

**LITURGICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
REPORT 2020**

MEMBERSHIP ELECTED 2019

(Acting Chair – Rev Ricky Rountree)
Very Rev Gerald Field (Hon Secretary)
Rev Nigel Dunne
Rev Alan Rufli
Rev Dr Peter Thompson
Rev Canon Peter McDowell
Rev Arian Dorrian

Rev Ken Rue
Rev Julie Bell
Rev Abigail Sines
Rev Nigel Pierpoint
Rev Jonny Campbell-Smyth
Mrs Jacqueline Mullen
Mr John Morris

Co-opted Members:

Rev Ricky Rountree
Very Rev Susan Green

Rev Canon Michael Kennedy
Rev Canon Gary Hastings

Consultants:

Rt Rev Harold Miller

Church of Ireland Theological Institute Observer:

Dr Bridget Nichols (2017)

Church of Ireland Theological Institute Student Observer:

Ms Anna Williams (2019)

Methodist Church Observer:

Rev Ruth Patterson (2017)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The Committee has met four times in the past year comprising two one day and two two-day meetings. The value of this format over recent years has proved itself in that it gives members the opportunity to work on the large number of resources in draft form, and for a more in-depth evaluation of the LAC's role in the light of any requests from General Synod, the House of Bishops and members of the Church of Ireland.

The continuing aim of the LAC is the provision of quality liturgical resources worthy of the Church of Ireland, and worthy of the glory of the God whom we serve.

The objectives for the coming year will be

- to continue working with Historical Centenaries Working Group of the General Synod in the preparation of liturgical resources as required;
- to continue developing projects in the area of formation and electronic liturgical resources;
- to develop bi-lingual liturgical resources in collaboration with *Cumann Gaelach na hEaglaise*
- to develop and publish liturgical resources for use in the event of sudden or unexpected death;
- to represent the Church of Ireland at the Four Nations Liturgical Group (a conference of representatives from the Liturgical committees of the Anglican churches in Ireland, Scotland, England and Wales) and the International Anglican Liturgical Consultation (a bi/tri annual conference of liturgists from across the Anglican Communion);
- to promote annual Liturgical Formation and Training days in consultation with a link person in each diocese.

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REPORT:

The past year has seen the production of music and liturgical resources in both printed and on-line format, and continuing work on developing new liturgies. Our work in providing liturgies pertinent to the decade of commemorative celebrations has continued, as did work on the corrections and additions to the *Book of Common Prayer 2004* in anticipation of its subsequent re-print last year.

A sub-committee set up to work with the Children's Ministry Network has continued exploring resources for worship with children.

The Resources Sub-committee having completed the order of *Morning and Evening Prayer on Sunday*, in conjunction with the *Collects of the Word*, is finalising the production of *The Service of Prayer and Naming and The Funeral Service in Cases of Miscarriage, Stillbirth and Neonatal Death* authorised for use by General Synod last year.

As noted in previous reports the Liturgical Advisory Committee is grateful to all those who over the past year have identified ways in which we may support them in their ministry of worship and acknowledges its reliance upon the initiative of its members to implement the objectives set out by the General Synod.

Following the election and co-option of new members to the LAC the sub-committee membership was revisited and the following were appointed:

1. Resources

Very Rev Nigel Dunne
Very Rev Gerald Field
Very Rev Susan Green
Rev Ricky Rountree
Rev Canon Peter McDowell
Rev Canon Michael Kennedy
Rev Adrian Dorrian
Rev Alan Ruffli

2. Electronic & Web

Rev Johnny Campbell Smyth
Rev Ken Rue
Rev Alan Ruffli
Mr John Morris

3. Music

Rev Canon Dr Peter Thompson
Rev Nigel Pierpoint
Rev Ruth Patterson

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Mrs Jacqueline Mullen
Dr Bridget Nichols
Ms Anna Williams

4. Children's

Rev Johnny Campbell Smyth
Rev Julie Bell
Rev Abigail Sines

MUSIC:

Having previously identified difficulties with old recordings of church music and issues surrounding the further provision of recorded church music, the provision of a Music Hub on the website has gone some way to meeting those needs and can be accessed at www.music.ireland.anglican.org This resource draws together information on all the books and recordings created over the past decade on one easily accessible page.

A treasure in clay jars: Thoughts and reflections on the Canticles noted in last year's report is expected to be published this year. It is hoped that this will raise the profile of singing canticles and might encourage clergy and organists to take a fresh look at resourceful ways of Canticles being sung rather than said.

LITURGICAL RESOURCES:

This sub-committee is continuing its work to resource orders of service for use during the various centenary celebrations through 2014-2022, which are now available as an on-line resource as well as a printed card.

Requests for the provision of suitable prayers and liturgies for use in two sensitive pastoral areas has been under consideration during the past year. Firstly, in the circumstance of miscarriage or stillbirth, a *Naming Service and Funeral Service in the Cases of Miscarriage or Stillbirth* was passed by General Synod last year and is now available as an on-line resource for various pastoral settings. Secondly, pastoral resources in the circumstance of sudden or unexpected death is an area the LAC will be continuing to work on this year, and it is hoped to produce these as on-line resources.

An order for *Morning and Evening Prayer on Sunday* having been authorised for use by General Synod last year has been included in the revision and reprint of the *Book of Common Prayer 2004* and as a booklet. *Seasonal Material* has also been produced for use with *Morning and Evening Prayer on Sunday*, the House of Bishops having given permission for its experimental use for a period of seven years in order to ascertain its suitability.

A new set of *Collects of the Word*, prayers written in the context of *The Table of Readings: The Revised Common Lectionary Adapted for Use in the Church of Ireland*, for use before or after the sermon, have been compiled, produced and made available to parishes for Years C and A.

Holy Communion by Extension for Persons Unable to be Present at the Public Celebration

After 12 years of experimental use the rite of *Holy Communion by Extension for Persons Unable to be Present at the Public Celebration* came before General Synod as a Bill last year. While this rite is primarily intended for use with those who are sick, it has enriched the pastoral and worship life of a parish, allowing both the isolated person receiving this ministry and the worshipping church congregation to have a greater involvement and appreciation.

Public Worship with Holy Communion by Extension. Having been requested by the House of Bishops to devise a rite of *Public Worship with Holy Communion by Extension*, the Liturgical Advisory Committee produced a rite intended for use where the provision of a full celebration of Holy Communion by a priest is not possible in a parish church, chapel or cathedral. The House of Bishops has given permission for experimental use of this rite for some years to come with the understanding that this requires the permission of the Diocesan Bishop on every occasion prior to its use.

ELECTRONIC LITURGY & WORSHIP WEB PAGE:

The LAC continues to maintain the Worship section of the Church of Ireland website, with online resources being uploaded and freely available to parishes. A new section on Church Music Resources has been created covering hymns, recorded music etc. It is hoped that this will be developed further alongside other pages, with new resources being made available regularly. The newly formed membership of this sub-committee is considering solutions to some of the difficulties reported to it with regard to the accuracy of online daily readings and Collects. As this data also affects the Daily Worship App, the LAC are working closely with the external company that provides the website platform to identify why such errors are occurring.

The LAC wishes to reiterate that the work of maintaining and updating the liturgical resources on the Worship webpage is time consuming and is undertaken on a voluntary basis by people already committed in other areas of ministry. As such we are grateful to those kind enough to point out any errors that may occur, and for the patience of users of the site whilst corrections, updates and improvements are made.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY:

The purpose of the Children's Ministry Subcommittee is to examine and recommend how to engage children in the worship of the Church. The subcommittee has been preparing guidelines on the engagement of children in the services in the Book of Common Prayer which are used on Sunday morning, as well as some selected seasonal services. These elements are being incorporated into a resource which they hope churches can draw on to engage children in worship among their community in ways appropriate to their context.

LITURGICAL FORMATION:

Given the new format and additional content of *Morning and Evening Prayer on Sunday*, and the provision of *The Service of Prayer and Naming and The Funeral Service in Cases*

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of Miscarriage, Stillbirth and Neonatal Death and *Holy Communion by Extension* the LAC has undertaken a series of training days for clergy, readers and worship leaders across the Dioceses. Working initially with Diocesan Liturgical Officers (DLOs), and in cooperation with Wardens of Readers and the Bishop, resources were made available to allow days to be organised in each Diocese(s) to familiarise those who will be leading these orders of service. The LAC will seek to promote further opportunities for similar days in each diocese annually in consultation with DLOs.

FUTURE PLANS:

Our future plans include:

- Endeavouring to provide resources for the various centenary celebrations with the assistance of other appropriate persons;
- Furthering development of the worship section of the website;
- Bring to completion the publication of *A treasure in clay jars: Thoughts and reflections on the Canticles*;
- Furthering the collaboration with Cumann Gaelach na hEaglaise on Irish liturgical texts;
- Complete the provision of suitable prayers and liturgies for use in the circumstance of sudden and unexpected death;
- A continued representation of the Church of Ireland in the wider national and international liturgical fora, so that resources and ideas which might be of value in the celebration of our liturgy are available for use from the wider Church;
- Furthering the provision of on-line resources for pastoral, congregational and personal use.

As noted previously in this report, the work of the Liturgical Advisory Committee is dependent to a large extent upon the needs of parishes and worship co-ordinators being identified and communicated to it. Once again we would encourage those involved in planning worship to advise the committee, through the Honorary Secretary (honsec.lac@gmail.com), of any resources they feel the Liturgical Advisory Committee may be able to help provide.

RESIGNATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS:

For the first time in the memory of several the members of the LAC, this year saw meetings without the Chairmanship of the Rt Rev Harold Miller. Whilst there are no words that could adequately acknowledge the contribution Bishop Harold has made to the liturgical life of the Church of Ireland during the years he has served on the LAC, this Committee wishes to recognise in this report the guidance he has given to both the LAC through his chairmanship, and to the wider Church of Ireland through his writings. As we express our appreciation for his service to liturgical reform, we also wish Bishop Harold and Liz every blessing in their retirement.