The Church of Ireland - A Member Church of the Anglican Communion
 Organisation and Administration

**Church of Ireland**
Two Provinces:-
ARMAGH – presided over by the Archbishop of Armagh.
DUBLIN - presided over by the Archbishop of Dublin.

The provinces are divided into:
12 diocesan groups,
6 in each province.

These contain all the parishes in the Church of Ireland.

**The General Synod of The Church of Ireland**
This is made up of:
12 bishops
216 clergy
432 laity
who represent all the dioceses and parishes of Ireland.

The synod meets annually and has overall responsibility for the church.

**The House of Bishops**
Consists of:
- 2 archbishops
- 10 bishops

**The RCB – Administration**
Consists of:-
- Bishops
- 1 clergyman
- 2 laity from each diocese
- 12 co-opted members

These bodies are responsible for the administration and the organisation and oversight of all church matters, material and spiritual, and are answerable to the General Synod.

**The Diocese**
There are 12 diocesan groups made up of 26 dioceses.

A diocese is divided into rural deaneries which are divided into parishes.

A diocese consists of:
- a bishop
- Clergy
- The family of the laity in the parishes.

**Diocesan Synod**
Consists of:
- The bishop
- 1 clergyman
- 2 members of the laity representing each parish in the diocese.

Diocesan Synods will vary in number of members depending on the population size of the diocese.

**Diocesan Council**
This is elected by the diocesan synod and deals with all the business of the diocese.

Other diocesan committees may include:-
- Finance
- Social welfare
- Education
- Youth work
- Missions
- Ministry of healing
- Glebes

**The Parish**
Each rural deanery is made up of a number of parishes.

Each parish has a clergyman and a number of families who are usually living within the geographical parish boundaries.

**The Select Vestry**
administers a parish and is elected by the people of the parish.

Consists of :-
- Rector
- 2 church wardens
- 2 glebe wardens
- 12 vestry members.
The vestry is responsible for finance, the fabric and the furnishings of the parish.
Usually meets monthly or when required.

**Parish Organisations**
A parish may have any number of organisations-
- Sub-committee of vestry e.g. finance
- Choir
- Bible study
- Prayer groups
- Mothers’ Union
- Youth organisations
- Bowling club
- Badminton club
- Scouts and guides