

Liturgical Advisory Committee – Report 2008

LITURGICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

REPORT 2008

MEMBERSHIP ELECTED IN 2007

Rt Revd HC Miller (Chairman)	Revd PK McDowell
Rt Revd MAJ Burrows (Vice-Chairman)	Revd AJ Ruffli
Revd GG Field (Hon Secretary)	Dr R Marsh
Revd Canon MC Kennedy	Mrs A Cadden
Revd Canon RB Rountree	Ms J Martin
Revd E Hanna	Mrs J Wilkinson
Revd MP Jansson	

Co-opted members

Revd A Dorrian
Revd SA Pragnell
Revd P Thompson

Consultants

Revd Canon JAB Mayne
Revd Canon RE Turner
Dr D Davison
Lady Sheil

Church of Ireland Theological College Observer

Mr R Ferris

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

As noted in last year's report, the emphasis of the work now undertaken by the Liturgical Advisory Committee (LAC) on behalf of the Church of Ireland "has shifted from producing forms of worship to encouragement of their proper use". During the past year much of that work has continued within the four sub-committees focusing on Liturgical Education and Formation, Music Art and Liturgical Space, Liturgical Resources and Electronic Liturgy.

The change in the Marriage Regulations in both jurisdictions has raised issues which the LAC has sought to address. Amendments to the Marriage Service in *The Book of Common Prayer* will be necessary and proposals will be brought before General Synod in 2008 and 2009. The Table of Kindred and Affinity, as it applies to these new regulations, has also been given consideration. The response to those considerations is given as an Appendix A.

The role of the Diocesan Liturgical Officer (DLO) remains vital to the dissemination of information to the dioceses and parishes. An outline of their role and the support required by them from their dioceses was also given consideration. Similarly the role of the Electronic Liturgy Officer was discussed especially with regard to the work required to develop and maintain the Worship section of the Church of Ireland website.

LITURGICAL EDUCATION AND FORMATION

Significant work has been undertaken under this heading.

CELEBRATING COMMUNION

Maria Jansson, as convenor of the sub-group, has been working on a parish-based programme of adult religious education reflecting on the *Holy Communion Two* service of *The Book of Common Prayer*. This programme is to be published by Columba Press this spring. The programme runs for five weeks and can be used at any time of the year. It will foster not just an understanding of the elements of the service but also an understanding of where our worship connects with the life of the community.

This is the first in a series of envisaged, parish-based liturgical education programmes, which will be published in a series called *Prism*.

Now that *The Book of Common Prayer* (2004) is well established and recognising the valuable part the Diocesan Liturgical Officers (DLO) played in introducing it, the role of the DLOs was re-evaluated. The result of the process is available from the Honorary Secretary on request, or can be viewed on the LAC's Committee News section of the Church of Ireland Website.

MUSIC ART AND USE OF LITURGICAL SPACE (MAULS)

During the past year, this LAC sub-committee saw a further division of labour to allow work to progress in the three areas, and as such, three separate working groups replace the one 'MAULS' group.

- *Art* is being considered under three headings: building, liturgy and publicity. The LAC will consider the material presented relating to these areas during the coming year.
- *Music* has focused on the Psalms project, mentioned in last year's report. Whilst the delay in producing the material within the time scale envisaged in that report is regrettable, a sampler of Simple Chants has been produced for the season of Easter Year A, and the LAC hopes to produce a full set in time for use with Year B.
- With regard to *Liturgical Space*, in recent years, the LAC has been keenly aware that the bulk of its work has been concerned with the production of words in the form of new and revised services. However, one of the factors that brings words to life and gives focus to liturgy is the context in which the prescribed words are uttered. The Committee is aware that there is considerable interest among members of the Church of Ireland, in liturgical space and in how the ordering of that space can assist in the liturgical formation of the faith community. Therefore, we feel it would be of benefit to the church to facilitate a full discussion at the General Synod of 2009 concerning some of the theological, aesthetic and logistical principles that should surround the ordering of liturgical space. Having listened to the views of the General Synod we would then be minded, in 2010, to present to the Synod for approval some form of codification of what the church would agree to regard as good practice in this area. The code would be flexible rather than constricting,

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liberating rather than prohibitive, but it would aim to provide a theologically and liturgically rooted set of principles, which would be of use to parishes in their dealings with planning and conservation authorities. It would have significant status as an utterance of the General Synod. This project would involve co-operation with the Historic Churches Committee of the Representative Church Body and we feel it would address a major need in the Church as many remain understandably cautious about implementing change in this area on account of the lack of official Church guidelines and the (perhaps unfair) perception that little can actually be done on account of the weighty influence of planners and heritage experts. In fact, all involved would probably concur that the Church faces a potentially exciting challenge in wedding the reality of a rich built heritage to the fact that within those buildings there has to be the flexibility required by a living and evolving liturgical agenda.

For this project we envisage three stages over three years:

2008 – raising the issue in our Report in a manner that will promote awareness and engagement.

2009 – a green paper on good practice regarding the ordering of liturgical space, perhaps accompanied by a visual presentation, leading to a thematic debate in General Synod and to a formal acknowledgement of the need for a code.

2010 – a Code of Good Practice concerning liturgical space will be laid before the synod in a form that, if passed, would ensure that the mind of the Church in these matters is articulated in a document with both theological inspiration and significant status.

LITURGICAL RESOURCES

Whilst *The Book of Common Prayer* contains the resources for most of the liturgy of the Church of Ireland, there are occasions when only reference is made to where supplementary resources for feast days can be found. This sub-committee has been working towards providing these resources in one place and will continue to compile these resources for distribution at a later date. It is anticipated that once the work on updating the Worship Website is complete many of these resources will be available in electronic format for easier access.

The LAC has also begun a dialogue with the Hard Gospel Committee to explore the needs of the international community in relation to worship material and helping to meet the spiritual needs of those members of our congregations.

ELECTRONIC LITURGY

A change in staffing at Church House Publishing, London, has meant that it has not been possible to progress the work planned for Visual Liturgy, and the LAC is still awaiting communication from Church House Publishing as to when this work may be continued. In the meantime, those with copies of *Visual Liturgy 4* have been advised to continue using it without the upgrade to *Visual Liturgy Live*.

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The LAC has also been working closely with the Communications Department of the General Synod with regard to the Worship section of the Church of Ireland Website. As a result of some copyright infringement issues certain material had to be removed from the website. Realising that this is a great inconvenience to many people, the LAC is working to resolve this issue as soon as possible. However, the amount of work involved is considerable, and the LAC asks for patience and understanding given the limited resources at its disposal.

In this regard, the LAC acknowledges the work undertaken by Rev Alan Ruffi and wishes to express its thanks to him and those now working with him on the Electronic Liturgy Group of the LAC.

FUTURE PLANS

Our future plans include our intention to:

- continue to work on the production of Psalm material for Year B;
- look toward the development of future programmes in the *Prism* series;
- further develop the Worship section of the ‘Church of Ireland Website’
- continue to represent the Church of Ireland in the wider national and international liturgical forums so that resources and ideas which might be of value in the celebration of our liturgy are available for our use from the wider Communion.

RESIGNATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

The LAC wishes to express its immense appreciation to Canon Ricky Rountree who, whilst remaining an elected member of the Committee, last year resigned his position as Honorary Secretary to the LAC. The Committee thanks Canon Rountree for the volume of work he undertook during his term as Secretary. Canon Rountree was particularly instrumental in guiding the LAC through its work on *The Book of Common Prayer* (2004) as it was revised and presented to the General Synod. The memory of his calm persuasiveness and outstanding grasp of detail at the rostrum of the General Synod over many years will long be treasured by the Church.

Two new appointments were made during the past year. The Revd Gerald Field succeeds Canon Rountree as Honorary Secretary, and the Revd Elizabeth Hanna was appointed Chaplain to the LAC in succession to Revd Christopher Woods, who tendered his resignation following his appointment as chaplain of Christ's College Cambridge.

APPENDIX A

Table of Kindred and Affinity

It is the duty of the Civil Registrar to know whether a couple applying for a Schedule (NI) or a Marriage Registration Form (RI) are free to marry in their jurisdiction. These are covered in “Who can marry” (RI) or the “Prohibited Degrees and Relationships” (NI).

In this context the Church no longer publishes the out of date a Table of Kindred and Affinity contained within the 1926 Book of Common Prayer.

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