

commission

Delivering Christian Radio Drama Worldwide

NEWSLETTER

WHERE HAVE WE BEEN?



First of all, we owe you all an explanation as to why this newsletter is so late in production.

Commission has been hit recently by a number of retirements and resignations from both Trustees and Committee. These have included our treasurer and newsletter editor, as well as our secretary. Also, two valued Trustees, Jennifer Hobson and Paul Bailie, have gone to be with the Lord; Jennifer Hobson in September 2022 after a period of illness, and Paul Bailie suddenly in November 2022. Replacing all of these folk will continue to be time consuming and we still have a way to go before being “fully staffed” again.

It was felt that we needed to look again at how we communicate with the “world outside”, this has taken some time and indeed is still in progress but we felt that our supporters both inside and outside of those directly involved in drama recording should be brought up to date with current affairs at Commission.



We have been looking to the future, as Commission's present 20 year lease on the studio premises in Ballyoran Lane will come to an end in March 2026. While this may look some distance ahead, it's a feature of the drama operation that from the time a script is started, up to two years may pass before the finished programme can be sent to the radio stations we supply, and to our website. With drama being our only regular output at the moment, it was decided during early 2023, that Commission should begin another independent broadcast strand.

This will take the form of a monthly Podcast. Put simply, it is a form of radio only it is carried over the internet rather than being broadcast through the air from a radio transmitter. You can access the programme whenever you wish using mobile phone, tablet, desk computer as you choose - "Programme On Demand". Commission's podcast will be called "The Commission Files". This will be produced by Will Leitch, who is now retired early from his job as a senior news reporter for BBC NI. Will has made a commitment to provide one podcast a month and as this requires a hard commitment of about 8 hours each week, Commission has decided to provide financial support on a part time basis. He will be joined as co-presenter by Kerry Grieg, a voice in our drama team, who has also experience in presentation with Downtown radio.

In fact, already other projects concerning podcasts have been discussed with some other folk, including Premier Christian Radio. Will Leitch will also be producing and presenting a podcast from our studio, for the charity, Thrive Ireland, led by a previous Trustee at Commission, Diane Holt. We have upgraded our Studio 2 to handle the increased traffic which we believe will be going through it as time passes.

Nevertheless, we are confident that the Bible Drama which has been our trademark since 1975, will still be able to continue.

A further programme strand is that of children's programmes being made for Trans World Radio (UK). A small team of five people, headed by Rev Drew Gibson, have been working to produce a fifteen minute programme for some time. It's working title is "Treasure Box" and final recording sessions are coming up, hopefully before the end of this year. The programme is based on a beautiful Christian children's book "Treasures of the Snow" by Patricia St. John (adapted for radio).




In the meantime, Commission will continue to be grateful for your prayers, and your financial contributions to our unique work. In recent weeks, I have had the sense that we are embarking on what may prove to be a new era. There is an air of anticipation as I wait to watch God move us into the future.

If for whatever reasons you wish to no longer receive our bi-annual newsletter, then please make contact with us through your preferred method below.

Blessings to you,

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