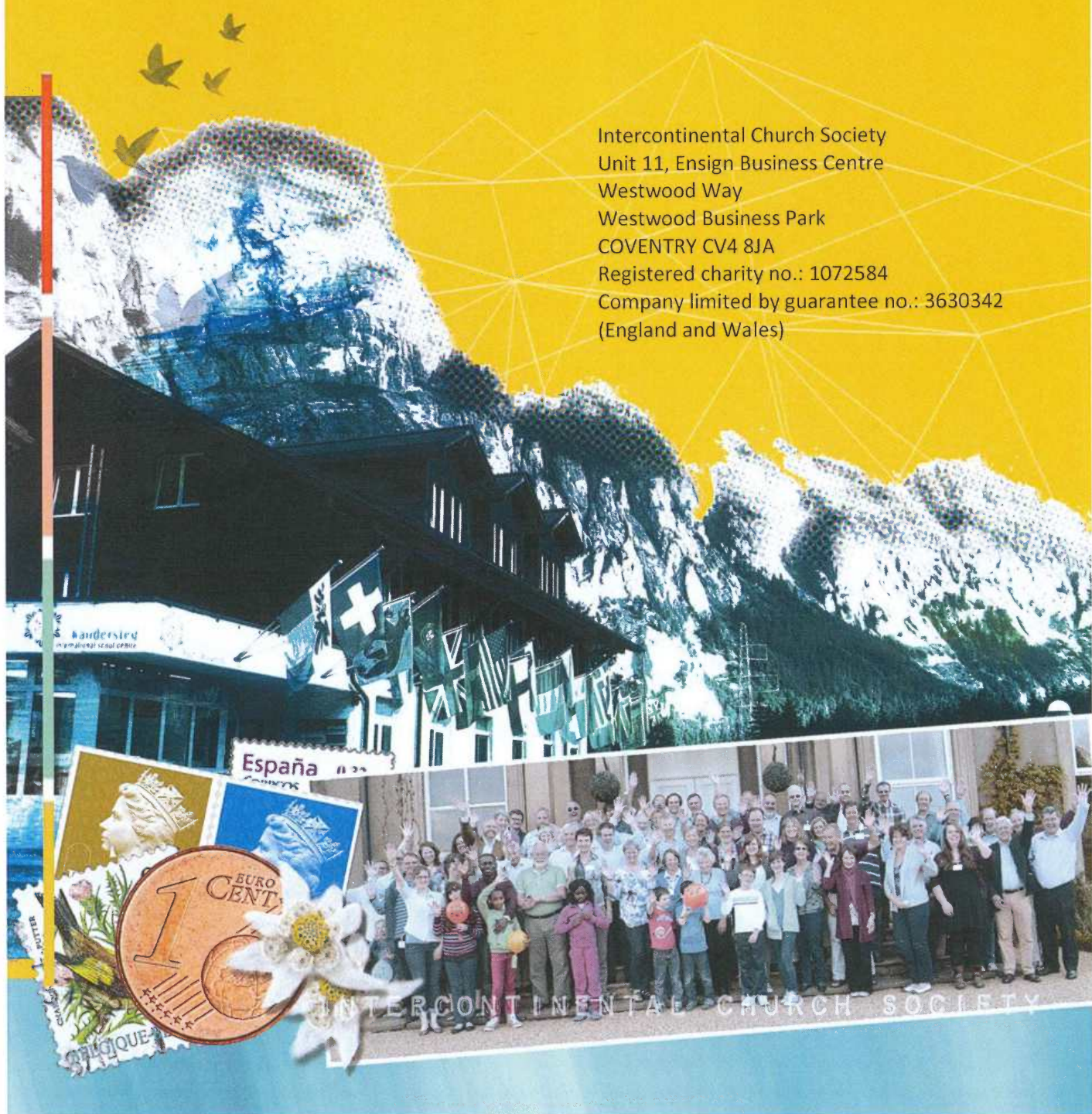


Exploring the Frontiers

ICS 2015 Annual Report

Intercontinental Church Society
Unit 11, Ensign Business Centre
Westwood Way
Westwood Business Park
COVENTRY CV4 8JA
Registered charity no.: 1072584
Company limited by guarantee no.: 3630342
(England and Wales)



Chairman's Introduction

It is probably true that all generations of Christian history have claimed they have found it challenging to be a faithful witness for Jesus Christ. It was certainly true in the first century and that seems to be especially the case in the early part of the 21st century. With the recent uncomfortable report on 'Religion and belief in public life', convened by the Woolf Institute, the scale of our challenges in the UK is daunting. Retaining confidence in the Gospel of Jesus Christ as the only way of salvation is increasingly difficult. What is more, on the world-wide scene Christians are being persecuted no less than before and in the Middle East, because of the Syrian conflict, many have been driven from their homes.



Having said all that, we at ICS remain committed to finding new ways of making Jesus Christ more widely known and the work of the past year reveals we are moving to a stronger and more strategic place. Richard and the team in the office continue to offer excellent support to chaplaincies, and the Council provides appropriate oversight and accountability. Our incentive to persevere in and resource the work, rests on the fact that the Gospel is Good News for all people and on the promise that one day every knee shall bow and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord. To Him be all the glory.

The Rt Revd Julian Henderson
Bishop of Blackburn and Chairman of ICS Council

Mission Director's Introduction



The hard work and effort that ICS Council and the staff team put in during 2014 produced fruit in 2015 as new opportunities became clearer. We agreed the strategy and now have a sense of where this journey is going to take us. I will draw your attention later to the way that Seasonal Mission is developing as well as the opportunities we have in the Mediterranean Basin. This has also been a year where we have started to approach Grantmaking Trusts to seek the resources to 'explore the frontiers'.

Having a strategy is one thing, actually starting to implement it is another. In 2015 we pushed away from shore and started to move in a new direction. Remaining with the sailing metaphor, that first movement, the push away from the shore takes a lot of energy and we have achieved that this year.

Below the waterline, we have done some key work around Governance. I am immensely grateful to Steve Wookey and David White, both on Council, who have given so much of their time to make sure that we govern ICS in the most efficient, Godly and transparent way. Their insight and support has been invaluable.

The staff team, Andrew Rice (Financial Accountant), Jeannette Skuse (Communications Coordinator), Jim Perryman (Seasonal Mission Manager), Maggie Winham (IT & Supporter Services Manager), and Yelena Williams (Admin Assistant) have contributed a huge amount to the development of the ministry over the year. Their work often goes unnoticed but is essential to the smooth and efficient running of ICS. A big thank you to them all.

Finally, I want to mention Glyn Jones. Glyn was a long-time ICS volunteer and Seasonal Chaplain in Cavallino, he sadly passed away in 2015. His energy and enthusiasm will be sorely missed. I am grateful to our amazing volunteers who give so much of their time and energy in serving ICS in its 'mission and ministry in English for everyone'.

The Revd Richard Bromley MA
Mission Director

Executive Summary



The Mission Director has been privileged to travel widely on behalf of ICS: leading retreats, a Church Weekend Away, speaking in chaplaincies and supporting in recruitment. One highlight was to celebrate the 150th anniversary of St. Peter's, Chantilly with Nick and Cherry Clarke. It was moving to hear of the ICS Chaplains who had faithfully served and suffered through both World Wars. ICS's support was invaluable in the foundation of this church and this was honoured with a plaque at the entrance to the church which was unveiled by Bishop Robert, the Bishop of Gibraltar in Europe.

Christ Church, Ostend also celebrated 150 years and ICS was pleased to be able to financially assist them in these celebrations. Two other chaplaincies that celebrated anniversaries were Christ Church, Heiloo, twenty-five years, planted from Christ Church, Amsterdam and Leipzig English-speaking Church, twenty years, originally a church plant of ICS.

2015 has also given us an opportunity to engage in deputations; seeking to raise prayer and funds to sustain and grow the ministry. With the help of Michael Sanders, an ICS Council member, we have been able to form stronger relationships with Grantmaking Trusts. Michael's energy and enthusiasm have been invaluable as we highlight the projects we wish to raise funds for and place appropriately in front of those who may be interested in supporting ICS.

Internally, three major changes have taken place. Firstly, we had to upgrade the Server and this, while causing minimal disruption, is costly but keeps us running safely and efficiently. Secondly, we have worked hard to be compliant with the new pension requirements. Maggie Winham has taken a lead in this, for which we are grateful. Lastly, we have needed to make sure we are ready for the new charity accounting regulations. These are reflected in this annual report and Keith Robbins (Honorary Treasurer) and Andrew Rice have worked diligently with our Auditors, Jacob Cavenagh & Skeet, to make sure that we are not only compliant but report clearly in all areas.

It is also worth noting the hard work of Jeannette Skuse who has transformed the Communications of the Society, this has had a huge impact on how ICS is now presented. Yelena Williams has become a valued member of the team, often over-worked but always with a smile on her face.

Strategy

The strategic document drawn up in 2014 highlighted four areas:

- Governance
- Strategic: mission, patronage and vacancies
- Operational
- Relational

We are delighted to report that in all these areas we have made significant steps forward. The strategy has not simply been a document that has been written and then put on the shelf, rather it is a working and living tool that is guiding us. You will see, as you read this report, activity and movement that relates to each of these sections.

Specifically, in 2015 we drilled deeper into the Seasonal Mission Strategy. This has been a complex task as the ministry is diverse and simple headings to cover all the work do not work. The Mission Director and Jim Perryman have worked on this and we are grateful for the supportive critical engagement that Jim has brought to this process. Without him Seasonal Mission would not be where it is today.

Suffice to say ICS is a Mission Agency with a clear sense of where we are going.

Governance

The Governance Group, mentioned previously, met three times during 2015 and was able to stand back and reflect on the needs of Council, prepare proposals and present them. Governance is a regular agenda item at Council meetings; updating members on progress and reminding them of their responsibilities and roles. We now have suggested maximum lengths of service for Council Members of three terms of three years, and for the Treasurer a maximum of two terms of three years. Standing Committee has been reviewed and continues to operate within its mandate. Most excitingly Council has found more time to prayerfully focus on strategy and vision and this has benefitted ICS considerably.

A key piece of work that came out of the Governance Review was the need for more focussed induction of new Council Members. This has been developed and took place in 2015 with the induction of Ann Tyndall (Council Member) and Ruan Crew (Council Observer) onto Council.

Mission Partnerships

In 2015 ICS was engaged in three mission partnerships. Firstly, the ministry of Jeremy Heuslein (*pictured*), who is the Brussels Outreach Worker in the European Institutions. We had the privilege of having Jeremy speak at the AGM where he was very well received. People appreciated his sensitive approach to outreach and we are pleased that during 2016, due to the generous support of a Grantmaking Trust, we are able to continue funding this pioneering ministry.



Secondly, the ministry in the Diocese of Egypt with North Africa and the Horn of Africa. This has been a long standing partnership which ICS raised funds for several years ago and are now in need of replenishing. We were pleased to assist Holy Trinity, Algiers in the appointment of Drew Schmotzer as a locum and then recruit Gus (and Marliese) Ketola (*pictured*) who took over in January 2016. This is a significant ministry and there are many encouraging stories of what God is doing there.

In Tunis, Bishop Bill and Hilary Musk retired and left the ministry in the care of another ICS-supported chaplain, Peter (and Christine) Knight. The relationship with St. George's, Tunis is very positive and we look forward to supporting the ministry as it develops. We wish Bill and Hilary every blessing as they develop their ministry in retirement.

In Tripoli, the ministry of Ayo and Vasihar is very challenging. ICS has been seeking to support them as they look at the appropriate way forward.



In Cairo, we were pleased to assist Archbishop Mounier in the appointment of Kerry (and Cynthia) Buttram (*pictured*). Kerry takes on the role as Priest at All Saints' Cathedral in Zamalek, Cairo. He is an ICS Associate Ministry Partner and we look forward to a strong, positive relationship. We also continue to support Mike Dobson at St. John's, Maadi and Jos Strengholt at St. Michael and All Angels, Heliopolis as ICS Associate Ministry Partners. ICS has supported the ministry at St. John's, Maadi for the last two years.

Thirdly, a new mission partnership is developing alongside the Diocese in Europe at St. John's, Izmir. In July 2015 the Mission Director visited Izmir and has since been developing the partnership while looking for funding to enable this important ministry to not only continue, but to grow in partnership with ICS and others.