

EXECUTIVE ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2017

CENTRAL READERS' COUNCIL – charity No 271916

A. Management and Objectives

1. Executive Committee

The management and administration of the Council is vested in its Executive Committee. The members of the Executive Committee during 2017 were:

Chair:

The Rt Rev Martyn Snow, Bishop of Leicester

Elected members and trustees:

Mrs Gertrud Sollars (vice-Chair)

Rev Canon Dr Christopher Bracegirdle (Elected Warden – until April)

Ven Christopher Futchler (Elected Warden – from April)

Rev John Knowles (Elected Warden – until April)

Mrs Karen Senior (Elected Warden – from April)

Mrs Angela Mirani (Elected Reader)

Mr Michael Lee (Elected Reader – until April)

Miss Imogen Clout (Elected Reader – from April)

Mrs Ruth Haldane (Elected Reader – from April)

Mrs Kathleen Bradshaw (Elected Reader)

Mr Richard Havergal (Honorary Treasurer)

Ex-officio members:

Ven Julian Hubbard (Director of Ministry, CofE)

Rev John Collier (representative of the Church in Wales)

Ms Pam ... (representative of the Church in Wales)

Mr Steve Masland (Chair, Conferences Committee – from April)

Mr John Marshall (Chair, Website Committee)

Ms Richenda Milson-Daws (Editor, *The Reader*)

Dr Marion Gray (Chair, Editorial Committee)

Mr Morgan Bunday (Website Editor)

Mrs Lynn Corner (National Consultant for Reader CMD)

Miss Rosemary Walters (National Consultant for Selection & Training)

Mr Andrew Walker (Secretary)

Ms Susanne Mitchell (Associate Secretary from February)

Mrs Mo Cheesman (Database Administrator)

2. Organisation

The Central Readers' Council (CRC) is a registered charity, number 271916. Its address is Church House, Great Smith Street, London SW1P 3AZ. The secretary is Andrew Walker.

The charity is governed by its constitution, which was last revised in April 2017. Banking facilities were provided by the CAF Bank, West Malling.

CRC continues to work in close association with the Ministry Division of the General Synod of the Church of England, and is grateful to the Archbishops' Council for the continuing provision of office facilities at Church House, Westminster.

3. Objects

The objects of CRC are to advance the religious and other charitable work of the Church of England by supporting the training, education and development of Readers for their ministry. Thus enabled, Readers offer public benefit through teaching and pastoral activities under the auspices of the church.

CRC works to enhance the contribution of Readers to the overall ministry of the Church, particularly to encourage the most effective integration with other forms of ministry, ordained and lay. As well as administrative co-ordination and services for diocesan Readers' boards, it arranges training conferences, publishes a quarterly magazine (*The Reader*), maintains a website and provides a forum for the exchange of ideas between individual Readers, and also diocesan Readers' boards. CRC also manages funds invested from two bequests and Readers can apply for grants in certain circumstances.

Members of the Executive and the sub-committees of the Council give their time voluntarily, not only in committee work but also in ensuring that the activities of the Council continue.

The Trustees have due regard to the Charity Commission's public benefit guidance, where that is relevant to the activities of CRC.

B. Review of Activities

1. Executive Committee

The Executive committee held two full meetings during 2017, one of these was residential and the other a day meeting. The first, in February, was involved in dealing with the matters relating to the AGM, changes of staff and trustees. The second, in October, dealt with routine business, but the major part of the day was spent on reviewing Bishop Martyn's proposals for the future of CRC. This paper is the subject of a series of consultations in early 2018 and to which representatives from every diocese have been invited. In addition to the two meetings of the full Executive, the Trustees held a further meeting in July, chiefly to review financial issues.

The sub-committees of the council with responsibility for, respectively, the maintenance of the website and the production of the magazine continued under the competent oversight of the Committee Chairs, John Marshall and Marion Gray.

2. **Annual General Meeting**

The Annual General Meeting of CRC was held in London at the Church of St Botolph Without, Aldgate, London on Saturday 1 April 2017.

The Chair's address announced that there would be a consultation paper reviewing the future of CRC with a view of bringing the outcome of the process to the 2018 AGM.

3. **The Reader Magazine**

A new editor was appointed for The Reader magazine during the year. The magazine is one way that CRC provides material of benefit to Readers and others in the Church of England and further afield. It provides material for theological reflection, book reviews and resources for use in the ministry of Readers.

4. **Grants**

CRC administers funds that are available to assist Readers in their ministry. Any Reader is entitled, for example, to apply to CRC for a grant to attend a course, or request a contribution towards the costs of studying for an academic qualification.

5. **Staff**

Susanne Mitchell was recruited as Associate Secretary to replace Jeff Heaton. The Executive continues to be very grateful to Mo Cheesman for all the work she undertakes in the maintenance of records but notes her decision to retire in February 2018. The continuing support and advice of our National Advisers, Rosemary Walters and Lynn Comer, is very greatly appreciated.

Signed on behalf of the Executive Committee,

Martyn Snow

Andrew Walker

Bishop of Leicester – Chair

Secretary