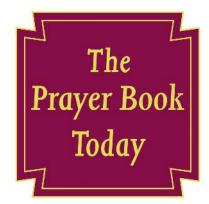


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The Prayer Book Today

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Members of the Society are encouraged to join together in saying the following Collect at the same time in their own homes, at 10.00 p.m. each Sunday evening.

THE COLLECT OF THE SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

O LORD, we beseech thee, let thy continual pity cleanse and defend thy Church; and, because it cannot continue in safety without thy succour, preserve it evermore by thy help and goodness; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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Photograph: Canon Graham Rainford

The deadline for contributions for the next issue is: Friday, 7th September (preferably typed or electronically submitted) Publication date: Friday, 19th October

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The PBS Annual Conference: Bursary appeal

Helping clergy, ordinands and young people to attend the conference

Since 2012, the Society has been operating a bursary scheme, funded by the generous donations of our members, to enable clergy, ordinands and anyone under 30 to attend the conference at the much reduced cost of £50 for the full conference. We know from the feedback we have received that the opportunity to attend the conference is very much appreciated by a group of people who would not otherwise be able to afford to do so, and whose involvement is vital to the work of the Prayer Book Society, and to the survival of the Book of Common Prayer. The bursary recipients also play a significant part in the question and discussion times, and their presence greatly enhances the event.

The details and booking information for this year's conference at the Royal Agricultural University, Cirencester are enclosed with this magazine on a separate flyer. (The flyer can also be downloaded from our website, and spare copies are available from the office.)

If you are booking to attend the conference yourself, there is an option to add on a donation to the conference bursary appeal. Otherwise, if you wish to make a donation, please send it (cheques made payable to 'Prayer Book Society') to the PBS office at Copyhold Farm, enclosing a note that it is for the conference bursary appeal. The office (which is open Monday to Friday mornings only) can also accept debit/credit card payments over the telephone.

Sussex House is first London school to join us

Sussex House School, a Chelsea-based independent preparatory school for boys established 65 years ago, is the first in London to become a Corporate Member of the PBS. The Head of Religious Studies, Canon Graham Rainford, says that the BCP is used extensively at Sussex House, notably for daily worship during school assemblies and at weekly services attended by pupils in the nearby church of St Simon Zelotes, also a Corporate Member.

SAVE OUR PARSONAGES

Sales of old rectories and vicarages have continued unabated for more than 60 years, with the result that the historic parsonage still in church use is now a seriously endangered species.

SAVE OUR PARSONAGES supports these remaining houses and encourages and advises those in the parishes who strive to preserve them. There is a feeling among laity and clergy alike that it is high time to acknowledge the importance of the historic parsonage in the life of the community.

Rectories and vicarages are part of our ecclesiastical heritage, just as much as churches and the Book of Common Prayer, and like them they are major resources for parishes. Their heritage significance is matched by their practical value. They are focal points for parish life in a way that newer houses cannot be.

If you can support us in our efforts please become a member. Our annual membership subscription is $\pounds 15$. Group memberships from parochial church councils or dioceses are welcome (additional $\pounds 10$ suggested). Members automatically receive our annual newsletter and an invitation to join us for our tours of traditional parsonages in different parts of the country. Donations are also much appreciated.

We would like to hear from you even if you are unable to contribute. Contact Anthony Jennings at Flat Z, 12-18 Bloomsbury Street, London WC1B 3QA.

E-mail: ajsjennings@hotmail.com Website: www.saveourparsonarges.co.uk

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The shock of the old

U nlikely resurrections should not surprise us; they are supposed to be our stock-in-trade. Nevertheless, judging by the reaction of some people within the Church to the idea that traditional liturgy might be of interest to young people, there is still work to be done.

Yet it is happening across the traditions: from revivals of interest in the Extraordinary Form among Roman Catholics of Generation Y to an upsurge in enthusiasm for that former cornerstone of Anglicanism, considered dead only thirty years ago, the Book of Common Prayer. Good Millennial that I am, I would like to offer the anecdotal evidence of my own conversion and exploration of vocation. If you are still committed to the somewhat old-fashioned empirical side of things, then there are plenty of places where you might find equivalent stories repeated. (The Prayer Book Society has some fascinating statistics.)

I was brought up in an unchurched environment. Yes, I was baptised as a baby, but that did not translate to church attendance. Godparents were people who sent cash on birthdays if you were lucky; prayers were things that you said once a week in assembly; Noah was the child who used to trip people up during break-time football.

Yet as an adolescent, I became increasingly aware of something called 'Church'. An interest in history—mostly the result of the graphic violence and occasional nudity that could be garnered from watching a costume drama under the guise of research—meant that I repeatedly came across this alien monolith: Christianity. I don't know when I first made the decision to 'go to church', but I know it was on my own, and that no Damascene conversion was forthcoming.

After a year or so of dipping my toe in here and there, I decided that faith was something that I wanted to take more seriously. Home was not a place bursting with the cultural accoutrements of religion: I was not sung to sleep with Matt Redman songs, nor introduced to Thomas Aquinas alongside Topsy and Tim.

There was, however, an old Book of Common Prayer that sat on the bookshelf where my parents kept books thought not to be of any great interest to us children. It was, if I remember, sandwiched between the Daily Telegraph's Second Book of Obituaries, and D. H. Lawrence's Women in Love. It had belonged to a long-dead great-aunt and was replete with prayers

Fergus Butler-Gallie

for Queen Mary. Intrigued by that old-book smell, and in lieu of anything else, I began to pray occasionally, using the offices of Morning and Evening Prayer.

The imagery of the psalms, the honesty of the confession, and the twin jewels of the Magnificat and the Nunc Dimittis all captivated me. When I revealed to someone much older than myself at church that I had explored private prayer using it, however, I was met with an unexpected response: 'Oh, you can't be using that', followed by a litany of the Prayer Book's shortcomings, crowned with the criticism—levelled without a hint of irony—that 'young people just don't understand it'.

Few things are more likely to work with a sixteen-year-old boy than reverse psychology; so I became determined to explore further. What I discovered was a rich tradition that dragged me deeper into the faith, and it remains the well from which I drink today. It was like being told that there is nothing of interest in the attic, only to find untold treasures there after sneaking up unobserved.

More recent episodes in my Christian journey have shown that I am not alone; those who tend to have the greatest affection for the Prayer Book and traditional liturgy more generally were those aged between 18 and 30. Those most trenchant in their criticism (almost always repeating that first criticism) tended to be the other side of 40. I recall, one evening, discussing its merits with a traditionalist Catholic, a WATCH-supporting liberal, and a New Wine-attending Evangelical. There can be few things left in the Church's culture that can attract such unity of purpose.

I have discovered that, alongside the depth that sustains my own prayer life, there is a remarkable breadth represented in the Prayer Book which, as a new generation tries to move beyond the toxic labels of the past, could provide a focal point for theological unity once more.

The revival of the Prayer Book should not come as a surprise. It is, after all, the Church's very own adolescent liturgy, forged amid the hormonal rumblings of the Reformation. The lightening changes in tone—from the confession to the comfortable words in the communion service appeal to those who are often coping with big changes. The Prayer Book's great selling point in this regard is its authenticity. It is a quality that is particularly prized by the Millennial generation; as pointed to, perhaps, by the rise of identity politics, and something that much traditional liturgy has in spades: there is no pussy-footing, no faux comfort, no cheap grace on show, and, for a generation that is increasingly challenging the appearances that have been accepted as realities for decades, that is worth its weight in gold.

I would, with tongue only slightly in cheek, suggest that liturgies such as Old Rite Mass or Prayer Book Evensong are truly inclusive, in that they are places where the churched, unchurched, and dechurched sit and allow the experience to wash over them. If even Richard Dawkins-a man who, I will admit, probably spends more time thinking about God than I do-can express affection for Evensong, then I would suggest that there is an evangelistic potential in quiet dignity that we are not taking as seriously as we should. There is no introducing yourself to your neighbour, no enthusiastic hand-wringing at the Peace, no Blind Date-style 'What's your name, and where do you come from?' during the notices. There is simply the experience of being in the presence of holiness.

For a generation for whom the majority of socialising no longer occurs face to face, and for whom encounters with anxiety are common, while ones with rooted community are not, this breathing space is invaluable. It allows a gentle introduction in terms of what is required socially, without compromising the authenticity of what is required intellectually; neither overly polarising nor overly patronising. It is a space that leaves room to contemplate mystery.

It may be difficult to hear, but things considered refreshing and deep in the 1970s are a little weird, naff, even, to many who are young now, lacking, as they often do, that sense of depth and mystery. I would not suggest that traditional liturgies are a magic bullet to the numbers problem, but, alongside serious community engagement, and effort put into personal relationships, they can provide a countercultural liminal space that, for those of us who came of age in the early years of the twenty-first century, speaks of a depth and breadth, a link to the past, and an authentic hope for God's future. They connect us to the mysteries of the resurrection life, with all its unlikeliness. It is a life that every generation struggles to comprehend fully. But, then again, maybe we are not meant to.

Fergus Butler-Gallie is an ordinand at Westcott House. This article first appeared in the Church Times, and is reprinted by permission. To subscribe, visit www.churchtimes.co.uk, e-mail subs@churchtimes.co.uk or telephone 01603 785911.



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A matter merely of style?

Edward Martin

he language of the Book of Common Prayer (1662) is one of its great attractions and at the same time is perceived as a severe hindrance to its continued use. People will often speak of the beauty of the Prayer Book language, of the timeless quality of the sixteenth- and seventeenth-century English, especially within the context of a sung cathedral Evensong. The Prayer Book is rightly regarded as one of the three great pillars of the English language together with the Authorized (King James) Bible and the works of William Shakespeare. Yet while people may appreciate the Prayer Book in such contexts they will often admit that they simply cannot imagine its suitability for use Sunday by Sunday in an average parish. While it is conceded that Prayer Book worship remains attractive to that generation who remember the days of it being the only liturgy of the Church of England, the thought of using the Prayer Book with the young or as part of outreach and in mission appears to some to be ludicrous and irrelevant.

The appeal to relevance and to new ideas appears in many ways entirely logical. We cannot ignore the observation that Richard Giles makes in his book Re-Pitching the Tent, pointing out to us that:

Until a mere 30 years ago (astonishing as it may now seem) we held in our hands each Sunday orders of service dating from 1570 (for Roman Catholics) or 1662 (for Anglicans). The universal retention of these quaint archaisms of a bygone age had come to acquire doctrinal significance, and adherence to them a litmus test of orthodoxy and ecclesiastical loyalty.

The challenge here is twofold; that traditional liturgies belong to a 'bygone age' and that their retention can lead to divisive quasi-idolatry.

The historian Eamon Duffy suggests that the desire for relevance and to rediscover the level of participation and comprehension of the liturgy for clergy and laity alike, and to reinterpret these principles for a modern age, became 'inextricably entangled with a shallow and philistine repudiation of the past which was to have consequences as disastrous in theology as they were in the fine arts, architecture and city planning'. As this approach gathered momentum, Duffy argues that a sense of the living reality of tradition was being lost by those who came to view the past 'not as a resource for change, but as a hindrance and burden'. In a counterreaction to this, a somewhat narrow view of liturgical tradition and orthodoxy emerges, such that any defence of the value of traditional liturgical values 'was increasingly abandoned to self-styled "traditionalists", who saw in the notion of tradition a charter for reaction, and who found in an uncritical and blanket loyalty to an undifferentiated (although in fact highly selective) past, a corset or a suit of armour, rather than an animating principle'. Some would argue that the Prayer Book Society is made up of such traditionalists!

The polarisation of these two points of view, with those whom we might describe as being 'modernist' very much in the ascendancy, influenced the revised liturgies published in the 1970s in the Roman Catholic Church and in the 1980s in the Church of England and elsewhere in the Anglican Communion. In the Church of England calls for a wholesale return to the use of traditional forms of worship have continued to be made, while liturgical renewal has come increasingly to be seen as a 'rolling pattern' of periodic reform, revision and reinvention every twenty years or so. The obvious risk in such a situation is that classical liturgical forms like the Book of Common Prayer come to be viewed as increasingly archaic and almost 'untouchable', tainted by traditionalist associations. At the same time each new contemporary liturgical revision, for the most part, looks only as far back as its predecessor for inspiration and a sense of continuity. The situation may well emerge where Anglicans only share a recognisable doctrinal and liturgical continuity with the generation that preceded them and will have little in common, and in communion, with the most fruitful and formative periods of Anglicanism, those of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries.

For many, a cherishing of the Book of Common Prayer is a cherishing of Orthodoxy and also a means of approaching God in prayer and thanksgiving in language that is distinctly religious. The Roman Catholic theologian Fr Aidan Nichols noted that:

The language of the Liturgy is of course human, yet the kinds of communication aimed at

transcend ordinary human notions of how language is purposefully used. There is an argument here either for the retention of an otherwise unusual sacral language or for the preservation of a relatively archaic and high version of the vernacular, marking off a difference from secular language use. The ethos of such contemporary translations in effect denies the full range of theological imagery and expression that is the Church's liturgical heritage (Anglican and Roman Catholic alike), and denies access and exposure to them, which is the right of every Church member.

Within the current liturgical provision of the Church of England, the preface to the main volume of Common Worship states:

The forms of worship authorized in the Church of England express our faith and help to create our identity. The Declaration of Assent is

A Birmingham church celebrates 'a modern first' alongside the 150th anniversary of its consecration

A Birmingham church, which this year celebrates the 150th anniversary of its consecration, chalked up 'a modern first' on 3rd May when the Bishop of Birmingham, the Rt Revd David Urquhart, visited to confirm seven young parishioners.

At the Parish Church of St Augustine of Hippo in the Edgbaston area of the city, the service celebrated was The Order of Confirmation set out in the 1662 Book of Common Prayer.

The church, a Victorian landmark in the heart of Birmingham's hotel district, follows traditional Anglican faith, practice and worship, using the Book of Common Prayer for all its services.

'The confirmation service was used for the first time in more years than anyone in the Birmingham Diocese can remember,' says the vicar, the Revd Matthew Tomlinson. 'While this was our first confirmation service according to the BCP rite for decades, we have held a number of confirmation services here in recent years using Common Worship, the Church of England's contemporary service book. However, for the past two years we have used only the BCP for all our services.' placed at the beginning of this volume to remind us of this. When ministers make the Declaration, they affirm their loyalty to the Church of England's inheritance of faith and accept their share in the responsibility to proclaim the faith 'afresh in each generation'.

The vital question is whether or not that 'inheritance of faith' is fully made available in the appropriation of a selection of Book of Common Prayer texts alongside modern prayers in contemporary language and also rendered in what is described here as 'traditional style'? Surely 'traditional language' is far and above what we might identify as being a certain *style*. It is a wholesale, ancient approach and commitment that seeks to enable the whole assembly (clergy and people alike) to appreciate, and participate in, the liturgy. It involves an acceptance not only that the liturgy must be allowed to work on us, but it also demands that we acknowledge that there is work for us to do in the liturgy physically, mentally and spiritually.

Fr Edward Martin SSC is parish priest of the parishes of St Augustine and St Andrew, Great Grimsby.

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Sustaining a living heritage

Sooty Asquith

escribed as 'the jewel in the crown of the English choral heritage', Choral Evensong is sung on a daily basis in many Anglican cathedrals in England and, indeed, elsewhere. It is taken for granted that the choir will sing much of the liturgy, whilst the congregation participates by listening and joining their prayers to what is sung by the choir. That the BBC radio programme Choral Evensong is the longest continuously running outside broadcast in history gives some indication of how important this service is to our country's traditions, and how valued it is by many people, including those who do not choose to attend a cathedral. Prayer Book Society members of course know about the glories of Evensong, and will also appreciate the regular use there of the Book of Common Prayer, but not all PBS members will be aware of the existence of the Friends of Cathedral Music (FCM).

FCM is a national charity which exists solely to support the music at cathedrals, collegiate chapels and larger parish churches which have a full choir across the UK, and many abroad also. This year is the 62nd since FCM was founded at St Bride's Church in Fleet Street, when interested people, concerned at the decline of sung services after the war, formed a nothing at all to do with a cathedral, and attended a meeting organised by Sibthorp at St Bride's Church. By the end of that first year there were 276 members, and twenty years later this had increased to well over 1,000. Today there are approximately 3,750.

FCM's purposes are to support cathedral music, encourage high standards in choral and organ music, increase public appreciation of cathedral music, and raise money for choirs and choristers in need. To this end, since 1956 over £4 million has been given to Anglican and Roman Catholic cathedral, church and collegiate chapel choirs, and many choristerships have been endowed in a large number of cathedrals. FCM constantly strives to increase awareness of the financial burden borne by cathedral music foundations, and to raise money to help them in a wide variety of ways. Recently, in 2016 (FCM's Diamond Jubilee year), a subsidiary part of the 'The charity—called Diamond Fund for Choristers'-was created in order to spearhead a more targeted kind of fundraising, and also to increase the profile of FCM nationally. A very successful Gala Concert was held at St Paul's Cathedral at which one chorister from almost every cathedral in the land came to sing; the result was a

group to—as they put it—sustain a living heritage. The UK is alone in Europe in maintaining the tradition of regular liturgical singing in cathedrals, and the cost of doing so to deans and chapters across the land is very high.

The founder of the charity, the Revd Ronald Sibthorp, undeterred by a negative reaction to his proposal to establish a central body with oversight of cathedral music, wrote letters to eight national newspapers with a view to 'throwing the proposal open to the public'. About 240 responded to his plea, many of whom had



FCM's Gala Evening at St Paul's Cathedral. Andrew Carwood conducting choristers, one from almost every cathedral in the UK.

spectacular event attended by the Duchess of Gloucester with a host of interesting and interested invitees, and, just as important, a marvellous sound from the combined group of choristers. Importantly, since this was the principal aim of the concert, the profile of FCM and its aims became much more widely known, and further work on this is ongoing. The evening was hosted by Aled Jones and Alexander Armstrong, both of whom made compelling speeches on the lifelong benefits of being a chorister. CDs of the concert can be obtained from Amazon for only £6 (they make excellent presents!).

A large part of FCM's activities revolves round attending weekend services in different cathedral cities three times a year. Beautifully organised, into these two or three days are crammed opportunities to sightsee, visit museums or other places of interest nearby, attend organ recitals and concerts and enjoy sung services at cathedrals one might not otherwise have the chance to visit. In recent years there have been visits to (among many others) York, Glasgow, Truro, Carlisle, Orkney and even the Netherlands, where Anglican music is becoming increasingly popular. These 'gatherings', as they are called, appeal to a wide variety of people, many of whom come on their own, though everyone is also encouraged to bring friends and spread the word about FCM's aims and intentions. The most recent visit was to Cambridge, where nearly 250 enthusiasts descended on the town and enjoyed much appreciated hospitality from several colleges including St John's, King's, Clare, Jesus and Trinity.

A principal benefit to members is the receipt of FCM's regular publications, the newsletter (February and August) called Cathedral Voice, and Cathedral Music, a fully illustrated 68-page magazine which is also published twice a year, in May and November. This carries longer articles on anything connected to cathedrals related to the music and musicians who work there. Members of the PBS would be very welcome to a sample copy of either or both of these publications by e-mailing the writer at editor@fcm.org.uk.

Mrs Sooty Asquith is the editor of Cathedral Music. To find out more about joining FCM, or to learn more about the organisation, do please visit the website **www.fcm.org.uk**, or write for details to FCM Membership, 27 Old Gloucester Street, London WC1N 3AY (Tel: 0203 637 2172).



The traditional parsonage and the BCP: A House and a Prayer Book for mission today

Anthony Jennings

ver the years Save Our Parsonages (SOP) has supported parishioners up and down the country in their battle to save their parsonage (rectory or vicarage) from being sold by the diocese. Church law allows this to be done during a vacancy in the incumbency, despite the fact that the diocese does not legally own the parsonage-it never has done-and lacks the knowledge of the Parochial Church Council (PCC) of the value of the parsonage to the local community. The problem is that the diocese sometimes sells off these fine houses without adequately consulting either the PCC or the churchwardens, let alone other interested parties such as leading figures in the local community or indeed the many faithful parishioners whose contributions of time and money are what help to keep the church going. That is why SOP asked all dioceses, but to no avail, to consider following its Code of Practice. This provides that all those with an interest in the matter should be consulted at an early stage.

SOP normally defines a traditional parsonage as one built before 1939, but we are also happy to use the term in connection with later buildings whose design and spaciousness reflect those of earlier times. In 1999 SOP held a conference under the descriptive title 'A House for All Seasons' in which the possibilities of the traditional parsonage for hospitality and mission formed an important part of the discussion.

Parsonages of traditional design are usually vital resources for their local communities. Activities have evolved differently in each parish, but common examples include Bible study groups, confirmation classes, marriage preparation, mother and toddler groups, bereavement counselling and support groups. In fact a whole range of 'good causes' may be invited to make use of the space, just one example being the food bank housed in Holy Trinity Vicarage at Chesterton in Staffordshire.

In the summer months a parsonage garden of suitable size becomes the perfect place for hosting a fete or garden party to raise funds for the church as well as offering an opportunity for parishioners of every age and income group, whether they are churchgoers or not, to join together in the type of social activity that modern medicine tells us is 'requisite and necessary, as well for the body as the soul'.

When these valuable houses and their grounds pass into private ownership, the parish finds it very much more difficult to provide the facilities it needs to survive as a going concern. Richard Chartres, who retired last year as Bishop of London but remains a patron of SOP, made a telling point when interviewed at the time on BBC Radio:

In my early years as bishop we were running a million-pound-a-year deficit on our working budget. The General Secretary at the time had a wonderful phrase—he would say at budget time, 'I'll have to reach into my hip pocket', which meant the sale of another church property, something that now we'd give our eye teeth to have for mission purposes and to enable us to serve more effectively the wider community.

The irony is that the diocesan offices themselves, and all the staff they employ, will ultimately not survive without funding from the parishes, which they now rely on more than ever. Can they really afford to kill the goose that lays the golden eggs?

There are, surely, distinct parallels between the widespread attitude of many diocesan officials towards the traditional parsonage and their disinclination to promote, or even sustain, the use of the BCP in worship. Not long ago, in a letter to the Church Times, Prayer Book Society Chairman Prudence Dailey mourned the loss of regular Sunday BCP Mattins at Bath Abbey. This despite the fact that a consultation of the congregation a few years earlier had revealed overwhelming support for the retention of Mattins; at the time they were assured it would stay. But no, it was scrapped without further consultation. Could it be, she wondered, as much a result of hostility on the part of the abbey's clergy towards the BCP as for any positive reason? In fact, as she pointed out, such an attitude towards the BCP could not be more out of date since it is becoming increasingly popular with younger ordinands in

particular, many of whom are embracing it enthusiastically. All this sounds very familiar to SOP and its supporters, who know of many clergy who are equally enthusiastic about the opportunities for missional hospitality and community outreach that the traditional parsonage can offer.

Such parsonages have also been the matrix for some of our most popular and long-lasting hymns, based, just like the BCP, on a firm foundation of Scripture. Their theologically sound texts, if memorised at an early age, can provide help and comfort in extremity—think for example of Henry Lyte's 'Abide with me' or George Herbert's 'King of glory, King of peace', and Herbert's poem 'Love (iii)' so often heard at funerals.

In my book The Old Rectory, the Story of the English Parsonage (the second edition has just been published) I cite many sons and daughters of the vicarage who produced memorable material in a variety of different fields. One whom I mention briefly was Dorothy Sayers: her cycle of plays entitled The Man Born to be King was broadcast, not without much

controversy at the time, during the Second World War. More recently, the BBC chose Holy Saturday 2017 to put on James Runcie's radio play about J.S. Bach, The Great Passion.

The English detective novel, with its concern for the ultimate triumph of justice, owes much to such writers also. Staying just with the two mentioned above, there is Sayers' hero, Lord Peter Wimsey, operating to good effect in a remote country church and the village which it

serves, to solve the mystery of The Nine Tailors; and Runcie's hero, the Revd Sidney Chambers, preparing his next sermon even as he puzzles over the latest turn of events in Grantchester. Wimsey frequently quotes from the BCP: for example, in Strong Poison, he says to the murder victim's publisher, who is profiting massively from his author's sensational death, 'Quite religious, isn't it-you know, the bit about "plenteously bringing out good works may of thee be plenteously rewarded"? Twenty-fifth after Trinity.' Runcie in turn has lifted phrases from the BCP for more than one of his titles in the Grantchester series: Sidney Chambers and the Perils of the Night and Sidney Chambers and the Forgiveness of Sins. Both of their detectives have appeared on television as well as on the printed page.

St without much has been nying

Billingborough Rectory, which hosts a charity shop

One of the strengths of the wording of the BCP Communion service, as was pointed out by the Revd Peter Dewey at last year's commemoration of Cranmer's martyrdom in Oxford, is that while it is very clear on Christ's death being 'a full, perfect and sufficient sacrifice, oblation and satisfaction, for the sins of the whole world', yet the communicant is left free to conceive of the bread and wine either as enshrining the Real Presence or as having a spiritual and symbolic significance only. The Elizabethan settlement, which followed not long after Cranmer's death, was similarly predicated on The Queen's reluctance to 'make windows into men's souls'a very English reticence. Three centuries later, the Revd Robert Stephen Hawker, the great 'Hawker of Morwenstow', was equally pragmatic, allowing Catholics, Anglicans and Dissenters to hold discussions at his parsonage: 'I thought it best, they will never meet in the next world.'

A couple of centuries later still, my own vicar, in the Benefice of Billingborough, Lincoln Diocese, has been living and working in a traditional

parsonage which is well used for parish and wider community activities. There is even space for a charity shop on the premises, to raise funds for good causes chosen by the local people themselves. When my wife and I moved into one of the parishes within the benefice, we found a congregation happily wedded to the BCP and it had never occurred to us before we came that this might not be so.

The Oxford Diocese, meanwhile, recently moved its

headquarters from the old Church House in North Hinksey-a sensitively conceived complex of later buildings alongside and including the old parsonage there-to part of a modern office building in an industrial park in Kidlington. While these 'purposebuilt' offices have been applauded for their additional space and convenience compared to the old site, yet a receptionist there was heard to rue the loss of sanctity occasioned by the move: 'not even a cross outside to show that the Church is here, for fear of offending the neighbours'. Cranmer could hardly have imagined a situation where the national Church was thus besieged, both physically and liturgically, by the twin forces of secularism and modernitythe latter, sad to say, coming sometimes even from certain members of the clergy themselves.

Anthony Jennings is Director of Save Our Parsonages.

Cranmer Awards

he journalist, theatre critic and author Quentin Letts has condemned people who write off today's youngsters as 'snowflakes'. 'They are terrific and solid; our culture will be safe in their hands,' he told an audience of more than 100 parents, teachers and clergy at The Old Palace in Worcester before presenting prizes to the six winners of this year's Cranmer Awards.

Mr Letts's comments were inspired by the 27 finalists aged between 11 and 18. They had competed with hundreds of schoolchildren across the country to speak from memory readings and prayers



Pictured with Quentin Letts are this year's six Cranmer Awards winners: (left to right) Amy Bloch, Charlotte Baker, Orlando Riviere, Aman Kaur More, Emer Halton and Mariam Nachif. Photography: Helen Peters.

from church services in the Book of Common Prayer, a book which he described as a 'sparkling trove of the English language'. He added:

The Prayer Book Society has kept Cranmer's flag flying through some dangerous decades but I sense an easing of that siege. The plastic modernism and knee-jerk cultural self-loathing of the baby boomer generation is waning. It is once again okay to be proud of our heritage. You can go to church and pray while turning the same, delicate, onion-skin pages that your great-grandmother handled during the Battle of Britain, when Churchill—and Cranmer guided our country through the Darkest Hour.

Describing the Prayer Book as 'a deep well of history, poetry and philosophy which teenagers relish', Mr Letts criticised those who say, 'No one will be able to understand that old language.' 'That's rot!' he said. 'Our contestants today not only understood it; they made it soar.'

Mr Letts presented cash prizes of £200, £150 and £100 to three winners in each of two age groups (Juniors aged 11 to 14 and Seniors aged 15 to 18). First place among the Junior winners went to Mariam Nachif (12), a pupil of Sutton Coldfield Grammar School for Girls who spoke the Collect, Epistle and Gospel for St Thomas the Apostle. Second prize was awarded to Charlotte Baker (14) of Bruton School for Girls who spoke the Collect, Epistle and Gospel for the First Sunday after the Epiphany. Third was Amy Bloch (14), a pupil of King William's College, Castleton on the Isle of Man who spoke the Collect, Epistle and Gospel for Easter Even.

Another pupil of King William's College, Castleton, won the Seniors' first prize. She was Emer Halton (17), who spoke the Collect, Epistle and Gospel for the First Sunday after the Epiphany. Second prize went to Orlando Riviere (17) of Magdalen College School, Oxford, who spoke the Collect, Epistle and Gospel for the Feast of St Peter. Third was Aman Kaur More (18) from King Edward VI High School for Girls in Birmingham who spoke the Gospel for the Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Trinity and Psalm 103.

In addition to a cash prize, each winner was presented with a certificate and a copy of the Book of Common Prayer.

Also receiving special certificates were two finalists who were Highly Commended. They were Juniors Cecilia Kime (13) from Twyford School, Winchester, who spoke the Epistle for the Sunday called Sexagesima and Psalm 121, and Oliver Lloyd (12), a pupil at Monmouth School for Boys. He spoke the Collect, Epistle and Gospel for the Accession Service.

The Commemoration of the Martyrdom of Thomas Cranmer



The procession to the monument



The congregation in Broad Street



The congregation at the monument

The Oxford Branch's annual commemoration of the martyrdom of Archbishop Thomas Cranmer took place in Oxford on 21st March, its actual anniversary. As usual we commenced with Mattins in the church of St Michael at the North Gate conducted by the Branch Chaplain, the Revd Jonathan Beswick. We were honoured to welcome as our preacher the Rt Revd Dr Steven Croft, Bishop of Oxford, who also joined us for lunch after the ceremony.

After Mattins we processed first to the martyrdom site in Broad Street where the Bishop read an account of that event and then on to the Martyrs' Memorial where a wreath was laid by Branch Chairman Geoffrey Horne. The proceedings concluded with a blessing by Bishop Steven.



Geoffrey Horne lays the wreath

The congregation numbered 53 and half of that number attended lunch at an Oxford restaurant. Arrangements for the lunch had to be changed at fairly short notice and we apologise for any inconvenience experienced as a result.

We acknowledge with grateful thanks the gift of the church collection to the Society and also the part played by young men from Pusey House who acted as stewards and crucifer at the service and procession.



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Co-ordinator's column

John Service

am employed full time as Churches and Clergy Co-ordinator. My job description consists largely of liaison between PBS Clergy (including ordinands) and PBS places of worship (including Corporate Members).



Hampton Court Palace

The Revd John Hanks had asked me to find a home for the Communion Plate from St Paul's, Bath, as reported in the Lent 2018 issue of The Prayer Book Today (p.19). I presented the set to Fr Anthony Howe, Chaplain of HM Chapel Royal, Hampton Court Palace, on 8th March and it was used at the regular midday Eucharist that day.





Chelsea Old Church

On Sunday, 6th May thirty members joined the regular congregation for a special Book of Common Prayer Eucharist at Chelsea Old Church and enjoyed a special lunch following the service.



PRE-BOOKING FOR LUNCH ESSENTIAL Please see booking details overleaf Booking deadline:W ednesday, 18th April 2018 (Booking not required if attending the service only,



Bookmarks

The Society has produced a new and attractive bookmark with a form of Daily Prayer from the Book of Common Prayer. These are available free of charge singly or in greater quantities from Copyhold Farm.



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New Falklands Rector and a Prayer Book Record

The new Rector of Christ Church Cathedral in Stanley on the Falkland Islands—a former Assistant Chaplain at Sherborne School in Dorset—believes that he may have chalked up something of a record by conducting a service in the Book of Common Prayer on the southernmost latitude to date.

During a recent visit to the church at Grytviken on South Georgia Island—built by Norwegians in 1913 and located at latitude -54.2856124709862 S —the Revd Nicholas Mercer conducted the Prayer Book service of Evening Prayer. He told the Prayer Book Society:

As far as I am aware, no Book of Common Prayer service has ever been held in this church previously because it remained a Norwegian Church for the next century. It was formally handed over to the United Kingdom in 2013 and has only been used very occasionally since then. It was in a very poor state of repair and now is undergoing restoration.



The visiting party at Grytviken

Nicholas, a former Colonel and the Chief Legal Officer for the British Army during the 2003 Iraq war, visited Grytviken in his role as Rector of the Falkland Islands and South Georgia as part of a group accompanying His Excellency Nigel Philips, CBE, Governor of the Falkland Islands and Commissioner for South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands, on a visit to the UK Overseas Territory of South Georgia. Others included the Operations Officer for South Georgia, Steve Brown, and the North Wiltshire MP James Gray.



The church at Grytviken

During his visit to Grytviken, a former whaling station founded in 1904 and serviced by 300 men in its heyday, Nicholas inspected restoration work underway on the church and visited the grave of the explorer Sir Ernest Henry Shackleton who died in Grytviken in 1922. He also saw scientific study sites used by the British Antarctic Survey to monitor predators such as penguins and seals.

'I believe this may have been the first time that the Rector has accompanied the Commissioner on his visit to South Georgia,' said Nicholas. He left the army in 2011 to pursue a long-standing call to the ordained ministry and the same year he received the Human Rights Lawyer of the Year award sponsored by the human rights pressure group Liberty.

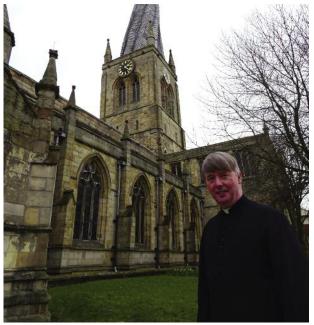
Nicholas has spent time on the Falkland Islands previously, completing a parish placement in Stanley during training for the ordained ministry.

'I loved my placement and was warmly welcomed by the parish so I am very pleased to be back as the Rector seven years later,' he said.



The Revd Nicholas Mercer

Old Prayer Book encourages young people to worship in a Derbyshire church



Fr Patrick Coleman outside St Mary and All Saints

Gattending services in a Derbyshire parish church which found fame nationally back in the sixties thanks to a popular television comedy series.

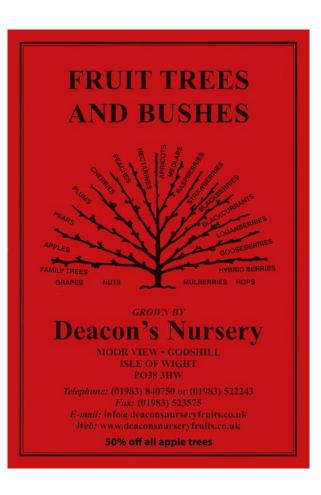
While the twisted spire of St Mary and All Saints in Chesterfield attracted interest because it featured as part of the fictional St Ogg's Cathedral in each episode of All Gas and Gaiters—starring the late Derek Nimmo who played the Bishop's Chaplain, Mervyn Noote—services using the traditional language of the Book of Common Prayer are encouraging today's young people to attend.

'They include those who choose to be married here,' explains the vicar, Fr Patrick Coleman. 'Those who don't live in the parish and have no other connection with this church are required to attend regularly for at least six months. If they come to Choral Evensong as engaged couples, they tend to continue when they are married. While congregations of up to 70 enjoy Choral Evensong it is not unusual for more than 100 to attend the Choral Mass on Sunday mornings.'

Fr Patrick says that one reason for the popularity of St Mary and All Saints is that it is believed to be the only church in the area which uses the Book of Common Prayer for a significant part of its worship. 'That appeals to older worshippers who remember it from their childhood and younger people who are discovering the beauty of its ancient language,' he says. 'They include the young choristers who are enthusiastic about the words and formulas of the Book of Common Prayer.'

Commitment to use of the Prayer Book at St Mary and All Saints has prompted the church to become a Corporate Member of the Prayer Book Society, supporting its work to encourage rediscovery of the majesty and spiritual depth of the Book of Common Prayer at the heart of the Church of England's worship.

John Service, who provides a link between the Society, churches, clergy and schools, reports that growing numbers of people of all ages are struck by the relevance of the traditional language. He says: 'It has inspired writers like Shakespeare as well as churchgoers down the ages. Today many of us use its words and phrases unwittingly within our everyday conversations.'



The Glory of the Word: Post-Reformation Pulpits

Simon Cotton

The first part of this article was published in the Lent 2016 edition (pp.11-14)

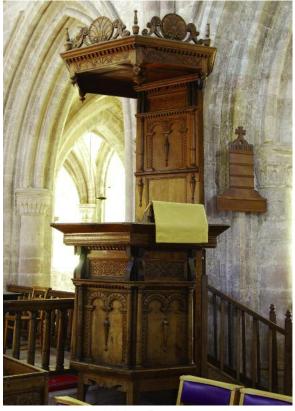
There was a shortage of clergy to preach the new Reformed religion after the death of Henry VIII. Most clergy could not be trusted, so 1547 saw the publication of a Book of Homilies, which were to be read in the churches for the instruction and edification of the people. Preaching was done under licence, and this applied in the reigns of both Edward VI and of Queen Mary. Immediately Elizabeth came to the throne, a proclamation banning preaching was promulgated on 27th December 1558, to keep things quiet. It was relaxed after a few months and soon another book of Homilies was released.

So when George Herbert wrote, 'The Countrey Parson preacheth constantly, the pulpit is his joy and his throne', he was advocating an ideal.

Not surprisingly, many more pulpits survive from the post-Reformation era than before. In some cases, as at Elkstone (Glos.), Jacobean pulpits were mounted on mediaeval bases.



Elkstone



Abbey Dore

The finest of these are splendid, like the example at Oddington (Glos.), where it stands upon a separate post, or Abbey Dore (Herefs.), where the remains of the Cistercian abbey church were rebuilt around 1634. These examples are equipped with a backboard and tester (or sounding-board) found in many other cases, like Clun (Salop) and Brundish (Suffolk) where the backboard and tester have been separated at some time in the past and are now (nearly) reunited.

Carving is often of interest, with examples like Moreton Jefferies (Herefs.) with luxuriant carving to the support of the bookrest on the readers' desk, or Winforton (Herefs.) which establishes the date of 1613 and the name of the donor, Thomas Higgins. At Madley (Herefs.), the pulpit has splendid caryatid angels on its front.

There is a remarkable liturgical arrangement at Leighton Bromswold (Hunts.). Although the design is basically simple, the pairing of the twin pulpits, one each side of the chancel arch, is unique. George Herbert became Prebend of Leighton Ecclesia



Leighton Bromswold

in 1626 and set about raising the funds to rebuild a ruined church. Work was completed in 1623-3. The pulpit on the south side was for reading and prayers, the equality following from Herbert's remark 'they should neither have a precedency or priority of the other; but that prayer and preaching, being equally useful, might agree like brethren, and have an equal honour and estimation'.

Pulpits went on being provided through the seventeenth century and beyond, like Monningtonon-Wye (Herefs.) which accompanied the rebuilding of the church in 1679, or Letton (Herefs.), a lovely early-eighteenth-century example, said to have come from a church in Bristol.



Chiselhampton

An indispensable accompaniment of the sermon in those days was the hourglass, shown attached to the mediaeval pulpit at South Burlingham (Norfolk) and in close proximity to the Jacobean one at Bradfield St George (Suffolk), to make sure that the listeners got their money's worth. At the same time, there were limits. As George Herbert remarked in The Priest to the Temple (London, 1652), 'The Parson exceeds not an hour in preaching, because all ages have thought that a competency, and he that profits not in that time, will lesse afterwards, the same affection which made him not profit before, making him then weary, and so he grows from not relishing, to loathing.'



Monnington

Though many examples are earlier, the three-decker pulpit seems synonymous with the Georgian church, like that at East Walton (Norfolk). At Kings Norton (Leics.), where the church was built 1757-1775, presumably the pulpit and furnishings date from towards the end of that time. However, they were still being provided into the nineteenth century, such as the steepling example at St Martin's (Salop) of c.1810.

Earlier liturgical arrangements were often upgraded. We've already seen how the mediaeval pulpit at Salle (Norfolk) was converted into a three-decker by the addition of Jacobean desks in 1611. Dennington



Shobdon

Church (Suffolk) was equipped with a Jacobean pulpit at a cost of £3 11s. 8d. in 1625, only to be upgraded into a 3-decker in 1628; likewise Chiselhampton Church (Oxon) has a Jacobean pulpit that subsequently became part of a Georgian three-decker, doubtless at the rebuilding of the church in 1762.

Then there are the exotic ones, like the threedecker at Shobdon (Herefs.) of c.1753. At Teigh (Rutland) the church was rebuilt in 1782 for the Revd and Hon. Robert Sherard, fourth Earl of Harborough, in 1782. Here the three-decker is part of a quite singular arrangement on the west wall of the nave, and the pews are arranged college-style, facing north and south. Pevsner's comment is priceless: 'The three boxes give one an irresistible hope that at any moment the preacher and readers might pop out like the little figures in a weatherhouse.'

It is always worth taking a close look at a pulpit; Flemish carved panels (c.1530) have been inserted into a pulpit at Kinnersley (Herefs.) which stands on a Jacobean base, the work presumably dating from Victorian restoration, very likely by G. F. Bodley. And there is the exotic, like the eighteenth-century Flemish import found in England's first church in reinforced concrete, at Goldthorpe (West Riding of Yorkshire), suitably accompanying the Counter-Reformation ethos of the building. Some pulpits are associated with a particular person. The one at Elton (Hunts.) was given to the church by Father Faber, before he became a Catholic and went off to found Brompton Oratory, whilst that at Ars was occupied for years by its *curé*, Jean-Marie Vianney, who thundered against the sins of the villagers in his quest for the salvation of their souls and the glory of God.

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Dr Simon Cotton teaches Chemistry at Birmingham University and writes monthly articles on church architecture for New Directions.



Goldthorpe

Correspondence

Before I retired I found no problems amongst the young people with the wording of the BCP, even those at the bottom of the education ladder. Of course there were some words they had to have explained; but I always changed 'prevent' to 'go before', so I was pleased to read about Winchester College (The Prayer Book Today, Lent 2018 edition, p.17). In fact I found youngsters thrived on 'difficult' words: Junior School children much preferred 'a peregrination' to 'an outing' or 'a ramble'.

After I retired I sometimes was asked to take a wedding, and if I was not tied by the church to use the modern service, I always gave the couple the choice between the modern service or the BCP. Just over half chose the BCP: they felt the language was more personal and more suitable for a marriage. Those who chose the modern service invariably said that it must be better because it was new—but the bride always wanted her father to give her away; and bride and groom always wanted to sign the register at the end of the service before they left the church.

Yours, Ralph S. Werrell, Kenilworth

Sir,

I have had two correspondents answering my original Evensong letter, one personal and one in the Lent issue of The Prayer Book Today (p.18), both of which are much appreciated. However, neither answers my 'challenge' whereby 'my' choir at Holy Trinity, Coleman's Hatch, West Sussex sings a different Anthem each month.

Godfrey Dann, East Grinstead, West Sussex

Dear Sir,

I have had a few thoughts after reading Mr Homan's article on 'indifferently' in the last issue (p.8). As a Magistrate I regularly drew my colleagues' attention to the observation of The Hon. Mr Justice Vaisey, a prominent High Court Judge:

It is not always easy, but we do try to administer justice indifferently, as the Prayer Book says. Indifferently—and then these badly instructed clergy with good intentions change 'indifferently' into 'impartially'. It is not the same thing. 'Indifferently' includes 'impartially'. What 'indifferently' means is 'impartially plus something else'-dispassionately.

Dispassionately: that is, without regard to all irrelevant considerations, and looking simply to the justice of the case. It is comparatively easy to be impartial; not quite so easy to be indifferent. To be indifferent is to have that one single aim and object—to do justice.

Similarly my e-mail address book asks for the property of my contacts not their nature!

Yours sincerely, Nick Kettlewell, Salisbury Branch

I was pleased to see Roger Homan's piece about 'indifferently'/'impartially' in the last issue. When I was confirmed back in the 1940s we were taught the significance of particular words in the liturgy. (Happy days when there was instruction, although perhaps it was easier when we were all teenagers rather than young children which come to confirmation these days.) I have always remembered what we were told about these words: 'impartially' means that the judge treats each of those before him by identical judicial standards; 'indifferently' includes this but adds the dimension of being regardless of the best interests of the judge— 'though it were to his own hindrance', as the psalmist puts it.

Neil Inkley, Preston

The letter you published last year about the pronunciation of 'saith' (Lent 2017 edition, p.20) has belatedly reminded me of our new curate a few years ago who, exposed to our third Sunday Book of Common Prayer Morning Prayer, repeatedly besought the Almighty to 'endure' His Minsters with righteousness.

John Campbell, Beccles



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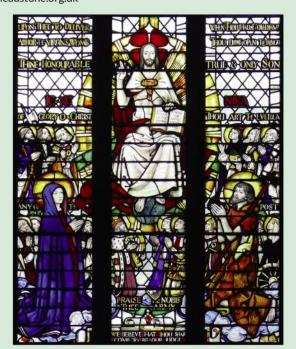
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Lay or clerical interest welcome.

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News from the Branches

Blackburn

Please know how thrilled and inspired and uplifted I was (as were we all) by the glorious BCP Festival Eucharist in Blackburn Cathedral on 21st April.

Bishop Philip North of Burnley led the service with authority and ease: his excellent sermon was very relevant, as was commented on several times. The music was out of this world: thanks are due to David Scott-Thomas and the talented Octavius choir and Samuel Hudson at the organ.

John Bertalot, Blackburn



Bishop Philip North

Exeter

The Branch event at Powderham Church and Castle on Sunday, 18th March had to be cancelled due to adverse snow conditions. It is hoped to have this same event on a Sunday in August when there will be Choral Evensong at 4.00p.m. sung by The Heritage Singers, conducted by Mr Andrew Millington, at St Clement's Church, Powderham followed by tea at Powderham Castle and then a talk by historian Mr Todd Gray, MBE in the castle chapel. Enquiries to the Branch Secretary whose contact details are on p.30.

Norwich

Our outing season started on a fine day in April, at the Church of St Peter, Belaugh (pronounced Beeler!), which overlooks the River Bure, from its tiny village of 43 inhabitants. Some thirty members and friends heard a talk Stephen Heywood, by Mr Conservation Officer at Norfolk County Council, on the fabric of this fourteenth-century building and its fine sixteenth-century painted Rood Screen. The faces of the Apostles have been literally defaced by a seventeenth-century Cromwellian soldier from a

> nearby village. After a break for wine and cake, the Revd Canon Richard Hanmer took the Sung Evensong with Mr Nick Walmsley, as organist, suitably dressed in frock coat. This church and its setting were reputedly seen by an 8-year old John Betjeman, bored on a boating holiday with his parents, which

started his life-long love of mediaeval churches:

- What would you be, you wide East Anglian sky, Without church towers to recognise you by? What centuries of faith in flint and stone Wait in this watery landscape
- Wait in this watery landscape, all alone...

Oxford

The Branch's Advent Service took place at the church of St Michael at the North Gate in Oxford on Saturday, 2nd December 2017. The service of BCP collects, lessons and seasonal hymns was led by the Branch Chaplain, the Revd Jonathan Beswick, Vicar of St Barnabas, Oxford. The lesson readers included the Senior and Junior winners from the previous month's Cranmer heats. Tea including mince pies and mulled wine was served after the service.

Peterborough

We planned two meetings for the current year, the first at Easton Maudit on 20th May (for Whitsunday) and the second is to be held at the church at Chesterton on the outskirts of Peterborough on 30th September at 5.00p.m. (for St Michael and All Angels). It will be a service of Evening Prayer. There is parking and refreshments. As with Easton Maudit this church is a Prayer Book Church and in both cases we been invited by have the congregations to their welcoming and beautiful church. We hope for good support at this service from members and friends and we shall be delighted to be invited to other churches in the diocese in 2019.

Rochester

On Wednesday, 14th February, the Revd Dorothy McGarvey, a Branch member and Assistant Curate at St Botolph's Church, Lullingstone, conducted Morning Prayer followed by the Litany and Commination, the services directed by the Prayer Book for use on Ash Wednesday. The Litany is rarely heard and even less 'A Commination or Denouncing of God's Anger and Judgements against Sinners', and several members were able to join the Lullingstone congregation for the said service. In keeping with the penitential season there was no music.

On Sunday, 22nd April, we met for a guided tour of St Peter and St Paul's Church, Farningham. The earliest part of the church, built in the Early English period around 1240, is the chancel. From this a plain pointed arch leads into the thirteenth-/fourteenth-century nave. The tower at the west end was added about a century later.

Churchwarden Gerald Roome first showed us the mausoleum in the churchyard. The square Portland ashlar monument bears the inscription 'This Mausoleum was begun by Thomas NASH Esq Merchant, Citizen of London and one of his Majesty's Justices of the Peace for the Counties of Kent and Surrey Who died at Paris April 7th 1778 and whose remains are here deposited and finished by his Executors for a Burying place for himself and family.' Thomas Nash had made a fortune as a calico printer. The architect John Nash was his nephew and received a legacy in his will. Although there is no hard evidence for this, it is strongly believed that the mausoleum was an early work of Nash.

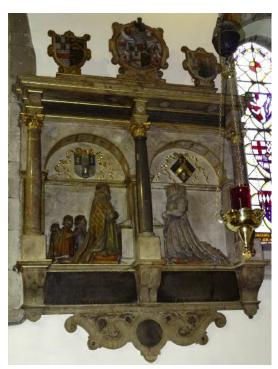
Returning to the church we saw on the north wall of the chancel the alabaster Roper Monument of 1597, which depicts Anthony Roper, his wife and children. Anthony was the son of Margaret Roper, beloved daughter of Sir Thomas More.

At the west end of the nave stands the fifteenth-century octagonal font showing the Seven Sacraments of the Roman Catholic Church. This is the only example of a sevensacrament font in Kent. Two panels illustrate

the Mass, the elevation and distribution. The other panels show Ordination, Matrimony, Baptism, Confirmation, Penance and Extreme Unction.

Looking to the west we were told the story of the church's twentieth-century treasure. During the Second World War Farningham lost much of its glass.

The Rector of Farningham in the fifties early was strongly Anglo-Catholic and wished to install a window in honour of King Charles the Martyr. This caused some disagreement in the village and feelings ran high. As Gerald, tongue in cheek, put 'Blood it. was running in the streets until the King conveniently died.' The window is now a glorious celebration of the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II.

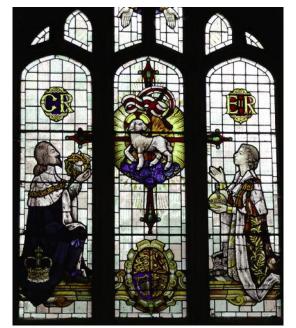


The Roper monument, Farningham Church

King Charles, with the coronation crown at his feet and a crown of thorns in his hand, and The Queen, with the state crown and sceptre at her feet and the orb in her hands, kneel either side of the Agnus Dei. The Queen is shown wearing the purple state robe, which has a local connection, the velvet having been woven from Lullingstone silk.

Gerald's fellow churchwarden, Lou Fitzgerald, refreshed us and others coming to the service with tea and coffee, and the Rochester Committee provided scones with jam and cream, Bara Brith and assorted cakes.

The service of Evensong for the eve of St George's Day was taken by Reader, Jan Thompson, with the Rector, Gary Owen, giving the sermon. Choirmaster and organist Barrie Payne brought back happy memories of school days by ending the service with the appropriate hymn 'When a knight won his spurs'.



The Coronation West Window, Farningham Church



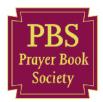
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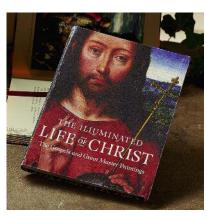
710 £16.95 The Book of Common Prayer: A Biography. Alan Jacobs. (2013) Hbk, 256pp.In this 'biography' Alan Jacobs traces the life of the BCP from the English Reformation to the modern era. 'Within a mere 200 pages one could not wish for a more engaging introduction to the history of the Prayer Book. 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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715 £12.99 The Book of Common Prayer: Past, Present & Future. (2011) Sbk, 176pp. This collection of essays from knowledgeable and high-profile contributors seeks to explore and commemorate the past influence of the BCP and also to commend its present and future use as an indispensable part of the Church's doctrine both as a working liturgy and as the definitive source of Anglican doctrine. **EDITED BY PRUDENCE DAILEY, CHAIRMAN, PBS.**

902

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58 £10.99 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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Forthcoming Events

Exeter

On Saturday, 16th June at 11.00a.m., prior to the Branch AGM, there will be a tour of Exeter Cathedral Library followed by a break for lunch. The AGM will start at 2.15p.m. in The Pearson Room, Exeter Cathedral where the speaker will be the Very Revd Jonathan Greener, Dean of Exeter. Choral Evensong in the cathedral will follow the meeting at 4.00p.m.

Leeds (Huddersfield and Wakefield Episcopal Areas)

You are welcome to an Autumn Festival of Sung Holv followed Communion by refreshments on Saturday, 29th September 2018 at 2.45p.m. in Church of St Aidan, the Skelmanthorpe HD8 9AF. This liturgy, celebrating the 1662 Book of Common Prayer rite, commemorates St Rose of Viterbo: a September Saint. There is plenty of parking within the church grounds. We welcome all, whether PBS members or not, who have an interest in keeping the ethos and beauty of the Book of Common Prayer as a living core within the Church: including those who also use and value more recent rites-so bring some friends! We would love to see you, so please note this event in your diaries.

Philip Reynolds, parish priest of St Aidan, Skelmanthorpe, 07805 509469.

life.draw@btinternet.com.



Oxford

Sunday, 5th August 2018: Visit to Rousham Church and House, near Lower Heyford, Oxfordshire. This will comprise Mattins and shortened Holy Communion at 11.15a.m., followed by drinks and salad lunch, tour of house and gardens. Further details will be circulated to Branch members shortly.

Rochester

On Sunday, 22nd July at 6.30p.m. we are invited to St Mary's Shortlands, Kingswood Road, Bromley, for Evensong. The choir, under Director of Music Canon Claire Tillotson, has a fine reputation and shortly after this service will be in residence at Exeter Cathedral.

After our brief Branch AGM on 7th October 2018 we will enjoy Canticles and cake; Festal Harvest Evensong at St Botolph's Church, Lullingstone Castle, at 4.00p.m. with refreshments after the service. The AGM, starting at 3.15p.m., will be held in the castle marquee by the kind permission of Mrs Hart Dyke.

The Rochester Branch Heat of the Cranmer Awards will be held at The Judd School, Tonbridge, on Wednesday, 14th November. Refreshments will be available from 5.00p.m., with the competition starting at 6.00p.m. Viscount De L'Isle, MBE, Lord Lieutenant of Kent, will be the guest of honour and will present the prizes.

If you wish to join any of these events please contact the Secretaries, Mr and Mrs G. E. Comer, on 01732 461462 or e-mail

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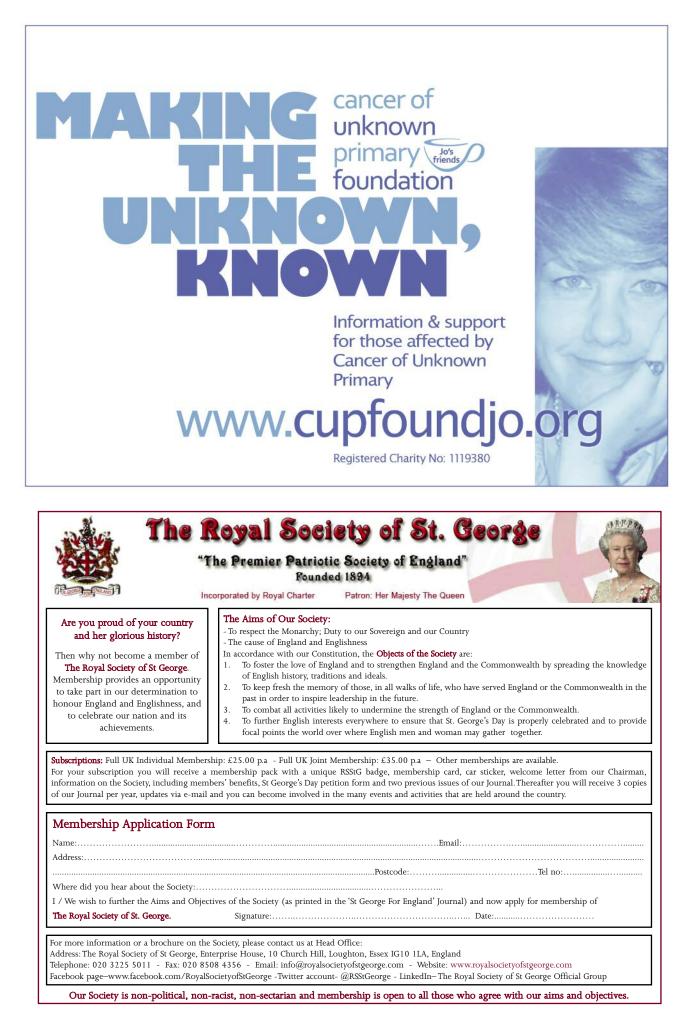
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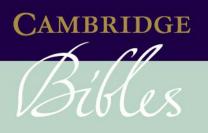
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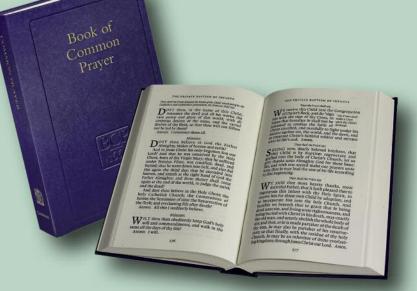
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