

Church Hymnary Trustees – General Assembly 2019

Moderator, Ann Inglis, presenting the report of the Church Hymnary Trustees in the absence of the Chairman, Lord Brodie.

The Report shows sales of CH4 in its various guises. Sales of both full music and melody editions and of the CD Rom have increased during the last year while sales of the words edition and of the large print editions have dropped. Sales of the CD Rom have doubled.

This is an indication that the way in which churches access hymns has changed and is continuing to change. Many churches, as most of us are aware, project the words of hymns on screens and there is a strong argument that singing is better when you are looking up than when you are looking down into a book. And putting words on a screen gives the opportunity of using large size print. Many people prefer the traditional hymnbook. There's room for both screen and book.

The Trustees are aware that many resources besides CH4 are used in our churches. Congregations seek a wider range of types of music to sing in worship than they did in the past – even the recent past. Some congregations have been developing this for a while; others are just beginning to explore the possibilities. In the congregation where I worship and often lead worship, on any given Sunday we may source songs and hymns from maybe half a dozen sources including CH4 which in itself has a wide range of different styles of music. We've moved a long way from the idea that one hymnbook supplies all needs.

During this past year the Trustees have received no requests to support local training projects or any other projects designed to enhance music in worship. We don't have an unlimited amount of money but we do have some, and we are keen to receive applications for the kinds of projects which our purposes allow us to support. The Trust exists to advance Christian faith and worship by the advancement of hymnody by assisting the Church to develop its music in worship in ways which are relevant to individual congregations or groups of congregations. In the past we have supported a variety of initiatives including training events for organists and we have also supported the work of the Mission and Discipleship Council, so we are open to approaches from congregations, Presbyteries and other Church bodies involved in the development and enhancement of Church music.

We have had no changes in the composition of the Trust this year.

Moderator I present the Report. I am not a Commissioner so would ask the Principal Clerk to move the deliverance.