

## LITURGICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

### REPORT TO GENERAL SYNOD 2024

#### MEMBERSHIP ELECTED 2022

Chair – Most Rev Michael Jackson	
Vice Chair – Ven Ricky Rountree	Rev John McLoughlin
Very Rev Nigel Dunne (Hon. Secretary)	Rev Abigail Sines
Very Rev Susan Green	Rev Julie Bell
Rev Alan Rufli	Rev Nigel Pierpoint
Ven Dr Peter Thompson	Very Rev Lynda Peilow
Rev Canon Peter McDowell	Mrs Jacqueline Mullen
Rev Adrian Dorrian	Mr John Morris

#### Co-opted Members:

Ven Ricky Rountree	Rev Dr Michael Kennedy
Rev Cameron Mack	

#### Consultants:

Ms Rachael Murphy  
Rev Andrew Neill  
Rev Canon Gary Hastings (resigned)

#### Church of Ireland Theological Institute Observer:

Dr Bridget Nichols (2017)

SW

#### Church of Ireland Theological Institute Student Observer:

Mr James Shiels (2023)

#### Methodist Church Observer:

Rev Ruth Patterson (2017)

#### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Since the last Report the Committee has met twice online, at one day meeting and in a residential two-day setting.

The objectives for the coming year will be:

- to continue to assist with the provision of resources for encouraging children's engagement with and participation in worship;
- to provide further prayers and resources for the 18-35 age group;
- to continue making available liturgical resources online and to improve access to them via a dedicated LAC website;
- to review the current Weekday lectionary prior to publication of the 2024/2025 Sunday and Weekday Lectionary;
- to continue developing bi-lingual liturgical resources in collaboration with *Cumann Gaelach na hEaglaise*;
- to provide liturgical material as and when requested by other committees of the Synod and wider Church of Ireland organisations.

**REPORT:**

The past year has seen the production of further liturgical resources in online and printed format. Key projects have been:

- Publication in print of the *Collects of the Word*, Years A, B & C in a single volume;
- Provision of liturgical resources in English and Ukrainian (with particular thanks to the Mullingar Union of Parishes and Limerick City Parish and St Mary's Cathedral, Limerick);
- Continued expansion of services marking Celtic Commemorations/Local Saints.

Following consultation with third-level chaplains and significant drafting work at the residential meeting in November 2023 a suite of prayers for use by the 18-35 year old age group is being rolled out on a phased basis on the worship section of the Church of Ireland website.

The publication of the revised *Collects of the Word* for years A, B and C was delayed in 2023 due to some copyright and final proofing issues which arose prior to final publication. The printed edition will be available for purchase in time for General Synod and it is hoped that the revised versions will also be updated on the Church of Ireland website in time for the First Sunday of Advent.

The music and pew editions of the *Church Hymnal* have now been reprinted. It is not intended to reprint the melody edition as there is little demand. Meantime a new resource providing settings of the Canticles has been developed by Ven Peter Thompson and the music sub-committee of the LAC. Quotations for printing have been sought and this resource should soon be available.

The Committee assisted with and welcomed the reprinting of the Irish Language *Book of Common Prayer* by Cumann Gaelach na hEaglaise (CGNH) in 2023. It was noted that an almost monthly Eucharist in Irish is now being held by CGNH in St Fin Barre's Cathedral, Cork.

Rev Ken Rue has been compiling and publishing the Sunday and Weekday Lectionary for many years and has now decided to step down. The Committee is most grateful to him for his dedication to this significant annual task and for his attention to detail in producing this vital resource for the Church. The LAC has begun a full review of the current lectionary pattern, with particular focus on the weekday lections with the assistance of Ven Andrew Orr and Rev Martin Steele. It has been noted that the English Language Liturgical Consultation (ELLC) is currently reviewing lectionary provisions and may recommend some additional material (e.g. the provision of three sets of readings for Ascension Day). The *Sunday and Weekday Lectionary* will continue to be available online and in printed booklet format.

The Committee noted the changes to sources and procedures for application for funding for publications by the Church in the light of the decline of the Royalties Fund and hopes that the Fund will be rebuilt over time and that priority will be given to the publication of liturgical resources.

The Four Nations Liturgy Group took place in Belfast in May 2023, and the Church of Ireland was represented by the Honorary Secretary and Rev Alan Rufli. In what was a very productive meeting, clearer terms of reference for the Group was agreed (recommending a minimum of one delegate from each nation, but stating a preference for two) and there was significant sharing of ongoing liturgical development and promotion in Ireland, Scotland, England and Wales.

The International Anglican Liturgical Consultation met in Seoul in February 2024, and Rev Abigail Sines and Rev Alan Rufli represented the LAC.

Rev Canon Gary Hastings served for several years as a co-opted member of the LAC bringing his Irish language skills to its work. He has now resigned and the committee thank him for his work and wish him well in retirement.

**FUTURE PLANS:**

Our future plans include:

- Provision of a dedicated LAC website;
- Continuing to work with our Children’s Ministry Sub-committee and Rev Julie Bell on the provision of a major new resource to support liturgical ministry with children, including a resource for daily prayer in the home to be used by families;
- The publication (online) of further prayers and resources for the 18-35 age group;
- A full review of the role of Diocesan Liturgical Officers;
- Work on new methods to update dioceses and parishes on available liturgical resources and to promote their use;
- Continue to encourage the Presbyterian Church in Ireland to nominate a new observer.

The Liturgical Advisory Committee is always open to suggestions as to what resources might be needed to support ministry in parishes, chaplaincies, and other ministries both in terms of resources for public worship and for private prayer in the home. The Honorary Secretary can be contacted by email at [honsec.lac@gmail.com](mailto:honsec.lac@gmail.com)