

EXECUTIVE ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2019

CENTRAL READERS' COUNCIL, CIO – Registered Charity no. 1182319

During 2019, a new charity (a charitable incorporated organisation or CIO) was set up (registered charity no. 1182319) and the original, unincorporated charity (no. 271916) was wound up and removed from the Register of Charities in December 2019. The assets, liabilities and funds of the old, unincorporated charity were moved across to the CIO. That process was completed by 1 September 2019 and, since that date, CRC has operated as a CIO. As a result of that change of structure, various other organisational changes will be implemented over the coming year or so. These are mentioned in this report, wherever this process has started.

A. Management and Objectives

1. CRC Council of Reference

The management and administration of the Central Readers' Council (CRC) is vested in its Board of Trustees ('The Board'). As CRC moved into the form of a CIO, it was decided that the Executive should be re-named 'CRC Council of Reference' (CoR). All members of the Executive of the old charity transferred to the new CoR and the membership during 2019 was:

Chair

The Rt Rev Martyn Snow, Bishop of Leicester

Trustees

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

Christopher Futch (Elected Warden – until April; position remained vacant for the rest of 2019)

Karen Senior (Elected Warden)

Jan Waterschoot (Elected Reader)

Imogen Clout (Elected Reader)

Alan Mitchell (Elected Reader from June 2019)

Kathleen Bradshaw (Elected Reader)

Richard Havergal (Honorary Treasurer)

Other members

Mandy Ford (Interim Director of Ministry Division – until appointment of Lay Ministries Officer)

Carrie Myers (Lay Ministries Officer from April *ex officio*)

John Collier (Representative of the Church in Wales)

Pam Odam (Representative of the Church in Wales)

Steve Mashford (Chair, Conferences Committee – now disbanded)

John Marshall (Chair, Website Committee – now disbanded)

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

Morgan Bunday (Website Editor – role now superseded)

Lynn Comer (National Consultant for Reader CMD)

Rosemary Walters (National Consultant for Selection & Training)

Andrew Walker (Secretary *ex officio*)

Susanne Mitchell (Associate Secretary *ex officio*)

Christine McCone (Database Administrator *ex officio*)

Ruth Haldane (Reader Training Project Manager *ex officio*)

2. Organisation

CRC, CIO is a registered charity, number 1182319. 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 re-written for the CIO (February 2019).

Banking facilities were provided by the CAF Bank, West Malling.

CRC continues to work in close association with the Ministry Team 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 recruitment, 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 conferences, publishes a quarterly magazine (*The Reader* renamed *Transforming Ministry* in 2020) and maintains a website, also to be re-launched in 2020.

CRC manages funds invested from two bequests and Readers can apply for grants in certain circumstances.

Members of the Executive (now renamed the CRC Council of Reference) and the Working Groups of the CoR give their time voluntarily, not only when participating in working groups but also in ensuring that the activities of CRC as a whole continue, within its objectives.

The Board has 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 (now CoR)

The full Executive held two meetings during 2019, one of which was residential and both were held in Leicester. The first, in February, mainly dealt with matters relating to the AGM, and then discussed matters relating to Bishop Martyn's paper on Teaching the Faith.

The second meeting, in October, was the first one with CRC constituted as a CIO and as part of recognising the new structure, it was agreed that the Executive should be re-named as the CRC Council of Reference. The meeting dealt with routine business, and spent much of the time discussing the progress of the Reader Training Project. It also authorised setting up a working group to look at the various governance policies that the new CIO needed to implement.

In addition to the two meetings of the full CoR, the Board alone held a meeting in June, for the first time as a video conference call. The main business was to implement the necessary resolutions approved by the AGM to move the assets and business of the unincorporated charity to the newly created CIO and to authorise those concerned to proceed. The issue of branding for the relaunch of the magazine and website was discussed, but it was agreed that a further meeting was needed to discuss this matter alone. That additional meeting duly convened, again by video conference, in July and agreed the necessary processes.

The Committee of CRC with responsibility for the maintenance of the (old) CRC website was disbanded, since the new website will fall under the remit of the Training Project Manager. The Committee that looks after the production of the magazine continued, but reformed into just one group, now referred to as the Editorial Working Group, and chaired by the newly appointed trustee, Alan Mitchell. The Conferences Committee has also disbanded, although a working group is active in preparing a relaunched conference to replace the AGM. It will be held for the first time in 2020 and renamed as a Gathering. It will include a short business meeting, which includes a scaled down AGM run under the new rules of the CIO.

2. Annual General Meeting

The final Annual General Meeting of the unincorporated CRC was held in London at the office of the London Institute of Contemporary Christianity (LICC) on Saturday 13 April 2019. The Chief Executive of LICC, Mark Greene, gave the main address and inspired lively discussion on the topic of living as Christians on our Frontlines. After lunch, the business moved on to the regular business of an AGM and all necessary resolutions were passed to authorise the Trustees to move to a CIO.

3. 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. The database that administers the names and addresses of subscribers is working successfully and the old CRC database was closed down by the end of the year. It was agreed that from the start of 2020, the magazine would be known as *Transforming Ministry* with the strapline 'The magazine of the Central Readers' Council'. The new website and social media to be used by CRC will carry a similar strapline and will be linked by common branding and the name *Transforming Ministry*.

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

Christine McCone continued in the role of database administration, which is still evolving as CRC works at integrating data maintenance and new direction of CRC as a whole.

Ruth Haldane continued in her role as Reader Training Project Manager. She has now worked at creating a new database as well as rebranding to exhibit a common image across all media. She continues to work on 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. Ruth continues to speak at various conferences, visits dioceses, and met with key people who could be involved with the project. It is hoped that the first blended learning modules will be launched at the Gathering in April 2020.

Susanne Mitchell is based in Church House and is the regular representative of CRC in the building, dealing with regular paperwork, banking of cheques and other administrative process as required.

Andrew Walker continued the work of secretary to the CRC. During 2019 much of the work focused around the move to the CIO in addition to the usual routine matters of convening meetings, taking minutes and booking venues.

The continuing support and advice of our National Advisers, **Rosemary Walters** and **Lynn Comer**, is very greatly appreciated.

Signed on behalf of the CRC Council of Reference,



Bishop of Leicester – Chair



Secretary

22 July 2020