

**Liturgical Advisory Committee Report**  
**Proposer: Archdeacon Peter Thompson**  
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Archbishop,

It's not many weeks since the Sunday gospel reading was the story of Mary of Bethany anointing Jesus' feet with a pound of costly ointment. In Luke's telling of the story, Jesus says to Martha that she is worried about many things, but only one matters, and he commends Mary for having chosen the better part. The role of the LAC in the life of the Church is foundational, because it is to help those who, like Mary, sit at Jesus' feet and offer their all in worship.

Worship is of crucial importance to the life of the Church, because when all our Pioneer Ministries, all our Priorities Fund, and all our pension plans have turned to dust, our worship will continue in the nearer presence of Almighty God. The brevity of the printed report of the LAC belies the volume of work that has been undertaken this year. Every single bullet point and sentence reflects a piece of work that is either complete, in progress, or in the embryonic stages.

The single most significant item approaching completion is *Journeys*, the Revd Julie Bell's resource to encourage children and families to pray and worship at home, in preparation for corporate worship in church. Julie has worked tirelessly, assisted by the Resources sub-committee, to bring this material to print, and it is exciting to see the first part launched at this meeting of Synod. This material will help to teach and form young people in a life of prayer and worship that is rooted in the liturgical tradition of the Book of Common Prayer, the cycle of the Church's Year, and the Revised Common Lectionary.

If you haven't already explored *Journeys*, I would encourage you to visit the LAC stall and see it in hard copy. Please also take the story of *Journeys* home to your dioceses and parishes and encourage families to explore how they might more effectively pray and worship at home as well as in church. The other major piece of work that is ongoing is to look at how liturgical material is made available online.

The LAC is progressing a designated liturgical website, which will link through the main site, but be independently controlled, and hopefully very user-friendly. This is a time consuming and expensive exercise, but one which will, we hope, pay dividends in years to come. As the volume of liturgical resources continues to grow annually, this will allow them to become an

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orderly library where items are not only easily located, but hopefully also unknown treasures will be discovered.

Last year prayer resources for young adults were published. The uptake on these has been encouraging, and this year the project has received a new dimension with the prayer card entitled *Take a minute*, another way to help and encourage younger adults in particular to pray regularly. This demographic is often forgotten or overlooked in the life of the Church, yet they face significant challenges in so many aspects of life, and if we can help them connect to God in prayer, we have achieved something significant, transformative and missional.

The committee exists to support and resource the Church, not to send down more paperwork from on high. We are always keen to engage with other committees and groups where liturgical resources are required, so that duplication is avoided and insights are shared. Likewise, where gaps exist in our liturgical provision, we are always ready to consider suggestions and requests. Finding new members is a particular challenge, as we try to maintain a balance between lay and ordained, between geographic areas and dioceses, and are mindful of the representation of minorities. We particularly need members and consultants skilled in taking the material through the practical stages of publication and post-publication in promotion and distribution.

There are many more projects ongoing including material for Racial Justice Sunday and the Troubles Legacy, singing the Canticles and worship in Pioneer settings, provision of a weekday lectionary and liaison with our sister Churches, particularly in the British Isles. A final observation is that we have an excellent track record of producing resources for all ages and stages of life, for private devotion and public worship, for national and local events, but we have not been particularly successful at promoting those resources or communicating with the wider Church to advertise what is available.

When the 2004 Prayer Book was published, there was a Diocesan Liturgical Officer appointed in each diocese whose role was to guide and explain how the written word of the liturgy might come alive in worship. We are exploring how the LAC might create a travelling roadshow, in conjunction with a revival of the local DLOs, to visit dioceses and share the many resources we have with the whole Church. There will be plenty more about that in the coming years. Archbishop, it gives me great pleasure to propose that the report of the LAC be taken into consideration.