

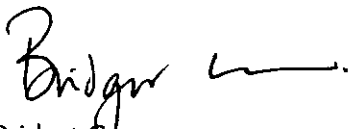
JERUSALEM

BBC Charter Review Consultation
Department for Culture, Media and Sport
2-4 Cockspur Street
London
SW1Y 5DH

Dear Sirs,

Attached is a submission from Jerusalem Productions.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bridget Cass', with a horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Bridget Cass
Jerusalem Productions

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BBC Charter Review – Public Consultation

This submission is from Jerusalem Productions Limited which is a co-production company wholly owned by the Jerusalem Trust. Information on Jerusalem Productions and its work with the BBC is attached.

As the technology and economics of broadcasting bring about rapid change, it is essential that the BBC stands as an organisation that provides high quality, mass audience broadcasting. We do not believe that PSB is simply "what people want". It is also (among many other matters) about "where people have come from". The concerns and interests of the faith communities are an essential component to all this.

The BBC has over the last few years provided a range of programmes have explored, explained and celebrated the Christian faith. An overwhelming percentage of the population would agree that Christianity is the faith which has shaped the UK's culture and attitudes. It is a faith that is not just part of the UK's heritage, but is living and developing in a multicultural Britain. In the light of recent events it hardly needs saying that the BBC should reflect and support respect between all the faiths, Indeed we would suggest that "religious broadcasting" (under whatever department) is an essential component of national broadcasting.

The BBC should continue to develop and produce programmes *about* the faith communities and *for* the faith communities (but not *by* the faith communities!). We do not argue with the recent reality that BBC religious broadcasting is not necessarily in the hands of believers. The faith communities should not fear objectivity nor neutrality on the part of the gatekeeper. All we ask is that the religious department should have on its senior staff people with relevant expertise. We insist that complex issues of history, faith and theology are presented fairly and by well-informed producers. To ensure this, the BBC should set up a system of consultants that fairly represent the range of faiths and of sects.

We maintain that faith and spirituality should be explored across all the BBC's platforms, including the channels aimed at young people, and should be an integral part of any public service remit.

Just as worship is essential to most faith communities so worship programmes are an essential part of religious broadcasting. They provide a window into the faith communities for those who are not adherents or regular worshippers. They are also a valuable public service to older people, especially those who are house bound. It is important that these programmes continue to be broadcast at regular times that are accessible to the majority viewing population.

Much of the BBC's output has value beyond its first broadcast, both in community development and in education. While it is important that the BBC should make commercial use of its products and brands, a new mechanism is needed for these programmes to be made accessible to the faith communities and their schools in the long-term.

The BBC should continue to be a market leader, developing new and innovative ways of exploring issues, including issues of faith. If the BBC is to continue to be seen as being owned by the stake holders, ie the public, it should work to develop relationships with various sectors of the public, including the faith communities, and a formal understanding of expectations should be developed with representatives of these communities.

FROM BRIDGET CASS
Jerusalem Productions,

Jerusalem Productions

Jerusalem Productions provides investment funding for productions on mainstream television, radio and online. Within the national regulatory framework and the realities of mass-audience broadcasting, the company seeks to fulfil its parent trust's charitable objective of promoting the Christian religion. In the past two years, Jerusalem Productions has co-operated with BBC1 in four major productions: "Son of God", "Moses", "The Virgin Mary" and "St. Paul". A full list of Jerusalem Productions and the Jerusalem Trust's involvement in BBC projects is below. From time to time, the parent trust has provided funding for off-air activities to support the JP/BBC programming.

BBC co-productions

101 Things Jesus Never Said – part of the series *Heart and Soul* (1994)

Seeing Salvation – a three part series for BBC2 (1998)

Son of God – a three part series for BBC1 (2001)

Moses – a one hour programmes for BBC1 (2002)

The Virgin Mary – a one hour programmes for BBC1 (2003)

St Paul – a one hour programmes for BBC1 (2003)

The Good Book – a six part series for Radio 2 (2003)

The Jerusalem Trust

Seeing Salvation – support for a series of educational activities round the UK (1998)

Son of God – support for a teachers' pack (2001)

Moses, The Virgin Mary and St Paul – support for a teachers' pack (2003)

The Good Book – support for a teachers' pack (2003).

Songs of Praise - Schools' Choir competition of the year – support for two years (2002 to 2004)

Young Chorister of the Year Competition - support for one year (2004)
