



Annual Report
of the
Irish Council of Churches
for the
year ending December 31
1991

ANNUAL REPORT

for the year ending December 31, 1991

An End of Term Reflection from David Bleakley, General Secretary, Irish Council of Churches, 1980-1992

My term of office with the Irish Council of Churches is coming to an end, so this is my final Report as General Secretary. For me the journey has been most rewarding; I thank all in ICC and further afield who have helped in making it possible. I also pay tribute to my wife, Winnie, who has been a good companion on every step - for both of us, together, it has been a joy and privilege to witness for the Council. Our next phase in joint service will be in global mission; hopefully, shared international endeavours will keep us in touch with the Churches in Ireland.

Yesterday and Today

When I first came to the Council in 1980 the organisation was in the midst of a major internal reorganisation. In particular, I was made painfully aware of the financial constraints under which the Council operated. But apart from these factors, and to some extent because of them, I was left very much to develop my own Council strategy.

My basic approach was outlined in a four-fold declaration of intent made at the 1980 Annual General Meeting of the Council: to carry through an urgent restructuring of our finances with the aim of making the Council self supporting from Irish sources for basic running expenses, to deepen our partnership with member Churches in Ireland and Britain, to further explore and strengthen relationships with the Roman Catholic community, and to establish more effective links with the world-wide Church.

My role has been to be a make-things-happen person, while at the same time to be a searcher-out of markers for the future. It is up to others to measure progress with regard to the quartet of priorities, but for myself the labours have not been in vain.

Finances

In financial affairs we have experienced what amounts to a 'sea-change' for the better and as a Council we are well placed to plan for future activities with confidence. In this respect we have been greatly helped by Eberhard Spiecker, Klaus Kremkau, Dave Bowman and other German and American friends.

But much depends on member Churches continuing the support which has been an encouraging feature of the decade. However, with Church support and with careful stewardship of what we receive we are well placed to be cost effective, while at the same time maintaining and developing essential services.

For my own part I believe (and know from a decade of experience) that a truly witnessing stance will not fail because of a lack of material resources. The history of the Council to date is a justification for this faith.

Staffing and Central Services

As a result of our financial restructuring it has been possible to underpin more securely our staff and central office servicing. I have welcomed this outcome for I am deeply conscious of my indebtedness to those at Inter-Church Centre (including our long standing neighbours in Christian Aid) for their supportive witness. I mention in particular:

Florence Pyper, Administrative Secretary, who, serving the Council with loyalty and dedication, has been to me an essential and greatly valued Personal Secretary;

David Stevens, Associate Secretary, whose pen and vision and energy have been behind some of the most significant Christian partnership initiatives in Ireland in the past decade. David's appointment as General-Secretary Designate has been widely welcomed; he is uniquely qualified for the work to which he is now called;

Norman Richardson, who, both as Peace Education Secretary and an active member of the Council staff team, has given new meaning and relevance to Christian Education, enhancing the reputation of the Council both at home and overseas.

We depend greatly on this small team (generously assisted by volunteer assistants). My hope would be that the Council would continue to enjoy the services of what has become a well tested and highly experienced headquarters group.

Perhaps the most significant outcome of the activities of the Council's central staff has been the ability to 'deliver' on a great many fronts. This service to constituent bodies has led us into involvement with an impressive array of key community issues relating to Irish society and the wider world. One outcome has been a considerable range of published reports. Among the most recent — peace and reconciliation topics, employment and new technology, ageism, leisure, the environment, prison reform and, this month, victims of crime. Initiatives such as these have given rise to expectations requiring structures for follow-up action which the Churches have yet to resource and agree.

Wider Christian Partnership in Ireland

ICC links with the Roman Catholic Church have increased steadily during the past decade and particularly through the joint efforts of the Irish Inter-Church Meeting. There have been (and remain) difficulties in the process, but many of our frustrations arise from a growing ecumenical agenda for which no adequate administrative provision has been made. Hopefully,

current inter-Church discussions will remedy this defect.

However, 'growing pains' will continue as, Protestant and Roman Catholic together, we search for agreed directions on the ecumenical journey. This is to be expected and need cause no difficulty so long as there is parity of esteem and awareness of our need for one another between the participating traditions. Perhaps a more direct link (exchange of observers, for example) between the Roman Catholic Bishops' Conference and the Irish Council of Churches might encourage more effective inter-communal co-operation. In the circumstances of Ireland such co-operation is central to Christian faith and witness.

ICC has also been anxious for many years to spread its activities more evenly throughout our island. This process should be continued and strengthened. A Dublin office would help — in this respect there are indications that the Irish School of Ecumenics would be prepared to offer accommodation.

Participation between Ireland and Britain

Historically the ICC has close links with Churches in Britain, pursued particularly for many years through the British Council of Churches. So it is natural that we should feel a special relationship with the newly created Council of Churches for Britain and Ireland. And, of course, the bringing of a Roman Catholic dimension to the new British/Irish body is of particular significance to those concerned in inter-Church dialogue in Ireland.

The CCBI both beckons and challenges Christians in Ireland: 'beckons' because our partner Councils in England, Scotland and Wales are anxious that we should be with them; 'challenges' because full participation in the affairs of CCBI demands and deserves a considerable input of time and resources on our part. Here again ICC has special responsibilities.

Partnership Worldwide

Newest of all, and most timely in view of post-1989 European developments, has been the increasing involvement of our Council with the Church worldwide.

That is as it should be — such involvement is in line with ancient Irish traditions and offers opportunities to make a specific Irish contribution to the times in which we live. Our members have risen to the challenge and their contribution has been appreciated throughout the international Christian family.

For this reason future planning for the ICC should take account of ways in which we may continue to strengthen our links with international Christian bodies such as CEC and EECES. Such links give us a 'way into' the wider Christian debate to which we are expected to contribute.

More informally, but equally worthwhile, we continue to engage in

international exchanges which have been a special feature of our activity in recent years: China, USSR, South Africa and the Middle East come to mind. Financially this is a costly business, hence the growing importance of our Travel Fund initiative.

Conclusion

The above quartet of aims and activities have been central to the work of ICC since 1980. No doubt new horizons will beckon and rightly so; equally many parts of the post-1980 agenda (and indeed, pre-1980 agenda) will continue to demand and merit attention.

But for me throughout my term of office the most pressing problem for the Council has been that of community reconciliation. As a result, a high proportion of the time and energy of the Council has been given to the peacemaking process in all its aspects. I have welcomed and encouraged this bridge building aspect of ICC activities because of the way in which it has been an acknowledgement that there can be no turning back among Christians in the historic process of getting to know one another throughout our island, North and South, Protestant and Catholic.

The composition and structures of ICC offer special opportunities to develop this prophetic role. So it is important to recognise and value the Council as a well tested enabling body in Ireland, encouraging common witness among our constituent Churches and collectively reaching out to our Roman Catholic neighbours. Nor need we fear the process. Co-operation between our various Christian traditions involves no capitulation by one side or the other; it merely acknowledges among Christians the discovery of a process of interdependence which is increasingly the hallmark of humankind everywhere.

I conclude on this particular point because as your General Secretary it has been my special pride to serve a Council which has demonstrated that positive acts of Christian partnership are central to the mission of the Church in contemporary Ireland.

If for no other reason (and there are many other reasons) the Churches in Ireland need the special opportunities for Christian Unity initiatives afforded by the structures and work of the Irish Council of Churches. Restructuring discussions must never lose sight of this vital point.

It has been a privilege to be engaged in the Council's pilgrimage into Christian partnership. For a layman, in particular, service with a Council of Churches offers an opportunity to enter into work and witness of a kind rarely available in today's acquisitive society.

I end this particular Christian journey with gratitude that I have been enabled to take it.

David W. Bleakley,
January 1992.

Death of the Most Rev. Dr. G. O. Simms

During the year Dr. G.O. Simms, a former Chairman of the Council, died. Dr. Simms had been a pioneer of ecumenism. During his time as Chairman he chaired the first historic Inter-Church Meeting in 1973. He will be much missed and we give thanks to God for his work and witness.

Officers

Mr. R. W. Jess, F.C.A., became Treasurer as from the Annual General Meeting in March. We express our thanks to the outgoing Treasurer, the Rev. Prof. J. M. Barkley.

Staffing

The Rt. Hon. D. W. Bleakley will be leaving his post as General Secretary as from the end of April 1992. Dr. R. D. Stevens, the present Associate Secretary, has been appointed his successor. The Council's staffing requirements are presently being looked at.

Mr. N. L. Richardson's contract as Associate Secretary with responsibility for Peace Education was extended to the end of August 1992.

Mrs. J. E. Nesbitt retired from her post as Finance Officer at the end of March. Mrs. Nesbitt has been a member of staff in various capacities from the early 1970s. We are grateful for the contribution she made to the affairs of the Council during that time.

We continue to benefit from the work of Miss Jane Graves (Brethren Volunteer Service USA); the Rev. Dr. Eric Gallagher and Mr. Harold Calvert also continue their generous service as Honorary Board Secretaries.

The Role of the Council

Following a special meeting of the Executive Committee in September it was agreed that the Council needed to consider its future work and vision. This process is currently on-going.

Meetings

The Annual Meeting was held in March in Kilkenny. There was an evening session on The Problems and Challenges of Christian Witness in Rural Ireland. The Autumn Council Gathering was held in Lisburn and there was a session devoted to the work and witness of the local Churches.

Co-options

The Rev. A. V. Martin was co-opted to the Council during the year.

Amendment to the Constitution

Amendments to the Constitution consequent to the end of the British Council of Churches and the creation of the Council of Churches for Britain and Ireland were approved.

ICC Emblem

An appropriate emblem for the Council was commissioned during the year.

COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

Advisory Forum on Human Rights

A study on 'The Rights of Victims' was completed during the year.

Inter-Church Emergency Fund for Ireland

The following grants were agreed in 1991:

	£
The Waterside Churches Committee for Community Needs – towards purchase of building	2,500
Mountcollyer Youth Club – towards cross-community project	500
Bethshan Tabernacle Youth and Drama Group – towards drama project	200
Creggan Community Care – towards refurbishing new Centre	500
Springhill Youth Action Group – towards summer scheme and cross community work	500
Madcap – towards equipment for joint youth work	1,000
Shepherd Ecumenical Prayer Group – seeding grant	100
Irish Peace Museum – towards 'Peacemaking in Ireland' exhibition	300
Suffolk 6.45 Club – towards equipment	250
Dhu Varren Project – towards equipment	400
Glencairn After School/Youth Group – towards summer scheme	300
Families Against Intimidation and Terror – seeding grant	1,000
Mullaghduin Community Association – towards renovation work	250
Counteract – towards printing of leaflets	150
Irish Inter-Church Meeting – towards video on 'Co-operating Together'	3,000
Woodvale/Ardoyne Youth Group – towards cross-community holiday	500
British Federation of Youth Choirs – towards Singing Day in Londonderry	500
Saltshaker Centre – towards equipment	500
Glen Community Parent/Youth Group – towards equipment	1,000
Alliance - Ardoyne Playscheme – towards summer scheme	1,000
Ulster Quaker Service Committee – towards equipment	2,500
Greystone Youth Club – towards refurbishing and equipment	750
Family Support Project – towards audio project	500
Youth Links – towards equipment	250

Belfast Centre for the Unemployed – towards furnishing and equipment costs	2,000
Harmony Community Trust – towards refurbishing and equipment costs	2,500
'Enough' – seeding grant	50
'Families Together' – towards cross-community summer scheme	500
Derry Theatre-Go-Round – towards summer project	300
Peace People Farm – towards accommodation block	1,500
High Street Presbyterian Youth Club, Antrim – towards craft project	100
Lamb of God Community, Belfast – towards refurbishing of house	1,500
Glenstar Boys' Club, Poleglass – towards cross-community project	400
Lurgan YMCA – towards new Fringe Project	100
'Dolly Mixtures', Lurgan – towards women's book on the troubles	250
Committee on the Administration of Justice – towards refurbishing and re-equipping of offices	500
Naiscoil Na Rinne – towards after-school club	250
Greater West Belfast Community Association – towards purchase of office	1,500
Magnet Young Adults' Centre, Newry – towards fitting out costs	750
Industrial Society – towards costs of teams participating in Youth Challenges	400
Knockmore Community Association, Lisburn – towards equipment for youth club	350
Interfriendship Group, Lurgan – towards setting up of office	750
St. Joseph's Primary School, Lisburn – towards cross-community environmental project	100
Ballyclare Community Concerns – towards inter-Church community project	1,000
Creggan Co-operative Society Ltd. – towards purchase of land for new Community Enterprise Centre	1,000
The Bridge Youth Club, Belfast – towards musical equipment	600
Glenowen Fisheries Workers' Co-operative – towards initial running costs	750
Irish School of Ecumenics – towards work of School	1,500

The following monies were designated by donors:

From Methodist Relief and Development Fund:

Waterside Churches' Committee for Community Needs	1,500
Peace and Reconciliation Group, Londonderry	1,500

Irish Ecumenical Church Loan Fund

The Committee agreed the following loans in 1991:

Waterside Churches' Committee for Community Needs £15,000 for 5 years @ 7% – towards new premises

Between £15,000 for 4 years @ 6% – towards new heating system

Epworth Centre £1,500 for 2 years @ 6% – towards storage heaters

Ballyclare Community Concerns £10,000 for 6 years @ 6% – towards purchase of site

Prison Fellowship (NI) £10,000 for 7 years @ 6% – towards help with restructuring

Greater West Belfast Community Association £5,000 for 5 years @ 6% – towards purchase of premises

Peace People Farm £7,000 for 4 years @ 6% – towards new accommodation block

Belfast Centre for the Unemployed £7,000 for 3 years @ 6% – towards renovation of premises

Lamb of God Community £7,000 for 5 years @ 6% – towards renovation of premises

Peace Education Programme

Mr. N. L. Richardson has continued his involvement in a series of Queen's University in-service courses for teachers responsible for Education for Mutual Understanding, and in a wide range of other training and Christian Education programmes.

A module for secondary schools entitled 'Power to Hurt' was published during the year and has been warmly welcomed by the schools. An adult study guide, 'What the Bible Says about the Environment', written by Maurice Wigham, is also being printed.

The Peace Education Resources Centre continues to provide material resources and support for teachers and other educators on a cross-community basis.

Grant aid from the Department of Education for Northern Ireland comes to an end on August 31, 1992. A review of the Programme has been carried out as a result of which significant changes in the Programme including a new legal and management structure will take place. Grant aid is currently being sought.

Chaplaincy Scheme for Residential and Nursing Homes for the Elderly

A working group was set up by the Board to clarify the issues involved and drew up guidelines for home owners/managers and for the Churches. Contact was made with the various homeowners' associations and a meeting took place with the Eastern Health and Social Services Board in relation to the Code of Practice for Registration and Inspection of Nursing Homes

Loyalist Paramilitaries

A working group was set up by the Board to consider this issue and it has produced a report which is currently under discussion.

Pastoral Care for Members of the Security Forces

The Board considered this issue at its May meeting and subsequently a Working Group was set up. Its report was adopted by the Board and the Working Group has been asked to process its recommendations.

Environmental Issues

The Board expressed its concern about the implications of siting a toxic waste incinerator at Maydown, Co. Londonderry.

The possibility of producing resource materials on the environment suitable for clergy is being explored.

Brook Clinic

A small working group has been set up by the Board to explore the issues, particularly relating to the Church, underlying the proposed setting up of a Brook Clinic in Belfast.

INTER-CHURCH AFFAIRS

Women's Church Organisations

The Annual Fellowship Day was held in Dublin with the theme 'Women in a Divided Society'. Those taking part were Dr. E. Loane, Mrs. A. Taylor and Sister Isabelle Smyth. Members of the Committee met Sister Lavinia Byrne, Associate Secretary of the Community of Women and Men of the Council of Churches for Britain and Ireland in March. A link has been formed with the new Women's Desk in the Uganda Joint Christian Council and a contribution was made to the project.

Child in the Church Group

Another 'Walk Through Holy Week' weekend for Sunday School teachers and children was held at Corrymeela.

Youth Committee

For a variety of reasons, the activities of the Youth Committee have been somewhat curtailed during 1991. The number of members actively

participating has decreased and some of our most faithful stalwarts, having completed terms of office, have not been replaced. The demise of the British Council of Churches Youth Unit and uncertainty concerning funding and structures for British-Irish ecumenical youth work have resulted in a gap in our programme and in our contacts beyond Ireland.

Within Northern Ireland, energy and resources have been channelled into the setting up of a new, independent, inter-church youth body. Partly funded by Government, "Youth Link N.I." will undoubtedly take up some of the activities which the Youth Committee would have been keen to initiate. With the benefits of substantial funding, full-time staff and administrative support, it begins its work with some advantages.

The Youth Committee remain convinced that there is important work to be done at an all-Ireland level, bringing together young people from the churches, north and south. Given this changing scene, the Committee plans to hold a major consultation in 1992, for the purposes of reviewing its role and of finding new ways forward in co-operation with others.

In the summer of 1991, the Committee held its first International Summer Camp for many years. Based at Moyallon Friends' Meeting House, the programme included visits to church and community groups in Portadown and Belfast, together with some practical work at the Quaker Youth Centre. In 1992 it is hoped to take a group of Irish young people to a similar event elsewhere in Europe.

Involvement in the Ecumenical Youth Council of Europe continues. Three delegates attended the General Meeting in Switzerland in October, and the organisation's Central Council will meet in Northern Ireland in February 1992. Two young people from Ireland were able to participate in a Conference of European Churches visit to Russia and others took part in an international seminar on 'Youth in Situations of Conflict' held at Cultra in July.

Despite some uncertainty and instability caused by a changing scene, the Youth Committee looks to the future of inter-Church youth work in Ireland with optimism and hope.

The Future of Ecumenism in Ireland

Continuing discussion has taken place in the Board on this topic during the year. The Board has also continued to explore the possibilities of contact with other Christian Churches in Ireland.

Decade of Solidarity with Women

The Board has discussed this topic during the year helped by a paper by the Rev. D. S. G. Godfrey. It now wishes the Council as a whole to take up the subject.

Irish Ecumenical News

Three editions were produced during the year under the editorship of Mr. N. L. Richardson.

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

The joint ICC/RC sub-committee produced a 12th Irish Order of Service for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. It was decided not to be involved in preparing an Order for the whole of the British Isles for 1993 under the auspices of the Council of Churches for Britain and Ireland. The matter continues under review.

IRISH INTER-CHURCH MEETING

Five meetings of the Committee were held during the year. The next Irish Inter-Church Meeting is planned for May 1992. The organisation and servicing of the Meeting is being looked at with a view to improving its efficiency.

Two people were sponsored to attend the Selly Oak Ecumenical Summer School on the Decade of Evangelism. The Rev. Colin Davey, Co-ordinating Secretary for Church Life of the Council of Churches for Britain and Ireland, attended the March meeting of the Committee.

Department of Social Issues

The Working Party on Sectarianism under the co-Chairmanship of Mr. John Lampen and Mrs. Mary McAleese has begun its work and is making good progress. The Most Rev. G. Clifford resigned as co-Chairman on his appointment as Auxiliary Bishop of the Armagh Archdiocese. He was replaced by Miss Pauline Berwick.

Department of Theology

At the beginning of the year The Most Rev. Dr. Donal Murray, Auxiliary Bishop of Dublin, was appointed Chairman in succession to the Rev. D. G. Banham who completed the five years in office agreed for this appointment. Mr Banham was asked to continue as Convenor of the Department until the new servicing arrangements are agreed and in operation.

The Joint Bible Study notes "Reading the Bible Together", designed for use at Advent or Lent, have now been published and copies are available from the ICC Office, Belfast, and from Veritas, Dublin. The Department would record its gratitude for the support and co-operation of the National Bible Society of Ireland in this venture. Work continues on further joint studies. The most advanced of these, on 'The Understanding of Salvation and Grace', is a scholastic study intended for circulation among faculties and theological institutions in the first instance.

The Department has carried out a review of priorities and is currently

organising a residential conference to consider ways and means of contributing to the 'Decade of Evangelism'.

OVERSEAS AFFAIRS

World Mission Committee

The Committee has been reconstituted under the Chairmanship of the Rev. S. L. Wallace. A Study Day on inter-faith issues was held in March with the Rev. Kenneth Cracknell of the Council of Churches for Britain and Ireland. Consideration was given to the proposed Northern Ireland Core Syllabus in Religious Education in schools. It was felt that there was a failure to recognise non-Christian ethnic and religious groups in Northern Ireland, other religions and the world dimension in the proposed Syllabus. A submission was made to the drafting group which the Board endorsed.

The Churches' Commission on Mission

The Rev. S. J. Campbell attended the inaugural meeting of the Churches' Commission on Mission.

Ireland/Middle East/South Africa – The Role of Religion

The publication of the report on the Consultation held last year on 'Religion in Situations of Conflict: its Uses and Misuses' is still awaited.

Irish Churches' Delegation Visit to Israel and Palestine

The visit took place in October and included representation from the Church of Ireland, the Methodist, Non-Subscribing Presbyterian, the Presbyterian and Roman Catholic Churches and the Religious Society of Friends. The Rev. Keith Clements, Secretary for International Affairs of the Council of Churches for Britain and Ireland was also present.

Middle East Crisis

A statement was issued in January by the Board and a resolution passed at the Annual Meeting. Contact was made with the Department of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Ireland.

Situation in Sierra Leone

Contact was made with the Department of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Ireland concerning the situation in Sierra Leone.

Evening Meeting

The Board has been concerned to reach a wider audience in the Churches about overseas issues and has been seeking a suitable format. An experimental evening consultation-type evening on the theme 'World View – A Multi-Media Presentation on the Irish Council of Churches and Global

Perspectives' was held in Cooke Presbyterian Church in November.

Christian Aid Ireland

Financially 1990-91 was a good year for Christian Aid, and 1991-92 is proving even better.

The final figures for income for the year ending 31.3.91 were £619,920 plus IR£336,446. This was an increase over the previous year and indicated continuing support from the public, Churches, denominations, third world funds, the Irish Government and others.

Christian Aid Week in May 1991 showed a massive increase of over 50% in Northern Ireland, reaching £359,848. This is the result of hard work and dedication on the part of many people and shows that far from compassion fatigue setting in people are still deeply concerned about those in need. It is notable that as well as the large response to Christian Aid Week there was a generous response to the several disaster situations in the early part of the year – the Middle East, Kurds, Ethiopia and other parts of Africa. The largest single amount received for a disaster situation was £83,757 plus IR£49,854 received through the Bishops Appeal from the Church of Ireland for relief work among the Kurds.

While not issuing a special appeal, Christian Aid has channelled money to Eastern Europe when asked to do so. At the same time there is some concern that the growing needs of Eastern Europe might distract from the deep crisis in Africa.

It is also necessary to remember that while disasters are eye-catching, important on going development work must continue. Generous grants from the Church of Ireland, the Presbyterian Church in Ireland, the Methodist Church in Ireland together with the smaller but no less significant grants received from other Churches help to make this possible.

As well as fundraising Christian Aid believes it is essential to continue widespread education about development issues, particularly within the Churches. As well as the work done with Church groups by the Christian Aid staff in Ireland, a visit from Constantine Dabbagh of the Near East Council of Churches, Gaza, helped many to think more about the issues. All opportunities for such work are welcomed. The Rev. Ian McDowell, accompanied by Belfast journalist, Mr. Alf McCreary, visited Christian Aid partners in Paraguay and Chile, and they are both available to share their experiences.

In seeking to bring influence to bear Christian Aid works with other agencies. In 1991 the main focus was on World Debt; in 1992 this will change to Trade and other issues relevant to the 500th anniversary of Columbus' voyage to the Americas and its aftermath.

The Irish committee, composed of representatives of the sponsoring

Churches in Ireland and the ICC, has continued to meet and to look at the work as a whole. It is hoped that the role of the committee will be clarified and expanded as it continues to meet. Bishop Roy Warke, Rev. Dr. Dick Gordon (appointed through ICC) and Mrs Gillian Kingston continue to serve on the Christian Aid Board where their contributions are much valued.

Further consideration is taking place within Christian Aid about the most effective way for Christian Aid to operate in the Republic of Ireland. It is agreed that Christian Aid should cooperate together with other agencies in the Republic where possible and advisable, and in particular that it should play its full role in CONGOOD and its successor.

COUNCIL OF CHURCHES FOR BRITAIN AND IRELAND

All three Co-ordinating Secretaries of the new Council, the Rev. Dr. Colin Davey for Church Life, the Rev. Ermal Kirby for Public Affairs, and the Rev. Keith Clements for International Affairs, visited Ireland during the year. The General Secretary, the Rev. John Reardon visited Ireland during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.

Dr. R. D. Stevens is a member of the support group for the Rev. Ermal Kirby.

EUROPEAN ECUMENICAL COMMISSION FOR CHURCH AND SOCIETY

Dr. R. D. Stevens attended the Annual Assembly of the Commission and a Consultation on 'The New Challenges of the European Community' in Brussels in September. The Commission and the Conference of European Churches are exploring their future relationship.

CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN CHURCHES

The General Secretary attended the Fifth Ecumenical Encounter held in Spain in November. The theme was 'The Church in a Secularised Europe'.

Mrs. C. M. Barkley was appointed to represent the Council at the next CEC Assembly which will be held in Prague in September 1992.

WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

The General Secretary attended the Assembly of the World Council of Churches held in Canberra in January. The Rt. Rev. B. D. A. Hannon, the present Vice-President, remains a member of the Central Committee.

THE IRISH COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

Office:

Inter-Church Centre, 48 Elmwood Avenue, Belfast BT9 6AZ.

Telephonic: Belfast 663145

Constituent Communions and their leaders 1991/92:

<i>Church of Ireland:</i>	Most Rev. Dr. R.H.A. Eames
<i>Lutheran Church in Ireland:</i>	Pastor P.G. Fritz
<i>Methodist Church in Ireland:</i>	Rev. J.W. Good
<i>Moravian Church, Irish District:</i>	Rev. L. Broadbent
<i>Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Church of Ireland:</i>	Rt. Rev. R.J.H. Williamson
<i>Presbyterian Church in Ireland:</i>	Rt. Rev. Dr. R. Sterritt
<i>Religious Society of Friends:</i>	J. Glynn Douglas
<i>Salvation Army:</i>	Major A. Hart

Members appointed by the Constituent Communions:

<i>Church of Ireland:</i>	
Miss J. Barcroft	Rt. Rev. Dr. J. Mehaffey
Rev. P.F. Barrett	Rev. J.C.D. Mayes
Most Rev. Dr. D.A.R. Caird	Mr. W.T. Morrow
Mrs. L. Clarke	Mr. J.T.N. McGaffin
Rev. P. Colton	Mrs. H. Oxley
Rev. D.W.T. Crooks	Rt. Rev. Dr. S.G. Poyntz
Rev. Dr. I.M. Ellis	Rt. Rev. R.A. Warke
Rev. D.S.G. Godfrey	Mrs. L. Whiteside
Rt. Rev. B.D.A. Hannon	Rev. T.R. Williams
Rev. I. Knox	

Lutheran Church:

Mr. J. Johnston	Dr. H. Robinson
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Methodist Church:

Mrs. I.M. Gallagher	Rev. J. McMaster
Rev. D.J. Kerr	Rev. E.T.I. Mawhinney
Rev. T. Kingston	Miss F. Moffitt
Dr. E. Loane	Dr. F. O'Ferrall
Mrs. I. McDonagh	Mr. N.H. Payne

Moravian Church:

Rt. Rev. J.H. Cooper	Mr. D. Woods
Rev. J. Wilkinson	

Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Church:

Rev. D.G. Banham	Rev. D. Steers
Mrs. E. Mackey	

Presbyterian Church in Ireland:

Rev. Prof. J.M. Barkley
Mrs. C.M. Barkley
Rev. S.J. Campbell
Rev. T. Davidson
Rev. J.S.B. Drennan
Rev. H.A. Dunlop
Rev. Dr. R.J.G. Gray
Rev. T.D. Gribben
Rev. R. Herron
Rev. S. Hutchinson

Mrs. M. Irwin
Miss E.L. Morrow
Rev. T.J. McCormick
Miss E. McCaughan
Miss H. McDowell
Rev. D. Nesbitt
Mr. J. Patterson
Rev. Dr. W. Porter
Mrs. E. Sheppard
Rev. D. Temple

Religious Society of Friends:

John Lampen
J. Gray Peile

Dr. David B.R. Poole

Salvation Army:

Capt. C. Lockhart

Major E. Watters

Co-opted Members of Council:

Rev. C.G. Eyre
Rev. A. Martin
Rev. Canon R. Richey

Mr. John Unsworth
Rev. S.L. Wallace

Officers of the Council 1990/91:

President:

Vice-President:

Honorary Treasurer:

Immediate Past President:

General Secretary:

Mrs. C.M. Barkley
Rt. Rev. B.D.A. Hannon
Mr. R.W. Jess, F.C.A.
Rev. C.G. Eyre
Rt. Hon. D.W. Bleakley, C.B.E.

Executive Committee (as at 31st December 1991):

The President

The Vice-President

The Immediate Past President

The Honorary Treasurer
The General Secretary

Church of Ireland:

Rev. D.S.G. Godfrey
Rev. J.C.D. Mayes

Rt. Rev. Dr. S.G. Poyntz
Rev. T. R. Williams

Lutheran Church:

Pastor P.G. Fritz

Methodist Church:

Rev. D.J. Kerr

Rev. J. McMaster

Moravian Church:

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ECUMENICAL AND OTHER ADDRESSES

Christian Aid:

48 Elmwood Avenue, Belfast, BT9 6AZ.
(Tel. No. Belfast 381204)

Christ Church, Rathgar Road, Rathgar,
Dublin 6. (Tel. No. Dublin 966184)

Council of Churches for Britain and
Ireland:

Inter-Church House, 35-41 Lower Marsh,
London SE1 7RL. (Tel. No. 071-620 4444).

The National Council of Churches of
Christ, U.S.A.:

475 Riverside Drive, New York 10027.

Conference of European Churches

PO Box 2100, 150 route de Ferney,
CH-1211 Geneva 2, Switzerland.

European Ecumenical Commission for
Church and Society:

Rue Joseph II, 174, B 1040 Brussels/
18 rue Charles Appell, F-67000 Strasburg.

THE IRISH COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

PUBLICATIONS AVAILABLE

General

- 1). **The Irish Council of Churches: 1923-1983** by the Rev. Prof. J. M. Barkley, price 80pstg. plus postage. This pamphlet was produced to celebrate the 60th Anniversary of the Council. It gives a concise account of its origins and work.
- 2). **Advisory Forum on Human Rights:**
 - Victims of Crime** (1991), price £1.50 stg. plus postage.
 - Northern Ireland Prisons** (1990), prepared by a joint ICC/Irish Commission for Justice and Peace study group, price £1.50 stg. plus postage.
 - An Ageing Population: Challenges and Opportunities** (1989), price £1. stg. plus postage.
 - Response to the Report of the Committee of Inquiry into the Penal System**, prepared by a joint ICC/Irish Commission for Justice and Peace/Council for Social Welfare Working Party (1986), price £1.stg. plus postage.
- 3). **Peace Education Materials:**
 - (a) **Free to Be** – a programme of peace studies for children aged 8-12 years, prepared by ICC and the Irish Commission for Justice and Peace. Sample pack £4.stg. plus 75p postage and packing.
 - (b) **Looking at Churches and Worship in Ireland** – a programme prepared jointly by the ICC and the Irish Commission for Justice and Peace to help children in the 10+ to 12+ age group appreciate the various religious traditions in Ireland. Information available on request.
 - (c) Titles in the 'What the Bible says about' adult Study Guide series:

What the Bible says about Peace	30pstg. plus postage
What the Bible says about Violence	30pstg. plus postage
What the Bible says about Justice	30pstg. plus postage
What the Bible says about Reconciliation	30pstg. plus postage
What the Bible says about Poverty	30pstg. plus postage
What the Bible says about the Environment	40pstg. plus postage
 - (d) **Secondary School Peace Education Modules:**

Peace Maker	Now available
Power to Hurt (Violence)	Now available
 - (e) **A Peace Education Resources Centre Catalogue** – available on request.
 - (f) **Videos: Viewpoint on Being Roman Catholic, Church of Ireland, Presbyterian, Methodist**, price for schools £16stg. each plus postage.
- 4). **Irish Inter-Church Meeting:**
 - (a) **Department of Social Issues:**
 - Young People and the Church** (1990), price £1.50stg. plus postage
 - The Challenge of the City** (1990), price £1.50stg. plus postage
 - The Churches and the Technological Age** (1986), price £1.25stg. plus postage
 - Leisure in Ireland – a Report to the Churches** (1982), price 80pstg. plus postage
 - Environmental Problems in Ireland** (1980), price 80pstg. plus postage
 - Violence in Ireland** (1976), price £1stg. plus postage
 - (b) **Department of Theology:**
 - Reading the Bible Together**, National Bible Society of Ireland and Veritas

- a new resource for scripture study. It is designed for use in Advent or Lent and is suitable for inter-denominational study groups. Price 99pstg.
- (c) Reports of the Working Parties of the Inter-Church Meeting until 1987, price £3.50stg. plus postage.
- 5). **Inter-Church Activity**
- (a) **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity** — an order of worship prepared by a committee of representatives of the Irish Council of Churches and the Roman Catholic Church, available November.
- (b) **Irish Ecumenical News** — 3 issues per year, price £1stg. or £11R including postage.
- 6). **ICC Annual Report** — available at cost of postage.
- 7). **Briefing Paper on Ireland**, includes information on the Churches in Ireland, price 50pstg. plus postage.

All available from:

The Irish Council of Churches,
Inter-Church Centre,
48 Elmwood Avenue,
Belfast, BT9 6AZ.
Tel. No: Belfast (0232) 663145

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