

LITURGICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

REPORT TO GENERAL SYNOD 2025

MEMBERSHIP ELECTED 2022

Chair – Most Rev Michael Jackson
Vice Chair – The Ven Ricky Rountree
Very Rev Nigel Dunne (Hon. Secretary)
Very Rev Susan Green
Rev Alan Rufli
Ven Dr Peter Thompson
Rev Canon Peter McDowell
Rev Adrian Dorrian

Rev John McLoughlin
Rev Abigail Sines
Rev Julie Bell
Rev Nigel Pierpoint
Very Rev Lynda Peilow
Mrs Jacqueline Mullen
Mr John Morris

Co-opted Members:

Ven Ricky Rountree
Rev Cameron Mack

Rev Dr Michael Kennedy

Consultants:

Ms Rachel Murphy
Rev Andrew Neill
Rev Martin Steele

Church of Ireland Theological Institute Observer:

Dr Bridget Nichols (2017)

Church of Ireland Theological Institute Student Observer:

Mr Matthew Campbell (2024)

Methodist Church Observer:

Rev Ruth Patterson (2017)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

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

The objectives for the coming year will be:

- to complete the remaining resources for children's engagement with and participation in worship both in church and at home;
- to review prayers and resources for the 18-35 age group, to add more if needed and to further the distribution of same;
- to continue making available liturgical resources online and to improve access to them with the completion of the new LAC website;
- to complete a set of prayers for use in the context of the legacy of the Troubles;
- to complete a set of resources for Racial Justice Sunday;
- to engage with Diocesan Liturgical Officers, to review their roles and to organise another series of regional 'roadshows' to update clergy and lay readers on more recent material published by the Committee;
- to keep under review the Weekday lectionary prior to publication of the 2026/2027 Sunday and Weekday Lectionary;

- 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 significant work on the provision of a large and varied resource for use with children in the home and in church in partnership with Rev Julie Bell. It is hoped that the first major tranche of this material for use in church will be available in ring binder format in time for General Synod 2025 and will be made available online at the same time. This will cover from Advent Sunday until the Day of Pentecost. The idea behind the ring binder format is to allow for the addition of remaining material (Ordinary Time) later this year and for updates to be inserted as they arise. The parallel resources for use at home will be published in booklet format at the same time.

Following the publication of prayers for use by the 18–35-year-old age group late last year, it was decided to publish a prayer card entitled ‘Take a Minute’. This contains a short series of prayers and scripture verses for morning and evening and is deliberately designed to fit in a pocket or small bag. This can be used any time of day and ought to be useful for those who live busy lives and may not get to attend church services very often, if at all. These are being distributed to third level chaplains and others this year. The committee is grateful to Rev Abigail Sines for her work on this important resource.

The revised Collects of the Word for years A, B and C in one volume was published last year and is available from the RCB shop. The changes are also reflected in the collects as published on the Church of Ireland website.

The publication of the new settings of the Canticles, developed by the Ven Peter Thompson and the music sub-committee of the LAC last year was delayed due to a big increase in printing costs and the need for a revised budget. They will now be published later this year.

We are grateful to the Ven Andrew Orr and Rev Martin Steele for their detailed work on the weekday lectionary for 2024/25. The latter has agreed to act as a consultant member to the LAC to continue work on the publication of the lectionary for next year. The Sunday and Weekday Lectionary will continue to be available online and in printed booklet format for 2025/26.

Following a request from the Church and Society Commission the LAC is helping to generate some liturgical resources for use in the context of the Troubles legacy. A Service of the Word and Eucharistic propers has been produced. The LAC is also working on material for use on Racial Justice Sunday which it is hoped will be complete by the end of this year. The committee continues to engage with the Board for Ministry with Children and Families and has offered its support in the production of liturgical material for use with/by children.

The committee’s Digital and Typesetting sub-committee continues to work on the construction of a dedicated website for the LAC and notes that the early stages of the re-design of the Church of Ireland website is now under way. The Honorary Secretary and Rev Alan Rufli will feed into this via their membership of the Central Communications Board.

The Committee has spent considerable time at recent meetings reflecting on how to better engage with Diocesan Liturgical Officers. It is planned to review their roles, make sure there is at least one functioning in each diocese and to organise another series of regional ‘roadshows’ to update clergy and lay readers on more recent material published by the Committee.

The Four Nations Liturgy Group took place in Perth, Scotland in September 2024, and the Church of Ireland was represented by Rev Adrian Dorrian. This was a fruitful sharing of ongoing liturgical development and promotion in Ireland, Scotland, and Wales. Of note was the Episcopal Church of Scotland’s work on ‘all age worship’ and more material for the season of Creation. The Church of England was not represented at the meeting.

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 completion of the new resource to support liturgical ministry with children, including a resource for daily prayer in the home to be used by families as reported above;
- The publication (online) of further prayers and resources for the 18-35 age group including a poster with a QR code to take people to online material;
- A full review of the role of Diocesan Liturgical Officers and the organisation of regional 'roadshows' to further engagement with and use of more recent material;
- Working with other committees of the General Synod, supporting the production of liturgical material relating to their work.

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

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