

## LITURGICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

### REPORT TO GENERAL SYNOD 2026

#### MEMBERSHIP ELECTED 2025

Chair – Most Rev Michael Jackson 3/4  
Vice Chair – Ven Ricky Rountree 3/4  
Very Rev Nigel Dunne (Hon Secretary) 3/4  
Very Rev Susan Green 4/4  
Rev Alan Rufli 4/4  
Ven Dr Peter Thompson 3/4  
Rev Canon Peter McDowell 0/4  
Rev Adrian Dorrian 3/4

Rev John McLoughlin 0/4  
Very Rev Abigail Sines 3/4  
Rev Julie Bell 4/4  
Rev Nigel Pierpoint 3/4  
Very Rev Lynda Peilow 2/4  
Mrs Jacqueline Mullen 4/4  
Mr John Morris 4/4

#### Co-opted Members:

Ven Ricky Rountree  
Rev Cameron Mack 3/4

Rev Dr Michael Kennedy 2/4

#### Consultants:

Ms Rachael Murphy 0/4  
Rev Andrew Neill 0/4  
Rev Martin Steele 1/4

#### Church of Ireland Theological Institute Observer:

Dr Bridget Nichols (2017) 2/4

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

Dr Ashley Morgan (2025) 3/4

#### Methodist Church Observer:

Rev Ruth Patterson (2017) 3/4

#### 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 add more prayers to the ongoing provision for the 18-35 age group, to continue circulation via social media and to create small printed 'prayer card' packs;
- 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 the now clearly identified Diocesan Liturgical Officers 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 further significant work on the provision of the *Journeys* resource for use with children in the home and in church in partnership with Rev Julie Bell. The first volume was launched at General Synod last year (covering from Advent Sunday through to the Day of Pentecost) and has now been circulated to incumbents in all dioceses. There have been considerable delays in finalising both the preparation materials (for online access) and the printing of the home resource on which the committee is spending more time than was originally anticipated. Work is also continuing on the provision of the second phase of material for insertion to the folders circulated last year which is to provide for Ordinary Time.

Following the publication of prayers for use by the 18-35 year old age group in late 2024, the associated *Take a Minute* prayer cards were distributed to some third level chaplains and to churches/cathedrals that are open more than one day a week. Due to high demand a second print run and distribution was needed last autumn. In an effort to make this prayer resource more accessible on the ground (and alongside individually themed Instagram prayer posts) the committee is currently working on a set of printed prayer cards tailored to specific issues and needs that may be encountered by this age group and which will be distributed in a similar fashion to the *Take a Minute* resource.

The publication of the new settings of the Canticles, developed by Ven Peter Thompson and the music sub-committee of the LAC, which had been delayed due to increases in printing costs last year, were published in late 2025 and have been distributed to incumbents in each diocese. Further copies are available from the online bookshop. Work is under way to provide online musical recordings (of basic melody lines) to support the use of this resource. Meantime, the *Singing Psalms* resource has now been uploaded to the Church of Ireland website. The committee is grateful to Ms Jacqueline Mullen for proofreading the texts and for her ongoing work on the online commentary on *Singing Psalms*.

Rev Martin Steele was co-opted as a consultant member of the committee in 2025 and continues to undertake the laborious and detailed work on the Sunday and Weekday Lectionary which continues to be available online, in printed booklet format and in the Church of Ireland Directory. It is hoped that the printed booklets and the online pdf will be available much earlier this year. The committee is aware of some ongoing technical issues with the provisions for Sundays on the Church of Ireland website and is seeking a solution with the website maintenance team.

The committee's Digital and Typesetting sub-committee continues to work on the construction of a dedicated website for the LAC and is encouraged to hear that the tendering process for the new Church of Ireland website is under way. The Hon. Secretary and Rev Alan Rufli continue to support this process via their membership of the Central Communications Board. The worship section of the current website is one of the most frequently used, therefore it is important that the new site will be able to meet the technical demands of managing a large and complex portfolio of material.

The LAC produced material for use on Racial Justice Sunday including a Service of the Word and some propers for the Eucharist which were completed at the end of 2025. A draft of further material to be tailored more to the Church of Ireland's context is to be drawn up and will then be sent for review by the Primate's Reference Group and CITI student body. Our thanks to Rev Philip McKinley for his input to this work at the residential meeting last November.

The committee began a new strand of work seeking to support liturgical provision in the context of Pioneer ministry. We were delighted to welcome Rev Rob Jones to our residential meeting last November to begin the identification of what might be needed as projects develop. Some work has begun to assess what might be the essential elements to any act of worship which may occur in these diverse contexts and what guidelines might be useful for those working on the ground.

Following a significant piece of work to identify existing Diocesan Liturgical Officers (DLOs) the committee is happy to report that there is at least one DLO functioning in each diocese and is currently organising another series of regional ‘roadshows’ to update clergy and lay readers on material published by the Committee in the last six or seven years. It is hoped to make available online some of the presentations given at these as an ongoing awareness and training resource to all who preside at worship. The current DLOs are:

|                              |                              |
|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Armagh:                      | Ven Dr Peter Thompson        |
| Cashel, Ferns and Ossory:    | Rev Arthur Barrett           |
| Clogher:                     | Rev Tim Irvine               |
| Connor:                      | Rev Cameron Mack             |
| Cork, Cloyne and Ross:       | Rev Canon John Ardis         |
| Derry and Raphoe:            | Rev Adrian Dorrian           |
| Down and Dromore:            | Rev Stuart Armstrong         |
| Dublin and Glendalough:      | Rev Ken Rue, Rev Alan Ruffli |
| Kilmore, Elphin and Ardagh:  | Rev Canon Edward Yendall     |
| Meath and Kildare:           | Rev Lesley Robinson          |
| Tuam, Limerick and Killaloe: | Very Rev Dr Richard Marsh    |

## **FUTURE PLANS**

Our future plans include:

- Continue working towards the provision of a dedicated LAC website while also working with the design of the new Church of Ireland website.
- Continuing to work with our Children’s Ministry Sub-committee and Rev Julie Bell on the completion of the new *Journeys* resource to support liturgical ministry with children.
- The printing and circulation of themed prayer cards for the 18-35 age group.
- Completing the uploading of further support material for the Canticles and Singing Psalms resources.
- Adapting and/creating more material for Racial Justice Sunday.
- Continuing to work with the Pioneer Ministry Leadership Team to develop guidelines and resources for use in a diversity of contexts.
- Working with the 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. It also encourages other committees of the General Synod to seek its assistance in developing liturgical material relevant to their work. The Honorary Secretary can be contacted by email at [honsec.lac@gmail.com](mailto:honsec.lac@gmail.com).