

Council for Mission Report

Proposer: The Revd Tim Wright

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Archbishops, Bishops, Members of Synod, Thank you for this opportunity to showcase the work of the Council of Mission. It has been a busy year as we seek to keep mission as the central focus of the Church.

Drawn from every diocese across the island and with representatives of many other interested groups we are a large committee that seeks to facilitate the ministry of others and encourage best practice and innovative ideas.

Before I start I want to thank several people. Bishop Ferran as the House of Bishops representative has been a constant source of encouragement to the committee and to me personally, The Revd Colin Maconaghie is the Council's Secretary and, if truth be known, does the majority of the heavy lifting. I am hugely grateful to him for his friendship and wise counsel. Derek Neilson is our Treasurer. He steps down after this Synod. He's the best sort of Treasurer. He likes spending money on extending the Kingdom of God.

Finally, Ruth Garvey-Williams of *Vox* magazine facilitated our residential and the focus for our next few years. CITI hosted the event and has been a great support to our work.

The *Missio Dei* is central to what we understand mission to be. In their recent book *Come and See: A History and Theology of Mission*, Glen Scrivener and Justin Schell say:

‘*Missio Dei* literally means the ‘mission of God.’ For the last few decades, this Latin phrase has reminded the church that mission is God's idea, not ours. Mission flows out of his nature, not our need. In fact, God is the first missionary. The Father sends the Son into the world. The Father and the Son then send the Spirit. Finally, the church is sent in the power of the Spirit into the world. We join his mission. All of our missional activities flow out of the reality that God is a missionary.’

Operationally, we have seen this in what we know as the five Marks of Mission. We break this down into five key themes:

- Tell
- Teach
- Tend
- Transform

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- Treasure

Chris Wright helpfully divided these as:

- Tell and Teach as Building the Church;
- Tend and Transform as Serving Society, and
- Treasure as Caring for Creation.

Over the years, we have produced several videos. They can be found on the website and Facebook page. This year, we launch our final two: Tend and Transform.

With Synod's permission, I would like to show one. Both feature Meath and Kildare which is good news.

[Video]

Now that the videos are complete we are hoping to launch a series of podcasts highlighting what God is doing across the Church of Ireland. We are actively looking for stories. There is so much going on and it would be an encouragement to all of us to hear about it. Stephen Fletcher who is the Communications Officer for the Diocese of Tuam, Limerick and Killaloe has experience in this field and is willing to help.

Finally, my usual plea to those dioceses to fill their places. God is at work across our island. This is an exciting time for mission. Many are doing really exciting things. To God be the glory.