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A PRAYER BOOK GLOSSARY

A partial list of some potentially confusing words from regularly-used services in the Book of Common Prayer

Brethren- an inclusive term to denote all those present in a service. *e.g.* "Dearly beloved brethren..."

Comfort; Comfortable- from the late Latin *confortare*, to strengthen, to make strong; to be strengthened. *e.g.* "Hear what comfortable words our Saviour Christ saith."

Concord- agreement between people.

Convenient- appropriate. *e.g.* "It is convenient that the new married persons should receive Holy Communion."

Conversation- public conduct or behaviour. *e.g.* "examine your lives and conversations by the rule of God's commandments."

Curate- any priest who has 'cure' of souls in a particular place, normally a parish. *e.g.* "as the Curate by his discretion shall appoint."

Eschew- abstain from.

Froward- perverse, contrary. *e.g.* Ps 18.26, Ps 101.5

Ghost; Ghostly- from Old English *gāst* (German, *Geist*) Spirit; spiritual. *e.g.* "...together with ghostly counsel and advice."

Graven- carved, hand-made. *e.g.* "Thou shalt not make to thyself any graven image."

Holpen- past tense of 'to help'. *e.g.* "He remembering his mercy hath holpen His servant Israel."

Indifferently- impartially.

Intolerable- from Latin *intolerabilis*, cannot be borne.

Lively- living. *e.g.* "a reasonable, holy, and lively sacrifice unto thee."

Magnify- to glorify, to praise greatly. *e.g.* "My soul doth magnify the Lord."

Man/Men- an inclusive term for all human beings. *e.g.* "Who for us men, and for our salvation came down from heaven..."

Meet- appropriate, fitting. *e.g.* "It is meet and right so to do."

Militant- the Church on earth, those still 'fighting the good fight of faith' (from the Latin *militans*) as opposed to the Church Triumphant in Heaven. *e.g.* "Let us pray for the whole state of Christ's Church militant here in earth."

Miserable- pitiable, in need of mercy. *e.g.* "But thou, O Lord, have mercy upon us, miserable offenders."

Oblation- from the late Latin *oblatio*, (from *offerre*, *oblatum*, to offer), offering. *e.g.* "alms and oblations", "his one oblation of himself once offered."

Only- often means 'alone'. *e.g.* "Almighty God...of whose only gift it cometh..." (Collect for Trinity XIII.)

Prevent- go before. *e.g.* "Prevent us O Lord, in all our doings with thy most gracious favour."

Profession- a declaration of belief in something. *e.g.* "Baptism representeth unto us our profession; which is, to follow the example of our Saviour Christ."

Propitiate; Propitiation- to win or gain the favour of; a sacrifice which turns aside God's wrath *e.g.* "he is the propitiation for our sins."

Quick; Quicken- living; to make alive. *e.g.* "the quick and the dead."

Regenerate- born again spiritually. *e.g.* "Grant that we being regenerate..."

Remission- forgiveness and absolution. *e.g.* "Create and make in us new and contrite hearts, that we...may obtain of thee the God of all mercy, perfect remission..."

Sabaoth- in Hebrew, "hosts" or "armies." *e.g.* "To thee Cherubim and Seraphim : continually do cry, Holy, Holy, Holy : Lord God of Sabaoth."

Satisfaction- fulfilling an obligation incurred. *e.g.* "ye shall reconcile yourselves unto them; being ready to make restitution and satisfaction", "a full, perfect, and sufficient sacrifice, oblation, and satisfaction, for the sins of the whole world."

Suffer- (1) to endure pain. (2) to tolerate or allow. *e.g.* "Suffer the little children to come unto me."

Suffrages- intercessory petitions made by the priest, followed by the responses of the congregation *e.g.* "The Suffrages next after the Creed."

Supplication- humble and earnest petition. *e.g.* "Almighty God, who hast given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplications unto thee..."

Tempt; Temptation- test; testing. *e.g.* "when your fathers tempted me", "lead us not into temptation."

Travail- painful or laborious effort; to endure such. *e.g.* "Come unto me all ye that travail..."

Very- true. *e.g.* "Very God of very God."

Vouchsafe- to grant readily, to show gracious willingness. *e.g.* "Vouchsafe, O Lord : to keep us this day without sin."

Vulgar- easily understandable. *e.g.* "in the vulgar tongue."

Worthily- with due devotion or reverence, deservedly or appropriately. *e.g.* "we, worthily lamenting our sins, and acknowledging our wretchedness..."