

Seek the peace of the city

The Christian Institute
Annual Review 2010



Welcome

I trust that you will be encouraged by reading our Annual Review. This covers the many activities of The Christian Institute in 2009.

Since the last review we have welcomed Sam Wylie, Richard Dyter, Roger Jordan, Dave Rea, Judi Coulson, Matthew Brown, Frank Oliver, Jonathan Wood, Emma Atkinson and Simon Ward on to the staff. We have said goodbye to Matthew Jess, Jennifer Davis and Gerald Wood.

I would like to acknowledge the tremendous role that Alec McNichol has played as Treasurer ever since our inception. He has worked on a voluntary basis, in the early days of the Institute handling virtually all aspects of our finances. Gradually over the years these have increasingly been taken over by the staff and it is expected that during this coming year, all the routine finance work will be handled in-house. Thank you Alec for being such a tower of strength to the staff and Trustees.



I would also like to pay particular tribute to Philip Helm who later this year (in 2010) will step down as a Trustee. He has played a key role as our Company Secretary and navigated us through the legal waters of securing office accommodation. For many years he has helped man a stall for us at the Keswick Convention. We are very grateful to him for giving so freely of his time.

We give thanks to God for his provision during another year. This review is also an opportunity to thank the many volunteers who give so generously of their time. As well as all our research, publications and campaigns, staff and Trustees have spoken to almost 11,000 people at some 200 meetings around the country. Once again during 2009 we have had the tremendous backing of our supporters, for which we thank God.

May God give us grace to face the challenges of the year ahead.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "John Burn".

John Burn OBE,
Chairman of the Trustees of
The Christian Institute

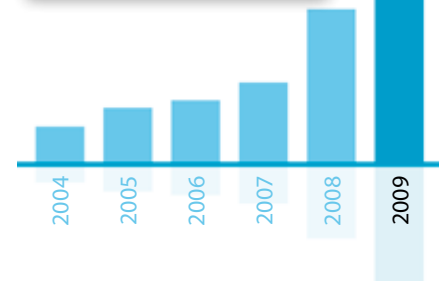
200 meetings attended by
10,798 people.



Meetings and conferences we have held or attended around the UK and Ireland.

27,116 supporters on our mailing list.

898,180 website visits in 2009.



Seek the peace of the city

Around 600BC the children of Israel were exiled in Babylon. Taken out of 'the promised land' and enslaved in a pagan nation, they were understandably concerned for the future. How should they live in an ungodly land? God through the prophet Jeremiah urged them to "seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you into exile. Pray to the LORD for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper." (Jer. 29:7)

For the sake of our neighbour and ourselves, we should seek the welfare of the nation in which we live regardless of whether it is godly or not. Unlike the Jewish exiles in Babylon we live in a democracy. This gives us all manner of opportunities to seek the welfare of our nation, encouraging what is peaceful and leading to true prosperity.

If public policy embraces moral relativism, there will be fraud and corruption and our neighbours get hurt. If public policy treats marriage as an easy-in, easy-out arrangement equivalent to any other living arrangement, our neighbours get hurt. If public policy treats

an unborn child as a lifeless collection of cells which may be discarded, our neighbours get hurt. If public policy treats elderly and disabled lives as 'not worth living', our neighbours get hurt.

If public policy allows a woman to sell her own body to men for sex, our neighbours get hurt. These aren't abstract ideas, they affect real people and we see the heartbreak and harm of broken lives in our nation.

When Christians speak out about marriage, abortion, assisted suicide, or prostitution we do so because we seek the welfare of our neighbours and our nation.

Jeremiah's words are echoed in the New Testament by the Apostle Paul, "I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone—for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. This is good, and pleases God our Saviour, who wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth." (1 Tim. 2:1-4)

Paul, writing at a time when

the pagan Roman Emperor Nero was in charge, urged Christians to pray that their Government would give them the freedom to live godly, holy lives. Paul implies that this religious liberty will allow Christians to be a witness for the gospel by their morally upright lives.

If our Government limits our ability to live godly, holy lives, then our liberty to be a witness for the Gospel is also threatened. During 2009 we helped numerous Christians whose religious liberty had been unlawfully restricted. In many cases we secured a successful outcome, not only obtaining justice but also protecting gospel freedom for countless others in similar circumstances.

Let us take encouragement from Jeremiah and Paul. Looking to the future, with all its uncertainties, let us commit ourselves afresh to seeking the welfare of our nation and defending our liberty to live godly, holy lives.



Colin Hart,
Director of The Christian Institute



Religious liberty

Equality Bill

In April 2009 the Equality Bill was laid before Parliament and published. The Bill contained a number of proposals which we believed would harm religious liberty for Christian groups and individuals.

We obtained expert legal opinion, published our research to our supporters and the public, raised concerns with the Government and supported measures to improve the legislation.

The Bill, now an Act, included a 'single equality duty' meaning that public bodies like the police and schools would be required by law to promote homosexual and transsexual rights in a manner that may infringe religious liberty.

Measures within the Bill may also mean that Christian groups which receive public funds or work in partnership with public bodies to engage in community projects may face unfair limitations on their activity.

Under the Bill's original proposals the Government had wanted to narrow significantly the freedom of churches to employ people who uphold church teaching on sexual conduct.

GOOD NEWS

At the start of 2010 we supported Christian peer, Lady O'Cathain, who led a successful campaign in the House of Lords to stop these plans. Faced with time pressure in the Commons the Government accepted defeat.



Lady O'Cathain led a successful campaign in the House of Lords to defeat the Government and protect church freedom.

The passage of the Bill gave Christians the opportunity to raise concerns about how 'equality and diversity' rules have been used to push Christians out of public life. The plight of religious adoption agencies was regularly cited. Almost all such agencies have been shut down or forced to abandon their religious ethos because of sexual orientation laws that fail to protect liberty of conscience.

The Christian Institute produced a report on the plight of adoption agencies and pushed for measures that allow freedom in this area.

The Bill passed into law in April 2010.

Charity law

At the end of 2008 the Charity Commission for England and Wales published its 'public benefit' guidance on assessing the charitable status of religious groups, including churches.

In May 2009 we obtained an expert legal opinion on the published guidance from charities lawyer, Nicola Evans, of Bircham Dyson Bell. The advice set out the legal obligations for churches and religious charities but also gave reassurance about religious liberty. We distributed this advice to churches and Christian charities in England and Wales.

GOOD NEWS

In July 2009 news emerged that the Church Mission Society (CMS) had passed an assessment by the Commission. The Commission ruled that CMS's evangelistic work does provide public benefit, going some way to allay the concerns of charities engaged in evangelistic activity.

During 2009 we made preparations for a charity law roadshow to tour England and Wales during 2010, giving expert information to church and charity leaders about a range of legal issues. The tour has been extremely popular with over 1,100 attendees.

In 2009 the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland (CCNI) published its draft 'public benefit' guidance. After obtaining

legal advice, we were concerned that it may leave churches in doubt about their charitable status and it may introduce bureaucratic requirements and tests unrelated to charity legislation.

We have sought improvements to the CCNI draft guidance, the final version of which is yet to be published. In November 2009 we informed our supporters in Northern Ireland of their opportunity to respond to a public consultation about the matter. We await developments.

Free speech

In January 2009 it was discovered that the Government was proposing the repeal of a free speech safeguard from a 'sexual orientation hatred' law affecting England, Scotland and Wales.

The safeguard makes clear that expressing opposition to homosexual conduct, or encouraging someone to refrain from such conduct, is not, of itself, a crime.

It is known by some as the Waddington Amendment because it was successfully introduced by Lord Waddington in the House of Lords in April 2008.

But a clause contained within the Coroners and Justice Bill proposed to abolish the safeguard.

In March 2009 a meeting for politicians was organised by Lord Waddington in

Parliament. The actor Rowan Atkinson, concerned about liberty for artistic expression, attended and spoke in favour of retaining the free speech safeguard. The meeting was reported in the national press.

We produced a briefing on why the Waddington Amendment should be retained. The briefing was sent to our supporters and to Peers in the House of Lords.

GOOD NEWS

In November 2009, just days after a Christian grandmother had been questioned by police for



Rowan Atkinson, concerned about liberty for artistic expression, spoke in favour of retaining the free speech safeguard.

disapproving of a homosexual pride march in Norwich, the House of Lords voted to retain the safeguard by 179 votes to 135.

Lord Waddington was supported by former Lord Chancellor, Lord Mackay; former High Court Judge, Lady Butler-Sloss; former Chief Constable of West Midlands Police, Lord Dear; the Liberal Democrat frontbench spokesman, Lady Falkner; the Bishop of Winchester and others.

The Government accepted defeat because of time pressure in the Commons.

EU Equality Directive

The European Union is proposing a Directive to outlaw discrimination in the provision of goods and services.

Although the UK already has 'goods and services' discrimination laws, this Directive could cause further harm to religious liberty in the UK.

The Directive has measures that would, in effect, regulate speech while goods and services are being provided. These measures are not currently present in UK law.

The Directive would also hand power to Brussels to control important aspects of discrimination law, making it harder for UK Christians to raise concerns in the future.

We obtained an expert legal opinion which revealed that the draft Directive

does not allow sufficient room for religious liberty or freedom of speech for Christians.

Similar laws in other nations have caused serious erosion of religious liberty and the sidelining of Christianity from public life.

In 2009 we met with ministers of the Czech government, which at the time held the presidency of the EU, to press for wider religious liberty protections and also with the Vice President of the European Parliament.

We published a briefing with information about the Directive and its implications. The briefing was translated into six European languages and distributed within the EU to groups that share our concerns about the Directive. Our legal opinion was translated into Czech, Italian and Polish.

In July we submitted our response to a UK Government consultation on the Directive and we informed our supporters of their opportunity to respond too.

The Directive has not yet been approved by the EU and it remains in discussion between the member states.

Teachers Code

In February 2009 we uncovered proposals for a new professional code of conduct for teachers which could have led to Christian

teachers being disciplined for holding to their religious beliefs.

The proposals were put forward by the General Teaching Council for England (GTCE), which regulates the teaching profession in England.

It planned to adopt 'equality and diversity' wording from a code of conduct for nurses. That same wording had been used to suspend a Christian nurse who offered to pray for a patient's recovery.

Top employment lawyer, John Bowers QC, produced a legal opinion saying the proposed code could "lead to a 'chilling effect', creating a culture where teachers hide their faith, fearing adverse consequences".

Our discovery of the GTCE proposal made national headlines. We published information on the implications of the planned wording and encouraged Christian teachers to respond to the GTCE consultation.

Concerns were also raised by the Church of England, The Catholic Education Service and the Association of Christian Teachers.

In July 2009 the GTCE announced that it had improved the wording of the code to take account of points raised during the consultation process.



Ben & Sharon

On 20 March 2009 hotel owners Ben and Sharon Vogelenzang, who are Christians, entered into a debate with a female Muslim guest about religion.

The conversation included discussion about whether Islamic dress for women is a form of 'bondage' and whether Jesus is the Son of God or just a prophet of Islam.

The Muslim lady later complained to police and the Christian couple were arrested and charged with breaching Section 5 of the Public Order Act 1986.

The couple contacted The Christian Institute for advice and support. We decided to fund their legal defence, engaging a criminal law solicitor and a leading human rights barrister.

We also mobilised support from the Christian public, encouraging people to pray for Ben and Sharon's vindication.

The couple were put on trial at Liverpool Magistrates Court. We held a prayer rally on the evening before the trial, attended by hundreds of Christians from across Liverpool.

On the morning of the trial we organised a small, orderly, peaceful demonstration outside the court. Protesters sang hymns and held placards calling for freedom of speech for Ben and Sharon.



Sharon and Ben Vogelenzang at a prayer rally organised by The Christian Institute.

GOOD NEWS

After a two-day hearing in December 2009 the judge dismissed the case, ruling that the evidence against them was not reliable.

The trial made global headlines and The Christian Institute was able to speak out in defence of free speech and religious liberty for Christians.

Pilgrim Homes

A care home for elderly Christians had £13,000 of public funding taken away because of its religious beliefs on sexual conduct.

The home is run by 200-year-old

Christian charity, Pilgrim Homes.

Brighton Council wanted the home's managers to ask the elderly residents about their sexual orientation, and repeat the question every three months.

The Council also wanted the home to advertise homosexual events to residents, some of whom were retired missionaries and pastors.

The home was also urged to use images of same-sex couples in its promotional literature.

When the home said the Council's demands would unsettle the Christian residents and damage the home's long-standing religious ethos, the Council accused the home of 'institutional homophobia' and withdrew £13,000 of public funding used to fund a warden.

GOOD NEWS Extensive appeals to the Council, asking for the decision to be overturned, were unsuccessful.

In December 2008, assisted by The Christian Institute's Legal Defence Fund, Pilgrim Homes sued the Council for religious discrimination.

In February 2009 the Council settled out of court, withdrawing its demands and restoring the funding in full.

Jennie Cain

In February 2009 mum and part-time school receptionist Jennie Cain was

disciplined by her employer for sending an email asking church friends to pray for her five-year-old daughter, who had just been told off by her teacher for talking about her faith to a classmate.

Mrs Cain sent her email from her home, using her own personal email account, outside of work hours. But the email ended up in the hands of head teacher, Gary Read, and Mrs Cain was investigated for professional misconduct.

She was told to stay away from her job for nearly four months before receiving a written warning.

The case made front-page news in the national press. In October 2009 she launched an Employment Tribunal claim for religious discrimination, backed by The Christian Institute.

In April 2010 her employers settled out of court, paying an undisclosed sum to Mrs Cain and agreeing that Christianity should be treated with sensitivity and respect in the workplace.

Peter & Hazelmary Bull

In March 2009 it was reported that a same-sex couple had launched a legal action against the Christian owners of a Cornish guesthouse because they only provide double beds to married couples.

The owners, Peter and Hazelmary Bull, live in the guesthouse and say they should

not be forced to act against their religious conscience in their own home.

Their policy is publicly available and it applies to unmarried heterosexuals as well as same-sex couples.

The legal action is being brought by Martyn Hall and his civil partner Steven Preddy with the backing of the taxpayer-funded Equality and Human Rights Commission.

The Christian Institute is defending the couple, who may lose their business. A trial date has not yet been set.

Lillian Ladele

The latest court ruling in the ongoing legal case between Christian registrar, Lillian Ladele, and Islington Council was given in December 2009.

The Court of Appeal upheld an earlier ruling that Miss Ladele did not suffer religious discrimination, although it accepted that she had been treated badly by her employer.

Islington Council had disciplined Miss Ladele and threatened her with dismissal because she asked not to be forced to carry out same-sex civil partnerships.

Lawyers acting for Miss Ladele say she was shunned by colleagues who mounted a campaign against her because of her Christian beliefs on marriage.

The Council also passed confidential employment information about Miss Ladele to the staff LGBT forum.

She won an initial Employment Tribunal claim for religious discrimination and harassment, but the decision was overturned on appeal.

Miss Ladele, backed by The Christian Institute, is intending to take her case to the European Court of Human Rights.

Foster carer

In February 2009 we revealed that a Christian foster carer had been deregistered by a local authority because a 16-year-old Muslim girl in her care became a Christian.

The girl had independently expressed an interest in exploring Christianity before she was placed with the foster carer.

To protect the girl, the names of the foster carer and the local authority cannot be revealed.

In October 2009 the High Court granted permission for the foster carer to challenge the Council's decision to deregister her. We expect an outcome soon.

Pauline Howe

Christian grandmother Pauline Howe, 67, was left shocked and intimidated after police officers questioned her beliefs about homosexual conduct.

Police officers visited Mrs Howe in her home because she had sent a letter to her local council complaining about a homosexual pride march in her home city of Norwich.

She had been handing out Christian leaflets at the event, but had been on the receiving end of verbal abuse from people on the march. Police said her letter of complaint constituted a 'hate incident'.

Having been questioned by police, Mrs Howe contacted The Christian Institute. We gave support and advice. We also defended Mrs Howe in the national media. The police took no further action.

Marginalising Christians

In December 2009 we published a report cataloguing dozens of cases of Christians being sidelined in the UK. Since then we have distributed over 20,000 printed copies and the report has been downloaded from our website thousands of times. Copies have also been sent to MPs and Peers in Parliament to inform them of the increasing injustice experienced by Christians in the UK.

Prostitution and lap-dancing

GOOD NEWS

Towards the end of 2008 new proposals were announced by the then Home Secretary Jacqui Smith to tighten the law on prostitution, making it illegal to purchase sex from someone who is controlled for another person's gain.

The measure aims to tackle the exploitation of women by pimps and human traffickers by cutting demand.

However, in spite of earlier suggestions that the Government would ban the purchase of sex outright, in line with the Swedish system, it remains lawful for men to pay for sex with women who are acting independently.

GOOD NEWS The Government also proposed to strengthen the licensing laws controlling lap-dancing clubs. The number of such clubs doubled after 2003 when a relaxed licensing regime was introduced – the same controls as the licensing of cafes and karaoke bars.

Under the new law, lap-dancing clubs will need to obtain a sex establishment licence to operate. This will give local councils powers to place tighter restrictions on a club's activities and limit their number in a given area.

The Christian Institute welcomed the



Government's proposals on prostitution and lap-dancing clubs as a step in the right direction.

In June 2009 we produced a briefing on the issue of prostitution. In it we pointed to research showing that prostitution is inextricably linked to drug abuse, exploitation and violence.

Most prostitutes have feared for their lives at least once, 90% want to get out of prostitution but feel they can't, and 93% are on drugs, with 88% on heroin.

It is impossible to know exactly how many prostitutes are working in the UK. However, it has repeatedly been said to be around 80,000.

An estimate from 2008 suggested that up to 18,000 females, including girls as young as 14, have been trafficked into UK brothels to meet the rising demand for prostitutes. This would mean almost 23% of prostitutes are trafficked.

We published our briefing, making

it available from our website and distributing it to members of the House of Lords.

The proposals on prostitution and lap-dancing were contained in the Policing and Crime Bill and they passed into law at the end of 2009.

Particular tribute should be paid to our friends at CARE (Christian Action Research and Education) for their tireless efforts on this issue.

Throughout history Christians have always opposed turning sex into a commodity. In past generations Christians have pioneered initiatives to help and protect women caught up in the sex trade.

Christians seek to follow the example of Christ, who showed great compassion towards women caught up in prostitution, while also calling to repentance those involved in sexual sin.

Medical ethics

Assisted suicide

During 2009 there were repeated attempts in the UK Parliament and the Scottish Parliament to legalise assisted suicide. Assisted suicide is a form of euthanasia where a person gets help from a doctor, family member, or another individual to deliberately kill themselves.

In June 2009 we produced a briefing against assisted suicide. In it we demonstrated that changing the law would pressurise the vulnerable and

damage palliative care. It would also radically alter how our society values people, placing importance on people's ability rather than their humanity.

We reproduced the moving stories of people who once had a settled wish to die by assisted suicide, but were glad the law stopped them from doing so.

Other organisations also supported measures to keep the law unchanged. The Lords voted against weakening the law in England and Wales by 194 votes to 141.

Meanwhile in Scotland, independent MSP Margo MacDonald pushed for the Holyrood Parliament to legalise assisted suicide.

During 2009 she introduced a Bill, the End of Life Choices (Scotland) Bill, and held a public consultation on it.

Scotland's health minister, Nicola Sturgeon, voiced concerns about the Bill, fearing it could be open to abuse.

We responded to the public consultation, opposing the Bill and pointing out its flaws. Our response also highlighted the fact that Christians have had a longstanding involvement in palliative care, motivated both by belief in the sanctity of human life and by the biblical exhortations to care for our neighbour.

Despite recent high-profile court judgments, assisted suicide remains unlawful throughout the UK.



MSP Margo MacDonald has been pushing for the Scottish Parliament to legalise assisted suicide.

Abortion

In March 2009 the UK's broadcasting advertising watchdog launched a three-month consultation on plans to allow TV ads for abortion services.

The Broadcast Committee of Advertising Practice (BCAP) also proposed allowing TV ads for condoms before the 9pm watershed.

BCAP said it was following recommendations from the Government's Independent Advisory Group on Sexual Health and HIV.

We contacted our supporters about the matter, briefed them on the issues and informed them of their opportunity to take



part in the consultation.

In June 2009 we submitted our response to the consultation. Regarding abortion ads on TV, we pointed out that the issue is highly controversial and TV commercials are not appropriate media for the issue.

Allowing such ads would also make it more difficult for parents to manage how their children learn about such a controversial subject.

We also pointed out that, under the plans, pro-life pregnancy counselling centres were being subjected to tighter controls than abortion providers, and that there were no proposals to ensure that ads for abortion services would warn women about the medical risks of having an abortion.

In March 2010 BCAP revealed that it will not, for the time being, allow commercial groups to have abortion ads on TV. In a statement the watchdog said there were “outstanding matters” that require “further discussion.”

But they did change the rules to allow condom ads to appear on TV before the 9pm watershed, and in May 2010 they allowed a not-for-profit abortion provider to advertise on TV.

Meanwhile in March 2009 in Northern Ireland, the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety (DHSSPS) published guidelines on the abortion law



In May 2010 BCAP allowed Marie Stopes, an abortion provider, to advertise on TV.

covering the Province.

The law only allows abortion in Northern Ireland if the mother’s life is in imminent danger. But the guidelines simply stated that women seeking abortions should be offered “non-judgmental and non-directive” counselling, failing to properly explain the current law.

The guidelines were published by the DHSSPS following legal action from a pro-abortion campaign group in 2004.

The Christian Institute briefed the

all-party pro-life group of the Northern Ireland Assembly about the newly published guidelines. We also informed our supporters in Northern Ireland and kept them informed through our website and by email.



In December 2009, following a legal action brought by the Society for the Protection of Unborn Children, the High Court in Belfast ordered that the guidelines should be withdrawn. The court ruled that the guidelines were “misleading”.



BACK ROW

Matthew Brown
Trainee Administrative Assistant
Handles correspondence and calls from supporters.

Jonathan Timm BSc
Administrative Assistant
Handles correspondence, calls from supporters and IT support.

William Macleod BA
Acting Office Manager
Supervises the administration and running of the office.

Chris Prest BA PGCE
Development Officer
Develops the Institute's work with churches and supporters.

Jonathan Wood BA
Assistant to the Head of Finance

John Bailes
Finance Clerk
Works on book-keeping and accounts.

Jason Abdelnoor BSc MSc PGCE
Finance Clerk
Works on book-keeping and accounts.

Sam Webster BA
Solicitor Advocate
In-house Solicitor
Manages religious liberty cases.

Humphrey Dobson BA
Deputy Director
Responsible for policy and staffing.

Simon Calvert LLB
Deputy Director
Responsible for public affairs, including our Parliamentary work.

Sam Wylie BA
Communications Officer

Dave Hewer BA
Multimedia Designer
Works on the design of the Institute's various communications.

Richard Dyer MA
Writer
Writes content for the Institute's communications and publications.

Revd Simon Ward LLM
Legal Researcher
Conducts research into legal issues and assists with religious liberty cases.

Dave Greatorex LLB
Head of Research
Supervises the research work.

Elizabeth Rome MMathPhil
Researcher
Conducts general research across a range of issues.

Benjamin Mitchell BA
Researcher
Conducts general research across a range of issues.

Callum Webster MA MSc
Northern Ireland Officer
Develops the Institute's work in Northern Ireland.

FRONT ROW

Judi Coulson BA PGCE
Administrator
Handles correspondence and calls from supporters.

Mary Schuch
Administrator
Handles correspondence and calls from supporters.

Christine Thwaites Cert Ed
Administrative Assistant
Handles correspondence and calls from supporters.

Alasdair Armour BA
Development Officer
Develops the Institute's work with churches and supporters.

Debbie Stephens BA
Events Co-ordinator
Helps organise the Institute's special events and conferences.

Frank Oliver
Financial Administrator
Handles the Institute's payments and financial data.

Jon Errington BA DipTP
Head of Finance
Supervises the financial administration.

Leigh Docherty BA
Personal Assistant to the In-house Solicitor

Tracey Holding BA MPhil
Personal Assistant to the Director

Colin Hart BSc PGCE
Director
Controls the day-to-day running of the Institute.

Jane Sampson BA Dip Law
Personal Assistant to the Deputy Director (Public Affairs)

Mike Judge BA
Head of Communications
Oversees the Institute's communications.

Roger Jordan BSc
Communications Officer

Dave Rea
Cameraman/Video Editor
Produces audio visual media.

Jessica Khan BSc
Researcher
Conducts general research across a range of issues.

Jane Leung BA
Researcher
Conducts general research and writes for the website.

Emma Atkinson MA
Researcher
Conducts general research across a range of issues.

Sandra Mackay
Personal Assistant to the Northern Ireland Officer

Fiona Rushton
Cleaner

Marriage and the family

Home schooling

Families educate their children in different ways. Most send their children to state schools, some to independent schools, and some choose to educate their children at home.

We support the freedom of parents to decide for themselves what is best for their children.

In June 2009 the Government announced plans to restrict the liberty of home-schooling families in England. Under the plans, parents would have been forced to register annually with the local authority and submit reports about their child's education.

There were also proposals to allow government officials to have one-on-one interviews with home-schooled children without parents being present. Parents could have refused permission for such interviews, but would have run the risk of deregistration if they did so.

Under the proposals failure to comply with the measures could have resulted in criminal charges being brought against parents and a child being forced to attend a state-run school.

In October 2009 we produced a briefing on the Government's proposals. We were concerned that the plans were a heavy-handed intrusion into family life and may have interfered with a parent's right to



Part of our campaign against the home education proposals included a video highlighting the threat to family freedom.

educate their child in accordance with their religious beliefs.

We distributed our briefing to our supporters in England and informed them of their opportunity to respond to the Government's consultation.

GOOD NEWS In April 2010 the Government was forced to abandon its home schooling plans, having run out of time to get them passed by Parliament before the General Election was called.

Sex education

During 2009 the Government pressed ahead with plans to make sex education compulsory in schools from the age of five. Parents would have retained the right to withdraw their children from such lessons, but they would have lost that right when their child turned 15. These plans applied only to England.

In July 2009 we produced a briefing on the issue and sent it to 15,000 supporters in England. The briefing outlined the proposals and raised concerns that the

plans could undermine the value of marriage, increase the sexualisation of young children and infringe the rights of parents to have their children educated in accordance with their religious beliefs.

We also informed our supporters of their opportunity to respond to a Government consultation on the proposals.

We submitted our response. In it we pointed out that the proposed programmes of study failed to cover some topics which are essential for truly informed and healthy choices. In particular, the medical dangers of early intercourse and the physical and emotional benefits of saving sex for marriage were not mentioned.

GOOD NEWS

In April 2010 the Government was forced to abandon its plans for sex education, having run out of time to get them passed by Parliament before the General Election.

In June 2009 the Welsh Assembly Government opened a consultation on its draft working paper for sexual health services in Wales. It stated that "Increased exposure to sex and relationships education in schools" was "beneficial".

In September 2009 we wrote to our supporters in Wales, briefing them on the proposals and informing them of their opportunity to respond to the consultation.

We submitted our own response. We

expressed our concern that the draft working paper made no mention of allowing parents an input, listening to their views, or respecting their position as those responsible for their children's education.

It is a legal requirement that all children learn about the importance of marriage but we were disappointed that the draft working paper did not mention this.

So far, a final working paper has not been published. Updated guidance on sex education has since been published by the Welsh Assembly Government without substantial changes to previous policy.

Sexual offences

In 2009 the Scottish Government proposed to change the law on sexual offences. This included plans to legalise all sexual activity short of full sexual intercourse for 13 to 15-year-olds. This meant oral sex and groping would have become legal between teenagers aged under 16.

We obtained a legal opinion from a criminal law advocate listing the sexual activities that the Scottish Government was proposing to legalise for young teenagers. We made this available to senior politicians.

We submitted written evidence to the Scottish Parliament's Justice Committee and a senior member of staff gave oral evidence to the Committee expressing our deep concerns.

The Committee recommended that the Scottish Government should reconsider its proposals, warning that the plans could send out the message that such activity is socially acceptable and risk-free.

GOOD NEWS

In March 2009 the Scottish Government agreed to drop its plans to legalise oral sex between young teenagers.

ROI Civil Partnerships

In the Republic of Ireland the Government proceeded with plans to legalise homosexual civil partnerships. The plans included measures to imprison and fine civil registrars who, for reasons of religious conscience, ask not to take part in officiating at such unions.

We produced a briefing on the issue, demonstrating that the legislation would undermine the status of marriage and restrict religious liberty. We wrote to our supporters in the Republic, giving them a copy of our briefing and encouraging them to write to their TD in the Irish Parliament. We also met with church leaders and held a number of public meetings to inform Christians about the proposals.

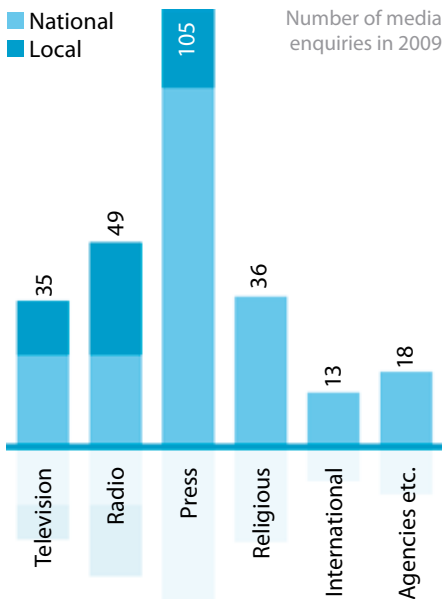
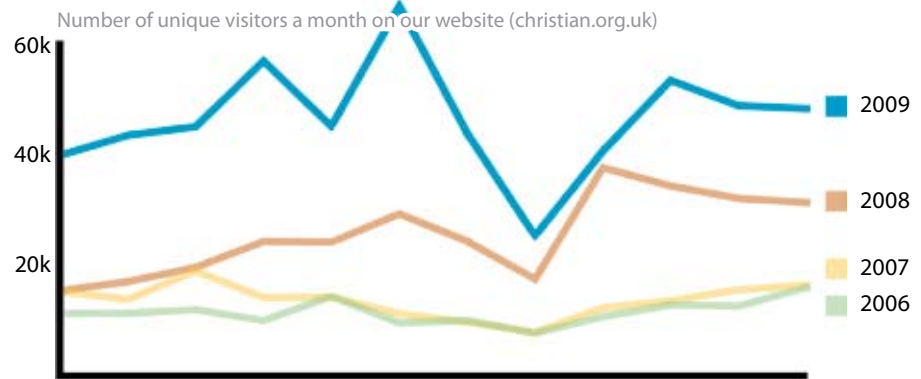
In February 2010 the Irish Government announced that there would be no "freedom of conscience" clause inserted into the Bill.

Communications

Website

Throughout 2009, our website, christian.org.uk, continued to surge in popularity. Visits increased by 61% per cent, totalling 898,180 for the year. Over 2.85 million pages of information were viewed. Handy, informative resources are freely available to download from the site, with new ones added throughout the year.

Our online audio library of lectures and seminars was updated throughout the year. The library covers Christian teaching on biblical issues. On average 178



audio files were accessed each day on our website during the year, reaching a total of 65,062 by the year's end.

Through our website we were able to keep our supporters informed of breaking news on issues like religious liberty, medical ethics, and marriage and the family. Our email alert system keeps over 11,000 subscribers up to date on a weekly basis.

Publications

The Christian Institute produced a number of publications in 2009 to provide clear and accurate information on a range of issues from a Christian perspective. The publications were used by Christians, politicians, journalists and the general public.

We published a booklet on the life and

work of Josephine Butler, a 19th Century Christian campaigner who established refuges for discarded prostitutes and pressed for an end to laws which tolerated prostitution and child sex trafficking.

She is responsible for raising the age of consent in the UK to 16 – a measure which, to this very day, helps protect children from predatory sexual abuse. Our booklet was timely, published in the same year that the Scottish Government effectively proposed reducing the age of consent to 13 for many forms of sexual activity.

We also published three reports examining the matter of religious liberty for Christians. One large report catalogued dozens of cases of Christians being discriminated against because of their faith. Another looked specifically at the need for liberty of conscience for faith-based adoption agencies, another

looked at faith-based care homes being pressurised to act contrary to their religious ethos.

Video

Since launching our online video channel on the popular video-sharing website YouTube, our videos have been viewed over 220,000 times. Our news report about Christian grandmother, Pauline Howe, being questioned by police for

objecting to a homosexual pride march was broadcast in October 2009 and it has been viewed over 21,000 times. The video was picked up and used by local ITV news. Another video reported the story of church worker, Julian Hurst, being investigated by police because someone complained about him handing out leaflets inviting people to a church Easter service. It was broadcast in June 2009 and has since been viewed over 15,000 times.

Radio

Our headquarters in Newcastle includes a purpose-built audio studio equipped with technology which enables Institute spokesmen to give studio-quality interviews to any radio station anywhere in the world, without having to leave the building. During 2009 we received 49 interview requests from regional and national radio stations. These included BBC Radio 4, BBC 5 Live and Christian stations, Premier Christian Radio and United Christian Broadcasters. The Institute has also been able to give radio interviews to several US talk shows syndicated throughout North America.

Newspapers

The Christian Institute is a trusted source of news and comment for the print media.



Our video about Pauline Howe has been watched over 21,000 times.

During 2009 there were 285 newspaper articles featuring comment from The Christian Institute or featuring cases backed by the Institute's Legal Defence Fund. These included four front-page articles in the national press.

Television

TV news programmes also featured interviews with The Christian Institute, or featured cases backed by the Institute. During 2009 these programmes included BBC Six O'Clock News, BBC Question Time, Channel 4 News and ITN News. One of our Legal Defence Fund cases was featured on America's most watched cable news show, The O'Reilly Factor, on Fox News. In total we had 35 requests for interviews from national or local TV programmes in 2009.



Teaching at meetings

During 2009 staff of The Christian Institute spoke to almost 11,000 people in 200 meetings across the UK. At every meeting we talk about biblical principles which underpin our work. God's Word remains the same, even as issues change, and in our meetings we spend time addressing biblical principles and how they should affect Christian involvement in today's society.

We addressed five main themes over the course of 2009:

Salt and Light

Jesus told his followers: "You are the salt of the earth" (Matthew 5:13). Salt has the property that it prevents, or at

least slows down, the decay of meat or fish. So the implication is that the world has a tendency to decay and rot.

Jesus goes on to say: "You are the light of the world". He urges his followers to "let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven." The implication here is that the world has a natural tendency towards darkness.

There is a radical difference between the values of people who follow Christ and the values of the world. Even as the world tends towards decay and darkness, Jesus' followers are to be like salt and light, preserving and shining.

Christians should be a positive influence on the world around us as we seek the honour of God's name. We are called to care for people and, out of love, we must point

people to a better way to live. When we do this, people can become conscious of their sin and their need for a saviour.

Common grace

In Acts 14 Paul told those in Lystra that God has "shown kindness by giving you rain from heaven and crops in their seasons; he provides you with plenty of food and fills your hearts with joy". We live in a fallen world but nevertheless the world is not as chaotic, loveless, or ugly as it could be. The reason for this is God's common grace.

Common grace cannot save; only saving grace in Christ can do that. But thanks to common grace people are restrained from being as bad as they could be, and Christian and non-Christian alike can experience beauty, love and joy in this life.

In order to emulate our Heavenly Father who has shown kindness to all, we ought to show love to everyone including those who oppose us. One way of doing this is by upholding the creation ordinances which God has put in place: we can support marriage as the bedrock for bringing up a family and for passing on moral values; and we can work for just laws that uphold what is right and help prevent hurt and harm.



Praying for those in authority

In 1 Timothy 2 Paul encourages prayer for kings and all those in authority so that “we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. This is good, and pleases God our Saviour, who wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth.”

A stable society that allows the widespread proclamation of the Gospel is vital for evangelism. The protection of religious liberty and the ability to live “peaceful and quiet lives” allow a growing “knowledge of the truth”.

Sanctity of life

In Genesis we learn that all human life is precious because we are all made in God’s image. The Bible also points us to when human life begins by showing how we are in need of a saviour from when we are first conceived; as King David acknowledged: “Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me” (Psalm 51:5).

But in stark contrast to biblical teaching, Western society often regards human life as disposable. This has led to the widespread practice of abortion and calls for the legalisation of assisted suicide. A solid grounding in Scripture helps



In stark contrast to biblical teaching, society often regards human life as disposable.

Christians understand the sanctity of human life.

Involvement in society

At our meetings during 2009 we have spoken with thousands of people about practical ways to apply biblical principles to today’s issues. We have shared our experience of how short, clear letters to a politician, company or newspaper can help bring about change on an issue. We have briefed people on how they can have a godly influence by responding to public

consultations, meeting with MPs, and giving practical service in schools. And we have encouraged Christians to use their legal rights to stand up for the freedom of the gospel when they can.

Many people have told us of the positive influence they have been able to have on society through their active involvement. Every year we become even more aware of how important it is to help our supporters get involved and take simple, practical steps to act as salt and light.

How we are managed



From left to right: Geoff Fox, John Burn (Chairman), Revd David Holloway, Dr David Walton, Philip Helm (Company Secretary), Alec McNichol (Treasurer), Revd George Curry, Philip Robinson

The Christian Institute is a registered charity, governed by its eight-member Council who act as Trustees. They are legally responsible for the charity and bring a variety of skills and knowledge to the organisation. Their help and support is invaluable.

An executive group, comprising the Chairman, Company Secretary and Treasurer, meets regularly with the Director to discuss the Institute's affairs. The day-

to-day running is the responsibility of the Director, Colin Hart.

As a charity, the Institute relies upon the generosity of its supporters – those who are willing to give financially to ensure that the work continues. Over 99% of our income comes through gifts from supporters. We praise God for this provision for our work. He puts it into the hearts of his people to provide this

funding. Giving to our work (excluding the Legal Defence Fund) is split evenly between regular giving (e.g. by standing order) and one-off gifts (i.e. we do not know about them in advance). We therefore rely upon £10,000 arriving in the post each week. This is a challenge to the staff and Trustees. If you are able to give regularly by standing order it is a great help to us in our planning and budgeting.

Summary of financial information:

Expenditure	2009	2008
Staff	£815,034	£631,814
Printing and stationery	£123,888	£94,341
Postage and telephone	£112,515	£110,611
Travel	£129,532	£102,800
Research materials	£35,534	£37,171
Rent and building running costs	£101,953	£73,945
Equipment and depreciation	£55,450	£56,726
Conference and meetings costs	£11,800	£19,331
Professional fees	£48,833	£31,829
Miscellaneous	£5,376	£8,324
Legal Defence Fund	£252,236	£240,361
Total expenditure	£1,692,151	£1,407,252

Income	2009	2008
Gifts and gifts in kind	£1,291,934	£1,218,427
Legal Defence Fund	£328,940	£220,068
Surplus from sales	£1,790	£4,039
Bank interest	£2,486	£19,600
Total income	£1,625,150	£1,462,134

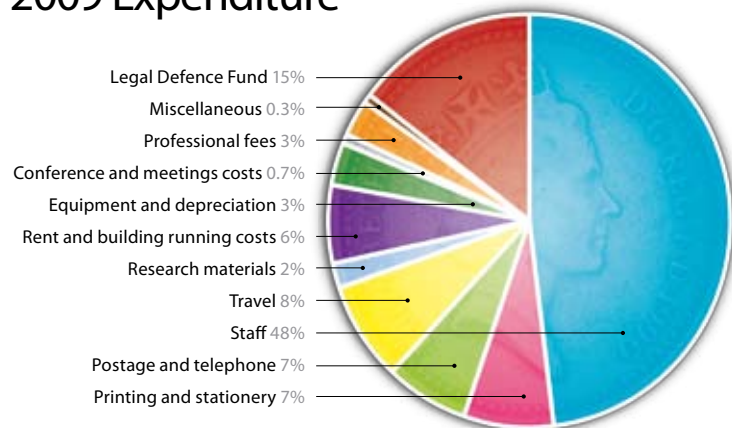
The summary (left) is provided to indicate to supporters how funds were obtained and spent during the years 2008 and 2009. The summary for 2009 is based on draft and un-audited figures. The summary for 2008 is based on the audited accounts for that year but does not form part of the Trustees' Report and Financial Statements of The Christian Institute. Copies of the full audited annual accounts for 2008 and 2009 (when available) can be obtained by contacting our office:

The Christian Institute, Wilberforce House, 4 Park Road, Gosforth Business Park, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE12 8DG

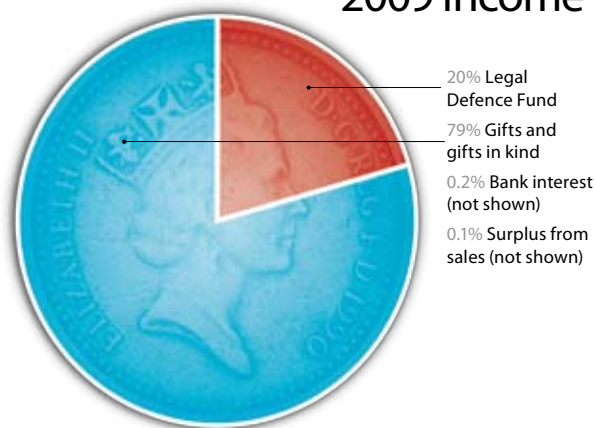
Alec McNichol OBE FCA
Treasurer



2009 Expenditure



2009 Income



Thanks

There are many people who give their time and advice to The Christian Institute for free. They play an important role in our work. I have attempted to recognise their contribution here but I apologise to any whom I may have omitted inadvertently.

I would like to thank the Trustees of the Institute whose support and advice is much appreciated.

The Council of the Institute comprises: John Burn (Chairman); Philip Helm (Company Secretary); Alec McNichol (Treasurer); Revd George Curry; Geoff Fox; Revd David Holloway; Philip Robinson; and Dr David Walton. Their advice, guidance and support is of great value to me. I would like to thank the Executive Committee for their work which enables the Institute to run smoothly and efficiently. It is made up of John Burn, Philip Helm and Alec McNichol. Geoff Fox has continued to provide the vocational theology training course to staff and I am grateful for his time and commitment in this. Philip Robinson's pastoral care of the staff is also of immense value.

Throughout 2009 Geoff Hambler and Graham Oakes gave their time to assist with administrative and research work on a regular basis. I am grateful for their faithfulness over many years.

We are also indebted to Trevor Condy and Jonathan Broome for their professional advice regarding our office accommodation.

I would like to thank Catherine Snow for her help in making contact with like-minded Christians in the USA.

I am very grateful to the elders and congregation of Newcastle Reformed Evangelical Church for once again allowing staff to use their premises for our annual stock-taking exercise.

Thanks also to all those who have spoken at Christian Institute meetings, given seminars to staff, manned stalls at conferences, and helped us to organise meetings. Many more have offered us hospitality.

At the 2009 Autumn Lectures the speakers were: Revd Rupert Bentley-Taylor; Revd Gareth Burke; Ranald Macaulay; Revd

Angus MacLeay; and Jeffery Ventrella. In addition the following spoke at Institute seminars: Dr Jon Davies; Norman Dennis; Revd Dr Nick Needham; and Prof. Jeffrey Satinover. Thank you also to George and Kathryn Curry, Evelyn McNichol, Andrew Farquhar, Pat Johnson, Judith Sword and Edith Avery for their help at the Autumn Lectures.

The hospitality of Christians and congregations around the UK and Ireland is a great blessing, enabling us to hold so many meetings. I would particularly like to thank: Alan Chester; Revd Nigel Harrison; Pastor Jonathan Hutton; Jonathan Lockwood; Pastor Bobby Mackay; and Pastor Paudge Mulvihill.

Thanks also go to Mike and Pat Johnson and Philip Helm who manned the Institute stalls at the Keswick Convention and New Word Alive.

Our mailing volunteers continued to provide invaluable service at short notice during 2009. Thank you to: Edith Avery; Paul Bacon; Iris Burnett; Peggy Buxton; Howard Chapman; Steve Craddock; Ev Daghish; Ann Famberley; Kathleen Gardner; Elizabeth Grey; Geoff Hambler; Averil Hedley; Gordon Heiniger; Peter Howbrook; Sue Law; Bill Lawton; Lynda Lovelock; John MacKay; Brian & Mary McRoy; Melita Morgala; Brian Morphew; Jim & Jean Oliver; Lydia Robson; Hilda Rolfe; Alf Rutherford; George Stephenson; Peter Sword; Ken & Yvonne Taylor; Ken Telfer; Peter Thompson; and Jackie Turner. Of course, Pat Johnson's work in organising the teams of volunteers is very much appreciated.



Colin Hart,
Director

Basis of faith

We are committed to the truths of historic, biblical Christianity including:

- A The existence of the one, eternal God, Creator and Lord of the universe, who in the unity of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, both governs all things according to his will and is accomplishing his purposes in the world and in the church.
- B The inspiration of the Holy Scripture in its entirety by God's Spirit through the human authors, and its revelation of God's truth to humanity. The Bible is without error not only when it speaks of salvation, its own origins, values, and religious matters, but it is also without error when it speaks of history and the cosmos. Christians must, therefore, submit to its supreme authority, both individually and corporately, in every matter of belief and conduct.
- C The inherent value of all human beings, in consequence of their creation by God in his own image, and their sinfulness and guilt since the Fall. This has rendered them subject to God's wrath and condemnation, and has resulted in their alienation from his life, suppression of his truth, and hostility to his law.
- D Salvation from the guilt, penalty and all other consequences of sin solely through the work of Jesus Christ - his perfect obedience, substitutionary death, bodily resurrection and exaltation as Lord. He alone is truly God and truly man, the only mediator between God and man. There is salvation through no other person, creed, process or power. Each sinner is justified before God and reconciled to him only by his grace appropriated through faith alone.
- E The necessity of the work of the Holy Spirit for the individual's new birth and growth to maturity, and for the Church's constant renewal in truth, wisdom, faith, holiness, love, power and mission.
- F The one, holy, universal and apostolic Church, which is the body of Christ, and to which all true believers belong. The Church's calling is to worship and serve God in the world, to proclaim and defend his truth, to exhibit his character and to demonstrate the reality of his new order.
- G The personal and visible return in glory of the Lord Jesus Christ to raise the dead and bring salvation and judgment to final completion. Evildoers will suffer eternal punishment. God will fully establish his kingdom when he creates a new heaven and a new earth from which evil, suffering and death will be excluded, and in which he will be glorified for ever.





CHRISTIAN INFLUENCE IN A SECULAR WORLD

The Christian Institute Annual Review **Summer 2010**

"Also, seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you into exile. Pray to the LORD for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper."

Jeremiah 29:7



The Christian Institute is a registered charity whose main object is "the furtherance and promotion of the Christian Religion in the United Kingdom and elsewhere".

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