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The Prayer Book Today

The Revd Canon Andrew Hawes

Address for correspondence:

The Prayer Book Society, The Studio, Copyhold Farm, Goring Heath,

Reading RG8 7RT

Telephone: 0118 984 2582 E-mail: pbs.admin@pbs.org.uk Website: www.pbs.org.uk

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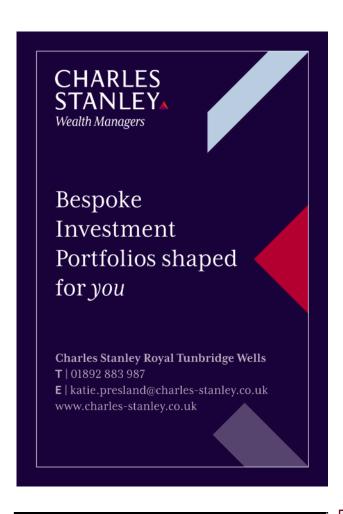
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Why Thomas Cranmer?

David Fuller

hen Archbishop of Canterbury and Lord Chancellor William Wareham died on 22nd August 1532, King Henry VIII had to propose a replacement. The Church of England in 1532 had a number of distinguished prelates, from whom Henry could have selected the next occupant of the See of Canterbury and the Primacy of All England. The most senior candidate was Edward Lee, Archbishop of York who had, in December of the previous year, been consecrated and enthroned. In November 1531, the king had rewarded Stephen Gardiner with the Diocese of Winchester, which had stood vacant since the death the previous autumn of Thomas Cardinal Wolsey. In August 1529, Gardiner had been appointed as the king's secretary. In 1530, the king demanded a report from the authorities of the University of Cambridge to prove the unlawfulness of his marriage to his deceased brother's widow, Catherine of Aragon. Henry demanded this assessment to justify him in his new plan to resolve the question without the Pope's intervention. Gardiner succeeded in this vital (to Henry) task.

In February 1530, Cuthbert Tunstall became a successor to Cardinal Wolsey in the Diocese of Durham. Tunstall acted as a counsellor to Queen Catherine in the king's 'Great Matter'. Unlike Thomas More, who was summarily executed for refusing to acknowledge Henry's headship of the Church of England, Tunstall publicly defended the king's position, while adhering firmly to Roman Catholic dogma, doctrine and practices. Much like Henry, he remained 'Catholic without the Pope'.

Bishop of London, John Stokesley, had a distinguished academic pedigree. As a canon lawyer, Stokesley was sent to the Papal State of Orvieto in 1527 to secure a decretal document from Pope Clement VII agreeing to acquiesce to the king's demand for a marriage annulment to be heard in England. In 1529 and 1530, he visited France and Italy as an ambassador to Francis I and to try to gain opinions from theologians in universities in those countries who were in favour of the king's separation from Catherine.

In contrast to the obvious candidature of these accomplished prelates, what was it that persuaded Henry to ignore them all and appoint Thomas Cranmer to the See of Canterbury? In 1503, at the tender age of fourteen years, Cranmer had gone up to Jesus College, Cambridge, to read for a degree in

Philosophy and Classics. It took him eight years to gain his Bachelor's degree. Almost immediately, he began a study of humanist literature, as well as New Testament Greek and Hebrew. In 1515 or 1516, Cranmer married a woman known as 'Black Joan of the Dolphin'. Joan was reputed to be the daughter of a 'gentleman' and was related to the wife of the proprietor of the Dolphin Inn in Cambridge. Cranmer thereby forfeited his eligibility to hold his Fellowship and was reduced to taking employment as a Reader at Buckingham Hall, which later became Magdalen College. He sent Joan to St Ives at the time of her confinement but neither she nor the infant survived childbirth. Extraordinarily, the college authorities readmitted Cranmer to his Fellowship; there is no record of any other widower receiving this honour in the next 200 years. Upon reinstatement as a Fellow, Cranmer began a study of theology and was appointed a University Preacher. In 1526, he was awarded his Doctor of Divinity degree.

From 1527, in addition to his duties as a Cambridge don, Cranmer assisted Cardinal Wolsey to try to satisfy Henry's demands for an annulment and, in the summer of 1529, while staying with relatives in Waltham Holy Cross to avoid an outbreak of the plague in Cambridge, he may have met the king, who was staying nearby. He was joined by two of his college associates, Stephen Gardiner and Edward Foxe, and together they discussed the annulment at great length. Cranmer proposed that they should discontinue the legal case in Rome and, instead, seek opinions from theologians at universities in what is now mainland Europe. Henry showed considerable interest when Gardiner and Foxe appraised him of this plan. It is not known whether explicit approval to proceed came from the king or his new Lord Chancellor, Thomas More, but eventually it was implemented and Cranmer was asked to join the royal team in Rome to gather opinions from within that city.

In January 1532, Cranmer was appointed Resident Ambassador to the court of the Holy Roman Emperor, Charles V. While accompanying the emperor Cranmer visited the Lutheran city of Nuremberg and saw for the first time the effects of the religious revolution. Cranmer met the leading architect of the Protestant reforms, Andreas Osiander. He then took the surprising step of marrying Margarete, the niece of Osiander's wife. This event was the more remarkable because the marriage

required Cranmer to break his (now) priestly vow of celibacy. Observers of the time noted that Cranmer began to move, however moderately, into an acceptance of certain principles of Lutheranism.

Did Henry know of Cranmer's matrimonial indiscretions and the earlier loss of his Fellowship at Cambridge? With his comprehensive intelligencegathering machine, headed by Vice Regent Thomas Cromwell, it seems inconceivable that he could not have known. If the king did know, then he seems to have paid little heed to the news. Henry was under pressure from Thomas Boleyn, the father of both Mary, who had been his mistress, and Anne, his intended queen, to appoint Cranmer to Canterbury. Boleyn and his family had distinct leanings towards the religious reforms that were taking place on the Continent. The appointment of the next Primate of All England was entirely in the patronage of the king following his break with Rome, and he had no wish to offend Anne's father. Also, Henry was now Supreme Head of the Church and his decision to promote Cranmer did not contravene Convocation's prescription 'as far as the law allowed'. A letter was duly despatched to Cranmer, dated 1st October 1532, which required his immediate return to England. He arrived at the beginning of January 1533.

The promotion of Cranmer to Canterbury caused much surprise, especially as he had previously only held minor ecclesiastical appointments. The acquisition of the necessary documentation from Rome to allow the consecration was facilitated by royal funding and instructions from Pope Clement VII to the Papal Nuncio to accommodate Henry's demand so that, certainly in the view of the Vatican, a rapprochement might be achieved, notwithstanding the fact that the king had formally separated from Rome two years previously. Cranmer was consecrated on 30th March. While awaiting the arrival of the papal bull, Cranmer continued his work on the annulment, the more so after Anne announced that she was pregnant; she and Henry were married secretly in January 1533. Cranmer did not learn of this event until some weeks later. In order to bring a conclusion to the 'Great Matter', Cranmer, together with the bishops of Winchester, London, Bath and Lincoln, met on 23rd May, and pronounced the marriage between Henry VIII and Catherine of Aragon to be null and void. This was not a divorce; inclusion of the clause 'void ab initio' meant that, in law, Henry had never been married to Catherine. He was free to marry Anne Boleyn.

Cranmer clearly saw the significance of reformist thinking on the Church, especially in regard to its sacramental life. The king had accepted some

elements of religious reform proposed by Cromwell, including the introduction of an English Bible, but any suggestion of alterations to the Mass or a change of the language of worship to 'a tongue understanded of the people' would have incurred the monarch's wrath. In 1521, Henry had written, possibly with the assistance of Thomas More, Assertio Septum Sacramentorum (In Defence of the Seven Sacraments), in part to refute Martin Luther's denunciation of indulgences. For this, Pope Leo X rewarded him with the title Fidei Defensor (Defender of the Faith). Apart from Henry's indifference to doctrinal and liturgical change, Cranmer had to combat the traditional opinions of his brother bishops, not least from Stephen Gardiner. Gardiner had argued the necessity of a belief in transubstantiation. Cranmer wrote his polemical response under the title, 'Answer unto a Crafty and Sophistical Cavillation devised by Stephen Gardiner'.

Cranmer clearly had the structure and content of a single volume Prayer Book in mind long before Henry's death in 1547. This was introduced to the Church of England on Whitsunday 1549, but it is important to remember that Cranmer relied in part on the reformed Roman Breviary of the Spaniard, Francesco Cardinal de Quiñones, and also on a book on doctrine and liturgy by Hermann von Wied. Apart from the time needed to finalise and proofread the texts, many months must surely have been spent getting sufficient copies printed, bound and distributed to all the churches in England. The first page of Cranmer's monumental First English Prayer Book has the title: 'The booke of the common prayer and administracion of the sacramentes, and other rites and ceremonies of the Churche: after the ufe of the Churche of England'. It led directly, a century or so later, to the edition of 1662, which today, over 350 years later, is still enshrined in English law through its associated Act of Uniformity.

Congratulations must most assuredly be offered to Archbishop Thomas Cranmer for his foundational English Prayer Book but, perhaps more importantly, a significant debt of gratitude is owed to King Henry VIII for having the vision to promote this lowly, yet learned, Clerk in Holy Orders to the Throne of Saint Augustine. He could have had no inkling of the effects that this appointment would have on the Church of England, its doctrine and worship, all of which would certainly have been vastly different had he chosen any other candidate for the See of Canterbury back in 1532. Deo gratios.

Dr David Fuller is a Licensed Lay Reader in the Scottish Episcopal Church, Diocese of Argyll and The Isles. He lives in retirement on the Isle of Mull.

The Sixty-Two Articles:

proposed changes to the Articles and Rules of the PBS

David Richardson

he Prayer Book Society is, at law, a charity and a company limited by guarantee. As such, its activities are governed by a Memorandum, Articles of Association and Rules.

Last year, the Trustees undertook a review of the governance of the Society and have approved various proposals for change. These were mentioned in outline at the Annual General Meeting held last August, and it is envisaged that they will be submitted for approval at this year's AGM (to be held on Friday, 4th September at the Royal Agricultural University, Cirencester).

The full proposals will be circulated to all members with the pre-Conference mailing this summer, but I would like to outline the key changes now. They relate to (a) the size of the Board of Trustees, (b) communication between Trustees and local Branches, and (c) term limits for members of the Board.

Board membership

The Articles currently provide for a Board of fifteen members (a Chairman, seven Regional Trustees and seven Ordinary Trustees). There are in fact thirteen Trustees now serving; it has not proved possible to fill two of the regional posts for the past couple of years.

Recommended good practice for the charity sector is, however, that a Board of Trustees should have no fewer than five, and no more than twelve, members. We judge an appropriate number for the PBS to be eleven (i.e. a Chairman and ten other Trustees). Moreover, we think that the time has come when we should have just one category of Trustee (rather than Regional and Ordinary). The reasons for this are threefold:

- We are finding it increasingly difficult as instanced above – to find trustees for the regional role. Four of the Regional Trustees on the Board had only agreed to remain for 2019/20 because of the proposals now being put forward.
- The demands of the post of Regional Trustee, if its perceived duties are to be fully undertaken, can be daunting and the expectations of Branches in regard to 'their' RT may be unfulfilled.
- It is seen as increasingly important that charities be able to recruit Trustees for the particular skills

or experience that they may bring to the Board. Geographical limitations—such that a given vacancy may only be filled by someone from a specific part of the country—can only inhibit such recruitment.

Our proposal is that all Trustees be directly elected by the AGM. It would remain open to the AGM—as now—to elect whomsoever it may choose; the Nominations Committee of the Board would ensure, though, that there were candidates presented, with the endorsement of the Board, to fill the places available. The terms of reference of the Committee would require it to 'have regard to the desirability of there being, so far as feasible, an appropriate balance on the Board between sexes, dioceses, clergy and laity, and different forms of churchmanship within the Church of England'.

Communication between the Board and Branches

The question of Trustees' future links with Branches, in the absence of Regional Trustees, has to be addressed. Let me confirm that, if the changes are approved, we will ensure that there are clear channels of communication between Branches and the Board:

- While the maintenance of such channels will be an obligation laid on the whole Board, we will designate three Trustees as having specific responsibility for maintaining links with Branches; one of the three will have responsibility in regard to the Northern Province. The designated Trustees will be identified in this magazine.
- The Board will communicate with Branches and, indeed, with Corporate Member parishes by e-newsletter not less than twice in each calendar year.
- The joint annual meeting of the Trustees and the Branch Representatives' Council will continue, and there will be Trustee representation at the BRC's other meeting each year.

Let me add that, as Churches and Clergy Coordinator, John Service is happy to accept invitations to Branch AGMs and other events and thus help ensure that Branches are au courant with links with churches and theological colleges.

Term limits for Board membership

At present, all Trustees are elected for a year at a time and there is no limit on the number of occasions on which anyone may offer themselves for re-election. We propose that the PBS should follow the more customary practice for national charities of having terms of office of more than one year and of setting term limits. The proposal is for three terms of four years leading to a maximum period of consecutive service for any Trustee (including the Chairman) of twelve years. As a transitional measure, not all Trustees would serve for a full four-year term initially: some would serve for one year, some for two, some for three and the remainder for four. There would thus be a number to be elected or re-elected each year, as from 2021.

If you would like further information, or if you have any questions, please contact me by email (david.richardson@pbs.org.uk) or write to me c/o the Society's office at Copyhold Farm.

I conclude with the reflection that, whatever constitutional changes we make, these should of course be seen as ancillary to the implementation of the aims of the Society—not least the fulfilment of the vision for 2030 ('people of all ages finding life in Christ through a growing Prayer Book service in every benefice').

David Richardson is Deputy Chairman of the Prayer Book Society and Chairman of the Carlisle Branch.

Book review

Francis Young,
A History of Anglican Exorcism: deliverance and
demonology in Church Ritual,
ISBN 978 1 78831 347 6,
hardback, 252 pages, £78

rancis Young (not to be confused with Frances Young) is a foremost authority on the history of religion and of continuous and of c of religion and of esoteric practice, especially in eastern England, and his many published works include A History of Exorcism in Catholic Christianity. In A History of Anglican Exorcism, he runs his forensic mind over the conundrum of exorcism in the Church of England. The anomaly is that the contemporary Church of England has nominated individuals in every Diocese who are designated as those who can be consulted on issues of 'deliverance'. Young's carefully compiled chronology of deliverance and exorcism in the post-Reformation English Church reveals the occasional recorded instance deliverance or exorcism from 1549 until the 1920s, when Fr Gilbert Shaw and Max Petitpierre develop this ministry and begin guiding and teaching other priests in aspects of it. In 1952 the Church of England's subcommittee on demonology begins advising. Interest and activity in this area grows until, in 1964, the Bishop of Exeter convenes a committee to prepare a report on exorcism.

The First Prayer Book of King Edward (1549) contains a striking and 'full-blooded' baptismal exorcism at the signing of the cross: 'I command thee, unclean spirite, in the name of the father, of the sonne and of the holy ghoste that thou departe from

these infants'. The Second Prayer Book (1552) marked a significant change; whereas the 1549 rite expected that the exorcism would free the child from the devil, the 1552 rite initiated the infant into a 'constant struggle with demonic'. The Book of Common Prayer, the result of the restoration religious settlement, makes no mention of this struggle at all.

This omission is the outcome of seeking a via media between a Catholic and Protestant position. As Young carefully recounts, on the one hand exorcism as rite became a 'Catholic weapon' in the conflict to claim the high ground in the battle for spiritual ascendancy. Exorcism became a 'papist' thing. The more Protestant reformers influenced by the Calvinism were cessationists, who believed that the miraculous associated with work of the Holy Spirit ceased after the ministry of the Apostles. Furthermore, the whole work of 'ghost-laying' gave credence to the 'papist doctrine' of purgatory. For the Protestant, the individual could be delivered from the devil by faith in the saving blood of Jesus.

This book is certainly worth ordering from your local library if the price is prohibitive; it is full of vivid examples and carefully reconstructs the path to the current position in the Church of England. In this ministry, at least, the Book of Common Prayer has always been wanting—an omission the Non-Jurors rectified in their own liturgies and prayer books. Young has written a lively, readable account without sacrificing the highest academic standards.

Andrew Hawes

Old Uncle Tom Cranmer and all: an after-dinner speech

Fergus Butler-Gallie

y lords, ladies, and gentlemen, both reverend and otherwise, I must confess I stand before you perplexed. Whilst it is a great privilege to be addressing you today, I am at a loss as to what qualifies me to address such an august gathering as this. Aside from being manifestly unqualified to speak with any erudition on the Prayer Book, my university career was less 'study of the Commination' and more 'persistent threat of rustication'. I surely am a pitifully poor representative of the official views of the Church of England. And what other purpose, I might ask, is an after-dinner speech for than for parroting such views? The grand banquets of Lambeth are invariably entertained by a rehearsed reading of the document on 'Issues in Human Sexuality'; even the lager and takeaway curries that fuel the fuzzy mess of the General Synod are accompanied, by statute, by recitations of the canons relating to faculty law. My lords, ladies and gentlemen, both reverend and otherwise, I fear I can offer you no such thing. You know, I'm sure, where the exits are.

My journey to faith was not ignited by a navebased (or should that be knavish) game of crazy golf nor by a helter-skelter in one of our ancient cathedrals, but by stumbling across a Book of Common Prayer lurking in a household otherwise more committed to the worship of dogs than God.

I am not, I confess, particularly prayerful, preferring to lazily allow the age-worn and well-loved prayers of countless previous generations to carry me in my prayer life, rather than invigorating the ether with my own self-composed lollardy.

I am no liturgist. The thought of composing specialised services for occasions fills me with boredom and dread.

I am then a conventional convert, a poor pray-er and a louche liturgist. Indeed, the only thing I have ever been any good at is making people laugh—and even the jury's out on that one. There are, of course, many figures in the heritage of Prayer-Book-using priests with a sense of humour, from the titans of Sidney Smith and Jonathan Swift to the unknown clergyman who famously observed that the Bible must have been written by an Anglican because it so extensively quotes the Book of Common Prayer. However, one would have to be very brave or very

ill-informed to necessarily add the figure of Thomas Cranmer to that list.

Fortunately, as my school reports can testify, I am both fiercely ill-informed and, to quote one of them, 'a cocky sod', and so I say to you, Thomas Cranmer was funny. Not, I concede, in the conventional sense of being mildly amusing, but in that the Prayer Book for which he was largely responsible (I had to put that caveat in, lest we have any extremist Coverdale or Cosin fans in tonight) has shaped, among so many other aspects of anglophone life, our sense of humour.

I think this is true on two levels. Firstly, the Book of Common Prayer is an integral part of the mishmash of cultural influences and touchstones in which we marinate and stew. A certain knowledge of the BCP can be assumed by comedians as they craft jokes. The examples of this are, of course, manifold and varied: in Dawn French's scene in the gentle sitcom Jam and Jerusalem, where her simple and faintly irritating character Rosie disturbs the neurotic vicar whilst he is trying to pray, and so offers to join him. She begins her prayer, 'O God, who art the author of peace and lover of Concord.' She then pauses and says, 'It's gone now, isn't it. Concord. Do you think God's sad?' She was, of course, under the impression that the Lord is an aviation enthusiast. On the other end of the scale are Peter Cook and Dudley Moore's Derek and Clive recordings. Utterly unrepeatable, of course, in polite company, but during one they ponder why it is that cherubim and seraphim continually do cry. I think their answer has something to do with Lord Longford and Joan Crawford's gall bladder but, as I say, they don't bear repeating. Both examples, however, show how embedded the linguistic turns of Cranmer et al. are in the cultural and humorous lexicons of this country. Both sets of comedians rely on a phrase lifted directly from the Prayer Book to get laughs.

I would suggest that these are indicative not of a desire to mock the Prayer Book and its influence but rather are signs of affection, of familiarity. When talking about religion, and especially the Prayer Book, as ever, the clergy are the ones most likely to misunderstand in a less sympathetic way.

There is the story of the somewhat simplistic ordinand who asks his Director of vocation why it is

that we only pray for bishops and for curates in our prayers for the Church. The Director of ordinands looks over his glasses and says, 'My dear child, of course they deserve the most prayers. They're the ones who have to deal with the bloody incumbents!'

In short, whether lay or ordained, the Prayer Book is something the English can joke about because it is comfortable, it is known, it is part of who we are. This does not necessarily make it unique. There is such a myriad of cultural influences on this country that are ripe for jokes, from the heat of a curry to the coolness of the weather. I would, however, observe that no mainstream comic would ever bother referencing Common Worship in a gag, except perhaps as a rather pitiful punchline. I think of Private Eye's glorious skewering of the new liturgy in their occasional feature of the 'Rocky Horror Picture Show Service Book'. Sometimes it takes satire to make a deadly serious point, and even if the Frankenstein's creature-like monstrosity of the proliferation of pamphlets and supplementaries that make up our current liturgy seems to have escaped many within the Church, there are those outside it who can see it very clearly for what it is.

However, it is the second level which I think is more interesting—how our sense of humour as a nation has been shaped by what I would term 'Cranmerian anthropology'. The examples above were about the context of a joke. The BCP provides a recognisable and easily referenceable linguistic and cultural framework for those jokes. This second aspect is much more about content. And it is for this reason that I maintain again that Thomas Cranmer was funny.

It is not only the language but the linguistics of the BCP that have shaped our humour. It might be a step too far to say that the influence of Cranmerian triads has shaped the accepted structure of the English joke: I'm not sure 'a holy desire, a good counsel and a just work walk into a bar' is an appropriate construct (not least, as a lawyer friend of mine once pointed out at an Evensong, because I'm not sure even the Lord has enough in his budget for a 'good counsel'). Yet we can still definitively point to the Prayer Book informing the rhythm of English speech that is so necessary to pull off a joke well. Claiming the punchline as a Cranmerian invention might be a vain thing fondly invented, but its effective deployment in English owes much to the fact that the only spoken linguistic construct shared by people across the country for centuries was the phraseology of the Book of Common Prayer. It was therefore inevitable that the common expressions of everyday life—fear, love and even laughter—became

couched in the speech patterns that were also common, those of old Uncle Tom Cranmer and all.

Most importantly, though, the English sense of humour owes something, I would venture, to Cranmer's conception of what it is to be human. His theology of mankind, his anthropology of faith. In short, Cranmer understood that this ludicrous aspect of the human condition was both wicked and pitiable. Worthy of mockery (comparable to worms and lost sheep) but also, through the inestimable mechanism of grace, redeemable as well.

Lemuel Gulliver, Tristram Shandy, Mr Micawber, Archdeacon Grantly, each and every one of the Pirates of Penzance, Bertie Wooster, the Steptoes, Rigsby, Basil Fawlty, Hyacinth Bucket, David Brent, Mark Corrigan, Fleabag—this list of the titanic characters of the world of British humour, both written and on the screen—these are characters we are encouraged to laugh at, and rightly so for their follies, but also to view as redeemable, with an element of reticent affection. Herein is Cranmerian anthropology writ large. And in each case, it is funny.

The Church, therefore, abandons the BCP at its peril. Its influence runs much deeper than we might think. It might be possible that we've changed the way we speak from the days of Cranmer, but the way we laugh and how it is we conceive of humour has, I would suggest, not changed so much at all.

On the feast of Charles King and Martyr, the BCP (before its shameful vandalization in 1859 by what Dr Sacheverell would rightly have termed 'False Brethren') set as the sentence at Morning Prayer the line from Galatians 6, verse 7: 'God is not mocked'. Some of you may have heard me preach on this before but to my mind it bears repeating. God is not mocked—God mocks us. How so? Well, this is an after-dinner speech not a sermon. I only preach those after a few brandies and the bar is waiting. Suffice to say this: that just as the anthropology of Cranmer mocks humanity and thereby saves it, so it will be that the revival of the liturgy of Cranmer will mock the claims of a past generation and so save a future one.

The Prayer Book is the future of the Church of England, as well as its past. For we worship a God with an irrepressible sense of humour, to whom what we foolishly think of as paradox is, in fact, truth.

Fergus Butler-Gallie is Assistant Curate of Liverpool Parish Church. This speech was delivered after dinner at the Prayer Book Society Conference in August 2019.

Regaining my religion

— Sir Roger Scruton (1944–2020)

Michael McClenahan

he death of Sir Roger Scruton on 12th January 2020 marks the end of the career of one of Britain's finest and most respected philosophers. The author of many fine books—not least, The Uses of Pessimism and the Danger of False Hope (2012)—his work was marked by the sort of courage and individual conviction so often lacking in the echo chambers of modern academia.

In his beautiful memoir, Gentle Regrets: Thoughts from a Life (Continuum, 2005), he considers his own spiritual pilgrimage. In the final chapter, he reflects on his return to the Christian faith and his confession of the Holy Trinity. He writes:

Moving to the country ten years ago I went out of curiosity to our local church, no longer as a thief but as a penitent. And because the little church announced the use of the Book of Common Prayer—in whose idiom my prayers are invariably expressed—I joined the congregation, and volunteered to play the organ. The truth contained in the words of Morning Prayer and Holy Communion is not directly there on the page, but revealed in the silence of the soul that comes from speaking them. It is a truth that reaches beyond words, to the inexpressible end of things.

Perhaps there is no more direct challenge to secular ways of thinking than the famous Hundredth Psalm, the Jubilate Deo, as translated in the Book of Common Prayer. It was by reflecting on this psalm that I came to see how its pure and unsullied idiom contains the answer... The psalmist enjoins us to be joyful in the Lord, to serve the Lord with gladness and to come before his presence with a song. It is a notable fact of our modern civilization, in which duties to God are ignored or forgotten, that there is very little gladness and still less singing. 'Losing my Religion' is a moan, not a song, and the idiom of heavy metal expressly forbids its followers to 'join in' when the music starts...

If, therefore, I am called upon to express my much-amended but nevertheless regained religion, it would not be in the penitential words of Little Gidding, nor in the self-centred cries of

Rilke to his Angel, but in the tranquil words of the Jubilate Deo:

O be joyful in the Lord, all ye lands: serve the Lord with gladness, and come before his presence with a song.

Be ye sure that the Lord he is God: it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people and the sheep of his pasture.

O go your way into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and speak good of his Name.

For the Lord is gracious, his mercy is everlasting: and his truth endureth from generation to generation.

The Revd Professor Michael McClenahan is Professor of Systematic Theology at Union Theological College, Belfast (www.umion.ac.uk). This piece first appeared on the Union Theological College blog, and is reprinted with permission.

Cranmer Awards Finals:

Saturday, 29th February 2020, The Old Palace, Worcester WR1 2JE

All are welcome to come and watch for all or part of the proceedings: please just turn up on the day.

The timings will be as follows:

From 10.15a.m. Coffee and registration 11.00a.m. Competition begins

12.45p.m. (approx.) Lunch
2.00p.m. Prizegiving
3.00p.m. (approx.) Close

It MAY still be possible to order a buffet lunch at £10/head (which must be ordered in advance): please contact the office at pbs.admin@pbs.org.uk or telephone 0118 984 2582 (weekday mornings only; answerphone at other times) to enquire. Alternatively, you are welcome to bring your own packed lunch to eat on the premises, or to visit one of the local eateries nearby.

St Andrews University student is first winner of the PBS's brand new scholarship

n American university lecturer, currently studying at the University of St Andrews in Scotland, is the first to be awarded the brand new scholarship announced in August last year by the Prayer Book Society.

The John Cosin Scholarship for postgraduate research has been awarded to Drew Keane (32), a lecturer in English at Georgia Southern University, which has campuses in Statesboro, Savannah and Hinesville in the south-eastern US state of Georgia.

Currently, he is studying for three years at St Andrews to achieve a Doctor of Philosophy degree (PhD) before returning to the USA.

Drew, who is active in the Episcopal Church, says that the working title for his thesis is 'An Examination of the Book of Common Prayer as Technical Writing for an Oral-Aural Culture'. ('Oral' in this context means spoken and 'aural' means related to listening.)

Drew says that in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, few people could read: he is investigating the way in which the Prayer Book was designed to be spoken aloud, and how its memorable character enabled people to participate in the liturgy.

The bulk of Drew's research for evidence of user experience of the Prayer Book will involve close examination of the text of the editions produced in 1549, 1552, 1559 and 1604. He will explore the writings of those who used the book and will visit some of Britain's historic churches to consider possible interactions between 'performance space' and text

'The printed text of the Book of Common Prayer was designed not for silent reading but to facilitate rituals that prioritise words that are spoken and heard,' he said. 'This oral priority reflects the extent to which early modern England remained an oral culture, a priority magnified by the Protestant emphasis on the spoken word and St Paul's idea that "faith comes by hearing."'

Drew believes that, if he is correct that the oral features of the Prayer Book's language are a positive aid to its usability—particularly in the way in which



Drew Keane

the text is easily remembered—that is not just of historical interest but also of contemporary relevance.

He said: 'The aim of liturgy today still the formation reformation of belief and behaviour. It aims to shape the life of the worshipper outside of the ritual. The patterns of oral communication developed precisely to facilitate that sort of thingnamely communication which could be recalled and acted upon after the activities of speaking and hearing have ended and without recourse to a written record.

'This means that many of the qualities of the language of the Prayer Book that are most beautiful—triadic constructions like "full, perfect and sufficient", for example—are also incredibly useful. It suggests that more recent liturgies, which tend to avoid those features, may not, in this sense, be an improvement.'

Drew was selected for the scholarship by a panel of PBS Trustees led by the Society's Deputy Chairman, David Richardson. He said: 'Our new scholar will be expected to participate in the work of the PBS on at least one occasion, typically by speaking at a Society event or writing a paper for its periodic review, Faith & Worship.'

Valued at £2,000 per annum, the scholarship may be renewed for a second and third year to total £6,000, subject to annual reports from the scholar's academic supervisor.

The PBS established the scholarship scheme in a bid to increase academic research relating to the Prayer Book compiled by Thomas Cranmer, a leader of the Reformation and Archbishop of Canterbury during the reigns of Henry VIII, Edward VI and Mary I.

The John Cosin Scholarship is named after a seventeenth-century English churchman who played a leading role in the revision of the Prayer Book in 1662. Born 38 years after Cranmer's death, Cosin held the post of Vice-Chancellor of Cambridge University before becoming Bishop of Durham from 1660 to 1672. The PBS says that the scholarship might be offered again in subsequent years as the Society's funds permit.

New Corporate Members

Two firsts!

A parish church on Grand Cayman, the largest of the Cayman Islands—a British Overseas Territory—is the latest to join the Prayer Book Society (PBS), which encourages rediscovery and use of the majesty and spiritual depth of the Book of Common Prayer at the heart of the Church of England's worship.

The church is the Society's first Corporate Member in the Caribbean. St Alban's Anglican Church in George Town—the capital of the Cayman Islands and a popular port of call for cruise ships—is a frequent user of the 1662 Book of Common Prayer during services, including Morning Prayer and the main Sunday service of Holy Communion, reports the rector, the Revd Christopher Pierce.

'Our services are popular with local Caymanian people as well as expatriates from the UK, USA, Canada, Jamaica, Ireland and India, who make up our congregation,' he explains. 'St Alban's Anglican Church is the only church on Grand Cayman that uses Prayer Book services, so we see ourselves as a PBS flagship in the West Indies.'



The choir of St Anselm Hall Chapel with the new Prayer Books



The Revd Christopher Pierce outside St Alban's Church

He added: 'As a congregation of Anglican Christians adhering to the historical teachings of the Bible, the Creeds, The Thirty-Nine Articles of Religion and the Book of Common Prayer, we are all about making disciples of Jesus Christ. It is our mission!'

Ordained in 1996, the Revd Christopher Pierce served in the Anglican Cathedral of St John the Divine on Antigua and in the benefice of Clondehorkey with Cashel in County Donegal in the Republic of Ireland,

before taking up his post on Grand Cayman in 2018.

For more information about St Alban's Anglican Church in George Town, Grand Cayman, visit the website or Facebook page given at the end of this article.

In another first, not only does St Anselm Hall Chapel on the Victoria Park campus of Manchester University become a Corporate Member of the PBS but it is also the first chapel in any university to do so.

Established in 1907, the chapel has maintained its religious traditions for more than 100 years. They include use of the Prayer Book for a

wide range of regular services—including Holy Communion and Evening Prayer—as well as others celebrating Michaelmas, St Anselm's Feast Day, Remembrance-tide and reunions of what St Anselm's chaplain, Fr Hugh Bearn, describes as 'our global alumni community'.

He said: 'In addition to undergraduates from the UK, others from all over the world regularly attend services in the chapel, or "Slems" as it is affectionately known by students. Clearly they feel very at home using the language of the Prayer Book at Evening Prayer and Holy Communion. It appears

that the language is not a barrier to them; indeed they connect with it, wherever and whatever their origins.'

St Anselm's close relationship with the PBS is underlined by the Society's decision to support the recently refurbished chapel with two choral scholarships and a donation of 50 brand new pew editions of the 1662 Book of Common Prayer for use during services.

https://churchofenglandcayman.org/ www.facebook.com/stgeorgescayman/

Mary Killen comments on her 'holy life raft'

has been dubbed a 'holy life raft' by Mary Killen, who writes for the Spectator and Oldie magazines.

Mary, the UK's acknowledged expert on social etiquette and author of Guide to Modern Manners, reveals that she is also a Prayer Book enthusiast.

'However,' she told the Prayer Book Society, 'I find it doesn't work if you try to translate experiences of a spiritual nature into any sort of parlance, let alone common parlance.

'We are fortunate in my village as, once a month, our church near Marlborough in Wiltshire has Evening Prayer using the Book of



Annual Conference 2020

This year's Prayer Book Society Annual Conference will take place from the **evening of Thursday**, **3rd to lunchtime on Saturday**, **5th September**, at the Royal Agricultural University, Cirencester.

The theme of the Conference will be 'All Sorts and Conditions', and will focus on the use of the Book of Common Prayer in varying contexts. Speakers will include:

- The Very Revd John Hall, formerly Dean of Westminster Abbey;
- The Revd Jonathan Aitken, Chaplain of Pentonville Prison;
- Kathryn King, Choral Evensong researcher;
- Revd Canon Professor James Woodward, Principal of Sarum College, formerly a Canon of Windsor and hospital chaplain;
- The Revd Dr Simon Bloxham-Rose, Deputy Assistant Chaplain General to HM Land Forces;
- The Revd Hugh Bearn, Chaplain of St Anselm Hall, University of Manchester and Chaplain to The Queen.

The Conference will open for bookings in June with the circulation of the next issue of the magazine; but **please make a note in your diary now!**

Common Prayer, and I respond well to joining others in speaking words that have been spoken in exactly the same way in the same place at roughly the same time on a Sunday for centuries.

'So much mystery and numinosity was lost when the Church of England, in aiming to modernise its message, only patronised.

'The Book of Common Prayer, however, is timeless,' said Mary. 'It's a type of holy life raft sitting calmly above the turbulent seas.'

Correspondence

Sir.

I am investigating the possibility of initiating, within my home Diocese of Rochester, a co-ordinated programme of Prayer Book services linking our six redundant churches. If any PBS members have attempted anything similar to this in recent years, or are coincidentally interested in undertaking any initiative in respect of redundant churches, they are welcome to contact me, as below, in order to compare notes and/or brainstorm, as appropriate.

Fred Howe

(Any responses to the editor, please.)

Sir

Mr Inkley set us a real teaser asking for clarification of Petition Fourteen of the Litany asking God to govern his Church 'in the right way' (PBT, Trinity 2019). His plea evoked some intricate theological replies. But for those of us less learned, there could be a simpler way into the solution to this puzzle.

First, way(s) and path(s) can be synonymous in the Old Testament, used frequently by the Hebrew poets in the figure of parallelism, where the second half of a verse echoes the first half, e.g. 'Shew me thy ways, O Lord: and teach me thy paths' (Psalm xxv. 3). Say 'path' in Petition Fourteen and there will be no ambiguity.

Second, let us confine our attention to the Psalms since the whole Bible is too vast to roam through in search of examples. Psalm i is a heading or sign post, briefly pointing to a theme that runs strongly throughout the Psalter, the Way of the godly in contrast to the Way of the ungodly. One's Way is one's life-journey and also how one chooses to believe and behave in it. So it begins, 'Blessed is the man that hath not walked in the counsel of the ungodly, nor stood in the way of sinners... but his delight is in the law of the Lord...' He has chosen God's law as his discipline and it has become his delight. Obviously he is 'in the right way'. 'As for the ungodly, it is not so with them...' Unsurprisingly, in the last verse, 'the way of the ungodly shall perish'.

Psalm xix discloses some of the riches and the joy experienced by the godly, in the group of verses beginning 'The law of the Lord is an undefiled law...'

Psalm cxix is a great exploration of the psalmist's experience, mainly joyful, of trying to live by the law of the Lord. His greatest desire is to remain steadfast 'unto the end', yet there is always an undercurrent of anxiety. What if he slips off the path? What if he turns

back in spite of all his efforts and prayers? So in the very last verse (176) of this huge tour de force he admits: 'I have gone astray like a sheep that is lost: O seek thy servant, for I do not forget thy commandments.'

Here we could leave it and enjoy a good half hour or so with our Concordance. But we are in the midst of a great story, so let us follow it up into the New Testament. A young man called Saul has heard of a third Way, plainly heretical, which must be stamped out. He obtains authority to travel to Damascus, there to search for 'any of this Way' and arrest them, for 'all false ways I utterly abhor'. Soon he will learn that this Way is neither false nor abhorrent. It is in fact the old and trusted Way of the law of the Lord, but transformed by the redemptive work of Jesus through which we can be forgiven all our slips and backslidings, and by the gift of his Holy Spirit which (to quote from Keble) 'evermore makes all things new'. Keble is himself quoting from Revelation xxi where he that sits on the throne says, 'Behold I make all things new.' Saul becomes Paul and understands: 'If any man be in Christ he is a new creature.' This is not a matter of being picked up and dusted down and given a fresh chance. We are not the old person, repaired. We are NEW. This may be a mind-stretching truth and take some time to absorb.

Meanwhile, we can return to Petition Fourteen, which begins to look very strange. Here are we, as Christians, petitioning God in the words of those ancient pre-Christian prayers that we have just been noting. But as we enter into this Petition, we make it our own through praying it, and so claim all the beauty and joy of 'the law of the Lord', but transformed by Jesus even as we are made new by his Spirit.

Petition Fourteen, brief as it is, is a stroke of theological genius.

Elaine Bishop

It may be of interest to your readers of The Prayer Book Today magazine to learn of a copy of the Prayer Book I obtained a few months ago. I was visiting a Salvation Army store in Winton, Bournemouth, where I discovered a copy dated 1792. It is rather battered but well-bound. It contains all the material in a regular Book of Common Prayer up to and including the Psalms, but omitting the services of 'Forms to be used at Sea' to the Thirty-Nine Articles. In place of these latter is 'A Companion to the Altar' showing the

Nature and Necessity of Sacramental Preparation in receiving Holy Communion with Prayers and Meditations. In addition, there is 'A New Version of the Psalms of David' by N. Brady and N. Tate. I wonder if there are readers who know a little more concerning this edition. I remember as a teenager and as a young man struggling to sing to the Cathedral Psalter, the New Cathedral Psalter and the Parish Psalter in various churches, so I was fascinated to discover these metrical psalms. I very much value the roots of my Anglican faith and would appreciate any further information on how this edition came to be compiled.

Yours sincerely, Revd Rowland Crook

Dear Sir,

Thomas Plant's perceptive and insightful article on 'What the young don't want' (PBT, Michaelmas 2019) brought to mind a story told me some years ago by a parish priest.

A sixteen-year-old appeared at Evensong and he had suggested that she might find the morning service more interesting. Her reply was a crisp one: 'I'm not here to be interested.'

Yours faithfully, Jane Moth (Mrs)

Sir,

Coleman (PBT, Michaelmas 2019. Correspondence, page 19) pleaded for the availability of a Communion Order for use in a lay-led service where pre-consecrated elements administered. Such services have been common practice in the Scottish Episcopal Church (SEC) for many years, and, with some rural clergy having responsibility for eight or more parishes, they are increasingly sanctioned in the Church of England. As a Licensed Lay Reader, I conducted over 150 such services between 2001 and 2011 in our small Episcopal Church on the Isle of Mull. This allowed nearly 3,000 communicants to receive the Blessed Sacrament, who, otherwise, would have had no such opportunity.

In the Scottish Prayer Book of 1929, the SEC provides two Communion rites, and it is supplemented by: The Holy Communion order of 1970 (the Grey Book), which is very much based on Cranmer's First English Prayer Book of 1549, and a modern rite of 1982 (the Blue Book).

The Scottish Episcopal Church also publishes a small booklet entitled 'Communion from the Reserved Sacrament' (1997) for use by Deacons and lay persons. For the 1970 (traditional) Rite, this

suggests that the Prayer of Consecration should be replaced by the Prayer Book General Thanksgiving. This is followed by the Lord's Prayer and the Agnus Dei. The Absolution, following the General Confession, may be replaced by the Collect for Trinity XXI, as is quite common in lay-led choir offices. The SEC booklet also contains useful information about the procedures to be adopted by a lay person conducting such a service. This booklet may be found on-line at: https://www.scotland.anglican.org/who-we-are/publications/liturgies/communion-from-the-reserved-sacrament-1997/

Lay leaders coming new to this type of service may find my own small publication useful. It is entitled, The Lay-led Eucharist: A Practical Handbook. It covers both the theoretical and practical aspects involved in conducting such worship. It is available from Lulu Press Inc. at: http://www.lulu.com/shop/david-fuller/the-lay-led-eucharist/paperback/product-24306161.html

Yours faithfully, Dr David Fuller

Legacies received during 2019

During 2019, the Prayer Book Society received legacies totalling £107,067 from the following:

Mrs Mary Dakin Mrs Bridget Hine Mr Desmond Jenkins Mr Thomas Miskell Miss Hilda Thompson Mrs Sheila Whittington Mr George Zachariah

The Society is in significant part dependent for its work on legacies, and we are most grateful to these generous legators for having remembered us in their wills.

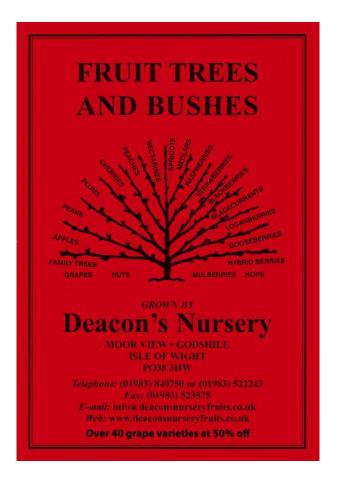
If you would like to find out more about leaving a legacy to support the future work of the Prayer Book Society, please contact David Richardson, Deputy Chairman at david.richardson@pbs.org.uk or get in touch with him via the office at Copyhold Farm.

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Co-ordinator's column

John Service

Churches and Clergy Co-ordinator

I am employed full time as Churches and Clergy Coordinator based at the Society's office at Copyhold Farm, near Goring on Thames. My job consists largely of liaison between PBS Clergy (especially ordinands) and PBS places of worship (including PBS Corporate Members).

Books of Common Prayer for prisoners



Following my meeting with the Revd Jonathan Aitken, Assistant Chaplain at Pentonville prison, on 27th March, I attended a meeting of thirty prison chaplains, members of the Christian Prison Chaplains Association (CPCA) at St Mellitus Theological College in Kensington on 17th April, where I made a

presentation of the BCP packs we could offer to prisoners.

On 3rd October, I attended the Anglican Prison Chaplains Conference at the Hayes Conference Centre at Swanwick just outside Derby, where I had been asked to make a presentation about the initiative. I addressed 90 prison chaplains as well as staff from HM Prisons and Probation Service, and showed them the BCP packs we can offer them. This presentation was loudly applauded by the audience and afterwards, I met and talked with the Bishop of Kensington, Graham Tomlin, who oversees prison chaplains in London. Bishop Graham Tomlin is also the founder of St Mellitus, which educates 20% of all ordinands, the other twenty-seven colleges and courses between them accounting for the remaining 80%.

Recent Corporate Member church visits

- 1st September: Nether Winchendon (Ox)
- 1st September: Lockinge (Ox)
- 15th September: St Olav's Bookshop, Chichester
- 29th September: St James the Less, Litchfield (Win)
- 20th October: Chapel Royal, Windsor Great Park. I attended BCP Matins with AV Lessons conducted by



Canon Martin Poll of St George's Chapel, Windsor. The service was attended by Her Majesty the Queen. Following the service, I had the great honour of being presented to Her Majesty by Canon Poll.

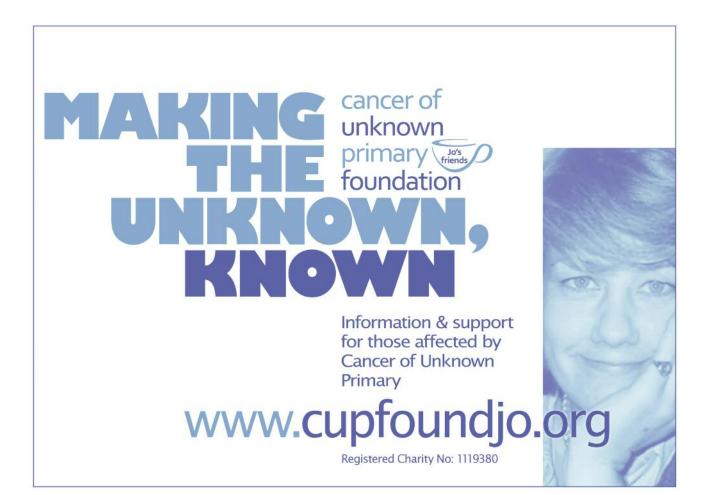
- 31st October: Powderham (Exeter)
- 16th November: I attended the Guildford Branch meeting at Charterhouse School and visited Guildford Cathedral, where the Branch is planning an event.

Corporate Member St Anselm Hall Chapel, Manchester University

The Revd Hugh Bearn, Vicar of St Anne's Church, Tottington, with whom I have been in touch for over eight years, has now been appointed chaplain. David Richardson, former tutor at St Anselm's, is liaising with him about the possibility of choral scholarships being funded.



On 4th December, I attended the 8.20a.m. service in the chapel at the invitation of the Revd Dr Liz Hoare, tutor in Spiritual Formation at Wycliffe Hall. I hope very much that Wycliffe Hall will become the third PBS Corporate Member Theological College, joining St Augustine's, Canterbury and Sarum, Salisbury.



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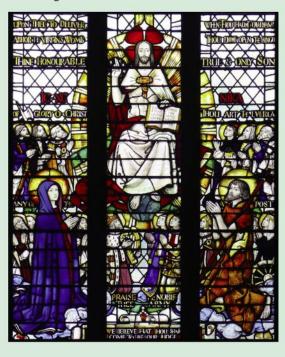
St George's fine interior includes glass and furnishings by Martin Travers and a splendid three-manual pipe organ by Frederick Rothwell.

Contact

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Prayer Book Tale: a book with a story to tell

Joanna Comer

In May 1835, two years before the Princess Victoria became queen, Harriet Hamilton picked up a book bound in diced black calf; leather scored to produce a pattern of tiny diamonds. It had no other ornament so that the front and back covers of the book were identical. The title on the spine was 'Bible and Prayers' and the volume combined the Book of Common Prayer, the Authorized Version of the Bible and 'A New Version of the Psalms of David fitted to tunes used in churches', the metrical version of the Psalms written by Nicholas Brady, D. D. and Nahum Tate, one-time Poet Laureate.

Harriet wrote on a blank sheet facing one of the flyleaves: 'Caroline Elizabeth Willis from her affectionate friend, Harriet Hamilton. Bath, May 1835.' When she picked up the book, however, she unknowingly had the back board towards her so that her dedication was written at the back, upside down. Perhaps she was still unaware of this when she gave the gift to her friend.

We may assume that the gift was used and treasured by Caroline Willis; ten years later in October 1845, she used the facing endpaper to pour out her great sorrow. In pencil with the book the right way up, she wrote the following heartfelt lament:

Oct^{ber} 11th In day of deepest trouble and rebuke God has taken from our Church her brightest ornament, her Holiest Saint, & most fearless champion and given him to [others—crossed out] another, more worthy it may be of such a treasure more able and willing to appreciate his inestimable values. Grant Oh Merciful God, that the sin of driving him from us, be not laid to our charge, and that those to whom Thou hast given him may through his means, by the help of Thy grace be guided into all truth; that speedily we may all be one, & that we may all come in the unity of the Spirit & of the Knowledge of the Son of God unto everlasting felicity for the sake of thy blessed Son Our Saviour Jesus Christ.

Amen Amen

C EW Octber 17th 1845

The different dates at the beginning and end of the inscription and the slight improvement in the sharpness of the pencil from the words 'Grant Oh Merciful God' both suggest that the two halves were written on different days.

The two back leaves show signs of tiny blobs of sealing wax at the top and bottom outer corners; having poured out her grief, it would seem that Caroline Willis sealed the pages. The original inscription has been copied, with slight variation and a subscription, into the front of the book:

Caroline E Willis from her affectionate friend, Harriet Hamilton. Bath May 1835-

"that our daughters may be as the polished corners of the temple"

Psalm 144.12...

It seems probable that this was written by Caroline Willis herself because the hand is not that of Harriet Hamilton and, having sealed the back pages, she still wanted the record of her friend's gift.

Two days before Caroline began writing, on 9th October 1845, John Henry Newman had been received into the Roman Catholic Church. Caroline described Newman as our Church's 'Holiest Saint' 174 years before he was indeed canonized; by the Church of Rome.

From public records I've learnt more about Caroline Elizabeth Willis. She was the daughter of the Revd William Downes Willis and his wife, Dorothy. She was born in Walcot, Bath on 6th January 1827, one of seven children although all her brothers died young, two as infants. There may also have been a still-born sister. So she was eight years old when she was given the Prayer Book and Bible. From the handwriting of the original inscription it would seem likely that 'her affectionate friend, Harriet Hamilton' was older and possibly an adult, as there is not the careful letter formation that one would expect of a child.

In 1841, the family moved to Elstead Rectory, in Sussex. That the eighteen-year-old Caroline should have known so speedily of Newman's conversion to Rome is explained by the fact that her father had

previously been in correspondence with Newman on various subjects, including the increase of control of the Church of England by Evangelicals through the purchase of advowsons or the patronage of livings. Her age may also explain the strength of her feelings —but the sealing of the pages? Was her father strongly opposed to Newman's decision?

Whatever the reason, Caroline and her two younger sisters, all unmarried, were still living with their father, Rector of Elstead, when he died on 22 October 1871. In March the following year, 'Caroline Elizabeth Willis Emily Willis and Frances Maria Willis all of 46 Weymouth-street Portland-place in the county of Middlesex Spinsters the Daughters the Executrixes' were granted probate of his estate valued at under £2.000.

Joanna Comer is Secretary of the Rochester Branch of the Prayer Book Society.

Anglican Association Retreat

The Anglican Association Retreat at Parceval Hall, Yorkshire, will take place from the evening of Wednesday, 1st July until Sunday, 5th July after breakfast. This retreat uses only the Authorised Version and the Prayer Book for worship. The conductor this year is Canon Andrew Hawes and the theme is 'If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit'.

further details. For contact hallrosyhall@gmail.com or Canon Hawes, whose contact details are found inside the front cover of the magazine.



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News from the Branches

Chichester East and Chichester West

In early September, we were delighted to welcome the Revd Jonathan Beswick, the vicar of St Peter's, London Docks, to lead a quiet day at the Old Rectory in the village of Crowhurst. The title of the day was 'My time is in thy hand: some simple patterns of daily prayer from 1662'. In the first address, we looked a little at what prayer is. The second address examined the forms of prayer to be found in the Book of Common Prayer, and the final session how we might use the Prayer Book in our own busy lives. It was helpful to be reminded that the daily reading of the Psalms teaches us our 'mother tongue', when it comes to the Kingdom of God. The retreatants also appreciated the suggestion that they might use the sea prayers in daily life to ride out any storms they experience. It was a 'purple prose' passage when we were asked to imagine the young cabin boy, at the top of the crow's nest, reciting the short prayer before action with the enemy.

We also had some beautiful worship in the original chapel of the Old Rectory. In the morning, there was a said service of Holy Communion and we concluded the day with Evening Prayer. The Old Rectory made us very welcome and served a delicious lunch and an enjoyable afternoon tea.

At the end of September, we marked the Feast of St Michael and All Angels with a Choral Evensong at St Peter's, Bexhill. Bishop Nicholas Reade kindly preached the sermon. There were refreshments afterwards and James Dickinson, a Branch

member, offered for sale his memoir of his father's ministry, The Church of My Father.

The annual cathedral gathering took place on the first Saturday of October. Bishop Alan Chesters presided and we received a sermon exploring the 'Catholic' nature of the Prayer Book from the Venerable Luke Irvine-Capel, the recently appointed Archdeacon of Chichester. The cathedral voluntary choir sang a Stanford setting with the creed being set to Merbecke. Afterwards, there was a convivial lunch in Bishop Bell House, where the Revd Fergus Butler-Gallie, author of A Field Guide to the English Clergy, spoke about food in the Prayer Book and the dining habits of the clergy. It was news to most of us that Cranmer was so fond of oysters.

In November, we held heats for the Cranmer Awards at St Mary's, Battle. The new Dean of Battle, the Very Revd Lee Duckett, was keen for the competition to take place and arranged for candidates from Battle Abbey School to take part in the senior and junior classes. We also had children in the junior class from Battle and Langton School and Catsfield School. The primary school children were the youngest they could possibly be and seriously impressed the judges. All of them mastered the English and brought out the meaning and cadence of Cranmer's language. After a splendid tea, each competitor was awarded certificate, a Prayer Book Society rubber and a copy of the PBS publication celebrating the Prayer Book in church life. Samuel Duckett, who won the junior class and Zack Larkin, who won in the senior, both received Prayer

Books.

Finally, members may be reassured to know that the Branch Chairman and Western Branch Secretary both packed and used their Prayer Books when attending a recent conference in Rome, with the Bishop of the Diocese.

Coventry

Our usual service of words and music for Advent was held at Hampton Lucy church on 30th November when, assisted by the able singing of Diatonic, our congregation and visitors sang traditional, seasonal hymns, interspersed with Advent readings. The Revd Nicholas Morgan officiated. Tea and cakes ended the Branch's busy year.

London and Southwark

On Saturday, 5th October 2019, members of the London and Southwark Branch congregated in the beautiful surroundings of Holy Trinity Church, Prince Consort Road, South Kensington for a service of Evening Prayer led by the Revd Dr Stephen Edmonds, followed by a pizza supper and a talk from James Dickinson, titled 'The Church of My Father'.

The talk was based on the speaker's book of the same title, being a concise but erudite description of the history of the Church in England from the earliest times to the present day. This is told through the eyes of the speaker's late father, an eccentric and traditional Anglican clergyman ministering in southwest Essex in the third quarter of the twentieth century. Copies of the book can be obtained by request to the Branch Secretary, Paul Meitner, who can obtain them from Mr Dickinson.

The talk combined charming anecdotes with some serious reflections on the present state of the Church of England and the damage that has been done by jettisoning of traditional liturgy, along with historical references. The speaker argued persuasively for a mixed economy of traditional and contemporary styles.

Oxford

AGM at Broughton Castle

The AGM of the Oxford Branch took place at Broughton Castle on Sunday, 21st July. The Branch President and Vice President, Dr Beckwith and Bishop Johnson, were both reappointed, and the officers were also re-elected: Geoffrey Horne (Chairman), John Dearing (Secretary) and the Revd Richard Smail (Chaplain). The committee was likewise re-elected en bloc with the addition of Mr Gerry Lynch, who had been coopted since the last AGM.

The Secretary reported on the events of the past year, namely the presentation to ordinands in June, the summer outing to Rousham in August, the Cranmer heats at Magdalen College School in November and the annual Advent Service at St Michael's, Oxford, December. The Cranmer Commemoration in March 2019 is now a national event and, as well as the customary service of Matins, wreath-laying and lunch (this year at Balliol College), included an afternoon programme of lectures Evensong at Pusey House.

The Branch has a budget of £2,500 for the current year, approved by the national Treasurer. Current membership is 223, an increase of eight on 2018.

Mr Horne thanked all the officers and committee and especially those organising the

AGM programme, principally the Revd Richard Smail, Miss Prudence Dailey and Mr John Service. He also reported that a 90th birthday card had been sent to Branch President, Dr Roger Beckwith.

Following the AGM and lunch in the castle refectory, members enjoyed a tour of the castle and gardens, and Evensong conducted by the Branch Chaplain.

Broughton is the seat of the twenty-first Lord Saye and Sele. One of his forbears was the famous travel writer, Celia Fiennes, whose example has perhaps inspired a present-day member of the family, the renowned explorer, Ranulph.

Prayer Book presentations

As is our custom, we presented copies of the BCP to new clergy at their retreat prior to their ordination as deacons. Branch Chairman, Geoffrey Horne, and national Chairman, Prudence Dailey, travelled to Ripon Theological College near Oxford 26th June when thirty ordinands received qualityenhanced print copies. Prudence and Geoffrey each spoke briefly about the Society and its work and, in response, the Director of Ordinands for the thanked the Society for continuing to supply these gifts each year.

Cranmer Awards Heats 2019

The Oxford Branch's annual heats of the Cranmer Awards took place on Wednesday, 13th November at Magdalen College School, Oxford (MCS), with nine competitors taking part. The winner of the junior section was Christopher Lu, with the runner-up Daniel Clark, both from MCS. In the senior section, first place went to Gwendoline Davenport of St Edward's School, Oxford; Stani Huepfi of MCS was second and

Helen Beccle of St Edward's third. Also highly commended was Sammy McDonald of MCS. The judges were Miss Prudence Dailey, national Chairman, who also presented the prizes, Mr Richard Keeble and Mr Andrew Sabisky, who commented that, once again, a high standard was reached by all competitors. We thank MCS and its chaplain, the Revd Wealands Bell, for hospitality including excellent tea, and also our competition organiser, Mrs Lesley Philpot, who has taken on this responsibility for several years with consummate efficiency.

Advent service

The Branch marked the start of Advent with our annual Advent carol service on Saturday, 7th December at the Church of St Michael at the North Gate in central Oxford. We have a long association with this church, which we use for committee meetings and other activities.

The vicar. the Revd Anthony Buckley, welcomed the congregation and participated in the service, which was led by the Branch chaplain, the Revd Richard Smail. We thank Mr Buckley for his hospitality and for his generous donation of the collection to the Society.

The service followed the usual pattern, comprising seven hymns, six collects and six lessons. Afterwards, we gathered for refreshments, including mulled wine and mince pies, provided by members.

Rochester

Branch AGM

On Sunday,15th September, we had a warm welcome from the Revd John Tranter to St Martin of Tours, Chelsfield, a Corporate Member church. The Branch AGM was held in the church's Brass



Tim Stanley and contestants at the Rochester heat

Crosby Room, which is named after an eighteenth-century Lord Mayor of London, whose refusal to allow men from the City to be press-ganged, and to prosecute a printer who had published, against the then law, parliamentary debates, is reputed to have given rise to the saying 'bold as brass'. He was buried at the church.

After receiving a review of the previous twelve months' activities, George and Joanna Comer, Frederick Howe, Patricia Padgham, Adrian Thomas, Eileen Vassie, Lela Weavers and newcomer Christine Bostock, were elected to serve committee members for the following year.

A larger than usual gathering came to hear John Service, the Society's Churches and Clergy Coordinator, who gave us an overview of the work that the Society is doing nationally and its plans for the future.

Joanna and George Comer had brought a selection of the more significant Prayer Books from their collection. Joanna described the background of each volume before inviting those present to inspect them more closely.

At the end of the afternoon, the Revd Tranter led the service of Choral Evensong, after which we joined the congregation for refreshments.

Cranmer Awards heat

The Branch's Cranmer Awards heat was held at the Judd School, Tonbridge, on Wednesday, 14th November. We were able to relive the triumph of the last national final as junior winner, Owen Marshall, repeated his rendition of the Gospel for Good Friday, with which he won at Lambeth Palace in the presence of the Prince of Wales.

This year's junior winner, on attempt first at competition, was Taia Jones of Trinity School, Sevenoaks, with a sensitive reading of the Collect and Epistle for Quinquagesima. The senior winner, reading the Collect, Epistle and Gospel for The Innocents' Day, was Adam Sparke from Bennett Memorial Diocesan School. His was not the only success for a school that has supported the competition for a decade. Second and third places went in the junior section to Grace Gillespie and Joshua Thornhill and in the senior section to Joseph Sparke and Amy

Fenner, all from Bennett.

were delighted welcome historian and journalist, Tim Stanley, to present the prizes and address the competitors and their supporters. Tim came to the Secretary's notice as a possible guest of honour towards the end of 2017, when he wrote two pieces for the Daily Telegraph. In one he described the Book of Common Prayer as 'the single greatest achievement in English literature'. In the second, he explained that when John Humphrys characterised Thought for the Day as 'deeply, deeply boring', he took it personally, because the next day he would 'take a taxi to Tunbridge Wells and be ready to talk to God at 7.47a.m'. So, despite being a Roman Catholic, he admired the Book of Common Prayer and lived locally. Further research revealed that he was an old boy of Judd, although it did not reveal that his time there had not been unalloyed joy! So we had asked him to come to the 2018 heat. He'd replied that he would be in the USA in November, covering America's mid-term elections. However, being a polite young man, he wrote in such terms of regret that we threatened to ask him again. In 2019, he graciously gave in.

He told his audience that, despite being born into a Baptist family, he was a rebel and an atheist during none-too-happy at school. Studying sixteenth-century history Trinity College, Cambridge, made him think that if men like Cranmer were willing to die for their beliefs, there might be something in it. He was baptised into the Church of England but converted later to Roman Catholicism.

Tim said that, unfortunately, the vernacular translation of the Latin Mass initiated by the Second



PBS Singers at Salisbury's Advent Service

Vatican Council was lacking in the beauty of the original but that the Ordinariate, those who had left Anglicanism for Rome, had brought with them some of their own liturgy. He talked of the power of a prayer in the midst of the Mass and then took us by surprise by beginning, 'We do not presume to come to this thy Table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in thy manifold and great mercies.'





At 37 years of age, he was by far our youngest guest speaker and was described by one of our members present competition as 'an inspired choice'. Tim said it had been a wonderful evening and he hoped to write about it; the result was a piece in the Catholic Herald entitled 'Cranmer's Accidental Gift to Catholics'. Tim wrote to our competition organiser, 'As you know, I tend to write a bit tonguein-cheek, but I hope the piece articulates the key point that the BCP's beauty unites where history has divided.'

Salisbury

On Saturday, 20th November, the Salisbury Branch held its annual Advent Service at St Catherine's Parish Church, Netherhampton, a Grade II listed building. The church was rebuilt in 1876–77 by William Butterfield. It is constructed of limestone and flint chequers under tiled roof with coped verges. The tower is Flemish bond brick with shingled roof.

It was good to see new members making up the congregation as they filed in to the sound of the bells, rung by Branch members.

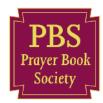
The introduction was a 'Berceuse' by Louis Vierne, played by William Alexander, the resident organist. The service was conducted by the Revd Caroline Titley and the lessons read by Branch members.

This year, the Branch was delighted to welcome choristers from across the Diocese, drawn from churches in both Wiltshire and Dorset, for what proved to be the inaugural outing of the 'PBS Singers'. In addition to leading our Advent hymns, the singers contributed two choir carols, arranged for them by their director, Jon Riding. We very much look forward to welcoming them to our Branch meetings in 2020 to help us sing Evensong in some of the lovely churches in our Diocese.

The service concluded with 'Choral Song' by Samuel S. Wesley.



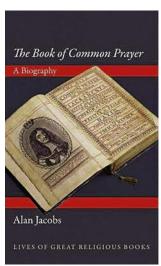
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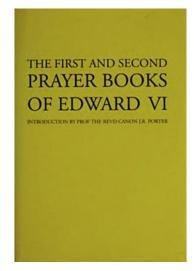
57 £12.99 New A Field Guide to the English Clergy. The Revd Fergus Butler-Gallie. (2018) Hbk, 175pp. Judge not, that ye be not judged. This timeless wisdom has guided the Church of England for hundreds of years, fostering a certain tolerance of eccentricity among its members. 'This is a ridiculously enjoyable book: funny, compassionate, and wonderfully well-written.' Tom Holland. Published by Oneworld Publications.

The Canterbury Companion to the BCP Gospels. Raymond Chapman. (2014) Sbk, 185pp. For every BCP service of Holy Communion, Mattins or Evensong, where the sermon focuses on the Gospel of the day, here is an inspirational and practical companion for preachers, by a leading member of the Prayer Book Society. In its 350th anniversary year, many churches rediscovered the BCP, which still remains the primary prayer book of the Church of England. This companion is also designed as a devotional guide, to be read in preparation for worship and is also ideal for the housebound. For each Sunday and saint's day in the year there is a commentary on the Gospel of the day, an appropriate verse or prose quotation, and a prayer in traditional language to harmonise with the KJV text used in the Prayer Book. The Book of Common Prayer has a oneyear lectionary; nevertheless the Gospel readings cover all the seasons of the church's year and explore more general themes during the long season of Trinity.



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The Book of Common Prayer: A Biography. Alan Jacobs. (2013) Hbk, 256pp.In this 'biography' Alan Jacobs traces the life of the BCP from the English Reformation to the modern era. 'Within a mere 200 pages one could not wish for a more engaging introduction to the history of the Prayer Book. It is beautifully written and produced, and would make a perfect gift... This is a triumph of compression and lucidity.' David Martin, Church Times

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Original Tudor spelling.

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The Spirit Of Anglican Devotion in the 16th & 17th Centuries. Arthur Middleton. **WAS £4.95 **(2005) Sbk, 28pp. An introduction to the remarkable group of Anglican divines including Jeremy Taylor, Richard Baxter, Thomas Ken, William Laud, George Herbert and John Donne.

215 £1.00 What Has The Beautiful To Do With The Holy? Roger Homan. (1995) Sbk, 15pp. The perennially popular, learned and witty booklet. A reminder of what we are in danger of losing through the banality of modern liturgies.

Prayer Book Texts and Homilies

The Order for Holy Communion 1662. Annotated by Peter Toon. (2004) Sbk, 48pp. Designed for the ordinary churchgoer, for clergy either new to their vocation or unfamiliar with the BCP and for all interested in gaining a greater understanding of the service and its evolution. Very conveniently places the full service on the left page, with Dr Toon's scholarly, helpful and readable notes of explanation opposite.

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These Our Prayers. Compiled by Raymond Chapman. (2012) Hbk, 175pp. A collection of prayers, mainly by English writers but also some translated from earlier sources. They were chosen as expressing orthodox Christian faith, and are in the traditional language of the Book of Common Prayer. They will be valuable in private devotions but are also suitable for prayer groups or in special services. They are arranged under headings to enable choice for particular needs and occasions, and are printed in a compact and beautifully produced volume.

The Faith We Confess: An Exposition of the 39 Articles. (2009) Sbk, 236pp. Gerald Bray talks the reader through the sometimes hidden, sometimes forgotten, sometimes ignored bases for Anglicanism and while doing so challenges those of us who have become sloppy about our faith.

About The Book of Common Prayer and The Bible

202 £2.99

For All Ages. G. A. Williams. (1999) Sbk, 40pp.

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A Godly and Decent Order. Raymond Chapman. (2001) Sbk, 22pp. A booklet showing the quality of the Prayer Book to be unrivalled, and as valid today as in previous generations. Useful to support arguments in favour of the Prayer Book or to give to someone who wants to understand why the PBS defends it. Could help ordinands and new clergy in their use of the BCP. Published by PBS.

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The PBS Guide to Morning Prayer. Henry Burgess.
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Language. Margot Thompson. **WAS £4.95**
(2004) Sbk, 32pp. The lively text of two papers
showing the importance of the BCP to Shakespeare, as
well as its enriching effect on the English language.

Using the Book of Common Prayer - a simple guide. Paul Thomas. (2012) Sbk, 144pp. This timely guide introduces and explains how to use the BCP in an accessible and informative way without being technical or assuming prior knowledge. It is intended as a basic, beginners' guide for ordinands and readers, especially those from a non-liturgical/non-traditional background, for whom the Prayer Book tradition may be alien. Part 1 of the book offers a general introduction to the history, theology and liturgical character of the BCP. It also explores the place and meaning of 'common prayer' within the Anglican tradition; Part 2 offers general practical advice on the principal services of the BCP, how to use them, and where flexibility is permitted. The guide, the first of its kind, will help its readers come to a renewed appreciation of the place of the Church's historic, normative liturgy in the distinctive tradition of Anglican praise and prayer.

The Book Of Common Prayer - Oxford World's Classics. (2011) Sbk. 820pp. This edition presents the text of the work in three states: Cranmer's first edition of 1549, the Elizabethan prayer book of 1559, and the 1662 edition. All texts are edited from the original copies. Each has a new introduction, full explanatory notes and appendices. This edition includes: Introduction - Textual notes - Bibliography - Chronology - Appendices - Explanatory notes - Glossary - Index.

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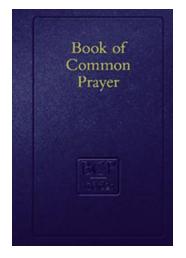
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Forthcoming Events

Blackburn

The 35th Annual Branch Festival and the Society's North-West Gathering will be held in Blackburn Cathedral on Saturday, 25th April. Choral Communion is at 11.00a.m. and the preacher will be David Richardson, Deputy Chairman of the Society and a Reader in Carlisle Diocese. The afternoon speaker will be The Revd Hugh Bearn, Vicar of Tottington in Manchester Diocese, a Chaplain to H. M. The Queen and Chaplain to the College of St Anselm in the University of Manchester. Choral Evensong will follow at 3.30p.m. Both services will be sung by the choir Octavius.

Lunch will be available after the morning service, served in the Temple Gallery overlooking the Cathedral's new cloister garth. Pre-booking of the lunch is essential (contact Christopher Norton on 01253 623338 or cjnblackpool@btinternet.com), but for all other parts of the day, access is open to all and without charge.

Exeter

On Thursday, 26th March, Exeter Branch Lenten Quiet Day from 10a.m. to 3.30p.m. at Black Hall, Avonwick, Nr South Brent, by kind invitation of Mrs Marigold Seager-Berry. The Quiet Day will be led by the Revd Preb. Paul Hancock (Exeter Branch Chairman). The theme for the day will be 'Living in Christ, prayer and our growth in faith'.

Coffee/tea and biscuits will be available. Please bring a packed lunch. If you plan to attend, contact Mrs Seager-Berry by phone on 01364 72149, or by email: marymarigold@talktalk.net

All are welcome to attend this

Quiet Day.

AGM

Exeter Branch AGM will take place on Saturday, 4th July at 2.30p.m. at The Wickham Hall (opposite St John's Church), Bovey Tracey. The speaker will be Fr Gregory Carpenter (priest of The Greek Orthodox Church), who will speak on 'The Litany and its place in private devotions'. All are welcome to attend this meeting.

Lincoln

A Lenten Quiet Day will be held at Belchford Village Hall Horncastle on Saturday, 14th March from 10a.m. to 4p.m. The theme of the day will be 'Make me a clean heart, O God'. The day will begin with Morning Prayer and end with Evening Prayer. Holy Communion will be celebrated at 12.00 midday. Canon Andrew Hawes will give two addresses on the theme. Please bring a packed lunch. Hot drinks will provided. Donations will welcome to cover costs. For further details (and perhaps help with transport), contact Canon Hawes on 01778 590035 or frandrewhawes@gmail.com

North Wales

Upcoming events at Gwydir Uchaf Chapel, Llanrwst:

- 29th March 2020: Holy Communion at 3p.m.
- 21st June 2020: Matins at 3p.m.
- 27th September 2020: Evensong at 3p.m.
- 13th December 2020: Carols at 3p.m.

Oxford

On Saturday, 21st March 2020, the Annual Commemoration of the

Martyrdom of Archbishop Thomas Cranmer will be observed and is expected to include BCP Matins and Evensong, wreath-laying, lunch and afternoon lectures. Further details will be sent out before the event.

Rochester

St Botolph's Church, Lullingstone, Kent (for satnav DA4 on Wednesday, February at 11a.m., the assistant Revd rector, the Dorothy McGarvey, will conduct Morning Prayer followed by the Litany and Commination, the services directed by the Prayer Book for use on Ash Wednesday. As it will be Lent, no refreshments will be offered after the service but for any who have not visited the church before, a guided tour will be available.

On the afternoon of Saturday, 16th May, we are arranging a visit to Bromley College, which was founded in 1666 by the Will of John Warner, Bishop of Rochester, to provide housing for 'twenty poore widowes of orthodoxe and loyall clergymen', and which now provides retirement apartments for Clerks in Holy Orders and some family members. The afternoon will include a tour, refreshments, and Evensong in the chapel.

We are invited to join the regular worshippers in the private chapel at Knole for Prayer Book Holy Communion at 11a.m. on 14th June. Due to limited space, this will be for members only on a first come, first served basis.

If you wish to learn more about any of these events, please contact the Secretaries, Mr and Mrs G. E. Comer on 01732 461462 or email: joannacomer@btinternet.com



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www.churchmusicians.org



Branch Contacts

• BATH & WELLS:

Mr Matthew Butler, Top Floor Flat 2 Henrietta Street, Bath BA2 6LL Tel: 07985-956262

matthew_john_butler@hotmail.com

BIRMINGHAM:

Please contact the office, Copyhold Farm

• BLACKBURN:

Mr Christopher Norton, 26 Handsworth Road, Blackpool Lancashire FY1 2RQ Tel: 01253 623338 cjnblackpool@btinternet.com

BRISTOL:

Mr Roger Tucker, 18 Springfield Grove, Westbury Park, Bristol BS6

Tel: 0117 9248629

email: rogertucker@live.co.uk Membership Secretary: Mrs Joyce Morris, 29 St John's Road, Clifton, Bristol BS8 2HD

CANTERBURY:

Mr Derek Tee, 111 Rough Common Road, Canterbury CT2 9DA Tel: 01227 463903 derekmrtee@gmail.com

· CARLISLE:

Membership Secretary: Mrs Kate East, 10 Fernwood Drive, Kendal LA9 5BU Tel: 01539 725055

· CHELMSFORD:

Mr J. C. Gibb, 24 Glen Road, Leighon-Sea, Essex SS9 1EU Tel: 01702 475530 jcgibb@jamesgibbandco.com

CHESTER:

Mr J. Baldwin, Rosalie Farm, Church Minshull, Nantwich, Cheshire CW5

Tel: 01270 528487 mdsc187@aol.com

• CHICHESTER:

CHICHESTER EAST

Mrs Abigail Sargent, Marsh Hall, Church Lane, Pevensey East, Sussex BN24 5LD

Tel: 01323 743301

abigailsargent@btinternet.com CHICHESTER WEST

Mr Bradley Smith, The Little Yard, Barnham Court Farm, Church Lane, Barnham, West Sussex PO22 0BP Tel: 01243 554734

Mob: 07931527724

bradley.smith4@gmail.com

Mr David East, 38 The Park Paling, Cheylesmore, Coventry CV3 5LJ Tel: 024 7650 4339 demeasts@hotmail.com

• DERBY:

Branch Secretary: The Revd Fr Bruce Johnson, 31 Porterhouse Road, Ripley, Derbyshire, DE5 3FL Prayerbooksoc.derby@gmail.com Tel: 01773 449001

Mrs Rosemary Hall, 23 Beatty Avenue, Newcastle-upon-Tyne NE2 3ON Tel: 0191 285 7534 hallrosyhall@gmail.com

Please contact Copyhold Farm

Mr Peter Gaston, 73 West Cliff Park Drive, Dawlish EX7 9EL Tel: 01626 439160 petergaston1951@icloud.com

· GLOUCESTER:

Miss S.M. Emson, 38 Gloucester Road, Stratton, Cirencester GL7 2JY Tel: 01285 654591 susanemson@gmail.com

• GUILDFORD:

Dr John Verity, 65 Chart Lane, Reigate RH2 7EA Tel: 01737 210792 hjverity@doctors.org.uk

· HEREFORD:

Mr Noel Manns, Llangrove House, Near Ross on Wye, Herefordshire HR9 5HA Tel: 01989 770297

· LEEDS:

Please contact the office, Copyhold Farm

· LEICESTER:

Mrs R. Packe-Drury-Lowe, 35 Green Lane, Seagrave, Loughborough LE12

Tel: 01509 815262 ritaphillips@gmail.com

• LICHFIELD:

Please contact the office, Copyhold Farm

LINCOLN:

Please contact the office, Copyhold

LIVERPOOL:

Please contact the office, Copyhold

• LONDON & SOUTHWARK:

Mr Paul Meitner, c/o the PBS office, Copyhold Farm Tel: 020 7589 9193 paul@meitner.co.uk

• MANCHESTER:

Please contact the office, Copyhold Farm

• NEWCASTLE:

Mrs Rosemary Hall, 23 Beatty Avenue, Newcastle-upon-Tyne NE2

Tel: 0191 285 7534 hall rosyhall@gmail.com • NORWICH:

Mrs A. Wilson, The Old Rectory, Burston Road, Dickleburgh, Diss, Norfolk IP21 4NN Tel: 01379 740561

· OXFORD:

Mr J. B. Dearing, 27 Sherman Road, Reading, Berkshire RG1 2PJ Tel: 0118 958 0377 john.dearing@gpwild.co.uk

• PETERBOROUGH: Mr Alan Palmer, 2 Lime Street, Irthlingborough, Northamptonshire

alan.palmer4@btinternet.com

• PORTSMOUTH: Please see Winchester & Portsmouth

· ROCHESTER:

Mr G. & Mrs J. Comer 27 Long Meadow, Riverhead, Sevenoaks, Kent TN13 2QY Tel: 01732 461462 joannacomer@btinternet.com

• ST ALBANS:

Dr Matthew A. Clarke, 12 Kilby Road, Stevenage SG1 2LT Tel: 07866 430604 austin81clarke@gmail.com

• ST EDMUNDSBURY & IPSWICH: Mr Anthony C. Desch, 4 Byfield Way, Bury St Edmunds IP33 2SN Tel: 01284 755355 anthonycdesch@gmail.com

· SALISBURY:

Mrs Lucy Pearson, 10 Briar Close, Wyke, Gillingham, Dorset SP8 4SS Tel: 01747 825392 lucypearson@waitrose.com

· SHEFFIELD:

Dr Rosemary Littlewood, Railway House, Hazlehead, Sheffield S36 4HJ Tel: 01226 764092 rowood@waitrose.com

• SODOR & MAN: Please contact the office, Copyhold Farm

• SOUTHWARK:

Please see London & Southwark

• SOUTHWELL & NOTTINGHAM: Mr A.F. Sunman, 1 Lunn Lane, South Collingham, Newark NG23 7LP Tel: 01636 893975 adriansunman@yahoo.com

Mr J. St Brioc Hooper, 1 Tregarne Terrace, St Austell PL25 4BE Tel: 01726 76382 j.stbrioc@btinternet.com

• WINCHESTER & PORTSMOUTH: Mrs Nikki Sales, 19 Heath Road South, Locks Heath, Southampton SO31 6SJ

Tel: 01489 570899

WORCESTER:

Please contact the office, Copyhold Farm

• YORK:

Mrs Margaret Hammersley, 5 Maplehurst Avenue, York YO31 8JA Tel: 01904 636512 ajhmeh@btinternet.com

• NORTH WALES:

The Revd Neil Fairlamb. 5 Tros-vrafon, Beaumaris, Anglesey LL58 8BN Tel: 01248 811402 rheithor@spamarrest.com Michael Tree, Nantiago, Llanfair Waterdine, Knighton, Powys LD7 1TS Tel: 01547 428214 Mob: 078 3367 4583

SOUTH WALES:

Please contact the office, Copyhold Farm

• CHANNEL ISLANDS: Please see Winchester & Portsmouth

OVERSEAS MEMBERS:

Mrs Sally Tipping, Old Orchard, Burgmanns Hill, Lympstone, Exmouth EX8 5HN tippingsc@gmail.com Tel: 01395 267835

AFFILIATED BRANCHES

- · IRELAND: Please contact the office, Copyhold Farm
- · SOUTH AFRICA: Please contact the office, Copyhold Farm

SISTER SOCIETIES

AUSTRALIA:

Miss Margaret Steel, 9/63 O'Sullivan Road, Rose Bay, NSW 2029 mste8801@bigpond.net.au Mr Max Boyce 1/41 Glencairn Avenue, Camberwell Victoria 3124, Australia max.boyce@bigpond.com

CANADA:

The Prayer Book Society of Canada, P.O. Box 38060, 1430 Prince of Wales Drive, Ottawa, Ontario, K2C 3Y7, Canada www.prayerbook.ca

SCOTLAND:

Mr J. C. Lord, 11 Melrose Gardens, Glasgow G20 6RB Tel: 0141 946 5045 jcl30@btinternet.com

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