

Public relations post axed at Churches Together

Josephine Siedlecka

THE PUBLIC RELATIONS officer at Churches Together in Britain and Ireland (CTBI) has become the latest casualty in a series of redundancies at the ecumenical organisation. Falling donations from member Churches have meant that the organisation set up in 1942 to enable Churches to speak with one voice will lose its public face. The new general secretary, Bob Fyffe, said

that in the last three years funds had been cut by one third. Since 2004 some 10 posts have been lost as a result. This year, the CTBI, best known for its Lent study materials and for organising the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, has been forced to cut a further £150,000 to meet a budget of £1.25 million.

Departing PR officer Anne van Staveren said the Churches have to put resources into communications to get their message heard, adding: "I'm very sad and incredibly

frustrated to be leaving at a time when the media is showing a growing interest in the Churches and need help in understanding our commitment to work together."

CTBI grew out of the British Council of Churches formed in 1942. It coordinates the work of national Churches Together bodies set up in 1990 for England, Scotland, Wales and Ireland. Archbishop Mario Conti of Glasgow is one of CTBI's presidents, with three more drawn from other Churches.

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BA, BD, LPH, PhD was born in Glenfesk, Killarney, Ireland, died suddenly on 22 September 2006. He was a lecturer in Systemic Theology, Edinburgh University for 17 years - the first Roman Catholic Priest in a Faculty of Theology in Scotland since the Reformation. He wrote several books on Celtic Spirituality and was well regarded in his field.

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CALENDAR

Sunday 17 December:

Third Sunday of Advent (Gaudete Sunday)

Monday 18 December:

Advent FERIA

Tuesday 19 December:

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Wednesday 20 December:

Advent FERIA

Thursday 21 December:

Advent FERIA

Friday 22 December:

Advent FERIA

Saturday 23 December:

Advent FERIA

Sunday 24 December:

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Monday 25 December:

Nativity of the Lord – Christmas Day

Tuesday 26 December:

St Stephen, Protomartyr

Wednesday 27 December:

St John, Apostle and Evangelist

Thursday 28 December:

Holy Innocents, Martyrs

Friday 29 December:

Fifth Day in the Octave of Christmas

Saturday 30 December:

Sixth Day in the Octave of Christmas

Sunday 31 December:

Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

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