

Liturgical Advisory Committee – Report 2006

**LITURGICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE 2006
REPORT 2006**

MEMBERSHIP ELECTED IN 2004

Rt Rev HC Miller (Chairman)
Very Rev MAJ Burrows (Vice-Chairman)
Rev Canon RB Rountree (Hon Secretary)
Rt Rev PF Barrett (until 25 January 2006)
Very Rev SH Lowry
Ven DA Pierpoint
Rev Canon MC Kennedy

Rev Canon D Williams
Rev MP Jansson
Rev SA Pragnell
Lady Sheil
Mrs A Cadden
Ms J Martin
Mr G Fromholz

Co-opted members

Rev Canon JAB Mayne
Rev CM Woods (Asst Hon Secretary)
Rev AJ Ruffi

Consultants

Rev TW Gordon
Rev Canon RE Turner

Student Observer
Mr B O'Reilly

RESOURCING THE LITURGICAL LIFE OF THE CHURCH

Since its inception more than 40 years ago, the Liturgical Advisory Committee has devoted the greater portion of its attention to liturgical revision and the production of new liturgical texts. That work culminated in the publication of the 2004 edition of *The Book of Common Prayer*. It must be noted that the remit of the committee has always included the task of liturgical education and formation, but the weight of liturgical revision has, until recently, prevented it from being fully engaged in the role of providing any necessary resources and offering advice on the liturgical life and practice of the church.

Following the launch of the BCP (2004) the Liturgical Advisory Committee has been concentrating on restructuring its method of working and setting new goals for the immediate future. This led to a new method of working where it meets less frequently as a full committee and shares out its much wider brief among four specialist working groups.

The working groups are:

LITURGICAL EDUCATION AND FORMATION

This sub-group has been working on a substantial education programme for parish groups involving Holy Communion Two in *The Book of Common Prayer*. Intended to be set over the period of the ecclesiastical year, each liturgical season concentrates on aspects of the Eucharistic rite, for example *Gathering of God's People* and *Penitence* in Advent, *Proclaiming and Receiving God's Word* in Epiphany and so on. Group exercises, Biblical

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reflection, and short acts of worship are provided within each ‘module’. It is hoped that this material might be available on a trial basis by Advent 2006.

MUSIC ART AND LITURGICAL SPACE (MAULS)

Every incumbent will have received the MAULS questionnaire some months ago. The response has been very encouraging and favourable. Work is in progress to collate and analyse the results in order that a presentation can be made to the wider church in due course. Substantial progress has been made towards the production of a sample Psalter for use with *The Book of Common Prayer* for parishes with or without a choir, but who are willing to engage in new ways of singing the psalms as well as cherishing the traditional Anglican chant. Responsorial psalms, congregational chanting and ‘simple’ psalm-chants are all provided. A sampler CD and sample Psalter should be available by early 2007.

LITURGICAL RESOURCES

A compendium folder of resources to accompany the BCP is almost complete. Contents of this folder so far include such items as emergency baptism, Holy Communion for those who are sick, the Committal at a graveside and of ashes, a list of musical resources, a short commentary on the best use of liturgical resources from the Church of England in our context, and an index of pew edition and large print page numbers relating to the BCP. Every member of the clergy will receive a copy of this *gratis* shortly. This folder is designed in order that further resources can be inserted as and when they become available.

ELECTRONIC LITURGY

In 2005, the initial series of training sessions for Visual Liturgy were held in the majority of the dioceses. Follow up sessions are planned for later this year. The involvement of the Church of Ireland in the Visual Liturgy project has propelled the Church of Ireland to the forefront of the provision Anglican Electronic Liturgical Resources. This has led to other provinces in the Anglican Communion calling on the expertise of the Electronic Liturgical Officer (ELO) for the creation of electronic liturgical resources. This expertise has been recognised in the ongoing development of Visual Liturgy.

Following the launch of Visual Liturgy, the e-liturgy group has turned to the dissemination of electronic resources. The primary media for this is the web/internet and visual. The ELO and other members of the LAC are currently working to provide parish access to electronic liturgical resources through a greatly enhanced web presence. The LAC would like to put on record their gratitude for the pioneering work done by the internet committee up to the present in providing access to lectionary resources. The ELO is available to give a presentation on electronic liturgical resources to any dioceses, rural deaneries etc. as well as providing training on visual liturgy to groups of parishes or individuals.

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The e-liturgy sub-committee are also exploring issues regarding the use of multimedia in the Church of Ireland and have also explored the provision of an electronic version of the hymnal. Proposals in this regard have been forwarded to the Standing Committee.

REACHING THE PEOPLE ON THE GROUND

More effective ways are needed to bring new resources to the parish level. Following the launch of *The Book of Common Prayer* in 2004, the appointment of a Central Liturgical Officer (Canon Ricky Rountree) and of an Electronic Liturgy Officer (Rev Alan Rufli) facilitated an effective delivery of liturgical resources and advice for good practice. The appointment of the CLO was for a limited period of 18 months which ended in June 2005. The ELO is an on-going appointment. In conjunction with these appointments a team of diocesan liturgical officers were appointed by the CLO in cooperation with the diocesan bishops. This provides a structure for delivery of liturgical resources as they become available. It also allows for advice and practical help to be provided at a much more local level. The link with the DLOs was initially through the Central Liturgical Officer. Now that the structure is in place in which the DLOs are facilitated and resourced directly from the Liturgical Advisory Committee and meet twice a year on a provincial basis with the Honorary Secretary and the Electronic Liturgy Officer. It must be noted that it is up to individual dioceses to make the best use of their Diocesan Liturgical Officer in helping to renew and resource the liturgical life of the local Church.

IALC - PRAGUE

The International Anglican Consultation took place in Prague (Czech Republic) from 1 – 6th August 2005. The venue was the International Baptist Theological Seminary in Prague.

The official representatives of the Church of Ireland at this year's consultation were Canon Ricky Rountree, Dean Michael Burrows and Rev Alan Rufli. They were joined by Bishop Harold Miller attending in his own capacity as a member of Societas Liturgica. The theme of the consultation this year was "Liturgy and Anglican Identity". The Anglican Church worldwide has grown from a family of churches all using a text of the Book of Common Prayer very similar to that of 1662 to a situation where liturgical revision of the past 40 years has produced great variety, albeit with a common shape. The consultation sought to study how liturgy contributes towards an Anglican identity in this changing situation. This being a much less defined theme than has been usual for IALC it was not possible to produce a clearly worked out statement. Instead a discussion document for further reflection by the provinces will be produced.

FOUR NATIONS

Each year a representative meeting of members of the liturgical committees of the Church of Ireland, Church of England, Episcopal Church of Scotland and the Church in Wales meet to share news of their work and to be a means of sharing resources. It has played a significant

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role over the years. Of note is its contribution towards the lectionary and the collects. The Church of Ireland hosted the meeting for 2005 from 19 to 20 May.

Those attending were Canon Ricky Rountree (Ireland), Rev Robert Townsend (Wales), Rev Ian Paton (Scotland) and Rev Dr Paul Bradshaw (England). Rev Brian Mayne (Ireland) acted as Secretary.

The Scottish Episcopal Church will host the meeting for 2006 in Edinburgh from Tuesday 2 to Thursday 4 May.

REVISION – INSTITUTION SERVICE

The LAC has recently given attention to revising and substantially updating the liturgy for the Institution of an Incumbent. It has taken some hard work on behalf of various individual members to provide a liturgy that is meaningful and effective not only for the incumbent who is to be instituted, but moreover for the people of God in the particular parish which welcomes this new ministry. This service will be presented as a resolution this year leading to a bill in 2007 and will replace the current Institution service from the *Alternative Occasional Services* of 1993.

DAILY LECTIONARY

A small group of members of the LAC met on a couple of occasions over the course of the year to pilot-test a new daily lectionary for use both in the corporate parish office and in personal devotion. The new lectionary is called *The Revised Common Lectionary Daily Readings* (CCT) and the difference with this lectionary is that Thursday, Friday and Saturday readings help to prepare for the forthcoming Sunday and the readings for Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday reflect upon the preceding Sunday. This lectionary is particularly appropriate for an 'irregular' congregation. This new lectionary is provided (together with an alternative two-year Daily Lectionary) in the *Church of Ireland Directory*, or it can be purchased from the Good Book Shop in Belfast and The Sunday School Society Resource Centre in Rathmines, Dublin.

NEW PUBLICATIONS

Some new publications have been released in the past year. A Children's Communion Booklet, called *I can join in the Holy Communion Service* (based upon a similar one used for Common Worship in the Church of England) has now been circulated to all full-time clergy. It is a tool which is intended to be used for young people's education, whether or not they receive Holy Communion.

A Holy Baptism booklet, edited by Canon Ricky Rountree, has also been produced. It contains a pastoral introduction to the Sacrament and lays out the Rite of Holy Baptism Two as a 'stand-alone service' or as it could be combined with Holy Communion (Rite Two) or

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Morning Prayer (Rite Two). Such a booklet is intended to be used in the pastoral preparation of those who come for baptism, and their families.

COPYRIGHT

The LAC heard a detailed and informative presentation from representatives of CCL (Christian Copyright Licensing). Given the complexity of this area, the LAC intends to produce further guidelines on copyright surrounding reproduction of texts of liturgy and hymns as well as other material.