

Twenty years of Christian influence

The Christian Institute
Annual Review 2011



Welcome

Like many Christians in the 1980s we were praying for the establishment of something like The Christian Institute. In 1988 we were asked to present some ideas for how Christians could influence the nation. We suggested that a Biblical Institute should be set up. To our astonishment someone who heard our ideas gave us £20,000 to turn the vision into a reality.

Colin gave up his teaching job in January 1989 and it took over two years for the organisation to be established as a charity in August 1991. So this summer is the Institute's twentieth anniversary.

We give thanks to God for establishing and blessing the work of the Institute. Looking back there have been many challenges, victories and defeats as our nation has increasingly rejected the Christian faith. Through it all we can truly say that all our needs have been met. God has provided more abundantly than any of us could have imagined.

We also give thanks for the many staff and volunteers who have given their time unstintingly. Our 'Thanks' section lists our volunteers over this past year, but it is right to mention our gratitude to two particular people. First Philip Helm, who has retired as a Trustee after many years of invaluable service as Company Secretary. Second Chris Prest, who has retired from the staff after ten years'

service. We thank Chris for all his work and for his continuing help as a volunteer.

We trust that you will be encouraged by reading our Annual Review. This covers the many activities of The Christian Institute in 2010.

We give thanks to God for his provision during another year. As well as all our research, publications and campaigns, staff and Trustees have spoken to 13,000 people at over 218 meetings around the country. Once again during 2010 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.



Colin Hart
Director of The Christian Institute



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



The last 20 years



Beginnings

The Christian Institute started because in the late 1980s a small group of Christians in the North East of England were concerned about the moral direction of the nation and the implications for society, for families, for the church and for individual Christians.

In 1988 Colin Hart and John Burn – then both teachers in state schools on Tyneside – presented a paper to a small group of Christians. The opening line was: “The need is for robust Christians to think Christianly in all areas of life.” It sketched out an embryonic idea for what became The Christian Institute.

An unexpected donation of £20,000 came and Colin gave up his job as a teacher, spending the next year campaigning on religious education and trying to set up The Christian Institute. At the start there was no regular income, no mailing list and no staff other than Colin. In 1991 the Institute officially became a company and a registered charity.

Growth

The work has grown remarkably in the last 20 years, for which we thank God. We have 41 members of staff. Last year we deployed over £2million on being a Christian influence in a secular world.

We have a mailing list of almost 30,000 individuals and churches across the UK. Over 13,000 people have subscribed to our email list. Our website reaches almost 100,000 readers each month. Last year, almost 13,000 people attended our meetings, lectures or seminars.

In 2006 we officially opened our new headquarters, Wilberforce House, paid for outright by the generous donations of thousands of our supporters. In 2010 we launched a Growth Fund to buy an adjacent building. We plan to use it to host three centres of excellence: a legal centre, a media centre and a supporters centre. Naming the building the ‘John Newton Centre’, we hope to do more to defend religious liberty, proclaim Christian truth, and help support grass roots Christians and local churches.

Campaigns

In accordance with our Evangelical basis of faith we advocate Christian values in education. We protect the institution of marriage. We proclaim Christian truth on the sanctity of human life from conception to death. We defend religious liberty. We speak out biblically against the vices of drugs, drunkenness, prostitution and gambling.

We opposed the Conservative Government’s plans in 1996 to introduce

no-fault divorce. Working with Edward Leigh MP a series of amendments were introduced to promote reconciliation for couples contemplating divorce. They proved more popular than mediation, which was at the heart of the legislation. To our delight the incoming Labour Government led by Tony Blair abandoned the no-fault divorce plans.

In 1997 we worked with Lady Young in the House of Lords to amend the Human Rights Act to prevent churches being unjustly sued for their beliefs. We continued to work with Lady Young to oppose the lowering of the homosexual age of consent and to oppose the repeal of ‘Section 28’ – a law that prohibited local authorities from promoting homosexuality in state schools and other places.

In 2000 we helped secure important religious liberty protections in a European Union directive on employment. Without the protections, it threatened the freedom of churches to require staff to be Christians.

In 2004 we helped Hull University Christian Union successfully defend itself against student authorities that were threatening to throw the CU off campus unless it allowed non-Christians to join the CU’s executive committee. We also helped other CUs facing similar intolerance. Our experiences led us



to publish a briefing helping CUs to understand their legal rights on campus.

In December 2005 we supported Christian pensioners, Joe and Helen Roberts, who had been investigated by the police because they telephoned their local council to register their opposition to its promotion of homosexual issues. We launched a Legal Defence Fund (LDF) to pay for a legal action on behalf of the Roberts. A year later the police and the council settled out of court, apologised, admitted liability, paid compensation and altered their policies to avoid it happening again. It was a first victory for our Fund, which has since gone on to help hundreds of Christian individuals, groups and churches suffering discrimination for their faith.

In 2006 we helped secure a historic victory to protect religious liberty. The Labour Government's Racial and Religious Hatred Bill represented a threat to gospel freedom, and could even have criminalised evangelism. But after strong opposition from Christians around the country, several Labour MPs rebelled against their Government and the House of Commons voted to substantially alter the offence to include a robust free speech protection.



A draft embryology Bill was put out for consultation in 2007. This began our opposition to key proposals in what became the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Bill. Proposals included

removing the requirement for doctors to consider a child's "need for a father" in relation to IVF treatment; allowing the creation of animal-human embryos for research; allowing genetically modified babies with three genetic parents; and allowing the creation of 'saviour siblings'. The key proposals mentioned above all drew significant controversy and criticism, but all were eventually passed by Parliament. There were attempts to change the law on abortion, but the law remained unaltered.

In 2008 we succeeded in securing a free speech protection to a 'sexual orientation hatred' law. A bid to remove the protection was defeated in Parliament in 2009. That year we

began to raise concerns about new 'public benefit' rules from the Charity Commission that may limit the religious liberty of churches and Christian charities.

In 2009 we urged the General Teaching Council (GTC) for England to reword its proposed code, which it did. The code would have required Christian teachers to promote lifestyles and beliefs which contradicted their faith. We also succeeded in persuading the GTC in Wales to reword its code to avoid harming the religious liberty of Christian teachers.

During 2009 we opposed attempts to weaken the law on assisted suicide, a form of euthanasia. We also began opposing plans to make sex education mandatory in primary schools and proposals to erode the liberty of parents who choose to educate their children at home.

Website

Our website address, christian.org.uk, was first registered on 6 September 1996. At that time only 4.1 per cent of the UK population used the internet and Google didn't even exist. The visionary decision to register our website address has proved to be invaluable.



In 1997 we used our website to publish the voting records of sitting MPs on a range of moral issues. The resource has been developed over the years. Our online database of MPs' votes is regularly updated and it is consistently one of the most popular features of our website.

We started collecting data on traffic to our website in 2002. The numbers have exploded over the years. In 2002 there were about 50,000 visits to our website. In 2010 that number had surged to about 1.1 million visits.

There was a big jump in traffic in 2008 when we began to publish daily articles reporting on items in the news that relate to our work. Page views more than doubled that year, from over 900,000 in 2007 to over 1.9 million in 2008. Our news reports have continued and so has the increase in traffic to our site. In 2010 over 4.8 million pages were viewed – a 65 per cent increase on the previous year.

Our news articles report on developments in religious liberty, marriage and the family, medical ethics, vice and other issues. Our coverage reflects our Christian ethos and removes the secular spin that dominates the mainstream media. We report the facts rationally and we often include quotes from those who disagree with us. Each article is fact-checked by our research department prior to publication. Running the website

requires the equivalent of 4.5 full time members of staff.

Each week we publish a digest of the week's headlines, emailing it to over 13,000 subscribers. Over 6,000 people follow our news coverage on Facebook, commenting on our articles and sharing them with their friends. Over 1,000 follow our news reports using Twitter. Correspondents from the national media regularly read our site, as do people working in government departments and other public bodies.

Our website also features resources, including theological material, articles on apologetics, audio and video files, and our MPs' Votes database. Almost all our print publications are available free of charge from our website in PDF format. During 2010 almost 90,000 PDFs were downloaded from our site.

Our online audio library is very popular. Users can listen to 163 audio recordings of lectures, meetings and seminars. We



YouTube: Interview with Jose Henriquez, one of 33 men rescued from a mine in Chile.



started collecting data on the use of our audio library in 2005. Since that time 280,000 audio recordings have been downloaded by people across the world.

In June 2008 we launched our YouTube channel. Since its launch our videos have been viewed almost 500,000 times. Our most popular video shows footage of the unlawful arrest of street preacher Dale Mcalpine. Other videos include a guide to the Bible's teaching about the Christian responsibility to take part in elections; an interview with a Christian who was one of 33 miners trapped underground in Chile; and a lecture on the life of Christian and anti-slavery campaigner John Newton.

Communications

In addition to our website, The Christian Institute also uses other forms of communication. The Institute has been



publishing thoroughly-researched printed materials since its beginning. In 20 years we have produced 260 printed publications, ranging from briefing papers to magazines to books.

We have published a number of popular theological booklets aimed at enriching Christians' understanding of important issues. These publications include The Moral Law, Common Grace, God's Promise Plan and His Gracious Law, and most recently The Dignity of Work.

We published a book about sex shop licensing law. It shows the legal opportunities to object to an application, giving advice and case studies. It also shows how to challenge sex shops that flout the licensing law. Dozens of sex shops have been closed down or licence

applications rejected because of this work.

We published a 160-page report called Children as Trophies? It was, at the time, Europe's largest ever review of the evidence on the effects of same-sex parenting. It was written by respected sociologist Patricia Morgan, and the publication has been quoted around the world.

We published a pro-life guide to various forms of contraception, written by Dr O E O Hotonu, a senior registrar in Obstetrics and Gynaecology. It alerted couples to those forms of contraception which destroy human embryos. We also published a separate report about the morning-after pill – how it works and its wider social effects. It was written by medical ethicist, Dr John R Ling, and it included Christian

teaching about the status of the human embryo.

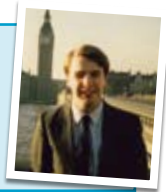
We published a 64-page booklet on plans to weaken the law on gambling. Our booklet examined the proposals and gave information about the harms of gambling. It included evidence showing that the poor are disproportionately affected and set out the Christian teaching against gambling.

We also engage with mainstream news media. We often brief national journalists about important stories and give informed comment about our issues. Our Head of Communications has written opinion pieces published by The Independent, The Mail on Sunday and The Daily Telegraph.

We have a state-of-the-art digital archive of newspapers provided by an international news agency that allows us to

1989-1990

A £20,000 donation allows Colin Hart to give up his job as a teacher, and spend the next year campaigning on religious education and setting up The Christian Institute.



Our website, **christian.org.uk**, is launched

Published MPs' voting records on our website



Helped to secure religious liberty protections to an EU employment directive



The Christian Institute becomes a company with charitable status

"The Breakdown of Britain" meeting held in Westminster

Opposed the Conservative Government's plans to introduce no-fault divorce



The Human Rights Bill amended to prevent unjust suing of churches for their beliefs

search newspaper articles from across the world going back ten years and more. We have a professional media database that allows us to selectively contact journalists and distribute press releases directly to their computers and smart-phones.

We have an ISDN radio link-up in our office. This is a piece of technology that looks like a mini radio studio. It allows us to link with any radio station anywhere in the world, so that we can take part in interviews and discussion programmes. The sound quality is ideal for radio stations, and having the technology means we don't have to travel to a radio studio to take part. One American talk show uses our ISDN link-up to interview us each month about stories making the headlines in Britain.

We appear on TV news too. Staff from The Christian Institute have appeared on national BBC News bulletins, Newsnight, Panorama, Sky News, Channel 4 News and ITN. Overseas TV news has also featured Christian Institute staff giving informed comment about our work.

Last year we employed a TV camera man. We have recently employed a former TV news director. Our Head of Communications is a trained journalist. This combination of skills and experience helps us to produce top-quality video news packages. We have already had some significant success with this, and it has had an influence on the mainstream media. We have launched a video news summary that goes out with our weekly news email.

Looking to the future, we want to make

use of new technology that combines the internet and TV. Many people now watch TV programmes on their computer using applications like BBC iPlayer. The major broadcasters are developing a system so that TVs will be able to play video material from the internet.

This will enable organisations like us to broadcast our content in the same way. People will be able to sit in their living room and find Christian Institute programmes on their TV. We want to produce news bulletins, documentaries, current affairs programmes and shows featuring Christian teaching. We will continue to engage with the mainstream media, just as we always have, but this exciting opportunity will add a new string to our bow.

"Children as trophies?" report is published



Hosted "Religious Freedom and the Law" conference at Westminster

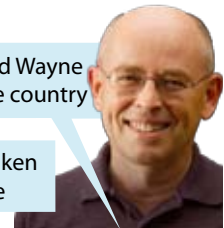
Secured a free speech protection to a 'sexual orientation hatred' law



Our Legal Defence Fund is launched

Our Charity Roadshow and Wayne Grudem Tour travelled the country

Opposed attempts to weaken the law on assisted suicide



2001

2002

2003

2004

2005

2006

2007

2008

2009

2010

Toured a number of locations with our "Faith in Education" presentation



"Stopping sex shops" book is published

Supported Christian pensioners Joe & Helen Roberts

Began publishing daily news articles on our website and launched our channel on YouTube



2011

Launched a weekly video news summary, with plans to create our own internet TV channel



Meetings

Since the Institute began, we have hosted lectures, seminars, conferences and meetings to promote Christian thinking and to speak to people about our work. In 2001 we hosted over 30 such events speaking to over 3,000 people. Last year we hosted 200 events, speaking to about 13,000 people.

Our general meetings include biblical teaching about topics such as Jesus' command for his followers to live as salt and light, the Christian doctrine of common grace, and the Christian's duty to pray for those in positions of authority. We give presentations about current ethical issues and developments in our work, informing our audience with key facts and Christian teaching.

We also host special events and conferences that have a more defined

focus. In 1995 we organised a meeting in Westminster about "The Breakdown of Britain". Speakers included Lady Cox, a former Deputy Speaker of the House of Lords, and the late Norman Dennis, a respected sociologist. The event focused on the moral and spiritual crisis facing the nation. Journalists, politicians and church leaders attended.

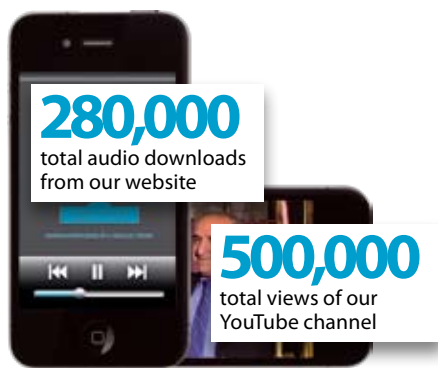
In 2001 we toured a number of locations giving a presentation called "Faith in Education". It sought to encourage Christians to participate in education by volunteering to speak at school assemblies, by becoming a school governor, or by getting involved with parent teacher associations. We also provided details of helpful resources.

In 2004 we hosted a Westminster conference examining "Religious Freedom and the Law". It was the first conference of its kind in the UK to give Christian

leaders an overview of the law as it relates to religious liberty. Speakers included practising lawyers and academic lawyers. We also hosted a specialised day-long seminar for those who were particularly interested in the law relating to the employment of staff within a Christian organisation.

In 2005 we hosted a series of extremely popular events featuring Daniel Scot, a Pakistani Christian who had been convicted of a 'religious vilification' offence in Australia for expressing mainstream criticisms of fundamentalist Islam. Mr Scot came to the UK to speak out against proposals for a 'religious hatred' law in England and Wales. He spoke of his own experience and said the Westminster Parliament should protect free speech.

In 2010 we took our charity roadshow on tour around England and Wales. The roadshow provided practical information



and help in relation to the many legal issues confronting Christian charities today. Attendees included 1,000 church leaders, elders, deacons, church trustees and trustees of other Christian charities in England and Wales. We reassured preachers that the law should not impinge on their ministry. We helped trustees have greater confidence and we dispelled some of the myths about what the law does and does not require.

The Charity Commission asks all charities, including churches, to say how they benefit the public. The roadshow featured presentations from experts in their field, helping churches and Christian charities to be more confident in responding to those requirements. The roadshow included a presentation to encourage those engaged in public preaching and evangelism to know their full rights and freedoms under the law.

The aim of the roadshow was to inform churches and other Christian charities how they can protect their ethos, have high standards of integrity, and meet all of their legal obligations. We wanted to deliver professional briefings on the law as it stands and the very many gospel freedoms that we have.

Also in 2010, we hosted Wayne Grudem as he toured six venues in England addressing the question: "Does political involvement distract from the Gospel?" Dr Grudem is one of the world's leading evangelical theologians. He is well known as the author of bestseller, *Systematic Theology*, and is also general editor of the *ESV Study Bible*. The events were attended by 2,500 people. They heard Dr Grudem criticise five wrong views of Christian political involvement: that government should compel religion; that government should exclude religion; that government

is inherently corrupt and Christians should have nothing to do with it; that Christians should do evangelism not politics; and that Christians should do politics not evangelism.

Dr Grudem argued these views are all wrong. The right view, he advocated, is that Christians should have significant influence on government. If we are to love our neighbour as ourselves, if we are to follow the biblical command to pray for those in positions of authority, that means caring about how we and others are governed.



Marriage & Family

Sex Education

In the first months of 2010 we continued our opposition to plans initiated by the former Labour Government to force sex education into primary schools in England. Under the plans, parents would have retained the right to withdraw children from such lessons in both primary and secondary schools, but would have lost that right when their child turned 15. We opposed this weakening of parents' rights.

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

GOOD NEWS

After the election, the new Coalition Government promised an education Bill. It was highly likely that others would use the Bill to once more push the issue of primary school sex education and weaken parental opt-outs. In addition, the Coalition announced that it would review the curriculum and review its guidance for schools on sex education.

During 2010 we began to research what sex education materials were being recommended for use in primary schools by public bodies. Our findings were published in a report, *Too Much Too Young*, in December 2010. It included information and advice for parents who were concerned about the suitability of materials being used in their child's school. Our report led to national and international media coverage, and the issue was referred to in parliamentary debates.

The Education Secretary, Michael Gove, has since announced that the law will not be changed to compel primary schools to teach sex education. But the sex education guidance for schools is still under review by the Coalition.

GOOD NEWS

Meanwhile in Wales, the Welsh Assembly Government announced in November 2010 that primary schools can continue to have

GOOD NEWS

no sex education if they wish. Welsh Ministers made the announcement as they published a new sexual health action plan.

The announcement followed a campaign by The Christian Institute to encourage Christians in Wales to respond to a public consultation on the issue. The Welsh Assembly Government had indicated it was considering forcing sex education into primary schools, but backed off after widespread public opposition.

Home schooling

The Christian Institute supports the liberty of parents to decide for themselves what is best for their children's education. Most Christian parents send their children to state schools, some to independent schools, and some choose to educate their children at home.

During 2010 we continued our opposition to plans by the previous Labour Government to restrict the liberty of home-schooling families in England. Previously, we had produced a briefing giving information about the proposals and explaining our concerns that the plans were an unwarranted intrusion into family life and were an interference with parents' legal right to educate their children in a manner that reflects their beliefs and values.



GOOD NEWS

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

Truro sex shop

During 2010 The Christian Institute assisted Christians in Truro to oppose an application for a sex shop to open next door to a school uniform store. We helped them understand the law on sex shop licensing, particularly the elements of the law that relate to the unsuitability of the location.

Despite numerous residents raising the valid legal objection that a premises adjacent to a school uniform store is not a suitable location for a sex shop, Cornwall Council granted the licence.

We joined forces with a Truro City Councillor to launch a legal challenge to the decision. Cornwall Council has decided not to oppose our legal challenge, but the sex shop owner has been resisting the action. A date for the High Court hearing will be set shortly.

In 2004 The Christian Institute published a book on the law relating to sex shop licence applications. It helps local residents understand how they can lawfully object to applications in their area.



We advised church leaders after civil partnerships were legalised in the Republic of Ireland.

ROI Civil Partnerships

In July 2010 the legislature in the Republic of Ireland passed a law that legalised homosexual civil partnerships and criminalised any registrar who, for reason of religious conscience, asked not to take part in officiating such unions.

In May 2010 a group of 19 church leaders wrote to the Irish Times declaring that the Civil Partnership Bill was a “direct attack” on freedom of conscience and freedom of religion.

When the legislation was being debated, Senator John Paul Phelan of the Fine Gael party, speaking in a personal capacity, said: “Criminalising registrars for non-performance of their function is not a correct step in any legislation.”

During the year we met with and advised church leaders in Ireland. We had previously produced briefing material and we had written to our supporters in the Republic, encouraging them to write to their representative in the Irish Parliament.



BACK ROW

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

Dave Boswell BSc
Administrative Assistant
Handles correspondence and calls from supporters.

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

Jonathan Timm BSc
IT Technician
Provides IT support to the staff.

Benjamin Mitchell BA
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
Helps with the Institute's communications.

Matt Crouch BSc
Multimedia Designer
Works on the design of the Institute's various communications.

Nigel Kenny LLB DipLP
Scotland Officer
Develops the Institute's work in Scotland.

Dave Rea
Cameraman/Video Editor
Produces audio-visual output.

Dave Greatorex LLB
Head of Research
Supervises the research work.

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

Ben Rochelle BA Dip Law
Researcher
Works with the Deputy Director (Public Affairs)

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

Fiona Rushton
Cleaner

FRONT ROW

Matthew Brown
Trainee Administrative Assistant
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.

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

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

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

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

Leigh Greatorex BA
Personal Assistant to the In-house Solicitor

Christina Macleod BSc
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
Helps with the Institute's communications.

Tony Barber
Broadcast Manager
Oversees audio-visual output.

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

Iain Armour LLB
Legal Researcher
Conducts research into legal and other issues.

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

Jane Leung BA
Public Affairs Assistant
Works with the Deputy Director (Public Affairs)

Sandra Mackay
Personal Assistant to the Northern Ireland Officer

Religious Liberty

Equality Bill

The Equality Bill, now an Act, included measures that threatened the religious liberty of Christians throughout Great Britain. It was introduced to Parliament by the previous Labour Government in 2009 and was enacted in 2010.

It created a sweeping new equality duty that may introduce further barriers for Christian involvement with the public sector. It also proposed a narrowing of the right of churches to employ staff whose conduct is consistent with church teaching on sexual ethics.

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

At the start of 2010 we assisted Christian Peer, Lady O’Cathain, who led a successful campaign to stop the Government’s plans to narrow the employment rights of churches. The approaching General Election in May 2010 constricted the Parliamentary timetable and the Government was forced to accept numerous defeats in the Lords.

The Bill passed into law in April 2010. It included a Public Sector Equality Duty which came into force on 5 April 2011. The coalition Government is committed

GOOD NEWS

to publishing regulations, specifying how the duty will work in practice. We have been making representations to the Government seeking to minimise the impact of these regulations on the religious liberty of Christians.

Section 5 offence

The Christian Institute, together with civil liberties groups and others, has been working to improve legislation that unreasonably interferes with free speech in England and Wales.

Our particular concern involves a number of Christians who have been unjustly prosecuted, charged, arrested or investigated under Section 5 of the Public Order Act.

We researched historical and contemporary uses of the Section 5 offence and published a briefing on the issue. We supported measures to improve advice given to police officers. We produced a series of brief videos, featuring individuals who had been wrongly accused of committing a Section 5 offence.

At the beginning of 2011 a Protection of Freedoms Bill

was introduced to Parliament. During Second Reading debates, MPs called for Section 5 of the Public Order Act to be amended to avoid unjust interference with free speech. The Association of Chief Police Officers has altered its guidance to police forces, saying that officers must be mindful of freedom of speech and religious liberty.

GOOD NEWS



'Distressing' speech

In 2010 we successfully campaigned to improve a new law in Scotland that could have seriously threatened free speech and the religious liberty of Christians.

The proposed law, which carried a maximum penalty of five years in prison, would have made it a crime to say something, even in private, that may have been 'likely' to distress someone. No defence of reasonableness was proposed.

The planned law would have applied to public church services and private pastoral counselling. Expert lawyers backed up our analysis.

Following a successful campaign by The Christian Institute, the Scottish

GOOD NEWS

Government agreed to withdraw its proposal and resubmit it with significantly improved wording.

NI Open air meetings

We responded to a consultation on a Bill in Northern Ireland that would have had implications for the religious liberty of Christian open air meetings.

The draft Public Assemblies, Parades and Protests Bill would have required any meeting of 50 or more people in a public place to apply for permission at least 37 days in advance.



NI First Minister Peter Robinson agreed to protect Christian open-air meetings.

But in August 2010 the First Minister and Deputy First Minister of Northern Ireland agreed to alter the proposals so that Christian open-air meetings would not be affected.

GOOD NEWS

NI Bill of Rights

In March 2010 we submitted our response to a public consultation on the proposed Bill of Rights for Northern Ireland.

In our response we pointed out that there is widespread Christian concern about the Bill and we questioned the need for a separate Bill specifically for the Province.

We also opposed the extension of 'protected categories' on which discrimination would be unlawful, saying it would create a hierarchy of equalities. And we opposed giving equality agencies

powers to launch aggressive legal actions.

Following the change of Government in Westminster, the Northern Ireland Bill of Rights has been put on hold.

GOOD NEWS

NI Charity Commission

Throughout 2010 we raised concerns about the Northern Ireland Charity Commission's proposals for a 'public benefit' test for churches and Christian charities.

We obtained expert legal advice, and it showed that the proposals went beyond the law and could have a significant impact on the religious liberty of churches and Christian charities.

In April 2010 we informed the Commission of our legal advice. The

Commission referred its proposed guidance to legal counsel for further scrutiny and, following legal advice, announced in July 2010 that the guidance was to be put on hold.

In March 2011 the Northern Ireland Executive announced that it wanted to change charity law to offer churches and Christian groups more protection.

But the changes could not be put in place before elections in the Province on 5 May and it will be up to the new Executive to make sure the changes happen.

GOOD NEWS

Peter & Hazelmary Bull



We began supporting Christians Peter & Hazelmary Bull in 2009 when they faced legal action because their B&B had a policy of restricting double rooms to married couples. They were sued by a homosexual couple in a civil partnership backed by the taxpayer-funded equality commission.

The trial was held in Bristol in December 2010 and the case attracted national and international headlines. In January 2011 the judge handed down his decision, ruling in favour of the homosexual couple.

Two national newspapers said the law has gone too far and called on Parliament to introduce changes. Even supporters of homosexual rights criticised the outcome of the case.

The judge granted leave for appeal because, amongst other things, he recognised that his ruling affected the

Bulls' religious liberty and forced them to act against their genuine beliefs.

The Bulls have lodged an appeal. Their case is financed by our Legal Defence Fund, as it has been throughout. The appeal is expected to be heard towards the end of 2011.

Dale Mcalpine

We supported street preacher Dale Mcalpine who was arrested and charged with a criminal offence following a conversation initiated by a Police Community Support Officer in which Dale said it wasn't a crime to call homosexuality a sin.

Following our intervention, the charges against Dale were dropped. But initially Cumbria Police refused to admit that they had acted unlawfully.

Dale's arrest was recorded on a hidden video camera and the footage was posted to the internet by The Christian Institute where it has been viewed over 38,000 times.

We supported Dale in a legal action against the police for wrongful arrest,



unlawful detention and interference with his human rights to free speech and religious liberty.

Cumbria police eventually admitted liability and settled out of court. They made a payment of £7,000 in compensation to Dale plus his legal costs.

Anthony Rollins



We successfully helped Birmingham street preacher Anthony Rollins win a case for unlawful arrest against West Midlands Police.

Mr Rollins had been arrested, handcuffed and detained at a police station for over three hours after a member of the public had complained against Mr Rollins for reading out loud from the Bible. The complainant said Mr Rollins' reading was 'homophobic'.

But in December 2010 a judge said the police had failed to consider Mr Rollins' right to free speech and religious liberty.

The judge also said the police had committed assault and battery against Mr Rollins when he was handcuffed unnecessarily. Mr Rollins was

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awarded £4,250 in damages.

Remarkably, West Midlands Police appealed against a key aspect of the ruling. Although they accepted that an arrest was not necessary, they believed there were reasonable grounds for arrest. But

GOOD NEWS

they dropped their appeal after reading the legal arguments submitted to the Court of Appeal by Mr Rollins' lawyers, paid for by our Legal Defence Fund.

Bideford Town Council

In May 2010 the National Secular Society launched a hostile legal action against Bideford Town Council for the saying of prayers at the start of council meetings.

The practice is said to have been taking place in Bideford since the days of Queen Elizabeth I.

Council members wanted to resist the legal action, but said they may be forced to give up if their funds ran out. We came to their aid with our Legal Defence Fund. A trial date has yet to be set.

Foster carer

In July 2010 Gateshead Council conceded defeat and admitted it had broken the law when it deregistered a Christian foster carer for allowing a 16-year-old Muslim girl to choose to be baptised.

Gateshead Council had wanted the girl to stay away from church for six months and said that the girl should take part in 'normal' teenage activity.

The case was supported by our Legal Defence Fund. The foster carer's lawyers said the Council had failed to take account of the girl's right to religious liberty and had acted disproportionately in

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deregistering the foster carer. The Council eventually admitted liability.

Jennie Cain

A mum and part-time school receptionist from Devon who had been disciplined by bosses because of a prayer email received a payment from her employers and settled out of court in April 2010.

Jennie Cain had launched an employment tribunal claim for religious discrimination against both Lanscore



Primary School in Crediton and Devon County Council.

But the matter was settled after her employer agreed to pay her an undisclosed amount, accepting that Christians should be treated with sensitivity and respect in the workplace and that people should be free to express their beliefs.

GOOD NEWS

Lillian Ladele

The long-running legal case of Lillian Ladele – the Christian registrar disciplined over her stance on



homosexual civil partnerships – is heading to Europe.

In March 2010 the UK Supreme Court refused to hear the case, claiming the case "does not raise an arguable point of law of general public importance."

But lawyers paid for by our Legal Defence Fund have lodged papers with the European Court of Human Rights, arguing that the United Kingdom has failed to protect her rights to religious liberty. It may be many months or years before the case is heard.

Citizenship

A General Election was held during 2010. The Christian Institute helped Christians think about their role and responsibility as citizens living in a parliamentary democracy.

We produced a short video about the subject of voting. We referred to the Bible's teaching about governments being God's servants for people's good, and about the Christian's responsibility to pray for those in positions of authority. We also said that Jesus' command to love our neighbour means Christians should take an interest in how the nation is governed.

We also produced a briefing about the election. It included Christian teaching about citizenship and biblical priorities. It provided Christians with factual information about the policies of the political parties and key background information on legislation and public policy.

Our website, christian.org.uk, maintains a searchable database of how sitting MPs have voted on a series of specific moral issues including the status of marriage, the sanctity of human life, and religious liberty. It also explains more details about particular votes in Parliament and gives links to articles explaining the Bible's teaching about relevant principles.

Christian Citizenship

The state is a means of God's 'common grace'. The Bible is very clear that the governing authorities act on God's behalf to restrain evil (see Romans 13 and 1 Peter 2). This is for the good of all people in this world – not just Christians.

The Christian has dual citizenship: of heaven (Philippians 3:20); and of an earthly nation (usually that in which he was born). The Christian's duty is to obey the governing authorities, except where they forbid what God requires, or require what God forbids (Acts 5:29). It is the Christian's heavenly citizenship which commands the ultimate loyalty.

As well as duties, being a citizen gives us certain rights. The Apostle Paul was prepared both to use *and not to use* his rights as a Roman citizen depending on which option most benefited the gospel cause (Acts 16:37-39; 21:39; 22:25-29; 25:10-12).

In 21st Century Britain, we live in what is historically a relatively unusual situation – we live in a democracy.

Unique responsibilities and privileges flow from living in a democracy. One is that we have the right to vote. Surely Christians should use this privilege.

Christians in Britain today live in a collapsing culture in which God's moral law is openly flouted. Things will not get better unless this is addressed. The only lasting and real solution to the problem of man's sin is uniquely provided in the Gospel of

our Lord Jesus Christ. The Gospel denies that there can ever be political salvation in this life. Nevertheless, we are to pray that our authorities would provide freedom for the

Gospel and freedom for Christians to live "peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness" (1 Timothy 2:1-2). We are to pray that the governing authorities will fulfil their God-given mandate and govern according to God's moral law (Romans 13:1-7 and 1 Peter 2:13-14). A General Election provides an opportunity for Christians to be salt and light.



Medical Ethics

Throughout 2010 we published on our website rolling coverage of news relating to medical ethics. From January to December we published almost 200 articles on stories affecting issues like euthanasia, abortion and embryo research. We helped Christians to understand the issues, and educated the public on the Bible's teaching about the sanctity of life.

The year was dominated by debates about assisted suicide, with campaigners pushing for a weakening of the law. The Christian Institute is opposed to any such move. It damages the sanctity of human

life, it puts pressure on the weak and vulnerable, and it diminishes motivation for effective palliative care.

In England the Director of Public Prosecutions published guidelines on when it would not be in the public interest to prosecute someone for assisting a suicide. Although the guidelines did not change the law, pro-euthanasia campaigners regarded them as a step in the right direction.

In Scotland the Scottish Parliament overwhelmingly rejected a Members' Bill to allow assisted suicide in certain circumstances.



The Scottish Parliament overwhelmingly rejected an assisted suicide bill.

Assisted Suicide

The debate surrounding assisted suicide is not just about isolated high-profile cases. At the very heart of the issue is our attitude as a society to life, death and human value. The value of a life should not be determined by what a person can do, or what they can contribute. Yet this is the attitude underpinning some calls for legalised assisted suicide.

In 2008 Baroness Warnock described dementia sufferers as “wasting people’s lives” and “wasting the resources of the National Health Service”. This wrongly

evaluates people purely in terms of their benefit to others or what society gains from their existence, denying their intrinsic value as a human being made in the image of God.

Deciding that the intentional ending of human life can be not only acceptable but ‘therapeutic’ – a legitimate means of ‘relieving’ pain and distress – is a monumental step for any society to take. If human life can be terminated when it becomes ‘too difficult’, and some people really are ‘better off dead’, how will society

determine which lives are proper candidates for termination and which are not? How will we prevent the principle that certain lives *can* be terminated becoming a rule that they *should be*?

Acute human suffering should not be dealt with by disposing of the person facing it.



How we are managed



From left to right: Dr David Walton, Rod Badams, Revd Rupert Bentley-Taylor, Revd David Holloway, Revd Dr William Philip, John Burn (Chairman), Geoff Fox, Revd James Legett, Revd George Curry, Alec McNichol (Treasurer), Philip Robinson

The Christian Institute is a registered charity and relies upon the generosity of its supporters. Over 99% of our income comes through donations. We thank God that he provides for our needs through the generosity of his people. Giving to our work (excluding the Legal Defence Fund and the Growth Fund) is split 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

£14,000 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.

The Institute is governed by its eleven-member Council who act as Trustees and are legally responsible for the charity. They bring a variety of skills and knowledge to the organisation. Their help and support is invaluable. During 2010 four additional

Trustees were appointed. Also during the year our Company Secretary, Philip Helm, retired from the Council.

The day-to-day running is the responsibility of the Director, Colin Hart. He is helped by an executive group, comprising the Chairman, the Treasurer and Geoff Fox, who meet regularly with the Director to discuss the Institute's affairs.

Summary of financial information:

Expenditure	2010	2009
Staff	£886,859	£792,160
Printing and stationery	£141,112	£123,888
Postage and telephone	£140,164	£112,515
Travel	£134,868	£129,532
Research materials	£32,695	£35,534
Rent and building running costs	£115,604	£101,954
Equipment and depreciation	£58,270	£55,450
Conference and meetings costs	£32,856	£11,800
Professional fees	£81,214	£71,707
Miscellaneous	£8,324	£5,375
Legal Defence Fund	£286,779	£252,236
Growth Fund	£88,957	-
Total expenditure	£2,007,702	£1,692,151

Income	2010	2009
Gifts and other unrestricted income	£1,610,911	£1,294,420
Legal Defence Fund	£82,410	£328,940
Growth Fund	£32,685	-
Income from sales	£13,101	£1,790
Total income	£1,739,107	£1,625,150

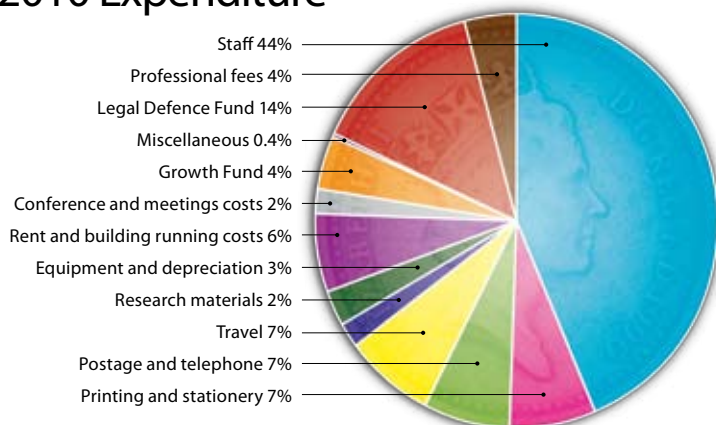
The summary (left) is provided to indicate to supporters how funds were obtained and spent during the years 2009 and 2010. The summary for 2010 is based on draft and un-audited figures. The summary for 2009 is based on the audited accounts for that year but does not form part of the Trustees' Report and Financial Statements of The Christian Institute. Copies of the full audited annual accounts for 2009 and 2010 (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

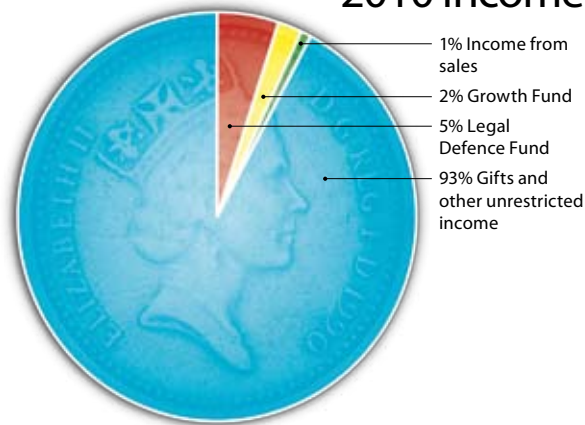
Jon Errington BA DipTP
Head of Finance



2010 Expenditure



2010 Income



Thanks

The time and advice, freely given, by our Trustees and our many supporters is of great importance to The Christian Institute. I would like to especially thank the volunteers and supporters listed here and apologise to any whom I have inadvertently omitted.

Geoff Hambler retired this year as a longstanding volunteer. Geoff had been providing weekly assistance to the Finance department for many years and I am grateful for his input into the work of the Institute.

I would like to thank Graham Oakes for his continued assistance to the research department. I would also like to thank Graham Phillips for his advice during the year.

It is with sadness that I note the passing of long-time friend of the Institute, Norman Dennis (1929 – 2010). Norman wrote several booklets which we published. He also spoke at various seminars, principally on the impact of the breakdown of the family. He is survived by his wife Audrey who, very kindly, donated some of Norman's books to our library.

I would like to thank those who delivered our 2010 Autumn Lectures series: Colin Duriez, Revd William Macleod, Revd Dr Bill Schweitzer and Revd Dr Nick Needham. For the first time ever, one lecture, by Revd Dr Iain D. Campbell, had to be postponed due to the bad weather. We are grateful to Dr Campbell for re-arranging this lecture for early 2011. Thanks also to George and Kathryn Curry, Evelyn McNichol, Pat Johnson, Judith Sword and Edith Avery for their help. In addition the following have spoken at Institute seminars: Sharon James; Dr Nigel Jones; Dr Nick Needham and Dr Chris Richards.

Our Charity Roadshow events in early 2010 would not have been the success that they were without Rod Badams, Caroline Eade and Trevor James. I am very grateful too for the time and efforts of Dr Wayne Grudem, the main speaker on a six-venue summer tour. Thank you also to the members of the various churches visited on this tour for their help in the organisation

and running of the events.

I would like to recognise the hospitality of Christians and congregations around the UK and Ireland who host our presentations and help our meetings to run smoothly. Thanks also go to Pat Johnson and Philip Helm who manned the Institute stall at the Keswick convention. Thank you also to Trevor & Daphne Harrison, Pastor Bobby Mackay, Hugh & Priscilla Martin, Rob & Carol Parker, Jack & Hazel Ritchie and Charlie & Kathy Webster.

Volunteers continue to help out, often at short notice, with the mailing of information to supporters. Pat Johnson's help in organising these teams is invaluable. Those who helped during 2010 are: Edith Avery; Paul Bacon; Paul Burns; Howard Chapman; Steve Craddock; Ann Famberley; Kathleen Gardner; Elizabeth Gray; Geoff Hambler; Averil Hedley; Gordon Heiniger; Peter Howbrook; John McKay; Brian & Mary McRoy; Brian Morphew; Jim & Jean Oliver; Margaret Potts; Hilda Rolfe; Ken & Yvonne Taylor; Ken Telfer; Peter Thompson; Jackie Turner; and Peter Sword.



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 2011**



1991 - 2011

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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A charity registered in Scotland. Charity No. SC039220