

Liturgical Advisory Committee – Report 2003

**LITURGICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**REPORT 2003**

**MEMBERSHIP ELECTED IN 2001**

Rev Canon BT Blacoe	Rt Rev HC Miller (Chairman)
Very Rev MAJ Burrows (Vice-Chairman)	Mr DB O'Callaghan
Dr AF Carver	Ms C O'Shea
Most Rev RL Clarke	Very Rev JTF Paterson
Rev MJ Elliott	Rev Canon RB Rountree (Hon. Secretary)
Rev Canon N Jardine	Lady Sheil
Rev Canon MC Kennedy	Rev Canon D Williams

***Co-opted members***

Rev Canon JAB Mayne	Rev M Jansson
Very Rev SH Lowry	Rev SA Pragnell

***Student Observer***

Mr C Woods

***Consultants***

Rt Rev EF Darling	Rev TW Gordon
Rev Canon RE Turner	

The last tranche of material for the revised *Book of Common Prayer* was introduced as resolutions at last year's General Synod. These resolutions, with amendments, will be considered as Bills this year. They include: the ELLC texts, the Order for Confirmation (traditional), Holy Baptism in the context of Morning or Evening Prayer, Some Prayers and Thanksgivings, Daily Prayer, Ministry to the Sick and to others requiring particular pastoral care, Service for Ash Wednesday, The Psalter, The Ordinal, General Directions for Public Worship and, as in 1926, a Bill 'to correct mistakes, inaccuracies, inconsistencies and infelicities'. A further Bill, to include a date of commencement for the provisions of the various relevant Liturgical Statutes of the General Synod, together with a Preface, an order of services and other ancillary matters, is added to the list. If these are passed by General Synod the production of the next edition of the *Book of Common Prayer* can proceed and could be available in the Spring of 2004.

The Committee hopes that, while all of the provisions enabling completion of the 2004 edition of the *Book of Common Prayer* will not come into force until Trinity Sunday, 2004, the Bishops may give permission for the use of certain of the services therein as and when the printed version becomes available. Also Bishops may permit the use of any of the orders of the service in the 1926 edition of the *Book of Common Prayer*, for which substitutes have been provided, until Advent 2005. Similarly, any of the orders of service in the *Alternative Prayer Book* (1984) and the *Alternative Occasional Services*

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(1993), for which substitutes have been provided by the 2004 edition of the *Book of Common Prayer*, may be permitted to continue in use until Advent 2005.

### **1. PSALTER**

The Psalter Bill follows the decision made last year at Resolution stage to include the *Common Worship* Psalter as the only Psalter in the Book, rather than including both the 1926 Psalter and the ECUSA Psalter. The 1926 Psalter will continue to be authorised for use and will be made available on the Church of Ireland website. The Psalter will be set out in a way which will allow a variety of styles to celebrate the psalms.

### **2. LITURGICAL FORMATION AND EDUCATION**

The next major task of the Committee will be the effective introduction of the revised *Book of Common Prayer* and the continuing need for liturgical formation and education for the Church at large. Material to enhance the services of the *Book of Common Prayer* and to assist worship leaders in the preparation of worship will be needed. Much of this can be done through the Church of Ireland website and by the effective use of resources produced in other parts of the Anglican Communion. There will also be a need to produce our own resources on a continuing basis and for a structure and personnel to guide and equip worship leaders.

### **3. CENTRAL LITURGICAL OFFICER**

The Liturgical Advisory Committee has recommended the secondment of a stipendiary priest to act as Central Liturgical Officer for a period of 18 months from 1 August 2003. The CLO's role will be to direct the effective introduction of the *Book of Common Prayer* (2004) and to put in place with the bishops a structure of Area Liturgical Officers, whose role will be to facilitate ongoing liturgical formation and education. A Resources Working Group has been set up to begin the task of producing resources for these roles. The Liturgical Advisory Committee has an important and continuing role to play in resourcing the Church of Ireland. More important than producing a new *Book of Common Prayer* is the task of ensuring that it is used well and wisely so that it may be a means of new life and renewal in the worshipping life of the Church.

### **4. INTERNATIONAL CONSULTATIONS**

In May of 2002 the Honorary Secretary and the Editor of the BCP attended the "Four Nations" consultation in Edinburgh. This annual meeting by those centrally involved in liturgical revision in these islands is a very useful and important way of sharing resources and ideas. The consultation has facilitated this sharing and has helped us to avoid duplication and of annoying unnecessary variations in the lectionary and other areas of liturgy. The Honorary Secretary attended the Church of England Liturgical Conference in London in October 2002. This is an annual invitation to meet the members of the Church of England Liturgical Commission and Diocesan Liturgical Officers and to be brought up to date with developments in

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the Church of England. It is especially useful to get advance details of impending publications which can supplement our work. Next August the International Anglican Liturgical Consultation will take place in Oxford. This is an interim meeting and will deal with “Liturgical Education and Formation” and so is extremely timely for our purposes. Due to the proximity of the meeting it is hoped that a number of delegates will attend.

### **5. RETIREMENTS**

During the year, Canon Clive West and Canon William Marshall retired as consultants to the LAC. The Committee records its great debt of gratitude to them both for their contribution to its work over many years. The Committee has been very pleased to gain the assistance of Rev Tom Gordon as a consultant and his active participation in its work.

### **6. AN IMPORTANT MILESTONE**

The final passing of the Bills required to complete the contents of the *Book of Common Prayer* (2004) occurs following the 200<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Liturgical Advisory Committee on 2 April 2003. Significantly, Canon Edgar Turner, one of our consultants, has been a member of the Committee for all of those 200 meetings. The present Editor of the BCP, Canon Brian Mayne, was the Honorary Secretary at the 100<sup>th</sup> meeting. These meetings span a period of forty years and grateful thanks are due to everyone who has contributed so much to its work during that time.