

Family Church, Christchurch, Dorset.txt
From: Mike Frisby [Mike.Frisby@FamilyChurchChristchurch.org.uk]
Sent: 24 January 2002 14:31
To: ownershipconsultation@culture.gov.uk
Subject: National and Local TV/Radio Licence

Tessa Jowell MP
Secretary of State
Culture, Media and Sport
2-4 Cockspur Street
London, S1Y 5DH

23rd January 2002

Dear Secretary of State

I am writing to add my support to the view that the Christian community in our nation should not be excluded from applying for and receiving licences to operate national and local television and radio stations in the United Kingdom.

For some years now a Christian Community Radio Station has operated in the conurbation of Christchurch, Bournemouth and Poole during the month leading up to Christmas and again for one month in the summer. This has proved popular both with the Christian and general public.

The mix of music, news, interviews, current affairs and the highlighting of community projects has proved both entertaining and informative. The producers are also to be congratulated for their ability to present a wide range of views on a number of topical subjects.

In a society beset by the breakdown of family life and the disintegration of community I can see real benefit in Stations that not only educate but inspire values that build acceptance, tolerance and hope for coming generations. Christians should be allowed to make their positive contribution alongside others for the good of our society. Restriction or exclusion will mean that our nation is robbed of a very valuable asset.

Many of us in Christian ministry deplore the fact that so often the only presentation of Christianity by the media is of a "State Religion" variety. There are thousands of ordinary Christians in this country contributing to and working hard to transform the communities where they work and live. What a positive step forward it would be if Christians at grass roots level had the opportunity to demonstrate through the media the values and attitudes that govern their day to day living. The sharing of principle and practice could contribute enormously to the understanding and active building of healthy inter-generational, multi-faith, multi-ethnic communities in our land.

It is my hope that Her Majesty's Government will be able to see her way to endorsing the right and opportunity of Christians to apply for both television and radio licences.

Yours sincerely

Rev. Mike Frisby
The Family Church, Hope House, Christchurch, Dorset

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