

Liturgical Advisory Committee Report
Seconder: The Revd Canon Dr Peter Thompson

Your Grace, members of Synod,

I hope I won't disturb your Grace too much if I begin by quoting from the Westminster shorter catechism when I say "Man's chief aim is to glorify God." Thankfully I'm not here to propose that we adopt this particular document, but it does remind us of the crucial importance of worship. As a synod we can become very exercised about issues such as Diocesan representation, we can become excited by pensions – or the lack of them, and if the possibility of a stipend increase was on the agenda I suspect attendance would soar to a previously unknown height. But when we take a step back and ask ourselves some serious questions, we know that the worship of Almighty God is the life-blood of the church. Worship is the work of building the kingdom of God on earth as in heaven.

The LAC exists to facilitate that worship, and our work springs from both our own practical experience, and also the communications received from members of the church, both clerical and lay. When a need is identified, we strive to address it.

I've served on the committee for quite a few years now, and I never cease to be amazed at the breadth and the volume of work undertaken. Over the past years we have produced more literature, I suspect, than most of the other committees of the church put together. One major issue we find is raising awareness of the material made available. Everything goes onto the Church of Ireland website, but it is not always easy to navigate or to find new material.

To address the issue of communication, we have created a new church music hub on the website, which can be accessed through a very simple address, www.music.ireland.anglican.org and this hub contains a simple list of links to all of the resources available and ongoing projects. Please tell your musicians about this and encourage them to explore all that is available to help them glorify God through their music and worship.

Over the past 10 years the musical sub-committee alone has published a three-volume series, *Singing Psalms*, it has produced, edited and published *Thanks & Praise*, with its ancillary companion, and also *Sing to the Word*.

These have been accompanied by a suite of recordings and a Braille edition.

We have received several requests for help with singing the Canticles, and I am delighted that we will, before the end of this year, have in print a volume entitled *Treasure in Clay Jars*, a book of reflections on the message of the Canticles, which will provide both liturgical and musical ideas to encourage their use in worship. It is intended that a copy of this book will be provided, free of charge, to every incumbent in the Church of Ireland, and further copies will be available for those who wish. There will also be additional resources provided periodically on the website.

Your Grace, it gives me great pleasure to second the report of the LAC.