

Copyright & Music

Copyright law can be a complicated minefield for any church. With the increasing use of multimedia, ensuring that your church is correctly licensed and acting legally can be challenging. For instance, do you know the answers to these questions?

- *If a copyright line says 'all rights reserved' can I reproduce it?*
- *When does a song become 'public domain'?*
- *I would like to write an additional verse for an existing song and perform the entire song with the new verse at our church. Is this legal?*
- *What information do we need to include on a song sheet we produce at church? And what about songs in the public domain?*
- *When other groups use our church can they use our Church Copyright Licence (CCL)?*
- *We have more hymn books than persons in the congregation. Would we still need a licence to reproduce words from these hymn books?*
- *What is the copyright situation for using worship CDs in the church service, or with the children's work?*
- *Are we allowed to reproduce songs and music downloaded from websites?*

The answers to these and many other questions can be answered by Christian Copyright Licensing International, a Christian UK-based agency. CCLI can issue some licences and advise on the need for, and the procedure for obtaining, any or all of them.

We would encourage you to visit CCLI's comprehensive website (www.ccli.co.uk). In particular the very helpful 'at a glance' table, which outlines various church-based scenarios and the licences required: <http://churches.ccli.co.uk/licences/quickguide/>

In addition, CCLI have produced information sheets on most common church activities. For example, what your church would need to know in regards to audio and/or video recording. You can get the latest versions online at: <http://churches.ccli.co.uk/resources/fact-files/>

If you do not have access to the internet, CCLI can be contacted by telephoning 01323 436100 or writing to:

CCLI, Chantry House, 22 Upperton Road, Eastbourne, East Sussex, BN21 1BF

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