Synod

Canon Lady Sheil (3)

Rev John Auchmuty (2)

Mrs Cynthia Cherry (3)

Elected by the Representative Church Body

Mrs Judith Peters (2)

Mr Geoffrey Perrin (2)

Mr Owen Driver (3)

Chairperson – Canon Lady Sheil

Vice-Chairperson – Mr Geoffrey Perrin

Honorary Secretary – Rt Rev John McDowell

Pensions Administration Manager – Mr Peter Connor

Grants Committee

Canon Lady Sheil

Mrs Judith Peters

Rev John Auchmuty

Office: Church of Ireland House
Church Avenue
Rathmines
Dublin 6

Tel no (+3531) 4978422
Fax no (+3531) 4978821
Email pensions@rcbdub.org

1. INTRODUCTION

Under section 22(3) of Chapter XIV of the *Constitution of the Church of Ireland* the Trustee has delegated to the Church of Ireland Pensions Board (“the Board”) certain of the duties as set out in section 22(1) of the said Chapter including those relating to membership, contributions and benefits. This report summarises statistical data in relation to those matters.

The Report of the Church of Ireland Pensions Board on other funds administered by it, as delegated by the Representative Church Body (RCB), is found in Appendix H to the Report of the RCB (*Church of Ireland General Synod Reports 2018*, page 152).

2. MEMBERSHIP OF THE BOARD

The Board consists of seven members who are elected triennially in accordance with Section 25 of Chapter XIV of the *Constitution*.

3. MEMBERSHIP OF THE FUND

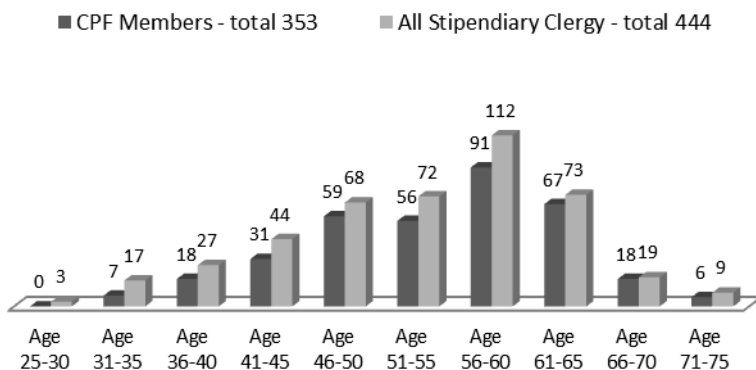
The table below shows the movement during the year across the various membership categories. The accompanying graph shows the age profile of the active members.

	Active members	Deferred members	Pensioners	Spouses on pension
At 1 January 2017	370	112	293	191
Leavers with deferred benefits	(6)	6	-	-
Leavers taking benefits elsewhere	-	-	-	-
Deaths before retirement	-	-	-	-
Retirements on pension	(12)	(8)	20	-
Returned to active service	1	-	(1)	
Deaths on pension	-	-	(14)	(19)
New spouses' pensions	-	-	-	10
At 31 December 2017	353	110	298	182 ¹

In addition there were 12 child dependency allowances in payment at 31 December 2017 (12 at 31 December 2016).

¹ The total of 182 includes 6 widows of members who either retired or died before 1976 and 7 widows of voluntary members.

The Representative Church Body – Report 2018



Age distribution of stipendiary clergy

There are five clergy who commenced in the stipendiary ministry before 31 May 2013 who are not members of the Fund having sought and been granted exemption on entering service and there is one who elected to leave the Fund and make independent pension arrangements.

4. RETIREMENT AGE

The revised Normal Retirement Age (NRA) from 1 June 2013 (for contributing members of the Fund as at 31 May 2013) is in accordance with the following table:

Date of birth	Normal Retirement Age	Number of members in each retirement age category at 31 December 2017
31 May 1949 and before	65	10
1 June 1949 to 31 May 1954	66	40
1 June 1954 to 31 May 1959	67	78
1 June 1959 and after	68	225

Members who joined/re-joined the Fund on or after 1 January 2009 have an NRA of not less than 67.

Under statutory pension regulations Deferred Members will retain the NRA applicable at their date of leaving the service of the Church of Ireland.

5. PENSIONS IN PAYMENT

The annualised pensions etc in payment at 1 January 2018 are:

	€		£
Clergy	2,016,544	and	2,234,401
Surviving spouses and orphans	1,100,265	and	898,674
	3,116,809	and	3,133,075

The total annualised pensions in payment translated to euro at the year end exchange rate of 0.8881 are €6,644,649.

6. CONTRIBUTIONS

A contribution from central funds amounting to €91,493 was made during the year in accordance with Section 37 of Chapter XIV of the *Constitution of the Church of Ireland*.

7. LUMP SUM BENEFITS

Under the provisions of the Fund a cash lump sum is payable in a number of eventualities. During 2017 lump sums totalling €62,400 and £63,200 became payable in respect of 6 members as follows:

Died in service (0); died within five years following retirement (0); paid on retirement (6); deferred pension (0).

8. EXTERNAL CONTACTS FOR INFORMATION AND SUPPORT

The Board has compiled a guide towards external sources of information and help to assist chaplains who support retired clergy and surviving spouses. A copy of the guide is available on request from the Pensions Administration Manager (email pensions@rcbdub.org).

9. ADDITIONAL PERSONAL CONTRIBUTIONS (APCs)

With the closing of the Clergy Pensions Fund to future accruals on 31 May 2013, the additional service which members were purchasing to give them up to a maximum of 40 years' service at normal retirement age was recalculated to reflect the service purchased to 31 May 2013.

There remain 75 members in active service who purchased additional service to 31 May 2013.

10. ADDITIONAL VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS (AVCS)

Members of the Church of Ireland Clergy Pensions Fund are permitted to make Additional Voluntary Contributions (AVC) which are invested with the Standard Life

The Representative Church Body – Report 2018

Assurance Company to provide additional benefits within the overall limits allowed by the Revenue authorities.

AVCs are unaffected by the closure of the Clergy Pensions Fund to future accruals.

Copies of the Regulations and explanatory memorandum in relation to AVCs may be obtained on request from the Pensions Administration Manager.

(i) Membership of the AVC Fund as at 31 December 2017

	Membership 31/12/16	New Contributors	Death in Service	Fund Transfers	Retired	Membership 31/12/17
RI	18	0	0	1	4	13
NI	<u>3</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>3</u>
Total	21	0	0	1	4	16
Previous Year	24	0	0	1	2	21

Standard Life is the provider of the AVC facility. Contributions may be invested with them in a range of Funds as provided by the Tower Pension Series for those contributors who reside in the Republic of Ireland or the Castle Pension Series for those contributors who reside in Northern Ireland.

(ii) AVC Fund Statement of Contributions

	2017 €'000	2016 €'000
Contributions received	11	31
Less paid on retirement or death	(276)	(201)
Less transfers to Clergy DC Scheme	(187)	(10)
Realised Gain on retirement and transfers to the Clergy DC Scheme	188	49
	<u>(264)</u>	<u>(131)</u>
Balance 1 January	471	607
Currency Translation Adjustment	(1)	(5)
Balance 31 December	<u><u>206</u></u>	<u><u>471</u></u>

NOTES

1. A resolution adopted by the General Synod on 12 May 2012 transferred the role of trustee from the Representative Body to the Church of Ireland Clergy Pensions Trustee DAC.
2. Under the Scheme members are permitted to make voluntary contributions which are invested with the Standard Life Assurance Company to provide additional benefits within the overall limits allowed by the Revenue authorities. The balance at the year end represents the net accumulation of members' contributions which have been transferred to the Standard Life Assurance Company by the Trustee. The value of the investments underlying these contributions is not reflected in the statement.
3. Sterling balances and transactions have been translated to euro at the rate of exchange ruling at 31 December 2017 €1 = £0.8881 (2016 €1 = £0.8535).

The Representative Church Body – Report 2018



The Church of Ireland Clergy Pension Trustee Limited
Representative Church Body
Church of Ireland House
Church Avenue
Rathmines

16 March 2018

Dear Sirs

Chartered Accountants' report on the unaudited financial information of the Church of Ireland Clergy Pensions Fund Additional Voluntary Contributions

In accordance with our engagement letter dated 20 November 2017 we have compiled the entity's financial information which comprises the Statement of Contributions from the accounting records and information and explanations you have given us.

The financial information has been compiled on the basis set out in the accounting policies set out in the financial information.

This report is made to you in accordance with the terms of our engagement. Our work has been undertaken so that we might compile the financial information that we have been engaged to compile, for management purposes. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than you for our work or for this report.

We have carried out this engagement in accordance with technical guidance in M48 'Chartered Accountants' Reports on the Compilation of Historical Financial Information of Unincorporated Entities' issued by the Institute of Chartered Accountants in Ireland (ICAI) and have complied with the ethical guidance laid down by the ICAI relating to members undertaking the compilation of historical financial information.

You have approved the financial information for the year ended 31 December 2017 and have acknowledged your responsibility for it, including the creation and maintenance of all accounting and other records supporting it and the appropriateness of the accounting basis on which it has been compiled, and for providing us with all information and explanations necessary for its compilation.

We have not been instructed to carry out an audit of the financial information. For this reason, we have not verified the accuracy or completeness of the accounting records or information and explanations given to us by you and we do not, therefore, express any opinion on the financial information.


PricewaterhouseCoopers
Chartered Accountants
Dublin
16 March 2018

ANNEX 2

**CLERGY PENSIONS FUND -
SUMMARY OF FUNDING PROPOSAL
AS AGREED BY THE PENSIONS AUTHORITY**

In June 2013 a Funding Proposal designed to bring the Clergy Pensions Fund ('the Fund') back to solvency over a ten-year period was submitted to and agreed by the Pensions Authority (then *An Bord Pinsean*).

The main requirements of the Funding Proposal are set out below. Progress is monitored annually and the Fund is subject to triennial valuation. Any significant variations from progress towards solvency would result in a further Funding Proposal having to be submitted.

To return the Fund to solvency by 2023 the following provisions have been put in place:

- The Fund has been closed to new entrants and to future accrual of benefits as from 31 May 2013.
- The Normal Retirement Age will gradually increase to a current maximum of 68 years for those aged 53 years or younger as at 31 May 2013, with staged increases for those aged above 53 years on that date.
- There will be no discretionary increases to pensions in payment or Pensionable Stipend during the Funding Proposal period unless the Actuary is satisfied that such increases would not jeopardise the Funding Proposal.
- As the funding of the Clergy Pensions Fund is a responsibility of the whole Church, an annual levy to contribute towards solvency is being raised from dioceses in respect of cures and other recognised offices at a rate of 13% of Minimum Approved Stipend.
- The Representative Church Body in 2014 completed the transfer of the last of five tranches of €5m from General Funds in the form of special funding and will further provide an amount of €0.1m per annum over the life of the Funding Proposal.

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ANNEX 3

ACTUARIAL FUNDING CERTIFICATE



An tÚdarás Pinsean
The Pensions Authority

SCHEDULE BD

Article 4

ACTUARIAL FUNDING CERTIFICATE

THIS CERTIFICATE HAS BEEN PREPARED UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF SECTION 42(1) OF THE PENSIONS ACT 1990 (the ACT) FOR SUBMISSION TO THE PENSIONS AUTHORITY BY THE TRUSTEES OF THE SCHEME

SCHEME NAME: The Church of Ireland Clergy Pensions Fund

SCHEME COMMENCEMENT DATE: 01/01/1976

SCHEME REFERENCE NO.: PB1667

EFFECTIVE DATE: 30/09/2015

EFFECTIVE DATE OF PREVIOUS CERTIFICATE (IF ANY): 30/09/2012

On the basis of information supplied to me, having complied with any guidance prescribed under section 42(4)(b) of the Act and, subject thereto, having regard to such financial and other assumptions as I consider to be appropriate, I am of the opinion that at the effective date of this certificate:-

(1) the resources of the scheme, which are calculated for the purposes of section 44(1) of the Act to be €165,954,000.00, would not have been sufficient if the scheme had been wound up at that date to provide for the liabilities of the scheme determined in accordance with section 44(1) of the Act which, including the estimated expenses of administering the winding up of the scheme, amount to €184,044,000.00, and

(2) €0.00 of the resources of the scheme referred to in paragraph (1) comprise contingent assets, in accordance with and within the meaning of the guidance issued by the Authority and prescribed under section 47 of the Act.

I, therefore, certify that as at the effective date of this certificate the scheme does not satisfy the funding standard provided for in section 44(1) of the Act.

I further certify that I am qualified for appointment as actuary to the scheme for the purposes of section 51 of the Act.

Signature:

Date:

21/03/2016

Name:

Mr Liam Quigley

Qualification:

FSAI

Name of Actuary's Employer/Firm

Mercer Limited

Scheme Actuary Certificate No.

P044

Submission Details

Submission Number: SR1119927

Submitted Electronically on: 21/03/2016

Submitted by: Liam Quigley

FUNDING STANDARD RESERVE CERTIFICATE



An tÚdarás Pinsean
The Pensions Authority

SCHEDULE BE

Article 4

FUNDING STANDARD RESERVE CERTIFICATE

THIS CERTIFICATE HAS BEEN PREPARED PURSUANT TO SECTION 42(1A) OF THE PENSIONS ACT 1990 (the ACT) FOR SUBMISSION TO THE PENSIONS AUTHORITY BY THE TRUSTEES OF THE SCHEME

SCHEME NAME: The Church of Ireland Clergy Pensions Fund

SCHEME COMMENCEMENT DATE: 01/01/1976

SCHEME REFERENCE NO.: PB1667

EFFECTIVE DATE: 30/09/2015

EFFECTIVE DATE OF PREVIOUS CERTIFICATE (IF ANY): 30/09/2012

On the basis of information supplied to me, having complied with any guidance prescribed under section 42(4)(b) of the Act and, subject thereto, having regard to such financial and other assumptions as I consider to be appropriate, I am of the opinion that at the effective date of this certificate:-

(1) the funding standard liabilities (as defined in the Act) of the scheme amount to €184,044,000.00,

(2) the resources of the scheme (other than resources which relate to contributions or a transfer of rights to the extent that the benefits provided are directly related to the value of those contributions or amount transferred (DC resources)), calculated for the purposes of section 44(1) of the Act amount to €165,954,000.00,

(3) €44,426,000.00, of the amount referred to in paragraph (2) (subject to a maximum of an amount equal to the funding standard liabilities) is invested in securities issued under section 54(1) of the Finance Act 1970 (and known as bonds), securities issued under the laws of a Member State (other than the State) that correspond to securities issued under section 54(1) of the Finance Act 1970, cash deposits with one or more credit institutions and such other assets (if any) as are prescribed under section 44(2)(a)(iv) of the Act,

(4) the amount provided for in section 44(2)(a) of the Act (Applicable Percentage x ((1) minus (3))) is €13,962,000.00,

(5) the amount provided for in section 44(2)(b) of the Act, being the amount by which the funding standard liabilities of the scheme would increase if the interest rate or interest rates assumed for the purposes of determining the funding standard liabilities were one half of one per cent less than the interest rate or interest rates (as appropriate) assumed for the purposes of determining the funding standard liabilities less the amount by which the resources of the scheme (other than DC resources) would increase as a result of the same change in interest rate or interest rates is €5,028,000.00,

(6) the aggregate of (4) and (5) above amounts to €18,990,000.00, and

(7) the additional resources (as defined in the Act) of the scheme amount to €0.00, of which, in accordance with and within the meaning of the guidance issued by the Authority and prescribed under section 47 of the Act, €0.00 comprises contingent assets and €0.00 of such contingent assets comprise an unsecured undertaking.

I therefore certify that as at the effective date of the funding standard reserve certificate, the scheme does not hold sufficient additional resources to satisfy the funding standard reserve as provided in section 44(2) of the Act.

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I further certify that I am qualified for appointment as actuary to the scheme for the purposes of section 51 of the Act.

Signature:



Date:

21/03/2016

Name:

Mr Liam Quigley

Qualification:

FSAI

Name of Actuary's:
Employer/Firm

Mercer Limited

Scheme Actuary
Certificate No.

P044

Submission Details

Submission Number: SR1119960

Submitted Electronically on: 21/03/2016

Submitted by: Liam Quigley

The Representative Church Body – Report 2018

ANNEX 4

ACTUARY'S STATEMENT



Church of Ireland Clergy Pensions Fund
Year ended 31 December 2017

Pensions Authority reference number: PB1667

Actuary's Statement

An Actuarial Funding Certificate was submitted to the Pensions Authority with an effective date of 30 September 2015. This certificate confirmed that at the effective date, the scheme did not satisfy the Minimum Funding Standard set out in Section 44 of the Pensions Act, 1990. A Funding Proposal is currently in place with the objective of putting the scheme in a position to satisfy the funding standard by 31 December 2023. This extended date was granted by the Pensions Authority at the request of the Trustees.

I have undertaken an actuarial assessment to consider whether the funding proposal remains on track to achieve its objectives. This assessment is undertaken in accordance with guidance set down by the Society of Actuaries in Ireland. It reflects known developments in relation to the assets and liabilities and also assumptions about the future.

On the basis of the assumptions employed, the Scheme's assets were projected to exceed the projected Funding Standard Liability and Funding Standard Reserve at 31 December 2023. Accordingly I can confirm that I am reasonably satisfied that the current Funding Proposal remains on track to achieve its objective.

Liam Quigley
Fellow of the Society of Actuaries in Ireland
Certificate number: P044
Date: 13 March 2018

ANNEX 5

STATEMENT OF RISK IN RELATION TO THE CHURCH OF IRELAND CLERGY PENSIONS FUND (THE “FUND”)

Under law, the Trustee is required to describe the condition of the Fund and the risks associated with the Fund, and disclose these to members.

The Fund operates on a ‘defined benefit’ basis and has been closed to future service accrual and to new members with effect from 31 May, 2013. The Fund is subject to a Funding Proposal agreed with the Pensions Authority with the intention of returning it to solvency by 2023. The risks in such an arrangement are generally classified as financial or operational. In any defined benefit arrangement, the main risk is that there will be a shortfall in the assets (for whatever reason) and the employer/sponsor will not be willing or able to pay the necessary contributions to make up the shortfall. If that occurs, members may not receive their anticipated benefit entitlements. Some of the reasons why a shortfall could occur are as follows (this list may not be exhaustive):

- The assets of the pension fund may grow more slowly than expected, or even fall in value, depending on the performance of underlying markets and the securities chosen. Where the scheme is subject to a Funding Proposal and, being closed to future service accrual, has an ageing profile, the requirement to invest in assets to match the future liability leads to a reduction in the opportunity to invest in growth assets.
- Similarly, the liabilities may grow faster than expected due to higher salary or pension increases, or due to unfavourable movements in interest rates, or due to mortality and other elements of the fund’s experience varying from the assumptions made.
- The administration of the fund may fail to meet acceptable standards. The fund could fall out of statutory compliance, the fund could fall victim to fraud or negligence, or the benefits communicated to members could differ from the liabilities valued by the Actuary.

In these circumstances, there may be insufficient assets available to pay benefits, leading to a requirement to change the benefit structure or to seek higher contributions. The employer/sponsor may decide not to pay these increased contributions.

Another risk is that the employer/sponsor may for some reason decide to cease its liability to contribute to the pension fund. In this event, the fund may be wound up and accrued entitlements would be discharged from the available assets (which may or may not be sufficient to discharge member benefit expectations, as outlined above). In accordance with Section 20 of Chapter XIV of the *Constitution of the Church of Ireland* it would require a decision to be taken at the General Synod for the Fund to be wound up.

Various actions have been taken by the Trustee to mitigate the risks. The investment strategy is reviewed regularly to ensure that it is consistent with the needs of the Fund as well as meeting the requirements arising under the Funding Proposal. Professional

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investment managers have been appointed to manage the Clergy Pensions Fund assets, which are invested in a range of diversified assets. There is regular monitoring of how these investments are performing. An actuarial valuation of the Fund is carried out at least every three years to assess the financial condition of the Fund and determine the rate of contributions required to meet the future liabilities of the Fund. In addition, an annual review of the solvency position of the Fund is carried out on the assumption that it is wound up at that time.

The Trustee is satisfied that it is taking all reasonable steps, including the appointment of experienced professional advisers and administrators, to protect the members of the Fund from the effects of these risks. However, it is not possible to guard against every eventuality, and it is necessary to take some investment risk and other risks in order to manage the affordability of the Plan benefits and the capacity of the employer/sponsor to meet this commitment.

Last updated September 2015
Reviewed October 2017

ANNEX 6

CHURCH OF IRELAND CLERGY PENSIONS FUND

STATEMENT OF INVESTMENT POLICY PRINCIPLES

1. Introduction

The Church of Ireland Clergy Pensions Trustee DAC (the “Trustee”) of the Church of Ireland Clergy Pensions Fund (the “Fund”) has prepared this Statement of Investment Policy Principles (the “Statement”) to document the policies and guidelines that govern the management of the assets of the Fund. The Statement complies with the requirements of Section 59 (1B) of the 1990 Pensions Act (the “Act”) and the Occupational Pensions Schemes (Investment) Regulations 2006 and 2007 (the “Regulations”). The Trustee, which is a designated activity company, has as its sole member the Representative Church Body (the “RCB”).

The Fund provides defined benefit pension arrangements for members who were in service, or already retired and in receipt of benefit, on 31 May 2013 when the Fund was closed to new entrants and future accrual of service. The Trustee takes the nature of the Fund into account when setting the investment objectives and when agreeing the investment strategy required to achieve the objectives with the Sponsor of the Fund.

2. Investment Objectives

The overall investment objective of the Trustee is to maximise the level of investment return at an acceptable level of risk, consistent with the Funding Proposal agreed with the Pensions Authority and the Fund Sponsor, through adopting a prudent, carefully funded and well-executed investment policy. This will in turn assist the Trustee in providing sufficient assets to meet the Fund’s long-term commitment to provide pensions and other benefits for fund members and their dependants. To achieve the objectives, the Trustee has set out an investment strategy which has been agreed with both the Sponsor and the investment managers chosen to manage the Fund assets on a daily basis.

3. Investment Strategy

In order to meet the investment objectives the Trustee has adopted an asset allocation strategy designed to maintain a prudent approach to meeting the Fund’s liabilities, taking account of the nature and duration of the liabilities, the Sponsor’s willingness to adopt such a strategy, and the requirements of the Pensions Authority in working towards a successful attainment of the targets laid out in the Funding Proposal.

When choosing the asset allocation strategy for the Fund’s assets, the Trustee policy is to consider

- A full range of asset classes
- The risk and reward of a range of alternative asset strategies

- The suitability of each asset class
- The need for appropriate asset diversification
- The views of the actuary in setting the liability valuation basis
- The requirements of the Pensions Authority for certain minimum proportions of assets to be held in fixed-interest type assets over time
- The requirements of the Sponsor to maintain contributions to the fund at an appropriate level

4. Investment Management

The RCB is deemed to be the Sponsor of the Fund. The Trustee has delegated the investment management of the Fund's assets to the Investment Committee of the RCB. The management of the assets takes place within the framework of the investment strategy, including the asset allocation guidelines, agreed from time to time by the Trustee with the Investment Committee on behalf of the Sponsor.

The Investment Committee of the RCB has delegated the day to day investment management of distinct elements of the Fund's assets internal and external investment managers. The Investment Committee oversees and monitors the performance of the Fund's investments against pre-agreed performance benchmarks.

The Sponsor employs an in-house investment management team. This in-house investment manager and one or more external investment managers may be appointed by the Trustee on the recommendation of the Investment Committee to act on behalf of the Trustee. The appointment(s) may be made on a passive or active mandate basis (or a combination of the two).

Subject to such guidelines and restrictions imposed by the Investment Committee, which have been pre-agreed by the Trustee, the investment manager(s) with an active mandate will be responsible for making all investment decisions on a discretionary basis and will be evaluated on their ability to achieve the performance objectives set for them as pre-agreed by the Trustee.

Subject to such guidelines and restrictions imposed by the Investment Committee, which have been pre-agreed by the Trustee, the investment manager(s) with a passive mandate will be responsible for adopting the percentages and relevant indices agreed from time to time by the Investment Committee on behalf of the Trustee, will make all investment decisions in order to track efficiently the agreed index/indices, and will be evaluated on their ability to achieve the performance objectives set for them with minimal tracking error.

All investment managers of the Fund are appointed by the Investment Committee on behalf of the Trustee and are subject to termination at any time. The Trustee expects the fund managers to manage the assets delegated to them under the terms of their respective contracts and within the principles set out in this Statement so far as is reasonably practical.

The Trustee has appointed Northern Trust as the custodian of the Fund. The custodian provides safekeeping for all the Fund's assets and performs the associated administrative duties, such as the collection of interest and dividends and dealing with corporate actions. These duties are documented under separate contractual agreements with the custodian.

5. Risk Management

Risk management forms an integral part of the Investment Strategy that is agreed by the Trustee with the Investment Committee. The Trustee sets risk parameters on the recommendation of the Investment Committee and in-house investment team. These include various limits and restrictions with regard to each asset class and the proposed implementation of investment strategy. The parameters are formally reviewed and agreed on an annual basis by the Trustee while the Investment Committee oversees, monitors and when necessary, recommends change to the Trustee.

With direction from the Trustee with regard to the various constraints on overall risk tolerance, the Investment Committee seek to recommend a prudent, diversified and balanced approach to achieve the Trustee's objectives. The risks in the Fund are monitored by the Trustee through regular, at least twice yearly, reports received from the Investment Committee. The regular review of the Investment Strategy and the production of the bi-annual reports are essential inputs for the Trustee in its oversight of the implementation of the principles in this Statement.

6. Review

This Statement will be reviewed by the Trustee with the Investment Committee, at least every three years and also following any change in investment policy which impacts on the content of the Statement.

Last updated September 2015
Reviewed October 2017

APPENDIX H

THE CHURCH OF IRELAND PENSIONS BOARD

Funds administered by the Board as delegated by the Representative Church Body

THE SUPPLEMENTAL FUND

1. ADMINISTRATION OF THE FUND FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2017

The Supplemental Fund is held by the Representative Church Body (RCB) for the provision of assistance to retired clergy of the Church of Ireland and to surviving spouses, orphans and other dependants of clergy of the Church of Ireland and is administered by the Church of Ireland Pensions Board.

The income is derived from the investments representing the capital of the various Funds comprising the Supplemental Fund and grants allocated to it by the General Synod.

Last year the following assistance was provided by means of *ex gratia* payments:

(i) Minimum Income of Surviving Spouses and Orphans

Grants to ensure each has a minimum income from all sources in the year commencing 1 January 2017 of not less than:

	Resident in the:	
	United Kingdom	Republic of Ireland
Surviving spouse under 80	£13,230	€17,616
Surviving spouse 80 or over	£13,733	€18,285

On 31 December 2017, pensions were in course of payment to 182 surviving spouses (excluding widows of voluntary members) of clergy of the Church of Ireland. Two surviving spouses required a grant to bring their total income up to the relevant figure in the table.

During 2017, each surviving spouse who was in receipt of a grant from the Supplemental Fund also received:

- (a) a grant twice yearly towards basic housing costs of £1,000 from the Housing Fund;
- (b) a grant of £400 from monies allocated from the Priorities Fund.

As a result of these grants, the actual minimum income of surviving spouses during 2017 exceeded the figures in the Table by £2,400.

(ii) Removal Grants

A grant to a surviving spouse towards the cost of removal, if his/her wife/husband was in the service of the Church of Ireland at the time of death, of the total amount involved up to a sum of £2,020 if he or she died while holding office in Northern Ireland, or €4,000 if he or she died while holding office in the Republic of Ireland.

Should death occur less than two months after date of retirement and before vacation of the glebehouse a similar grant will be paid.

(iii) Immediate Grants to Surviving Spouses

On the death of clergy in the service of the Church of Ireland who are survived by a spouse, an immediate grant of £4,545 if they died while holding office in Northern Ireland or €6,000 if they died while holding office in the Republic of Ireland shall be paid.

On the death of clergy in retirement from the service of the Church of Ireland who are survived by a spouse, an immediate grant of £1,515 if they resided in the United Kingdom or €2,000 if they resided in the Republic of Ireland shall be paid.

(iv) Other Grants

Certain other grants which, in the opinion of the Board and in the particular circumstances of each case, merited special consideration.

In addition to the grants allocated under the above headings retired clergy, surviving spouses and dependants in need, received help from other sources. The Board would like to record its thanks to the Priorities Fund, the Corporation of the Sons of the Clergy, the Friends of the Clergy Corporation and the other charities and funds which provided this help.

2. GRANTS 2018

Due the unexpended surplus for 2017 and expected dividend income for 2018 it is not necessary to request General Synod for an allocation to the Fund for 2018.

The unexpended surplus for 2017 and dividend income for 2018 will enable the Board to continue the schemes of *ex gratia* payments to the surviving spouses who were in receipt of such payments as at 1 January 2018 as follows:

(i) Minimum Income of Surviving Spouses and Orphans

	Resident in the:	
	United Kingdom	Republic of Ireland
Surviving spouse under 80	£13,574	€17,616
Surviving spouse 80 or over	£14,090	€18,285

It is estimated that the cost of this scheme will be £4,534.

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(ii) Removal Grants

Northern Ireland	£2,081
Republic of Ireland	€4,016

(iii) Immediate Grants to Surviving Spouses

In service:

Northern Ireland	£4,681
Republic of Ireland	€6,024

In retirement:

Northern Ireland	£1,560
Republic of Ireland	€2,008

3. RULES

Copies of the rules are available on application to the Pensions Administration Manager.

4. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The Financial Statements of the Supplemental Fund are set out in the following pages.

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THE SUPPLEMENTAL FUND

31 December 2017

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

	2017 €'000	2016 €'000
INCOME		
General Synod Allocations	-	1
Investment Income	31	31
Income from Trusts and Donations	2	2
	<u>33</u>	<u>34</u>
EXPENDITURE		
Augmentation – Surviving Spouses and Orphans	5	9
Grants to Surviving Spouses	15	11
Expenses	5	5
	<u>25</u>	<u>25</u>
OPERATING SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR		
	8	9
Balance 1 January	1,130	1,107
Revaluation movement	19	19
Currency translation adjustment	(1)	(5)
Balance 31 December	<u>1,156</u>	<u>1,130</u>
FUNDS EMPLOYED		
Investments	1,106	1,087
Cash held with the RCB	50	43
	<u>1,156</u>	<u>1,130</u>

THE SUPPLEMENTAL FUND

ANALYSIS OF FUND ASSETS AT 31 DECEMBER 2017

	2017 €'000	2016 €'000
Investments at Valuation		
RB General Unit Trusts	1,106	1,088
	<u>1,106</u>	<u>1,088</u>

Notes

1. The Supplemental Fund is vested in The Representative Church Body, as Trustee, for the provision of assistance to retired clergy of the Church of Ireland and to spouses, orphans and dependants of clergy of the Church of Ireland.

The Fund is established under Chapter XV of the *Constitution of the Church of Ireland* and administered by the Church of Ireland Pensions Board.

2. Accounting Policies are the same as those adopted for the Clergy Pensions Fund.

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The Church of Ireland Supplemental Fund
Representative Church Body
Church of Ireland House
Church Avenue
Rathmines
Dublin 6

16 March 2018

Dear Sirs

Chartered Accountants' report on the unaudited financial information of the Church of Ireland Supplemental Fund

In accordance with our engagement letter dated 20 November 2017 we have compiled the entity's financial information which comprises the Income and Expenditure Account, the Analysis of Fund Assets and the related notes from the accounting records and information and explanations you have given us.

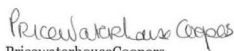
The financial information has been compiled on the basis set out in Note 2 of the financial information.

This report is made to you in accordance with the terms of our engagement. Our work has been undertaken so that we might compile the financial information that we have been engaged to compile, for management purposes. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than you for our work or for this report.

We have carried out this engagement in accordance with technical guidance in M48 'Chartered Accountants' Reports on the Compilation of Historical Financial Information of Unincorporated Entities' issued by the Institute of Chartered Accountants in Ireland (ICAI) and have complied with the ethical guidance laid down by the ICAI relating to members undertaking the compilation of historical financial information.

You have approved the financial information for the year ended 31 December 2017 and have acknowledged your responsibility for it, including the creation and maintenance of all accounting and other records supporting it and the appropriateness of the accounting basis on which it has been compiled, and for providing us with all information and explanations necessary for its compilation.

We have not been instructed to carry out an audit of the financial information. For this reason, we have not verified the accuracy or completeness of the accounting records or information and explanations given to us by you and we do not, therefore, express any opinion on the financial information.


PricewaterhouseCoopers
Chartered Accountants
Dublin
16 March 2018

OTHER FUNDS ADMINISTERED BY THE BOARD

1. Sundry Diocesan Widows' and Orphans' Funds

Grants are paid on the recommendation of the patron, who is usually the Bishop. The total of grants paid in 2017 was €29,483 and £2,559.

2. Housing Assistance Fund

The Housing Fund has been created by the Representative Church Body mainly from the income of certain endowments and bequests received by it from generous benefactors and where the terms of trust permit.

The Fund is being administered under a Scheme prepared by the Board and approved by the Representative Church Body. Grants amounting to €62,120 plus £55,370 were allocated in 2017. Many expressions of thanks and appreciation have been received from the recipients.

The Board is most grateful for these donations and hopes that this Fund, which has already been of considerable help to retired clergy and surviving spouses with financial outlay arising from the provision and/or upkeep of housing accommodation, will be given further support by donations or bequests.

Two houses were bequeathed to the Representative Church Body, one of which is let to a member of the clergy and the other let to the surviving spouse of a clergyman. These are administered by the Board.

3. Priorities Fund – additional income for the most elderly and needy

A further grant was allocated by the Standing Committee from the Priorities Fund in 2017 to provide additional income for the most elderly and needy surviving spouses of clergy. This enabled the Board to give an additional grant of £400 to each surviving spouse irrespective of age who needed a grant from the Supplemental Fund to ensure a minimum income under the scheme in operation for that purpose. Two surviving spouses benefited from the allocation.

The Board has applied to the Priorities Fund Committee for a grant for 2018.

4. Mrs E Taylor Endowment

The Representative Body requested the Board to administer the Endowment “to provide additional benefits over and above the normal pensions for retired clergymen of the Church of Ireland who should be residing in the 26 counties of Southern Ireland”.

The Board has decided that the income from the Endowment should be allocated in the first instance for the benefit of those retired clergy in the Republic of Ireland who

required nursing/home care either for themselves or their spouses including health and paramedical expenses.

During 2017, grants totalling €11,800 were paid to 5 retired clergy.

5. Rev Precentor RH Robinson Bequest

The income of this bequest has in previous years been allocated annually by the Board in accordance with the terms of trust as an additional payment to a retired clergyman. The income is currently circa €10 per annum. In 2011 it was decided, after consultation with the Head of Property and Trusts, to allow the income to accumulate for a period of five years until a more substantial grant may be allocated.

6. Rev GJ Wilson Bequest

The income of this bequest is available for the benefit of retired clergymen of the dioceses of Dublin, Glendalough and Kildare. The Board allocates the income having sought recommendations from the Archbishop of Dublin and the Bishop of Meath and Kildare.

In 2017, the total of grants paid was €1,885.

7. Discretionary Fund – Retired Clergy/Surviving Spouses

This Fund is available to provide (i) discretionary grants unrelated to Housing, to surviving spouses of clergy to be administered in a similar fashion to that of the Housing Fund and (ii) greater support for retired clergy resident in Northern Ireland or outside Ireland.

Allocations of £15,000 were made in 2017 which, together with income from bequests allocated to the Fund by the Representative Body, enabled the Board to make grants totalling €500 and £1,800 to three surviving spouses and grants totalling £10,455 to five retired clergy.

The Board would welcome donations and bequests in order to provide a permanent income for this Fund.

APPENDIX I

**CHURCH FABRIC AND DEVELOPMENT FUND
GRANTS ALLOCATED DURING 2017**

FABRIC GRANTS

Diocese	Church	Grant awarded	
		£	€
Armagh	Acton	1,100	
	Collon		7,000
	Lisnadill	4,000	
	Woodschapel	24,500	
Clogher	Rossorry	9,300	
Raphoe	Clondevaddock		9,100
	Moville Lower		4,000
Down	Mount Merriion	14,700	
Dromore	Aghaderg	6,200	
Connor	Larne and Inver	3,500	
	Muckamore	8,600	
Kilmore	Cloonclare		5,500
	Kildallon		2,000
Elphin	Kiltullagh		2,000
Ardagh	Oughteragh		1,000
Dublin	Dublin, St Bartholomew		32,800
	Howth		42,200
	Taney		32,200
Glendalough	Arklow		12,100
	Blessington		800
Meath	Forgney		2,000
Cashel	Cashel Cathedral		13,000
Lismore	Lismore Cathedral		3,000
Killaloe	Inniscaltra		3,000
	Roscrea		5,500
		71,900	177,200

CENTRAL DEVELOPMENT FUND GRANTS

Applicant	Purpose	Grant awarded
Diocese of Meath & Kildare	Diocesan review project	50% of consultancy fee up to max. €7,500

APPENDIX J

ARCHIVE OF THE MONTH 2017

January	Introducing the RCB Library Conservation Fund
February	A Roof over Clerical Heads: Visual Insight to Glebe House Drawings
March	Harry Clarke’s Unique Gift to the Archbishop of Dublin in 1922
April	Headlines in April 1917: Further Focus on the Church of Ireland Gazette
May	Architectural Drawings Project Moves West: The Tuam Diocesan Collection
June	The Faith Journey of Joseph Blanco White
July	Church of Ireland Parish Record Collections More Discoverable Through Online Links to Hand-Lists
August	“Good Wishes for the Great Adventure”: The Church of Ireland & the Irish Convention, 1917
September	Ballincollig Military Men & Their Families 1810–1922: Church of Ireland Registers Unlock Their Stories
October	Little Books at the RCB Library
November	The Muniments of St Patrick’s Cathedral
December	Celebrating Christmas with the Red Book of Ossory

APPENDIX K

ACCESSIONS OF ARCHIVES AND MANUSCRIPTS TO THE REPRESENTATIVE CHURCH BODY LIBRARY, 2017

The inclusion of material in this list does not necessarily imply that it is available to researchers. Parish registers (of baptism, marriage and burial) are not subject to any access restrictions, but vestry minutes and other categories of records are subject to 40-year closure, while materials containing personal or sensitive information are normally closed for 100 years.

1. ARCHIVES

(i) Parish Records

Cairncastle (Connor)

Baptismal register, 1882-1930; Vestry minute books, 1810-1990

Castlemacadam (Glendalough)

Castlemacadam: Marriage registers, 1911-2007

Ballinaclash (Ballinatone church): Marriage registers 1846-2002; Vestry minute book 1899-1938

Clonmel (Cloyne)

Clonmel: Combined registers of baptism, marriage and burial 1761-1782, 1782-1802, 1813-1818, 1825-1837 and 1838-1861; Baptismal register 1883-1906

Clonmore (Leighlin)

Preacher's book, 1983-2017

Clontarf (Dublin)

Record of the works carried out to repair and improve the parish church, including detailed architectural drawings and plans, condition reports and related materials, by Michael Mohan, Architect. Hard and soft copies, 2013-2016

Carrigrohane (Cork)

Ballincollig Military Barracks: Combined register 1810-1882; Baptismal register 1865-1921; Burial register 1871-1920

Donnybrook (Dublin)

Miscellaneous loose papers, 1824-1983 including certificate of composition of tithes for the archdeaconry of Dublin, of which Donnybrook was a part until 1854, dated 1824 and a street by street valuation of the parish, dated 1851; Deeds, 1864-1974; Plan of heating apparatus, 1872 and plan of drainage system and related reports, 1876

Duncannon Fort Garrison Church (Ferns)

Combined register of baptisms, 1841-1892 and burials, 1841-1870
From Sheila Wilmet, Duncannon, New Ross, County Wexford

Ferns (Ferns)

Ferns and Kilbride: Burial register 1871-1949

Fiddown Union (Ossory)

Castlane: Correspondence concerning the sale of Castlane (Whitechurch), c. 1999 including conservation report, 1984-1999

Clonegam: Preacher's book, 1966-2007

Clonmore: Two original deeds (with transcripts): conveyance of land for building the church, 23 July 1816, and act of consecration, 17 April 1820

Kilmeaden: Correspondence relating to the sale of the old school house and adjoining dwelling, 1978-1979

Killoiternan (Waterford): Correspondence relating to the closure of the church, 1987-1993

Glenealy (Glendalough)

Preacher's books, 1935-1999

Grangegorman (Dublin)

Parish magazines, 1942-1963

From the archives of Canon RGF Jenkins

Harold's Cross (Dublin)

Vestry minutes, 1976-2001; Records of vestry members, 1967-1996; YMCA Medal for oratory presented to AW Beatty, 1902-03; Annual reports, 1877-1954; Year Books, 1936-1948; Photographs including signed framed image of members of the Select Vestry, 1961 and a photographic survey of dry rot, 1982; Miscellaneous loose papers including correspondence, surveys, drawings and reports relating to such issues as building maintenance; flooding from the river Poddle; and the leasing of the church and its ultimate sale to the Russian Orthodox community in 2012, 1948-2012

Howth (Dublin)

Annual reports and statements of accounts, 1912-1941

From Ms Daphne Healy, Howth

Kells (Ossory)

Kells: Vestry minute books, 1968-2011; Preacher's book, 1960-2012

Ennisnag: Vestry minute book, 1973-2011

Kilkenny (Ossory)

St Canice: Baptismal register, 1906-2016, Burial register, 1862-2016

St John: Baptismal register, 1890-2016; Burial register, 1892-2013

Aghour/Freshford: Baptismal register, 1879-2016; Burial register, 1879-2016

Ballinamara: Baptismal register, 1879-2012; Burial register, 1879-1924

Kilnamanagh: Baptismal register, 1868-2016; Burial register, 1874-2016

Killiney, Holy Trinity (Dublin)

Loose vestry minutes and related agendas and correspondence, 2004-2009; Orders of service, 2017; Parish magazines ('The Obelisk'); 2017, '2020 Vision Planning for the Future' leaflet, 2017

Killiskey (Glendalough)

Special service sheets for dedication of restored stained glass windows, 18 October 2009

Milltown (Dublin)

Vestry minute books, 1976-1997 and 2009-2014; Preacher's book, 1982-2003

Monkstown (Dublin)

Monkstown: Baptismal registers 1884-2009; Marriage registers 1900-2007; Vestry minute books, 1859-1988; Account books, and relevant loose vouchers 1835-1944; Tithes Applotment book, 1848; Orders of service, 1954-2007; Annual reports 1884-1965; Parish magazines, 1959-1971; Parish newsletters, 1979-2016; Deeds and legal papers, including those relating to vaults in the church, 1798-1911; School records including the foundation and administration of the Parent Teacher Association, 1959-1979; Sunday School registers 1879-1901 and 1938; Miscellaneous papers including those relating to the purchase and sale of seats in church, 1859-20th century; of the Fabric Committee, 1940-1985, and acts of institution and faculties, 1934-2002; Miscellaneous volumes including a Legal Committee Minute Book, 1910-1930; the Monkstown Home Fund accounts, 1879-1897; and maps and plans, 1881-1998

Monkstown St John: Baptismal registers 1885-1981; Marriage registers, 1910-1972; Account books including those of the Dorcas and Clothing Clubs, 1911-1948; Sunday School registers, 1901-1961; Minute book of parish clubs committee, 1946-1951; Annual reports, 1895-1965; Parish magazines, 1916-1931; Register of church members c. 1940-1960 and volume entitled 'Deaths' detailing names of deceased parishioners, addresses and place buried, 1946-1955

Killucan (Meath)

Accounts and related correspondence, being the last accounts before the parish joined Mullingar Union, 1978-81

Rathfarnham (Dublin)

Confirmation register, 1917-43; architectural drawings and related documentation concerning alterations and improvements to the Memorial Hall, 2009

Rathmines (Dublin)

Photographs including framed signed print of the Revd John Tobias, incumbent, and of a fitted out prayer room, 1937 & 1939, plans and related documentation concerning proposed alterations to the church, 1989-1991

Rathkeale (Limerick)

Rathkeale: Vestry minute book, 1741-78

Kilcornan: Copy of a certified list of confirmation candidates, 1842

St Aidan (Dublin)

Printed materials relating to the 40th anniversary of the dedication of the church in 1942, with typescript historical note, providing history of the church from its dedication in 1902 to its closure in 1962, undated but post 1962
From Revd Stephen Fielding, Agherton Parish

St Augustine (Dublin)

Order of thanksgiving service for the re-opening of the church, 28 April 1961

St George later St George and St Thomas (Dublin)

Register of burials, 2001-2004; Vestry minute books 1983-1995; Confirmation register 1981-1987; Register of banns, 1920-1985; Parochial hall committee minute book, 1988-89; Graveyard register and plan, 1867-1940; Orders of service, 1996-2006, Miscellaneous loose papers and photographs including an image of the refitting of the chancel, c. 1880 featuring the triple-decker pulpit, 1880-2006

St Nicholas (Cork)

Printed reports of collections, 1862 and 1863, and annual Address to the Parishioners of St Nicholas' by George Webster DD, rector, 1864-78

St Thomas (Dublin)

Plan of the church and gallery showing positions for new lights, 1823; Annual reports, 1909; 1911-20; Photographs, late 19th and early 20th century; Register of banns, 1936-1954; Draft copies of commemorative blotter and calendar to mark the opening of the new church, 1934 and local history notes; Girls' Friendly Society Register, 1921-1934; Bazaar Committee Minute Book, 1950-1957; Minutes and related papers of the Parish Fellowship, 1961-1995; Miscellaneous loose papers relating to the building of new church, 1931-1933

Sandymount (Dublin)

Papers documenting the career of the Revd Fr WJ Lowry, Priest-in-charge, 1987-1992
From Michael Jenkins, Trustee

Taney (Dublin)

Photograph of confirmation group (boys only), with Archbishop Donald Caird, and parish clergy, mid-1980s

Taughboyne (Raphoe)

Taughboyne: Combined registers of baptisms, marriages and burials 1820-1919; Registers of baptisms, 1827-1868; Registers of marriages, 1845-2005; Register of burials, 1820-2015
Craigadooish: Register of baptisms, 1871-1907; Register of marriages, 1982-2007
All Saints (Newtowncunningham): Register of baptisms, 1877-1937; Registers of marriages, 1845-2007; Register of burials, 1820-1955

The Representative Church Body – Report 2018

Killea: Register of baptisms, 1877-1922; Registers of marriages 1845-2007; Register of burials, 1886-2001; Vestry minute book including details of the succession of clergy, 1788-1909

Thomastown (Ossory)

Miscellaneous administrative papers, accounts, the school stamp and other materials relating to the Parochial National School and its closure, and ongoing role of governors, 1972-2015

Toombe (Ferns)

Burial register, 1833-2009

Turlough (Tuam)

Preacher's book 1962-2016

Whitechurch (Dublin)

Orders of service and other printed materials; press cuttings and miscellaneous papers, including those relating to specifically to the clerical career of Canon Horace McKinley, who marked 40 years in Whitechurch in November 2016, 2016-2017

(ii) Cathedral Records

Limerick Cathedral

Album relating to the restoration of St Mary's cathedral Limerick, 1859-63, including minutes of the Subscription Fund Trustees, containing manuscript and printed materials relating to the work of the restoration committee, as assembled by JA Haydn of Barrington Street, Limerick, cathedral verger. The volume also includes details of expenditures, contractors and experts employed, and lists of subscribers to the project. From De Búrca Rare Books

Limerick Cathedral

Miscellaneous administrative files created by successive deans, c. 1970-1986
From the Very Revd Niall Sloane, Dean of Limerick

(iii) Diocesan Records

Dublin & Glendalough

File of correspondence and survey responses concerning the setting up/implementation of the Archbishop's [Most Revd John Neill] Working Group on Combating Racism which lead to a diocesan publication *Welcoming Angels* (Dublin, 2005), 2004-2005
From the Very Revd Sandra Pragnell, Limerick

Elphin & Ardagh

Diocesan Council minute books, 1920-1999; Diocesan Board of Missions minute book, 1958-1995; Glebes Committee minute books, 1913-2003, and various other recent

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administrative and financial records, relating to the work of the diocesan council and synod, 1960-2014

From the Rt Revd Ferran Glenfield, Bishop of Kilmore, Elphin & Ardagh

Ferns

Printed Financial Reports for the years 1896, 1965, 1066, 1967 and 1988

From the Rt Revd Michael Burrows, Bishop of Cashel, Ferns & Ossory

(iii) General Synod Records

Bishops' Appeal

Minutes and papers including financial reports, 2015-16

From TA Smallwoods MBE, Londonderry

2. MANUSCRIPTS

Archbishop of Canterbury

Original marriage licence with stamp and seal issued by the Most Revd Edward White, Archbishop of Canterbury for parties: Wormersley Trout and Emma Pinnock, issued for wedding to take place in St Mark's Nottingham, London, 29 November 1884

From Dr Paul Gilmore, Belfast

Bartlett, Canon JR

Sermons preached in Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin, 28 May and 16 July 2017

From Canon JR Bartlett, Dalkey, Co. Dublin

Bishop Hodson School (Elphin)

Board of Governor's minute books 1941-1990; Account Books 1960-1998

From the Rt Revd Ferran Glenfield, Bishop of Kilmore, Elphin & Ardagh

Bolton, the Very Revd Frederick Rothwell (1908-1987)

Sermons, research notes, including drafts for his book: *The Caroline Tradition of the Church of Ireland* (1958) and other writings and some correspondence, c. 1955-1983

From his son and daughter-in-law, John and Jill Bolton, Dublin

Brady, Charlotte Louisa Westropp (1828-1913)

Scrapbook of press-cuttings, photographs and other memoranda, compiled by the daughter of Sir Maziere Brady, Lord Chancellor of Ireland (1846-66) and wife of the Revd John Westropp Brady, rector of Slane (Meath) from 1865-1902, while she was resident in the rectory, Meath, mostly detailing the family history of Brady, c. 1856-1912

From Bruce Chandler, Bray, Co. Wicklow

Caird, Revd Donald AR (1925-2017)

Sermons, diaries, framed photographs, pictures and miscellaneous papers, 1970-2006

From Mrs Nancy Caird, Dun Laoghaire, Dublin

Chaloner, Revd John (c. 1658-1732), Rector of Desertoghill and Errigal (Derry), 1692-1732

Student notebook containing theological and other notes, sermons that he heard preached in Christ Church and St Patrick's Cathedrals, Dublin, jottings and family history, including later notes written by his son, the Revd Richard Chaloner, documenting his father's career and preferment. 451 pages with additional loose papers, spanning the period c. 1686 to c. 1740

From Mrs Mary Shackleton, Lucan, Co. Dublin

Chavasse, Revd Canon Claude Lionel (c. 1897-1983), Rector of Teampol-na-mbocht (Cork), 1934-40, and founder member of the 'No Name Society'

Miscellaneous correspondence received from like-minded clerical colleagues concerning his interest in spirituality and prayer, and specifically efforts to develop a religious order/retreat community for the Church of Ireland, during the early 1940s. Correspondents are: Canon Michael L Ferrar, Warden of the Divinity Hostel, Dublin; the Revd EW Hayes, former rector of St Mark's Dundela; the Revd Malcolm F Graham, curate at the Southern Church Mission, Ballymacarrett, and the Revd REC Browne, curate of St Thomas's Belfast, 1941-42

From his daughter, Mrs Gabriella McCracken, Kilmarnock, Scotland

Church of Ireland Widows' and Orphans' Society

Loose minutes and financial reports, 1994-2014

From Canon Neil McEndoo, Dublin

Decemiri Society ['The Ten' Clerical Society, Dublin]

Minute book, 2004-2007

From Canon Neil McEndoo, Dublin

Dickson, Revd Gerald William (1882-1975)

Extensive collection of lantern slides, some of them commercial, but including seven original boxes of slides and two accompanying photograph albums visually documenting his time as an SPG missionary in Chota Nagpur, India, between 1910 and 1939

From his son, Prof. David Dickson, Dublin

Dublin University Officers Training Corps

Three typescript lists of members and cadets of the DU Training Corps, together with two letters, dated 28 April and 24 May 1922, to the Provost of the University and the Revd Hugh Jackson Lawlor (Prof. of Ecclesiastical History in TCD 1898-1933, who was also Sub-Dean to the Chapel Royal, Dublin Castle, 1913-33

Extracted from printed collection item: *Sinn Fein Rebellion, 1916 : a souvenir of presentations to the Officers Training Corps, Trinity College* [Dublin: Trinity College, Dublin, 1916]

Gregg, Most Revd John F (1873-1961), Archbishop of Armagh 1939-59

Three letters from Archbishop Gregg, The Palace, Armagh, to Prof. William Bedell Stanford (1910-1984) Regius Professor of Greek in Trinity College Dublin, 1940-80

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sharing ideas on Greek theology, 1943; enclosing a signed off-print of his paper entitled ‘St Pater and St Paul’, reprinted in 1953 to mark the 1900th anniversary of St Paul’s arrival in Greece, 1953; news of his plans to travel and attend a Byzantine Conference at Constantinople in 1954

From Dr MJT Webb, Dalkey, Co. Dublin

Hewetson School, Clane (Kildare)

Account book, detailing sources of income, 1940-1985

From Revd David Frazer, Diocese of Meath & Kildare

Jenkins, Canon Raymond Gordon Finney (1898-1998), Incumbent of Grangegorman 1939-76

Photographs and negatives, sketches of family members, postcards, printed books with related correspondence and service sheets, early 20th century – 1963

From Canon Mark Gardner, Dublin

Kirwan, Revd Walter Blake, (1754-1805), Dean of Killala 1800-1805

Framed print of the Revd Walter Blake Kirwan, Dean of Killala 1800-1805, as later published in the sketch of his life published in 1814

From Dr MJT Webb, Dalkey, Co. Dublin

Mathews, Ronnie (1934-2017), Historian

Appreciation of Ronnie Mathews of Portarlinton, historian and long-time member of the Irish Huguenot Society, by John Stocks Powell, delivered following his death on 8 January 2017

From the Irish Huguenot Society

Milne, Dr Kenneth, Church of Ireland Historiographer

Copy of reflection given during the annual St Patrick’s Day pilgrimage service in Down cathedral, to congregation that included Catholic and Protestant schoolchildren, urging discussion about differences as a positive contribution to reconciliation. File includes also a press report and photograph with the group and the Bishop of Down, Rt Revd Gordon McMullen, 17 March 1989

From Dr Kenneth Milne, Dublin

Moynan, Canon William John (1920-2010), Incumbent of Swords (Dublin) 1968-90

Sermons, correspondence and other miscellaneous papers, 1942-1985

From Wendy Moynan, Co. Carlow

Northridge Family Glass Plate Negatives

Two boxes of assorted glass plate negatives of a variety of scenes in Ireland; missionary locations around the world including India; words of hymns and other miscellaneous items, late 19th and early 20th century

From Mr FJ Northridge, Portnoo, Co. Donegal

Simms, Dr George Otto Simms (1910-1991)

Two photographs in the RTÉ television studio of his interview for the programme 'Signal' (broadcast on 1 January 1969) but recorded during December 1968, and conducted by Dr Kenneth Milne, with whom he appears in the images. (The original interview is no longer available having been recorded over subsequently in RTÉ).

From Dr Kenneth Milne

Stanford, Revd Bedell (1873-1945)

Illuminated address presented to the Revd Bedell Stanford as curate in Coleraine (Connor) 1904-06, by the Men's Bible Class of the parish, acknowledging his role and support to them in their theological studies, and congratulating him on his promotion as rector of Ardclinnis parish. The address was executed by AD Sutherland, Abbey St, Coleraine and includes paintings of the exterior and interior of St Patrick's parish church, the coat of arms of the town of Coleraine, and other illuminations, March 1906

From Dr MJT Webb, Dalkey, Co. Dublin

Stanford and Peter Families

Two boxes of legal papers, including deeds, leases, rent books, together with correspondence and maps relating to the Stanford and Peter Families and their lands in counties Cavan, Fermanagh & Monaghan, the connection between the two families being the result of the marriage of the Revd William Henry Stanford and Esther Katharyne Peter, in 1833, covering the period 1632-1960

From Melissa Webb, Dalkey, Co. Dublin

The Hall School Missionary Union

Minute Books and accounts of the school's missionary association (originally called the Glow-worm Missionary Club) with note and copies of two letters outlining the career of Miss Muriel Devenish Vaughan, a former student, and subsequently missionary in Uganda, 1949-64; and Pakistan from c. 1975, who was awarded the MBE for her missionary services, 1896-1941; and 1975

From the Library, Rathdown School, Monkstown, Co. Dublin

Trinity College Theological Society

Two framed black and white photographs of the officers and committee at the door of the Long Room, Trinity College, Dublin, including St GCH Lundy (1914-1976), who was ordained in 1938 as curate for Christ Church Lisburn (Connor), 1936-37 and 1937-38

From Chris Lundy (son), Co. Antrim

Warburton, Revd Richard Henry Haskell (1910-2015)

15 original licences, acts of institution, and other appointment documents, issued to Canon Warburton during his clerical career, from his appointment as curate assistant in Kilnamanagh Union (Ferns) in 1935 to his appointment as incumbent of Castledermot (Glendalough) in 1962, together with maps of the places he served and a brief summary of his career, compiled by his son

From Robert Warburton (son) Dublin

Whitton, Frederick Anthony (1864-1925), accountant to the RCB

Two letters received by Whitton in 1915, from the Revd John Lubbock Robinson, Succentor and Warden at St Patrick's Cathedral Grammar School, 1914-19, and historian, who outlines in some detail the relationship between the see of Kildare and the deanery of Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin, and income associated with same, together with Whitton's copy of William Butler, *Holy Trinity Dublin (Christ Church)* London, 1901, 29 and 31 December, 1915

From the family of the late Danny Parkinson, Donnybrook

Photocopied material

Copy of the registers of vestrymen for the parishes of Mogeeshah and St Lappin's (Cloyne): Mogeeshah 1870-1879 and St Lappin's 1870-1883

From the Cobh Genealogical Project, Co. Cork

Leney (Meath) Copy of lease between the Incorporated Society for Promoting Protestant Schools and Meath Diocesan Trustees of houses with accompanying map, 1903

From Mr Watson Mills, Mullingar, Co. Westmeath

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APPENDIX L

**FUNDS RECEIVED BY THE REPRESENTATIVE CHURCH BODY IN 2017
TO BE HELD IN TRUST FOR PARISHES, DIOCESES ETC**

	€	£
Allen, Thomas		2,336.31
Anonymous Gifts Cappagh (Derry)		14,850.00
Archbishops Choir Fund (addition)		1,883.78
Berry, Gladys	199.58	
Bishop Stearne's Charities		6,900.00
Black, William		3,384.45
Carter, Arthur & Hilary	450.00	
Church Education Society for Ireland (addition)	35,000.00	
Clogher Diocese Social Fund		30,000.00
County Clare Protestant Orphan Society	15,845.00	
Cox, Joseph & Olivia Cox (addition)	100.00	
Development Fund Jordanstown (Connor)		11,250.00
Devlin, David Douglas (Peter)		2,500.00
Dobson, Robert	2,500.00	
Dublin Christ Church Choir 500 Foundation	136,274.87	
Duncan, Louie		100.00
Garden of Remembrance (addition)	500.00	
General Fund Jordanstown (Connor)		35,000.01
General Funds Donaghmore (Armagh)		10,000.00
Glass, William		20,000.00
Gore, Elizabeth		5,000.00
Gormley, Thomas		1,000.00
Graham, Annie		740.00
Hazelton, EFM		1,000.00
Hopkins, Leslie	2,000.00	
Kilmore Reserve Fund	780,000.00	
Kilpipe Church Erasmus Funds	9,750.00	
Lifford Endowed Schools	15,000.00	
Lynch, John (Jackie)		50,000.00
Lyttle, John Watson	40,000.00	
McMillan, Pamela		58,543.33
McNutt, Rebecca Olive	1,100.00	
Meath & Kildare Board of Education, Kildare Union	56,000.00	
Mothers' Union of Ireland Centenary Fund (addition)	7,500.00	

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	€	£
Parish Funds Bovevagh (Derry)		36,000.00
Parish Funds Donegal (Raphoe)	150,000.00	
Parish Funds Kilbride (Arklow) (Glendalough)	40,000.00	
Parish Funds Kinnity (Killaloe)	20,000.00	
Parish Funds Rathcline (Elphin)	5,000.00	
Pope, Valle & E White (addition)	2,544.08	
Protestant Aid	1,000,000.00	
Rolston Estate, Connor Diocese		50,000.00
Satchwell, Emily (addition)	20,000.00	
Somerville, Emily		117.46
Turner, Rev Canon RE		2,500.00
Tyholland National School Trust	34,490.50	
Webb, WP (addition)	2,561.00	
Willmott, Richard (addition)	1,000.00	
Woods, Alan		355.00
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	2,377,815.03	343,460.34

Standing Committee – 2018

STANDING COMMITTEE

REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS LAID BEFORE

THE GENERAL SYNOD AT ITS

ONE HUNDRED AND FORTY-EIGHTH ORDINARY SESSION 2018

Standing Committee – 2018

**THE GENERAL SYNOD
OF THE
CHURCH OF IRELAND**

HONORARY SECRETARIES OF THE GENERAL SYNOD



Ven George Davison, 12 Harwood Gardens, Carrickfergus, Co. Antrim, BT38 7US

Rev Canon Gillian Wharton, The Rectory, Cross Avenue, Booterstown, Blackrock, Co. Dublin

Mr Ken Gibson, 11 Magheralave Court, Lisburn, Co. Antrim, BT28 3BY

Ms Hazel Corrigan, Liscolman House, Tullow, Co Carlow

ASSISTANT SECRETARY - Mrs Janet Maxwell

SYNOD OFFICER - Dr Catherine Smith

OFFICE

Church of Ireland House
Church Avenue
Rathmines
Dublin 6

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Topic on which discussion would be particularly welcome:
Social Media Guidelines, work of the Facilitation Committee, Refugee Working Groups

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Standing Committee – 2018

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Standing Committee – 2018

1. SUMMARY

Some significant matters dealt with during the period 14th March 2017 to 13th March 2018 were:

- Approval of the Church of Ireland Social Media and Digital Communications Guidelines
- Approval of terms of reference of the Advisory Council to the Church of Ireland Centre, Dublin City University Institute of Education
- Submission to the Citizens' Assembly on the topic of climate change
- Establishment of a Working Group on the *Book of Common Prayer*
- Election of clerical representative to the Anglican Consultative Council

2. NAMES AND ATTENDANCE OF MEMBERS

Ex-officio Members

THE ARCHBISHOPS AND BISHOPS

THE HONORARY SECRETARIES OF THE GENERAL SYNOD

5/5 Ms Hazel Corrigan
3/5 Ven George Davison*
5/5 Rev Gillian Wharton
5/5 Mr Kenneth Gibson

*on sabbatical for two meetings of the Standing Committee

ELECTED MEMBERS

Armagh	3/5	Rev Matthew Hagan
	4/5	Rev Malcolm Kingston
	4/5	Mr Paul Bruce
	0/5	Mr Adam Metcalfe
Clogher	1/5	Ven Brian Harper
	5/5	Rev Canon Ian Berry
	5/5	Mr Walter Pringle
	4/5	Mr Glenn Moore
Derry & Raphoe	5/5	Rev Canon Henry Gilmore
	5/5	Ven Robert Miller
	3/5	Mrs Kaye Nesbitt
	2/5	Mr Martin Montgomery
Down & Dromore	4/5	Ven Roderic West
	0/5	Rev Joanne Megarrell
	3/5	Mrs Hilary McClay
	5/5	Mr Andrew Brannigan

Standing Committee – 2018

Connor	3/5	Rev Dr Alan McCann
	5/5	Rev Trevor Johnston
	3/5	Mr Roy Totten
	5/5	Mrs Pauline High
Kilmore, Elphin & Ardagh	5/5	Rev Hazel Hicks
	2/5	Rev Canon Patrick Bamber
	5/5	Mrs Brigid Barrett
	4/5	Mr Alan Williamson
Tuam, Killala & Achonry	1/5	Ven Alan Synnott
	2/5	Rev Adam Pullen
	1/5	Mr Denzil Auchmuty
	5/5	Mr Neville Bagnall
Dublin & Glendalough	5/5	Ven Richard Rountree
	5/5	Rev Stephen Farrell
	2/5	Mr Lyndon MacCann SC
	0/5	Dr Éimhín Walsh
Meath & Kildare	4/5	Rev Peter Rutherford
	1/5	Rev Canon Lynda Peilow
	4/5	Mrs Joan Bruton
	0/5	Cllr Ronan McKenna
Cashel, Ferns & Ossory	5/5	Rev Canon Susan Green
	2/5	Rev Nicola Halford
	4/5	Mr Richard Codd
	1/5	Mr Thomas Cosby
Cork, Cloyne & Ross	3/5	Ven Adrian Wilkinson
	2/5	Rev John Ardis
	5/5	Mr Wilfred Baker
	0/5	Ms Sile Hunt
Limerick & Killaloe	4/5	Ven Simon J. Lumby
	0/5	Rev Lucy Green
	5/5	Mr Adrian Hilliard
	4/5	Mr Edward Hardy

Standing Committee – 2018

Co-opted Members

Mrs Judith Cairns	4/5	Ven Gary Hastings	3/5
Rev Canon Alison Calvin	3/5	Rev Gary McMurray	4/5
Rev Canon Dr Maurice Elliott	5/5	Rev Stephen Neill	5/5
Ven Andrew Forster	2/5		

The Secretary General is entitled to attend and speak at meetings of the Standing Committee. The Assistant Secretary of the General Synod is also entitled to attend and speak at meetings.

COMMITTEES OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE

FINANCE AND ARRANGEMENTS SUB-COMMITTEE

Mr Wilfred Baker
Ven Robert Miller
The Honorary Secretaries

LEGAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

His Honour Judge Tom Burgess	Mr Oswyn Paulin
His Honour Judge Alistair Devlin	Mr William Prentice
Mr Lyndon MacCann SC	His Honour Judge Derek Rodgers
The Hon Mrs Justice Catherine McGuinness	The Right Honourable Lord Justice Stephens

The Honorary Secretaries

PRIORITIES FUND COMMITTEE

Mrs Brigid Barrett	Mr Glenn Moore
Mrs Joan Bruton	Rev Stephen Neill
Ms Hazel Corrigan	Mr Roy Totten
Ven George Davison	Ven Adrian Wilkinson
Ven Andrew Forster	

Standing Committee – 2018

BUDGET SUB COMMITTEE

Mr Wilfred Baker
Ms Hazel Corrigan
Ven George Davison

Rt Rev John McDowell
Mr Roy Totten

WORLD DEVELOPMENT – BISHOPS’ APPEAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Rev John Ardis
Rt Rev Ferran Glenfield
Ms Ruth Handy
Rev Elizabeth Hanna
Mr William Kingston
Rev Canon Jonathan Pierce

Rev Canon Noel Regan (to Jan 2018)
Rt Rev Patrick Rooke
Rev Canon Niall Sloane (from Jan 2018)
Mr Albert Smallwoods
Ms Iris Suito

LAY JUDGES OF THE COURT OF THE GENERAL SYNOD

His Honour Judge Tom Burgess
His Honour Judge Alistair Devlin
Mr Charles Galloway
The Rt Hon Lord Justice Paul Girvan
Mr Patrick Good QC

Mr Lyndon MacCann SC
The Hon Mrs Justice Catherine Mc Guinness
Mr Ronald Robins
The Right Honourable Lord Justice Stephens

3. APPOINTMENTS

During the period covered by this report, the Standing Committee made the following appointments.

Annual Methodist Conference (Derry/Londonderry, 13th-16th June 2018) Mr Richard Codd
The Rt Rev Kenneth Good

General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland (Belfast, 4th-8th June 2018) The Rt Rev John McDowell
Mrs Margaret Fullerton

Provincial Synod of the Moravian Church (Derbyshire, 6th-9th July 2018) Rt Rev Michael Burrows

Council of European Churches Assembly (Serbia, 31st May-5th June 2018) The Rt Rev Patrick Rooke
Ms Maxine Judge

Religious Society of Friends - Ireland Yearly Meeting (Limerick, 18th-22nd July 2018) Very Rev Niall Sloane

Irish Council of Churches AGM (Drogheda, March 2018) Rt Rev Alan Abernethy (Bishop of Connor)
Rt Rev Dr Harold Miller (Bishop of

Standing Committee – 2018

Down)

Very Rev Niall Sloane
Rev Canon Ian Ellis
Rev Canon Shane Forster
Rev Canon Dr Daniel Nuzum
Rev Canon Gillian Wharton
Rev Katharine Poulton
Rev Ken Rue
Rev Dr Peter Thompson
Dr Catherine Smith
Ms Georgina Copty
Mrs Ethne Harkness
Mr Iain McAleavey
Mr Philip McKinley
Ms Cate Turner
Mr Maithe White

Ratification of the Council for Mission's nomination for attendance at the World Council of Churches' Conference on World Mission and Evangelism (Tanzania, 8th-13th March 2018). Rev Adam Pullen

Launch of Ireland's Citizens' Dialogue on the Future of Europe (Dublin, 15th November 2017) Most Rev Dr Michael Jackson
Rev Canon Gillian Wharton

Churches Together in Britain and Ireland Work Programme Consultation (Buckinghamshire, 28-29th November 2017) Rev Canon Ian Ellis

Reuilly Meeting, Dublin (13th-15th November 2017) Rev Christine O'Dowd-Smyth

Churches Together in Britain and Ireland and Christian Aid Theological Consultation on the Holy Land and Israel-Palestine (6th-8th December 2017) Rev Dr William Olhausen

Irish Inter-Church Meeting (Newry, 23rd-24th November 2017) Rev Jonathan Campbell-Smyth
Rev Ruth Jackson-Noble
Rev Helene Steed
Ms Gina Copty
Mrs Jean Denner

Standing Committee – 2018

Mr Steve Grasham
Mr Andrew Irwin

Meeting of the Governing Body of the Church in Wales (Lampeter, 13th-14th September 2017)

Most Rev Dr Michael Jackson

Irish Council of Churches' European Affairs Committee

Rev Dr Adrian Empey
Ms Maxine Judge

Representative on the Executive of the Irish Council of Churches

Rt Rev Patrick Rooke

Representative to the Anglican Consultative Council

Very Rev Katharine Poulton

AGM, Churches Together in Britain and Ireland (Manchester, 10th May 2017)

Rev Canon Ian Ellis

4. ADVISORY COUNCIL TO THE CHURCH OF IRELAND CENTRE FOR EDUCATION AT DUBLIN CITY UNIVERSITY

In November 2017, the Standing Committee confirmed the terms of reference of the Advisory Council to the Church of Ireland Centre, Dublin City Institute of Education.

The report of the Advisory Council was received by the Standing Committee in March 2018, and appears as Appendix B on page 196.

5. AUDIT OF ACCOUNTS

In June 2017, the Standing Committee appointed PricewaterhouseCoopers as Auditors of the accounts of the Representative Church Body.

6. BISHOPS' APPEAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

In January, the Standing Committee accepted the co-option of Very Rev Niall Sloane to the Bishops' Appeal Advisory Committee.

The report of the Bishops' Appeal Advisory Committee appears in Appendix C on page 198.

7. CENTRAL COMMUNICATIONS BOARD

A report from the Central Communications Board incorporating the reports of the Broadcasting Committee and the Literature Committee can be found in Appendix D on page 209.

8. CHARITIES LEGISLATION

The Charities Regulatory Authority (CRA) in the Republic of Ireland has indicated to the Church that it will have capacity to begin parish registrations after April 2018. The first group of parishes to be dealt with are those in Dublin and Glendalough, which have already submitted information to the CRA, which will be migrated into the new system by the CRA (likely effective date – May 2018). Thereafter, parishes will be registered in a process managed through diocesan secretaries with support from Church House Synod Department. Meanwhile, parishes should take action according to recent guidance from the Finance Department in Church House to obtain a tax registration number from the Revenue Commissioners in advance of registering with the CRA. Parishes should also follow guidance on reporting and accounts issued by the Finance Department and available at www.ireland.anglican.org/parish resources to make sure they have accounts ready for registration with the CRA. Materials relating to governance will be provided centrally, but parishes will have to supply their own information about trustees and bank accounts. Prior to registration with the CRA, reclaims on donations from Revenue, should continue to be processed under the diocesan CHY number. Church House will be writing to Diocesan Secretaries shortly to begin preparation for registration.

In Northern Ireland, the first diocesan registrations will commence later in 2018. No cross-border entities are being asked to register in Northern Ireland at this point. Parishes are urged to inform themselves of their first reporting date and ensure reports are made in a timely way. The Charity Commission for Northern Ireland acts very quickly on late reporters and this involves additional work for those concerned as well as the potential for enquiries into governance being launched. Information to help with reporting is available at www.ireland.anglican.org/parishresources

9. CHILDREN’S MINISTRY NETWORK

In January, the Standing Committee appointed Rev Canon Ian Berry to work with representatives of the Sunday School Society and the Children’s Ministry Network to assist them in exploring the potential to merge their operation and purposes.

The report of the Children’s Ministry Network appears as Appendix R on page 267.

10. CHURCH AND SOCIETY COMMISSION

In September, the Standing Committee appointed Rev Peter Rutherford to fill a casual vacancy on CASC.

The Church and Society Commission’s report can be found in Appendix E on page 215.

11. CHURCH OF IRELAND SOCIAL MEDIA AND DIGITAL COMMUNICATIONS GUIDELINES

In September, the Standing Committee approved the Church of Ireland Social Media and Digital Communications Guidelines. These may be consulted at <https://www.ireland.anglican.org/resources/484/church-of-ireland-social-media>

12. CHURCH–STATE STRUCTURED DIALOGUE PROCESS

At the invitation of An Taoiseach, Mr Leo Varadkar TD, a delegation representing senior clergy and laity from the Church of Ireland, the Presbyterian Church in Ireland and the Methodist Church in Ireland held a bilateral meeting on Monday 22nd January 2018 with ministers in Government Buildings, Dublin, under the Church–State structured dialogue process. The Church of Ireland’s delegation was: The Most Rev Dr Richard Clarke (Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of All Ireland), The Most Rev Dr Michael Jackson (Archbishop of Dublin), the Rev Canon Gillian Wharton and Mr Ken Gibson (both Honorary Secretaries of the General Synod). The agenda for the meeting included: migration, direct provision and overseas aid; the impact of Brexit on Ireland and Northern Ireland; abortion and the 8th Amendment to the Constitution; homelessness, social housing and wider economic issues; and education issues. Further information may be found at: <https://goo.gl/AVTNGD>

13. CITIZENS’ ASSEMBLY

The Citizens’ Assembly is a body, comprising a Chairperson and 99 citizens (randomly selected to be broadly representative of the Irish electorate), for which terms of reference were agreed by the Houses of the Oireachtas in July 2016. The Assembly members’ conclusions on each topic form the basis of recommendations that are submitted to the Houses of the Oireachtas for further debate. In August, the Assembly sought submissions on the topic of “How the State can make Ireland a leader in tackling climate change”. A submission drawn up by Ven Andrew Orr, Chair of Eco-Congregations, was made to the Assembly, and may be found as Appendix F on page 227. The recommendations of the Assembly may be read at <https://goo.gl/hk9hmq>

14. CLERGY PENSIONS LEVY

In September 2017, the Standing Committee adopted a resolution on the recommendation of the Representative Church Body that, in accordance with Section 36 of Chapter XIV of the Constitution of the Church of Ireland, and on the recommendation of the Representative Body and the Trustee, the rate of levy to be paid by each diocese towards the cost of securing the solvency of the Clergy Pensions Fund from 1 January 2018 be set at 13% of the Minimum Approved Stipend in force at 1 January 2018.

15. COLLECTION OF CHURCH OF IRELAND STATISTICAL INFORMATION

Analysis of the information collected from parishes in 2016 continues, with the final diocesan returns received in February 2018. Dr Bev Botting, Head of Research & Statistics for the Church of England, is assisting with the analysis of the figures received.

16. COMPLAINTS AND DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURE

In January 2018, the Standing Committee considered the 2017 Income and Expenditure report for the Complaints Committee as required under Chapter VIII 23 (e). This report is appended as Appendix G on page 229.

17. ELECTIONS TO CITI GOVERNING COUNCIL AND MANGEMENT COMMITTEE

In November, the Standing Committee nominated Mr Roy Totten and Ven Robert Miller for appointment by the Archbishops and Bishops to serve on the Governing Council of the Church of Ireland Theological Institute for a period of one year from 1 January 2018.

18. FACILITATION COMMITTEE

The membership of the Facilitation Committee was ratified at the 2017 General Synod.

Its report is appended as Appendix H on page 230.

19. GENERAL SYNOD 2019 and 2020

In September, the Honorary Secretaries presented their conclusions following consideration of various venues for General Synod 2019. The Standing Committee debated the alternatives considered and authorised the Honorary Secretaries to conclude contractual arrangements with the Millennium Forum in Derry/Londonderry for 16th-18th May 2019. In November, the Honorary Secretaries presented various options for holding the General Synod of 2020 in a Dublin venue, and contractual arrangements for the General Synod of 2020 to be held from 7th-9th May in the Croke Park Meetings and Events Centre were agreed upon.

20. GENERAL SYNOD/STANDING COMMITTEE FINANCES

In September 2017, the Budget Sub-Committee presented its report to the Standing Committee. The report was accepted by the Standing Committee.

21. GENERAL SYNOD ROYALTIES FUND

The value of the Fund at 31st March 2018 was €223,350 and £26,589.

During the year the following allocations were made from the Royalties Fund:

Standing Committee – 2018

- That a grant of €20,000 shall be provided from the GS Royalties Fund to the CCB for the development, in consultation with the LAC, of a Daily Prayer app for use on mobile devices.
- That the sum of €15,000 be made available from the General Synod Royalties Fund to progress a tender for, and to produce a contract for the publication of, a new edition of the *Book of Common Prayer*.
- That the sum of €4,000 be provided to SEARCH – A Church of Ireland Journal to include the hosting of digitized back files for an international audience.
- That costs relating to the administration, invoicing, and distribution of books from Church House estimated at a sum of €10,000 per annum should in 2018 be paid from the Church of Ireland Publishing account.

22. HISTORICAL CENTENARIES WORKING GROUP

In March 2018, the Standing Committee co-opted Dr Andrew Scholes to its membership. The Working Group is considering names with a view to recommending a clergyperson from Northern Ireland in due course.

The report of the Working Group may be found as Appendix I on page 232.

23. HISTORIOGRAPHER'S REPORT

A report from the Church of Ireland Historiographer, Dr Kenneth Milne, is included as Appendix J on page 234.

24. MINIMUM APPROVED STIPENDS

Under Section 51(1) of Chapter IV of the Constitution of the Church of Ireland as revised by Chapter IV of 2011, the Standing Committee is required to consider recommendations from the Representative Church Body as to the rates of Minimum Approved Stipends to take effect from 1 January 2018.

At its meeting of 19th September 2017, the Standing Committee heard a submission by Mr Henry Saville, Chairman of the Executive of the Representative Church Body, which detailed the background to the RCB's recommendations.

The Standing Committee approved the recommendations of the Representative Church Body with the adoption of the following resolution:

That, in accordance with Section 51 (1) of Chapter IV of the Constitution of the Church of Ireland, and as recommended by the Stipends Committee and the Representative Body for onward recommendation to the Standing Committee, Minimum Approved Stipends shall be as follows with effect from 1 January 2018, being increased by 2.6% in Northern Ireland and unchanged in the Republic of Ireland:

Northern Ireland

£28,881

25. PARISH DEVELOPMENT WORKING GROUP

At its March meeting, the Standing Committee received the report of the Parish Development Working Group, which indicates the Group’s intention to disband, due to the changing needs of the Church and the integration of parish development at every level of the life of the Church. The Standing Committee offered heartfelt thanks to the members of the Group, and, in particular, its Chairperson, Canon Paul Hoey.

The Parish Development Working Group report appears as Appendix K on page 237.

26. PENSIONABLE STIPENDS

Under Section 2 of Chapter XIV of the Constitution of the Church of Ireland as revised by Chapter V of 2011, the Standing Committee is required to consider a recommendation from the Representative Church Body and the Church of Ireland Clergy Pensions Trustee Limited as to the rates of Pensionable Stipend to take effect from 1 January 2018.

At its meeting of 19th September 2017, the Standing Committee heard a presentation by Mr Henry Saville, Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Representative Church Body, which detailed the financial background to the recommendations of the RCB and the Church of Ireland Clergy Pensions Trustee Limited.

The Standing Committee approved the recommendations of the Representative Church Body by adopting the following resolution:

That as recommended by the Representative Church Body and the Trustee, in accordance with Section 1 of Chapter XIV of the Constitution of the Church of Ireland, Pensionable Stipend shall be as follows with effect from 1 January 2018:

Northern Ireland £25,498

Republic of Ireland €36,219

27. PRIORITIES FUND

(a) The following allocations from the Priorities Fund were approved by the Standing Committee in March 2018:

ALLOCATION OF GRANTS FROM 2018 PRIORITIES FUND

Training – Lay and Ordained

€

All Saints’ Church, Belfast (Connor) – Funding to help the Ministry Team to train three apprentices, for engagement with home and international students in our university/community area – (Stg€14,000)

15,764

Standing Committee – 2018

Diocese of Connor – Seed funding to research and develop an innovated leadership programme, aimed at both assisting established leaders and to grow new leaders for new forms of missional outreach in their community – (Stg£1,000)	1,126
The Church of Ireland Theological Institute – Funding to facilitate a programme for continuing Ministerial Education and lay training – (€45,000 – First year : €40,000 – Second year : €30,000 – Third year) – Third year	30,000
The Dioceses of Armagh, Kilmore, Elphin & Ardagh, Meath & Kildare – Funding for an inter-diocesan learning initiative between the dioceses listed, based on mission within the community and pioneer ministry – (Stg£6,000)	6,756
The House of Bishops – To support continuing ministerial education in the dioceses.	<u>40,000</u>
Sub-total	93,646
 Retirement	
C of I Clergy Pensions Fund – Additional income for most needy – (Stg£800)	<u>901</u>
Sub-total	901
 Christian Education	
Church of Ireland Gazette – Financial assistance to enable a relaunch of the Church of Ireland Gazette, with a refreshed concept, design and content, aimed at expanding its potential – (Stg£8,000 – First year : Stg£10,000 – Second year) – First year	9,008
Clogher Diocesan Magazine Committee – Funding to develop the existing diocesan magazine into a presentable digital format, making it accessible online and creating an on-going digital archive of previous editions – (Stg£1,500)	1,689
Diocesan Council of Meath and Kildare – Financial support for a full diocesan review, conducted in partnership with Church Army. The results of this review will be offered to other dioceses, thus aiding the whole church.	10,000
Mothers’ Union All-Ireland – Funding to enable the development of Mothers’ Union projects, centred on domestic abuse and gender based violence.	2,500
Mount Merrion Parish Church, Belfast (Down) – Financial assistance for project ‘Mount Merrion Music Academy’, a creative music educational service, that seeks to provide low cost music lessons and education, to a deprived area – (Stg£12,600 – First year : Stg£7,400 – Second year) – First year	14,188
Solas Project, Dublin – Funding for the expansion of ‘Step Up’, our one-to-one teenage mentoring programme.	10,000
St Mark’s Church, Portadown (Armagh) – Funding for a programme of mentoring and teaching life skills to P7 boys and girls, before they move to their chosen secondary school – (Stg£5,000 per year for 2 years) – Second year	5,630

Standing Committee – 2018

St Patrick’s Cathedral, Dublin – Financial assistance for educational drama sessions, to teach 1st – 3rd class primary school children about the life of Saint Patrick, through live Christian drama.	4,000
Summer Madness (NI) – Funding to develop a weekly youth leadership podcast programme, that will reach out to youth leaders right across the island, in rural and urban settings – (Stg£3,000)	3,378
Tuam, Killala and Achonry Dioceses – To assist financially with the production of a ‘Good News’ promotional DVD, as phase one of the Diocesan Fresh Expressions outreach strategy.	3,000

The following applications all concern youth work and the grants allocation take into consideration recommendations made by the Executive Committee of the Church of Ireland Youth Department.

Church of Ireland Youth Department – To assist financially with the purchase of African drums for Global Justice in youth work training, in partnership with Tearfund Ireland.	1,000
Connor Diocese Children’s Council – Funding to support year two of our creative cross community storytelling event, ‘Patrick’s Mysterious Adventure’, telling the story of Saint Patrick – (Stg£2,500)	2,815
Cork Diocesan Youth Council – Funding for a new project called ‘Reconnecting with 18-30 year olds’ – (€4,280 per year for 2 years) – Second year	4,280
Diocese of Connor – Part funding for phase two of Connor Diocese’s Children’s Ministry Project – (Stg£10,000 per year for 2 years) – Second year	11,260
Down and Dromore Youth, Children’s and Families Department – Funding to train and equip up to 30 new, young, music worship leaders – (Stg£8,075)	9,062
Engage Connor Youth – To secure funds to allow the development of a project, which will provide support to parishes, concerning mental health issues in young people in their communities – (Stg£10,000 – First year : Stg£8,000 – Second year) – First year	11,260
Innovista Ireland – Funding to equip young adults with the skills for leading local mission, through ‘Leading for Life’ training days in Dublin and North-West Ireland.	3,500
Logic –St John’s Parish, Moira (Dromore) – Financial assistance for the set-up costs, delivery of programme and purchase of equipment, over a three year period – (Stg£8,000 – First year : Stg£5,000 – Second year) – First year	9,008
Parish of Kiltcevogue (Raphoe) – Funding to facilitate the engagement of an intern programme, to foster Christian faith development in children and young people – (€11,000 – First year : €10,000 – Second year) – First year	11,000
St John the Evangelist Parish, Killyleagh (Down) – Financial support for an outreach initiative in youth ministry in a rural village setting – (Stg£1,000)	1,126

Standing Committee – 2018

Youth Council of Kilmore, Elphin and Ardagh (YKEA) – Financial assistance for a diocesan intern programme, as a means of developing youth work in an innovative manner in a rural dioceses – (€30,000 – First year : €20,000 – Second year) – Second year	<u>20,000</u>
Sub-total	14,734
Community	
Willowfield Parish Community Association (Down) – Funding for a project ‘Branching Out’, to reach out with practical support to people in need, in the Willowfield area of East Belfast – (Stg£10,000 – First year : Stg£5,000 – Second year) – Second year	<u>5,630</u>
Sub-total	5,630
Outreach Initiatives	
Ballina Churches Together / Tuam Centre of Mission – Funding to cover the running costs of the Ballina Churches Together Project, a social outreach project across the Ballina community.	18,600
Braniel Community Church (Down and Dromore) – Financial assistance for outreach initiatives to the people living and working in the Braniel, a Protestant working class estate in East Belfast – (Stg£18,000)	20,268
Carrickmacross Group of Parishes (Clogher) – Funding for outreach initiatives, to enhance Christian education in our parish and schools.	1,500
Clogher Diocesan Music Bursary Committee – Funding for a diocesan ‘Big Sing’, to encourage those who lead music in parishes, throughout the diocese and beyond – (Stg£2,000)	2,252
Cloonclare Parish, Manorhamilton (Kilmore) – Financial assistance towards the equipment and set-up costs associated with creating a new shared space community centre.	10,000
Cloyne Union (Cloyne) – Funding to expand the mission and outreach possibilities of the cathedral.	15,000
Diocesan Council of Cork, Cloyne and Ross – Funding to enable the dioceses to respond to the particular, pastoral, educational and social challenges posed by the commemoration of the forthcoming Centenaries of 1918 – 1923 in County Cork – (€8,000 per year for 2 years) – First year	8,000
Drumcliffe Parish (Elphin) – To assist with funding for the development of the outreach potential of the Drumcliffe Centre of Mission.	20,000
Faughanvale Parish Church (Derry) – Financial assistance for the parish, badly affected by the recent flooding – (Stg£12,000)	13,512
Faughanvale Parish Church (Derry) – Funding for the renewal and development of the church building and hall, following recent flooding – (Stg£25,000)	28,150
Glendermott Parish Church (Derry) – Financial assistance for the development of a mission outreach centre, including a café, debt advice centre, job skills training and other outreach services – (Stg£5,000)	5,630
Kinsale Union of Parishes (Cork) – Financial assistance to enhance the west end of the Church of St Multose, to facilitate a children’s ministry programme and wider community use.	10,000
Parish of Ballymacarrett (Down) – Seed funding for the ‘Ballymacarrett Outreach Project’, a three year initiative designed to help the local parish	

Standing Committee – 2018

significantly improve contact with the local community – (Stg£7,000 – First year : Stg£5,000	7,882
Seagoe Parish (Dromore) – Funding to continue the valuable outreach and mission work in the nearby, deprived estate of Killicomaine – (Stg£5,000)	5,630
St Andrew’s Community Action Group – SACAG (Connor) – Funding to enable St Andrew’s Community Action Group to offer community development services to the Glencairn Estate, Belfast – (Stg£13,000 – First year : Stg£10,000 – Second year) – Second year	11,260
St Brendan’s Church, Sydenham (Down) – To assist financially with the W.O.W. (Women of Worth) Project, a three year initiative to address and alleviate the issues of poverty, hopelessness and a lack of interaction with the local church in the parish of Sydenham – (Stg£8,000)	9,008
St James’ Church of Ireland – Crinken (Dublin) – Financial assistance to enable the parish put facilities in place, to extend its reach into the community.	8,000
St Mark’s Parish, Ballysillan (Connor) – Financial assistance for the refurbishment of the interior of the parish hall, to enable our ministry expand further into the surrounding community – (Stg£20,000)	22,250
St Patrick’s Church, Greystones (Glendalough) – Funding for the alteration of the parish centre, to create an open, flexible room, for faith based activities and outreach.	8,000
St Paul and St Barnabas Parish, Belfast (Connor) – Financial assistance for a three year project ‘Kids & Kin’, a new initiative of outreach to children and families in the local area – (Stg£5,000 – First year : Stg£4,000 – Second year) – First year	5,630
Tralee and Dingle Union of Parishes (Ardfert) – To support the parish financially in providing a ‘Soup Kitchen’, as part of its outreach programme.	5,000
United Parish of St Stephen and St Luke, Belfast (Connor) – Financial assistance for the internal refurbishment of the church, to create a ministry space capable of facilitating a wide range of outreach ministries – (Stg£28,620)	32,226
Woodschapel Parish Church (Armagh) – Financial assistance for a two year project ‘Ministry With Out Walls’ (WOW), to engage meaningfully within our community with people of all ages – (Stg£5,500)	<u>6,193</u>
Sub-total	274,261

Innovative Ministry in a Rural Context

Armagh Diocesan Council – Funding to support the continuing work of the Diocesan Evangelist, particularly in expanding the Zaccheus Project, focusing on the Loyalist Band Community – (Stg£20,000 per year for 2 years) – First year	22,520
Ballinamallard United Football Club – To provide funding for the development and production of literature, to raise awareness of the role of the chaplain across all levels of the club – (Stg£1,000)	1,126
Cong Union Parish (Tuam) – Funding for the construction of a parish meeting room, for children’s ministry and other outreach activities.	20,000
Hollymount Church with LAMP (Down) – Financial assistance for projects to reach out to young families and tourists, in the Lecale area of County Down – (Stg£6,000)	6,756
Killough Church Plant (Down and Dromore) – Funding to further develop the church plant in Killough, which is a pioneering and innovative ministry in a rural context – (Stg£12,000 – First year : Stg£7,000 – Second year) – First year	13,512
Parish of Errigal and Desertoghill (Derry) – Funding for a project to build a	

Standing Committee – 2018

united community and break down sectarianism – (Stg£6,000 – First year : Stg£5,000 – Second year) – Second year	5,630
Seskinore Chapel of Ease – Parish of Clogherny (Armagh) – Funding to build a new church hall and reach out to our village community – (Stg£10,000)	11,260
South Leitrim Group of Parishes – Ballinamore (Ardagh) – To assist financially with rejuvenation and reconciliation in this rural parish.	8,000
South Leitrim Group of Parishes – Mohill (Ardagh) – Financial assistance for mission and ministry in a rural community.	8,000
St Edan’s Parish Hall – Ferns Union of Parishes (Ferns) – To assist financially with the improvement of facilities at St Edan’s Parish Hall, to further its role in youth and community activities.	8,000
St Francis’ Parish Church, Annaghmore (Armagh) – Funding to help complete the new parish centre and help realise our vision of mission, for the local community – (Stg£7,000)	7,882
St James’ Parish Church, Moy (Armagh) – Financial assistance towards the provision of a much needed educational, cultural and social facility, which will benefit the parish and wider community – (Stg£7,000)	7,882
St Thomas’ Church, Moyard (Tuam) – Funding for the provision of toilet facilities, to further the welcoming ministry and mission, in this sparsely populated area of the west of Ireland.	5,000
The Church Lads’ and Church Girls’ Brigade – To assist financially with the growth of this organisation in rural communities – (Stg£3,000)	<u>3,378</u>
Sub-total	128,946
Total allocated	651,118

Sterling grants have been converted to Euro using the 2017 end of year rate of 0.8881.

Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2017 are included as Appendix L on Page 240
Contributions to the Fund do not close until the end of February. The amount actually
received by 28 February 2018 was €536,972 .

Following a recommendation from the Priorities Fund Committee, the Standing Committee
in March 2018, agreed that diocesan targets for contributions to the 2019 Fund should not be
increased and should remain at their current levels.

28. SAFE GUARDING TRUST BOARD

At its March meeting, the Standing Committee approved draft legislation to adopt a
policy to address the safeguarding of adults and to provide for a new Safeguarding
levy.

The report of the Safeguarding Trust Board appears as Appendix M on page 246.

29. WORKING GROUP ON *THE BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER*

A Working Group set up in 2017 to negotiate a short print run of the *Book of
Common Prayer* found that the cost of producing a small number of copies was
prohibitive. At its November meeting, the Standing Committee appointed a group
to seek expressions of interest from recognized liturgical publishers to reprint the

Standing Committee – 2018

BCP, following the General Synod of 2018. Its members are Rev Stephen Farrell, Mr Ken Gibson, Rt Rev Dr Harold Miller, Ven Richard Rountree, and Rev Alan Rufli. The Group is currently undertaking work towards agreeing a contract and costs with Hymns Ancient and Modern to publish a new edition of the *Book of Common Prayer* (pew and desk editions), a Morning and Evening Prayer with seasonal material booklet and a Collects of the Word booklet, the exact content to be finalised following the 2018 General Synod and the details of the contract, including costs, to be reported to the Standing Committee at its June 2018 meeting.

30. WORKING GROUP ON DISABILITY

The report of the Working Group on Disability appears as Appendix O on page 261.

31. WORKING GROUP ON PIONEER MINISTRY

The report of the Pioneer Ministry Working Group may be found as Appendix P on page 263.

32. REFUGEE WORKING GROUPS

The report of the Refugee Working Groups, established by the House of Bishops in response to the refugee and migration crisis, may be found as Appendix Q on page 265

MOTIONS TO BE PROPOSED AT GENERAL SYNOD

Brought collaboratively by the Church of Ireland Bishops’ Appeal and the Church of Ireland Council for Mission

Proposer: The Rt Rev Patrick Rooke

Seconder: Mr Derek Neilson

That General Synod supports the request of the Church of Ireland Bishops’ Appeal and the Church of Ireland Council for Mission to provide the resources needed to carry out a scoping study into the potential for greater collaboration

- (i) Between existing Church of Ireland committees and
- (ii) Between the Church of Ireland and groups associated with it.

The research should explore further areas for collaboration for linking local and global justice issues such as (but not limited to) hunger, displacement, homelessness, poverty, wealth inequality, unfair tax and trade, climate change and gender based violence.

The finding of such a scoping study should be delivered to the General Synod 2019 and it should form the basis for decisive, focused and collaborative action on such issues moving forward.

APPENDIX B

**THE CHURCH OF IRELAND CENTRE,
DCU INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION**

ADVISORY COUNCIL

REPORT TO THE GENERAL SYNOD 2018

MEMBERS

Members are shown with attendance figures for the four meetings held during 2017.

4	Most Rev Richard Clarke, Archbishop of Armagh	School patron (Chair)
0	Most Rev Michael Jackson, Archbishop of Dublin	School patron
4	Rev Canon Gillian Wharton	Honorary Secretary and member of the General Synod Board of Education (RI)
4	Rev Brian O'Rourke	Member of Board of Management of a Church of Ireland national school and of the General Synod Board of Education (RI)
4	Ms Joyce Perdue	National school principal
3	Mr Robert Neill	Member of the RCB with financial or auditing expertise
0	Rev Canon Prof Leslie Francis	External academic expert

IN ATTENDANCE

Rev Prof Anne Lodge	Director, CIC
Mr David Ritchie	Chief Officer, RCB and Secretary General
Ms Elaine Whitehouse	Secretary to the Advisory Council

INTRODUCTION

In 2016 the Church of Ireland College of Education (CICE) was incorporated into Dublin City University (DCU) as part of the implementation of the recommendations of *The Report of the International Review Panel on the Structure of Initial Teacher Education Provision in Ireland*. At the time of the incorporation, a new Institute of Education was created within DCU to provide for the formation of teachers for denominational, non-denominational and multi-denominational schools.

A new Church of Ireland Centre was established within the Institute of Education at DCU to ensure that the distinctive identity and values of teacher education in the Church of Ireland / Reformed Christian traditions is maintained on an ongoing basis.

The incorporation process provided that the Church of Ireland Centre (CIC) be supported by an Advisory Council, appointed by the relevant Church authorities. Accordingly the

Standing Committee – Report 2018

Standing Committee of the General Synod in November 2016 nominated the first members to the Council.

In collaboration with the governing structures of DCU, the Council is responsible for the relationship of the Church of Ireland with CIC.

The principal activities of the Council as set out in its terms of reference are to support the work of CIC and its Director and staff in the training of students as teachers in national schools under Church of Ireland / Reformed Christian faith patronage, and to make recommendations to the Representative Church Body (RCB) as trustee of the Church of Ireland College of Education Fund Trust in relation to the CIC annual budget and other allocations.

REVIEW OF THE YEAR 2017

The Council first met in March 2017. The Council's meetings during 2017 were largely concerned with establishing terms of reference for the Council, in collaboration with DCU. Following approval by the Council and the President of DCU, the Council's terms of reference were confirmed by the Standing Committee of General Synod in November 2017. The approved terms of reference were forwarded to the RCB for noting.

The Council received ongoing reports in relation to matters being handled through Church of Ireland Teacher Education (CITE) DAC, the new subsidiary company established by the RCB to handle certain statutory and financial matters in relation to CIC. During 2017 these included entering into an accreditation agreement to facilitate the awarding of degrees by Trinity College Dublin to CIC students who started their degree before CIC moved to DCU, and preparing to apply for a derogation from the Employment Equality Acts as required to facilitate future admissions to CIC.

In September 2017 the RCB as trustee of the Church of Ireland College of Education Fund Trust agreed that an annual sum be made available from the Fund Trust for disbursement at the discretion of the Chairman of the Advisory Council.

Senior representatives of DCU who attended Council meetings during the year included Prof Brian MacCraith, President; Prof Eithne Guilfoyle, Vice President Academic Affairs and Dr Anne Looney, Executive Dean, Institute of Education. The Council is grateful to Prof MacCraith and his colleagues for their collaboration and engagement.

Topics on which discussion would be particularly welcome

1. ‘Christianity stands or falls with its revolutionary protest against violence, arbitrariness and pride of power and with its plea for the weak. Christians are doing too little to make these points clear rather than too much. Christendom adjusts itself far too easily to the worship of power. Christians should give more offense, shock the world far more, than they are doing now. Christians should take a stronger stand in favour of the weak rather than considering first the possible right of the strong.’ - - Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Sermon on II Cor. 12:9

APPENDIX C

BISHOPS’ APPEAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Rev John Ardis	Rev Canon Jonathan Pierce
Rt Rev Ferran Glenfield	Rev Canon Noel Regan (Resigned Jan ’18)
Ms Ruth Handy	Rt Rev Patrick Rooke (Chair)
Rev Elizabeth Hanna	Mr Albert Smallwoods
Mr William Kingston (Treasurer)	Mrs Iris Suitor (Secretary)
Very Rev Niall Sloane (Co-Opted Jan ’18)	

DIOCESAN REPRESENTATIVES

Armagh: Rev Elizabeth Stevenson
Clogher: Rev Ngozi Njoku (incoming); Rev Canon Noel Regan (outgoing)
Derry & Raphoe: Mr Albert Smallwoods & Ms Sue Grier
Down & Dromore: Rev Nigel Kirkpatrick
Connor: Rev John Anderson & Rev Elaine O’Brien
Kilmore, Elphin & Ardagh: Mr Albert Dawson (incoming); Rev Canon David Catterall (outgoing)
Tuam, Killala & Achonry: Rev Jennifer McWhirter
Dublin & Glendalough: Mr Geoffrey McMaster & Rev Ken Rue
Meath & Kildare: Rev William Steacy
Cashel, Ferns & Ossory: Mr William Kingston (outgoing), Mrs Gillian Purser (incoming) & Mrs Valerie Power
Cork, Cloyne & Ross: Mr Andrew Coleman
Limerick & Killaloe: Rev Canon Bob Hanna

*‘It’s the greatest poverty to decide that a child must die so that you may live as you wish.’
Mother Teresa*

Executive Summary:

In 2017, the donations received and subsequently released by the Bishops' Appeal amounted to €287,108 and £193,733.

These funds were utilised in response to some of the worst humanitarian crises, including, but not limited to, the East African drought and famine and the humanitarian crises in South Sudan and Yemen. The Rohingya Refugee Crisis was further exacerbated by the fact that those fleeing violence in Myanmar were seeking refuge in Bangladesh – one third of which was flooded with sea water. By equipping and resourcing the emergency responders, lives have been saved. There is no doubt that people have survived catastrophe because more resources were made available to them through the generosity of the Church of Ireland.

It is important to emphasise that Bishops' Appeal gives in areas beyond the remit of Disaster Relief Response as a strategic and prophetic statement that the majority of the world's poor, although not experiencing emergencies deemed newsworthy by the media, are living in a constant state of emergency caused by a cycle of poverty.

Five times a year mission and development agencies apply for funding to the Bishops' Appeal executive committee for projects that alleviate poverty for the world's most vulnerable communities through the provision of healthcare, education, water, vocational training, diversified crops and other long term sustainable programmes. This funding serves many forgotten communities and groups around the world, enabling them to build resilience and to lift themselves out of extreme poverty.

Over the course of the last year, several dioceses partnered with a mission agency and a diocese or community overseas as well as with Bishops' Appeal to focus their fundraising on a particular cause. See more detailed accounts of the creative and generous endeavours of Meath and Kildare, Derry and Raphoe, Cork, Cloyne and Ross, Cashel, Ferns and Ossory and Tuam, Killala and Achonry.

Bishops' Appeal has two new pilot projects in circulation. The first is the provision of grants for those who wish to become certified in TEFL (Teaching English as a Second Language) so that they can teach English to refugees and migrants and the second is a Bishops' Appeal calendar, which will highlight different poverty or justice issues for reflection and prayer on a monthly basis.

Disaster Relief Response:

- The East Africa Appeal was launched by the Archbishops in March 2017 in response to the worst humanitarian crisis in the region since 1945. By December 2017

€44,133 and £45,977 had been raised throughout the Church of Ireland to support the Emergency Relief efforts. 20 million people across several countries faced hunger and even starvation and urgently needed assistance. Donations to Bishops' Appeal funded water and sanitation, food, food vouchers and cash grants as well as tools and seeds for new crops.

- In addition to the funds donated specifically for the East Africa Crisis Appeal, Bishops' Appeal also released General Funds for the following Relief efforts:
 - £25,500 was released to CMS Ireland for their emergency relief efforts in dioceses in South Sudan receiving thousands of people fleeing violence and food shortages.
 - £24,000 was released to CMS Ireland for their work in 5 refugee camps in Uganda. These are receiving people from South Sudan and the work focuses on vulnerable children and support for child headed households.
 - €22,000 was released to Tearfund Ireland for the provision of life-saving medicine due to an outbreak of typhoid in Yemen.
- The Rohingya Refugee Crisis has seen an exodus of 620,000 people from Myanmar since 2017. One of the most persecuted ethnic minorities in the world, the Rohingya were fleeing targeted persecution and extermination. Initially Bishops' Appeal supported relief efforts via Medecin Sans Frontiere who provided water, sanitation and medical assistance to people as they arrived exhausted, traumatised and often wounded. Later, additional funds were released via Christian Aid and Tearfund for their responses in Bangladesh and Myanmar.

Forgotten Projects:

For a more comprehensive list of projects funded in the last year, see the Bishops' Appeal annual leaflet or visit our website: www.bishopsappeal.ireland.anglican.org
Below we have highlighted three.

Education:

Bishops' Appeal funded a Vocational Training Programme for Youth in Sierra Leone in partnership with Christian Aid. Youth unemployment is extremely high and with recent mud slides in the country, there is an even greater need to support and resource people.

Health:

A Women's Health Project in Nepal with CMS Ireland focused on screening women for prolapsed uterus and treating those in need of medical support. Many people living in poverty will continue working even with debilitating ailments as it is too financially and time costly to get treated. Such a programme has provided relief and dignity to many people.

Rural Development:

Rain Water Harvesting in Uganda with Fields of Life is an effective way to collect and store water for washing and cooking without having to walk many miles to a water source. Bishops' Appeal has funded many such projects for Fields of Life, as well as borehole projects and latrine and sanitation projects and more recently, 'I am a Girl' projects. These address gender based violence but also provide separate latrines for girls and menstrual hygiene products so female students don't miss so much school and they provide education for the wider community of the rights and dignity of women and girls.

Diocesan Link Projects:

Bishops' Appeal welcomes expressions of interest by Dioceses for Link Projects with communities and dioceses overseas.

Meath & Kildare:

Good for the Sole was run in two phases and focused on support for people living with Leprosy, first by supplying fitted sandals and second by funding reconstructive foot surgery. Having reached and exceeded the target of €25,000, the diocese entered the second phase of this project. Each surgery costs €50 and the results are transformative for the person and for their family. Dr Jerry Joshua, who works with the Leprosy Mission in India came to Ireland in June 2016 to share about the difference the surgeries were making in the lives of his patients. After Easter 2017, a team of 12 people from the Diocese went out to India to see where the money was being used. The Diocese raised €41,400 to sponsor 827 operations. The Leprosy Mission has enough funding to carry out foot surgeries in their hospitals in India for the next 2 ½ years (until 2020)

Cashel, Ferns and Ossory:

The 2016 and 2017 Diocesan Link project 'Literacy Links' focused on women's literacy in Ethiopia and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) in partnership with Bishops' Appeal, Mothers' Union and Feed the Minds. Parishes and individuals raised much needed funds for literacy, peace building and vocational training in soap making. Good news stories from women who attended the literacy circles and learned to read and write really emphasise the impact that literacy makes to us as human beings with dignity, giving us confidence and opening up opportunities. The fundraising efforts culminated in Bishop Michael's own sponsored preaching marathon, taking in every parish and school in the Diocese:

“Particularly in the developing world, it is women who share the benefits of their education with their families, who work effectively for equality and opportunity and who together hasten the breaking in of the Kingdom of God.

In this journey not only do we consider the gifts and potential of women as humans sharing the image of God, we also explore feminine imagery surrounding the divine.” – Bishop Michael Burrows

Tuam, Killala and Achonry:

The Diocese of Tuam, Killala and Achonry is funding a Water Project entitled ‘Magi’ in Oltiasika in Kajiado Diocese in Kenya which will store and protect the water and encourage community ownership of a protected water source. They have set a target of £37K and the project is being undertaken in partnership with Bishops’ Appeal and CMS Ireland. In November 2017, a team from TKA visited the projects they have funded in Kenya. Due to drought, the water tank lids were not yet completed and the team could see the immense need for them to protect the water and keep it free from contamination. The Diocesan Link Project has proven to be a real partnership, with both dioceses learning, growing and being enriched as a result.

Derry & Raphoe:

The Diocese of Derry and Raphoe has a long, generous and creative history of partnering with Bishops’ Appeal. This year in a partnership with Send a Cow, £60,000 was donated by parishioners for the provision of cows in an underdeveloped Diocese of Kenya called Butere. Much ground work was done before the cows were purchased and distributed. Appropriate training was provided in animal husbandry. Send A Cow also had to be satisfied that suitable grazing land with good water supply was available.

The next step was to identify and set up proper facilities for milking, and to make sure that local people were equipped to diagnose and treat illness in their livestock. In late 2017, Butere clergy and their spouses visited a small dairy farm in Shianda in preparation for the anticipated arrival of high-yield cows early in 2018.

Cork, Cloyne & Ross:

The Church of Ireland Bishops' Appeal and Diocese of Cork, Cloyne and Ross have partnered with Christian Aid to help farmers in Burundi make the most of their maize.

The support of the Diocese of Cork, Cloyne and Ross provided farmers with the financial capital they required to invest in modern farming technologies. Agricultural livelihoods are still recovering from the consequences of the war, and have been affected in recent years by an increasingly variable climate, making food security a real challenge. Many Burundians live in rural areas and are dependent on subsistence farming for their survival and financial security. Competition for farmland is high and rainfall is erratic, particularly in the north and east of the country. It is often impossible for farmers who have achieved food security to move beyond this and achieve financial security.

Farmers need support if they are to adapt to a changing climate and extract the greatest value from their harvest. Cork, Cloyne and Ross Diocese have raised over €34,000 for this project in 2016 and 2017.

Collaborations, New Initiatives and Plans for the Future:

TEFL Grants:

From early 2018 Bishops' Appeal is funding a number of people who wish to get a TEFL qualification (Teaching English as a Foreign Language) so that they can provide English language classes to refugees, asylum seekers and migrants living in Ireland. This initiative generated a large amount of interest and there was a big response from readers of the Gazette and Vox Magazine. Some people did not want to avail of the grant but they wanted support to identify the right course for them and to connect in with groups who provide English language support. It has been very uplifting to speak with so many people interested in developing skills so that they can serve God and serve their neighbour in new ways.

Lenten Focus 2018: #Jars4Journeys

Bishops' Appeal collaborated with Eco-Congregation Ireland and the Representative Church Body for its Lenten #Jars4Journeys initiative. People were encouraged to use old jam jars or other recyclable containers and every time they took a journey by bus, train, tram, car or flight, to donate to the jar. At the end of Lent the money was split between three conservation projects in countries where people are most affected by climate change. These are:

- Conservation farming training for Self Help Groups affected by prolonged drought and unpredictable rainfall in Ethiopia through Tearfund Ireland;
- Solar Ovens for Amazonian Communities affected by flooding and drought in Bolivia with Christian Aid and
- Tree Planting and Water Harvesting for communities affected by deforestation, land grabs and dried up rivers in Kenya with the Greenbelt Movement.

The RCB and Bishops' Appeal match funded the first €/\$1000 worth of donations. The purpose of this was to encourage people to live mindfully and to be aware of their impact and footprint as part of God's Creation.

Harman Scholarship:

Bishops' Appeal collaborated with CMS Ireland to run the Harman Scholarship, which provides access to additional education to someone who can then use their new skills and knowledge in their own community context. This year's scholar, Geoffrey Banda, is studying at St John's Anglican Seminary, Kitwe, Zambia. Through the scholarship he was able to do invaluable work experience at Carrigrohane parish in Cork, Cloyne and Ross.

Gender Based Violence:

Bishops' Appeal is currently in discussion with the Mothers' Union about a broader collaboration both within the church and between the church and wider society to increase awareness of and response to gender based violence.

Calendar 2019:

Bishops' Appeal is currently collating a calendar that will provide reflections from the House of Bishops on different justice issues to mark the anniversary of Disestablishment.

Diocesan Representatives:

Bishops' Appeal is very grateful for the work of the Diocesan Representatives who raise awareness at a diocesan level of how the Church is responding to global need. They keep the Church's mission to 'loose the chains of injustice and untie the cords of the yoke, to set the oppressed free and break every yoke? ... to share your food with the hungry and to provide the poor wanderer with shelter— when you see the naked, to clothe them, ... at the forefront of people's minds. ' At a recent Diocesan Representatives meeting new forums for a more collaborative response to injustice were discussed and will be explored further. For a list of Bishops' Appeal Representatives see:
<http://www.bishopsappeal.ireland.anglican.org/who-we-are/>

Thanks:

Bishops' Appeal wish to thank the Finance Department of the RCB for their consistent support with the accounts. Special thanks to Ms Doreen Smyth, Ms Kate Williams, Ms Patricia Wilson and Ms Pauline Dunlop.

Bishops' Appeal is extremely grateful to all the agencies who partner with the Church and who walk alongside communities in different parts of the world, listening to them, learning from them and supporting them.

Bishops' Appeal is heavily dependent upon the work and enthusiasm of its Education Advisor, Ms Lydia Monds. Lydia's heart for the poor and vulnerable is well known across the Church of Ireland and we are fortunate to have the services of such a dedicated and able communicator.

Finally, Bishops' Appeal expresses heartfelt gratitude to the Church – individuals, parishes, dioceses and central structures for continuing to support the work.

Looking Forward:

Empathy is about standing in someone else's shoes, feeling with his or her heart, seeing with his or her eyes. Empathy is about finding echoes of another person in yourself. But even the most empathetic person can come to the end of themselves. That is why we must draw on God's infinite reserve of compassion and empathy for us and for others. This prevents us from becoming weary of the never-ending cycles of injustice and poverty and makes us think of the person, the family, the community who have received

solace and strength because we decided to look beyond our own lives and to have an impact on another's. Martin Luther King Junior said:

'On the one hand we are called to play the Good Samaritan on life's roadside; but that will only be an initial act. One day we must come to see that the whole Jericho road must be transformed so that men and women will not be constantly beaten and robbed as they make their journey on life's highway.'

We pray that this year will be one of broadening and deepening our outward focus, so that we don't just respond to poverty, but to its root causes. And as we see our own society and lifestyles propped up and maintained on the backs of the poor, may we be brave enough to seek a life that values other life more than it values materialism, consumerism and the accumulation of wealth. Yes, we will lay it all down and follow Jesus.

Brought collaboratively by the Church of Ireland Bishops' Appeal and the Church of Ireland Council for Mission

Proposer: The Rt Rev Patrick Rooke

Seconder: Mr Derek Neilson

That General Synod supports the request of the Church of Ireland Bishops' Appeal and the Church of Ireland Council for Mission to provide the resources needed to carry out a scoping study into the potential for greater collaboration

- (i) Between existing Church of Ireland committees and
- (ii) Between the Church of Ireland and groups associated with it.

The research should explore further areas for collaboration for linking local and global justice issues such as (but not limited to) hunger, displacement, homelessness, poverty, wealth inequality, unfair tax and trade, climate change and gender based violence.

The finding of such a scoping study should be delivered to the General Synod 2019 and it should form the basis for decisive, focused and collaborative action on such issues moving forward.



Report on the audit of the financial statements of the Church of Ireland Bishops Appeal

Opinion

In our opinion, the Church of Ireland Bishops Appeal's financial statements for the year ended **31 December 2017** have been properly prepared, in all material respects, in accordance with the basis of preparation and the accounting policies on page 8 of the financial statements.

We have audited the financial statements, which comprise:

- the Balance Sheet as at **31 December 2017**;
- the Income and expenditure account for the year then ended;
- the accounting policies; and
- the notes to the financial statements.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (Ireland) ("ISAs (Ireland)").

Our responsibilities under ISAs (Ireland) are further described in the Auditors' responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Independence

We remained independent of the entity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in Ireland, which includes IAASA's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements.

Emphasis of matter - Basis of Preparation

In forming our opinion on the financial statements, which is not modified, we draw attention to the fact that the accounting policies used and disclosures made are not intended to, and do not, comply with the requirements of Generally Accepted Accounting Practice in Ireland.

Conclusions relating to going concern

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which ISAs (Ireland) require us to report to you where:

- the Advisory Committee's use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is not appropriate; or

- the Advisory Committee has not disclosed in the financial statements any identified material uncertainties that may cast significant doubt about the entity's ability to continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting for a period of at least twelve months from the date when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

However, because not all future events or conditions can be predicted, this statement is not a guarantee as to the entity's ability to continue as a going concern.

Reporting on other information

The other information comprises all of the information in the Annual Report other than the financial statements and our auditors' report thereon. The Advisory Committee is responsible for the other information. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, accordingly, we do not express an audit opinion or, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in this report, any form of assurance thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify an apparent material inconsistency or material misstatement, we are required to perform procedures to conclude whether there is a material misstatement of the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report based on these responsibilities.

Responsibilities for the financial statements and the audit *Responsibilities of the Advisory Committee for the financial statements*

As explained more fully in the Advisory Committee's Responsibilities Statement set out on page 4, the Advisory Committee is responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the applicable framework and for being satisfied that they have been properly prepared in accordance with the basis of preparation and accounting policies on page 8 in the financial statements and for determining that the basis of preparation and accounting policies are acceptable in the circumstances.

The Advisory Committee is also responsible for such internal control as they determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the Advisory Committee is responsible for assessing the entity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Advisory Committee either intends to liquidate the entity or to cease operations or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditors responsibilities to the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditors' report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (Ireland) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate,



they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Irish Auditing and Accounting Supervisory Authority website at: <https://www.iasa.ie/getmedia/b2389013-1cf6-458b-gb8f-ag8202dc9c3a>. This description forms part of our auditors' report.

Use of this report

This report, including the opinion, has been prepared for and only for the Advisory Committee as a body for management purposes in accordance with our engagement letter dated 20 November 2017 and for no other purpose. We do not, in giving this opinion, accept or assume responsibility for any other purpose or to any other person to whom this report is shown or into whose hands it may come, including without limitation under any contractual obligations of the entity, save where expressly agreed by our prior consent in writing.

PricewaterhouseCoopers
Chartered Accountants
Dublin
16 March 2018

Topic on which discussion would be particularly welcome

- The Daily Prayer app
- Social media guidelines

APPENDIX D

CENTRAL COMMUNICATIONS BOARD TO GENERAL SYNOD

MEMBERSHIP

Most Rev Patricia Storey	(House of Bishops)
Ven Richard Rountree	(Standing Committee)
Rev Canon Gillian Wharton	(Honorary Secretary)
Dr Kenneth Milne	(Chair - Literature Committee)
Dr Raymond Refaussedé	(Hon Secretary - Literature Committee)
Mr David Ritchie	(Church House Senior Management)
Mrs Yvonne Blennerhassett	(Representative Body)
Very Rev Alastair Grimason	(Representative Body)
Ms Ruth Buchanan	(Broadcasting Committee)
Rev Trevor Johnston	(Co-option for gender & regional balance)
Head of Synod Services & Communications	(<i>ex officio</i>)
Press Officer	(<i>in attendance</i>)

Broadcasting Committee

Ms Ruth Buchanan
Mr Roger Childs
Rev Eileen Cremin (Chair)
Mr Paul Loughlin
Rev Dr Bert Tosh

Terms of Reference

- Initiate policy in relation to the communications strategy of the Church
- Co-ordinate the work of the sub-committees
- Report annually to the General Synod

Action Plan 2018

- Support the publication and promotion of a new edition of the *Book of Common Prayer*;
- Promote closer association between Soul Waves and Diocese of Dublin & Glendalough AV project;
- Promote use of the Daily Prayer App;
- Support Church activity in lead up to 150th anniversary of Dis-establishment;

Report

In a fruitful year, the Central Communications Board agreed Social Media and Digital Communications Guidelines which seek to foster healthy and active online engagement while helping to manage risks and prevent misuse. These were developed by Dr Paul Harron and – with their kind collaboration – based on the model recently used in the Scottish Episcopal Church. These Church of Ireland guidelines were launched and promoted widely during 2017 and all involved in the life of the Church are encouraged to use them. They are available at: <https://www.ireland.anglican.org/news/7454/church-of-ireland-social-media>

Another significant project this year was the production of a daily prayer app, which is being launched at the 2018 General Synod. The App contains a simple Office with readings for individuals to use for a time of reflection. A small charge of 99p/99c was necessary to enable the app to use readings from the NRSV, the Bible translation approved for use in the Church of Ireland by the House of Bishops.

During 2017/18, the Literature Committee, through the Church of Ireland Publishing imprint, and with support from the GS Royalties Fund, produced three publications: Cecil Hyland's *Journeying in Faith*; Dr Maurice Elliott and Rev Paddy McGlinchy's (eds), *Perspectives on Preaching*; and the Constitutional Review Group's *Illustrated Commentary on the Church of Ireland Constitution*. All of these are available for purchase at a special rate to General Synod members at the book stand.

During the year, it was agreed that the members of the Broadcasting Committee would meet with the Central Communications Board as the work of the two bodies has increasingly overlapped in recent years. Consequently, there is no separate report from the Broadcasting Committee this year. There has been further engagement with the independent charity, Soul Waves, a religious-content podcast producer to find more effective ways of producing content to support Church outreach, in particular with the Diocese of Dublin and Glendalough. Mr Roger Childs, Head of Religious Programmes RTÉ, continued to deliver a significant range and volume of programming and has maintained the profile of religious broadcasting very successfully in recent years. Mr Child, in turn expressed the thanks of RTÉ to Rev Dr Bert Tosh for his assistance in maintaining the sharing arrangement with BBC for broadcast Sunday services and to Mrs Jacqueline Mullen for her work on RTÉ's Church of Ireland broadcast services.

It is pleasing to note the diversity of parishes, Christian organizations and ministries that took part in broadcast television worship on RTE in 2017, some travelling long distances to the studios in Donnybrook. All services demonstrated worship that reflected creatively local experience and outworking of faith. Seasons of celebration and remembrance also featured.

In August, Lay Ministers from the Diocese of Cashel, Ferns and Ossory gathered, with their warden Rev Canon Barbara Fryday accompanying them on piano, to celebrate their ministry. The Mothers' Union celebrated 130 years in Ireland with a service on television in September and the year culminated in a large group, comprised of choirs and parishioners from Mullingar group of parishes, travelling to RTÉ to pre-record a service for Christmas Day.

Radio services came from various churches from Sligo to Dublin, demonstrating the care given to worship in our churches. On Christmas Eve the wonderful *Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols* from St Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin was broadcast.

RTÉ and Jacqueline Mullen would welcome suggestions and offers to contribute to its Worship output from parishes and faith groups in every diocese. Contact Jacqueline at broadcastservicesrte@ireland.anglican.org

The Assistant Press Officer, Mr Peter Cheney researched and produced several briefing papers for the Church and Society Commission and for the Honorary Secretaries and Archbishops' meeting with the Taoiseach in January 2018. Mr Cheney also developed an index to statements of the General Synod and has commenced work on an index of resolutions, with plans to create an index to Statutes. In the second half of 2017, Mr Cheney produced a parish-linked deprivation index (linked to the national deprivations indexes in NI and the Republic of Ireland) which has been offered for use to the grant-making bodies All Churches Trust and the Priorities Fund and to dioceses within the Church, which may find it helpful as an analytic tool.

Media training was delivered through the Press Office to a range of individuals identified as potential spokespersons, including the new Dean of Limerick, the Very Rev Niall Sloane, the new Dean of Belfast, the Very Rev Stephen Forde, and Archdeacon Andrew Orr and Dr Rory Corbett of the Church and Society Commission.

Further audio-visual material was developed by Diocesan Communications Officers and by the Press Office: An interview-based video, published in September, highlighted the work of the Church of Ireland chaplaincy at Dublin City University, led by Philip McKinley. Audio-visual training organised by the Press Office for DCOs and a number of church communicators with Aileen O'Meara Media, in November, has led to an increase in the number of videos being produced on iPhones and Android devices to cover diocesan and church-related stories.. Audio interviews (on Soundcloud) with Roy Totten and Eddie Lyle (guest speaker for Council for Mission breakfast) focused on the work of the Priorities Fund and support for persecuted Christians respectively.

The Press Office continued to act as the focal point for external media communications, dealing with a wide range of enquiries as well as various requests for interviews from local and national media outlets. Among these, the Archbishop of Armagh was interviewed in December 2017 by the BBC Radio 4 *Today* programme on the potential impact of Brexit on his border diocese. The Press Office once again worked closely with

Standing Committee – Report 2018

RTE and the Catholic Communications Office on the production of the annual Christmas Day Message by the Archbishops of Armagh, which this year came from the Armagh Planetarium and Observatory. Interestingly, in addition to mainstream media, there has been a noted increase in requests for Church of Ireland interviewees from Premier Christian Radio.

The Press Office provided communications support to the Irish Church Leaders group during the year, including issuing on its behalf the 2018 New Year's Day Message. The Press Office continues to produce a monthly round-up of island-wide stories in its E-bulletin which now has over 2,750 voluntary subscribers; the Press Office also updates the Church of Ireland Flickr website, thus providing an online photo gallery for the Church. The Press Office continues to promote the work and mission of the Church in a variety of ways – from the production of Standing Committee News to publicity for CIP publications – and has maintained its strong working relationship with the *Church of Ireland Gazette* under its new editorship.

A Copyright desk was provided at General Synod 2017, by Christian Copyright Licensing International, to enable clergy and church members to access information about current licenses to reproduce church music. CCLI visited Ireland again in 2018, engaging with bishops and diocesan secretaries.

In addition to the specific projects outlined above, the communications team has provided ongoing press and media support to the various structures of the Church and has also promoted various initiatives across the church, including charities seminars and the parish resources material.

Thanks

The Board again thanks Dr Paul Harron and Mr Peter Cheney in the Press Office for the help and advice they give to parishes and church representatives who need to engage with broadcast media. The Board is also grateful to Dr Susan Hood and her colleagues in the Library for their support of various publications and to Ms Heather Jestin for her assistance with the distribution of materials to parishes. Contact for ordering books and parish supplies: Online ordering: <https://store.ireland.anglican.org/store> E-mail: heather.jestin@rcbdub.org Tel: +3531 4125 665

General Synod Royalties Fund

A list of the grants recommended by the Literature Committee and approved by the Central Communications Board and Standing Committee is included in the report of the Standing Committee on p186

Applications to the fund should be addressed to Dr Raymond Refaussé, Secretary to the Literature Committee, C/O Synod Department, Church House, Church Avenue, Rathmines, Dublin, DO6 CF67.

LITERATURE COMMITTEE

MEMBERSHIP

Dr Kenneth Milne (Chairman)

Rev Canon Peter McDowell

Ven Richard Rountree

Rev Kenneth Rue

Mr Richard Ryan

Rev Bernard Treacy OP

Dr Raymond Refaüssé (Honorary Secretary)

Mrs Janet Maxwell (*ex officio*)

In attendance: Dr Susan Hood, Publications Officer; Dr Paul Harron, Press Officer.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In 2018 the Committee will set out to

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

MAJOR OUTCOMES FOR 2017

Arising out of the Action Plan for 2017:-

A book by Canon Cecil Hyland was designed, published and launched.

A book on preaching, edited by Canon Maurice Elliott & the Revd Patrick McGlinchey, was designed and published.

The eighth booklet in the Braemor Studies series, which seeks to publish the best of the final year dissertations in CITI, was edited, designed and published

Cooperation with the online purchasing facility which assists with promotion and marketing, sales and distribution continued.

CHURCH OF IRELAND PUBLISHING

The Literature Committee has continued to further the work of Church of Ireland Publishing (CIP), the publishing imprint for the Church of Ireland.

The following titles were published in 2017:-

- Maurice Elliott & Patrick McGlinchey (eds.), *Perspectives on preaching: a witness of the Irish Church*. ISBN 978-1-904884-59-0
- Cecil Hyland, *Journeying in faith: a walk with Christ*. ISBN 978-1-904884-64-4
- Kenneth Milne (ed.), *Journal of the General Synod, 2015*. ISBN 1-904884-46-0
- Ken Rue, *Church of Ireland Sunday and Weekday Readings Advent Sunday 2016 to Eve of Advent Sunday 2017*. ISBN978-1-904884-61-3

ONLINE PURCHASING

The Literature Committee expresses its gratitude to the Central Communications Board and to the staff of the finance and IT departments of Church House for supporting the facility to purchase Church-related materials online via the Church of Ireland website.

This facility has proved extremely popular and is being widely used. Ms Heather Jestin continues to assist with the distribution of materials to parishes. Orders can now be placed online, or by e-mail or by phone using the following addresses:

Online ordering: <https://store.ireland.anglican.org/store>

E-mail: heather.jestin@rcbdub.org

Tel: +3531 4125 665

GENERAL SYNOD ROYALTIES FUND

The list of grants allocated is contained on p186 of the Standing Committee report.

PUBLICATIONS OFFICER

The Publications Officer worked with the authors and editors of the titles listed above and continued to provide advice for aspiring authors and editors. Mr Bryan Whelan, Assistant Librarian, has undertaken some projects to assist the committee, under the direction of Dr Susan Hood. It was agreed that from 2018 further assistance with copy editing would be required to ensure delivery of large-scale publications.

ACTION PLAN 2018

- Prepare the ninth and tenth booklets in the Braemor Studies for publication.
- Support the publication of a book of essays to mark the sesquicentenary of disestablishment.
- Support the publication of a new edition of the *Book of Common Prayer*
- Support the continued publication of the Revd Ken Rue's 'Pilgrimage' project.
- Seek to promote the digitization of the *Journal of the General Synod*

APPENDIX E

THE CHURCH AND SOCIETY COMMISSION OF THE CHURCH OF IRELAND REPORT 2018

Members

Most Rev Dr Richard Clarke
Most Rev Dr Michael Jackson
Rt Rev Dr Kenneth Kearon (Chair)
Mr Ken Gibson (Honorary Secretary)
Mr Neville Armstrong
Mrs June Butler
Rev Rob Clements
Rev Dr Rory Corbett
Rev Matthew Hagan (to March 2018)
Very Rev Maria Janssen (to Sept 2017)
Rev Martin O'Connor
Ven Andrew Orr
Rev Peter Rutherford (from Sept 2017)

Executive Summary

The Commission exists to provide oversight and direction of the Church's work in relation to social theology in action. The Commission's work is divided into two main areas:

1. Proactive work such as the preparation of reports, briefing documents and other resource material.
2. Reactive work such as responding to reports and public consultations, in addition to responding to events in society

Established as the Board for Social Theology in action in 2010, and later becoming the Church and Society Commission (CASC), the Commission was formed to succeed three previous Church of Ireland Committees: The Board for Social Action NI, the Board of Social Responsibility RI and the Church in Society Committee.

The initial membership of the Commission was by a process of application. In 2016, the original membership was extended for one year while a review was undertaken. Following the General Synod in 2017, a new membership was appointed by the Standing Committee and their first meeting was in July 2017. Rt Rev Dr Kenneth Kearon was appointed as Chair. Mr Peter Cheney (Assistant Press Officer) continues to provide communication support and Ms Caoimhe Leppard (Secretary) continues to provide event organisation, secretarial and research support to the Commission. This new group also incorporates the Northern Ireland Community Relations Working Group. The Commission would like to thank the former members for their years of dedicated service, commitment of time and energy. In particular the Commission would like to thank the

Standing Committee – Report 2018

previous Chair, Rev Adrian Dorrian, for his steady guiding hand in the work of the committee.

In the last year, the work of the Commission took several forms:

1. Resources to the Church
2. Responses to Government Consultations
3. Production of discussion papers, background documents and statements

Resourcing the Church

Organisation and delivery of two seminars for church leaders on the subject of mental health; one in Belfast, with a focus on post-natal depression (May 2017) and one in Dublin organised by our secretary with a focus on challenging stigma to improve young people's mental health, opened by the Archbishop of Dublin (June 2017) These were both organised under the former Commission's membership.

Responses to Government Consultations

- A paper was submitted in October 2017 to the Department of Health (RoI) in response to the Human Tissue Bill public consultation.
- A response was submitted in March 2018 to the Department of Health (NI) in response to their consultation Promoting Organ Donation and Transplantation in Northern Ireland.

Discussion papers, background documents and statements

- A discussion paper was produced on the subject of euthanasia and assisted suicide.
- In approaching the issue of the Repeal of the 8th Amendment to the Constitution in the Republic of Ireland, the Commission worked on a document that was given to and finalised by the Archbishop of Armagh and the Archbishop of Dublin. This was released as a statement from the Archbishop of Armagh and the Archbishop of Dublin by the Press Office.
- In addition a brief background document was prepared by our secretary outlining the ways in which the Church in the Republic of Ireland and the Church in Northern Ireland supports those dealing with a crisis pregnancy. It lists various church agencies working in this area.

At the time of writing, our secretary has brought together a network of organizations with expertise in climate change for a seminar in the Science Gallery Dublin on the 26th April 2018 hosted by Archbishop Michael Jackson and Archdeacon Andrew Orr. There will be a specific focus on climate justice and the theology and ethics of climate change. The Commission plans to undertake a similar styled seminar in Belfast in the autumn.

In the coming year the Church and Society Commission seeks to identify issues of public concern and interest on which the Church has something to usefully contribute. The

Commission also intends to discuss the proposed repeal of the blasphemy law in the Republic of Ireland.

The Commission is grateful for the ongoing support and assistance of a number of staff members at Church House Dublin and Church House Belfast.

APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1

Resourcing the Church

- A. Church and Society Commission seminar in Belfast focuses on mental health awareness

Wednesday, 26th April 2017

Over 20 clergy and other church leaders recently attended a seminar on issues surrounding mental health, hosted by the Church of Ireland’s Church and Society Commission (CASC) in Church of Ireland House, Belfast. The third of a series of occasional seminars hosted by CASC, the morning had input from three speakers, with a particular focus on the area of perinatal and postnatal mental health.

The first speaker was Rev Dr Pat Mollan, Director of the Church’s Ministry of Healing at The Mount, Belfast. Pat spoke broadly on the issue of ‘Faith and Mental Health’ and the importance of relevant faith intervention through ongoing ministry, but also the importance of not neglecting medical intervention at the same time. Pat also shared from her own experiences with postnatal depression.

The second speaker was Dr John Kyle, a member of a Belfast City Council but, more significantly in this instance, an experienced GP in East Belfast. John brought to bear much of what he has learned through his experience, including a useful description of warning signs and also of some avenues of help, including some self-help resources.

The final speaker was Lindsay Robinson, whose blog ‘Have you seen that girl?’ has grown into a website and into a movement to campaign for better support for maternal mental health matters. Lindsay spoke powerfully and personally of her own journey with postnatal depression, and also shared testimony of the importance of her faith – and her struggle in faith – throughout the journey.

The event was opened and closed by the outgoing Chair of CASC, the Revd Adrian Dorrian, who said in his closing remarks: “One of the things that is very apparent from what we’ve heard this morning and from other experiences is that this is an issue we may not always recognise, but one that is a very real part of the life of our parishes. Thanks to

those who spoke today for offering us their experience and hopefully helping us as church leaders to be better equipped to help others in the future.”

B. Church and Society Commission seminar in Dublin focuses on mental health awareness

Thursday 15th June 2017

Over 30 clergy and other church leaders from the Church of Ireland, Roman Catholic Church, Methodist Church, Presbyterian Church, Quakers and Salvation Army attended a seminar on issues surrounding mental health, hosted by the Church of Ireland’s Church and Society Commission (CASC) in the Church of Ireland Theological Institute, Dublin, on Thursday 15th June. The morning seminar had contributions from three speakers focusing on different aspects of mental health.

The first speaker was Professor Eilis Hennessy, senior lecturer in developmental psychology in UCD’s School of Psychology, who spoke on ‘challenging stigma to improve young people’s mental health’. We learned that young people are particularly vulnerable to mental health problems and young people with mental health problems are stigmatised. However, lower levels of stigma are related to higher levels of help-seeking. Education can reduce stigma and increase a person’s intentions to seek help. Adolescents who are taught about mental health problems and who meet someone with a mental health problem generally have more positive attitudes as a result.

The second speaker was Dr Regina McQuillan, palliative medicine consultant in St Francis Hospice and Beaumont Hospital, who spoke on ‘supporting the mental health of people living with a life-limiting illness’. Dr McQuillan spoke about how living with a life-limiting illness can affect the emotional and mental well-being of the person with the illness and those close to them and also considered how people with pre-existing mental health problems may be affected. She emphasised the importance of minding your mental health by maintaining good practices, maintaining links with support services, managing medication, informing new healthcare teams of previous diagnoses, being alert to your own warning signs, and using information technology wisely.

The third speaker was Rev James Mulhall, a social worker, career guidance counsellor and Church of Ireland curate in the Lismore Union of Parishes, as well as being the Safeguarding Trust Child Protection Officer for the Cashel, Ferns and Ossory Dioceses. Mr Mulhall spoke on ‘faith and mental health’. He described how in his work with people, conversations would never start about God but with hidden feelings, loneliness, anxiety, family conflict or bereavement. However, by listening, being attentive and attending to the person, they would both unearth ‘hidden treasure’, the good news behind the bad.

The seminar was opened by the Archbishop of Dublin, Most Rev Dr Michael Jackson, who said: “We need to speak of people and of humanity at the heart of mental care

matters. Our instinct within the Church is to say: ‘What can I do to help?’ We need to ask: ‘What can I do to listen and what can I do to learn?’”

Rev Martin O’Connor, a member of CASC, closed the meeting. He said that the seminar was very informative and thought-provoking and would help those engaged in the pastoral care of people living with mental health issues. He thanked the speakers for their contributions.

APPENDIX 2

Responses to Government Consultations

A. Response to Human Tissue Bill public consultation

October 2017

In August 2017 the Oireachtas initiated a public consultation document on a proposed “Human Tissue Bill”. This in essence was a proposal to introduce a bill to change the concept of organ donation from one of opt-in to that of a presumed opt-in and a requirement actively to opt-out. CASC in response pointed out that the Church of Ireland was fully supportive of organ transplantation and of measures to increase the availability of organs for transplantation, which it had shown by its involvement in the Flesh and Blood campaign but that this should remain as an act of giving.

In our evidence we pointed out the benefits of having well trained transplant coordinators, usually nurses, in that, following family consultation there were ten times the number of available organs than that obtained by untrained staff. We also discussed the results from Spain, often held up as a prime example of the value of an Opt-out system, that in fact there had been no increase in available donors as a result of this change in law, but it was only when a well-trained cadre of transplant coordinators were put in place that the results improved.

Finally we pointed out that introducing “presumed consent” removed the concept of altruistic giving, which so often gave grieving families a feeling of good coming out of their loss.

The full report can be found here;

www.ireland.anglican.org/cmsfiles/pdf/Resources/CASC/human-tissue-bill-submission.pdf

B. Response to “Promoting Human Organ Donation and Transplantation in Northern Ireland”

March 2018

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In December 2017 the Department of Health, Northern Ireland issued a consultation document with proposals for and a response questionnaire on promoting human Organ Donation. The document suggested six commitments:

1. Develop a long term integrated Health and Social Care Communications Programme
2. Providing ring-fenced funding to coordinate and deliver communications activity
3. Utilising the potential of civic society to engage with all sectors of the community
4. Working with Local Government to engage with local community based initiatives
5. Engaging with key target audiences including older citizens and children and young people, to ensure greater levels of awareness and responsibility by the current and future adult population
6. Providing high quality organ donation awareness training for healthcare professionals

In its response CASC stated that it was strongly in support of organ donation and that the Church of Ireland was already active in its promotion through the Flesh and Blood Campaign. The potential role of the Church as a conduit especially to the two age groups specified was stressed, through associated youth organisations, and the many Church groups involving the older members of the population.

The role of the Church providing pastoral care, through hospital chaplains and family clergy, at a time of profound sadness and stress to the family of a potential organ donor, and their perception as caring professionals somewhat independent of health professionals were also high-lighted. On that basis a recommendation that the Church should be involved both in preparing training material and being trained alongside the medical professionals was proposed.

The full response can be found here;
www.ireland.anglican.org/cmsfiles/pdf/Resources/CASC/human-organ-donation-and-transplantation-submission-2018.pdf

APPENDIX 3

Discussion Papers, background documents and statements

A. Discussion paper- Euthanasia and Assisted Suicide

March 2018

Terminology:

Physician-assisted suicide is the voluntary and intentional termination of one's life by administration of a lethal substance with the direct or indirect assistance of a physician.

Assisted suicide is the intentional act of providing an individual with information, guidance, and/or the means for him or her, voluntarily and intentionally, to terminate his or her own life. This is to be distinguished from withholding or withdrawing futile treatment by the medical profession, or from individuals choosing not to accept life-prolonging treatment, through an advance healthcare directive known as a 'living will', which is a statement about the type and extent of medical or surgical treatment you want in the future, on the assumption that you will not be able to make that decision at the relevant time.

Involuntary euthanasia is the intentional killing of a dependent person for his or her perceived benefit against his or her consent.

Non-voluntary euthanasia is the intentional killing of a dependent person for his or her perceived benefit without his or her consent.

Voluntary euthanasia is the intentional killing of a dependent person for his or her perceived benefit following his or her consent.

Palliative care is the active holistic care of individuals with advanced progressive illness. It includes management of pain and other symptoms as well as the provision of psychological, social and spiritual support in order to achieve the best experience of life possible for individuals and family.

AFFIRMING LIFE

The prospect of euthanasia/assisted suicide continues to be a source of debate in the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland, and the Church of Ireland remains resolute that there should not be a right to euthanasia/assisted suicide in this society and suggests no grounds for introducing policy on euthanasia/assisted suicide.

At the centre of our theology lie certain core beliefs from which we get guiding principles that promote our decision-making, and from which, in turn, we get our policies and practices. One of these 'core beliefs' is the conviction that God is the life-giver. To believe that each and every human life is intrinsically valuable is to accept that every life has a purpose, a significance and meaning from its beginning to end. In this context, it is difficult to see how even the most sensitive legislation can do anything other than devalue this.

Protecting the vulnerable

There is a fundamental concern for the vulnerable and weak and a belief in the necessity to protect and cherish those less able to care for themselves. One marker of a society's

compassion is how it deals with the most vulnerable. Legislating for euthanasia/assisted suicide poses the serious risk of devaluing the life of the individual when most vulnerable.

Approach to end of life care

There is perhaps no worse news to receive in life than that of a terminal diagnosis. The Church of Ireland, along with other Christian denominations, sees its clergy and chaplains minister to those who have received such diagnoses daily, with pastoral sensitivity and compassion.

It is our belief that one of the most important solutions to the end of life issues is that of freely available, professionally delivered, palliative care. This needs to be available in hospital, hospice and home. This is especially true of the latter, but there are increased demands for the final event to take place in a hospice, where patients have had care during the latter stages of their disease and have got to know the staff. So often this is not achieved due to lack of services, and appropriate personnel. Good end of life care helps patients with life-limiting conditions to live as well as possible until they die, and to die with dignity.

We note the experience in Oregon where physician-assisted suicide has been introduced legally: there has been minimal uptake. It has been suggested that this was due to a considerable increase in the supply and standard of palliative care at the same time.

Medical profession

The medical profession has been given the skills to heal, sometimes to cure, and to care, and that it should continue to do, but at the same time remembering that there does come a right time to allow death to occur. We feel it is important in this debate to remember that there is a significant difference between requests for ‘not to be resuscitated’ or for treatment not to be initiated and for euthanasia/assisted suicide.

Slippery slope

There are considerable arguments of how often euthanasia/assisted suicide has been an involuntary procedure in the Netherlands, and in Oregon it is argued that because physician-assisted suicide is very rarely used, there is no risk of slippage or misuse. We would suggest that this should be looked at in the reverse, and that is that if there is good palliative care then there is no need for these other options.

In February 2014, Belgium became the first country in the world to abolish all age restrictions on the right to die after the Parliament approved legislation to extend euthanasia to terminally ill children. Many people, including Church leaders and some pediatricians, questioned whether children would be able to make such a difficult choice.

In October 2016, the Dutch Minister of Health, Welfare and Sports advanced a proposal to legalise assisted dying for older people who are considered healthy but believe their

life is complete. This could increase social pressure on older people and reinforce negative ideas surrounding old age.

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* available via subscription

B. Statement on the proposal to repeal the 8th Amendment to the Constitution from the Archbishop of Armagh and the Archbishop of Dublin as released by the Press Office

February 2018

The following statement is from Most Rev Dr Richard Clarke, Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of All Ireland, and Most Rev Dr Michael Jackson, Archbishop of Dublin and Primate of Ireland:

The tradition of the Church of Ireland would reject an unrestricted access to abortion, while being concerned to ensure provision for hopefully rare circumstances and in a secure medical setting. Where individuals draw such a line will inevitably differ. Instances where the life of the woman is at serious risk have long been regarded within Church of Ireland teaching as situations where termination of a pregnancy would be justifiable. For some, pregnancy after sexual crime or the medical certainty of fatal foetal abnormality might also be seen as circumstances where abortion could be considered as justified. In every situation, however, the church seeks to offer pastoral care sensitive to the physical, mental and spiritual wellbeing of women and families who find themselves in such difficult situations.

With respect to current proposals:

- We favour a modification of the Article 40.3.3 in such a way that allows for the Oireachtas to have legislative responsibility to address termination of pregnancy, any rights of the unborn and the rights of the pregnant woman within clearly defined boundaries and parameters.
- We recognise the dilemma faced both by legislators and by medical, nursing and healthcare practitioners with regards to access to unrestricted abortion during the early months of pregnancy. However, unrestricted access to abortion in the first 12 weeks of pregnancy, or indeed at any stage, is not an ethical position we can accept.
- We would suggest that current legislation should be strengthened to ensure that the needs of pregnant women facing difficult situations can be addressed quickly and comprehensively through improved support services. This will require significant and sustained investment in both medical and mental health services.
- We acknowledge that too often in this debate the voice of women has not been heard. The church will seek to continue to care for and pastorally stand alongside women, and their partners and families, who face immensely difficult situations and dilemmas.

C Crisis Pregnancy: Counselling and Support – Some Resources from within the Church of Ireland

Republic of Ireland

HERE2HELP <http://www.here2help.ie/>

Here2help (formally Pact) is run by PACT and was established in 2011. In response to provisions of the Adoption Act 2010, Pact separates its work, with the Crisis Pregnancy Service being transferred to the newly incorporated entity 'Here2Help'. It is almost entirely funded by the HSE and Tusla.

Rev David Godfrey is chair and the Revd Ása Björk Ólafsdóttir O'Hanlon *and Mrs Elva Byrne* were appointed Church of Ireland liaison persons to Here2Help.

Here2Help provides the following services:

- Crisis Pregnancy Counselling and Support Service
- Post-Termination Counselling and Support Service
- Birth Parent Adoption Service
- Sexual Health and Relationship Education
- Information and Tracing for PAS, Pact, Bethany Home and Magdalen Home Adoptions and Placements

Pact <http://www.pact.ie/about/about-us>

Pact is an Irish adoption organisation founded in 1952, formerly called the Protestant Adoption Society. Mrs Daphne Townsend is the Church of Ireland liaison person to PACT. Pact has been accredited under the 2010 Adoption Act to provide the following:

- Domestic Adoption Assessment Service
- Intercountry Adoption Assessment Service

Pact also provides

- A Pre-Adoption Foster Care Service
- Post Placement Reports and Post Adoption Support Services

Here2Help and Pact received funding from the Black Santa Dublin appeal in 2016 and there is often a retiring collection for them.

Northern Ireland - Pregnancy Support

Life Northern Ireland <http://www.lifeni.org.uk/> is the leading pregnancy care charity in Northern Ireland set up in 1980 to provide care and support for those facing unexpected pregnancy, or needing help during pregnancy or after having a baby. They shared some of their leaflets with CASC for the mental health seminar in Belfast in May 2017 which had a particular focus on the area of perinatal and postnatal mental health.

Pregnancy Matters is a website and support service run by Life Northern Ireland: www.pregmatters.org.uk They also have housing for mothers in difficulty and their children: www.lifeni.org.uk/caring/life-housing

Baby Basics is a project in the Diocese of Connor: <https://www.rippleconnor.org.uk/baby-basics-belfast/>

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It is a volunteer-led project aiming to support new mothers and families who are struggling to meet the financial and practical burden of looking after a new baby. Baby Basics Belfast started in January 2017 and is one of the new initiatives of the Centre of Mission run by Church Army and the Diocese of Connor. It is situated in the Connect Base, Shankill Road and is led by Jill Hamilton and Karen Webb. Baby Basics Belfast works in partnership with local churches and relies on donations from congregations.

APPENDIX F

How can the state make Ireland a leader in tackling climate change?

The Church of Ireland has had a substantial engagement with the issue of climate change over the last number of years, arising from our Christian conviction that human beings have a God-given responsibility to care for the earth on which we live. We believe we share this concern for the environment with those of all faiths and none, and that climate change is among the most urgent of all the issues faced by humanity on a global scale. There is no doubt that those who have done least to cause climate change – the poor – are those who will be, indeed already are being, hit hardest by its effects. We believe that everyone - individuals, community groups, corporations and the state itself has their part to play in helping to reduce carbon emissions. To this end the Church of Ireland has itself introduced an environmental charter and pledged to play its part in helping to ameliorate the effects of climate change. The most recent General Synod passed a motion committing the Church to a gradual diminution of investments in fossil fuel companies. We offer these recommendations to the assembly on the State's role.

Targets and Goals

The government should set specific, measurable targets for the reduction of carbon emissions in various sectors. Vague promises and general aspirations are too easily evaded: we cannot expect other states to do the “heavy lifting” on our behalf.

Community Involvement

The model of the Transition towns, started in Kinsale, offers a practical guide to involving local communities in taking carbon reduction initiatives in their local area. A competition, analogous to the successful Tidy Towns movement could be started, with a checklist of items that towns and villages could use as a template.

Transport

It is clear that transport is a vital sector for reducing carbon emissions and in particular reducing dependence on the private car. Good, reliable, regular public transport in both rural and urban areas is essential and should be subsidized where it is not commercially viable. Schemes to encourage bicycle use and car sharing should be much more prevalent. The move to electric vehicles should also be supported by the provision of many more charging points and perhaps by a subsidy or “scrappage” scheme to encourage people to change from petrol / diesel to electric vehicles.

Electricity Generation

It is clear that the State needs to move away from its reliance on imported fossil fuels to the further development of renewable energy sources. Offshore and onshore wind generation (while having regard to the issues raised by local residents), solar, biomass and small scale hydro electricity generation should be supported. In particular, encouragement should be given to households to install their own photovoltaic cells, and a guaranteed price set for “buying back” the excess electricity generated, into the National Grid. At the same time, it is crucial that energy saving schemes such as grants for home insulation are more readily available.

Farming and Food Production

This is a difficult area, not least for the Church of Ireland, which has a higher proportion of its population involved in farming than in society as a whole. We recognise that much of the farming community, particularly the beef and dairy sectors, is under pressure, and that the government wishes to increase the size of both of these areas to take advantage of demand overseas. However, it is hard to see how this can be achieved without greatly increasing the carbon emissions from agriculture.

A strong argument can be made that Irish agriculture is among the most carbon efficient, due to its grass fed beef and dairy industry. However, for the sake of honesty and transparency, it must be recognised that there is increasing reliance on imported feed which is danger of making this claim rather threadbare.

We would ask the state to consider support for diversification in Irish agriculture, reducing our dependence on imported food, by encouraging local organic food producers, ensuring that all local authorities provide space for farmers’ markets, including a stall where home producers can sell their excess produce. Diversification also includes reforestation, in particular with native Irish tree species, as a vital part of encouraging biodiversity in the Irish countryside.

We offer the Citizens’ Assembly our good wishes and prayers in this most important undertaking.

APPENDIX H
FACILITATION COMMITTEE

MEMBERSHIP

Mr Ken Gibson
Mr Robert Neill
Very Rev Katharine Poulton
Rev Robin Bantry White

Establishment and Terms of Reference

A resolution passed by the General Synod in 2016, following the withdrawal of a bill proposed by the Commission on Episcopal Ministry and Structures, recognized that the provision of appropriate episcopal ministry and structures for tomorrow’s church could not simply be set aside because of the withdrawal of the bill, and, thus, requested the bishops and diocesan councils of the dioceses identified in the withdrawn Bill to consider beginning processes that might, with diocesan consent, build on the substantial work of CEMS over its four-year span. As part of this, the resolution requested the Standing Committee to set up a committee along the lines of the Implementation Committee referred to in the withdrawn Bill to support and work with the dioceses concerned and assist a process of change.

The Facilitation Committee, which was ratified at the General Synod of 2017, has the following terms of reference (agreed by Standing Committee in March 2017): to engage in discussion with all twelve dioceses about the issues raised by the work of the Commission on Episcopal Ministry and Structures as these affect them locally; facilitate exploration of any proposals that may arise from such conversations, and provide an annual report to the General Synod.

Work undertaken to date

The Committee has convened on 10 occasions since General Synod of 2017, meeting individually with some of the bishops, with diocesan secretaries or their equivalents, and, as a committee, to review the outcomes of these conversations. This process will be continued during the remainder of 2018.

Tuam and Limerick diocesan shared conversation

The Committee was briefed during the year on the progress of conversations between Limerick and Tuam dioceses, with the objective of the dioceses working together at a future date. In March, the Committee was notified that conversations had reached a stage where the dioceses felt it would be desirable, in the case of a vacancy in either diocese, that General Synod should suspend the calling of an electoral college while discussions to unite the dioceses would be progressed and they will seek the assistance of the General Synod in this respect. The Committee congratulates the two dioceses on the progress achieved in a relatively short period of time.

Future Work

The Committee will continue meeting with bishops and others that can share insight into episcopal ministry and will report further following completion of the consultation process.

APPENDIX I

HISTORICAL CENTENARIES WORKING GROUP

Membership:

The Bishop of Cork, The Rt Rev Dr Paul Coltonl (*Convenor*) – *from November 2017*
The Bishop of Limerick, The Rt Rev Kenneth Kearon (*Convenor*) – *from September 2016*
Dr Kenneth Milne (*Church of Ireland Historiographer*)
Ven Ricky Rountree (*Representing the Liturgical Advisory Committee*)
Ven Robin Bantry White
Ms Hazel Corrigan
Dr Ian D’alton
Professor David Hayton (*co-opted*)
Mr George Woodman (*co-opted*)
Rev Earl Storey (*in advisory role*)
Dr Paul Harron (*in advisory role*)

The Historical Centenaries Working Group, which organises itself by teleconference, took a break from meeting in 2017; however, it reconvened in early 2018 with a view to marking a range of forthcoming centenaries in the period 2018-2023. The Bishop of Cork, The Rt Revd Dr Paul Colton, has taken on the Convenorship of the group for its next phase of public engagement.

There is a general sense that marking the centenaries of events in the Irish revolutionary period will require a carefully considered approach, and also that the Church of Ireland may be particularly well-placed to offer valuable contributions to public discourse, especially in trying to empower people to speak about historical events from a minority viewpoint. The Working Group will seek to resource Church of Ireland members usefully in addressing questions of how we live collectively with our history, in the present day.

The Working Group noted the tenets of the Expert Advisory Group on Centenary Commemorations in the Republic of Ireland in its Second Phase Mission Statement. These tenets include:

- The aim of commemoration should be to broaden sympathies without having to abandon loyalties and, in particular, to recognise the value of ideals and sacrifices, including their cost.
- Throughout the remainder of the decade, it is important not to forget the bloodshed and the deep antagonisms of these years. While few eyewitnesses survive, the memories remain vivid in some communities and families and commemorations may revive painful memories of loss or dispossession.
- We should also be conscious that on this island we have a common history but not a common memory of these shaping events.

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- Commemoration should not ignore differences and divisions. The goal of inclusiveness is best achieved, not by trying for an enforced common interest or universal participation, but by encouraging multiple and plural commemorations which remember the past while ensuring, as far as possible, that the commemoration does not re-ignite old tensions.

A meeting is being sought with the Expert Advisory Group on Centenary Commemorations.

Among other plans for 2018, the Working Group hopes:

- (a) To provide a bibliographical resource to enable people to read more about the period
- (b) To commission thought-provoking articles in collaboration with the *Church of Ireland Gazette*
- (c) To mark the centenary of Women’s Suffrage and the centenary of the Representation of the People Act with a specially commissioned article.
- (d) To liaise with the Liturgical Advisory Committee on liturgical materials in connection with marking the end of the First World War in November, and the centenaries in forthcoming years.

APPENDIX J

HISTORIOGRAPHER’S REPORT

When the idea of marking a ‘Decade of Centenaries’ from 1912 to 1922 was first proposed it met with a mixed reception. However, it now seems to be widely acknowledged that such commemorations can, if carefully planned, provide an opportunity for reflection on past events that brings fresh understanding in the light of subsequent research, leading to a broader appreciation of how such events affected those who experienced them.

The observance of the 500th anniversary of Martin Luther’s challenge to the papacy is a case in point, as throughout Europe people of all religious traditions and none have observed ‘Reformation 500’ together. A positive lead was given by Pope Francis when, in anticipation of the 2017 events, he joined with Lutheran leaders at Assisi and with them sought forgiveness for past wrongs and they made a commitment to common Christian witness in the future.

The commemoration has taken the form of religious services, exhibitions and conferences throughout Ireland. *Ecclesia Semper Reformanda* was the title given to the biennial colloquium held in April by SEARCH, (the Church of Ireland Journal) in association with the Church of Ireland chaplaincy in Trinity College Dublin. While theological rather than historical in content, the colloquium was very much a contribution to the Church’s understanding of the sixteenth century Reformation, focussing on the need for continuing reform rather than on a reinterpretation of the past. The proceedings of the colloquium formed a major part of the content of the summer 2017 (vol.40.2 of SEARCH).

A major two-day academic conference held in Dublin in October under the joint auspices of the Church of Ireland Historical Society and the Catholic Historical Society of Ireland focussed on the historical implications of the Reformation. Day 1 took place at Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin, and on Day 2 the proceedings took place on the St Patrick’s College Campus of Dublin City University in Drumcondra. It was not the purpose of the conference to present parallel perspectives on the Protestant Reformation, as was made clear to participants, but rather to study its origins, its subsequent significance for European and world history, and its continuing influence. The conference papers will be published.

30 November, the date of Jonathan Swift’s birth and, coincidentally, of his appointment to the deanery of St Patrick’s, Dublin, was widely marked, not only by the cathedral, but also by the city and indeed worldwide, by conferences, exhibitions and publications.

A study of the Church of Ireland itself, or rather of how historians have understood its history, is the theme of one of the year’s most significant publications: *The Church of Ireland and its past: history, interpretation and identity*, (eds. Mark Empey, Alan Ford and Miriam Moffitt, Four Courts Press). This is not a history but rather a treatment by leading historians of the historiography of the Church and of how its history has been written (largely, in former times by its own members). The sixteen contributors (including the editors) demonstrate how a distinctly Protestant, often polemical, narrative was challenged by the development a more secular and professional approach to the writing of history by authors, including members of the Church of Ireland. It is worth noting, reverting to Reformation 500, that the book concludes with a comprehensive review of the modern debate on the Irish Reformation.

Four of the five volumes in the major ‘Oxford history of Anglicanism’ appeared in the course of the year, the series editor introducing the project by remarking that a general historiographical revision was moving the Church of England (and religion generally) from the margins to the centre of major economic, social, political and cultural studies. In Volume I, John McCafferty (author of *The Reconstruction of the Church of Ireland: Bishop Bramhall and the Laudian reforms, 1633-1641*, Cambridge, 2007) writes on ‘Ireland and Scotland, 1534 to 1663’. In Volume IV, Jeremy Morris names Archbishops McAdoo and Eames as ‘outstanding leaders’, while also quoting Bishop George Bell’s mention of Archbishop George Simms as among ‘the few outstanding figures’ attending the Lambeth conference of 1958.

Of particular interest to readers in Northern Ireland were three publications reflecting on its past: Robin Eames, *Unfinished Search* (Columba Press, Dublin), Alan R. Acheson’s *The shaping of Northern Ireland: a historical perspective* and David Coe, *Called to serve: reflections on parish ministry in the Church of Ireland, 1969-2011*.

In *Saint Brigid of Kildare: life, legend and cult*, Noel Kissane reviews the evidence for making the case that Brigid was a real person and, like many historians, finds it convincing. As the title suggests, he reviews her place in Irish church life, noting at least fourteen places of worship dedicated in her name in the Church of Ireland.

Michael O’Neill’s *Episcopal visitations of the diocese of Meath, 1622-1799* breaks new ground in that aspects of parish life are seen from the perspective of the diocese rather than that of the individual parishes, as was the case with earlier volumes in the in the

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Texts and Calendars series from Four Courts Press in association with the Representative Church Body Library. The RCB Library's publications programme is but part of the contribution it makes to the intellectual life of the Church of Ireland and historians and others are benefitting greatly from the manner in which it is keeping abreast of contemporary aids to research, details of which are to be found on www.library.anglican.org.

Kenneth Milne

APPENDIX K

PARISH DEVELOPMENT WORKING GROUP

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

The Most Rev Pat Storey	Rev Ruth Jackson Noble
Mrs Nicola Brown	Canon Paul Hoey (Chair)
Mrs Tessa Marsden (Administrator)	Rev Peter Jones

Over the years, this Working Group has encouraged parishes to recognise that development is not always about doing new things. It's also about knowing the time to let things come to a natural end in order that something new can grow. We now feel it is time to take our own advice!

Why do we consider this the right time to disband the Working Group? We have engaged in a series of informal consultations, including with the House of Bishops, which has confirmed what we were already sensing, that the needs of the Church have changed substantially. When the Group was first set up over 15 years ago, the kinds of issues that are addressed in Parish Development, such as vision setting, developing ministry within teams, and effective communication, were tangential to the life of many parishes. Now, at practically every level within the life of the Church of Ireland, from our training of ordained and lay leaders, to the ways that parishes are engaging with local communities, parish development is a normative expectation, rather than a separate stream in the life of the Church.

A Report of the Council for Mission “A Wider Us”, endorsed by the General Synod in 2014, sums up the change that has taken place in the Church of Ireland, when it speaks of “a growing culture of openness towards new ways of doing church.” The Working Group very much hopes that our work has been, in some degree, helpful in contributing towards the building of that culture, which was certainly one of our aims. Now that the Church is generally embracing the need for change we consider that the diocese is the most effective place for the facilitation of such change.

In the early years, resources were available that meant we were able to work intensively with each participating parish over a period of two years. In particular, having the ability to assign parishes with an external facilitator, made a huge difference. In more recent times, when resources have been harder to come by, we have operated by providing conferences in various parts of the country. It is encouraging that ratings for the overall effectiveness of the conferences have never been less than 92% positive. Apart from the motivation offered, and the tools for change made available, the opportunity for parishes to interact with others has been greatly valued.

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We step down with a sense of wanting to celebrate many good things that are happening around the Church of Ireland. At diocesan level, we rejoice that a number of dioceses now have their own Parish Development Officers, or similar posts, and that others are intentional in encouraging parishes to work at issues that are core to their development.

When we first gathered parishes to think about development, some came with an expectation that we would tell them what to do to make everything rosy in the ecclesiastical garden! Once they had been disabused of that notion, they began to discover that when we dare to take the future into our own hands, God invariably turns up with the very resources we need and very often helps us to exceed our own expectations. We have heard that for some parishes, the whole process has been majorly transformational, and that they are still seeing long-term benefits, years after their participation in Church21.

We have also been encouraged to hear how individual lives have been impacted through what has been offered. One member of the clergy attributes her decision to seek ordination to her experience of Church21. Another participant in the process testified to the fact that he would have given up on church if it had not been for a worship service he attended during one of our conferences. And the statement of an 8-year old girl after she attended the first ever united service in her group, a joyful service planned and led entirely by the parish's Development Team, makes it all worthwhile: "I like Church21," she said. "It makes church fun!"

The Church21 website, and the resources it offers, will remain available until the end of 2018.

The part played in all this by Rev Ian Coffey, who acted as Bible teacher and facilitator at each of the conferences, and whose sensitive input was always appreciated, must be acknowledged.

Likewise, we wish to thank all who have acted as members of the Working Group, or have taken part in the conferences, or served as parish facilitators. We are most grateful to the RCB and the Priorities Fund for generous financial support. In particular, we wish to place on record our appreciation of the huge amount of work done by our Administrators over the years, not least that of the current holder of the post, Tessa Marsden.

During the year, the Rt Rev Ken Clarke stood down from membership. Along with the Chairman, he was a member from the inception of the Group. Bishop Ken has played an invaluable role in developing the vision for parish development throughout the Church and we record our deepest thanks to him.

Members of the Group have asked that special thanks be given to Canon Paul Hoey who has spearheaded and managed the Church21 programme and this Working Group from its inception. Paul has relentlessly campaigned for parish development and many church

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members and clergy are extremely thankful for his hard work, integrity, courage and determination. We have been privileged to have Paul chair this group.

It has been an enormous honour to work alongside scores of parishes over the years, and to be inspired by the commitment and dedication of gifted leaders, lay as well as ordained, who are passionate about the Church and its mission.

APPENDIX L
STANDING COMMITTEE
PRIORITIES FUND

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT		Year ended 31 December	
		2017	2016
		€	€
INCOME	Notes		
Contributions	1	603,409	494,409
Investment Income		31,263	31,489
Miscellaneous Income		1,561	-
		<u>636,233</u>	<u>525,898</u>
EXPENSES			
Administration Expenses	2	(36,283)	(32,259)
Operating Surplus for the Year		599,950	493,639
ALLOCATIONS & GRANTS			
Allocations & Grants Distributed	3	<u>(439,566)</u>	<u>(537,256)</u>
Surplus/(Deficit) after Allocations & Grants		160,384	(43,617)
Valuation Movement		9,442	52,866
Currency translation adjustment		(14,001)	(51,640)
NET SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR		<u><u>(155,825)</u></u>	<u><u>(42,391)</u></u>

STANDING COMMITTEE

PRIORITIES FUND

BALANCE SHEET

Year ended 31 December

		2017 €	2016 €
INVESTMENTS	Notes		
Investments held by the RCB	4	1,076,422	1,066,981
		<hr/>	<hr/>
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash held with the RCB	5	575,222	427,247
Cash at bank		-	1,591
		<hr/>	<hr/>
		1,651,644	1,495,819
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Net Assets		<u>1,651,644</u>	<u>1,495,819</u>
FUNDS EMPLOYED			
Balance at 1 January		1,495,819	1,538,210
(Deficit)/Surplus for the year		155,825	(42,391)
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Balance as at 31 December		<u>1,651,644</u>	<u>1,495,819</u>
		<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

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Notes to the Financial Statements

1. Contributions	2017 €	2016 €
Contributions from the dioceses	603,409	494,409
	603,409	494,409
2. Administration Expenses	2016 €	2015 €
Salaries & PRSI	21,263	14,850
Organiser's & Committee expenses	5,013	4,150
Printing & Stationary	4,513	2,299
Postage & Photocopying	3,741	2,706
Miscellaneous & Transfers	1,753	222
Audit Fees	-	8,302
	36,283	32,259
3. Grants & Loans	2017 €	2016 €
Ministry	111,985	197,665
Retirement Benefits	901	937
Education	104,085	81,971
Community	39,606	20,888
Areas of Need	24,638	35,060
Innovative Ministry	96,014	110,744
Outreach Initiatives	62,337	89,991
	439,566	537,256

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4. Invested assets are shown at market value in 2017 and 2016.

	2017	2016
5. Cash on deposit held with the RCB	€	€
Cash held on deposit with the RCB	575,222	427,247
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

6. Foreign Currency transactions have been translated to Euro at the rate of exchange ruling at 31 December 2017, €1 = £0.8881 (2016: €1 = £0.8535).

7. The Priorities Fund is not the beneficial owner of any tangible fixed assets, and thus no depreciation charge arises in the period.



The Church of Ireland Priorities Fund
Representative Church Body
Church of Ireland House
Church Avenue
Rathmines
Dublin 6

16 March 2018

Dear Sirs

***Chartered Accountants' report on the unaudited
financial information of the Church of Ireland
Priorities Fund***

In accordance with our engagement letter dated 20 November 2017 we have compiled the entity's financial information which comprises the Income and Expenditure Account, Balance Sheet and related notes from the accounting records and information and explanations you have given us.

The financial information has been compiled on the basis set out in the accounting policies set out in the financial information.

This report is made to you in accordance with the terms of our engagement. Our work has been undertaken so that we might compile the financial information that we have been engaged to compile, for management purposes. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than you for our work or for this report.

We have carried out this engagement in accordance with technical guidance in M48 'Chartered Accountants' Reports on the Compilation of Historical Financial Information of Unincorporated Entities' issued by the Institute of Chartered Accountants in Ireland (IAI) and have complied with the ethical guidance laid down by the ICM relating to members undertaking the compilation of historical financial information.

You have approved the financial information for the year ended 31 December 2017 and have acknowledged your responsibility for it, including the creation and maintenance of



all accounting and other records supporting it and the appropriateness of the accounting basis on which it has been compiled, and for providing us with all information and explanations necessary for its compilation.

We have not been instructed to carry out an audit of the financial information. For this reason, we have not verified the accuracy or completeness of the accounting records or information and explanations given to us by you and we do not, therefore, express any opinion on the financial information.

PricewaterhouseCoopers Chartered Accountants Dublin

16 March 2018

APPENDIX M
REPORT OF THE SAFEGUARDING TRUST BOARD



Child Protection Officer (RI)
Mr Gabriel Chrystal



Child Protection Officer (NI)
Ms Margaret Yarr

Aims of the board are to ensure that:

- Leadership fully embed safeguarding policies and procedures in the practice of front line staff.
- There are consistent and robust outcomes for children and adults at risk.
- The monitoring of performance against the Safeguarding Board work plan is undertaken.
- There is sharing of application of learning and experience from safeguarding practice around the Island of Ireland and from external professional bodies.
- There is monitoring of consistency of threshold decisions made in relation to safeguarding children and adults at risk (*The threshold at which state social work services respond to children and adults at risk abuse cases*).

Executive summary

1. Adult Safeguarding – New policy to be implemented May / June 2018
2. Child Safeguarding – New version of Safeguarding Trust to be launched in August 2018
3. Child Protection Officer NI – summary of work carried out
4. Child Protection Officer RI - summary of work carried out

Report

1. The Church of Ireland Adult Safeguarding policy is in final stages of completion and will be launched in May / June 2018. There will be a series of ten training events across Ireland to introduce the policy and give clergy and relevant staff the knowledge and information required. There is currently legislation in NI governing adult protection and the new policy will comply with best practice. The policy will also comply with best practice in RI and also takes cognisance of potential legislation in RI.
2. Safeguarding Trust has been in places for many years and last undertook a full review in 2008. The new version takes note of current best practice and will be more accessible with online forms and documentation. The new SGT will be launched with a series of information events in August 2018.
3. The Child Protection Officer NI (CPONI), Ms Margaret Yarr, continues to provide advice and guidance regarding the implementation of Safeguarding Trust to parishes, dioceses, mission agencies and related organisations throughout Northern Ireland. In this work, she liaises closely with the Police Service NI, Probation Board NI, Social Services and other statutory and voluntary agencies whenever issues relating to child protection arise within parishes and dioceses. The CPONI is the nominated link person in the Church of Ireland for contact with PPANI (Public Protection Arrangements for Northern Ireland). Cooperative working with PPANI provides useful sharing of information and guidance and advice on best practice. The Secretary for the Board of Education (NI) represents the Church of Ireland on the Faith Based sub group of the Safeguarding Board for NI.

The annual Safeguarding Trust training event for newly ordained clergy and first incumbents will be facilitated by both the CPONI and CPORI in spring 2018. Training events for panel members in all five northern dioceses were held throughout 2017. The CPONI also delivered training in a number of parishes throughout the year. In November 2017 a series of training events in relation to internet and online safety was delivered throughout the five northern dioceses by Inspector Elaine McCormill from the PSNI PPU (Public Protection Unit)

These sessions were intended for adults – parents and those who work with children. They were informative and in parts, challenging but gave those who attended an awareness and understanding of the potential risks and dangers related to online activity. Unfortunately the sessions were not generally well attended.

The CPONI attended a number of training courses in relation to child protection issues.

The CPONI continues to be a member of a faith-based, interdenominational child protection group in Belfast. The group provides support to the members and shares information on child protection and related issues.

The Diocesan Evaluation Teams are due to meet later in the year when the lists of parishes to be evaluated during the next twelve months will be distributed. The Teams continue with their very valuable work in visiting (on a triennial basis) and supporting parishes. The Board of Education offers sincere thanks to the evaluators for their continuing diligence and expertise in carrying out these parish visits.

Claire Geoghegan (AccessNI Co-ordinator in the office of the Board of Education in Belfast) continues to process in excess of one hundred applications for Enhanced Disclosure checks to AccessNI per month, providing an important service to parishes and other Church of Ireland related organisations. Advice and guidance in relation to changes and updates of the checking process are regularly provided to parishes and users of the vetting service.

4. The Child Protection Officer (CPO) RI, Mr Gabriel Chrystal, continues to provide advice, assistance and training to parishes and dioceses on a range of issues regarding the implementation of Safeguarding Trust.

The work of the CPO (RI) involves liaising with statutory authorities in relation to the referral and management of all child protection cases to ensure that reports made are addressed without delay thus ensuring the best outcomes for the subjects of those reports.

A guidance leaflet highlighting the area of grooming was published as an addition to the Safeguarding Trust suite of resources in April 2017. It may be downloaded from the Safeguarding Trust website or provided in hard copy on request.

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The CPO continues to attend meetings as a member of the Child Protection Network for those holding safeguarding responsibilities in voluntary and community organisations. The network provides an opportunity for sharing of information and resources and acts as a lobby group to influence child protection policy development at national level. The network also allows for maintaining vital links with external child protection professionals in other agencies in the Republic and beyond.

The CPO facilitated training in various parishes and dioceses throughout 2017. Recent training in Limerick and Raphoe Diocese included members of clergy recently ordained, in first incumbencies, new to the jurisdiction and others seeking to update their knowledge on child protection in light of the new legislation.

This resulted in significant numbers attending sessions on worker and panel training with some sessions being attended by 120 on each night. This training is vital and it highlights some excellent work by those at local level.

Ms Ruth Burleigh has been replaced by Ms Andrea Bridge in the role of Vetting Administrator. The CPO would like to express sincere thanks to Ms Burleigh for her attention and dedication to this important area of work and for being a huge support to the CPO in his first year with the organisation.

Andrea was appointed in December 2017 and will hold responsibility for the administration of the vetting service for Church of Ireland dioceses, parishes and schools. As expected the numbers of vetting applications throughout 2017 rose significantly. This was mainly due to the statutory requirements for retrospective vetting. The National Vetting Bureau extended the deadline for their direction to be vetted until 30th April 2018 for those in a position that entails relevant work. A circular was issued by the CPO in early March 2017 and again in September 2017 highlighting the matter to all clergy and Diocesan secretaries. Further advice is available from the CPO or Andrea Bridge at Church House Dublin.

Members of the Board

The Archbishop of Armagh, Most Rev RL Clarke (Chair)

The Archbishop of Dublin, Most Rev MGStA Jackson

Chairperson of the Executive Committee of the Representative Church Body, Mr H Saville

Honorary Secretary of General Synod, Canon G Wharton

Chief Officer, Mr D Ritchie

Secretary to the Board of Education NI, Dr P Hamill (Secretary)

Secretary to the Board of Education RI, Dr K Fennelly

Staff in attendance

Child Protection Officer NI, Ms M Yarr

Child Protection Officer RI, Mr G Chrystal

APPENDIX N

STANDING COMMITTEE INCOME AND EXPENDITURE AND GENERAL PURPOSES FUND ACCOUNTS

STANDING COMMITTEE INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

	Notes	2017 €	2016 €
INCOME			
Representative Church Body	1	603,496	630,309
Deposit Interest	2	200	398
Royalties Fund Income		58,347	96,303
Grants/Contributions		20,177	15,192
		<u>682,220</u>	<u>742,202</u>
EXPENSES			
Services provided by RCB	3	284,159	276,303
General Synod Expenses	4	41,730	36,602
Miscellaneous Expenses	5	44,645	54,327
		<u>370,534</u>	<u>367,232</u>
OPERATING SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR		<u>311,686</u>	<u>374,970</u>
ALLOCATIONS AND GRANTS			
Allocations to Ecumenical and Anglican Organisations			
	6	114,095	119,779
Allocations to Church related Organisations	7	226,337	210,937
		<u>340,432</u>	<u>330,716</u>
(Deficit)/Surplus for year		<u>(28,746)</u>	<u>44,2454</u>

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STANDING COMMITTEE

FUND ACCOUNT		Year ended 31 December	
		2017	2016
		€	€
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash on deposit held by RCB	8	324,612	352,056
Net Assets		<u>324,612</u>	<u>352,056</u>
FUNDS EMPLOYED			
Balance at 1 January		352,056	316,770
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year		(28,746)	44,254
Currency translation adjustment		3,941	-
Balance as at 31 December		<u><u>324,612</u></u>	<u><u>352,056</u></u>

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Notes to the Accounts

1. Income from Representative Church Body

	2017 €	2016 €
Representative Church Body allocation	642,231	652,527
Refund unexpended allocation	(38,735)	(22,218)
Total income from RCB	<u>603,496</u>	<u>630,309</u>

2. Deposit Interest

	2016 €	2016 €
-Royalties Fund	200	398
	<u>200</u>	<u>398</u>

3. Services provided by the RCB

Services provided by the RCB relates to time apportionment of RCB staff to Standing Committee support.

4. General Synod Expenses

	2016 €	2015 €
-Venue and Facilities	41,730	36,602
	<u>41,730</u>	<u>36,602</u>

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5. Miscellaneous Expenses

	2017	2016
	€	€
- Census Costs	-	10,651
- Parish Development Working Group	6,384	2,522
- Publications & Printing	7,495	7,834
- Honorary Secretaries' expenses	9,001	9,151
- Porvoo Expenses	2,757	2,934
- Historiographer's Expenses	1,300	1,300
- COI Church & Society CO	985	957
- Council for Mission	4,121	1,102
- Commemorations Working Group	-	2,323
- Commission on Ministry	5,580	6,302
- Commission on Human Sexuality	405	3,095
- Covenant Council	-	822
- Children's Ministry	6,617	2,813
- Commission Episcopal Ministry & Structure	-	2,521
	44,645	54,237
	44,645	54,237

6. Ecumenical and Anglican Organisations

	2017	2016
	€	€
- Anglican Consultative Council	47,348	48,037
- Churches Together in Britain and Ireland	11,260	11,716
- Irish Council of Churches	24,959	24,379
- Irish School of Ecumenics	2,000	4,000
- Irish Inter-Church Meeting	12,293	13,624
- World Council of Churches	4,020	4,101
- Conference of European Churches	5,800	5,800
- Delegates' expenses (travel/conferences)	6,415	8,122
	114,095	119,779
	114,095	119,779

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7. Allocations to Church related Organisations	2017	2016
	€	€
- Central Communications Board	137,371	138,331
- Miscellaneous	1,000	500
-Grants paid to General Church Organisations	11,000	-
- Church of Ireland Marriage Council	5,594	8,266
- Royalties Fund Expenditure	55,842	59,610
- Safeguarding Trust	15,530	4,230
	<u>226,337</u>	<u>210,937</u>
	=====	=====
8. Cash on Short Term Deposit	2017	2016
	€	€
- Royalties Fund	254,167	252,612
- Hymnal Revision	1,450	1,509
- Other Account Balances	68,995	97,935
	<u>324,612</u>	<u>352,056</u>
	=====	=====

This represents cash held on behalf of Standing Committee by the RCB in pooled bank accounts.

9. Foreign currency transactions have been translated to Euro at the rate of exchange ruling on 31 December 2017, €1 = £0.8881 (2016: €1 = £0.8535).



The Church of Ireland Standing Committee
Representative Church Body
Church of Ireland House
Church Avenue
R.athmines
Dublin 6

16 March 2018

Dear Sirs

Chartered Accountants' report on the unaudited financial information of The Church of Ireland Standing Committee

In accordance with our engagement letter dated 20 November 2017 we have compiled the entity's financial information which comprises the Income and Expenditure Account and Fund Account and the related notes from the accounting records and information and explanations you have given us.

The financial information has been compiled on the basis set out in the accounting policies set out in the financial information.

This report is made to you in accordance with the terms of our engagement. Our work has been undertaken so that we might compile the financial information that we have been engaged to compile, for management purposes. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than you for our work or for this report.

We have carried out this engagement in accordance with technical guidance in M48 'Chartered Accountants' Reports on the Compilation of Historical Financial Information of Unincorporated Entities' issued by the Institute of Chartered Accountants in Ireland (ICM) and have complied with the ethical guidance laid down by the ICM relating to members undertaking the compilation of historical financial information.

You have approved the financial information for the year ended 31 December 2017 and have acknowledged your responsibility for it, including the creation and maintenance of



all accounting and other records supporting it and the appropriateness of the accounting basis on which it has been compiled, and for providing us with all information and explanations necessary for its compilation.

We have not been instructed to carry out an audit of the financial information. For this reason, we have not verified the accuracy or completeness of the accounting records or information and explanations given to us by you and we do not, therefore, express any opinion on the financial information.

PricewaterhouseCoopers Chartered Accountants Dublin
16 March 2018

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GENERAL PURPOSES FUND

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

	2017 €	2016 €
INCOME		
Interest and dividends	1,105	1,105
	1,105	1,105
EXPENSES		
Registrar's fees	63	63
	63	63
OPERATING SURPLUS FOR YEAR	1,042	1,041
Balance 1 January 2016	38,961	36,074
Currency translation adjustment	(4)	(12)
Unrealised Gains on revaluation	<u>322</u>	<u>1,857</u>
Balance 31 December 2016	40,321	38,961
FUNDS EMPLOYED		
Investments	37,180	36,860
Cash held by RCB	<u>3,141</u>	<u>2,101</u>
	40,321	48,961

Sterling balances and transactions have been translated to Euro at the rate of exchange ruling at 30 December 2017, €1 = £0.8881 (2015: €1 = £0.8535).



The Church of Ireland Standing Committee
Representative Church Body
Church of Ireland House
Church Avenue
Rathmines
Dublin 6

16 March 2018 Dear Sirs

***Chartered Accountants' report on the unaudited
financial information of the Church of Ireland
General Purposes Fund***

In accordance with our engagement letter dated 20 November 2017 we have compiled the entity's financial information which comprises the Income and Expenditure Account and Fund account from the accounting records and information and explanations you have given us.

The financial information has been compiled on the basis set out in the accounting policies set out in the financial information.

This report is made to you in accordance with the terms of our engagement. Our work has been undertaken so that we might compile the financial information that we have been engaged to compile, for management purposes. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than you for our work or for this report.

We have carried out this engagement in accordance with technical guidance in M48 'Chartered Accountants' Reports on the Compilation of Historical Financial Information of Unincorporated Entities' issued by the Institute of Chartered Accountants in Ireland (ICM) and have complied with the ethical guidance laid down by the ICM relating to members undertaking the compilation of historical financial information.

You have approved the financial information for the year ended 31 December 2017 and have acknowledged your responsibility for it, including the creation and maintenance of all accounting and other records supporting it and the appropriateness of the accounting basis on which it has been compiled, and for providing us with all information and explanations necessary for its compilation.



We have not been instructed to carry out an audit of the financial information. For this reason, we have not verified the accuracy or completeness of the accounting records or information and explanations given to us by you and we do not, therefore, express any opinion on the financial information.

PricewaterhouseCoopers Chartered Accountants Dublin
16 March 2018

Topic on which discussion would be particularly welcome

1. The reduction in membership recently has left the Working Group in need of new members. We are hopeful that we might be able to encourage diocesan representation on the group as a means of moving forward and to act as a conduit between this group and each diocese.
2. As we seek a new direction following huge changes to group membership over the past couple of years we are in the process of arranging a Parish Audit as a follow up to the ‘Opening Doors’ audit and report of 2006.

APPENDIX O

WORKING GROUP ON DISABILITY

Membership

Rev Jennifer McWhirter (Chairperson)

Mr Arthur Canning

Dr Timothy Jackson

Mrs Audrey Tormey

Terms of Reference

In March 2005, the Standing Committee established the Working Group on Disability to address issues concerning disability that affect the Church of Ireland and to consider the implications of legislation in both jurisdictions. The Church of Ireland is periodically invited to comment on consultation documents, white papers and draft legislation. It was envisaged that a working group with expertise in this area would be in a position to prepare considered responses on behalf of the Church.

Personalia

We were saddened by the resignation of Rev Canon Malcolm and Mrs Carol Ferry during the year. Their input and experience are greatly missed.

Planning for the future

As the Working Group seeks a way forward we see that a Parish Audit as a follow up from the audit and report in 2006 will allow us to gauge the progress parishes have made in terms of disability access and inclusivity in churches in the intervening years. It might also collate some information around the range of disabilities experienced by church members, their impact, and how churches have changed in order to facilitate disabled members. In doing so we hope to encourage parishes, and people, to think beyond physical disability and towards access and inclusion in church for all.

Such a Parish Audit will take time in planning and preparation in order that it is done well and in order that it will be of benefit to parishes and clergy. We would hope to have

Standing Committee – Report 2018

such an Audit completed in time for General Synod 2020 at the latest. We would wish to co-opt some people as members of the group to help with this endeavour.

We have also made contact with the wider Anglican Communion, and indeed other Churches, to assist us in preparation for our own work, assuming there is other good practice out there which they are willing to share and from which we could benefit.

As a group we also hope that this Audit will allow us to collate instances and examples of best practice in relation to disability access and to act as a signpost for best practice within the Church of Ireland. One way of disseminating examples of best practice is to encourage diocesan representation on the group to aid with the collation and dissemination of the good work that is being carried out in parishes already in terms of access and inclusion for all.

The group would also hope to function as a signpost for information to ensure that parishes, to the best of their ability, are complying with legislation around disability access.

Work Plan

The Working Group has certain priorities in its planning for the future:

- a. To make people think beyond disability and towards access for all;
- b. To make people aware of the legislation in the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland and outline the implications of the same;
- c. To make people aware of key issues involved in making sure properties are accessible

Conclusion

The Working Group continues to seek consultation with and support from Church Members with either a professional or personal knowledge in the area of disability. We would also seek prayerful support in the year ahead as we approach the preparation for the Parish Audit.

APPENDIX P

CHURCH OF IRELAND WORKING GROUP ON PIONEER MINISTRY

Executive Summary

Its overall purpose is to facilitate the development of a comprehensive and integrated vision, strategy and practice for Fresh Expressions and Pioneer Ministry (FX/PM) in the Church of Ireland, enabling them to be at the forefront of the Church's mission in every community and enabling people who have no connection with church to be reached with the Gospel. It is overseen by the Bishops of Connor and Tuam and the Archbishop of Dublin. The group members are: Very Rev Alistair Grimason, Rev Rob Jones, Rev Barry Forde and Mr Trevor Douglas. This Group, along with the diocesan advocates, has continued to meet on a quarterly basis.

The following is a summary of its work to date:

1. Learning: That a small group from every diocese would participate in an Inter-diocesan learning experience (IDLE). Representatives from six dioceses, Connor, Dublin & Glendalough, Tuam, Armagh, Kilmore and Meath & Kildare have now attended an overnight facilitated IDLE and, as a result, have set their respective dioceses objectives to achieve in terms of new initiatives.
2. Advocates: Advocates from 11 dioceses have been nominated by their bishop and meet regularly. These meetings contain an element of training. Advocates are encouraged and empowered to establish FX/PM networks and strategic development/action plans within their individual diocese.
3. Leadership Groups: An aim of the working group is that each diocese would form its own leadership /strategy group with an action plan and clear outcomes.
4. Training: The working group hopes to assess, cost and enable delivery of an accredited pathway to pioneer ministry training for ordained and lay candidates.
5. Chaplaincy Networks: The Working Party has been encouraged by new expressions of chaplaincy ministry in university contexts and is supporting ongoing conversations aimed at developing a national strategy for this type of ministry.
6. Communications: Promoting and convincing people of the importance of FX/PM is a challenge. Even the titles are not to everyone's liking and somewhat confusing, yet nothing better has emerged! Individual dioceses are beginning to create new labels for their own initiatives and this is to be welcomed - i.e. 'Gateway' in Dublin & Glendalough. The Working Group intends to develop a communications strategy to celebrate and promote what is happening.
7. Co-ordinator: The Working Group has identified the need to employ a co-ordinator for FX/PM in the Church of Ireland. This should be a half-time position and funding is currently being sought. The core tasks identified are....
 - Assisting to build a vision for mixed economy and pioneer ministry in the Church of Ireland

Working Group on Pioneer Ministry – Report 2018

- Advise and encourage dioceses where there are existing Fresh Expressions and assist in identifying and envisioning new ones
- To act as co-ordinator of the diocesan advocates group, facilitating that body to give leadership in pioneer ministry and fresh expressions across each diocese
- Liaise with bishops in developing appropriate networks at diocesan, inter-diocesan and national church levels
- Work collaboratively with the Church of Ireland Theological Institute and other potential partners in developing training for pioneers - both lay and ordained
- Organise and establish an annual Fresh Expressions/pioneer ministry national conference.

Recommended Reading:

The following list of recommended reading will be of interest to those who wish to learn more about Pioneer Ministry. In particular, the Church of England's 'Mission Shaped...' publications are highly recommended, as they form the foundation to much thinking within Anglicanism on Fresh Expressions.

- *Mission-Shaped Church: Church Planting and Fresh Expressions of Church in a Changing Context*, London, Church House Publishing, 2004
- Croft, Steven, *Mission-shaped Questions: Defining Issues for today's Church*, London, Church House Publishing, 2008
- Carson, Don, *Becoming Conversant with the Emerging Church*, Grand Rapids, Zondervan, 2005
- Dever, Mark, *Nine Marks of a Healthy Church*, Wheaton, Crossway, 2004
- DeYoung, Kevin, Ted Kluck, *Why we're not Emergent*, Chicago, Moody, 2008
- Dulles, Avery, *Models of the Church*, New York, Doubleday, 1974
- Gardner, Jason, *Mend the Gap: can the church reconnect the generations?*, Nottingham, IVP, 2008
- Gibbs, Eddie, Ryan Bolger, *Emerging Churches: Creating Christian Community in Postmodern Cultures*, Grand Rapids, Baker, 2005
- Kimball, Dan, *The Emerging Church: Vintage Christianity for New Generations*, Grand Rapids, Zondervan, 2003
- Mobsby, Ian, *Emerging and Fresh Expressions of Church*, Moot Community Publishing, 2007

Topic on which discussion would be particularly welcome

1. What are the most important challenges facing asylum seekers and refugees living on the island of Ireland?
2. How can members of the Church best respond to the needs of asylum seekers and refugees on the island of Ireland and overseas?
3. How can the Church lead and help to build empathy for newcomers and overcome fear about migration in the communities which it serves?

APPENDIX Q

REFUGEE WORKING GROUPS

Two working groups on the Church of Ireland’s response to the refugee crisis were established in 2015, for Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland, chaired by the Rt Rev Ken Good, Bishop of Derry and Raphoe, and the Rt Rev Patrick Rooke, Bishop of Tuam, Killala and Achonry respectively.

Members of the Church of Ireland have responded to the crisis in several ways, including alongside other Churches and organisations involved in this area of ministry. Direct responses from the Church have included:

- The refugee accommodation appeal organised by the Dioceses of Dublin and Glendalough has raised €100,000 to date and secured at least 10 properties (to potentially house more than 40 people);
- Practical outreach to asylum seekers and refugees in Belfast e.g. through free English language teaching at All Saints Church, University Road, and a drop-in centre for refugees at St Paul and St Barnabas Church, York Road;
- Our Table – a café at Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin (Ireland’s first Cathedral of Sanctuary), which follows on from a series of talks at the cathedral last autumn by people who have experienced life in direct provision;
- The Welcome Table – a project run by St Patrick’s Church, Dalkey, which gives asylum seekers living in direct provision centres access to a kitchen where a meal can be cooked;
- Involvement by the Church of Ireland chaplain, staff and students in Dublin City University’s University of Sanctuary initiative, including volunteering at Mosney direct provision centre; and
- Collections of toys and other goods (e.g. in the dioceses of Connor, Cork, Cloyne and Ross and Tuam, Killala and Achonry) which have then been shared with migrants in the Mediterranean region and the Calais camp.

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Clergy and parishioners are encouraged to take up unexpected opportunities to serve as and when they arise e.g. by offering lifts to hospital appointments in rural areas, food banks, helping people to improve their English language skills through classes and everyday conversations, or giving goods for mothers and toddlers.

A number of support organisations can provide more information on how to assist asylum seekers and refugees on the island of Ireland e.g. Embrace NI, Storehouse and Bryson Intercultural (in Northern Ireland), the Irish Red Cross, Irish Refugee Council and local support groups for direct provision centres (in the Republic of Ireland).

The Supporting Asylum Seekers and Refugees Resource is available at www.ireland.anglican.org/resources - this outlines the above ministries and also how the work of Bishops' Appeal and missionary agencies make a difference in areas of conflict around our world.

While we cannot know with certainty how long the refugee crisis will continue or indeed how it will develop in future, the level of human need is very clear and the working groups encourage members of the Church to continue to give their prayerful and practical support to people who are seeking asylum or adjusting to life as refugees in Ireland and abroad. In doing so, we help to fulfil Christ's call to love the Lord our God with all our heart, soul, mind and strength, and our neighbour as ourselves.

Topics on which discussion would be particularly welcome:

1. The Make Yourself at Home Pilot Initiative is a worthwhile self-audit for any Church and should be expanded so more parishes and other denominations can avail of it. Discuss.
2. If we don't invest in children we are not engaging in authentic Christian worship. Discuss.

APPENDIX R

Children's Ministry Network

REPORT 2018

MEMBERSHIP ELECTED 2016

Rt Rev Alan Abernethy, Bishop of Connor (Chair)
Dr Peter Hamill (Secretary)
Ms Lydia Monds (Coordinator)
Rev Rosie Diffin & Mr David Brown (Armagh)
Mrs Frances Boyd (Clogher)
Ms Kirsty Lynch (Derry & Raphoe)
Ms Julie Currie (Down & Dromore)
Mrs Jill Hamilton (Connor)
Mrs Marian Edwards (Kilmore, Elphin & Ardagh)
Rev Jennifer McWhirter (Tuam, Killala and Achonry)
Rev Baden Stanley (Dublin & Glendalough)
Vacant (Meath & Kildare)
Rev James Mulhall (Cashel, Ferns & Ossory)
Rev Elaine Murray (Cork, Cloyne & Ross)
Rev Jane Galbraith (Limerick, Ardfert & Killaloe)
Ms Tammi Peek (Children's Ministry Consultant)
Mr Steve Grasham (CIYD Representative)
Ms Lynn Storey (Sunday School Society for Ireland Representative)

'A person's a person, no matter how small.'

— Dr. Seuss

'There can be no keener revelation of a society's soul than the way in which it treats its children.'

— Nelson Mandela

'Children are the living messages we send to a time we will not see.'

— John F. Kennedy

Children's Ministry Network – Report 2018

The past year was an exciting one for the Children's Ministry Network (CMN) as we collaborated with the Sunday School Society for Ireland and the RCB to progress the development of a more cohesive and visible Children's Ministry within the central structures of the Church of Ireland.

CMN Meetings:

The Network met three times in the past year to develop relationships between Children's Ministry in different dioceses, to support each other, to learn from each other and to move the vision and goals of the Church of Ireland Children's Ministry forward. To that end, there were presentations on church services for people with disabilities, new resources for worshipping with children under five and discussions on the future of Children's Ministry in the Church of Ireland.

Trainings throughout the Network:

Below are examples of Children's Ministry activities from several dioceses:

Cork, Cloyne & Ross

Children's Ministry Group hosted a Banner Making Workshop in Carrigaline Parish Hall in March. Under the watchful expert eye of Noeleen Hogan, parishes were able to bring home a completed 'Alleluia!' banner for use during Eastertide as well as learning the skills needed to make further banners to visually enhance the Liturgy.

Susan Colton and the Rev Elaine Murray of the Cork, Cloyne & Ross Children's Ministry Group were part of a CCR diocesan team visiting Finland in November and learned much from how Children's Ministry was conducted in the Finnish Lutheran Church, with whom we are in Communion (Porvoo Agreement). As well as looking in detail at an exciting Children's Magazine published annually, they were very impressed with play areas within church buildings and it is hoped to have a Workshop on Godly Play in the diocese in 2018.

Derry and Raphoe

SEEDS Children's Ministry held various training events throughout the year including Special Needs Awareness with the Cedar Foundation and Autism NI, Special Needs training with Jill Hamilton and training focusing on ideas and resources for Advent. All trainings were organised by Children's Ministry Network Representative Kirsty Lynch who identified the need for wider awareness and training in the area of Special Needs. CMN would hope to expand this to multiple dioceses based on Kirsty's leadership and feedback.

Tuam, Killala and Achonry

Children's Ministry Network representative Rev Jennifer McWhirter organised and facilitated training for Sunday school teachers to explore Advent and Christmas resources and then again to explore Lent and Easter resources. She collated the resources from the wider Children's Ministry Network and then met with leaders in her diocese to strengthen relationships and build support. Ballisodare ran a children's activity at Easter and Kilmoremoy ran Messy Church at Christmas and Easter.

Children's Ministry Network – Report 2018

Connor Diocese – Ripple Children's Ministry

- Patrick's Mysterious Adventure March 2017:
In March, Connor's Children's Council, organised an all-age exhibition and story trail, themed around the life of Ireland's patron saint Patrick. The five-day event took place in St. Anne's Cathedral Belfast and consisted of 2 school days, 2 public days and a closing St. Patrick themed church service. The aim was to give visitors the opportunity to reconnect with the life story of Saint Patrick, discover more about him and be inspired by his faith and faithfulness to God. As well as our interactive story trail with live actors, the exhibition included craft and history workshops, walkabout circus performers and large head characters, the Arglass Vikings with their Viking ship and battle re-enactments and live Irish music and dance! The event was a huge success with more than 1500 people coming to visit over the 5 day period.
- Ripple Children's Ministry Connor – Equipped Training May 2017:
Our diocesan children's leaders training took place in May in Drumaul Parish Randalstown. This year we joined with Connor's Engage Youth Ministry to offer six youth and children's leaders workshops. Equipped training is a morning of practical support and includes a free book resource and brunch.
- Ripple Children's Ministry Connor - Equipped Local -throughout 2017:
As well as providing training for the whole diocese, Ripple also offers specific training for individual parishes. This year 4 churches identified areas where they would like to receive training for their leaders. The topics covered were Working with 0-7s, Working as a team, Sunday school planning, Messy Church and Holiday bible clubs.

Clogher

Almost sixty Sunday School Teachers from across the diocese participated in two training evenings organised by the Clogher Diocesan Board of Religious Education in partnership with the Children's Ministry Network. From Colaghty and Dromore in the north to Carrickmacross in the south, and from Inishmacsaint and Garrison in the west to Clontibret and Errigal Truagh on the eastern boundary, they made their way, along with lots of other representatives from parishes throughout the diocese, to St Patrick's Hall in Monaghan on September 12th and to the newly refurbished Cathedral Hall in Enniskillen on September 13th.

The presenter on both evenings was Julie Currie, Children's Officer for Down and Julie has been working hard on producing JIGSAW, a comprehensive resource for Sunday School Teachers, the first two books currently being piloted and enthusiastically received in Down and Dromore. Opening the evenings with reminders from scripture of why working with children is so, so important, she encouraged the teachers to let their light shine, by loving, inspiring and reaching the lost. She went on to outline the three key elements of her programme - Bible Teaching, Memory Verses and Prayer and showed

lots of practical examples of how to engage children, through games, video clips and songs. Her enthusiasm, as always, was infectious.

Children's Ministry Conference:

From the 27TH February to 1ST March, members of the larger Children's Ministry Network for Britain and Ireland met in Dungarvan to learn about Children's Ministry in the Irish context. It was attended by 17 people involved in children's ministry from different faith traditions in Ireland, England, Scotland and Wales.

It was identified that grandparents play a very important role in passing on the Christian story. The necessity to focus on whole family ministry rather than on children's ministry alone was discussed as a priority. The conference heard that Ireland must seize the precious opportunity to engage in intergenerational ministry as it has not yet 'lost the generation that knows the story'.

Communicating with young people who learn in a very different way to their parents was also a topic for discussion.

Up-skilling:

Hand in Hand Conference

Members of the Network attended the annual Hand in Hand conference in Eastbourne, funded by the Board of Education Northern Ireland, to glean new resources and ideas and bring them back for use in an Irish context.

Minding the Gap: Children and Mental Health Conference.

Rev James Mulhall represented the Network at this invaluable conference. He reported back that the statistics for children's mental health are stark:

- 16 million people in the UK suffer from mental illness.

- Three in four mental illnesses begin in childhood.

- 75% of young people with a treatable mental health problem are not receiving treatment.

While services are creaking with demand he had the opportunity to hear about some inspirational work in Birmingham. The Birmingham Centre for Arts Therapies explained the role of creative therapies in well-being. There was a session on the issues of well-being and mental health within a hospital setting and the methods used to help lift the spirit from sore to soar. Mental Health First Aid for Young People shared how they are training those working with young people experiencing depression, anxiety, suicide, psychosis, eating disorders and self-harm. These conditions have physical effects and impact emotions, behaviour and thinking. The protective factors that contribute towards mentally healthy children help to build connections, offer hope, strengthen identity, give meaning and help empower an individual with self-help strategies. The Biblical focus for the conference was the story of the Exodus – journeying from the known into the unknown and God's faithfulness throughout. A reading of the lament of Psalm 88 took them into the darkness and despair felt by many in these circumstances.

Children's Ministry Network – Report 2018

This was a timely subject to reflect on and to consider how churches might constructively respond to these issues and pastorally support young people and their families.

Resources:

Our Quarterly Newsletter has a new look and is bursting full of practical ideas from the Network to equip all those working with children in church contexts. In between Newsletters, the website and Facebook page are regularly updated with news of events and resources, and with creative ideas.

Make Yourself at Home Pack pilot has been completed and feedback has been received from five dioceses. The plan is to tweak the materials based on feedback from all twelve dioceses and then to make it available as a pack or as a downloadable resource. Tammi Peek was instrumental in developing this excellent resource and is an asset to the Church for her passion, her creativity and her understanding of the gaps and the potential within the Church for children's ministry.

Jigsaw: The JIGSAW curriculum for Sunday Schools is an exciting new resource that aims to support leaders to grow their children's faith in Sunday Schools through the key areas of teaching, prayer and memory verses. *Jigsaw – Connecting God's Big Picture* contains the complete material for a full year of Sunday school and is especially designed for a parish context. It also contains exciting new features such as the provision of related Family Service talks, a tailor-made programme and advertising brochure and also the connection to faith at home with the provision of memory verses and 'take home sheet' templates for families to carry on learning after Sunday school is over. The curriculum was developed by Down and Dromore Children's Officer Julie Currie and her team of writers and is currently being used by 30 parishes in the diocese with the intention that it will grow to provide 6 years' worth of material.

If you would like to use Jigsaw for your children's ministry please contact Julie: Julie@downanddromore.org

Plans for the Future:

CMN Training Videos: A big part of Children's Ministry Network is raising the profile of Children's Ministry throughout the Church. Equally, its vision is to see a church equipped to include children in the full life and worship of the church. To this end the Network has created 4 short training videos in the areas of:

- Make Yourself at Home Pack
- Creative Prayer
- All Age Worship
- Bible Story Telling

The purpose of the videos is education and training at parish level so that people can glean multiple ideas for engaging with children in a variety of ways.

Children's Ministry Network – Report 2018

24 hour CMN event: In April 2018, Victoria Beech from GodVenture joined the Network in Newtownards and facilitated an intensive seminar and team building session on the Friday 20th April and facilitated a wider children's workers and families' workshop on Saturday 21st April.

Diocesan Trainings planned: Limerick and Killaloe have invited CMN to run a full day training on May 26th 2018 in Adare. Interested in running a diocesan training and need support? Contact the Children's Ministry Network: admin@cm.ireland.anglican.org

Special Needs and Abilities and Mental Health in Children

In 2018/2019 we will be focusing more closely on training and resourcing leaders in the areas of Special Needs and Mental Health. No one should be ostracised or vulnerable in the Kingdom of God and we must be in the best position possible to provide safe spaces of belonging to all the children in our care.

**BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE GENERAL SYNOD
OF THE CHURCH OF IRELAND**

The aims of the General Synod Board of Education are to:

- Define the policy of the Church in education, both religious and secular and, in promotion of this policy, to take such steps as may be deemed necessary to co-ordinate activities in all fields of education affecting the interests of the Church of Ireland;
- Maintain close contact with Government, the Department of Education and Skills, Diocesan Boards of Education, and other educational and school authorities with a view to ascertaining the most efficient and economical use of resources including funds, transport facilities and teachers;
- Study any legislation or proposed legislation likely to affect the educational interests of the Church of Ireland and take such action with respect thereto as it may deem necessary;
- Deliberate and confer on all educational matters affecting the interests of the Church;
- Make such enquiries as it shall deem to be requisite and communicate with government authorities and all such bodies and persons as it shall consider necessary.

Board of Education Northern Ireland - General Synod Report 2018

AIMS

The current aims of the Board of Education NI are to:

- Develop, in conjunction with other churches, a clear and shared vision of education shaped by core values of the Christian faith;
- Advise the Synod of developments in educational policy in NI and represent the Church as an educational partner to the Department of Education and other educational bodies;
- Liaise with other churches within the Transferor Representatives' Council (TRC) in promoting the interests and safeguarding the rights of transferors;
- Facilitate the nomination of transferor governors to controlled primary and secondary schools;
- Make submissions to relevant government departmental consultations;

- Engage with the new Education Authority and forthcoming Controlled Sector Skills Council;
- Engage with Institutions of Higher Education regarding the future preparation of teachers for the Controlled sector;
- Seek, in conjunction with other churches, continued curriculum support of the RE core syllabus in schools;
- Contribute to training and support for children’s ministry in parishes, in particular as a member of the Church of Ireland Children’s Ministry Network.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. **Funding of Education:** Financial crisis in schools putting pressure on all staff, education of children suffering.
2. **Education Authority:** Working closely with EA on Governor Reconstitution.
3. **Transferor Representatives’ Council (TRC):** Working towards supporting RE and Collective Worship in Schools. Working closely with CSSC on ‘ethos in schools’.
4. **Controlled Schools Support Council (CSSC):** Making a difference.
5. **Review of the Board of Education NI:** New way of working.
6. **Board of Education Principles of Equality:** Discussion paper on education.
7. **Children’s Ministry:** Supporting a new direction for Children’s Ministry.
8. **Membership**

Report

1. Funding of Education

There is currently a funding crisis in schools. More than 600 schools had their budgets rejected in a climate of cost cutting and reduction of services. It seems unless there is a major change class sizes will grow, support in education will reduce, schools will close, and children will suffer. The Church of Ireland must highlight this issue and clearly hold government to account on how education is being funded. We are told that NI has one of the best education systems in the world and yet we are failing children. By reducing funding it will leave a long term legacy of poor morale among teachers, buildings not fit for purpose, and lowering of educational standards. It is vital that parishes engage with their local schools and find ways to support pupils, teachers, and governors in maintaining a high quality education system. The Church built the foundation of the

education system we have today and we must ensure that we do not lose the close relationship between the Church of Ireland and local schools.

The Board of Education (NI) through the Transferor Representatives' Council have been making clear representation to the Department of Education, the Education Authority and other sectoral bodies.

2. Education Authority (EA)

Rev Amanda Adams is the Church of Ireland TRC representative on the EA Board. She has worked diligently and tirelessly on the Board, chairing a number of working groups. The Board of Education (NI) wishes to take this opportunity to thank her for her hard work and wisdom in this work.

In January 2018, the Department of Education launched the reconstitution of school governors for the period 2018 – 2022. Dr Hamill has been working closely with the Education Authority on this matter. There are over 1500 transferor governors and approximately 600 of these are Church of Ireland. The Board of Education (NI) would wish to thank all transferor governors for their hard work as volunteers in ensuring our schools give children the best education possible. The Board of Education (NI) acknowledges that the work of the governor is not always easy but the goal is so worthwhile. The Board of Education (NI) looks forward to confirming the appointment of all the Church of Ireland representatives and looking at new ways of engaging and supporting governors in their vital role.

3. Transferor Representatives' Council (TRC)

The TRC has been busy despite the lack of a Minister for Education. TRC has held meetings with a range of stakeholders in the education sector including the Permanent Secretary for Department of Education, Stranmillis College, Controlled Schools Support Council, Council for Catholic Maintained Schools, Catholic Trustees Support Service, and Northern Ireland Council for Integrated Education.

The TRC has been working on a special project to identify the needs of teachers in delivering RE and Collective Worship. They have been working closely with Stranmillis College and hope to have an intern employed by Stranmillis to research the state of resources for RE and Collective Worship in schools. The working group for this project has four Church of Ireland members including practising teachers and clergy.

The TRC has been working closely with the newly formed CSSC on matters to do with Ethos in Schools. CSSC have held a conference on Ethos and produced a training pack for Governors.

4. Controlled School Support Council

“The Controlled Schools' Support Council (CSSC) is the advocacy body for Northern Ireland's controlled schools. Established in September 2016, it is the first time that the largest educational sector has a representative voice. The need for CSSC has been made

abundantly clear in the short time it has been in existence, with 92% of controlled schools opting-in to register with the Council” (CSSC, 2018)

Dr Hamill is the Church of Ireland TRC representative on the CSSC Board. CSSC has gone from strength to strength raising the profile of the Controlled Sector. CSSC has lobbied on behalf of the sector including funding, standards and minibus licensing. The Board of Education (NI) is delighted at the impact CSSC has made in such a short period of time.

5. Review of the Board of Education

The Board of Education (NI) has undertaken a review of its function and remit. The Board has identified a new way forward in order to be more dynamic and meet the current needs of education and the Church of Ireland. The review is ongoing and it is hoped to bring in a new format to meetings and streamline structures to ensure maximum impact. The first step in this process is to update the Board of Education’s definition and remit in the Church of Ireland Constitution. A separate bill at a future meeting of the General Synod will deal with this update.

6. Board of Education Principles of Equality

The Board of Education (RI) has been considering the Principles of Equality in Education drawn up by the Board of Education (NI). A report on this will be made available at next year’s General Synod.

7. Children’s Ministry

The Board of Education (NI) has been part of discussions to merge the Sunday School Society for Ireland and the Children’s Ministry Network into a new Children’s Ministry Support for the Church of Ireland. The Board of Education (NI) welcomes this development and looks forward to the new ministry strand as a core part of the work of the Church of Ireland.

8. Membership

Mr R McKinney retired after over 25 years’ service as treasurer. The Board thanked him for his service and commitment over the years.

Mr Mike Johnston took up the role of treasurer.

Mr W McSparron also retired as representative from Derry Diocese.

Rev M Hagan (Armagh) and Rev A Quill (Clogher) have joined the Board.

Appendix A

The following are the members of the Board and its committees as on 31 March 2017:

THE GENERAL SYNOD BOARD OF EDUCATION

THE ARCHBISHOPS AND BISHOPS

Board of Education – Report 2018

THE HONORARY SECRETARIES OF THE GENERAL SYNOD

Ms Hazel Corrigan

Mr K Gibson

Rev Canon GV Wharton

Ven GTW Davison

Elected members

Armagh

Rev M Hagan

Mr T Flannagan

Clogher

Vacant

Mrs H Kerr

Derry

Rev Canon H Gilmore

Mr D West

Down

Rev Canon JR Howard

Mr JE Bunting

Connor

Rev I Magowan

Dr KF Dunn

Kilmore

Very Rev N Crossey

Mrs C Poyntz

Tuam

Rev Canon DTS Clements

Professor P Johnston

Dublin

Rev W Olhausen

Mr DJ Wynne

Meath

Rev Canon JDM Clarke

Ms Rosemary Maxwell-Eager

Cashel Ferns and Ossory

Rev Canon PA Harvey

Mrs A Forrest

Cork

Ven AM Wilkinson

Mr W. Baker

Limerick and Killaloe

Ven S Watterson

Mrs M Brickenden

Co-opted members

Board of Education – Report 2018

1. Mrs R Forde
2. Mrs H McClenaghan
3. Mr RM McKinney
4. Mrs MP Wallace
5. Rev BJG O'Rourke
6. Rev Canon N Sloane (Sunday School Society)
7. Rev Prof A Lodge (Third Level)
8. Mr M Hall (ISA)
9. Mr S Thompson (ISA)
10. Mr A Forrest (ISA)
11. Vacant (ASTI)
12. Mrs S Hall (ASTI)
13. Mr Simon Henry (CIYD)
14. Mr Barry Williams (TUI)
15. Mrs J Perdue
16. Ms R Fraser
17. Ms S Richards
18. Mr A Oughton

Observers:

Mr G Norris

(Presbyterian Church)

Ms D Wood

(Methodist Church)

Secretary to the General Synod Board of Education:

Dr K. Fennelly, Church of Ireland House, Church Avenue, Rathmines, Dublin 6.

Secretary to the Board of Education (NI) (in attendance)

Dr P. Hamill, Church of Ireland House, 61-67 Donegall Street, Belfast BT1 2QH.

Board of Education (Northern Ireland)

Ex-officio members

Board of Education – Report 2018

The Archbishop of Armagh, Most Rev Dr RL Clarke

Bishop of Clogher, Rt Rev FJ McDowell

Bishop of Down and Dromore, Rt Rev Dr HC Miller

Bishop of Kilmore, Rt Rev SF Glenfield

Bishop of Connor, Rt Rev AF Abernethy

Bishop of Derry, Rt Rev KR Good

Lay Hon Sec of General Synod, Mr K Gibson

Clerical Hon Sec of General Synod, Ven GTW Davison

Elected members

Armagh Rev M Hagan

 Mr TW Flannagan

Clogher Rev A Quill

 Mrs H Kerr

Derry Rev MRK Ferry

 Vacant

Down Rev Canon JR Howard

 Mr JE Bunting

Connor Rev I Magowan

 Dr KF Dunn

Co-opted members

Miss F Boyd

Mrs R Forde

Mrs H McClenaghan

Mr A Frame

Dr I Hickey

Rev Canon JW McKegney

Mr RM McKinney

Prof R Pritchard

Board of Education – Report 2018

Mrs MP Wallace

Canon W Young

Rev AE Adams

Observer: Vacant

CIYD: Mr S Henry

Honorary Secretary, Board of Education (Northern Ireland)

Mr JE Bunting

Honorary Treasurer, Board of Education (Northern Ireland)

Mr M Johnston

Secretary, Board of Education (Northern Ireland)

Dr PJ Hamill, Church of Ireland House, 61-67 Donegall Street, Belfast BT1 2QH

GENERAL SYNOD BOARD OF EDUCATION - EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Two members of the House of Bishops

Ven GTW Davison

Hon Sec: Mr K Gibson

Rev Canon JW McKegney

Mr J Bunting

Mr T Flannagan

Mr M Hall

Rev BJG O'Rourke

Mr A Oughton

Board of Education (Republic of Ireland)

Ex officio members:

The Archbishop of Dublin and Glendalough (Chair)

Honorary Secretaries – Ms Hazel Corrigan, Rev Canon GV Wharton

Elected by House of Bishops:

Bishop of Tuam, Killala and Achonry, Rt Rev PW Rooke

Bishop of Cashel, Ferns and Ossory, Rt Rev MAJ Burrows

Diocesan Representatives: Ms. Rosemary Maxwell-Eager, Vacant (from GSBOE)

Board of Education – Report 2018

Post primary representatives: Mr M Hall, vacant (second-level teacher)

Third level representatives: Professor P Johnston, Rev Prof A Lodge

Primary representatives: Rev Canon BJK O'Rourke, Mrs J Perdue

CIYD: Steve Grasham

Sunday School Society: Very Rev N Sloane

Co-options GS BOE:

Mr A Forrest

Mr A Oughton

Observers:

Mr. G Norris

(Presbyterian Church)

Ms D Wood

(Methodist Church)

Secretary, Board of Education (Republic of Ireland)

Dr K. Fennelly, Church of Ireland House, Church Avenue, Rathmines, Dublin 6

A. Board of Education (Republic of Ireland)

AIMS

- Shall have the power to represent the Board of Education of the General Synod in all educational matters applying solely to the Republic of Ireland;
- Will advise the General Synod of developments in educational policy in the Republic of Ireland and will represent the Church as an education partner with the Department of Education and Skills and other educational bodies;
- Will support, through the *Follow Me* programme, religious education in primary schools under Protestant management;
- Will provide support, training and advice to primary level patrons and boards of management;
- Provide support, training and advice to primary level patrons and boards of management;
- Provide training and an advisory service to bishops, dioceses and parishes in the implementation of Safeguarding Trust;
- Facilitate the garda vetting of employees and volunteers in Church of Ireland primary schools and parishes.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. Personalia
2. Legislative Developments
3. Primary Level Training
4. European and International Involvement: General Assembly
5. Conferences and Events
6. Religious Education
7. Advisory Service to Schools and Engagement with Education Partners
8. Grants: the Board awards a number of grants each year in support of various educational bodies.
9. Listing of Board Members (Appendix A)

REPORT

1. Personalia

The Board welcomed the appointment from the House of Bishops of The Rt Rev Michael Burrows, Bishop of Cashel, Ferns and Ossory as a member in May 2017. As Patron of a large number of primary schools and through his active involvement with Kilkenny College, Bishop Burrows brings with him a wealth of knowledge and experience in the field of education.

2. Regulatory Developments

Irish School operate within a highly regulated environment. In addition to the range of legislation which impacts on schools, schools must also follow procedures set down in various Circulars issued by the Department of Education and Skills. A summary of key legislative/regulatory developments is set out below:

Admissions to Schools:

The 2017 Report to General Synod outlined advised that the Admissions to School Bill 2016 had been introduced into Dáil Éireann and that it had moved to Committee Stage. That Bill has now completed Committee Stage and will move next to Report stage in the Seanad. The Board continues to have concerns regarding a number of its provisions and has made a number of submissions and representations in relation to this particular Bill.

As reported to General Synod last year, the Minister for Education and Skills engaged in a consultation process regarding school admissions and invited submissions in regards to same. One of the proposed options was to remove Section 7 (3)(c) of the Equal Status Act. It is this provision that allows faith based schools to prioritise entry on the basis of religious denomination where a school is oversubscribed. The Board and schools in their submissions to the Department, strenuously objected to this proposed amendment to the legislation. In a press release issued on 27 June 2017 on completion of the consultation process, the Minister set out his preferred policy approach for amending primary school admissions legislation on the issue of the role that religion can play in the process. The Minister indicated that the approach announced reflected his stated priority to protect the position of minority religious families, whose position would be uniquely threatened by any changes in this area. In general terms, the Minister indicated his preference to remove the capacity for state-funded denominational primary schools, where oversubscribed, to use religion as a criteria in admissions subject to a number of exceptions that would be provided for schools established by a minority religion. Despite the Minister’s stated priority to protect the position of minority religious families, this remains an area of concern for the Board and the Board awaits the publication of the draft legislation which would be necessary to implement the Minister’s proposal.

Parent and Student Charter Bill 2016:

In May 2017 the Secretary appeared before the Joint Oireachtas Committee on Education with regard to the Parent and Student Charter Bill 2016. This Bill was given a cautious welcome as it proposes to introduce a formal parental complaints procedure which would replace the current non-statutory parental complaints procedure. However, the Secretary also highlighted to the committee the view that the language in the Bill should be more inclusive to recognise the entire school community. This Bill is currently still at Committee stage.

Child Protection:

The Department of Education and Skills published updated Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools which came into effect on 11 December 2017.

These procedures were developed by the Department in consultation with the Education Partners and both the Secretary and the Education Advisor were involved in that process, on behalf of the Board. The procedures take account of the Children First Act, 2015 and the updated Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children published in 2017. The safety, protection and welfare of all the children and young people in all schools is of central importance and a responsibility of all concerned with the provision of primary and second level education. The Board welcomes the introduction of these updated procedures which may be accessed on the following link; www.education.ie/schools-colleges/Information/child-protection

The Board will continue to monitor the progress of relevant legislation and engage with the Minister, the Department of Education and Skills, and members of the Oireachtas as necessary.

3. Primary Level Boards of Management Training

The current Boards of Management at primary level took up office on 1 December 2015. A programme of training, consisting of seven modules, has been funded by the Department of Education and Skills and is being made available to Boards in each diocese during their term of office. Over 1,600 Board of Management members have attended training across the ten dioceses since 2016. The Board is grateful to the Department of Education and Skills for funding the majority of the costs associated with delivering this training. The Board is grateful to Mrs Eileen Flynn for co-ordinating and delivering this training and for the support and encouragement of the Church of Ireland Primary Management Association (CIPSMA).

4. Board Involvement at International and European Level:

The Board continued its involvement with various international and European educational bodies and values this involvement as both an expression of the universal nature of the Church and also as useful way of contributing to policy formation in education in a wider way. It is worth noting that the organisations which the Board supports at international and European level are associated with the Conference of European Churches. The Inter-European Commission on Church and School (ICCS) has observer status at the Council of Europe and the Council has organised a regular exchange on the religious dimension of intercultural dialogue. The future of Europe continues to be a major preoccupation for the ICCS. The ICCS brings the education dimension to that dialogue and the Board greatly values the opportunity to be involved in the work of the ICCS.

Following an invitation from the Board to the International Association for Christian Education in Bratislava in October 2016, The General Assembly of the Association met in Dublin in December 2017. The General Assembly is a significant gathering as it is the representative body for Protestant (Anglican) and Lutheran Churches in the field of education. At its meeting in Dublin, the General Assembly was addressed by the Archbishop of Dublin and Glendalough, in his capacity as chair of the GS Board of Education, (RI). The General Assembly also heard reports from the representatives of Churches from various parts of Europe. The theme of the 2018 General Assembly was:

“Commitment and Qualification: what type of teachers do we need in religious schools?”. The keynote speakers on this topic were Professor Manfred Pirner, University of Erlanger-Nuremberg, Germany and Dr Brigit Sandler-Koschel, Chair of the Evangelistic Kirch, Hanover, Germany. The Board is grateful to the Rev Professor Anne Lodge, Director of the Church of Ireland Centre, DCU, who addressed the General Assembly with regard to ITE at DCU and to Mr Philip McKinley, Chaplain, DCU who addressed the General Assembly regarding chaplaincy at third level. The 2018 General Assembly will be held in Tallin, Estonia. The Board wishes to record its thanks and appreciation to the Dean of Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin and staff, who facilitated the conference dinner in the Music Room of the cathedral. Thanks also to Dr Maurice Elliot and Ms Daphne Metcalf at CICE for assisting with the accommodation of delegates.

Further information on the General Assembly can be found at: www.int-v.org

5. Conferences and Events:

Opening of the Academic Year Service in St Patrick’s Cathedral, Dublin.

The Service for the opening of the academic year in St Patrick’s Cathedral, Dublin has now become an annual event. This was the fourth year that the Board organised this Service which provides an opportunity for all second level schools under Protestant patronage to gather and share in worship in the ancient St Patricks Cathedral. Over 500 students attended from schools around the country. This year’s speaker was Ms Joanne O’Riordan, ability rights advocate, who engaged with the students on the theme of encouragement and self-development. Students were inspired and affirmed by Ms O’Riordan’s contribution and the Board is very grateful to her for her participation in the Service.

The Board is grateful to the Minister for Education and Skills, Mr Richard Bruton, TD., for attending and representing the Government. The Board is also very grateful to the Dean and staff of the cathedral for their facilitation, support and assistance in organising this annual service.

Primary Level Conference

The Board continues to work in partnership with CIPSMA in organising conferences and events to support primary school boards of management. In 2017, the annual CIPSMA conference was held in Portlaoise. The Minister for Education and Skills, Mr Richard Bruton, TD., addressed the conference. He took the opportunity to outline to delegates Department policy on school admissions. The Secretary, gave the reply to the Minister and indicated that much of what was being proposed by the Minister was of serious concern to minority faith primary schools and invited the Minister to engage in a dialogue with the Board and representatives of minority faith schools in respect of the development of policy in this area. Other speakers included Ms. Margaret Gorman from Eversheds-Sutherland solicitors and Mrs Jacqui Wilkinson (regarding Follow Me). Both CIPSMA and the Board are grateful to the Bishop of Cashel, Ferns and Ossory, The Rt

Rev Michael Burrows who acted as rapporteur for the day again this year. The Board wishes to record its thanks to Ecclesiastical Insurance for its assistance to the Board throughout the year, including its support for this event.

6. Religious Education

Certificate in *Follow Me*

The Board and the Church of Ireland Centre at DCU (CIC) continue to work in partnership regarding the Certificate in Religious Education (Follow Me). Teachers in Church of Ireland, Methodist and Presbyterian schools are welcome to apply for the Certificate. The awarding of the Certificate is based on the completion of course work and attendance at a summer school/series of seminars. Over the past couple of months twenty teachers have completed the Certificate in Religious Education (Follow Me) in two venues – Cork (Northridge House) and Dublin (All Hallows, DCU). This course is offered by the General Synod Board of Education and was coordinated and taught by Mrs Jacqui Wilkinson (Church of Ireland Centre, DCU). The course builds on the teachers’ prior classroom experience in teaching Religious Education in Church of Ireland Schools and aims to extend their skills, knowledge, confidence and resources in this important subject area. The Board is grateful to CIC and in particular to its Director, Rev Prof Anne Lodge and Mrs Jacqui Wilkinson, for nurturing and facilitating this endeavour. Further information may be obtained from the CIC, DCU.

Proposed changes to primary curriculum in relation to RE.

As reported to General Synod last year, in 2016, The National Council for Curriculum and Assessment (NCCA) announced a period of consultation regarding its proposals for structure and time allocation in a redeveloped primary curriculum. The place and role of Religious Education is part of these proposals. Religious Education is envisaged as being part of the “discretionary time” within the school day. The Board has advised the NCCA that such realignment would be unacceptable and would undermine the ability of a school to express the Christian ethos of the school in any meaningful way and treats Religious Education as a non-academic subject. The Board will engage further with the NCCA on this issue in the coming months.

7. School Advisory role and Education Partner

The Secretariat of the Board of Education (RI) is largely funded by an annual devolved grant received from the Department of Education and Skills. The Board has signed a Service Level Agreement (SLA) with the Department of Education and Skills in respect of this funding. The obligations arising from this SLA are to provide an advisory service to schools on school management matters and to engage with the State and other agencies as a recognised education partner on policy development. In the past year, the Board engaged with a large number of external education bodies and agencies to include the Department of Education and Skills, the Schools Procurement Unit and the Office of Government Procurement, the Financial Support Service for schools, the Centre for School Leadership, the Inspectorate, the Teaching Council, the Irish Primary Principals Network (IPPN), the National Council for Special Education (NCSE), and the National

Board of Education – Report 2018

Council for Curriculum and Assessment (NCCA). The Board also has on-going engagement with the other school management bodies for both primary and second level schools and Teacher and SNA Unions.

8. Grants awarded by the Board in 2017

The Board continues to support the following bodies through grant aid:

- SEARCH: A Church of Ireland Journal
- The Children’s Ministry Network of the Church of Ireland.

Certificate in Religious Education (Follow Me) to CIC, DCU.

Topics on which discussion would be particularly welcome:

1. Children’s Ministry is a vital and core ministry of the Church. As the Children’s Ministry Network and the Sunday School Society for Ireland merge, how can we ensure Children’s Ministry becomes more and more visible as a central pillar of the Church’s Mission?

SUNDAY SCHOOL SOCIETY FOR IRELAND REPORT 2018

www.sss.ireland.anglican.org

COMMITTEE

Rev Canon Niall Sloane, Chairperson
Rev Cathy Hallisey, Hon Secretary
Rev Eugene Griffen, Hon Treasurer
Dr Kenneth Fennelly

Ms Heather Wilkinson
Mrs Claire Jackson
Rev Rob Clements

Ms Lydia Monds, Children’s Ministry Development Officer for the Sunday School Society

Introduction

The Sunday School Society for Ireland exists to:

- Promote Children’s Ministry at parish, diocesan and national level;
- Provide training opportunities for Children’s Ministry leaders and clergy;
- Equip the church with resources and supports to enable greater participation of children in the full life and worship of the body of Christ

The Society has furthered these goals by continuing to employ a Development Officer who coordinates the Children’s Ministry Network and provides regular updates and ideas via the Children’s Ministry website www.cm.ireland.anglican.org; Facebook page www.facebook.com/churchofirelandchildrensministry and quarterly newsletters which are full of ideas for all occasions. The Society also provides financial support for many initiatives including Building Blocks, a new resource for Under 5’s called Diddi Disciples and up-skilling conferences for children’s workers.

National Building Blocks Conference:

Building Blocks 2017 was an uplifting event. Year after year it provides a fantastic forum for training and inspiring those working in Children’s Ministry. This year’s Keynote speakers were from ‘Who Let the Dads Out’, a BRF ministry that focuses on reaching out to Dads and father figures through simple programmes that usually revolve around food. The response to Dad and toddler groups has been very positive and many of the fathers have gone on to explore their faith, their parenting skills and the legacy they want to pass on to their children through follow on courses.

The workshops included Programme Planning, Creative Prayer, Drama, Godly Play, Crafts and Messy Science experiments. Tips from the front included sung memory verses and picture songs, great websites, an edible nativity reflection and a Lego Easter story. People went home buzzing, encouraged and full of ideas.

Two of the five committee members running Building Blocks were representing the Sunday School Society (Lynn Storey and Lydia Monds) and the Society provided funds for the cost of the venue.

Inter-diocesan Trainings:

We are very blessed to have one of the top facilitators and trainers in Children’s Ministry in the Sunday School Society. Lynn Storey is gifted at conveying countless tried and tested ideas for games, storytelling, crafts, creative prayer and All Age services and events. She uses resources that encourage children to explore their faith, to pray and to learn more about the Bible, God and themselves. This year she facilitated two diocesan trainings...

In Cashel, Ferns & Ossory Diocese, Sunday School leaders from Ferns, Ballycanew and Leskinferre learnt about various aspects of a Sunday or mid-week club programme and discussed ways they could collaborate and support each other in this vital ministry.

At Down and Dromore Diocese Essential’s Training Day, Lynn brought a ‘Take Out Church’ for everyone to assemble. This is a fantastic resource for families who are heading away on holidays and will be missing church for a while. It is a take-out pizza box filled with lots of different faith enhancing goodies from skittles and a skittle prayer, serve your neighbour activities and challenges, a thanksgiving beach ball craft and a ‘Flat Jesus’. The children colour in a small cut out of Jesus and take pictures of him with them as they bounce on the trampoline or head to the beach or walk around the supermarket with their parents. The idea is simple but effective; it is a reminder to be aware of Jesus’ presence with us wherever we go.

Church of Ireland Theological Institute: Sunday School Society Facilitator’s Rev Rob Clements and Ms Lydia Monds co-facilitated two workshops for clergy interns that explored different aspects of an intergenerational service that contains all the liturgical elements of a Church of Ireland service. After exploring the theology behind All Age or Intergenerational worship, they delved into simple but effective ideas for All Age Service preparation, welcome, opening prayer, confession, music, readings, sermon, creative responses, and the sacraments. The workshops were well received by full time and part-time interns alike.

Resources:

The quarterly newsletter received a revamp and a professional design in time for Advent this year and the new design was funded by Sunday School Society for Ireland. The Lent & Easter Newsletter is also available for download from our website.

Regular updates on Facebook and website received up to 1,500 views per post and people interacted with the ideas, sharing them with others.

The Under 5's resource 'Diddy Disciples' is now available in two books that cover the year from September to May. It is an excellent resource that could be adapted to All Age Worship services and provides refreshing ideas for worshipping with little children.

Plans for the Future:

Merger:

It is the intention of the Sunday School Society of Ireland to merge with the Children's Ministry Network in the coming year once structures have been put in place for a sustainable and vibrant ministry moving forward. The Society is working towards the employment of a full time Children's Ministry person who will lead the All Ireland team with vision and purpose. The Children's Ministry Network is fully on board with these plans.

Videos for Children's Ministry Trainings: Training Videos which were mainly funded by the Board of Education NI and part funded by the Sunday School Society have been shot and edited. Parishes can use them to access simple and effective ideas for working with children in a church context.

General Synod creative prayer ideas:

Sunday School Society has funded the development of Creative Prayer visuals which will be available from General Synod onwards. Pencils inscribed with the words 'I am a little pencil in the hand of a writing God' and balloons inscribed with the words 'You are being lifted up in prayer' will be accompanied by prayer ideas for their use.

Children's Ministry is necessary for the flourishing of God's people and for the worship of the body of Christ together with All the Saints. We pray that as we come together to celebrate the dynamic work already being done and to build a more visible, cohesive ministry, that our focus on children will become less peripheral and more embedded in the central structures of the Church.

For more information you can email: sss@ireland.anglican.org

Topics on which discussion would be particularly welcome:

1. How can the church respond practically at all levels to young people’s assertions that they wish to be further involved “with all aspects of church life” and “engaged in church structures”?
2. How can we help young people to take more ownership of their faith and encourage them towards “a church beyond the walls” – with mission and outreach?

**CHURCH OF IRELAND YOUTH DEPARTMENT
REPORT 2018
MEMBERSHIP**

Executive

President : The Most Rev Patricia Storey
Chairman : Rev Malcolm Kingston
Treasurer : Mr Edward Hardy
Secretary : Mrs Judith Peters

Rev Aaron McAllister
Rev Philip Bryson
Mr Alan Williamson

Central Board – Executive (above) and:

Rev David McBeth
Rev Gary McMurray
Ms Melanie Hadden
Rev Ruth Noble
Mr David McIlroy
Ms Sharon Spendlove
Ms Amy Sherlock

Co-options

Mr Tim Burns
Mr Steven Brickenden
Mrs Susie Keegan

Standing Committee

Rev Nicola Halford
Mrs Brigid Barrett

National Youth Officer

Mr Simon Henry

***Youth Ministry Development Officer
(Southern Region)***

Mr Steve Grasham

Office Manager

Mrs Barbara Swann

Executive Summary

The CIYD team consists of a National Youth Officer, Mr Simon Henry, and a Southern Regional Development Officer, Mr Steve Grasham. They are both provided with administration and communications support by our Office Manager, Mrs Barbara Swann.

CIYD continues to implement its Strategic Plan for 2017 – 2020 alongside engagement with the Department of Children & Youth Affairs (ROI) National Quality Standards Framework - a process of self-evaluation and continuous improvement in refocusing its role and areas of ministry for the future.

Developments of note in 2017 were:

- Aurora, an accredited training course in youth ministry for those in the Southern Region, in partnership with Cliff College.
- The Justice Sessions, a resource for youth workers and youth groups focusing on issues of justice, in partnership with International Justice Mission.
- Continued Training Initiatives for paid and voluntary youth leaders across the Church, as well as participation in Diocesan events, retreats and camps.
- A Day of Prayer for the Church's Ministry with Young People, with widespread participation.

CIYD ACTIVITIES IN 2017

Youth Ministry Leadership: Support and Development

In partnership with dioceses, and in response to their specific needs, CIYD organized regular training and support events for those involved in youth ministry in a paid (full-time and part-time) or volunteer capacity. These events were tailored to the needs and contexts of each region.

- Aurora (Southern Region) – Our Aurora course began in September 2017, in partnership with Cliff College. It is designed to meet the needs of busy youth leaders, paid or voluntary and is officially accredited by offering participants a certificate in Youth Ministry. Aurora provides the essential skills, knowledge and understanding needed for effective youth ministry. The training takes place on Saturdays and participants must complete a portfolio of learning and a number of assignments as part of the course.
- Southern Region – CIYD's "Connect" programme, training youth workers and volunteers, met regularly throughout the year. Additionally, training days in partnership with 'Tearfund' have been successful in their focus on poverty and justice and how youth leaders can engage their young people in these issues from a Christian

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perspective, and a training day facilitated by CIYD with Secondary School Chaplains exploring the role and a number of resources available for schools.

- Northern Region - The “Connect” programme, partnering with the Methodist Youth Department, continued throughout the year with relevant training for youth workers and volunteers. This also included a residential retreat to Lusty Beg Island, Fermanagh, with the Rev Dennis Christie as our speaker. We concluded the year with a “Connect Christmas” event in December with lunch and a Christmas Communion.
- Diocesan Youth Officers’ Retreat – a great opportunity to gather the Southern region DYOs together for some time out and spiritual input was held in Mount St. Anne’s Conference Centre, Portarlington, 28-29 March 2017.
- Summer Madness - The CIYD Connect Café was a great opportunity to make contact with youth leaders from around Ireland, both employed and volunteers, with a 1980s-themed café to celebrate the 30th anniversary of Summer Madness. As well as being a ‘chill-out’ venue for leaders, the CIYD staff hosted main stage speakers for focused seminar streams, specifically to engage youth leaders with mainstage speakers, and hosted 2 breakfasts for youth leaders. Our National Youth Officer, Simon Henry, was also a host on the mainstage platform at worship sessions each day.

Engagement with Young People

Whilst most of the work of CIYD seeks to resource Youth Leaders and to be available to assist in Youth Ministry Programmes, where guidance is appreciated and where participation is sought, the organization is also keen to assist directly with diocesan youth programmes.

- Summer Camps – Throughout the summer months our full-time staff supported Diocesan summer camps running in Kilmore, Limerick and Down & Dromore Dioceses.
- Diocesan Youth – in 2017 our staff have had opportunities to lead youth and young leader’s weekends in various dioceses – Down and Dromore, Connor, Cork, Cashel Ferns and Ossory, Tuam and Limerick. In addition to this our staff has been invited into various dioceses to deliver or be part of bespoke events.
- Christmas Worship Service - In December 2017, CIYD, in partnership with the Southern Dioceses, held a Christmas service in Clontarf, Dublin. An encouraging number of young people from across the Southern Region attended.

Diocesan Support

CIYD have been heavily involved in supporting Youth Leaders, both employed and volunteer, in the work that they do with young people across both the Northern and

Church of Ireland Youth Department – Report 2018

Southern Regions. They have also worked to raise the profile of youth work in the wider church. This has been done in a variety of ways:

- Direct work with Dioceses - CIYD staff spoke at a range of diocesan events, retreats and camps around Ireland as well as working with certain dioceses on strategic development of Diocesan Youth Councils.
- Day of Prayer 2017 - On 26th February, CIYD had developed a resource for dioceses around Ireland to facilitate a day of prayer for youth ministry in the dioceses and this was widely utilized and very popular. Planning began for another day on 11th February 2018.
- National Ploughing Championships - In September, CIYD partnered with Southern Dioceses to have an information stand at the National Ploughing Championships and had a large number of visitors to the stand.

Resource Development and Communication

CIYD like to be available for recommending and providing resources for youth leaders and clergy in a wide range of areas related to youth ministry.

- *'I Believe'* – This Confirmation resource continues to prove popular with both clergy and young people alike. The resource has been written with the content of the Church of Ireland Confirmation Service in mind and refers to elements of the Apostles' Creed, The 10 Commandments and the Church Catechism. It is a 12-week course examining essentials of our faith and offers interactive activities to enhance the learning experience for candidates.
- *"The Justice Sessions"* – in partnership with the International Justice Mission, CIYD produced a ready to run 5-week resource around issues of justice, with interactive sessions, games, Bible studies, videos etc. This was launched at a special seminar during Summer Madness and has been well received with youth groups who have used it.

National Quality Standards Framework

The organization started on a new 3-year cycle of NQSF as well as a Continuous Improvement Plan. This process involves self-evaluation of the organization based on various criteria laid down by the Department of Children and Youth Affairs in Dublin.

Representation and Collaboration

CIYD staff and Central Board members continued to represent the Church of Ireland on committees of the following organizations: -

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- Church of Ireland Board of Education (ROI & NI)
- Children’s Ministry Network of the Church of Ireland
- Department of Youth and Children’s Affairs
- National Youth Council of Ireland Board
- Summer Madness Main-stage committee and seminars teams
- Youth Link NI Council
- Connect 2020 Leaders

CIYD ACTIVITIES IN 2018

In 2018 the activities of CIYD have evolved and developed with the reconfiguring of the department through the appointment of a new National Youth Officer and a new Southern Region worker. Our staff team have been busy establishing relationships and working closely with Diocesan Youth Officers and key stakeholders in each diocese so that CIYD can better complement the work of each diocese and seek to establish new initiatives and links where appropriate.

Youth Ministry Leadership: Support and Development

- Southern Region – following the success of our first Aurora course, a second year will be starting in September 2018. Training events will continue to take place both to support existing youth leaders and to equip upcoming leaders.
- Northern Region – regular training days are planned for the year ahead with our “Connect” programme in partnership with the Irish Methodist Youth Department. A youth leaders’ retreat is planned for May to Berlin with Bishop Ken Clarke as the speaker.
- Summer Madness - CIYD will be running the Connect Café as usual and hosting breakfasts and a seminar stream for youth leaders. CIYD is also involved in shaping main stage and seminar streams at committee level as well as having our National Youth Officer, Mr Simon Henry, as one of the mainstage hosts.
- CIYD Youth Forum – CIYD’s first Youth Forum was held in January and was attended by young representatives and youth leaders from almost every diocese in Ireland. The event was officially opened by the Archbishop of Armagh, the Most Rev Dr Richard Clarke and throughout the day young people debated issues affecting them and looked at ways of encouraging and supporting youth participation. They also looked at ways of facilitating change and taking action as well as how young people could be supported on their spiritual journeys. Feedback from the day was collated and sent to all Bishops and Diocesan Youth Officers / Youth Councils. CIYD hopes to deliver and develop an all-Ireland Youth Forum annually.

Development and Communication

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- **FUEL** – a resource for young people to use during Lent, FUEL has proved very popular since launching in January at CIYD’s Youth Forum. FUEL is designed with a reading plan of John’s Gospel to encourage young people to develop good Bible reading habits and to engage with what God’s Word has to say and teach them.
- **Generosity & Money resource** – currently in the planning stages, CIYD aims to launch a youth group Bible study resource around money and generosity in 2018.

National Quality Standards Framework

The NQSF process will continue with the implementation of a Continuous Improvement Plan for those involved in working for and running the organisation.

Representation and Collaboration

CIYD staff and Central Board members will continue to represent the Church of Ireland on committees of relevant organizations.

DIOCESAN REVIEW

Armagh

New Beginnings

The work of the Armagh Diocesan Youth Council will, as of Diocesan Synod 2017, become part of the remit for the Diocesan Youth and Children’s Ministry Board. As a committee we welcome this development and look forward to a widening scope of ministry to young people in our diocese. This Report can only be retrospective, although we anticipate some of the features of our regular programme may appear in the new Board’s activities once its development emerges.

Sunday Evening Events

The past year’s theme drew inspiration from 1 Corinthians 13 and focused on the Christian characteristics of Faith, Hope and Love. We were heartened by the attendance on Sunday evenings during the past year. It appears that using the regional centres of Portadown, Dungannon and Armagh lends itself well to encouraging support.

Diocesan Youth Weekend

The Diocesan Youth Weekend took place during the weekend of Friday, 18th - Sunday, 20th November at the Sheep Island View Residential Centre, Ballintoy.

Easter Dawn Service

We very much hope that this tradition of meeting together to celebrate the risen Lord will be a priority for the new Board! As always, it was such an encouragement to see so many attend the Easter Dawn Service as we gathered to worship at The Argyry. As has

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been the custom for many years, the Archbishop celebrated Holy Communion and shared an Easter Message.

New Diocesan Youth and Children’s Development Officer

As of mid-October 2017, the Diocese has been delighted to welcome Mr. David Brown as our new Youth and Children’s Development Officer. David has settled in very well and a number of Rural Deanery training events have been hosted over the last few months.

Cashel, Ferns & Ossory

The diocese continues financially to support many projects for youth ministry. Below is an overview of some of the activities which took place in the past year.

Bishops Advisory Group

This advisory group is made up of clergy and lay people who are directly involved in youth work in our diocese. The group meet four times per year to share ideas and provide support to one another. They give quarterly reports to help give an overview of youth ministry across the diocese and work together to organise larger diocesan youth events.

Youth Clubs

In 2017 we had eight Youth Clubs being run in parishes and clusters of parishes throughout the diocese. Many of these parishes employ part-time youth workers to help run their youth ministry.

Ovoca Manor Training Weekend

109 young people attended the diocesan teenage training weekend in March 2017. The teenagers receive training in Christian ministry leadership with a view to them volunteering in their parish holiday bible club. The teenagers are trained in puppet ministry, drama, bible memory verse and games to play with young children. They also have an opportunity to deepen their own faith and we are thankful to Mr. Steve Grasham of CIYD who led our talks each day.

Holiday Bible Clubs

Nine parishes ran weekly holiday Bible clubs during the summer. These holiday clubs are for primary school age children; however teenagers help to lead many of the activities during the week. We use John Hardwick books each year and in 2017 we focussed on the life of Jesus in our Bible teaching.

Confirmation Retreat

Our annual diocesan confirmation retreat took place in Redcross, Wicklow. The young people from numerous parishes came together over three days to spend time thinking about their upcoming confirmation. Hilda Connolly, DYO for Cork diocese was our guest speaker. The retreat was organised by Mr Derek Peilow.

FAST

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‘Faith and Service Together’ is a bishop’s award which is now in its second year. Young people have signed up to volunteer in their local church on Sundays and in their local communities. At the end of the year they receive a certificate, and at the end of three years there is a service of thanksgiving with the Bishop.

Clogher

The past year has seen a further growth and development of the council’s work and contribution to the spiritual, social and physical wellbeing of our young people throughout the diocese.

Remembering the Past - Shaping The Future

In March ’17 a group of our young people and leaders had the opportunity to experience a new Pilot programme being developed by YouthLinkNI. The weekend involved sessions on the rise of Unionism and Republicanism and group activities to explore things that we share and value as part of our future together.

PYMS (Practical Youth Ministry Skills)

Three parishes engaged with this young leaders’ course, Lisnaskea, Maghercross and Dromore. All these courses have proved very worthwhile in introducing young leaders to youth and children’s work.

Open Up

The youth council partnered with Love for Life to deliver their “Game On” and “Picture This” programmes and was launched by Bishop John followed with information evenings for clergy, parents and youth leaders. Both programmes were then rolled out in four locations providing the training to as many as possible.

Autumn Soul

With the absence of the CIYD Anois event this autumn our young people travelled to Co. Down and the IMYC “Autumn Soul” weekend. The theme was “Breathe” looking at the work and ministry of the Holy Spirit.

Youth Ministry

Former Wells groups continue to flourish. The leadership teams of some have completely changed, some have expanded, and some new ministries have been established. The quality and commitment of each of these group leaders is without doubt the vital element in their survival and ability to mature.

Mission bursaries

A number of our young people took the opportunity to receive funding towards international missions this year.

“SEE”

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The Youth Council has recently launched its new initiative for the coming 3 years. SEE seeks to Support - Engage - Equip our clergy, young people and leaders. It is based on the 5 marks of mission.

1. Proclaiming the good news of the Kingdom
2. Discipling, training and nurturing our young people
3. Tending our young people in their response to human need
4. Making our young people aware of injustice in society
5. Encouraging young people to consider looking after God's creation

Connor

2017 has seen consistent growth and dedication from the teenagers who come to the events which the DYO and the Youth Council organise.

- In February 2017, Big Connor Contest, hosted by Glenavy Parish saw over 60 young people from several parishes come to battle it out in a sports competition.
- A Summer Madness sub camp saw over 200 people fed where 14 parishes from the diocese were represented.
- Streetreach saw 25 representatives from Connor help serve in various ways in the town of Glenavy.
- In August over 100 people from more than 10 parishes had a residential weekend in Castlewellan where amongst the fun activities the drama group Play It By Ear did a great job of stimulating thought provoking issues of servanthood and personal journey in a relevant manner.
- And in December over 70 young people gathered in Ballymena Parish for Connor's Christmas Cracker, an evening's entertainment of games, and food, finished off with a Christingle demonstration.
- The Connor Youth Forum has had development and growth as well. It has seen over 30 young people become interested in deepening their input into the life of the church and were given a platform at Christmas to try this out. They did outreach in Ballymena and communicated effectively but gently God's love in them with some interesting results.
- The growth and dedication from the young people is in response to the substantial effort and time put in by the leaders of the Youth Council.

Cork, Cloyne & Ross

Cork, Cloyne and Ross have had a busy year with youth events. With a wide variety of diocesan events run by the Cork Diocesan Youth Council (CDYC) the young people of Cork were kept on their toes.

We had our annual events such as Ice-skating, the quiz, Sun-Up (which is run over Easter Weekend), Tayto Park, Summer Madness, Cape Clear Weekend, the Soccer Tournament,

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Our Advent Service and finished off with our visit to Clontarf for the Youth Praise service in December.

As well as all of that, this year we added an extra special trip for the 300th Anniversary of Crookhaven in West Cork. This day consisted of kayaking, a BBQ in Canon Lester's house and onto the church for a special service. The afternoon doubled up as a reunion for the previous youth council members so there was a great buzz around the Altar Rectory.

And for the first time, we also introduced our Confirmation Weekend in 2017. It was a great success and it has brought about huge discussions on how to build on it for this year.

Youth groups hit a bit of a lull from Sept 2016-June 2017 with numbers dipping in parishes. But that all changed again in Sept 2017 with numbers rising again as our “newly turned teenagers” stormed in the door of many youth groups around the diocese. Numbers are at an all-time high for events, which is great, but we must now focus on encouraging new leaders to get involved too.

With slight staff changes in Cork, Cloyne and Ross, we are excited and enthusiastic about new projects and plans that we are piecing together. Watch this space!!

Derry & Raphoe

Derry and Raphoe Youth (DRY) and aims to resource and support youth work through the DYO, training days and a programme of events for young people to get involved in. In 2017 these events included:

BLAZE

Blaze is a worship event for young people, families and anyone else in the Derry and Raphoe diocese. We sing, listen to a speaker, enjoy food and have a bit of craic! We meet on the first Friday night in the month, in different parishes throughout the diocese.

CONFIRMATION WEEKEND

The Confirmation Weekend is aimed at all those getting confirmed in the coming year, or indeed who has been confirmed in the last 12 months. The weekend is held in the Diocesan Office, but we will travel to Foyle Arena for our afternoon fun and activities which include bubble ball, football and archery.

DRY WEEKEND

The DRY Weekend is a highlight of any young person's calendar. In 2017 we went to the Donegal seaside resort of Rossnowlagh and enjoyed some amazing teaching, fun and surfing with the '*Surf Project*'.

THE ANNUAL EASTER STAY AWAKE

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The annual Easter Stay Awake took place in the Diocesan Office. As usual we stayed awake all night, and then we went to the Bishop's house on Sunday morning to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus!

SUMMER MADNESS

In 2017 we took a group of young people to Summer Madness, a festival that takes place in July at Glenarm Castle and brings together young people, from all backgrounds, across the island of Ireland to celebrate, connect and explore the significance of faith in today's world.

ON THE MOVE

On the Move is a week-long event and is hosted by a different parish each year in the Diocese. In 2017 the host parish was Eglinton. On the Move is aimed at those aged 11+ and encourages young people to get their hands dirty following Christ. We lift litter, weed gardens, clear public spaces, paint fences and generally are useful to the community we are in. This event creates lifelong friendships, and at the same time really helps bring faith alive to young people!

STUDENT YOUTH WORKER

During 2017 DRY continued to support the training of a Student Youth Worker, Eleanor McManus. Her role with DRY is to work alongside a different parish every year, as well as working in the Diocesan Office with the DYO. She is undertaking a three-year degree with CYM in Belfast, and she will graduate with a BA (Hons) in Youth and Community Work with Applied Theology. We are delighted to be investing in one of our young people for the benefit of the wider church and to the Glory of God.

DYO

During 2017 our DYO, Martin Montgomery resigned from his post and this was received with much sadness throughout the Diocese. Martin was a faithful servant of the Gospel and achieved much during his 5 years. We wish him God's richest blessings in the future.

Down & Dromore

The Down and Dromore Youth, Children's and Families department provides a wide range of programmes, tailored support and resources for parishes, which includes around 50 youth groups and 90 Sunday School. Developments in 2017 include:

- The further development of the 'Jigsaw' curriculum, with year three of the resource being written and piloted across 30 churches.
- The summer camps continued to be in high demand, with over 190 children, young people and leaders attending. The capacity of these camps will be extended for 2018, allowing us to work with over 200 children and young people.
- We continued our confirmation theme of 'We are God's masterpiece'. This was celebrated across all the confirmations, with goody bags, desserts, chocolate

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fountains and popcorn. These were also supported by a confirmation weekend for around 190 people.

- The ‘Essentials’ training programme continued in 2017 with 3 roadshows tailored for individual parishes and a Saturday training event for 40 people from across the diocese.
- The Saturday Night Live continued with 5 gatherings across various venues within the Diocese and averaging around 90 - 100 young people and leaders at each event.
- We had our second Kilbroney Weekend Blast which brought together 55 young people from across the diocese for a weekend of fun and discipleship.
- SERVE Leadership Training for young people was launched, with 19 young people from across the diocese taking part in a ten-week programme. This included assisting on Kilbroney Weekend Blast and a graduation ceremony.
- The annual Bishop’s BBQ at Summer Madness for around 350 people was as popular as ever, and we were assisted in this by a youth team from Albany Diocese.

Dublin & Glendalough

Susie Keegan was appointed as the Diocesan Youth Officer for Dublin and Glendalough and started her role in August 2017.

2018 started with a leadership weekend away in Ovoca Manor called “Momentum”. The working group consisted of organisations, churches and agencies who felt that there needed to be something in the south of Ireland for youth leaders.

Momentum hopes to Encourage, Equip and Excite those who are in Youth work. The weekend was a huge success with 100 people registered. We are rolling this out next year as well as have smaller momentum hubs around the Island to continue the...momentum!

Three pre-confirmation days were hosted in the Diocese. One in the North, West, and South of the Diocese. This day was called “What Next?” and wanted to look at how the confirmation candidates can become more self-aware and that confirmation can be the start of that. The clergy from the respective parishes were there on the day which was important and good support for Susie.

One of the newest events we are doing is a monthly Youth Service that travels around the Diocese each month. It’s a simple idea but the response has been great, and these are called “What If?” services. We had Tom Tate from Why Mind come along to two of the services and talk about faith and mental health.

Recent topics include “What if we looked at Easter in the way it was meant to be?” and another topic is “What if we looked at justice?” We are really excited about the response we have had in the Diocese and we pray it continues.

Kilmore, Elphin & Ardagh

We've had another exciting year in yKEA. Hannah O'Neill (Kilmore) and Marian Edwards (Elphin and Ardagh) have been in post for one year and their work has begun to yield fruit as they have invested throughout the dioceses. We are also fortunate to have had Aaron Jones working in the Drumcliffe Group as an intern. This year we also welcome Erin Moorcroft from CMS Australia, to help enable ministry throughout the dioceses.

Youth groups continue to meet across the diocese, spear-headed by local clergy or enthusiastic and committed local volunteers. The Youth Council have continued to deliver and support the provision of youth work throughout Kilmore, Elphin and Ardagh.

Throughout the year we had a number of yKEA gatherings, offering young people the opportunity to meet together from across the dioceses. We always have a social focus, e.g. Gameshow Night/Christmas Party, and include a time of worship and faith talk.

During term time we prioritise schools work to deliver RE lessons and assemblies and to support Christian Unions. We have been using the NUA film series by SU Ireland in a number of our schools. We also offer prayer spaces in schools and have found this to be a great way to engage young people.

Once again, we took an yKEA contingent to the Summer Madness festival at Glenarm, Co Antrim. A number of young people made commitments to faith for the first time, while many others renewed their desire to follow Jesus. It was great to see many of the young people have genuine encounters with God and experience His presence in deeper ways. Our team were also able to cater for 120 campers from across the southern dioceses. In the summer we also had our first ever KEA camps in Sligo.

We've had a busy year at yKEA continuing to build God's Kingdom through our youth and children's ministry. We look forward to seeing how ministry will continue to grow and what God will do as we invest in and engage a new generation in their local churches and faith in Christ.

Limerick, Killaloe & Ardfert

The following has been formulated as Mission Statement for youth ministry in the United Dioceses:

“To provide opportunities which will facilitate and encourage Christian spiritual growth, fun and fellowship among young people from throughout the United Dioceses of Limerick and Killaloe”

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There is an ever-changing society around us within which people's way of engaging with and experiencing Church is changing. Often as a Church we struggle to capture a captive audience at so many junctures in such a climate. Should we feel guilty because we are experiencing the consequences of this not only as a Youth Council but in our wider Church? Absolutely not. We are on the other hand called to take up our place in this scenario, a place of service, taking up our cross – not to the end of being miserable and gloomy in the sight of stormy seas, but to continuing to ask God, through our prayers and actions, for what we need with a thankful heart. We read in Jeremiah "For I know the plans that I have for you," says the LORD, plans for your welfare, and not for calamity, to give you hope and a future."

During 2017, the volunteer committee planned and successfully completed a solid range of day, weekend and weeklong events with increased numbers.

Some of our programme highlights during 2017:

- *March:* South West Alive Junior Weekend – Muckross Youth Centre, Killarney, Co. Kerry.
- *June:* Diocesan Confirmation Weekend with Tuam Diocese – Esker Youth Village, Athenry, Co. Galway.
- *July:* Summer Madness & Junior Summer Camp (full week) – Muckross Youth Centre, Killarney, Co. Kerry.
- *August:* Senior Summer Camp (full week) - Lissadell Youth Centre, Co. Sligo.
- *September:* Multi Activity Day – University of Limerick Sport Adventure Centre, Killaloe, Co. Clare.
- *October:* Autumn Adventure Weekend – Lilliput Adventure Centre, Mullingar, Co. Westmeath.
- *November:* Junior Weekend – Castledaly Camp & Conference Centre, Athlone, Co. Westmeath.
- *December:* Pre Christmas-Overnight Trip to Dublin with Cork Youth Council – Clontarf.

U.D.Y.C. of Limerick & Killaloe continues to be very thankful to individuals, parents/guardians, parishes, diocese, C.I.Y.D. and wider Church and community for continued support and help.

Meath & Kildare

The Diocesan Board of Education National Schools Service took place in Tullamore in May. After a lively service with prayer, music, art and drama, the Bishop's Medal was awarded and each school's project was displayed in the parish centre for all to see.

A small diocesan group travelled to Summer Madness in July where they enjoyed the various activities that were on offer.

A service took place in Mullingar to mark of the end of the Good for the Sole project in conjunction with The Leprosy Mission and Bishop's Appeal. The young people who had

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travelled to India to visit the hospital in April led the intercessions that evening and encouraged the dioceses to continue in prayer and friendship with our friends in Karagiri even though our formal relationship with the organisation comes to an end.

In June, 30 young people and 6 adults participated in a youth exchange with our link diocese of Bangor in Wales. The young people travelled by ferry to Anglesey and spent a long weekend there with some Welsh young people, participating in games, conversation and worship.

At Christmas time, over 40 young people attended the CIYD Christmas service and party in Clontarf. They particularly enjoyed meeting young people from the other dioceses that attended.

In the parishes, great work continues in the Boys' Brigade, GFS, Sunday Clubs and various youth clubs and activities. Since it can be a struggle to compete with the various other commitments that young people have these days, the volunteer youth leaders are to be commended for their dedicated service in our dioceses.

Tuam Killala and Achonry

Ice Skating to Dublin

A group from Ballina, Tubbercurry, Westport and Collooney went up to Dublin for an enjoyable day of ice skating and crazy golf.

Dawn Service on Dunmorán Strand

The youth band played at the Easter Service on the beach. The young people helped at the setting up and clearing up of the hall after a cooked breakfast in Skreen.

Easter Day Celebrations

Reverend Andrew took up the reins for our annual Easter celebrations in Collooney parochial hall. Eggplosion was a day filled with activities, games, worship and chocolate egg hunt. The day started with games led by Darren, Steve and Andrew with some new active worship songs led by Andrew. Andrew's wife organised the activities and craft based around the Easter theme with help from Caroline Sherlock, Amy and Gemma Sherlock. Steve gave a talk on Easter and tea and buns were enjoyed by all at the end.

Tochar Walk

Sponsored walk to raise funds for the water project in Kenya.

Croagh Patrick Confirmation Day

Our confirmation candidates climbed Croagh Patrick with our Bishop. Steve Grasham gave the thought for the day in the service held in the community hall at the base of Croagh Patrick.

Schools Service

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Our schools service held at Tuam Cathedral each year brings the 5 primary schools together. We have been working alongside CMS Ireland and Bishop's Appeal to make a link with a new school being built for the girls of the Maasai in the Dioceses of Kajiado in Kenya and a water project in Oltiasika.

Mission Trip to Kenya

A group of nine went to visit the girls' secondary school and water project that we have been helping to raise funds for over the past 3 years.

School Assembly

Helping to bring the Kenya projects to the young people, in the national schools, throughout our dioceses.

**EXTRACTS FROM THE AUDITED ACCOUNTS OF THE CHURCH OF
IRELAND YOUTH DEPARTMENT
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2017**

BOARD'S RESPONSIBILITIES

The Board is responsible for preparing the financial statements in accordance with accepted accounting practice in Ireland including the accounting standards issued by the Accounting Standards Board and published by the Institute of Chartered Accountants in Ireland.

Irish company law requires the Directors to prepare financial statements for each financial year that give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Department and of the surplus or deficit of the Department for that period. In preparing the financial statements, the Directors are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the company will continue in business.

The Board confirms that it has complied with the above requirements in preparing the financial statements.

The Board is responsible for keeping proper books of account, which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Department and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements are prepared in accordance with accounting standards. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Department and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

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Church of Ireland Youth Department

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT Year ended 31 December

		2017	2016
		€	€
INCOME			
Grant Received	1	184,472	175,688
Funding provided by the RCB		163,270	169,889
Deposit Interest		70	193
Donations		4,832	6,453
Programme		2,772	23,926
Sundry Income		24	221
Priorities Fund			7,000
		<u>355,440</u>	<u>383,370</u>
EXPENDITURE			
Office & Administration Expenses	2	(44,648)	(44,771)
Staff Costs	3	(141,791)	(144,403)
Fees & Membership	4	(1,939)	(938)
		<u>(188,378)</u>	<u>(190,112)</u>
Operating Surplus for the Year		<u>167,062</u>	<u>193,258</u>
TRAINING & GRANT ALLOCATIONS			
Training & Grant Allocations	5	(165,902)	(204,236)
Surplus (Deficit) after Training & Grant Allocations		<u>1,160</u>	<u>(10,978)</u>
Currency translation adjustment		1,337	7,849
Net (Deficit) for the year		<u><u>2,497</u></u>	<u><u>(3,129)</u></u>

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Church of Ireland Youth Department

BALANCE SHEET

Year ended 31 December

		2017 €	2016 €
TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS	6	11,126	11,695
		_____	_____
 CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash held on deposit by RCB	7	87,451	92,889
Cash at bank		5,063	4,669
Prepayments		1,783	1,721
		_____	_____
		94,297	99,279
		_____	_____
 CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Creditors	8	(50,226)	(58,274)
		_____	_____
Net Assets		<u>55,197</u>	<u>52,700</u>
FUNDS EMPLOYED			
Balance at 1 January			
		52,700	55,829
Surplus (Deficit) for the year		2,497	(3,129)
		_____	_____
Balance as at 31 December		<u>55,197</u>	<u>52,700</u>
		=====	=====

Church of Ireland Youth Department – Report 2018

Notes to the Financial Statements

	2017	2016
	€	€
1. Grant Received		
Grant from Department of Children & Youth Affairs (ROI)	184,472	175,688
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
2. Office & Administration Expenses	2017	2016
	€	€
Insurance	1,847	1,908
Audit Fees	4,200	4,157
Rent	13,150	15,762
Telephone, Postage & Internet	6,421	4,272
Office Expenses	10,995	10,393
Heat & Light	1,367	1,817
Depreciation	3,625	4,639
Resources	2,251	350
Sundry	51	35
Bank Interest & Charges	741	1,438
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	<u>44,648</u>	<u>44,771</u>
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
3. Staff Costs	2017	2016
	€	€
Staff Salaries	121,111	115,241
Staff Expenses	16,407	18,745
Central Board & Executive	4,273	10,417
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	<u>141,791</u>	<u>144,403</u>
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>



Report on the audit of the financial statements of the Church of Ireland Youth Department

Opinion

In our opinion, the Church of Ireland Youth Department's financial statements for the year ended **31 December 2017** have been properly prepared, in all material respects, in accordance with the basis of preparation and accounting policies on page 5 the financial statements.

We have audited the financial statements, which comprise:

- . the Balance Sheet as at **31 December 2017**;
- the Income and expenditure account for the year then ended;
- the accounting policies; and
- . the notes to the financial statements.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (Ireland) ('ISAs (Ireland)').

Our responsibilities under ISAs (Ireland) are further described in the Auditors' responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Independence

We remained independent of the entity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in Ireland, which includes IAASA's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements.

Emphasis of matter - Basis of preparation

In forming our opinion on the financial statements, which is not modified, we draw attention to the fact that the accounting policies used and disclosures made are not intended to, and do not, comply with the requirements of Generally Accepted Accounting Practice in Ireland.

Conclusions relating to going concern

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which ISAs (Ireland) require us to report to you where:

- the Board's use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is not appropriate; or
- the Board has not disclosed in the financial statements any identified material uncertainties that may cast



significant doubt about the entity's ability to continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting for a period of at least twelve months from the date when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

However, because not all future events or conditions can be predicted, this statement is not a guarantee as to the entity's ability to continue as a going concern.

Reporting on other information

The other information comprises all of the information in the Annual Report other than the financial statements and our auditors' report thereon. The Board is responsible for the other information. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, accordingly, we do not express an audit opinion or, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in this report, any form of assurance thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify an apparent material inconsistency or material misstatement, we are required to perform procedures to conclude whether there is a material misstatement of the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report based on these responsibilities. `

Responsibilities for the financial statements and the audit

Responsibilities of the Board for the financial statements

As explained more fully in the Board's Responsibilities Statement set out on page 4, the Board is responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the applicable framework and for being satisfied that they have been properly prepared in accordance with the basis of preparation and accounting policies on page 5 of the financial statements and for determining that the basis of preparation and accounting policies are acceptable in the circumstances.

The Board is also responsible for such internal control as they determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the Board is responsible for assessing the entity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Board either intends to liquidate the entity or to cease operations or have no realistic alternative but to do so.



Auditors responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditors' report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (Ireland) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Irish Auditing and Accounting Supervisory Authority website at:

<https://www.iasa.ie/getmedia/b2389013-1cf6-458b-gb8f-ag8202dc9c3a>. This description forms part of our auditors' report.

Use of this report

This report, including the opinion, has been prepared for and only for the Board as a body for management purposes as required by the Constitution of the entity in accordance with our engagement letter dated **20** November **2017** and for no other purpose. We do not, in giving this opinion, accept or assume responsibility for any other purpose or to any other person to whom this report is shown or into whose hands it may come, including without limitation under any contractual obligations of the entity, save where expressly agreed by our prior consent in writing.

PricewaterhouseCoopers Chartered Accountants Dublin

16 March 2018

THE COVENANT COUNCIL

The Church of Ireland and the Methodist Church in Ireland

REPORT 2018

MEMBERSHIP

Church of Ireland

The Rt Rev Alan Abernethy, Bishop of Connor (Co-Chair)
Ms Elva Byrne
Very Rev Nigel Dunne
Rev Canon Dr Maurice Elliott
Rev Barry Forde
Mr. Harold Giboney
Rev Dr Peter Thompson

Methodist

Rev Dr Heather Morris (Co-Chair)
Rev Dr John Stephens
Rev Andrew Dougherty
Rev Dr Janet Unsworth (Secretary)
Ms Gillian Kingston
Dr Fergus O'Ferrall

Presbyterian Observer

Rev Tony Davidson

Headline

Over the past year, issues relating to the implementation of interchangeability of ministry have been a major focus for the Council's work. The Council has continued to monitor, advise and support the growing number and range of joint projects which are developing across Ireland.

The Role of the Covenant – Moving Forward

The Covenant Council continues to act as a vehicle and an advocate for the furtherance of the Covenant agreed between the Church of Ireland and the Methodist Church in Ireland. As we noted in our 2017 report, the introduction of Interchangeability of Ministry heralded a new era for our two churches and the Covenant Council recognises the need to build on this development. A Committee of the Council is facilitating further detailed discussion of practicalities and protocols related to the implementation of Interchangeability.

The Council continues to encourage further implementation of the Covenant at every level. As part of this, we urge local churches to look again at the clauses of the Covenant and to engage with each other to explore how co-operation in mission can be enabled.

Local Covenant Partnerships and Projects

The Covenant Council continues to monitor those partnerships and projects that have been enabled by the Covenant. As part of this on-going work, the Council will be undertaking a review of the protocols and guidelines for partnership which are in use within the various projects, with the aim of revising guidance to facilitate the working out of the Covenant in local situations.

In the Single Covenant Churches, at the Church on the Hill in Maghaberry and the Church of the Good Shepherd in Monkstown, the Covenant is being worked out in action. Shared buildings at Movilla Abbey and Primacy continue to present opportunities for joint working in ministry and mission. In advance of the planned re-location of the Jordanstown Campus of Ulster University to Belfast city centre, the existing joint Chaplaincy team at Queen's University has been expanded and is working jointly with the Ulster University Jordanstown Methodist Chaplain. The joint Chaplaincy team is also developing ministry within other campuses in the city, including Belfast Metropolitan College and Stranmillis University College. This is an exciting development in collaborative ministry and mission. The new partnership between Longford Methodist Church and the Edgeworthstown Group of Parishes (Church of Ireland) began last July. The combination of what is, in effect, two part-time charges has resulted in a full-time appointment which is being served by a member of the Church of Ireland clergy. The appointment will be reviewed towards the end of an initial three years, with the potential of being extended for a further two years. The Council will provide appropriate help for this developing project, as and when requested.

In May 2017 the staff and students of the Church of Ireland Theological Institute and Edgehill Theological College came together for their annual two-day Integrated Seminar which was hosted in Belfast for the first time. This was a great success. In 2018 the event will be held in Dublin and will take the theme of "The Ascension." The two colleges continue to look for opportunities for enhanced cooperation. There is the possibility of collaboration in teaching on some Queen's University, Belfast, Open Learning courses which would contribute to the programmes of training for Ordained Local Ministry and step 1 of Methodist Ordination training. This is a very exciting development for the Covenant relationship.

Work continues in the area of mutual recognition of Diocesan Lay Readers and Methodist Local Preachers. A pilot scheme is operating between the Clogher diocese and one local circuit. We look forward to the learning which will emerge from this pilot and to the development of a set of general principles which will inform future working.

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Conversations are also on-going in relation to further Covenant partnerships in Chaplaincy ventures in Higher Education, and in Prison and Healthcare Chaplaincy.

Communications

The Council is exploring new forms of communication in order to share news of current cooperation and to resource new partnerships. The website, www.covenantcouncil.com is available to all, with worship resources and Covenant Council booklets available for download.

The Covenant Council continues to encourage all dioceses and parishes to look for opportunities in which the Covenant might be of assistance for ministry and mission. Further, the Council continues to encourage all churches to consider celebrating the Covenant on or around the date of 24th May each year, this date being designated “John Wesley Day” within the Church of England.

Topics on which discussion would be particularly welcome:

1. European Affairs
2. Interfaith Work

COMMISSION FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY AND DIALOGUE

MEMBERSHIP

A Bishop (Chairperson): The Bishop of Clogher	The Bishop of Cashel
WCC Representative: The Bishop of Connor	Rev Canon Patrick Comerford
ACC Representative: Rev Canon Dr Maurice Elliott	Rev Canon Dr Ian Ellis
ACC Representative: Mr Wilfred Baker	Rev Canon Dr Daniel Nuzum
Porvoo Contact Group Person: Rev Helene Tarneberg Steed	Rev Suzanne Cousins
An Honorary Secretary of General Synod: Rev Canon Gillian Wharton	Rev Cathy Hallissey
Hon Records Secretary: Rev Ken Rue	Ms Georgina Coptly
Hon Secretary: Very Rev Niall Sloane	Ms Cate Turner
The Bishop of Tuam	Dr Kenneth Milne
The Bishop of Limerick	1 Vacancy

INTRODUCTION

Commission for Christian Unity and Dialogue

The Commission for Christian Unity and Dialogue was first established by the General Synod as the Home Reunion Committee in 1905 and assumed its current name in 2007. The Commission was previously known as the Committee for Christian Unity. Its terms of reference are:

- To promote within the Church of Ireland the vision of Church unity;
- To promote and support movements in Ireland towards co-operation among the various Christian bodies;
- To maintain Church of Ireland membership of, and participation in, national and international ecumenical bodies;
- To address, in consultation with the Standing Committee, developments within the Anglican Communion;
- To encourage and engage in inter-faith encounter and dialogue;
- To report annually to the General Synod.

The membership consists of up to 20 members elected annually by the General Synod. The Church of Ireland has a rich network of relationships with fellow Anglican churches and other Christian traditions within Ireland and overseas. It is a member of the Anglican Communion and the following ecumenical networks:

- the Irish Council of Churches (ICC);

Commission for Christian Unity and Dialogue – Report 2018

- the Irish Inter Church Committee;
- Churches Together in Britain and Ireland (CTBI);
- the Conference of European Churches (CEC);
- the World Council of Churches (WCC);
- the Porvoo Communion (which brings together Anglican and Lutheran Churches); and
- the Reuilly Common Statement (between Anglican and French-speaking Protestant Churches).

As an observer on the Meissen Commission, the Church also has links with the Evangelical Church in Germany.

The Commission on Christian Unity and Dialogue's three working groups focus on Anglican, European and inter-faith matters.

The **Anglican & Ecumenical Affairs Working Group** considers the Church's relations within the Anglican Communion and within the Porvoo Communion, and with the Moravian Church. More information on the Anglican Communion is available at www.anglicancommunion.org

The **European Affairs Working Group** works closely with the ICC's European Affairs Committee and the CEC to discuss and consider common concerns for European Churches.

The **Inter-Faith Working Group** seeks to build relationships and encourage dialogue with people from other faiths who are living in Ireland.

The Church of Ireland is in full communion with the other members of the Anglican Communion and Porvoo Communion, the Methodist Church in Ireland, the Union of Utrecht of the Old Catholic Churches, and the Mar Thoma Syrian Church. Relations between the Church of Ireland and the Methodist Church in Ireland are covered by the Covenant Council.

The Commission's members attend the annual conferences of other Christian denominations in Ireland and hold regular meetings with the Roman Catholic Church and with the Presbyterian Church.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Commission on Church Unity and Dialogue (CCUD) is the Church of Ireland's principal organ for relating nationally and internationally both to other Christian Traditions and to national ecumenical instruments. The Commission continues to carry out its work through long-term Working Groups, on Anglican, European and Inter-Faith matters.

General Synod 2016 approved a re-structuring of the Commission and its membership reflects the wide ranging and various bodies the Church of Ireland is engaged with.

As you will see from their more extensive reports below the Working Groups of the Commission have engaged in routine business and taken several new initiatives. The Anglicanism Working Group continues in the Church's engagement with the Moravian

Church of Great Britain and Ireland. It also continues to provide a forum for the activity arising from our membership of the Porvoo Communion, and the Church of Ireland's Porvoo Contact Person, Rev Helene Steed, has provided a summary of that work.

The Inter Faith Working group reports on interesting projects for the year ahead. The European Affairs Working Group continues to strengthen our links and interaction with the Conference of European Churches (CEC). The Bishop of Connor represents the Church of Ireland on the World Council of Churches (WCC). Members of the Commission continue to play a very full role in the Irish Council of Churches (ICC) and the Irish Inter Church Committee and in Churches Together in Britain and Ireland (CTBI). We also share representation on other bodies with our Anglican neighbours and the Rev Dr Kenneth Fleming (Scottish Episcopal Church) provides us with updates from the Meissen Commission. **The Church of Ireland is invited to a number of church meetings throughout the year and reports on these are included in the appendix.**

The Commission has now settled into its reformed structure following the decision of General Synod in 2016 and continues to keep the Church of Ireland in touch with the many other Christian traditions in Ireland and far beyond. Although the planned inter-faith seminar to be addressed by Bishop Toby Howarth had not taken place before the deadline for the submission of this report, we are confident that the Commission can make a positive contribution in evolving ways of positive engagement with other world religions. The Anglican Communion Office document “Generous Love” has been particularly useful in helping guide our thoughts in this regard. (www.presenceandengagement.org.uk/generous-love)

+John Clogher:

The Rt Rev FJ McDowell, Bishop of Clogher

ECUMENICAL INSTRUMENTS

Considerations of space allow for only limited coverage of the work of the ecumenical instruments to which the Church of Ireland belongs. Their respective websites (given below) should be consulted for detailed reports. Full particulars of Church of Ireland membership of ecumenical organisations and their remit may be found in the appropriate directory on the Church of Ireland website (www.ireland.anglican.org).

ANGLICAN & ECUMENICAL AFFAIRS WORKING GROUP

Membership:

Rt Rev Michael Burrows, Mr Wilfrid Baker, Rev Julie Bell, Canon Dr Maurice Elliott, Canon Dr Ian Ellis (Chair), Canon Dr Daniel Nuzum, Rev Katharine Poulton, Rev Helene Steed and Ms Kate Turner

Over the past year, the Anglican and Ecumenical Affairs Working Group has been considering the resolutions of ACC-16, informing the Commission of any matters that require attention by the Church of Ireland.

The Working Group also gave in-depth attention to the document, *Intentional Discipleship and Disciple-Making*, which is based on a background paper for ACC-16. In the Preface, Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby writes: “Needless to say, Anglicans/Episcopalians are witnessing to Christ’s reconciling love all over the world, and in all sorts of ways, as a sign of their discipleship. But many Anglican/Episcopalian leaders lay and ordained, are also quick to point out that much more could be done if there was an intentional focus on nurturing and equipping both new and existing members, to deepen their lifelong discipleship and Christian witness.”

The Working Group conveyed its observations and recommendations on this important document to the Commission. The Working Group is continuing to consider this matter and different options for taking it forward.

Other matters which the Working Group discussed and reported on to the Commission were: Anglican-Methodist relations; the value of informal discussions with the Presbyterian Church in Ireland; the impact of the Scottish Episcopal Church’s decision regarding same-sex marriage; the Anglican Centre in Rome; the Porvoo Communion; the Season of Care for Creation; and ecumenical dialogues.

The Working Group noted that Churches Together in Britain and Ireland had decided not to issue an invitation for the next Assembly of the World Council of Churches in Scotland, but to support a bid from Germany.

The Working Group noted the role of the Global Christian Forum in bringing into dialogue churches which are not part of established ecumenical structures.

THE IRISH COUNCIL OF CHURCHES (ICC: www.churchesinireland.com)

The Church of Ireland is a founding member of the ICC, which was established in 1923.

The Irish Council of Churches (ICC) gathered for its 94th Annual Meeting at the Methodist Church’s Belfast Central Mission on Thursday, 30th March. In a keynote address titled ‘Do the Churches have a place in a Post-Catholic Ireland?’, Dr Gladys Ganiel, Research Fellow at the Senator George J Mitchell Institute for Global Peace, Security and Justice, outlined the challenges and opportunities in secularisation to over 100 delegates from Protestant, Orthodox, Reformed, Catholic, Independent and Migrant-led churches in Ireland.

Dr Ganiel noted that the ICC could be seen as belonging to what she defined as ‘extra-institutional religion’, whereby ‘new religious spaces ... are being created (or discovered) within Ireland’s post-Catholic environment. These are spaces where people use various methods and strategies to keep their faith alive, outside or in addition to the institutional Catholic Church, or indeed, other ‘institutional’ churches’. Recognising that the ICC, as an organisation, has the potential to greatly engage with and contribute to public life, she stated that ‘from a sociological perspective, sometimes the margins are the best place to

be. While you may lack conventional power or influence, there is an important soft power in your ability to critique and offer alternative visions, and to move quickly to respond to pressing needs.’

In the space of only a few months, the Churches in Ireland have found themselves living and witnessing in a more uncertain social, economic and political atmosphere than could previously have been imagined. Today’s meeting informed the ICC’s member churches of its day-to-day work in that environment and also, with the help of Dr Ganiel, stimulated thought on how we might strengthen our united witnessing in the face of division and uncertainty.

In a subsequent presentation to the meeting, ICC President Rt Rev John McDowell, Church of Ireland Bishop of Clogher, noted that we have been challenged in a critical but friendly way by Dr Ganiel’s presentation to think about ‘the God Space’ that organisations like the ICC might begin to explore. We must think of ways of encouraging and informing our member churches to specifically address witnessing in a pluralist society and bringing our particular gifts to building up the common good.

IRISH INTER-CHURCH MEETING (IICM: www.churchesinireland.com)

The 28th Irish Inter-Church Meeting (IICM) took place from the 23rd–24th November at Dromantine Conference and Retreat Centre, Newry. The IICM is the formal meeting between the Irish Episcopal Conference and the Irish Council of Churches. It gathers senior church leaders and lay representatives from across 15 denominations in Ireland, bringing together the broad spectrum of Roman Catholic, Reformed, Migrant-led, Independent and Orthodox traditions. The theme chosen for the 2017 meeting was Proclaiming Christ to Families Today. The following statement was issued by the Co-Chairs of the meeting after the event:

“Families are the heart of the life and mission of the Church. The World Meeting of Families, which will be hosted by the Catholic Church in Ireland in 2018, provides a significant opportunity for us, as Christian churches in Ireland, to reflect together about how best to respond to the many and varied needs of families across the island of Ireland today. This year’s Irish Inter-Church Meeting combined many different layers of reflection, drawing inspiration from different academic disciplines and different areas of work. It was a dialogue, not just between churches, but between churches and the wider society. We are deeply indebted to all who gave the time to share their expertise and experience.

In our pastoral care of the family we are also caring for society. This was underlined in the keynote address by Gordon Harold, Professor of Child and Adolescent Mental Health, who presented evidence from different international contexts showing how the inter-parental relationship affects youth mental health. Professor Harold went on to outline how these findings can be translated into effective public policy aimed at improving

outcomes for vulnerable parents and children in a way that is long term, sustainable and improves the life chances of the next generation.

Representatives of organisations working to support vulnerable individuals and families, from both faith-based organisations and the wider community and voluntary sector, highlighted some of the most urgent challenges for families in both jurisdictions in Ireland today. Delegates heard about the importance of emotional wellbeing and a secure family home. Practitioners identified areas where churches could build on successful initiatives to provide further support through pastoral care, service provision and advocacy to Government.

There was a strong focus throughout the meeting on our communications, both internal and external. We were encouraged by successive speakers to think about the ways in which families experiencing difficulties are prevented from getting the help they need because of stigma and shame. As Christians who believe in a God of compassion, we are well placed to provide a safe space for those who are struggling. We should not underestimate the value of simple gestures of compassion, kindness and acceptance.

At the same time, it is important to remember that for some people the family is not a safe place. We heard from those working on the frontline about the impact of physical, emotional and sexual abuse in the family and its devastating consequences. Churches can contribute to reducing this harm by communicating a strong message that the family needs to respect the human dignity of every individual member, and protect them from harm. People at risk need to know that the church community is there to support them.

For our churches, as for society, the family is much more than a recipient of pastoral care and social outreach. Families are the building blocks of strong church communities. Examining this theme with input from theologians of different denominations it is clear that there is much more that unites us than divides us. Delegates reflected on the findings from a research report from Care in the Family, Faith in our Families, which highlighted challenges and opportunities for faith formation in the families.

In the family we learn the values that shape and inform our approach to living in society. It is where we develop our sense of solidarity and interconnectedness with the wellbeing of others. Where families are under pressure, parents struggle to find the time to invest in their children's education and faith formation. New technology and social media, while bringing many benefits, can also be a significant obstacle to families spending quality time together, listening to each other and developing strong relationships.

Delegates came away from this meeting feeling both challenged and inspired. The family is the hope for the world and the wellbeing of families is critical for the future of Church and society. Churches and faith-based organisations are having a positive impact on the lives of families, but much more needs to be done to reduce the factors that leave families marginalised and at risk of harm. This requires us to work effectively together as churches, and in partnership with other sectors of society, to ensure that a positive vision for the family shapes and informs public policy.”

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN BRITAIN AND IRELAND (CTBI: www.ctbi.org.uk)

Report from Canon Ian Ellis on the Annual General Meeting of Churches Together in Britain and Ireland 2017

The Annual General Meeting of CTBI was held on Wednesday 10 May in Luther King House, Manchester. The venue is an ecumenical conference and study centre.

The first item of business was a presentation of the past year's work of CTBI and there was a special focus on a possible bid to host the 2021 WCC General Assembly in Glasgow. After a thorough discussion, it was decided not to proceed with a bid. The meeting heard of concerns regarding finance issues, some dissatisfaction in certain quarters regarding the general approach of the WCC in its work, and the fact that the World Methodist Conference is scheduled for 2021, along with the next Lambeth Conference due in 2020. There was disappointment at the decision expressed by some Scottish representatives at the Manchester meeting. However, it was agreed to seek to promote relations with the WCC, as well as to support a bid by the German Churches. The decision on the venue will be taken by the WCC Central Committee in the summer of 2018.

The General Secretary of CTBI, Canon Bob Fyffe, told the AGM that over the past year another major focus of work had been centred on the current refugee crisis.

The meeting heard a presentation by Clare McBeath on a CTBI 'women-to women' visit to Greece last year, which highlighted the fact that women and children generally flee their country after their husbands and fathers have already reached a destination and go to join them. The meeting was told of the great risk at which the women and children find themselves in terms of abuse of trafficking. Ms McBeath also spoke about the sacrificial work being carried out by the Churches in Greece in aid of the refugees who are held in what are effectively detention centres. She said she had been greatly struck by the "resilience and strength" of the women, but also by "their vulnerability".

Earlier this year, a CTBI group of young men visited refugee and migrant projects in Sicily and Lampedusa run by the organisation, Mediterranean HOPE, which is an initiative of the Italian Federation of Evangelical Churches. The visit was co-led by Damian Jackson, a staff member of the Irish Council of Churches.

Canon Fyffe said there was a "connecting thread" through all of CTBI's work, in terms of 'good society', interreligious work and the refugee crisis. He said that CTBI offers itself as a resource to the Churches and, when appointing delegations, seeks to send "those who can listen - and tell their stories back".

The accounts showed that total assets stood at £2,546,852, as compared with £2,688,440 in the previous year. This was due to one-off grants having been received in the previous

year. Total available reserves were £957,000 and there had been a reduction in staff costs, down from £408,741 to £329,729. Tribute was paid to the outgoing treasurer, Stephen Cutler, who has been succeeded by Paul Clelland, a Glasgow-based accountant.

Following the meeting, at which the Bishop of Clogher was re-appointed as one of CTBI's Trustees, the new Centre for Theology and Justice was launched, with the inaugural David Goodbourn Memorial Lecture. Dr Goodbourn was a one-time General Secretary of CTBI and, subsequently, President of Luther King House.

The Centre for Theology and Justice is a joint initiative of Churches Together in Britain and Ireland, Christian Aid, Church Action on Poverty, and Luther King House. It describes itself as “a network of partner bodies and collaborators rather than a physical location ... [finding] expression on its website and social media, and in events and processes which promote theological reflection on issues of justice”.

*Report from Canon Ian Ellis on the Work Programme Consultation of Churches
Together in Britain and Ireland*
Missenden Abbey, Berkshire, 28 - 29 November 2017

The consultation was held to enable more in-depth reflection on the overall work programme of CTBI than has been possible at one-day Annual General Meetings. However, at the conclusion of the consultation, it was suggested that time could be made at AGMs to consider the work programme more thoroughly, perhaps rotating the various themes annually, by moving the annual David Goodbourn lecture to another time. (The late Dr Goodbourn was a former general secretary of CTBI.)

CTBI's work programme broadly covers reflection and action in relation to social issues, peace and conflict, faith & order, and mission & unity.

Bob Fyffe, general secretary, gave a general introduction in the course of which CTBI's objectives were summarised as:

- Strengthening fellowship;
- Witnessing together;
- Spirituality and reflection;
- Building trust and understanding; and
- Communicating effectively.

He also spoke about the new Centre for Faith and Justice, a joint initiative of Luther King House in Manchester, Christians Against Poverty, Christian Aid and CTBI. The Centre describes its aims as:

- To enable theological reflection on issues of justice;
- To map, connect and explore what it means to work for justice;
- To identify the gaps and address these;
- To name reality and to ask the difficult questions; and
- To enable a stronger prophetic voice on issues of justice within the public sphere.

The Trustees were to give consideration to expanding on CTBI's aim to serve the Churches of Britain and Ireland “on our shared journey towards full visible unity in Christ”.

A CTBI Vision Statement refers to its aims as

- working in partnership with the four National Ecumenical Instruments;
- facilitating effective collaborative working;
- creating appropriate ecumenical space;
- expressing the Churches' shared commitment to four nation's ecumenism;
- working with the widest range of partners;
- listening closely, and responding to the needs and aspirations of the Churches;
- resourcing the work of the Churches, agencies, networks and bodies in association with CTBI;
- recognising and working with complexity;
- offering theological reflection across the shared areas of work; and
- valuing every Church's contribution, respectful relationships and the diversity and difference within the Churches and four nations.

The work of the Mission Theology Advisory Group (MTAG) was introduced by Anne Richards of the Church of England's National Office for Mission Theology, which is linked to the CTBI programme. She spoke of how prayer and reflection were energizing in the work of MTAG and of how the group's work supports mission outreach across the denominations.

International work was described by Christian Elliott who focused on CTBI's involvement in the Middle East and China. A forthcoming consultation would be considering the use of language/terminology in the Middle East, where CTBI would continue to support the Church in very challenging circumstances. Ms Elliott also spoke about CTBI's focus on the refugee crisis in Europe. Information about initiatives taken in response to the refugee crisis can be found online (<https://ctbi.org.uk/how-the-churches-are-responding-to-the-refugee-crisis/>).

Peter Colwell described CTBI's work in the sphere of interreligious affairs. He highlighted how this work touches on divisive and sensitive issues, e.g., discussing the caste system with Hindu partners, and interfaith worship. Group discussion raised the issue of the need to recognise good work being done at local level but also, by contrast, hesitations that can be found locally. However, it was felt that CTBI is uniquely placed to provide a broad perspective in which local congregations can develop their response to interreligious issues.

The CTBI publication, *Acting in God's Love: Christian witness in a multi-religious world* is a considerable resource based around case studies.

Regarding doctrinal issues, a Faith and Order Reference Group had been formed approximately five years ago, and a conference had focused on the World Council of Churches' document, *The Church: Towards a Common Vision*. CTBI produces courses and materials relating to (i) The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, (ii) Advent (iii) Creation Time, (iv) Lent Courses, and (v) Remembrance Sunday.

CTBI has a series of websites dedicated to various projects. They are:

Focus on Refugees – www.focusonrefugees.org

The Centre for Theology and Justice - www.theologyjustice.org

A Good Society - www.agoodsociety.org

Lent Pilgrimage – www.lentpilgrimage.org.uk

Dispossession Project (Mission resources) - www.dispossessionproject.org

China Online Study Centre – www.chinaonlinecentre.org

Churches Together Directory - www.churchestogether.org

The consultation wished to express certain priorities for the Trustees, including promoting

- a theology that is 'in touch';
- deeper spirituality in ecumenical endeavour;
- a special focus on current interreligious concerns; and
- better communication between the Churches and between CTBI and its constituency.

CTBI clearly is very widely engaged and there is a notable awareness of spirituality underpinning all its efforts. The consultation was well organized and informative, and included ample opportunity for the approximately 40 participants from Churches across these islands to engage with one another in group discussions. The final report of the consultation will be considered by the Trustees in due course and it would seem that communication of CTBI's work will be one of the key priorities for the future, in addition to furthering continuing projects.

CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN CHURCHES (CEC: www.ceceurope.org)

Thematic reference group on EU policy and legislation

The group meets twice yearly, one meeting being held in a country represented on the group (possibly Estonia in 2018) and the other at the offices of the German Evangelical Church (EKD) in Brussels.

Dr Kenneth Milne attended the two meetings of the group held in 2017, the first of which took place on April 27-8 in London. This location was selected partly because of the anticipated departure of the United Kingdom from the EU (Brexit). While the programme included a survey of Church life in the United Kingdom (including Northern Ireland), focussing on Church-State relations, the prospect of Brexit was a dominant theme for discussion.

Similarly, the Brussels meeting on 3 November, chaired by Dr Katerin Hatzinger (EKD), devoted much time to Brexit, but in this case included as an agenda item a consideration of Brexit from an Irish perspective. The discussion was introduced by David Bruck, an Irish official in Brussels, and the implications for both political jurisdictions on ‘the island of Ireland’ were explored.

The agenda also included a report on a case (considered to be of significance for all Churches in the EU) relating to employment law in German as it affects the Churches, now before the European court of Human Rights in Strasbourg. There was also a report from the Polish member of the group on ‘the Rule of Law in Poland’.

WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES (WCC: www.wcc-coe.org)

The WCC Central Committee will meet in Switzerland in June 2018. The 11th Assembly will be held in 2021.

MEISSEN (Meissen: www.europe.anglican.org/ecumenical-information-and-links/agreements-and-partners)

Meissen Commission Meeting 2017
Church Of England/Evangelische Kirche in Deutschland (EKD)
Report of the Celtic Churches Observer
(Representative: Rev Dr Kenneth Fleming (Scottish Episcopal Church))

Members of the Meissen Commission

Representing the Church of England and the national federation of German protestant churches, the Evangelische Kirche in Deutschland (EKD) - met in Oxford from 21-24 September 2017.

Conference Theme

The overarching theme of the conference was ‘Reformation Jubilee’. The German churches have led a year-long national celebration marking the 500th anniversary of the Reformation, dated to Martin Luther’s posting of the 95 Theses on 31 October 1517.

Oxford Visits

Commission members were given a tour of Corpus Christi College Chapel and a ‘Walking tour of Reformation Oxford’. Included was a viewing of the Melancthon Bible in Jesus College and visits to sites related to martyrs of the Reformation.

Theological Input

Leading Oxford scholars gave talks on Reformation themes to the Commission. In her talk on the ‘Luther Year’, Lyndal Roper raised questions about the modern-day conception and presentation of Luther in Germany as a heroic and nationalist figure. Alistair McGrath spoke on the ‘German Reformation in England’, describing Luther’s reception in England and the differences between the Reformation in England and

Germany. Jonathan Arnold provided a reflection on ‘Witness, Resistance and Liturgy’, which chartered the role of music in worship and liturgy with reference to figures like Augustine and Luther, and up to the present day. The talks, much appreciated, stimulated discussion and debate.

The Bishop of Oxford hosted the group for supper on the penultimate day.

Commission Business

Country reports were wide-ranging in nature. Some points that led to sustained discussion are given below:

- The CofE reported good news with a significant increase in ordained numbers, many of which are younger people coming forward for training, though numbers do not offset the numbers due to retire.
- There was discussion around same sex marriage and divisions on the issue. German representatives said this was no longer a matter of disagreement for them, though it was recognised that marriage is a state affair in Germany with the churches providing a blessing to the union.
- A recurring theme, throughout the conference, was the witness and nature of the church in our societies that are growing both increasingly secular and religiously plural. This raises questions about Christianity and culture, and also about the established nature of the Church.
- Another subject that ran throughout the conference was Brexit. There was a stated desire, in the aftermath of the Brexit vote, to actively maintain and further develop ties between British and continental European churches. The position of ministers and future ministerial training in the Diocese of Europe, it was reported, are faced with particular challenges arising from Brexit.
- There was interest on wider ecumenical talks. The exploration by the CofE and Methodist churches towards a covenant relationship, which would see the interchangeability of ministry, was discussed. Mention was also made of ecumenical talks between the Lutheran Church in Bavaria and the Episcopal Church in the USA.

Reformation Jubilee

German delegates provided a detailed reflection on the Reformation Year. It was viewed as a great success, having engaged many levels in society. The figure of Martin Luther, whose impact on German culture and language was immense, provided the celebrations with a human focus. National and regional governments, businesses, and the media were all involved. Government and European grants provided substantial financial support. Local schools, choirs, church and community organisations across the nation have developed and run various Reformation events. The large toy making firm ‘Playmobil’ produced a plastic figure of Luther that became its fastest selling toy ever!

It was felt that starting the planning process ten years beforehand had been advantageous. The planning also acknowledged Luther’s dark side, especially his late anti-Semitic writings and also the way he had been used for nationalist propaganda in the past. Renewed efforts were put into relationships with Jews and in interreligious dialogue. A major positive was the involvement of the Catholic Church in celebrating the

Reformation together with the EKD, both in large televised services and local church initiatives.

Although the past year's celebrations have been a major success, the EKD will factor in time to do a detailed review. One surprise for the German churches has been how their enthusiasm for celebrating the Reformation has not been reciprocated in other countries, even those with strong Lutheran traditions. It was felt that this was due to the different reception histories of the Reformation and the enduring significance that Luther has for German society and culture.

Partnerships

There was a report on a number of vibrant partnerships between churches in England and Germany. These partnerships were diverse in nature, some long-running, between parishes and schools, others, one-off affairs, such as visits from theological students. It was emphasised that the relationships formed in these partnerships gives the Meissen Agreement life and meaning. It was felt there was a need to publicise what is happening more widely and also to inform people of the Meissen Commission work. Forms of publicising information will be looked into. In looking towards the future, it was also felt that it would be good to encourage young church leaders from Germany and England to meet under the Meissen banner.

Future

The next meeting, due to take place in Erfurt in 2018, will be around common challenges to mission and koinonia. More concrete ideas and dates will be sent by the end of this year.

REUILLY (Reuilly: <http://strasbourginstitute.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/08/Reuilly-Declaration.rtf>)

*An Observer's Report On the 2017 Reuilly Group Meeting
Drumalis Retreat Centre, Larne, Northern Ireland.
Submitted by the Revd Dr Christine O'Dowd-Smyth*

The Co-Chairs of the meeting were the Church of England Bishop John Stroyan of Warwick and the Vice President of the Eglise Protestante Unie de France, Christian Krieger. Acting as interpreter and translator was Jane Stranz of the Fédération Protestante de France, who will now be stepping down from this crucial role. Acting as Secretary was Matthias Grebe from the Church of England. Archdeacon of the C of E Diocese of Europe, Meurig Williams, was present, as well as Archdeacon John McLuckie of the Episcopal Church of Scotland (who acts as Representative of the "Celtic Churches" of Scotland, Wales and Ireland) and Revd Julian Templeton of the United Reformed Church in London. On the French side, Pastor Pierre Blanzat from Lyon was the other newcomer. Pastors Alexandra Breukink and Claire Sixt Gateuille were established members of the group.

The Fifth Session of the Reuilly Meeting: Irish Witness: the Anglican Methodist covenant consisted of an excellent and truly inspirational presentation by Bishop Alan

Abernethy of the Church of Ireland and the Revd Heather Morris of the Methodist Church in Ireland.

Bishop Alan opened the session by speaking about their shared journey and learning to offer each other the gift of Grace. The reason for this journey is missional – “so that the world might see and know”. He emphasised the importance for small churches to see the world through a missional lens – that it is not our own survival that’s important, but the mission of God.

Heather Morris added that as well as the missional context being important, that the relational context was also very important. Working together as a norm, as a default position, building on trust and making real what is a theological reality. Reverend Morris spoke about the Methodist fears of being “swallowed up” by the Church of Ireland, while Bishop Alan added that this covenant journey has taken decades. A lot of work goes on within frameworks that are “energising, relational and missional”. Now Church of Ireland bishops take part in President Ordinations and past Methodist Presidents take part in Church of Ireland bishops’ consecrations. Technically, there is transfer of ministry between both Churches. There was an example given of alternating chaplaincy at Queen’s University Belfast between Methodist and Church of Ireland ministers, to which Bishop John of Warwick added that he himself was in Methodist Theological College. The Church of England and the Methodists in England are working very closely together (Mission and Ministry in Covenant (2015) available online). Heather Morris spoke of her sadness because the conversation initially had started out as a Tripartite Dialogue with the Presbyterians. Bishop Alan Abernethy spoke of a bishop being a “permission giver” that denomination means a lot less than Kingdom, and if denomination gets in the way, then denomination needs to step aside. Jesus talked about the Kingdom, not ‘Church’. To which Archdeacon John McLuckie added, perhaps the most important question of the meeting: “How can we relate to each other to realise our calling? The delegates from the Reformed Church of France reminded us that the Methodists in France form part of the Eglise Reformée de France, and asked whether part of the Irish context for this shared journey is Crisis? Bishop Alan acknowledged this, saying that we were at a critical point, where we need to imagine a new future and if we stay where we are we will not survive. Bishop John quoted Karl Barthes: “The greatest tragedy of the Church is her unwillingness to die”

On Wednesday morning, after Eucharistic Worship led by Christian Krueger and John McLuckie, there was a discussion on how to bring forward the theological work on interchangeable joint ministries and oversight? It was agreed that what is needed is to formalise a theological agreement and action document with a press release/communiqué to be released.

There was acknowledgement that the Columba agreement is in fact born out of the Reuilly agreement, with a similar trajectory of shared ministry, liturgy, prayer, etc., with potentially shared ministry and chaplaincy.

There will be a meeting in Lyon during the first weekend in March 2018 regarding the Pilot Project between the French Protestant Reformed Churches and the Anglican Chaplaincies in the Archdeaconry of France, and the establishment of Pilot Sites. There will initially be three hubs: Lille, Nice and Lyon, starting off, with Strasbourg, Paris and Grenoble acting as observers. (Ecumenism would seem to be somewhat more complicated to organise in Paris?) There will be a letter sent to the five hubs and prayer for specific processes. The Proposed Pilot Project will take from what has been discussed to actually putting into practice the principles of Reuilly.

Regarding shared liturgies, thought must be given to language so that people do not stick with their own language groups. By having respective Eucharistic services, it is important to receive each other's differences as well. With regard to liturgy, language is the great divide.

The next formal Reuilly Contact Group meeting will take place in France on the 4th-6th February 2019.

PORVOO (www.porvoocommunion.org)

Introduction

The Porvoo Communion of Churches, (with members from the Lutheran Churches in the Nordic and Baltic countries and the Anglican Churches in Britain and Ireland and on the Iberian Peninsula), continued its work of bringing the Porvoo Churches and its member closer together in mission and ministry during 2017.

Copenhagen 2017

During 2017 both the Primates and the Porvoo Contact Group met in Copenhagen. The 2017 October meeting focused on The Presence, Role and Mission of the Church in a Secular or Post-Secular Society. Contextual Danish presentations about church and state, including legislation; innovative ministry in a secular society and theological reflections allowed the different Porvoo churches to reflect upon our own situation and countries. In addition to these sessions on mission and ministry in an increasingly secular society, the Copenhagen meeting marked the 500th anniversary of the Protestant Reformation as Bishop Helga Haugland Byfuglien of the Church of Norway reflected on contribution of Lutheranism in the modern world. The theme of 'being liberated' was highlighted, both regarding being 'liberated from the boundaries of the world and being liberated into service to the world.'

The Church of Ireland was represented in Copenhagen by:

Revd Helene T. Steed, Church of Ireland member of the Porvoo Contact Group

The Most Revd Dr Michael Jackson, Anglican Co-chair of the Porvoo Contact Group

Looking ahead

During 2018 the Church leaders in the Porvoo Communion will in October gather in Estonia for a consultation on: Minorities and Majorities: A Challenge to Church and Society.

Every day Porvoo

The Porvoo Communion has no budget, no office and no paid staff, and hence the members Churches contribute as they can. In many respects it operates as a network. To facilitate the work and fellowship, the member Churches have appointed two co-chairs and two co-secretaries, one from each tradition. In addition, each member Church has a contact person.

During 2017, there have been a number of changes among the members in the contact group, with new representatives from the Church of Sweden, the Church of England, and the Scottish Episcopal Church. The Church in Wales will hopefully during 2018 appoint a new contact person. There has also been a change in personnel, with two new Co-secretaries. Revd Maria Klasson Sundin, Church of Sweden, is the Lutheran Co-secretary and Revd Dr William Adam, Church of England, is the Anglican Co-secretary.

The Churches in the Porvoo Communion pray for each other. Every Sunday, Diocese, its bishop/s, clergy and people are remembered in prayer by congregations and parishes, as well as by individuals. The prayer diary for 2018 is found on-line at: www.ireland.anglican.org/resources/493/porvoo-prayer-diary-2018

EUROPEAN AFFAIRS WORKING-GROUP

Membership

Rt Rev Patrick Rooke (Chair), Dr Ken Milne, Canon Patrick Comerford, Rev Cathy Hallissey,
Co-opted - Ms Janet Barcroft, Canon Adrian Empey, Ms Maxine Judge, Canon Eithne Lynch.

Conference of European Churches (CEC)

The 15th General Assembly of CEC takes place at the end of May 2018 in Novi Sad, Serbia. In preparation for this, CEC has asked its member churches to respond to its Open Letter 'What Future for Europe?' and to *four questions* asked in relation to its document 'Charta Oecumenia'. In the Working Group's Synod Report 2017, a response to the former was published in full. Below is a brief explanation of the Charta Oecumenia document followed by the response put together by the Working Group and sent as its reply.

The Charta Oecumenia was published in April 2001, in its final form, by CEC (with its membership of around 120 Anglican, Orthodox and Protestant churches and bodies) and the Roman Catholic Council of European Bishops' Conferences (CCEE). It marked the beginning of the century by calling the churches in Europe to dialogue, unity and action, and particularly to their common responsibility in facing issues of peace and justice in Europe.

In 2006, Canon Dr Ian Ellis made a considered response on behalf of the Irish Council of Churches in which he described Charta Oecumenia as 'one of the potentially very

positive things to have happened in recent times in the broader ecumenical movement'. He went on to state his belief that 'Ireland must take this document to heart and in fact set in place some way of monitoring our ecumenical life in relation to the ideals set forth in that document'. He particularly welcomed the fact that *Charta Oecumenia* 'provides guidelines for the cooperation among the churches in Europe and affirms the need for the churches to strive "to overcome the divisions still existing among us, so that together we may credibly proclaim the message of the Gospel among all people". 'In Ireland' he said, 'the more established churches, which are the ones with the history, must show that they can indeed overcome barriers of all sorts and so illustrate that the Gospel we proclaim is the real, powerful and life-giving Gospel of love and peace'.

Question 1: How have the 'guidelines for the growing cooperation among churches in Europe' been used or perhaps not used by churches, national councils of churches and dialogue partners?

The basic principle underlying the *Charta Oecumenica*, which was adopted by the Conference of European Churches and the Council of European [Roman Catholic] Bishops' Conferences in 2001, was a '*common commitment to dialogue and co-operation*'. This has been very much the principle governing the Church of Ireland's relations with other Churches. Through our membership of the Irish Council of Churches we participate in ecumenical worship and work alongside Protestant and Orthodox Churches and those other Christian congregations that have come to Ireland in recent years. We also engage in prayer, study and fellowship with members of the Roman Catholic Church through the Irish Inter Church Meeting which has its origins in the initial meeting between representatives of the Roman Catholic Church and the Irish Council of Churches in 1973.

For many years, representatives of the Roman Catholic Church and the member Churches of the Irish Council of Churches have attended the meetings of the General Synod. The Church of Ireland participates in the work of CTBI, CEC and the WCC. The Archbishop of Armagh is Anglican Co-Chair of the International Anglican-Orthodox Commission for Theological Dialogue. The Archbishop of Dublin is Anglican Co-chair of the Porvoo Communion of Churches as well as being a member of the Anglican Oriental Orthodox International Commission. The Archbishop of Dublin also serves on the CEC Thematic Reference Group on Ecclesiology as does Dr Kenneth Milne on the CEC Thematic Reference Group on Policy and Legislation.

The most far-reaching development in our ecumenical relationships has been the creation of a 'covenant' with the Methodist Church in Ireland, which was entered into by the governing bodies of both Churches in 2002. The Covenant Council, comprising representatives of our two Churches, continues to work towards unity, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, seeking to bring about organic unity, including the full recognition of each other's orders. These aspirations are very much in accordance with the *Charta's* commitment '*in the power of the Holy Spirit, to work towards the visible Unity of the*

Church of Jesus Christ in one faith, expressed in the mutual recognition of baptism and eucharistic fellowship, as well as in common witness and service.'

With reference to the 'academic context' alluded to in Question 1, we should mention that there is a deepening relationship between the Church of Ireland Theological Institute and the Methodist Church's Edgehill College, including an annual integrated seminar for students. Furthermore, the staffs of the two colleges engage in reciprocal teaching.

Question 2 What are the reasons why the Charta Oecumenica is found useful or not useful in your local context?

Given our response to Question 1, it would seem clear that the principles enshrined in *Charta Oecumenica* are entirely consistent with Church of Ireland ecumenical strategy. That the charter is not more widely known locally is probably because it has not been sufficiently publicised, though its objectives are widely accepted in the Church. As is the case with so much documentation that proceeds from international organisations, *Charta Oecumenica* tends to suffer from very limited circulation.

The promotion of good community relations throughout Ireland is a matter of priority for the Church of Ireland as, indeed for other Churches on the island. In Northern Ireland, emerging from a period of great social instability, state policy towards furthering 'peace and reconciliation' is increasingly focussed on stakeholders in the community, not least the Churches. The Church of Ireland values the *Charta Oecumenica* in the local context, particularly as regards the implications of Brexit when the Republic will remain an EU member and Northern Ireland, as part of the United Kingdom, will exit. European engagement has permeated the fabric of institutional structures North and South since the 1970s providing safeguards for citizens of the EU which very much accord with the provisions of the *Charta*.

Paragraph 4 of the *Charta* sets out the universal task for the Churches as follows:

'Europe- from the Atlantic to the Urals, from the North Cape to the Mediterranean- is today more pluralist in culture than ever before. With the Gospel, we want to stand up for the dignity of the human person created in God's image and, as Churches together, contribute towards reconciling peoples and cultures.'

Insofar as such sentiments are synonymous with those of the Church of Ireland it would seem appropriate that the Church would make the provisions of the *Charta* more widely known among its members.

Question 3 Are the recommendations of the document still valid today in the European context? Are there aspects that are missing?

The Church of Ireland is part of the Porvoo Communion, bringing together the majority of Anglican and Episcopal Lutheran Churches spread across the European Continent, from Iceland to the Aegean, and northern Norway to southern Spain. This communion

was formed a quarter of a century ago in 1992, bringing together churches from a variety of traditions and with a diversity of experiences that in many ways could be seen as a model for the European project. The variety of languages and cultures is, in part, an expression of hope for a Europe of the future that nurtures and encourages the diversity and unity with which Europe can be blessed.

The founding vision of the Europe project was rooted in values consistent with Christian principles. At the signing ceremony establishing the Council of Europe in 1949, Robert Schuman declared, 'Today we are laying the foundations of a spiritual and political co-operation ...' Jean Monnet believed European unity was essential to preventing the 'destruction of civilized life.' The vision of Monnet, Schuman, Adenauer and others has developed into a European project that has saved most of Europe from the wars that expressed the worst excesses of nationalism, and a commitment to peaceful co-operation that would end the bitter rivalries that led to war.

But there are other values that have become part and parcel of the European vision in the decades since, and that the Churches must continue to point to. The European project has developed and protected the rights of women, workers, children, and minorities, has promoted human rights, justice, humanitarian assistance and development, freedom of speech, and has countered the evils of racism and extreme nationalism. These are all practical expressions of the priorities of the Gospel and the preferential options for the poor and the marginalised expressed throughout his ministry and life by Christ, and expressed by him, for example, in both the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5 – 7) and his sermon at the synagogue in Nazareth (Luke 4: 16-22).

The diminution of the European project threatens to reject the progress that has been made in recent years towards finding political expressions that embody kingdom values. The consequences of 'Brexit' have yet to be realised. But the loss of one-member state of the European Union is a diminution of a project that envisions bringing together all the strands that make up European identity. The loss of one-member state is a loss to all Europeans of the enhanced vision that state can offer to the whole of Europe. The Anglican priest-poet John Donne wrote:

*No man is an island,
Entire of itself,
Every man is a piece of the continent,
A part of the main.
If a clod be washed away by the sea,
Europe is the less ...*

The rise of racism throughout Europe runs contrary to the Christian ideal that all are created equally in the image and likeness of God. All ethnic, linguistic and national barriers must be rejected in the Church (see Galatians 3: 28, Colossians 3: 11), for, as Saint Paul says, Christ is all and in all. The extremes of nationalism run contrary to the Christian vision in which the great multitude from all nations, tribes, languages and people, are called together before God on the throne (Revelation 7: 9).

Question 4 With regard to interreligious dialogue; indicate projects that your church is engaged in, and resource persons.

The Interfaith Working Group has been an important part of the Church of Ireland's Commission for Christian Unity and Dialogue. Thanks to it, various inter-faith events have been held in different locations around the country giving attendees opportunity to engage with and learn more of the culture and religious practices of those from other faith traditions. For a number of years this was chaired by the Archbishop of Dublin and he has kindly provided the following summary.....

‘During my time as chairperson of the Church of Ireland Working Group tasked with Inter Faith Relations, I facilitated and led a range of educational encounters for Church of Ireland people with people of World faiths other than Christianity. We had a residential meeting in the Church of Ireland Theological Institute (CITI) during which a range of speakers from the Church of England principally and from NIFCON and Leicester Diocese specifically, led us in Inter Faith Encounter and Understanding. We visited a Synagogue and a Mosque and had a dinner attended by the Minister for Social Inclusion. We held meetings in centres also: Belfast St Thomas Church, Galway University College and Limerick Mary Immaculate University. We also spent a three-day period in the St Philip's centre in Leicester and met people from all the faiths living in a white-minority city.’

Referring to his own Diocese, the Archbishop says ‘During my time in Dublin and Glendalough Diocese, I have continued my work in the Anglican Communion with NIFCON as its chairperson and as chairperson of the Archbishop of Canterbury's Commission with the Chief Rabbis of Israel. Part of what we have done recently is to have held a Consultation in Yangon between the Anglican Province of Myanmar and the Buddhist tradition. In Dublin I am an active member of the Dublin Inter Faith Forum which recently produced the Dublin Inter Faith Charter. I have participated in a range of Peace and Friendship initiatives in public places and have spoken at a meeting on Social Inclusion and most recently at the 75th Anniversary of the Council for Christians and Jews. I have also put in place a scheme for implementation of the Charter in parishes in my diocese.’

Under the current Chair of the Inter Faith Working Group, the Rt Rev Dr Kenneth Kearon, the Group has decided to prepare prayers for circulation should there be a terrorist style event with Inter-faith ramifications, and to hold a consultation during 2018 involving representatives of each diocese with a view to setting up an Inter-Faith Network within the Church of Ireland. The prayers are in the process of production. Funding for a consultation has been obtained and an event is being planned for the first half of 2018.

Agriculture

The Working Group received a very interesting talk from Mr Fred Lynch, a Co. Cork farmer. In it he outlined some of the important facts in terms of numbers, size of workforce employed in agriculture, age profile, average income, pressures on farmers and dependence upon the weather. Irish agriculture and the agri-food sector as a whole, he said, is going into its greatest period of potential change since our entry into the EEC in the early 70's. Brexit is an obvious concern, but so too is the upcoming review and reform of the EU common agriculture policy budget in 2019. However, he was confident that 'an enduring and resilient core will carry Irish agriculture through what are likely to be unstable times ahead.'

Change in Rural Communities

Dr Fergus O'Ferrall spoke to the Working Group on changes in rural Ireland. Parts of rural Ireland have not been equipped as sufficiently as the major cities within our country and there are huge inequalities. The population is growing in rural areas but it comprises new people who are not necessarily well anchored in rural life with a failure in imagining what a vibrant rural life would be like. Thus, the question needs to be asked – 'What is the policy of the EU towards rural areas?' What is happening in rural Ireland seems to mirror what is happening too in other European countries where rural villages are now deserted with no one except summer visitors present alongside the retired.

Brexit

The Working Group has returned repeatedly to Brexit. At one stage a conference was suggested but it was thought the situation is too fluid at present. The Group acknowledges that some Church of Ireland people in Northern Ireland will, in good conscience, have voted for Brexit. Many will not. The question for churches, however, is not whether we are for or against, but what are the implications for those we seek to serve, and not least the displaced, the powerless and those whose livelihoods are threatened? So, what have we as the Church of Ireland to say into the present debate? Can we exercise an influence?

INTER FAITH WORKING GROUP

Membership

Rt Rev Dr Kenneth Kearon (Chair), Rev Suzanne Cousins, Ms Georgina Coptý (convenor), 1 vacancy

Under the leadership of Chairperson Rt Rev Dr Kenneth Kearon, the IFWG continues to meet approximately six times per year and to report following these meetings to the Commission for Christian Unity and Dialogue.

The group is working at present on two specific projects with a view to helping equip Church of Ireland personnel and parishes in developing their pastoral and theological responses to inter-faith challenges, issues and dilemmas arising in an increasingly multi-cultural Ireland.

The first project is to write and compile a series of prayers which are culturally sensitive yet consistent with Christian faith and doctrine as received by the Church of Ireland, and which would be suitable in particular for use at times of national fear arising from crises precipitated, for example, by acts of terrorism should they occur.

At the time of writing this report the IFWG is also making final preparations for a Consultation on inter-faith matters on the subject of ‘Generous Love’, the title of a 2008 NIFCON document and subsequent initiative in the areas of inter-faith engagement, ministry and mission.

The Consultation is to take place on Friday 2nd March 2018 in the Church of Ireland Theological Institute. It aims to bring together representatives from every Church of Ireland diocese. The keynote speaker is Bishop Toby Howarth (Church of England). It is intended that the day provide opportunity for delegates to listen and learn, and to air and share their own experiences of inter-faith engagement and issues.

The Working Group has noted the recent publication (February 2018) by Church of Ireland Press of *Generous Love in Multi-Faith Ireland*, by Suzanne Cousins, a member of the Working Group. Beginning from a mission context, the book seeks to explore inter-faith relations from a Church of Ireland perspective, including key issues of contention.

Appendix 1 ~ Annual Church Meetings

Report from Ms Georgina Coptly on the Methodist Church in Ireland Annual Conference, Lisburn, June, 14-18, 2017.

Due to a funeral of a Methodist minister, the conference did not start at the scheduled time of 9:00 a.m.. This caused some confusion as not everyone was notified. The President of the conference later apologized to the two reps from the Church of Ireland due to the lack of communication.

The conference opened with a welcome from President Laurence Graham to the various invited guests. These included representatives from the British Methodist Church, the Methodist Church in Ghana, C.I., PCI, ICC, the Bible Society, the Religious Society of Friends and the Catholic Bishop of Connor. The conference agenda was packed and a shifting of sessions had to take place due to the delayed start. The conference attendees were very much involved in every discussion following the presentation of each report.

Some of the main highlights of the conference include:

Irish Methodist Youth and Children’s Department (IMYC):

It was evident that the youth department of the church was very engaged with the various parishes. IMYC reported that young Methodists feel that the Methodist church is ageing

and numbers are in decline. Young people have accused the church of continuing to practice a 19th century style of worship. IMYC highlighted challenges to their work such as lack of financial resources and personal as well as a lack of support from the church community. Events such as soul mates however, continue to attract children from various denominations.

The Covenant Council:

The Covenant Council reported on the setting up of a working party to further facilitate interchangeability. In order to continue the implementation of the Covenant, the council would like to ensure that observers from other churches are invited to denominational committees. The council continues to monitor partnerships and projects that were enabled by the Covenant. The Covenant Council is currently reviewing its membership in the hope of facilitating the start of new projects. The conference re-appointed Dr. Heather Morris as Co-Chair of the Covenant Council.

Stipends and Allowance Board:

Some clergy felt that the stipends given to clergy at times left them worse off due to tax breaks. Both lay-workers and clergy also voiced concerns over the lack of equality in mileage compensation. These issues were not dealt with adequately.

General Committee:

A controversial proposal was put forth by the General Committee to reduce the District Superintendents from 8 to 3. Their positions will become full time for 7 years with the possibility of extension for a further 3 years. Although some people expressed strong opposition to the proposal, for the most part, the conference was in support of the idea and the proposal passed.

The date for the next Methodist conference is the 13th of June, 2018 in the North West District.

Report from Religious Society of Friends' Yearly Meeting 2017

The Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends was held at the High School, Rathgar from 20th to 23rd April 2017 and Dr Kenneth Milne and Ruth Handy were invited to attend on behalf of the Church of Ireland. The Clerk, E. Heather Bewley, presided and welcomed representatives from the Yearly Meetings of other countries and from other churches.

As is customary, regular acts of worship took place as part of the business agenda and the Quaker emphasis on quite long periods of silence was very evident. The Meeting had as its theme Mahatma Gandhi's call that we should "Live simply, so that others may live". Irish Friends attach great importance to maintaining an awareness of international affairs, as do Quakers throughout the world who make their distinctive voice heard at the United Nations and also through Quaker involvement in European issues as was clear from the presence of representatives of the Quaker Council for European Affairs.

Personal, as distinct from political concerns predominated on the evening of the first day which was given over to Friends from Grange and Richhill who explored aspects of

‘Feeling Alone’, drawn from Biblical accounts and their own individual experience, whether through involuntarily through widowhood or voluntarily through long distance travel.

The second and third days moved from the personal to national and international issues. The issue of how we should assist immigrants to our country featured prominently, as did the issue of all refugees. David Kingston gave an interesting talk on ethical investment in which he stressed that we should move the emphasis from what not to invest in to what we should invest in. There was a suggestion that social investment such as lending money to people with refugee status so that they could pay a deposit on a house. There was a passionate account from a number of people of the horror of attending an Arms Trade Fair where the sale of arms was normalised and over 57,000 people attended. One result of attendance by Friends at the Fair was the holding of a Peace Witness in Dublin in 2016. It is hoped to repeat the exercise in 2017.

In the afternoons delegates attended workshops on topics ranging from Tax Justice to ‘Sustaining and Encouraging Quaker Ethos in our Schools’. They all appeared to be well attended and enjoyed. In the evenings there were Spiritual Reflection Groups while the Meeting commenced each morning with Bible Study led by different Friends.

- Kenneth Milne and Ruth Handy.

Report on the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland held in Assemblies Buildings, Fisherwick Place, Belfast

Dr Elizabeth Leonard (Down and Dromore) and I had the privilege of representing the Church of Ireland this year at the annual General Assembly (GA) of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland. As always the proceedings began with the service of installation of the new Moderator (Rev Dr Noble McNeely of First Holywood, Co Down). The Moderator is elected in February and has the substantial intervening period to read himself into the role. Inevitably Moderators depend heavily on the Clerk of the General Assembly for advice both during the General assembly and throughout their term of office.

The service of installation is the most recognisably “liturgical” event of the GA (even more so than the Eucharist which by tradition takes place on the second morning in the Assembly Hall). During the service the new Moderator introduced his theme for the year “Everyday Disciples” which made an interesting parallel with the recent ACC emphasis on “intentional discipleship” and the more general revival of the idea of making disciples in many traditions worldwide. To help inspire and equip church members to greater discipleship a special Assembly was held in Coleraine in August, 650 people attending.

The service of installation was also very well attended (there are over 1000 people eligible to attend the GA, although I would guess that the average daily attendance was around 300-400) and the address by the Moderator centred on the age old appeal of the gospel and our responsibility to take it up for this generation.

The service was followed by a reception hosted by PCI which included a more informal welcome for guests and an interesting speech by a ruling elder, who is the head of the

Northern Ireland Prison Service. In it he mentioned a little motto which he has on his desk in work and which is a key principle of his leadership philosophy and workplace relations: *They won't remember what you said, but they will remember how you made them feel.* This sentiment was picked up by some speakers during subsequent debates most notably that on Human Sexuality.

The Assembly which retains quite a formal feel nevertheless pauses often for *ex tempore* prayer and worship. The Moderator chairs all of the business sessions which in effect means most of the Assembly, introducing others to run more informal aspects of the work.

At the beginning of the second day delegates from other churches parade up to the rostrum and are formally welcomed by the Moderator. It was a privilege to respond to the Moderator's welcome on behalf of the delegates from the Irish Churches. Obituaries of preaching elders (ministers) who have died since the last GA are remembered at a special section on the second day in a manner not wholly unlike an All Saints or All Souls memorial.

General Observations

Inevitably some of the more controversial or unusual matters of business attract the attention of an occasional visitor although they may not be an accurate reflection of the overall work of the Church in the past year or indeed of the mood of the Assembly in general. My personal impressions were:

- (1) There was a quite distinct “atmosphere” when the Moderator of the Church of Scotland (C of S) addressed the Assembly. Despite the very close ties which have linked PCI and the C of S since the middle of the seventeenth century the relationship is clearly under strain. This centres around the decision of the C of S to make provision for clergy who chose to, to solemnise marriages between same-sex couples. A motion was passed not to send the Moderator of PCI to next year's GA of the C of S. An amendment which would have reversed the resolution was lost 139 votes to 221. The tone of the debate was occasionally rather robust at times.
- (2) Very few women take part in the debates and indeed there was a passionate plea by both the Rev'd Cheryl Maybin (Chaplain to the University of Ulster) and the Rev'd Catherine Meyer from the Presbytery of Dublin for what they regarded as a chill atmosphere towards women in some aspects of the life of the Church to be examined and owned. This included those offering for ordination. This contention was contested particularly by the Principal of Union Theological College.
- (3) The relationship between PCI and Queen's, Belfast has come under some scrutiny and review in the past eighteen months and there was an element of disquiet at a recent report into theological/ministerial education at Queen's. PCI are clearly going to engage whole heartedly with the University on this matter.
- (4) Although the debate on the relationship with other Churches was dominated by the *contretemps* with the C of S there were other interesting developments in ecumenical affairs. During last year a fresh look was taken by a committee at Reformed ecclesiology. Whilst this arose out of the strained relationships with

the C of S, the Assembly resolved to use it as a tool in examining PCI's relationship with other churches more generally and have asked the Church Relations Committee to undertake this work during the incoming year.

It should be noted that PCI representatives play a very significant and (I think) increasingly positive role within inter church bodies in Ireland and as the largest Protestant tradition in Northern Ireland carry considerable weight. Our own Commission for Christian Unity and Dialogue endeavours to meet with the POCI Church relations Committee annually to discuss matters of mutual interest.

For an Irish Anglican one of the striking features of the GA is the absence of any invited delegates from the Roman Catholic Church. It was therefore of interest that this year's GA resolved to set up a theological working group with a view to engaging with the Irish Catholic Church to discuss the Joint Statement on Justification which was drafted a number of years ago by the Vatican and the World Lutheran Federation. The World Federation of Reformed Churches (of which PCI is an active member) have asked their member churches for a view on whether WFRC should consider becoming parties to the Joint Statement and, in the spirit of subsidiarity, PCI wishes to engage first with the Irish Catholic Church on the matter.

Other Business

Like the General Synod, the GA is a comprehensive body with a very wide agenda. This year it considered over 100 resolutions and, unusually, two petitions (known as Memorials) which originate from people who are not members of the GA. One Memorial concerned a request to break the long standing tradition of recorded financial giving being a prerequisite to voting in congregations. This may be followed up next year by resolution.

Again as with the General Synod there was considerable disquiet over the proposals of the Minister for Education and Skills relating to rules on schools admissions in the Republic of Ireland. In the course of the debate the principal speaker, Eleanor Petrie, chair of the Education sub-committee said "the arguments of these groups [promoting non-faith education] sounds broadly plausible-replacement of church-run education with standard state education allowing for faith formation outside school time...In our faith schools the ethos of reformed faith runs like a seam-not a 30 minute class that can be easy removed. But at its heart, this is a replacement of one truth in the lives of our children-that there is one Trinitarian God and that salvation is achieved through belief in the sacrifice of Jesus Christ-with another: that there is no God".

In relation to the recommendations of the Citizen's Assembly concerning the Eighth Amendment the Assembly was invited by the Rev'd Dr Trevor Morrow to "express our deep anguish and distress that such legislation and practice should take place on this island in the Republic."

In Northern Ireland PCI will continue its very high profile and well-resourced series of seminars on Faith in the Public Square. These will continue to be hosted in Union Theological College, which institution will also welcome the appointment of a Dr Michael McClenaghan as the new Professor of Systematic Theology to take the place of Dr Stephen Williams who said his farewell and preached a very fine valedictory sermon on

the final day of the GA. Dr McClenaghan has degrees in Jurisprudence and Theology from Oxford and conducted his doctoral research at Yale.

At each year's GA an evening is given over to PCI's Youth Assembly known as "Speaking, participating, understanding, deciding" (SPUD). This year a special presentation was made on research work which had been carried out on the impact of social media on young people and faith formation.

In relation to Brexit the emphasis was placed on "...the challenges to church plant closer to home, right here in Europe, as we see the great need for the re-evangelisation of post-Christendom Europe" (Rev'd Uel Marrs).

As with many of the Christian traditions in Ireland PCI is celebrating the 500th Anniversary of Luther's nailing the 95 Theses to the door of the University Church at Wittenberg by holding a number of events in Dublin, Belfast and Derry. The PCI events will be addressed by Dr Conrad Mwebe, pastor of Kabwata Baptist Church in Zambia.

The Assembly discussed its work in Care Homes (it is major provider in NI particularly) and the challenging atmosphere in which chaplaincy work is carried out in Hospitals, Schools, Third Level Education and Prisons. PCI continues to have a very high level of engagement with government and politics particularly in Northern Ireland.

And finally...

Dr Leonard and I found the 2017 General Assembly welcoming and hospitable as well as engaging and challenging. The Moderator's dinner hosted in a local restaurant on the third day of the Assembly was a welcome occasion to relax any get to know our hosts and fellow gusts a little better.

+John Clogher

September 2017

REPORT ON THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE CHURCH IN WALES (from the Archbishop of Dublin)

The Governing Body of The Church in Wales was held in University of Wales Trinity St David Lampeter during the period 13 and 14 September 2017. The archbishop, who is newly-elected to the position, spoke in his Presidential Address about the need for an inclusive church and invited the Church in Wales to take concrete steps to throw, grow and gather in line with a number of initiatives already in train, notably the development of Ministry Areas (where parishes are expected to work collaboratively in teams within their dioceses) and the implementation of the Eco-Church Guide and Creation Time Resources. As one might expect, the Governing Body was bilingual in Welsh and English; the continuing sense of the Welsh language as giving voice to Welsh Christianity and Welsh Anglicanism came through clearly at many points. Worship was held in the College Chapel: Holy Communion and Morning Prayer. The archbishop of Dublin was invited to preach at Holy Communion; this sermon is enclosed.

After receiving The Report of The Standing Committee, there was a long discussion on the first day about the extension of a period during which the Church in Wales would admit children to Holy Communion. It was agreed that the period be extended until the First Sunday in Advent 2018. The bishops were very clear that it is baptism, not confirmation, that is needed to receive Holy Communion. The Governing Body has an interesting section entitled Question Time. Questions are invited prior to the Meeting, the information being enclosed with the Archbishop's Citation. The chairperson of the Governing Body invites the person most appropriate to answer. Members may submit one question only and ask one supplementary question, if they wish to do so, or make a brief comment on the answer given. There is no scope for debate to follow but a rounded and informative response is given to each of the questions.

The Report of The Representative Body was among the very best I have ever heard at any Synod. This came through in the simplicity of presentation and the pertinence of the information conveyed about financial and property matters. The questions following it were responded to with both clarity and cogency. The Church in Wales marks its centenary of disestablishment in 2020. The archbishop was very clear that a project internal to the church, what he called self-generosity, simply would not be enough. The Province has been focusing in on a long-term project with refugees in and from Syria as a Centenary Project. The Membership and Finance Report raised a number of pertinent issues such as: the statement that the examples of inherited established church that are growing are very few; the question: Are we actually willing to close churches?

There was a fascinating debate on the following motion: 'That the Governing Body, believing that the commitment of men and women who serve in the Armed Forces of the United Kingdom merits a reciprocal obligation to ensure that both they and their families are not disadvantaged.' This arose out of The Armed Forces Covenant for the UK. A number of things emerged. When the proposer had commended those leaving the Armed Forces who wished to form a church connection to the priest in their area, no priest had followed the individuals up. Veterans are getting younger and we have a somewhat out of date picture of veterans as older people. Serving soldiers and veterans carry a damage of which they will almost certainly not be aware and which they will find difficult to accept in the fullness of time. There ensued a well-argued speech about the UK being among a small number of nations, including Syria and North Korea, to enlist sixteen year olds as soldiers. The request was that individual dioceses sign up individually to The Covenant. The bishop of Swansea and Brecon spoke about the devastating effect that the forthcoming closure of The Barracks in Brecon would have on the community and the economy. I wondered if the Church of Ireland, itself also a disestablishment, has explored the application of The Armed Forces Covenant in Northern Ireland which, like Wales, is part of the UK. This might also prompt the Church of Ireland to reflect on this, as a church, in the Republic of Ireland.

The Report on The Eco-Church Guide and Creation Time Resources 2017 was a magnificent presentation and debate led by the bishop of Bangor. He outlined five areas of eco-conscience: worship and teaching; community and global engagement; lifestyle; church property; church land. There are to be three awards: Bronze, Silver and Gold. It is being implemented in each diocese. The Presentation of Tread Lightly on Holy Ground drew everyone in to the drama of ecology. The speaker made the stark statement: in the Western Church, God's work is done; in the Eastern Church, creation is an on-going relationship with God. He went on to explode the myth that there is a place called 'away' in the sense of throwing something away; he also made the point that there are no other resources. Two speakers from the floor said challenging things. One was the question: Can our culture bear not being economically active? The other was the statement: When the church neglects a God-given command, then God calls others outside the church. Haunting and memorable was the quotation from a poem: ... a thick fog settles at the bottom of the valley under construction ... It captured well the unstoppable force of progress economically defined.

The following are observed aspects of The Governing Council. It is small in number, no more than two hundred and fifty, and everyone is residential. By meeting three times a year it regularises business in such a way that there is not the sense of a dramatic build up to something where people get only one chance to speak annually to pulsating issues. Sessions are chaired by clergy and laity; only one was episcopally chaired. All Members eat together without distinction of bishops, clergy and laity. Having previously gone through significant and tense debate about same-gender marriage in church, The Governing Council voted by a majority in favour. The bishops decided not to implement this majority decision but instead to authorise prayers for use. The Members who spoke with me, and themselves volunteered the information, felt that the tension of a number of years had lifted by virtue of the debate and its outcome and because of the way it was taken forward by the bishops. They suggested that the issue had effectively moved off the Agenda. These observations are not made in a comparative spirit with any other synodical gathering but simply are observations made of this Governing Council as attended.

At the end of The Governing Council, I presented the archbishop with a piece of stained glass depicting a Celtic Knot; he told The Governing Council that it would hang in the new Provincial Offices in Cardiff where the staff were moving on Monday September 18th.

MGStAJackson
September 2017

Irish Inter-Church Meeting, November 2017, Report from the Rt Rev John McDowell

This year the Irish Inter-Church Meeting (IICM), which took place in Dromatine from 23rd-24th of November, chose as its theme 'Proclaiming Christ to Families Today'. The

IICM is the annual dialogue between the member churches of the Irish Council of Churches and the Irish Catholic Bishops' Conference, which helps to set the agenda for our work for the coming year. Looking ahead to 2018, when much of the work of the Catholic Bishops' Conference will be focussed on preparations for the hosting of the World Meeting of Families and a possible Papal visit, it made sense to take this as our theme. There was also a strong sense that a focus on the family goes to the heart of so much of what we do in the Inter-Church structures, particularly with some of the social issues that have been high on our agenda in recent years, including homelessness, welfare reform, supporting refugees and migrants as well as mental health and suicide prevention.

Our starting point was a series of theological reflections that underlined the close relationship between families and the Church as a 'family of families'. There was a real value in exploring together what motivates and inspires us in this work, as well as those aspects that challenge and concern us. The pastoral care of the family is a crucial part of what we, as churches, contribute to the wider society. Consequently it was important to open this dialogue to others working in different areas and compare experiences, exploring what we might learn from each other.

In his keynote address, Professor Gordon Harold, Professor of Child and Adolescent Mental Health at the University of Sussex, shared the findings of his research into the impact of inter-parental relationships on the mental health of children and young people. This research, from the field of psychology, affirmed the experience of many of those working in pastoral care for the family in our churches. They have witnessed first-hand the life-changing impact of targeted support for families in key areas, such as marriage counselling, marriage enrichment, parenting courses and bereavement support. Professor Harold was able to demonstrate, with reference to different international contexts, the interconnectedness of this work, arguing, for example, that parenting courses, or child-centred interventions alone, will not be sufficient to change outcomes if the parents are going through relationship problems and the child is witnessing ongoing or poorly resolved conflict. It was reassuring to have this evidence to support the kind of holistic, long-term approach which has been consistently highlighted by churches in our advocacy to Government.

Looking in detail at the Irish context, in both jurisdictions, guided by practitioners from both within and beyond the faith sector, we were challenged to be more proactive in addressing the many ways our society is still failing to protect vulnerable families. If we were to summarise the main message of the day in the headline, it would be "breaking the cycle". Too many parents are not getting the support they need to help their children achieve their full potential, and feel trapped by circumstances beyond their control. Many children growing up in these situations are themselves future parents, at risk of passing on the disadvantage they experience unless they receive the necessary interventions.

We were reminded that our leadership is important because of the Christian values we bring to the debate. If, as Professor Harold's research demonstrates, early intervention is key, then one of the most important contributions we can make is through tackling the stigma that brands families in difficulty as "problem families" and parents who are struggling as "failures". We need to do more to ensure our church communities are a welcoming and safe space for those who need help and support, whether spiritual, emotional or practical, and recognising that a combination of all of these will often be required. This is also true in the case of those for whom the family is not a safe space as a result of domestic violence or other forms of abuse and who need to be supported to protect themselves from harm.

We come away from this dialogue greatly encouraged by our shared sense of mission and values, and inspired by many practical examples of ways we can make a difference. We were also challenged to self-critical reflection on how effectively we are living out the calling to be a family of families in our society today, by speaking out on behalf of those in need and ensuring that in our local church communities they will find love, compassion and acceptance.

Report to the General Synod Standing Committee on the Windsor Conference December 2017

William Olhausen

I was asked to represent the Church of Ireland at the recent CTBI conference entitled: *'Competitively Loved? An Ecumenical Christian Consultation on Theological Language used about the Holy Land'*. It was held at St George's House, Windsor from 6-8 December 2017 and was sponsored by Christian Aid and Churches Together in Britain and Ireland. 33 delegates attended from a range of backgrounds: Christian charities with an interest in the Middle East, World Council of Churches, church leaders with briefs for inter-faith issues, and academics. The conference was chaired by the Anglican bishop of Lichfield, the Rt. Rev Dr Michael Igrave.

The first presentation was given by Dr Anthony O'Mahony (University of London): *'Christianity in Jerusalem and the Wider Holy Land: Modern History and Contemporary Religious and Political Context'*. Much of this was new information to many of us and alerted us all to the rich and complex history of Christianity in the Middle East. One of the perennial themes to emerge from this consultation was the general ignorance in the West (including in the Western Church) of the identity and character of the Christian presence in the Middle East.

The second presentation was given by Dr Munther Isaac, an Evangelical Lutheran minister and assistant professor at Bethlehem Bible College. Dr Isaac has become an important voice for Palestinian Christians on thinking around a theology of land. His lecture was entitled *'A Palestinian Christian Theology of the Land'*. Isaac's thesis draws

on Reformed evangelical readings of the bible that understands Old Testament promises to Abraham fulfilled in Christ, the one who unites both Jew and Gentile in the atoning work of the cross (Eph. 2: 14). Questions of land ownership are therefore not Jewish specific. In any event, promise of land and blessing was predicated on ethical obedience to the covenant – something which the modern state of Israel has not followed sufficiently in her treatment of Palestinians. Isaac is part of a movement on Palestinian Christians who advocate for peace and reconciliation with their Jewish neighbours and is a convenor of *Christ at the Checkpoint*.

The third presentation was given by the deputy general secretary for Churches Together in Britain and Ireland, the Rev Peter Colwell, entitled '*Zionism, Masada and the Promise of Jewish Redemption: Towards a Christian re-appraisal of Zionism*'. This was based on his own doctoral work and draws heavily on the seminal work of Anglican theologian and bishop, Kenneth Cragg. In brief, whilst acknowledging the formative place of Zionism for Jewish self-understanding, Colwell's paper was a critical appraisal of Zionism's philosophical and political roots. A more serious engagement with Zionism can assist in any dialogue with Christian theology. This was a really fascinating paper and raised all sorts of points of contact with the romantic armed revolt tradition in early 20th century Irish nationalism. Hence, there is the Masada myth (GPO?), Romantic nationalism, recovery of a language, the equivalent small group of visionaries akin to the leaders of the 1916 Rising and the inevitable martyrology narratives. The surprise, therefore (given the usual Irish sympathies for the Palestinian cause), was to see in the European Jewish experience many of the same dynamics of Irish nationalism. Not for the first time, the experiences of Irish history can be a very helpful lens through which to look at and understand other conflicts – in this case, Israel Palestine.

The fourth presentation was given by the Rev Ray Gaston, inter-faith advisor for the diocese of Lichfield, '*On Maintaining Vigilance – Challenging Anti-Judaism in Christian Discourse on Zionism and Palestinian Liberation*'. This was another very thought provoking and helpful lecture. Gaston clearly has achieved a level of empathy for the Jewish community that allows him to re-present the Jewish experience for a non-Jewish audience. In my experience this is rare. For a flavour of Gaston's approach this (extended) quote comes from his own abstract: 'This paper argues that the long history of Christian anti-Judaism rooted in the theology of the early church can affect how we engage as Christians with...the right to self-determination expressed in both Zionism and Palestinian Liberation...This is followed by an engagement with different perspectives on narratives of Israel and The Land in the Hebrew Scriptures and understandings of 'Chosenness'. Drawing upon Rabbinic and social scientific interpretation of these texts I seek to demonstrate that these Jewish texts and concepts became appropriated by Christianity and turned into biblical affirmation of the Western colonial project. It is often these interpretations that are taken on by both modern Christian Zionism (that read them positively) and theologies of Palestinian liberation (that read them negatively) in relation to the contemporary state of Israel.' His sensitivity to the real meaning for Jews

of chosenness (election) set against the devastating history of Christian anti-Semitism will remain an essential touch stone for any engagement with the Israel question.

The fifth presentation was given by Dr Clare Amos, Inter-religious programme officer for the World Council of Churches entitled ‘A Nerve Centre of the World’s Religious Life?: The World Council of Churches, and Israel and Palestine. Drawing on her own extensive experience of the Middle East Clare provided some very interesting background history to the ways in which the WCC has engaged with Israel Palestine. A summary of the WCC Policy on Palestine and Israel 1948-2016 accompanied Amos’s commentary. The principle underpinning the approach of the WCC is this: ‘Achieving a just peace under the rule of law is the best and only path towards ensuring the well-being and security of both Palestinians and Israelis’.

The sixth and final presentation was given by Dr Elizabeth Harris, visiting professor, department of theology, philosophy and religious studies, Liverpool Hope University, entitled: ‘Understanding Conflict over Land: Insights from Buddhist Traditions’. Harris drew on her experience of the conflict in Sri Lanka and provided a case study removed from the immediate topic of Israel/Palestine which many found helpful in aiding reflection away from the inevitable visceral sympathies and attitudes many hold concerning questions around the Middle East. Indeed, it is often helpful to think about our own conflict situation by exploring the situation of someone else’s conflict. This is the experience of many people who have studied the Anglican resource ‘land of Promise?’ (see below)

Four thoughts (in no particular order):

1. The Israel Question is really important. Many of the world’s Christian traditions are represented in The Land – as are our close cousins Judaism and Islam. In many ways Jerusalem is not only a religious nerve centre but also a political nerve centre. We were given a clear reminder of this on the first day of the conference when POTUS Donald Trump made his decree on Jerusalem (Wednesday 6th December). At the very least we should take seriously the injunction to pray for the peace of Jerusalem.
2. Irish Christian Christianity has a particular insight to share around questions of conflict, peace and reconciliation. Here in the Dublin Diocese we were able to pilot the excellent Anglican exploration of Christian Zionism entitled ‘Land of Promise?’ This report came out of the work of Nifcon (Anglican Communion Network for Inter Faith Concerns) chaired by our own Archbishop of Dublin, Michael Jackson. In parenthesis, it is worth noting that Archbishop Jackson’s work has been greatly appreciated by many of those I met in Windsor. One of the possible action points from the Windsor conference is to re-issue Land of Promise? for a wider ecumenical audience.
3. On a more academic level, there might be some interesting comparative research to be done on parallels between the beginning of nationalistic Zionism and Irish nationalism. There might also be implications for Loyalism of course.
4. There is no substitute for actually meeting people from Israel Palestine. I would not have been able to engage with this conference as meaningfully had it not been for our own diocesan link with the Jerusalem diocese. It is humbling and saddening to see the

Commission for Christian Unity and Dialogue – Report 2018

way in which British colonialism has often been a contributing factor in multiple world conflicts. However, perhaps as a result of this colonialism, Anglicanism has a particular charism in bridge building between Christian traditions and, by extension, with other faiths. This is something of which we in the Church of Ireland should be particularly proud and something in which we should continue to invest. It really is important for us to continue to be an outward looking church. There is so much to do and we have so much to offer – even for a small community.

William Olhausen

January 2018

Topics on which discussion would be particularly welcome:

1. Suggestions of ways to engage children in regular Sunday worship and seasonal occasions
2. Suggestions for online resources for pastoral, congregational and personal use

LITURGICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

REPORT 2018

MEMBERSHIP ELECTED 2016

Rt Rev Dr Harold Miller (Chair)
Very Rev Gerald Field (Hon. Secretary)
Ven Ricky Rountree
Very Rev Nigel Dunne
Rev Alan Ruffli
Rev Dr Peter Thompson
Rev Robert Ferris

Rev Ken Rue
Rev Julie Bell
Rev Abigail Sines
Rev Nigel Pierpoint
Rev Jonny Campbell-Smyth
Mrs Jacqueline Mullen
Mr John Morris

Co-opted Members:

Rev Canon Michael Kennedy
Rev Adrian Dorrian

Consultants:

Ven Garry Hastings
Mrs Alison Cadden
Mr Richard Ryan

Church of Ireland Theological Institute Observer:

Dr Bridget Nichols (2017)

Church of Ireland Theological Institute Student Observer:

Ms Karen Salmon (2017)

Methodist Church Observer:

Rev Ruth Patterson (2017)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The Committee has met three times in the past year, comprising a one-day and two two-day meetings, once again giving members the opportunity to work on the large number of resources in draft form, and for a more in-depth evaluation of the LAC's role in the light of any requests from General Synod and members of the Church of Ireland.

The continuing aim of the LAC is the provision of quality liturgical resources worthy of the Church of Ireland, and worthy of the glory of the God whom we serve.

Liturgical Advisory Committee – Report 2018

The objectives for the coming year will be

- to continue working with Historical Centenaries Working Group of the General Synod in the preparation of liturgical resources to meet their requirements
- the revision of the *Book of Common Prayer 2004* in preparation for reprinting and the provision of *Morning & Evening Prayer for Use on Sunday*
- to continue developing projects in the area of formation and electronic liturgical resources
- to develop bi-lingual liturgical resources in collaboration with *Cumann Gaelach na hEaglaise*
- to develop and publish liturgical resources for use in the event of suicide and perinatal and infant death
- to represent the Church of Ireland at the Four Nations Liturgical Group (a conference of representatives from the Liturgical committees of the Anglican churches in Ireland, Scotland, England and Wales) and the International Anglican Liturgical Consultation which meets in January 2019.

REPORT:

The past year has seen the production of music and liturgical resources in both printed and on-line format, and continuing work on developing new liturgies.

Our work in providing liturgies pertinent to the decade of commemorative celebrations has continued, as has work on the corrections and additions to the *Book of Common Prayer 2004* in anticipation of its re-print.

A new sub-committee set up to work with the Children’s Ministry Network has begun exploring resources for worship with children.

The Resources sub-committee has furthered the work begun on an order of *Morning and Evening Prayer for Use on Sundays*, in conjunction with a series of *Collects of the Word*.

A series of *Orders of Service for the Commemoration of Celtic Saints*, prepared by Rev Dr Michael Kennedy, and based on the work of Archbishop Simms and Rev Canon Brian Mayne, have been formatted in the style of the *Book of Common Prayer* and published as an on-line liturgical resources at

<https://www.ireland.anglican.org/prayer-worship/worship-resources/commemorations-of-saints-and-others>.

Whilst the work of the Liturgical Advisory Committee relies to some extent upon the initiative of its members to implement the objectives set out by the General Synod, we are grateful to all those who over the past year have identified ways in which we may support them in their ministry of worship.

MUSIC:

The past year has focused on the continued dissemination and promotion of *Thanks & Praise*, and the associated suite of resources. Work has also begun to address identified difficulties with old recordings of church music and issues surrounding the further provision of recorded church music.

Following correspondence on the subject of the Canticles we have started a process of creating resources to equip church musicians in this area. A survey has been prepared and circulated to all clergy, and this will inform the direction of this work. We anticipate the publication of resources in 2019.

Reviewing the considerable amount of resources produced in recent years a process of creating a church music hub on the website is being considered, which will draw together information on all the books and recordings created over the past decade on one easily accessible page.

LITURGICAL RESOURCES:

This sub-committee is continuing its work to resource orders of service for use during the various centenary celebrations through 2014-2022.

Requests for the provision of suitable prayers and liturgies for use in two sensitive pastoral areas have been under consideration during the past year. Firstly, a *Naming Service and Funeral Service in the Cases of Miscarriage or Stillbirth* will come before General Synod as a Resolution this year, leading to a Bill in 2019. Secondly, pastoral resources in the circumstance of suicide are an area the LAC will be working on this year, and it is hoped to produce these as on-line resources.

An order for *Morning and Evening Prayer for use on Sundays* to supplement that offered for Daily Prayer in the *Book of Common Prayer 2004* has been prepared and, following last year's Resolution, comes before General Synod in the form of a Bill for approval this year.

As reported last year, the LAC agreed with its Chair that there is need for such a provision, not least because many at parish level have been saying that the present format of Morning Prayer, originally designed to be a daily office, does not always make for enriching Sunday worship. This version of Morning and Evening Prayer is more reflective and more aligned with the pattern of *Holy Communion Two*, namely, of Gathering, Proclaiming and Receiving the Word, a Response and Going Out As God's People.

Seasonal Material has also been produced for use with *Morning and Evening Prayer for Use on Sundays*. The LAC is requesting the House of Bishops to allow the experimental use of such material for a period of seven years, to ascertain its suitability.

In conjunction with *Morning and Evening Prayer for Use on Sundays* a new set of *Collects of the Word*, prayers written in the context of *The Table of Readings: The Revised Common Lectionary Adapted for Use in the Church of Ireland*, for use before or

after the sermon, have been compiled and will be produced (subject to copyright) in various forms.

Holy Communion by Extension for Persons Unable to be Present at the Public Celebration

After 12 years of experimental use the rite of *Holy Communion by Extension for Persons Unable to be Present at the Public Celebration* is now being presented as a Resolution to General Synod 2018 leading to a Bill in 2019. While this rite is primarily intended for use with those who are sick, it may on occasion be used with individuals who for a reasonable cause cannot be present at a public celebration of the Holy Communion. This service has commended itself in many parishes and has been widely used in some areas.

This rite enriches the pastoral and worship life of a parish, allowing both the isolated person receiving this ministry and the worshipping church congregation to have a greater involvement and appreciation. Those who are commissioned from the congregation to carry this ministry are sent out by the congregation. The recipient of the ministry is encouraged to prepare for its arrival, which can be enriched by an earlier provision of the church service sheet and readings, allowing an even deeper appreciation of being part of something greater than just an individual visit. Completely distinct from the above is...

Public Worship with Holy Communion by Extension

The House of Bishops have also asked the Liturgical Advisory Committee to devise a rite of *Public Worship with Holy Communion by Extension*. This rite is intended for use where the provision of a full celebration of Holy Communion by a priest is not possible in a parish church, chapel or cathedral. The bishops are being requested to give permission for experimental use of this rite for some years to come.

ELECTRONIC LITURGY & WORSHIP WEB PAGE:

The initial problems with the Worship webpage when the Church of Ireland website was updated seem to have abated, and where any subsequent difficulties have been notified to the Committee they have been rectified.

Work continues in exploring a cost-effective way in which people can access Daily Prayer from a mobile device in conjunction with the Central Communications Board.

The LAC wishes to reiterate that the work of maintaining and updating the liturgical resources on the Worship webpage is time-consuming and is undertaken on a voluntary basis by people already committed in other areas of ministry. As such we are grateful to those who are kind enough to point out any errors that may occur, and for the patience of users of the site whilst corrections, updates and improvements are made.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY:

The purpose of the Children's Ministry Sub-committee is to examine and recommend how to make church worship more accessible to children. The sub-committee believes that local churches would appreciate guidance and case studies on best practice, rather than prescriptive absolute templates. This recognises the diversity of contexts of parishes

Liturgical Advisory Committee – Report 2018

across Ireland. Therefore the sub-committee aims to now provide these guidelines and case studies in a variety of contexts (rural, inner-city churches, cathedrals etc.). To this end the sub-committee proposes to examine how to engage children in:

- a) Regular Sunday worship
- b) Services involving sacraments of baptism and Holy Communion
- c) Other seasonal occasions
- d) *Morning & Evening Prayer for Use on Sunday*

FUTURE PLANS:

Our future plans include:

- Endeavouring to provide resources for the various centenary celebrations with the assistance of other appropriate persons.
- Furthering development of the worship section of the website.
- Publication of commentary on Singing Psalms.
- Production of a User Guide to Canticles
- Continuing to resolve technological issues with old CDs and modern technology in respect of Recorded Church Music.
- Exploring the creation of church music hub drawing all resources together in one place.
- Furthering the collaboration with Cumann Gaelach na hEaglaise on Irish liturgical texts
- Complete the provision of suitable prayers and liturgies for use in the circumstance of suicide
- Complete the provision of suitable prayers and liturgies for use in the circumstance of miscarriage or stillbirth.
- A continued representation of the Church of Ireland in the wider national and international liturgical fora, so that resources and ideas which might be of value in the celebration of our liturgy are available for use from the wider Church.
- Furthering the provision of on-line resources for pastoral, congregational and personal use.

As noted previously in this report, the work of the Liturgical Advisory Committee is dependent to a large extent upon the needs of parishes and worship co-ordinators being identified and communicated to it. Once again we would encourage those involved in planning worship to advise the committee, through the Honorary Secretary (honsec.lac@gmail.com), of any resources they feel the Liturgical Advisory Committee may be able to help provide.

RESIGNATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS:

The Committee wishes to express its appreciation of the contributions made by those who served as Observers on the LAC. Dr Bridget Nichols has replaced Rev Canon Patrick Comerford as CITI Staff Observer and Ms Karen Salmon replaced Dr Ian Mills as CITI Student Observer.

The role of Rev Richard Clutterbuck within the Methodist Church necessitated his resignation, the Rev Ruth Patterson taking over as Methodist Observer.

Topic on which discussion would be particularly welcome

How do we apply the Five Marks of Mission in our dioceses, parishes and our everyday lives?

- To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom
- To teach, baptise and nurture new believers
- To respond to human need by loving service
- To transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and pursue peace and reconciliation
- To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation, and sustain and renew the life of the earth

Bonds of Affection (1984, ACC-6, p.49); *Mission in a Broken World* (1990, ACC-8, p.101)

THE CHURCH OF IRELAND COUNCIL FOR MISSION

REPORT 2018

MEMBERSHIP (JANUARY 2017)

Rt Rev Ferran Glenfield	House of Bishops
Rev Adam Pullen (Hon Chair)	Synod
Rev Cliff Jeffers (Hon Secretary)	Synod
Ms Johanne Martin	Synod
Rev Andrew Quill	Synod
Ms Emma Lynch	AMS
Ms Jenny Smyth	AMS
Ms Catherine Little	AMS (from Nov 2017)
Rev Colin Hall-Thompson	AMS/Connor
Ms Lydia Monds	Bishops' Appeal
Rev Dr Paddy McGlinchey	CITI (from Nov 2017)
Mr Steve Gresham	CIYD / Meath (from Nov 2017)
Rev Dr Laurence Graham	Methodist Church
Mrs Ruth Mercer	Mothers' Union
Mr Thomas Stevenson	Armagh
Rev Patrick Burke	Cashel / Synod
Rev Canon Ian Jonas	Cork
Very Rev Kenneth Hall	Clogher
Rev Canon Derek Quinn	Derry & Raphoe
Ms Julie Currie	Down & Dromore & Synod
Dr Trevor Buchanan	Down & Dromore Alternate
Mr Derek Neilson (Hon. Treasurer)	Dublin
Ms Erin Moorcroft	Kilmore
Ven Wayne Carney	Limerick & Killaloe
Rev Stephen McWhirter	Tuam

Church of Ireland Council for Mission – Report 2018

According to the constitution of the Council, each diocese is entitled to nominate a representative and an alternate. Alternates attend when the principal representative is unable to. Some members represent more than one possible constituency.

The Council for Mission meets 4-5 times per year, usually at the Emmaus Retreat Centre in Swords, Co. Dublin.

Changes in Representation since January 2017

Rev Cliff Jeffers took over the role of Hon Secretary from June 2017. Ms Catherine Little from the Bible Society for Northern Ireland joined as a representative from AMS, Rev Dr Paddy McGlinchey (CITI) and Mr Steve Graham (CITI) became the representatives for CITI and CIYC in November 2017. Cork Alternate Canon Ian Jonas replaced Rev Eileen Cremin in February 2018 as the representative.

March 2017 Meeting

At our meeting in March 2017, we had a presentation by Dr Laurence Graham, Methodist Church in Ireland, where he discussed his recent visit to Haiti – ‘New Growth in Haiti’ The 2012 Earthquake killed 250,000, injured 300,000 left over 1m homeless and affected 3m.

Everybody is working even though the official economy is nearly non-existent – scraping along, with few beggars. Housing is a huge issue; many make shift shacks, or block built on a hillside. Eighty per cent of the landscape is steep mountains and difficult to cultivate. His visit marked the 200-year anniversary of Methodism in Haiti. In the aftermath of the hurricane, Methodist churches sent money, and convoys of needed supplies. They are still sending food and seeds (if it were only seeds, they’d be eaten as there is no food otherwise).

The Council thanked Dr Graham for his interesting presentation; and expressed the view that the MCI is doing God's work in the region.

General Synod - Mission Breakfast 2017

Eddie Lyle from Open Doors agreed the speaker was excellent – particularly in the way he emphasized mission rather than necessarily promoting his own organization. You can read more about this and see and interview with Eddie on the Council for Mission page under ‘General Synod and its committees’ section of the Church of Ireland Website.

Our speaker for the mission breakfast for 2018 is the Rev Dr Laurence Graham, and he will speak on the topic of “**The 5 Marks of Mission in action around the world**” from his experience in Ireland and from travelling around the world as the President of the Methodist Church in Ireland. This will take place on Friday 11th May from 8-9.30am in the Fisher 1 suite of the Armagh City Hotel.

Council for Mission: Re-Envisioning Retreat facilitated by Rev Earl Storey

The members of the Council for Mission invited the Rev Earl Storey to lead them at a residential meeting in CITI on the 21st & 22nd of September 2017. The purpose was to bring clarity to their role within the Church of Ireland and to focus on how this could be achieved in the coming years. Over the two days they reflected on their role as given to them by General Synod, and how they could best serve the church encouraging us all forward in mission, both at home and overseas.

Earl was an excellent facilitator and drew out, with God’s help, the potential for mission in our church. The following were the main outcomes of their reflections:

1. We started with looking at developing **an agreed understanding of mission**, and after much discussion and analysis, discovered that all of our suggestions fitted into the ‘5 Marks of Mission’. That mission is undertaken both overseas and in our own locality. It was decided that we should prioritise Marks 1 & 2 (Proclamation and Discipleship) as these are the foundation from which we serve to fulfil the mission of God. As a Church we felt that we more readily applied ourselves to the more active Marks of Mission (3-Loving Service, 4-Transforming unjust structures and 5-Safeguarding creation) and that these also needed to be highlighted and encouraged.
2. We then looked at **the Council for Mission’s role within the Church of Ireland**, and that we have been uniquely tasked by General Synod to reflect on the Mission of the Church, and to remind the Church of our call to mission. We noted that there has been a rise in the awareness of the mission of the Church in recent years and this is to be celebrated and encouraged. The rise in awareness needs to be followed through so that a corresponding increase of awareness and action is encouraged at the diocesan and parish levels. We examined the resources that are available to us, financial, personnel and the various agencies of the church that can help with our task as well as the limits to what a committee can achieve with finite resources. We also explored what would be considered measures of success and how these could be measured.
3. The third step of the process was to set **priorities for the next 3 to 5 years**. The role of the Council for Mission has been given by General Synod, and it is the Council’s responsibility to continue to encourage and highlight the centrality of Mission in the life of our church. This is to be brought forward by Inspiring, Resourcing, Encouraging and Equipping the Church in mission. To make the most of the new methods of communication (i.e. Social Media) but not neglecting the traditional methods of keeping the focus on mission alive through the more traditional channels (e.g. *Gazette*, diocesan magazines and publications). It was decided to have ‘champions’ from the Council for Mission for each of the 5 Marks of Mission to keep the focus on each of these aspect of Mission within our church. It was also decided to produce a **booklet of Mission Stories** highlighting the 5 Marks of mission to Church of Ireland through the General Synod, which will be **launched**

and circulated at General Synod 2018, with the purpose of celebrating and encouraging all of us to be active in the Mission of the Church.

Following on from our residential in CITI in September 2017, it was decided that a **renewed focus on prayer for mission was needed**. We decided that before we considered our response to Earl Storey’s report from the September residential, we should start with an evening of prayer, seeking God’s guidance and direction before going on to extract our priorities and actions for the future. This evening was facilitated by Rev Adam Pullen, using prayer stations for each of the 5 Marks of mission. The focus on seeking God’s guidance and direction resulted in a very unified and clear way being decided upon, as well as making prayer and worship a priority at the beginning of each of our meetings throughout the year.

We look forward to a bringing forward the objectives of the Council for Mission with new clarity and purpose as we continue to nudge and encourage the church forward in mission, both at home and overseas.

AMS Report for Council for Mission Report to General Synod 2018

The Association of Mission Societies (AMS) has appreciated the opportunity to encourage mission in the Church of Ireland again this year, particularly through our involvement with the Council for Mission. A highlight of the year was the opportunity to participate in the Council for Mission residential in September to reflect and discern the calling and role of the Council for Mission.

For members the greatest value of AMS is the fellowship, friendship and interchange between the Mission Agencies. A number of member agencies would not be able to participate as fully in Church of Ireland Mission without participation in AMS and the peer support it provides. Combined initiatives during the year included the Missions Zone at General Synod in May and participation in the Missions Breakfast at General Synod.

A new joint initiative in 2017 was the AMS Advent Carol Service held in St Anne’s Cathedral Belfast. The service provided a wonderful opportunity to share information about the work of AMS members to a wider audience of individuals who are already invested in the work of mission. We hope that the AMS Advent Carol Service will take place in other locations in the future.

AMS members meet 3 times a year, 2 of which meetings are located at CITI. AMS deeply appreciate this connection with CITI and the valuable opportunity to preach at Chapel to encourage Mission amongst students twice a year. We look forward to continuing this relationship and to working with Council for Mission in the coming year to encourage mission within the Church of Ireland.

Combined Report from the Dioceses

A survey through the representatives from the diocese provided the following snapshot of the mission activity in the 12 dioceses of the Church of Ireland. Overall there is a wide variety of missional activity happening all around the parishes and dioceses, with exciting initiatives taking place in parishes all around the island of Ireland. The Council for

Church of Ireland Council for Mission – Report 2018

Mission's Mission Booklet, launched at General Synod this year, gives examples of some of these exciting initiatives.

Almost every diocese has an overseas diocesan mission project, many of which involve a two-way partnership of support and learning. Two-way learning is to be greatly encouraged, along with exchange visits where collaborative learning can take place. Most overseas links are with African Dioceses, and a few dioceses also have three-way links with dioceses in the USA and Africa, and one with a link with Jerusalem.

In the past each diocese had their own Diocesan Council for Mission (or equivalent), whose role was to oversee and encourage the home and overseas mission activity in a diocese and encourage diocesan level events and arrange training, support and encouragement. At present only half (6) of the dioceses have Diocesan Mission Councils, and of these only 4 are active and meeting regularly.

The Council for Mission wants to encourage all members of Synod to familiarise themselves with the 5 Marks of Mission, and to see how these can be used to stimulate missional activity in their dioceses and parishes. Let us be encouraged by Jesus' instruction to his disciples, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you' (John 20v21).

Topics on which discussion would be particularly welcome:

1. Development of retreat opportunities, especially for lay people;
2. Implementation of Ordained Local Ministry;
3. Nurturing vocations;
4. Clergy tenure; charting a wise way forward;

COMMISSION ON MINISTRY

REPORT 2018

1. Membership

House of Bishops

The Rt Rev Michael Burrows (Chair)

Standing Committee

Venerable Brian Harper

General Synod - Clerical

Venerable Terence Scott
Very Rev Katharine Poulton
Rev Anne Skuse

Pensions Board

Ms Judith Peters

General Synod - Lay

Mrs Ruth Galbraith
Mrs Heather Carson
Captain George Newell

The Representative Church Body

Ms Hazel Corrigan
Venerable Leslie Stevenson

Honorary Secretaries

Rev Canon Gillian Wharton

Director of Theological Institute

Rev Canon Dr Maurice Elliott

Central Director of Ordinands

Rev Canon David Gillespie

Co-opted

Rev Ruth Jackson Noble
Mr Philip McKinley
Rev Barry Forde

2. Terms of Reference

The Commission on Ministry was established by the General Synod in 1996. In accordance with its terms of reference, the Commission makes recommendations concerning Christian Ministry, both lay and ordained. This includes the deployment of stipendiary and non-stipendiary clergy appropriate to the requirements of the Church of Ireland in the future. Matters relating to ministry may be referred to the

Commission by the archbishops and bishops, the Standing Committee and the Representative Church Body.

3. Summary

The Commission concentrated on the following issues:

- Retirement planning for clergy and spouses;
- Mid-ministry vocation programme for clergy;
- Development of a centre of community prayer, retreat, hospitality and study and the actual provision of retreat opportunities;
- Ordained Local Ministry;
- Nurturing vocations;
- Clergy tenure;
- Boards of Nomination procedure;
- Celebrating the ministry of the laity.

Retirement planning for clergy and spouses

The Commission, with the support of the RCB, continues to plan pre-retirement courses every second year. The 2018 course took place in the City North Hotel, Co Meath on 26 and 27 April 2018. As well as addressing practical issues for clergy and spouses, the course enables reflection on the sustaining of intellectual and spiritual life in retirement.

Mid-ministry vocation programme for clergy

These residential opportunities are also provided every second year. In May 2017, a two-day retreat took place in the Church of Ireland Theological Institute, and the opportunity to attend was offered to those ordained for seven years or more. Participants were highly appreciative of this opportunity for vocational refreshment and fellowship.

Development of a centre for community prayer, retreat, hospitality and study; and the actual provision of retreat opportunities

In 2015, the General Synod, on the initiative of the Commission, passed a resolution encouraging the investigation of the feasibility of providing a place of community prayer and retreat in the Church of Ireland. With the support of the Priorities Fund, a Scoping Study was undertaken and the results were presented to the 2017 General Synod. While there appeared to be significant and growing demand for such a facility, some reservations were also expressed regarding the financial prudence of proceeding in this direction. At the close of the Synod debate, a motion was passed

requesting the RCB to consider the findings of the Study in the context of their stewardship of the Church’s assets.

Subsequently, the RCB wrote to the Commission suggesting that the vision of a centre for retreat and study might best be pursued through utilisation of the existing assets of the Church, particularly CITI. This recommendation has led to conversations between representatives of the Commission and the staff of CITI and the RCB Library. While there are practical limitations on how CITI might develop its role in this area, most particularly, the availability of bedroom accommodation, it is agreed that some exploratory initiatives will be taken and contact will be maintained with the RCB concerning how CITI might best serve the wider Church in this regard. One interim plan is to use CITI as the base for a Holy Week retreat aimed especially at young people, in 2019.

Meanwhile, the Commission is continuing to ‘test the water’ with regard to assessing the demand for retreat opportunities across the Church for both clergy and lay people led by Dr Bridget Nichols of CITI.

In November 2017, the Commission on Ministry organized its first retreat. This was in response to the encouragement received from the scoping study on retreats which the Commission had undertaken in recent years. Those who had indicated an interest in retreats in the questionnaire undertaken as part of the study were contacted, and the retreat was advertised widely.

‘A Handful of Light’ took place over two days in the retreat centre at Dromantine, near Newry. Led by Canon Michael Mitton, a regular leader of retreats, both in the UK and in Ireland, the retreat consisted of reflective talks, periods of silence, times of sharing and social interaction.

Those who came were from diverse backgrounds, and from different parts of the country. Some had attended retreats regularly; some were attending for the first time. All who came enjoyed the experience, welcomed that the retreat was specifically for Church of Ireland members and indicated that they would come to such a retreat again. It is anticipated that the next retreat will be held in November 2018 at a venue to be decided.

It is planned to hold a further pre-Advent retreat at the same venue in 2018, and it is hoped that the level of interest in such events will continue to grow and to have a significant ripple effect in the spiritual life of the Church.

Ordained Local Ministry (OLM)

Selection and training for this new pathway for ordained ministry in the Church of Ireland is now essentially in the hands of the bishops and the Commission is glad to see its work moving towards fruition. It is observing developments with prayerful interest, conscious that, as in all cases of vocation to priesthood, selection must be rigorous and the context for the outworking of OLM must be appropriate. The Commission believes that OLM offers the possibility to enrich the sacramental and

pastoral life of the Church, particularly in contexts such as small congregations and pioneer ministries.

The Commission also notes the position of the bishops that the distinctive character of OLM means that there should be no assumed pathway from OLM to stipendiary ministry (Communication from the House of Bishops, GS 2016, Dún Laoghaire [HoB 2016/001]). The Commission also affirms the importance of continuing to cherish the distinctive ministry of readers within the Church of Ireland.

Nurturing vocations

As plans for OLM get off the ground, it is right to reflect on how an atmosphere is created within the Church where all forms of vocation, particularly to ordained ministry, can be heard and progressed. In January 2018, the Central Director of Ordinands, Canon David Gillespie, organised a seminar at CITI for DDOs and others who have key roles around the Church in the nurturing of vocation. The seminar was facilitated by Mr Philip McKinley and discussion was both insightful and encouraging. Issues of concern included the less than balanced geographical provenance of ordination candidates, and the relatively small number of women now exploring stipendiary ministry. There was particular discussion concerning the degree to which it was possible for serving clergy to convey, particularly to young people, that the life and work of a Christian priest remains attractive, worthwhile, intellectually challenging, yet essentially joyful.

The Commission will continue to explore means to bring these to the attention of the wider Church.

Clergy Tenure

Synod discussion in 2017 in response to the Commission's Report led to a sense that the issue of tenure in the Church of Ireland, particularly that of incumbents, might require review. There is no doubt that security of tenure, in most cases, enables and liberates ministry, but there are times when there needs to be a proper balance between security and accountability. The Commission on Ministry had explored the issue previously at the millennium. In the 1940s, the General Synod had accepted that in the Church of Ireland the term 'freehold' was, in fact, a misnomer. While incumbents enjoy considerable security, aspects of their terms and conditions may be altered by the Synod. Thus, it was possible, for example, to introduce a mandatory retirement age which applied even to clergy in service at the time this change was made.

The Commission invited the Rev Paul Benfield, Registrar of the Diocese of Blackburn, to make a presentation concerning the implementation of the system known as 'common tenure' in the Church of England. Mr Benfield is also a barrister-at-law, and was himself among the legal architects of the common tenure arrangements. Under common tenure, clergy remain office-holders, but are treated as employees for certain revenue and other purposes. While they have, for example, defined time off, they are also obliged to participate in regular ministry review.

The encounter with Paul Benfield was candid and thorough. The Commission felt that, attractive as aspects of common tenure might be on the surface, it is not necessarily the ideal way forward in terms of the actual issues facing the Church of Ireland. Most of our clergy are incumbents with considerable rights. Paul Benfield argued that common tenure originated as a means of improving the security of non-beneficed clergy and is not inevitably a useful tool by which to address issues such as, admittedly rare, cases of pastoral breakdown in parishes, nor does it guarantee enhanced self-care and morale amongst the clergy.

While it is continuing its investigation of the common tenure model, the Commission takes the view that certain issues of accountability and clergy welfare might best be addressed through relatively modest amendment and clarification of existing provisions in the Constitution, Canons and policies of the Church. The Commission intends to work in the coming year, with suitable expert guidance, on this basis. Areas to be addressed might include:

- The content and implications of the Declarations made by clergy prior to ordination, institution and licensing;
- Requirements and opportunities in the areas of occupational health, mental wellbeing and professional self-development among clergy;
- The definition and resolution of pastoral breakdown;
- The formal understanding of Visitation on the part of bishops and archdeacons when decisive intervention is required in situations of conflict or dysfunction.

The Commission also notes that a number of arrangements for ministerial services have emerged that fall between contracts for services and the provisions for clergy appointment contained in the Constitution, and this situation may require further attention in the light of experience.

Boards of Nomination Procedure

During discussion of the issue of tenure, it was noted that while Boards of Nomination involve the shared vision and insights of bishop, wider diocese and parochial representatives concerning future ministry in a parish during a vacancy, there is no mechanism for reviewing and renewing such partnership of purpose during what may thereafter be a lengthy incumbency. It is suggested that, without undermining the position of incumbents, it might be possible from time to time, for rectors to engage in a creative, yet critical, review of their ministry in partnership with parish and diocese in order to maintain shared vision and momentum. In this context, the duty of bishops to maintain constant informal empathetic conversation with clergy was also stressed.

Varying approaches across the Church to procedures at Boards of Nomination were also discussed. While these bodies are highly confidential and discussion of their proceedings can be but anecdotal and speculative, there may be room for issuing to dioceses, some suggestions for discussion concerning good practice for the operation

Commission on Ministry – Report 2018

of Boards of Nomination in our time. To have some measure of consistency of practice in this area, subject to the Constitution, may prove both timely and helpful.

Celebrating the Ministry of the Laity

The Commission is always mindful that ministry is a calling for all, that lay ministry is to be celebrated and nurtured and that the gifts of the laity are to be affirmed. This report has, of its nature, been largely about clerical issues and we recognise that, in future years, more time must be devoted to lay ministry and spirituality. Current emphasis on accessible opportunities for retreat for lay people and our desire to affirm lay people in their vital role as members of Boards of Nomination are evidence of its priority.

Staff Matters

The Commission wishes to place on record its gratitude to Mrs Sandra Massey for her remarkable service as its Secretary up to her retirement in December 2017. Sandra constantly went beyond the call of duty in her always-friendly assistance of our work; she was a model of efficiency, attention to detail and diligence. We wish her every blessing in the new chapter of her life.

Topics on which discussion would be particularly welcome:

1. Marriage Preparation
2. Marriage Counselling

CHURCH OF IRELAND MARRIAGE COUNCIL

REPORT 2018

MEMBERSHIP

Appointed by the House of Bishops

Member of the House of Bishops: Most Rev Pat Storey (Bishop of Meath & Kildare)

Observer: Rt Rev Alan Abernethy (Bishop of Connor)

Elected by General Synod

Rev John Ardis (Chairman)

Ms Sarah Bevan

Rev Jonathan Campbell-Smyth

Rev Stephen Farrell

Rev Nicola Halford

Ms Lynn Heber

Ms Jennifer O'Regan

Rev Canon Lynda Peilow (Honorary Secretary)

In attendance

Ms Aisling Sheridan

New initiatives: a Clergy Questionnaire on marriage preparation and counselling and the possibility of a resource pack for separated and divorced people.

Membership: The Marriage Council welcomed the Most Rev Pat Storey as the representative from the House of Bishops to the September meeting.

The aim of the Marriage Council is to resource the Church as it supports marriage and family life.

Resources that are available include:

- Marriage Preparation & Counselling;
- Support Groups for Separated and Divorced Couples;
- Clergy Training in Pastoral Care of Marriage and Family Life To-day;
- Clergy Couples Retreat;
- Articles on Marriage and Family Related issues;
- Our website (towardsmarriageireland.com) has helpful resources for couples planning their wedding.

Marriage Preparation & Counselling

The demand for marriage preparation and counselling has been steady over the last year. *Túsla*, the Family Support Agency, has once again given funding towards marriage counselling and invited the Marriage Council to engage in discussions on a corporate plan for the years 2018-2020. The Council is exploring ways to reach clergy to encourage couples to attend pre-marriage courses. One initiative was to invite clergy to complete a questionnaire on the different ways they offer preparation.

The Marriage Council is also looking into helping Northern Ireland clergy to find organisations that will assist with marriage preparation. One of these organisations is *Care for the Family NI (Focus on the Family RI)* who will be invited to speak to the Council once the results of the questionnaire are finalised.

- Ms Sarah Bevan (Dublin) Tel: 087 2469787
- Ms Nadine Brooker (Dublin) Tel: 085 7467638
- Ms Eleanor Cobb (Kildare/Carlow/Laois) Tel: 086 6032739
- Ms Lynne Heber (North West) Tel: 02880758570/07787803343
- Ms Dianne Morris (Dublin) Tel: 086 2566895
- Ms Sylvia Helen (Cork) Tel: 086 3230805
- Ms Shona Rusk (Dublin) Tel: 086 8217486

Marriage Council Funding

Although *Túsla* have once again provided funding towards marriage counselling, we have seen substantial cuts over the years. The overall *Túsla* grant in the Republic of Ireland has been reduced gradually from €40,000 to €5,000. Whilst this provides a great challenge, no one is ever turned away, even if they cannot afford to contribute to the cost of the counselling session.

Marriage Council Survey

During the month of February 2017, the Marriage Council, through the Diocesan Offices, requested all incumbents to provide information via a survey website on how they currently facilitate marriage preparation for couples who come to them. The survey also examined what support clergy give to couples going through separation or divorce. Following from this survey the Council met in November 2017 to discuss the future direction of the Council.

Marriage Council Away Day

Bishop Storey kindly opened her home to members for a one-day meeting in November 2017. Over the course of the day the group reflected on how the Council had developed since its formation, what work the council presently performs, and on what it should focus in the future. As a Council, we decided that we should focus primarily on clergy training and resourcing, couples' counselling and marriage preparation, as well as

supporting clergy in their own marriages. It was generally felt that the day brought greater clarity about the role of the Council, and also helped us to reevaluate and focus our priorities for the future. The group were pleased to come away with a number of different attainable goals. The progress of the goals will be reviewed and monitored throughout the year.

Support Groups for Separated and Divorced people

Meetings have taken place in local hotels in Limerick and Cork. The Council is currently investigating a resource pack run by *Caring Ministries* which reaches out to people who have been divorced. DivorceCare groups meet every weekly to help those who have been through divorce. Each group is facilitated by a locally trained group.

The Pastoral Care of Marriage and Family Life To-day

This course for clergy sprang from the “Contemporary Couples” course and has been well received by clergy. A course was run in Cork in 2016 and again was well supported. It is planned to run a course in Dublin in 2018.

Connor Clergy Couples Retreat

Over a number of years the Council, with the co-operation of a number of diocese,s have run a clergy couples’ weekend. This was borne out of a questionnaire to clergy and spouses asking how the Council could support them. The retreat was to be held in the Hilton Belfast Templepatrick Hotel in February 2018, and the cost was to be covered by the Diocese of Connor, the Marriage Council and participants. Rev Campbell-Smyth and his wife Alison were to be the facilitators for the week-end. Unfortunately due to a low registration, this event had to be postponed and the Marriage Council will further discuss throughout 2018 how the clergy couples’ retreat may look in the future.

Retirement

After 18 years of service at the RCB, with many of those serving on the Marriage Council, this year saw the retirement of Sandra Massey. We wish to place our thanks for all of her work throughout the years and wish her the very best for her retirement.

Website

The website continues to be updated and The Marriage Council also has a page on Facebook. Rev John Ardis maintains the website and the Council would like to thank him for his continued work on this. The website contains practical advice on planning a wedding in the Church of Ireland. Information on the requirement for a marriage licence and other related matters can also be found on the website. The address is: www.towardsmarriageireland.com