

**Churches
in Ireland**
Connecting
in Christ

**Irish Council
of Churches**



2011
Annual Report

CONTENTS

Core Reports

President's
— Observations
04.....*Most Rev. Richard Clarke*

Honorary Treasurer
— Report Year 2011
06.....*Robert Cochran*

Executive Officer
— Report
07.....*Mervyn McCullagh*

IICM
— Report
20.....*Philip McKinley*

Boards and Forums

Overseas Affairs
— Board Report
16.....*Rev Colin Campbell*

Church in Society
— Forum
16.....*Eileen Gallagher*

Theology
— Forum
18.....*Gillian Kingston*

Projects

Ecumenical Officer
— Project
10.....*Philip McKinley*

Integration Officer
— Project
13.....*Adrian Cristea*

Associated Organisations

Women's Link
— Update
22.....*Joyce Bond*

AICCMR
— Story and History
24.....*Sr. Joan Roddy*

Christian Aid
— Update
26.....*Margaret Boden*

CTBI
— Update
28.....*Canon Bob Fyffe*

ICC CONSTITUENT COMMUNIONS 2011

	Year Joined ICC
Church of Ireland	1923
Methodist Church in Ireland	1923
Moravian Church, Irish District	1923
Presbyterian Church in Ireland	1923
Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Church	1923
Religious Society of Friends	1923
Salvation Army (Ireland Division)	1965
Lutheran Church in Ireland	1972
Greek Orthodox Church in Britain & Ireland	1997
Cherubim & Seraphim Church	2001
Russian Orthodox Church in Ireland	2003
Romanian Orthodox Church	2004
Antiochian Orthodox Church	2005



PRESIDENT'S —*Observations*

WRITER
Most Rev. Richard Clarke

The term “re-branding” has a somewhat commercial resonance to it. For any organisation connected to the Christian Church to make the radical decision to re-brand itself sounds misguided, cynical or just desperate. Many of us involved centrally with the work of the Irish Council of Churches and the Irish Inter-Church Meeting may have indeed felt this way as we were gently encouraged to think of re-branding ourselves.

A great deal of work and time went into the enterprise of re-branding the ICC and the IICM – or, in some respects, of being re-branded - but those of us who were involved in the decision-making around the exercise have had no doubts but that we have enlarged our vision and our perceptions of what we are, and what we might become. This was not, we discovered as we went

along, an exercise in improving public relations policies, or in developing a glossier public image. Instead we were led to grasp fully that what we are about - what we are called to do by Christ - should take precedence in our minds as in the public mind, over whatever the titles of our organisations might happen to be; hence “Churches in Ireland - Connecting in Christ” takes priority over the details of the organisational titles. When we are confident in what we are doing, the labelling of the institutions takes a deserved secondary place. Without making tiresome, costly or complicated constitutional changes to our two groupings - ICC and IICM - we were able to see with new eyes that there is in fact a far more important task with which we have all been entrusted. We are to connect with one another in



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Irish Council of Churches
Irish Inter-Church Meeting

“

We are to connect with one another in Christ, and so serve with others in the great commission of connecting this island of Ireland with the glorious hope held out to us all by God in Christ

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Christ, and so serve with others in the great commission of connecting this island of Ireland with the glorious hope held out to us all by God in Christ.

On behalf of the Executive Committee and the entire Council of Churches, I would like to thank Mervyn McCullagh, Karen Kelly, Philip McKinley and Adrian Cristea for their commitment, energy and sheer panache in furthering and, it must be said, accelerating the work of the Irish Council of Churches. They bring encouragement to us all, and they richly deserve our encouragement and our gratitude.

As I prepare to leave office as President of the Irish Council of Churches I now thank all my colleagues and friends of the Irish Council of Churches for their support, guidance, inspiration and - most of all - for their

tolerance and forbearance. I wish for my successor-designate, Fr Godfrey O'Donnell of the Romanian Orthodox Church, every blessing as he begins his tasks as President of the ICC. I also hope that he will enjoy it all, and to the amazing degree that I have been fortunate enough to experience.

In my own life and ministry I find myself reflecting constantly on the title of that remarkable painting of Paul Gauguin, “Where have we come from? What are we? Where are we going?” Yes, at one level it appears full of existentialist anguish. But at a gentler and simpler level it invites each of us to re-focus constantly on what we are really doing with our lives on earth, and on whether we perhaps need at this moment in our life to re-vision, to re-focus, or even to re-brand.

HONORARY TREASURER — *Report* *Year 2011*

WRITER
Robert Cochran

Staff

Firstly, I wish to pay tribute to the enormous amount of work put in by Karen Kelly throughout the year in the day-to-day management of the financial function, along with Mervyn McCullagh's oversight. This has allowed the many changes, touched on below, to be handled efficiently and effectively, ensuring that we have ended the year in a very good position, both organisationally and financially.

Financial Structures

The 2011 year was the first full year in which we operated a straightforward set of accounts in accordance with the new more streamlined layout, and taking account of the way in which the auditors would wish to see the data presented. This process has now bedded down, and it will be somewhat simpler to keep it going in that way, rather than having to be concerned with managing changing scenarios.

As can be seen from the accounts, we now have a clear demarcation between the income and expenditure which is specific to ICC (and IICC) and the costs of running the Inter-Church Centre and of the core staff. This latter cost for the Inter-Church Centre is then of course charged 50/50 to each of the two ecumenical entities involved. Our special projects – the Dublin office and the two staff employed there – are also shown separately.

It is still expected that we will need to be registered in due course in accordance with the new Charities legislation, both in NI and in RoI. These new

pieces of legislation are however still not fully in force in either jurisdiction.

Financial Situation

As can be seen from the accounts, considerable progress was made during the year in reducing the operational deficit. We ended the year incurring a deficit of about half of the budgeted deficit, (which was itself a reduction from the prior year), which is very welcome, even if we still have a way to go to achieve our goal of breaking even. We are therefore still eating into our reserves, albeit at a slower rate. We would prefer to be able to use these reserves for extra relevant ecumenical activities but at present this is still not feasible to any significant extent. The proposed increases in subscriptions from Member Churches will help in this process of moving to a break-even situation, and in addition, we remain hopeful of welcoming new, compatible, tenants into the building before too long.

The Dublin office, and the two staff employed there (Philip McKinley – Ecumenical Officer, and Adrian Cristea – Integration Officer), are funded by means of special arrangements. In the case of the Ecumenical Officer, this is through a special funding arrangement set up between the IEC and ICC, while in the case of the Integration officer this is being funded by external project funding. Both of these arrangements finish during 2012, so we are seeking to devise appropriate means to continue the very valuable work done by them into the future.



EXECUTIVE OFFICER — *Report*

WRITER
Mervyn McCullagh

In the past 8 days over 90 million people have watched a campaign film called Kony2012 on either YouTube or Vimeo. The campaign aims to set a precedent for international justice by raising support for the arrest of Joseph Kony who is wanted by the International Criminal Court for war crimes. While the campaign has its critics one cannot deny their efficacy in getting the message out. The video is 30 minutes long defying traditional precedents that viral videos must be less than 2 minutes. But should international policy be determined by a viral video?

Using social networking to affect foreign policy would have seemed absurd 18 months ago. Facebook was a place to share photos of weddings, holidays and favorite cafes. That was of course until the 18th December 2010 when protests began in Tunisia and the political map in North Africa was dramatically reshaped. Like it or not social media is a very present technology which has the ability to dramatically create change.

When Fintan O'Toole, assistant editor for the Irish Times, addressed our Annual meeting last year, some of our members were keen to learn how to raise the profile of religious affairs in the newspapers. But as Fintan pointed out, newspapers are undergoing many of the same difficulties as churches.

As institutions which hold to the authority of truth we are challenged by declining subscriptions, reduction in revenue and a fragmented public square where truth is dispersed though the blogosphere and not located in one central editorial office. Though difficult, Fintan argued

that churches nevertheless have a moral obligation to engage courageously in this public square bringing humility, love and spirituality to the debate.

The challenge for ICC in developing and providing a voice for Ireland's churches to connect through a common belief in Christ is whether to seek one voice or many. Intuitively we have sought to speak with one voice but the lesson of social media is perhaps to unleash all of our members to fill social media spaces with a multitude of voices. There are strategic decisions about the digital church and postmodern unity that all need to consider many of which arose during our rebranding process.

When we began the process of rebranding ICC we thought the process would be complicated as we believed that we were complicated. In fact it turned out to be delightfully simple. We quickly realized that we all shared an inescapable attraction to Christ and a desire to connect both inwardly with each other and outwardly to the public square. We are Churches of different sizes with different priorities and emphasis but we all share a unity that comes not from being the same, but instead comes through connecting in Christ. We now have a brand that reflects this simplicity, that we are very proud of and that has, as an unexpected by-product, put many of our structural questions in perspective. I would like to offer my thanks to all the members of the Joint Management Committee and the Executive for all their work in this process.

The variety of activity that is expressed in this report is indica-



tive of the energy and enthusiasm and quality of relationships that are in ICC at present. We are constantly trying to balance our willingness to engage with our capacity to deliver.

We have worked hard financially to arrest the decline in reserves that has been taking place since 2004. This year we halved our predicted deficit and we hope to bring significant reductions again next year. This we have done whilst at the same time improving the quality and profile of our activities. We have revised our membership subscriptions to bring clarity to them and to assist us in calculating subscriptions for new members.

We have spent time consolidating our activities and bringing focus to priority areas. We have wound up the Churches Peace Education Project and ECLOF Ireland (Ecumenical Church Loan Fund) and AICCMR has decided that it too has reached a conclusion. At the same time we have launched the Dublin City Interfaith Forum for integration with Dublin City Council, worked hard to connect with the many new and migrant-led churches on the island and we hope that 2012 may finally see the start of the Inter Church Peace Project.

The Church is Society Forum is undertaking important work in church policy on Ethical Investment, the Theology Forum after running an extraordinarily successful Inter Church Meeting is reflecting on how to appropriately remember the past and the Board of Overseas Affairs is trying to keep abreast of changes in the Middle East. Women's Link too are seeking new ways to raise

the profile of women's ecumenical engagement.

It has been a privilege to attend a range of church conferences and to be invited to contribute on a whole host of discussions across our member churches. Seeing first hand the realities of our Christian life and witness is humbling.

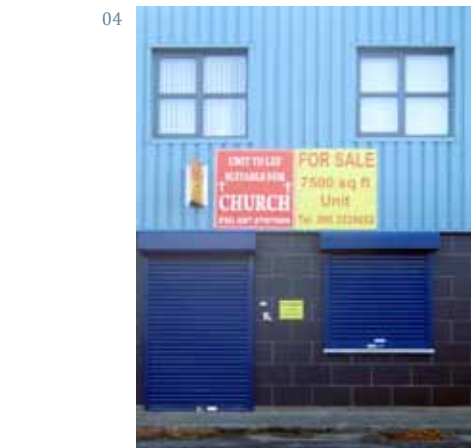
A tangible manifestation of the church being literally in the public square was when I attended the Kirchentag in Dresden where over 300,000 people gathered throughout the city, in every available public space to worship and discuss issues facing the church. Such an event highlights the possibilities that are being presented by this summer's International Eucharistic Congress which is being hosted by the Archdiocese of Dublin. It will be the first large festival of faith in Ireland for many years and comes at an important time in the life of the Catholic Church in Ireland.

We are dealing with a changing church. Traditional church buildings can be used as gate lodges to apartment blocks and high end cafes, industrial estates are in demand by new and migrant-led churches for worship spaces and theological colleges. Together we need to see these changes and adapt accordingly while staying true to our core values.

As I present this report, after a very successful year in the life of the ICC, can I thank the Executive for their support in every aspect of the organisation. Can I particularly thank our outgoing president Most Rev Dr Richard Clarke for his inspirational leadership. He has been a constant

source of encouragement and back-up while critically appraising us each step of the way. I am blessed with an excellent staff team, the work of each is clearly seen in their reports and in the quality of the events that we as a team have run. We are excited to welcome Rev Fr Godfrey O'Donnell as our first Orthodox President at a strategically important time, as we draw ever closer links to the many Orthodox churches in Ireland.

Our prayer is that our work in the Council would assist bringing about a higher profile for the work of the Churches in Ireland as we connect together and seek a voice to engage through all available media, for the glory of God and the extension of Christ's Kingdom.



Captions

- 01 Fintan O'Toole at the 88th Annual Meeting of the Council
- 02 ICC Staff, Adrian Cristea, Philip McKinley, Karen Kelly and Mervyn McCullagh at a training day in Carlingford
- 03 Rev Tony Davidson, Bishop Richard Clarke, Fintan O'Toole and Mervyn McCullagh
- 04 An Industrial Estate in Dublin
- 05 Apartment block and disused church in south Dublin.
- 06 The Interchurch Centre
- 07 Communion service during Kirchentag, Dresden



01

ECUMENICAL OFFICER — Project

Preface

Philip McKinley is working part-time for the Irish Council of Churches (ICC) and the Irish Inter Church Committee (IICC) to strengthen local ecumenism in Ireland. He is based in our Dublin office.

WRITER
Philip McKinley

My grandfather served 56 years of ordained ministry in Co. Tipperary...in the days before Irish ecumenism!

Despite this, upon his election as a Canon of Cashel Cathedral, the first note of congratulations he received was from the local Catholic priest in Templemore, himself already a Canon, but living at the opposite end of town to his Church of Ireland counterpart.

The note simply read, *‘Congratulations, now with two pieces of ecclesiastical artillery mounted at either end of the town, no doubt all advances of his Satanic majesty will be successfully beaten off’.*

This remarkable one line card, written well before the Second Vatican Council or the Irish Inter-Church Meeting, highlights three timeless and fundamental elements of ecumenism: Relationship, Context and Cause.

The quality of the relationship between the two men is exemplified in both the offering of sincere congratulations and support, but also in the ability to crack a joke and laugh together.

It also shows that ecumenism works best not at the theoretical level, but rooted in real life places and moments.

And finally it embodies the fact that ecumenism works best when focussed on a common cause (even if that cause may be a common enemy, in this case, ‘his Satanic majesty’).

It is with these three strands, that the role of Ecumenical Officer has initiated, developed and supported a wide range of ecumenical activities, across the four provinces of Ireland, engaging with a broad range of Irish Christian denominations.

This past year, two significant projects have been formed; Blanchardstown Churches Together and a Young Adult Ecumenical Forum.

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The context of Blanchardstown in West Dublin is fascinating. It is very much a Celtic Tiger suburb, with its population growing to 100,000 during the years of the economic boom, 21% of whom are foreign national.

An ecumenical church leader’s steering group was formed in 2010 to identify the number of Christian churches now worshipping in this new area. They identified 46 churches, covering the full spectrum of World Christianity, many of whom were migrant-led and were worshipping in some of Blanchardstown’s numerous industrial estates.

Fingal County Council therefore provided the group with funding to explore how Christian churches could promote dialogue, interaction and understanding between immigrants and the wider community. The group held a leaders’ meeting in October 2011 and a very successful conference entitled ‘Churches

Creating Cohesive Communities’ in February 2012.

At the conference, the group facilitator Fr Alan Hilliard made reference to a common cause that could unite and mobilise the varying Christian churches of the area. ‘It is unusual that the efforts of churches are not referred to in local action plans such as the Blanchardstown Area Partnership Strategic Plan’.

Fr Alan attributed the exclusion of local Christian churches from local processes such as planning and community development, by saying that ‘one of the results of the decline of religious practice in the secular west is a notable shortfall in literacy surrounding the understanding of matters religious’.

The decline of religious practice, felt most strongly in younger generations, proved a common cause that motivated the creation of a Young Adult Ecumenical Forum.

In partnership with the Irish Peace Centres (Corrymeela, Glencree Centre for Reconciliation and Co-operation Ireland) and the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Dublin, Dr Diarmuid Martin, the Ecumenical Officer project organised two dialogue events with young adult representatives from the Catholic Church, Irish Council of Churches member denominations, non-member Churches and church-based young adult organisations, to discuss the future of faith in Ireland.

With the first event taking place over a meal in Archbishop Martin’s residence in Dublin and the second event being a residential conference in Corrymeela Centre, in Co. Antrim, the group discussed what faith voices can offer to the key issues of our day and how young leadership is or is not facilitated within each Church’s structure.



The Ecumenical Officer project has therefore addressed areas of weakness in contemporary Irish ecumenism, by encouraging work in demographically and geographically weak areas.

There have been regional visits to counties such as Donegal, Galway, Sligo, Clare and Derry, which are areas outside the traditional Eastern and Northern ecumenical hubs.

Notable and exciting projects that were visited, included the Sligo Interfaith Programme, Oak House/Dairtheach, in Ballydugan, Co Galway and the Newtowncunningham Inter-Church Committee in East Donegal. The Committee has remarkably built, in collaboration with the HSE, a €4 million Sheltered Housing Centre, aptly named Trinity Court.

The Ecumenical Officer project has also developed new models of ecumenical engagement, particularly developing links with non-member churches, including Pentecostal Churches, such as the Assemblies of God and the Redeemed Christian Church of God and Orthodox churches, such as the Ethiopian and Indian Orthodox. It has also built good links with organisations such as Evangelical Alliance Ireland.

During the course of the year the Dublin office also moved from the Irish School of Ecumenics in Milltown Park to Clonliffe Diocesan Centre in Drumcondra.

The work however of Relationship, Context and Cause continues, in the hope that together with all our 'pieces of ecclesiastical artillery', all advances of his Satanic majesty will indeed be successfully beaten off.

- Captions**
- 01 Young Adults Ecumenical Dialogue, Clonliffe
 - 02 Blanchardstown Churches Together
 - 03 Redeemed Christian Church of God, Dundalk.
 - 04 Pastor Patrick Adejayan (New Covenant Church) and Philip McKinley at Blanchardstown Churches Together
 - 05 Pádraig Ó Tuama (Irish Peace Centres) and Philip McKinley at Young Adults Dialogue Clonliffe



INTEGRATION OFFICER —Project

Preface

In November 2010 the Integration Officer started implementing the Dublin City Interfaith Forum Project. The project runs in partnership with Dublin City Council's Office for Integration and seeks to promote the integration of third country nationals.

WRITER
Adrian Cristea

Dublin, both the city and the region, is becoming more diverse with greater religious pluralism. According to census figures Dublin City administrative area is the most ethnically diverse region in Ireland with over one-fifth of people born overseas. This also reflects growing religious diversity. As the number of people affiliated with Christianity continues to drop, there has been an increase in people affiliating with other religions and of people indicating that they have no religion.

Christianity is changing as well, the 2006 census figures indicate that the number of people affiliating with 'Orthodox Christian religions increased by 37.8 per cent, affiliation with Evangelical, Born Again and Fundamentalist religions increased by 25.6 per cent and affiliation with Pentecostal religions increased by 17.8 per cent'. The 2001 census showed massive percentage increases in Hindu (56%), Buddhist (48%) and Muslim (74%) faiths since 1996 and we expect these figures to increase in the next census.

This diversity and change manifests a growing need to have

structures for dialogue in place that ensure the successful integration of all. Dublin City Council was conscious of this need and asked us to help facilitate a response. We secured funding from the European Integration Fund and additional co-funding from Dublin City Council in order to realise this vision to see what inter-religious dialogue can bring to the integration agenda. This project is an exciting interface between faith communities and civic authorities.

The project's aims are to:

- Support and strengthen the contribution of faith communities in Dublin City
- Educate and encourage people of different faiths to dialogue, reflect and work together in matters of policy, strategy and action
- Promote and support the participation of third country nationals in the civic, community and public life of the city
- Contribute to a fully integrated city for all
- Challenge all forms of injustice and discrimination

Building the project

Initially the most important element of the project was to develop relationships. Project staff met with faith leaders and the Dublin Inter-Religious Council. We attended meetings held by other faith groups and networks. Dublin City Council had a number of existing relationships with faith communities. The Office for Integration, for example, was engaged through community networks and funding relationships. We began building a database of faith communities and contacts.



A series of consultation workshops and meetings were then planned and delivered with the purpose of gauging interest in the project and gathering community perspectives. Faith leaders, members of the Irish Council of Churches, Dublin City Council, An Garda Síochána and various NGO's working in the area of migration were invited. These workshops provided the opportunity for relationship building and to explore opportunities for interfaith dialogue. New ideas were examined and fed into the project with a diverse mix of faiths including Bahai, Islam, Christianity, Sikhism, Judaism, Hinduism and Buddhism represented amongst the 50 people who attended.

Rev Dr Inderjit Bhogal, leader of the Corrymeela Community facilitated the workshops and brought extensive inter-faith experience from the north

of England. Selection criteria for members as opposed to representatives, were agreed. Agreement was also reached on the inter-faith model that would be adopted as well as the given name of the group: Dublin City Interfaith Forum (DCIF). Feedback on each of the consultation workshops was very positive.

The spread of the members representing the various religious traditions was considered and it was agreed that the number of Christians on the forum, while holding the largest number of positions, should not hold a majority, to avoid the possibility of one religion having overall control over the others.

The agreed membership criteria were that members should be from an identifiable world faith community, deeply informed about their own faith, have wide respect and influ-

ence, have access to networks within their own community, have a deep respect for other faiths and have a genuine passion for integration.

Faith groups represented include, in alphabetical order, Baha'I, Buddhist, Christian, Hindu, Jewish, Muslim, and Sikh. It was agreed that the forum should be representative of gender and age, not be too large (numerically 10-14), and begin by building relationships.

The consultation events served as a strong base for us to work from and helped us to build our own relationships. People spoke of the wish to not simply be 'tolerated' but to be respected. This sentiment is articulated time and again at interfaith gatherings.

The 31st of January 2012 marked the official launch of Dublin City

Interfaith Forum by the Lord Mayor of Dublin, Cllr Andrew Montague. Sr Isobel Smyth, a qualified interfaith practitioner based in Scotland, addressed the launch, drawing on over 30 years of experience in inter-faith. The launch was a huge success, with over eighty people attending to show their support for the project. The event was then followed by the first meeting of the forum.

The first event organised by the DCIF on 22 February 2012 consisted of a visit to the places of worship of various forum members. Visits to the City Centre Al- Madinah Mosque, The Buddhist Centre, Dublin Central Mission, St. George & St. Thomas Church and the Pro-Cathedral contributed to building a deeper sense of friendship and connectedness among the members of the forum. This was a very successful event as it created the opportunity for forum members

to learn about one another's faith in their own community environment.

In conclusion, the Dublin City Interfaith Project has started to explore ways to achieve its objectives. The conversations around interfaith can be both enlightening and challenging. As the face of Dublin City changes, so does the range of faith communities and the importance of the development of a cohesive society that understands, acknowledges and respects its diverse parts.

We recognise the support of Dublin City Council, the Office for the Promotion of Migrant Integration, Pobal, the Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform, An Garda Síochána and the myriad of interreligious councils, faith groups, organisations, communities and individuals who are involved in strengthening and supporting interfaith dialogue and understanding.

Captions

- 01 Dublin City Interfaith Forum
- 02 Lord Mayor of Dublin, Cllr Andrew Montague launching the Dublin City Interfaith Forum
- 03 Mr Shaheen Ahmed, Dr Nooh al-Kaddoo and Sheikh Hussein Halawa
- 04 Abba Yohannes Amsalu, Ethiopian Orthodox Church in Ireland
- 05 Dr Geraldine Smyth (Irish School of Ecumenics) and Most Rev Dr Michael Jackson, Church of Ireland Archbishop of Dublin
- 06 Dublin City Interfaith Forum

OVERSEAS AFFAIRS —Board Report

Preface

Over the last year we have witnessed, through the news, events which herald tremendous change for many countries around the world. It has been the intention of the Board of Overseas Affairs (BOA) to educate, update and inform the member churches and wider community of what is happening around the world.

WRITER

Rev Colin Campbell

It's probably fair to say that a major event over the past year has to be the Arab Spring, although as a historical event, it's still a work in progress. Members of the board were given an overview of the changing situation and reflected on its causes and implications early in the year, by Cecil McCullough. We also considered potential changes in Syria which are now being born out with startling reality.

Following the release of Aung San Suu Kyi in Burma, also known as Myanmar, a nominally civilian government led by President Thein Sein—who served as a general and then prime minister under the junta—was installed in March 2011. The economy in that country is one of the least developed in the world. Members of the BOA were given a report and update by members from a charity working in Myanmar and had an opportunity to gain insight into the situation there.

Following the World Missionary Conference in Johannesburg in 2010,

a comprehensive report, with some excellent slides to make members a little envious, was delivered by Rev Uel Mars. This followed a meeting where Rev Canon Ian Ellis addressed the background and development of the first Lausanne conference.

Christian Aid continues to bring us updates on their work and we learned of on going work in El Salvador and Nicaragua where fair trade programs for the production and sale of coffee are among their activities. The work of Christian Aid is extremely broad, seeking for justice, equality and an end to poverty. The call to international businesses to pay their fair share of taxes to the developing countries is a campaign that the BOA would endorse.

As a Board, we continue to rely on those 'experts' who keep us informed on a number of difficult regions of the world. I would, on behalf of the Board, express our thanks to those who have given support over the last year.

CHURCH IN SOCIETY —Forum

Preface

Over the past year the Church in Society Forum (CSF) has focussed on making a contribution to some of the many social justice issues which clamour for attention in this time of economic crisis and uncertainty.

WRITER

Eileen Gallagher

Ethical Investment

A discussion in April 2011 was the catalyst for a study on ethical investment. A key issue to emerge was the extent to which many of the Churches are financially dependent on what is now seen to be a flawed capitalist system. A sub-committee of CSF met with representatives of a number of churches over the summer months and in early autumn.

It has emerged that while the financial returns from investments that are deemed 'ethical' or 'socially responsible' may be widely regarded as significantly less than those that come (or used to come) from more traditional investments, a case can be made to demonstrate that ethical investment can bring not only huge benefits to society (especially in developing parts of the world) but

may also be financially remunerative. It has also become clear that economic and financial institutions and processes are now so intertwined in a complex web that, however much we may wish it not to be the case, we may all find ourselves complicit in the damage being done by these institutions. In effect, it is increasingly difficult for individuals 'to be righteous' in the decisions they make regarding financial and business matters.

A draft report on the study has been presented to the CSF. Work is still ongoing and it is hoped that the final report, yielding robust recommendations which can be made concrete and which will make a difference, will be presented to the Irish Inter-Church Committee before summer 2012.

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We lost sight of core values, in the mistaken belief that wealth creation alone would make for a prosperous society.

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The issue of Church engagement with Government on common areas of concern – social, economic and environmental was considered. Reports were presented on the structured dialogue between Church and State in the Republic, the Social Justice Network in Northern Ireland and the Community Faiths Forum in Belfast. Time was given to reflection on key areas of common concern and how CSF – as part of an all-island, inter-church body – can make a contribution on these priority issues.

Protecting the vulnerable

In September, a new Programme for Government was planned for Northern Ireland while, in the Republic, the forthcoming budget would bring

further tax increases and cuts in public spending. It was strongly felt that churches had an important role to play in highlighting some real concerns about those who were suffering as a result of the crisis and reminding both Governments of their obligations to work for the common good of society. In a statement addressing issues of social justice, governments were reminded that protecting the most vulnerable in our society and caring for our natural environment were not luxuries to be attended to in times of prosperity, but rather form essential elements of any strategy aimed at achieving a true and lasting recovery from the present crisis. The statement pointed out that the roots of this crisis lie in the way in which, during times of economic growth,

The role of the Church in Society is to:

- 01 Inform, advise and support the member churches of the Irish Inter-church Meeting, in relation to social, economic, environmental issues, public policy and EU matters which affect Ireland.
- 02 Promote a common Christian response to relevant issues and maximise joint approaches by undertaking joint or collaborative actions.
- 03 Produce reports, discussion documents or other resource materials and disseminate these through appropriate seminars, workshops or conferences.
- 04 Promote information and education within the churches, and beyond, on the relevance and importance of the Christian message in relation to the topics being addressed.

we lost sight of core values, in the mistaken belief that wealth creation alone would make for a prosperous society. Governments were urged to ensure that our response to the crisis was just and sustainable, that we learn from our past mistakes, and that the suffering experienced by so many today is not repeated in generations to come.

'Occupy'

In November, CSF members heard a thought provoking reflection on public theology from Jon Hatch when he shared some of his insights on the 'Occupy' movement. While many dismiss the Occupy movement as politically inept, it raises a number of significant theological and moral issues which cannot be ignored. Jon

reminded us that in the face of an erosion of democracy a financial elite has arisen and has reached a place beyond question, with undue influence over political processes. In this culture where some lives seem more valuable than others, the people of faith can unequivocally declare the absolute, basic, intrinsic value of every human in the eyes of God. A second key insight is that people of faith begin from a place that affirms that all 'space' is God's; there is no place that he does not already occupy (Psalm 24:1; Psalm 139: 7-12) and we are his stewards. Thirdly, neither the State nor the markets have any rights over life and death. Neither have they the right to devastate livelihoods and ruin economies. We must not bow or make the idolatrous sacrifices they demand. This was the witness of the earliest martyrs of our faith. Lastly, there is hope. We must always and everywhere, as Christ did, proclaim as publicly and as openly as possible the good news of the Kingdom of God: life, equity, peace, justice, freedom and generosity.

Human Rights

CSF also made a comprehensive response to the consultation process on the New Human Rights and Equality Commission in the Republic.

Thanks

My sincere thanks to members of CSF whose generosity with time and expertise make this work possible. Many thanks are also due to those who contributed to submissions, who presented and drafted papers, the ICC staff and especially the members of the ethical investment sub-committee who have carried a significant burden of work.

THEOLOGY
—*Forum*

Preface

The Theology Forum was established by the Irish Inter-Church Meeting to create spaces for member churches and associated bodies to dialogue on theological issues and concerns. It is co-chaired by Ms. Gillian Kingston and Rev Prof Brendan Leahy

WRITER
Gillian Kingston

The Theology Forum has met a number of times during 2011, and we remain most grateful for the hospitality we receive at Clonliffe College, Dublin.

The membership of the Forum continues to be widely inclusive with persons from the Religious Society of Friends and from the Methodist, Anglican, Presbyterian, Roman Catholic and Romanian Orthodox churches participating. For the second half of the year, we have operated with only one co-Chair, but we do hope to receive back Revd Prof. Brendan Leahy in due course!

Much of our time this year was spent in reflecting on and planning for the Irish Inter-Church Meeting at the end of October. We were delighted to secure Bishop Tom Wright as the key note speaker for the event – he proved an inspired and inspiring choice. Edgehill Theological College was an excellent venue and we are grateful to the Revd Dr Richard Clutterbuck and to his staff and students for providing a friendly and welcoming space in which we could meet.

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Bishop Wright addressed the theme of 'Hope?' in terms of Christian hope, future and present, and in terms of the challenges of tomorrow's world. The brisk question and answer session following his paper indicated something of just how challenging that world might prove to be. The afternoon group sessions were enabled by Sarah Grace (on Youth), Johnston McMaster (on History), Glenn Jordan (on the City) and, at twenty four hours notice, Dom Mark Ephrem Nolan (on the Church). It became clear in the final session that everyone would like to have been at each of these!

The climax of the day was as we all gathered, with others, in Fisherwick Presbyterian Church, a short walk from Edgehill College, for a celebratory act of worship at which Bishop Wright spoke of Christians as People of Hope. Such an act of worship was a new venture for the Irish-Inter Church Meeting and one which is likely to be repeated. The Ship of Fools Mystery Worshipper, somewhere in the congregation, was mightily impressed!

It is our hope and prayer that, for many and particularly for the students from the various theological colleges, it was a formative experience, one when they came together as Christians of different church traditions, to reflect, converse, eat and worship together.

Since the Meeting, the Theology Forum has bent its collective mind to reflection on the upcoming decade of anniversaries and how the churches might most appropriately respond. We intend to hold hearings with representatives of the various church-related historical societies.

The International Eucharistic Congress, to be held in Dublin in June 2012, has continued on the agenda with regular reports from those involved in the planning and the programme.

We continue to be represented on the Churches Together in Britain and Ireland Faith and Order Reference Group. The Chair of this Group is the Most Revd Richard Clarke and other members include the Most Revd Michael Jackson from the

Church of Ireland, Gillian Kingston (Methodist Church) and the Revd Prof. Brendan Leahy (Catholic).

There are many things on which to reflect theologically and on which to make report to the member churches; however, the Forum remains clear that its very existence and the gathering together of members of the churches for theological discussion are, in fact, ends in themselves. We are glad to continue this gathering and to respond to theological issues which exercise member churches.

Caption

- 01 N.T. Wright, Glenn Jordan, Sarah Grace, Johnston McMaster and Dom Mark Ephrem Nolan at the IICM
- 02 Our Mystery worshipper can be found at <http://shipoffools.com/mystery/2011/2261.html>



01

IICM —Report

Preface

A mystery visitor to the Irish Inter-Church Meeting upon hearing N. T. Wright speak on 'Hope?' described their impression with the words, 'I felt exhilarated and was buzzing all the way home'.

WRITER
Philip McKinley

Representatives of Irish Churches gathered in October for the Irish Inter-Church Meeting at Edgehill Theological College in Belfast to explore the timely theme of 'Hope?'.

The keynote speaker was the renowned New Testament scholar, Professor N.T. (Tom) Wright, who is described by TIME magazine as 'one of the most formidable figures in the world of Christian thought'.

The 25th session of the Irish Inter-Church Meeting took place against the backdrop of increased public disillusionment towards institutions, the challenges presented by the forthcoming decade of Irish centenaries, global economic uncertainty and concerns for the future of local communities and young people.

The Theology Forum, who designed the Meeting, felt that 'Hope?' was not only a pressing issue but one that all our Christian traditions together

could richly contribute towards. Bishop Wright tackled public disillusionment head on with his opening words, 'All Christian hope is focussed on, and gains its meaning from, the resurrection of Jesus of Nazareth from the dead'.

But he asked, 'What hope have we got to offer in a world of Mammon (money), Aphrodite (sex) and Mars (power)?'

'We had hoped, with neo-gnosticism, that we would discover our true identity, who we really were. But when we looked deep inside ourselves, we found confusion, arrogance, fear, greed, a complex mass of identities which simply restated the problem.

'We had hoped, with the new world order of liberal democracy, that we could run the world in a way which would bring justice, equality and peace for all. But we found that while democracy is better than totalitarianism it hasn't solved the basic human problems, and that we have



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defended our delightful western world at the cost of bombing people in the Middle-East and enslaving many in the third world with unpayable debt', said Bishop Wright.

'We had hoped, with postmodernity, that the big oppressive stories would be swept away and all the small stories, all the minority interests, would have their day in the sun. But we found, not a wonderful rainbow world of varied cultures, but a cacophony of voices competing for the nebulous high moral ground of supposed victimhood.

'The answer the resurrection provides for our three puzzles is Trinitarian: God the Father for the world stuck in Gnosticism; Jesus the Lord for the confused world of power-politics; the Spirit of Truth as the ultimate answer both to modernity and to postmodernity. There is life to be had in the old tree, life that offers hope for tomorrow's world', he said.

These words reverberated through the afternoon contextual interactive workshops on the themes of young people, history, cities and leadership. The dynamics of these workshops was enriched by the presence of a number of student delegates from theological colleges, such as Belfast Bible College, St Mary's College, Union Theological College, Edgehill Theological College, Irish School of Ecumenics and the Church of Ireland Theological Institute.

Having concluded the Meeting, the church representatives then went out into the world they had been discussing and concluded in an act of public and community worship in Fisherwick Presbyterian Church where Bishop Wright was the preacher.

Remarkably the only publicity for the evening public worship was on facebook, websites and twitter, therefore a very new, younger constituency predominated the 300 or so people that gathered.

One such person was a Mystery Worshipper, identified only as 'Servetus', who felt moved to post his impressions on the Ship of Fools website:

"Was the worship stiff-upper-lip, happy clappy, or what?"

"It was fairly formal but was exceptionally well done. Some of the reading and prayers were a little stiff but the musical items were well chosen and flawlessly executed...At first, when I saw there were seven people presenting the intercessions, I thought, 'Oh no, we'll be here all night!' But as each came forward in turn, I could not help being impressed and deeply inspired by the simplicity and power of this ritual. The music added the finishing touch – simply divine...I felt exhilarated and was buzzing all the way home. It made me wonder hopefully if true unity was really possible after all."

Captions

- 01 N.T. Wright
- 02 Cardinal Seán Brady
- 03 Worship at Fisherwick
- 04 IICM dialogue in Edgehill



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WOMEN'S LINK —Update

Preface
Women's Link meets to further communication and exchange of ideas between church women's groups throughout Ireland.

WRITER
Joyce Bond

Our Ireland committee met in Belfast during the year as only one representative was available to attend from the Republic. We would have liked to host our Fellowship Day in Dublin or just across the Border, but due to financial constraints this was not possible and we could not be guaranteed sufficient support for such a Conference. We would like to see a greater representation from throughout Ireland on our committee.

We welcomed Elizabeth McWatters (Methodist Women in Ireland), Dr. Jean Shannon (Presbyterian Women) and Kathy Kitson (Moravian Women's Association) to our committee.

Thanks are due to the Moravian Church, Belfast, for making their premises available for our meetings during renovations at the Inter-Church Centre. Our thanks are also due to Karen and to Mervyn for their support and help. Roberta Thompson ICC Executive Member and

Winnie Moffett President Women's Link attended the ICC AGM.

Following the 4 Nation Women's Concerns Meeting (2010) held at Millisle, Co. Down, it was decided by Churches Together in Britain and Ireland to discontinue these meetings and to explore other means of encouraging women's ecumenical engagement. However, the programmes, the fellowship and the opportunities to discuss our varying concerns and opportunities made these meetings a source of interest and encouragement to us in Ireland. The view was taken by some that as secularisation was overtaking society the impact of women's religious organisation was felt by the few rather than the majority. There needs to be real energy invested across the nations to enable women to engage in a genuine and meaningful manner.

Many events took place North and South, and our representatives' reports reveal our women's organisations had a productive year during

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The programmes, the fellowship and the opportunities to discuss our varying concerns and opportunities made these meetings a source of interest and encouragement to us in Ireland

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2011. We plan to meet with the Leaders of our organisations in the near future to seek and hear their ideas on how Women's Link should proceed in the future.

The Fellowship Day 2011 was held in Edenderry Methodist Church, Portadown, in April. The theme was 'For such a time as this'. Guest speakers were Mervyn McCullagh, Executive Officer to ICC and IICM and Alison Cadden, Member of the Church of Ireland Liturgical Advisory. Mervyn encouraged us to look outside our box and encouraged us spiritually in our working together. Alison shared her musical talents and we looked at Psalm 23 expressed through words and music of many well-known hymns. Social issue: we looked at the Campaign 'Buy, Bye Childhood' with Mary Caldwell of Mothers' Union. Elizabeth Pritchard (Salvation Army) took our Epilogue.

The Pauline Webb Fund (CTBI) is a fund to assist a woman who wishes

to have an ecumenical experience outside her own denomination. Our Women's Link representative was not called upon to sanction any grants during 2011.

Fellowship Day 2012 will be hosted in The Moravian Church, University Street/Lisburn Road, Belfast on 24th March. The theme is 'Showers of Blessing' and our Keynote Speaker is Mrs Hilary McClay, Willowfield Parish, East Belfast. We will have other contributions on our theme from various speakers. The Fellowship Day starts at 10.00am and we very much hope that a good number of women will travel from the Republic to attend.

Phyllis Watters (Methodist Women in Ireland) will be installed as Women's Link President at our Fellowship Day. We thank Winnie Moffett for her leadership as she has completed her three year term of office as our President.

Captions
01 Fellowship Day, Edenderry Methodist Church

AICCMR — Story and History

Preface

For much of 2011 the All-Ireland Churches' Consultative Meeting on Racism took time for radical reflection on its purpose in the light of both the historico-social context and of the vision out of which AICCMR was born, this is its story.

WRITER
Sr. Joan Roddy

There is a time for everything under heaven... this surely includes a time to take stock, a time to look at the present, a time to make decisions.

To respond creatively and effectively to the challenge of contributing to an inclusive and just society calls for sensitivity to changing contexts in society and in the Church. In looking at today's new realities, AICCMR came to recognise that the modest foundation which it had laid is now being built on by diverse groups and in a variety of ways; therefore, we see that our work is done and that now is a time to encourage and support 'new things' whose time has come.

In the late nineties, a new initiative took root in the Church, sparked by the visit of a small delegation from the London-based Churches Together in Britain and Ireland (CTBI). The CTBI visit came when there was a significant increase in numbers of people coming to Ireland and seeking either a place of refuge or a means of earning and improving their livelihood. The delegation, headed by Revd Arlington Trotman met with various Church groups and others to explore whether or to what extent racism was present in Irish society, including the churches, and to examine the challenge it presents. A report prepared by Fee Ching Leong, herself part of that visiting team, documented concrete examples of racism in Irish society, with a specific focus on how this was being addressed, or not, by the Church. A press release, issued by the leaders of the four larger Churches, affirmed their commitment to work to combat racism in the Church and in society.

As AICCMR evolved, it brought together members from different churches, including many of the churches new to Ireland. AICCMR benefitted greatly from the wisdom and experience of its first chairperson, Dr David Stevens, and of those who succeeded him, including the now Archbishop of Dublin, Dr Michael Jackson, and Dr Scott Boldt, head of the Reconciliation Programme at Belfast's Edgehill Theological College.

One of its first initiatives was the two-day conference, *Challenged by Difference* in Dromantine with follow-up meetings in Belfast, Dublin, Dundalk, Dungannon, Galway, Maynooth, Portlaoise and Waterford. Subsequent events included *Taste and See*, an inter-church, inter-cultural worship/prayer celebration held in Dublin and Belfast and *Listening and Learning*, in 2011, which gave an opportunity to explore new inter-church connections through input, dialogue and informal conversation.

AICCMR publications include *Inter-Cultural Insights: Christian reflections on racism, hospitality and identity from the island of Ireland* and the *Directory of Migrant-led Churches and Chaplaincies* which documented over 360 new faith communities. Recognising the key role of Scripture in exploring the Christian response to the presence of newcomers, AICCMR produced a revised and expanded edition of *What the Bible Says about the Stranger*.

Entering a new decade, it became clear that the ecclesial landscape in Ireland had changed significantly with several new Church-related initiatives in place, apart from those of AICCMR.

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Inter-church initiatives which strive to promote an integrated, inclusive society where each person finds a place and where the dignity of each is recognised and respected.

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The ecumenical Parish-based Integration Programme (PIP), worked closely with parish councils and Church groups designing programmes to welcome newcomers and to create awareness of racism. PIP has provided helpful resources to individuals and Church communities including the *Irish Churches' Affirmations on Migration, Diversity and Interculturalism*. The post of Integration Officer in the ICC and the Catholic Church's Irish Episcopal Commission for Immigrants (IECI) are positive steps that further understanding and collaboration regarding migration, asylum and related issues.

In Northern Ireland, EMBRACE and the Reconciliation Programme at Edgehill College work in partnership to equip the Church to fulfil its call to welcome our new neighbours, by providing information, training, materials, and channels for providing practical help.

As many of the Churches whose arrival in Ireland is relatively recent continue to expand and

to become more established and integrated, closer links with inter-church structures are developing, with new channels of communication and collaboration being explored.

One might say that the mustard seed which gave birth to AICCMR has died and given birth to a tree with many branches – signs of the presence of many new inter-church initiatives which in diverse ways strive to promote an integrated, inclusive society where each person finds a place and where the dignity of each is recognised and respected.

To realise the prayer of Jesus 'that all may be one' calls for vision, creativity and faithful commitment so that all of humankind may recognise that in God's eyes there is One Race – the Human Race.



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Captions

- 01 Launch of 'Directory of Migrant-led Churches and Chaplaincies', 2009
- 02 Launch of 'What the Bible says about the Stranger', 2009
- 03 Choir at 'Taste and See', 2006
- 04 Sr. Joan Roddy



01

CHRISTIAN AID —Update

Preface

The Irish Council of Churches is a member of Christian Aid and Christian Aid is responsible to all of its member bodies for its work. Margaret Boden is the CEO of Christian Aid Ireland and sits on our Board of Overseas Affairs.

WRITER
Margaret Boden

We are reminded in Ecclesiastes that there is a right time for everything. In 2011 it was a time for Christian Aid Ireland to engage in evaluations, audits and reviews; to reflect on our work and the efficacy of it. At the same time we looked forward through our formulation of a strategy for 2012+ and in the submission of a fresh proposal to Irish Aid for our International programme as the 5 year MAPS contract drew to a close (Multi Annual Programme Scheme).

Although being “open and transparent” is in vogue, it takes a lot of hard work and organisation. Making sure that the paper evidence is readily available for Irish Aid auditors, internal auditors and outside consultants to sift through, is a mammoth task. Being confident that a visit to an overseas programme corroborates what has been reported is, to say the least, a bit scary! It reminded me of my early days with Christian Aid when I used to rely heavily on 16mm films to show church groups what Christian Aid was doing overseas. There was almost always someone in

the audience who had had vast personal experience of whatever the country was – much greater than mine – and I was always grateful that the “audio visual aids” never let me down. People who had perhaps spent years in a particular country would often say “that’s exactly how it is”.

So it was with our year of evaluations, audits and reviews. From them we gained valuable insights. Learning is very important for an organisation such as Christian Aid because the aims and objectives are to bring people out of poverty and not to perpetuate it. Changing things for the better is key to ending poverty.

This means tackling the structures that keep people poor. Sometimes that means being involved in ways that still come as a surprise to some who may not have got past the notion that basic human rights go way beyond food and water. How people earn a living, such as the quarry workers of Al Minia, Egypt and how they are treated affects every part of their lives. The repercus-

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Changing things for the better is key to ending poverty. This means tackling the structures that keep people poor.

”

sions for the family of a quarry worker who, for example, loses both their legs in an accident is life threatening to all of them. It can mean a threat to their ability to buy food, pay their rent, educate their children and provide for long term healthcare for the unfortunate victim. So Christian Aid have focussed on the health and safety of all quarry workers, their lack of legal protection and health insurance and the fact that most quarry workers cannot work beyond the age of 40 because the work is impossibly hard. Trying to change the plight of the quarry workers is a long term commitment. Providing protective clothing, as well as health and safety training goes some way to alleviating the problem in the short term.

When change happens we shouldn’t be surprised. A micro credit scheme in Kenya with women was so highly successful that even our resident Programme Officer was concerned that “the poorest” women were not being helped when she came to evaluate it. She said so to our partner. She felt that the

women were too well dressed to be the recipients of development support. One woman from the group was called forward to tell her story. She described how when her husband died of Aids she had to take care of the family and didn’t know where to turn to in order to feed her family and to send the children to school. She was losing hope when she heard of the micro credit scheme and sold some things so that she could pay in her contribution and join. It had taken three years, but by working hard buying trees that could be cut into firewood and sold at the local market, she could now feed the family; her children were attending school and for the first time in three years she had bought herself some new cloth for a dress. She now felt very hopeful for the future and wanted to be an agent of change herself on behalf of other women.

Whether it is at micro, mesa or macro level – bringing about change that demonstrates the love of God for all humankind is what we are about. We can be easily persuaded into wanting to

help children, but helping adults who in turn are able to provide for and help their own children will have far reaching results.

On a more personal note may I say how pleased I was that Mervyn McCullagh was elected to the Board of Christian Aid Ireland at the end of 2011. Mervyn’s father, George was one of a group of three who inspired me to become involved in Christian Aid many years ago as a young member of Abbey Presbyterian Church. And whilst talking of “many years” I would like to say that the right time has come for me to retire at the end of April 2012 and I have already informed the Board of my intention.

Christian Aid Ireland will go on from strength to strength with the support of the Churches. Many lives will continue to be changed for good and I am grateful to God for having been a small part in His plan for a better world.

Caption

01 Quarry Worker, El Minia, Egypt.



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CTBI — Update

Preface

The ICC is an associate member of Churches Together in Britain and Ireland. CTBI was set up to take forward the churches' ecumenical agenda on a strategic Four Nations basis. It works closely with Action for Churches Together in Scotland, CYTUN (Churches Together in Wales), Churches Together in England and the Irish Council of Churches. Bob Fyffe is its the General Secretary.

WRITER
Canon Bob Fyffe

At CTBI we are constantly looking for ways to serve our member Churches. Seeking fresh ways of supporting our Churches to build their fellowship means offering new ways of engagement. This finds expression through the variety of face to face encounters, in Networks, projects and meetings. But it now includes resourcing through our digital formats where we are seeing a steady increase in downloadable resources for local groups. It means making our free website available to all local "Churches Together" or local ecumenical groups. Here groups can tailor local resources to local needs and be supported by national initiatives and programmes. Visiting www.ctbi.org.uk opens up a huge range of material specifically written with local ecumenical groups in mind. This growing initiative found a particular expression this year when Senior Representatives from across the four nations joined together for a 24 hour conference in Dublin on "Digital Ministry". In 2011

our website welcomed 115,641 unique visitors with 795,365 separate page views. Already in 2012 we are seeing substantial growth in these figures. We are reaching many new people in a time when we recognise that high quality information and resources are critical for ongoing engagement.

The work of appreciating and enacting our common beliefs, values and similarities also means engaging with our different identities and gifts. This will be increasingly important over the coming months as we engage with the discussion around Scottish independence. We need to hear different voices from around Britain and Ireland. What does this discussion say about our own identity and how we relate to our neighbours? The CTBI Trustees are particularly concerned that the distinctive contribution of Irish Churches is understood and heard.

As well as understanding and engaging with issues of identity

and difference at home, we seek to further this engagement through our work with the Church in China. We have an ongoing programme where Irish voices make a distinctive contribution. The CTBI Trustees also made an important visit to Israel/Palestine in the autumn of 2011. Gillian Kingston and Bishop Richard Clarke were two of those Trustees, and it is hoped that the outcomes of that visit can be shared as a resource to Churches seeking ways of supporting Christians across the Middle East. Fresh engagement with the Middle East Council of Churches is underway and there is much to share both in prayer and action in the coming months.

We ask for the prayers of all the Churches across Ireland as, in partnership with the staff of the Irish Council of Churches, we seek to serve the Churches in our journey towards that unity for which Christ prayed. We have sought to serve the Churches in a number of different ways, with Irish representation at all levels:

Through Theological reflection with

- An Inter faith theological reflection group
- Symposium on Globalised Christianity and inter religious engagement
- A 4 nations Faith and Order Reference group
- A Mission Theology Advisory group has produced: Sense Making Faith resource; The Un-reconciled resource; Foundations for Mission resource; Dispossession project and resources all of which are available on line

Through Research

- Good Society research project
- Work on Israel/Palestine – with a recent Trustee visit



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Through New media and social media

- First class website
- Churches Together Connect
- Daily web news, Monthly e-newsletter, Daily Twitter, Facebook presence

Through Worship and study resources

- Week of prayer for Christian Unity
- Lent with the BBC
- Creation Time resources
- Racial Justice Sunday resources
- Holocaust Memorial Day resources with CCJ

Through Publications and ebooks

- Forgotten Trinity republished
- Mission Theology Advisory Group publications
- Time for Action – republished
- Two new titles coming in the spring (Millennium Development Goals, Public Grief – Out of the depths)

Through China relations

- Online China study centre
- China Study Journal
- Resourced visits for Church leaders

Through Annual Conferences

- Networking Conference
- Senior Representatives Forum

Through our Networks

- Mission,
- Public Issues
- Inter Faith
- Racial Justice
- China
- Asylum and Refugee work

We oversee Forums such as

- Criminal Justice Forum,
- International Students and IS grants,
- Environmental Issues Network,
- Living Spirituality Network,
- Joint Liturgical group
- Bodies in Association

CTBI is working hard to give voice to our member Churches and our Networks and Forums.

Captions

- 01 CTBI Trustees in Israel/Palestine
- 02 Canon Bob Fyffe

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