

Standing Committee – Report 2003

APPENDIX R

PUBLICATION OF PRAYER BOOK ADVISORY COMMITTEE

REPORT 2003

MEMBERSHIP

Rev M Graham	Dr AE St Leger
Mr D McConnell	Mr E Vincent
Rev Canon JAB Mayne (Chair)	Mr CG Walker
Dr K Milne	Mr WG Wheeler
Rev Canon RB Rountree	

BACKGROUND

The General Synod in 1997 and 1998 agreed to undertake a total and thorough revision of the *Book of Common Prayer* to include traditional and contemporary texts. The target date for publication of a new edition of the *Book of Common Prayer* was set at 2004.

In September 1999 the Rev Canon JAB Mayne was appointed editor of the book and in September 2000 the Publication of Prayer Book Advisory Committee was established to assist him. The Committee has met eight times.

WORK TO DATE

The Committee's work relates mainly to the content of the book and the editorial and production aspects as the texts passed by the General Synod come to the editor.

All material for inclusion in the book must be brought before the General Synod for approval by 2003 in order to meet the target publication date of 2004. Since the signing of Heads of Agreement with Columba Press in November 2002, the publisher's designer has supplied proofs of much of the material already approved by the General Synod and members of the Committee are proof-reading this material on an ongoing basis.

Blank dummy copies of the new edition were well received at the General Synod in 2002 and a selection of draft material is now available to view in read-only format on the Church of Ireland website (www.ireland.anglican.org).

MARKET RESEARCH

There was a good rate of response - 55% - to the survey sent to all parishes in February 2002 requesting estimates of their requirement for copies of all editions of the *Book of Common Prayer 2004*. The average estimated requirement per parish was 186 copies including all editions. The average was remarkably consistent with almost every batch of forms received.

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The results of this research will help determine the first print run and will facilitate the preparation of costings for the production of the book.

IRISH LANGUAGE EDITION

Some translation has already been completed based on the material submitted to General Synod. The final text will be checked by three Irish scholars before being printed. The Irish language edition will not need the separate approval of General Synod because it is a direct translation. However, it will be submitted to the House of Bishops for authorisation.