



### Reproducing/Projecting Song Words

This Fact File has been created by Christian Copyright Licensing International (CCLI) as a guide to the copyright implications of reproducing and/or projecting copyright-protected hymns and worship songs in church meetings. If you do not find all the information you need here, please visit [uk.ccli.com/churches](http://uk.ccli.com/churches) or contact CCLI (details overleaf).

#### What do I need to know?

Permission from the copyright owners is required to reproduce the lyrics of copyright-protected hymns and worship songs for use during Acts of Worship. Songs where the copyright owner has chosen to allow free use (Copyright Free) or where the copyright owner of the original work has been dead for over 70 years (Public Domain) do not require any direct permission or the cover of a copyright licence (see the *Fair Dealing & Free Use of Copyright Works Fact File* for details). With this in mind all information within this Fact File is written for material that is deemed to be protected by copyright.

#### Why do I need licences to sing hymns?

Before the introduction of photocopiers and multimedia equipment, churches purchased enough books for each member of the congregation. The copyright fee (song royalty) was included within the purchase price of the hymn book and a payment was made by the book publisher back to the songwriters included on an ad-hoc basis. With churches increasingly wanting to produce their own song sheets or projection acetates, or project songs from a computer, another method was required to ensure songwriters are still paid for the reproduction of their work. This is what the Church Copyright Licence (CCL) covers. The CCL isn't a licence to sing, it's a licence to reproduce copyright protected-songs.

#### What counts as a reproduction?

The writing, typing or copy/pasting of hymn and worship song words from a source such as a hymn book or from the internet requires either direct permission from the copyright owner or the cover of a licence.

Owning a set of hymn books does not provide permission (unless stated otherwise within the book) for reproduction of any kind, unless it is for non-commercial research or private study (see the *Fair Dealing & Free Use of Copyright Works Fact File*). Electronic storage of hymn words on a computer for use with a projection system is also counted as reproduction.

#### What about photocopying?

The Church Copyright Licence (CCL) is a reproduction licence. This means it permits a church to write, type or copy song words and music (including onto OHP slides) but not to photocopy lyrics or music directly from a commercially available hymn book. Books are protected with a typography right (25 years from the first day of print) which prevents direct photocopying unless the church has the additional Music Reproduction Licence (MRL) which covers this right.

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## Are we allowed to change the words?

Under copyright law, only the copyright owner has the right to amend or change their work in any way. Finding difficulty in how a song has been written, or concern with its theology, doesn't give you the right to change the work without the permission of the copyright owner.

## Do we have to show copyright lines?

The copyright line, or 'non-proprietary data' as it is otherwise known, shows the details of the person who wrote a particular song and who owns or administers the copyright. It is part of the CCLI Terms of Agreement that all songs reproduced under the licence clearly show the copyright symbol ©, the writer, copyright owner, the year that it came into copyright and the licence number under which the copy has been made.

For example: *Fred Smiley © 2000 Happy Music Ltd, CCL Licence No: 12345.*

Commercially available song projection software usually includes the facility to show this data.

## Do we have to report?

Yes: The Church Copyright Licence administered by CCLI includes the right to reproduce over 175,000 hymns and worship songs from over 2500 music catalogues worldwide. CCLI is here to ensure that the correct songwriters are remunerated with royalties for the reproduction of their songs and hymns, and we do this from the information gathered in reports.

You can find full details about reporting at [uk.ccli.com/reporting](http://uk.ccli.com/reporting).

## What is SongSelect?

SongSelect is an affordable online resource containing thousands of ready to print hymn and worship song words, lead and chord sheets. It is regularly updated and is the most comprehensive legal source of music for churches, saving hours of preparation time. For more details visit [uk.ccli.com/songselect](http://uk.ccli.com/songselect).

### What is copyright?

Copyright is an intellectual property right given to the creators of original musical, literary and dramatic works. The Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 (CDPA) is the legislation that currently operates in the UK and provides the creator with two main rights:

#### Economic

this allows the creator to charge anyone who wishes to copy, perform or record their work for any commercial or non-commercial use.

#### Moral

this allows the creator to protect their work from any change which might be considered offensive or not in keeping with their wishes.

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This Fact File is provided for information purposes only and does not constitute legal advice. If in doubt you should consult a legal expert. Whilst we aim to be as accurate as possible, CCLI can accept no responsibility for any errors or omissions in the information provided.