

Doctrinal Principles

The Trustees have affirmed their whole-hearted commitment to protestant evangelical reformed theology as summarized by that which is common to the historic confessions of faith (Westminster, Savoy and 1689 Baptist).

They have also agreed a number of specific articles of faith, including the following on the subject of worship principles: "The essential holiness and glory of God dictate that all worship addressed to Him should be reverent and thoughtful 'in spirit and truth'.

Practices derived from the entertainment industry, such as popular music, multiple instrument bands and repetitious singing are not suitable vehicles for the expression of worship to God."

THE CHRISTIAN WORSHIP PUBLISHING TRUST

The Christian Worship Publishing Trust is a registered charity (Charity Commission reg. no. 1117057) established in 2006 to facilitate the production of the new hymnbook.

The eight ministers of the co-ordinating group also constitute the Trustees of the charity.

We welcome donations of any size to assist in this important project.

Gifts may be sent to our Administrator

Pastor S J Ford

4 Elm Grove Drive

DAWLISH

Devon

EX7 0EU

(Tel. 01626 865230)

Alternatively donations can be credited direct to our bank account

CAF Bank

25 Kings Hill Ave

Kings Hill

WEST MALLING

Kent

Please contact us if you wish to make a tax efficient donation under the government's Gift Aid scheme. We will be glad to supply a Gift Aid declaration form.

CHRISTIAN WORSHIP

a new hymnbook

upholding traditional values
of reverent praise

Why another new hymnbook?

For many years evangelicals agreed that the worship of God is a unique spiritual exercise, unlike any other human activity. They believed that the essential seriousness of the gospel required every part of worship to be quite distinct from the frivolity of a worldly entertainment culture.

More recently this traditional aversion to combining the sacred and the profane has been largely set aside. As a result, the sung praise of God has changed. The main emphasis is no longer on hymns that reinforce solid doctrinal truth. Many new worship songs are sentimental and repetitive, often cultivating charismatic experience. In addition, much of the music to which these new songs are set clearly borrows from popular entertainment.

Even hymnbooks compiled recently by both respected and serious-minded brethren have yielded to these trends. A number of ministers and churches have been deeply saddened by what they see as a sad departure from good practice. As a result it has been decided to compile a new collection of hymns together with a complete metrical psalter, to meet the needs of a wide range of evangelical churches which cannot in good conscience accept these other new hymnbooks.

How is the work being done?

Starting with the selection published in the original version of Christian Hymns, a number of less popular hymns have been deleted. Others up to a total of approximately one thousand are being collated from various sources – some of recent production, but all in the style of conventional hymnology. As a principle, so-called "archaisms" (i.e. Thee/Thou/Thine etc.) will not be edited away.

The classic metrical psalter is undergoing a very restrained revision to remove the most awkward constructions, where this can be done without compromising faithfulness to the original scriptural meaning.

A separate tune book is being prepared to enlarge the range of tunes, but keeping to a traditional style.

Who is involved?

The work is being co-ordinated by
a group of eight ministers

R. Jeremy Brooks (Ramsey)
G. Roland Burrows (Cradley Heath)
Stephen J. Ford (Dawlish)
Dewi W. Higham (Cardiff)
W. Vernon Higham (Cardiff)
David W. Kay (Barnstaple)
Neil V. Pfeiffer (Swansea) – Chair
John P. Thackway (Holywell)

How is the project progressing?

The target date for publication was originally announced as 2010, but the co-ordinating group now believe that it may be possible to bring this forward by at least one year.

The selection of hymns is almost complete. Work on the psalter revision is well advanced. Gathering of tunes, and the matching of psalms and hymns to suitable tunes is in progress.

Much remains to be done, including checking copyright, computer input of all text, physical production, and not least raising sufficient funds to facilitate the printing a viable production run.