

EXECUTIVE ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2018

CENTRAL READERS' COUNCIL – charity No 271916

A. Management and Objectives

1. Executive

The management and administration of the Central Readers' Council (CRC) is vested in its Executive. The members of the Executive during 2018 were:

Chair:

The Rt Rev Martyn Snow, Bishop of Leicester

Elected members and trustees:

Gertrud Sollars (Vice-Chair and acting Chair of Editorial Committee)

Christopher Futcher (Elected Warden)

Karen Senior (Elected Warden)

Angela Mirani (Elected Reader – until April)

Jan Waterschoot (Elected Reader – from April)

Imogen Clout (Elected Reader)

Ruth Haldane (Elected Reader – until August)

Kathleen Bradshaw (Elected Reader)

Richard Havergal (Honorary Treasurer)

Ex-officio members:

Julian Hubbard (Director of Ministry Division – until October)

Mandy Ford (Interim Director of Ministry Division – from October)

John Collier (Representative of the Church in Wales)

Pam Odam (Representative of the Church in Wales)

Steve Mashford (Chair, Conferences Committee)

John Marshall (Chair, Website Committee)

Richenda Milton-Daws (Editor, *The Reader*)

Marion Gray (Chair, Editorial Committee – until October)

Morgan Bunday (Website Editor)

Lynn Comer (National Consultant for Reader CMD)

Rosemary Walters (National Consultant for Selection & Training)

Andrew Walker (Secretary)

Susanne Mitchell (Associate Secretary)

Mo Cheesman (Database Administrator – until February)

Christine McCone (Database Administrator – from July)

Ruth Haldane (Reader Training Project Manager – from September)

2. Organisation

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.

During the year the decision was taken to revise the structure of CRC into a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) and to take the opportunity to rationalise the running of CRC. The move to a CIO will also ensure that the trustees have limited liability in the event of CRC winding up. The new structure will also help to position CRC for the new activities envisaged following Bishop Martyn's consultations that took place in early 2018.

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 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 this is relevant to the activities of CRC.

B. Review of Activities

1. Executive

The full Executive held two meetings during 2018, one of which was residential. The first, in February, dealt with matters relating to the AGM, agreeing in principle to start the process of changing the constitution, setting up a new database, and proposals for increasing the cover price of *The Reader*. This meeting was held in Newcastle, following a meeting of the Readers from Newcastle Diocese and the Executive was grateful for the provision of the facilities of Church House, North Shields for the business part of the meeting.

The second meeting, in October, dealt with routine business, and then spent some time reviewing the work of the constitution working group and making various recommendations.

In addition to the two meetings of the full Executive, the Trustees alone held a meeting in June, chiefly to review financial issues and to make the initial decision about future structure and the move to a CIO.

The Committees of CRC with responsibility for, respectively, the maintenance of the website and the production of the magazine continued. The Committee Chair of the website committee remains John Marshall. Marion Gray stood down as Chair of the Editorial Committee in July. Steve Mashford remains Chair of the Conferences Committee, although it was not active during 2018.

2. Bishop's consultations

During the first quarter of the year, the Chair, Vice-Chair and Secretary held six consultations around the country to which all 42 dioceses sent representatives. The aim of these consultations was to assess whether there was an appetite for changing the way CRC works. In summary, this was to look at moving towards assisting Readers throughout the Church of England to be equipped as Teachers of the Faith, Enablers of Mission and Leaders in Church and Society. These changes were supported sufficiently to take a proposal to the AGM for further work to be done on them.

3. Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of CRC was held in Birmingham at the Carrs Lane Conference Centre, Birmingham on Saturday 23 April 2017. The Chair's address and discussion that followed agreed that the conclusions of the consultations were acceptable to the wider membership of CRC and that the next step was to appoint a project manager. This role would carry the responsibility of looking at the way CRC could transform itself into an organisation that connects Readers better and provides access to resources, including on-line training materials.

4. The Reader Magazine

The magazine continues to be one key way that CRC provides material of benefit to Readers and others in the Church of England and beyond. It provides material for theological reflection, book reviews and resources for use in the ministry of Readers. A new database is being set up to handle the future marketing of the magazine and to enable the magazine to be more widely available to clergy and laity alike.

5. 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.

6. Staff

Mo Cheesman retired in February after many years work as CRC database administrator. Christine McCone was recruited to take on the database administration role, which is changing as CRC works at integrating data maintenance and new direction of CRC as a whole.

As part of seeking that new direction, **Ruth Haldane** was appointed, for a three year term, as Reader Training Project Manager. She started the role in September, and had to resign as a trustee with effect from the end of August. Her role is to enable the renewal of Reader/Licensed Lay Minister ministry across the Church of England by shaping a culture of lifelong learning, and through new and existing training resources focused on teaching the faith, enabling mission and leading in church and society.

This is a three year fixed term post, and Ruth Haldane started the role in September 2018. In year 1 she is concentrating on connecting dioceses to discover what is already available for continuing ministerial development, which includes sending out a questionnaire to all dioceses. Ruth has also spoken at various conferences, visited dioceses, and met with key people who could be involved with the project. She has met various staff members of Ministry Division at Church House. A focus group to discuss future training is in the planning stage, and a new website is being developed, alongside rebranding and social media platforms. It is hoped that the first blended learning modules will be launched at the AGM in 2020.

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,

Bishop of Leicester – Chair

Secretary

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