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Lord Sudeley 1938—2022

It is with sadness that we report the death on 5th September of The Right Honourable The Lord Sudeley FSA, British Peer, author, and Vice-President of The Prayer Book Society. Lord Sudeley's funeral was held at St Mary's, Bourne Street, London, on 26th September. We assure the Lady Sudeley of our prayers at this sad time. A full obituary will appear in the next issue of this journal.

Ian Woodhead RIP

Ian Woodhead, the Treasurer of the Salisbury Branch of the PBS, and long-time supporter, has died.

Ian, who had been fighting various ailments, passed away at Bristol Royal Infirmary. His wife, Ann, and the family were with him.

Announcing Ian's death the PBS Salisbury Branch Officers and Committee said, 'Ian was a tireless worker for the PBS for most of the last 50 years and served as Chairman and Treasurer of our Branch at various times in addition to his responsibilities as a PBS Trustee. He was recently nominated as one of the first recipients of the PBS Kilmister Award. We thank God for Ian's service to the PBS and pray for Ann and the family in this distressing time.'

*I HEARD a voice from heaven, saying
unto me, Write, From henceforth
blessed are the dead
which die in the Lord:
even so saith the Spirit; for they rest from
their labours.*

50th anniversary celebrations

Our 50th anniversary celebrations at Westminster Abbey on 8th October were regrettably postponed due to a national rail strike.

The publication of this journal was delayed in the hope that we would be able to announce the new date for the service; but, sadly, this has not yet been possible. The Chairman is working closely with the Abbey and Church House to find a new date for our national celebration and members will be notified as soon as a date is agreed.

Cover photo: PBS Conference worship at Liverpool Hope University

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A letter from the Chairman

Dear friends,

As I write, the excessive heat of recent days has given way to heavy and much-needed rain; the evenings are drawing in and there is a distinctly autumnal feeling in the air. Forced to retreat indoors, I find myself reflecting on the Prayer Book Society's activities during the first half of this year.

With all COVID restrictions finally confined to history, we were able to begin this anniversary year with a wonderful national celebration to mark the 70th anniversary of Her Majesty the Queen's Accession to the Throne. The service, at All Saints', Northampton, attracted a large congregation of local parishioners, civic dignitaries and PBS members. This was followed only a few weeks later by the National Finals of the Cranmer Awards in the very beautiful surroundings of Hampton Court Palace.

In March, we had the annual commemoration in Oxford of Archbishop Cranmer's martyrdom; the day included a splendid lecture and glorious worship. Another successful online seminar series was held during Lent, and, immediately after Easter, we had a superb St George's Day celebration at Stanway House, Gloucestershire. May then saw the return of the annual Peter Toon Memorial Lecture in Oxford; and in June many PBS churches and Branches marked Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee with Prayer Book worship and social activities. Choral Matins at the Tower of London followed a fortnight after the Jubilee weekend.

The Branches of the Society have bounced back after their enforced fallow period, and several long-dormant Branches have been successfully relaunched. By the time this magazine reaches you, our Birmingham Branch will have held its major relaunch at St Augustine's, Edgbaston and our annual conference will have been held at Liverpool Hope University (our first residential conference since 2019).

The Society has had a presence at a number of recent significant events, including the Anglican Prison Chaplains' Conference; the Pusey House Theological Conference; and the Lambeth Conference. I was able to have a very positive conversation with His Grace the Archbishop of Canterbury at the Lambeth Conference, about his personal affection for the Book of Common Prayer and its daily use at Lambeth Palace by the resident Community of St Anselm. Prayer Book Communion services have been celebrated for members of General Synod during the February and July Groups of Sessions (the first for many years) and there are plans for a PBS Fringe Meeting at one of the 2023 meetings.

A new committee has been formed to plan strategic engagement with children, young people, students and families; Prayer Books have once more been presented to all ordinands entering training; a new Cosin Scholar has been appointed; Prayer Books for Choristers launched; and a new Award created for distinguished service to the Society.



*Bradley Smith with the Manchester Branch
Co-ordinator Joshua Gaskell*

Our new website, launched at the end of 2021, is constantly being developed with the addition of new material; new publicity materials (printed and digital) have been produced; we have expanded the range of BCP-related products available from the Society's online shop, and widened our advertising opportunities in both secular and ecclesiastical journals.

Our directory of Corporate Members has expanded, and many new applications for individual membership have been received. We have witnessed tremendous goodwill towards to the Society, and the wider Church is taking note of our activities. We continue to negotiate with the National Church on a number of future projects, and note with much pleasure the use of the BCP for baptisms and confirmations (recently at St Edward's School, Oxford, St Giles in the Fields, London, and St Laurence's, York), as well as the introduction of new Prayer Book services in parishes around the country.

On a more personal note, I have had the pleasure of accepting numerous invitations to Branches and parishes, including All Saints', Sawtry (Ely), where I spoke to the Causeway Group (a social group for women) about the Society's work, and led a service of Evensong; St Mary's, Car Colston (Southwell and Nottingham), where I took the sermon-slot and talked about the contemporary relevance

of the BCP; as well the Chichester parishes of Bishopstone, Middleton-on-Sea, and Bepton, where I spoke about various aspects of Prayer Book spirituality. I have many more engagements to look forward to in the coming months and am grateful for these opportunities to talk about the spiritual treasure we find in our Prayer Book heritage.

What a wonderful year this is turning out to be! Once again, I wish to repeat my sincere thanks to members everywhere for all you are doing to celebrate and promote the Prayer Book and the work of our Society in its Jubilee year. The events, activities and initiatives listed above could not happen without your kind support, dedication and generosity.

Above all, our thanks must be directed to Almighty God for the gift we have received in the Book of Common Prayer, which, saturated as it is in the written Word of God, is a faithful companion through thick and thin, and a guide to navigating the complexities of our human existence, always pointing us to Jesus, the living Word and source of all life.

With my prayers and good wishes,
Bradley
Bradley Smith, Chairman

Online seminar for Advent 2022

The four last things: death, judgement, heaven and hell
Saturday, 3rd December 2022 at 2p.m. via Zoom

For centuries, the Church has used Advent as a time not only of preparation for the celebration of Christ's birth, but also of deep reflection on our own mortality, fragility and limitations.

This has traditionally been done through examination of 'the four last things': death, judgement, heaven and hell. The Book of Common Prayer provides an excellent guide to these themes. Our speakers will be the Revd Dr Benjamin Sargent; the Revd Dr Daniel Newman; the Revd Canon Andrew Hawes; the Revd Dr Jo Kershaw.

Join us as we explore what it has to teach us about life, death and eternal salvation. This event is free and open to all. Register for the Zoom link via the PBS website www.pbs.org.uk.

The Peter Toon

Lecture 2022:

Where is the world heading?



Dr Ian Paul

This year's Peter Toon Memorial Lecture was given by the priest, theologian and author, Dr Ian Paul, at the church of St Michael at the North Gate, Oxford.

A mixed audience of PBS members, students and local parishioners listened attentively to Dr Paul's engaging biblical exegesis, in which he enabled those present to explore what the New Testament says about 'the end of the world', why it has been interpreted in so many different and contradictory ways, and how a good reading of the issue can contribute to our thinking about faith, discipleship and mission. After the lecture, there was a time of lively discussion and questions.

Evening Prayer followed, conducted by the Revd Anthony Buckley, Vicar of St Michael's. The preacher was the Revd Dr George Westhaver, Principal of Pusey House, who began by paying tribute to the late Revd Dr Peter Toon, in whose honour the annual lecture is held: 'Dr Toon inspired me to find Christ in the Scriptures; to pray more seriously and in a more ordered way; and to find the Book of Common Prayer a *rule of life* sufficient for the trials and ailments of the day.'

The Revd Dr Peter Toon was an Anglican priest, theologian and church historian. He was Librarian of Latimer House in Oxford, Curate of St Ebbe's Church, also in Oxford, and later a tutor at Oak Hill College. He went on to serve in churches in the United States and was President of the Prayer Book Society there. He died in 2009. His widow, Vita Toon, launched the annual lecture in honour of his commitment to the Anglican Way as expressed in the Formularies of the Church of England: the Book of Common Prayer, the Thirty-Nine Articles of Religion and the Ordinal.

The lecture takes place under the auspices of the Prayer Book Society in collaboration with Pusey House and St Michael at the North Gate, with whom the Society enjoys a very strong and positive relationship.

Conference report:



Members gathered at Hope University in Liverpool for the 2022 conference on the afternoon of Thursday, 8th September. It was our first in-person conference since 2019 and there was much anticipation and excitement that we had, at last, the opportunity to see one another again in a wider context than a Zoom meeting. The theme chosen was 'All sorts and conditions', reflecting on the use of the Prayer Book in prisons, with the Armed Services, in ordination training, and overseas in the context of the growing Dutch obsession with Choral Evensong.

It was good to see members gathering and particularly to see such a diverse group coming together, including so many younger members, priests and ordinands and such a large proportion from the North of England. It is many years since the conference has been held in the North of the country.

On arrival at Hope University (originally St Katherine's Church of England Teacher Training College), we found ourselves entering beneath a beautiful arch inscribed with verses of Scripture. Rooms were typical student accommodation, but clean and comfortable. Throughout our time on site, the university staff were unfailingly helpful and kind in making sure we had a comfortable stay.

By the time the conference had gathered to sing Evensong, led by the Revd Nicholas Johnson, Vicar of St John the Baptist, Tuebrook, the news from Balmoral was already concerning and we responded with particular focus to the invocation, 'O Lord, save the Queen'. It was a great pleasure to hear the lessons at this and all our services read by young ordinands. We then went into our first lecture.

Whilst we were listening to the first speaker, the Revd Alan Pierce-Jones, on the use of the Prayer Book in HM Prisons, the news of the Queen's death was being announced by Buckingham Palace. As we emerged for dinner, it was clear that everyone's plans for the next few days would be put on hold. Bishop Humphrey Southern (Ripon College, Cuddesdon) gave a formal announcement of the Queen's death to the conference, concluding with the reminder, 'We are resurrection people' and then, 'The Queen is dead, long live the King!'. Attendees gave three cheers for King Charles III and sang the National Anthem.

It soon became clear that many of the priests at the conference felt they needed to return to their parishes, including one of the speakers. As a consequence, it was decided to reorder the plan for Friday to facilitate this. We

began, as planned, with Morning Prayer in the chapel and heard, most of us for the first time, the invocation, 'O Lord, save the King'. The AGM was brought forward to the start of the day to allow those needing to travel to do so as early as possible. We then settled down to hear Bishop Humphrey Southern speak on the use of the Prayer Book with ordinands and the wider Church. He made the point that the Prayer Book is now one of many expressions of worship and encouraged us to consider the future within that context.

After coffee, we reconvened to hear the Revd Captain Tom Sander speak of the use of the Prayer Book in the Armed Forces and in particular with the young men and women of the Household Cavalry. He, in common with the Revd Alan Pierce-Jones, remarked upon the Prayer Book's ability to speak into the reality of people's lives, making no excuses

Most of us heard, for the first time, the invocation, 'O Lord, save the King'

All sorts and conditions



for the human condition but offering always the hope of restoration and salvation. A teaching theme was beginning to emerge.

Plans for the afternoon were completely revised. Having lost our speaker and with the whole nation struggling to come to terms with the loss of Her Late Majesty, it was decided to take the whole conference to Liverpool Cathedral for their service of Evensong and reflection. It must be admitted that finding enough taxis to get everyone there (and back) was not easy but it was accomplished. The cathedral were delighted to see us and sent particular thanks to the conference for coming to support them as they sought to help the wider community come to terms with the new reality.

Saturday began with Holy Communion in the chapel before we gathered for the final lecture of the conference. Dr Hanna Rijken, Assistant Professor of Theology and Music at the Vrije Universiteit, Amsterdam, gave us a fascinating account of the increasing popularity of Choral Evensong in the Netherlands. It seems there are between 400 and 500 choirs singing Evensong regularly (weekly or perhaps monthly) in Dutch churches and cathedrals. Congregations are strong and growing. The service is generally sung from the BCP in English, and congregations express their joy in worshipping together with such beautiful liturgy and music. Dutch Reformed churches, stripped bare in the sixteenth to seventeenth centuries, now find themselves housing choir stalls once again after so many years. Choir schools are being founded to teach youngsters the skills needed. When asked why they come, congregations reply that it's so good to 'worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness'.



Dr Hanna Rijken

By the time we left on Saturday, the conference had heard a powerful series of testimonies about a renaissance of the BCP in different contexts and indeed countries. The overarching message was that the Prayer Book engages directly with human realities, whether they be those of the prisoner, the soldier or the educated Dutch. All seek an encounter with the grace of God. Bishop Humphrey is certainly right to observe that the Prayer Book is one of many expressions of worship. Yet, growing numbers of Evensong congregations and the structure of daily prayer so valued by our younger people and clergy suggests that the Prayer Book is a growth area for the Church. Who knows, perhaps the Church of England will rediscover in the BCP what Dr Rijken called a 'Fresh Expression' of worship for the twenty-first century.

Jon Riding
Trustee of the Prayer Book Society.

Trinity at the Tower

On Trinity Sunday, over 60 members of the Prayer Book Society joined the regular congregation of the Chapel Royal, HM Tower of London, for a glorious service of Choral Matins conducted by Chaplain, the Revd Canon Roger Hall MBE. The preacher was the Revd Richard Smail, Honorary Priest-in-Charge of Rousham in North Oxfordshire, and Chaplain to the Oxford Branch of the Prayer Book Society. His sermon, which was much appreciated by the congregation, appears below. Following the service, PBS members, visitors and the regular congregation enjoyed refreshments and conversation.

Although the current chapel dates from the reign of Henry VIII, there has been a place of worship on this site for over 1000 years, predating even the White Tower. Generations of the Tower's residents have been baptised, married and buried in the chapel. It is also the final resting place of a number of historical figures, including Sir Thomas More, John Fisher and Thomas Cromwell, as well as three Queens of England: Anne Boleyn, Katherine Howard and Jane Grey.

Worshipping in the Chapel Royal is a profoundly moving experience: the incomparable liturgy of the Prayer Book; the glorious music (the singing of Stainer's 'I saw the Lord' was truly breathtaking on Trinity Sunday) and a deep sense of history. It is a living place of worship and all regular services are conducted according to the Book of Common Prayer. Holy Communion is celebrated every Sunday at 9.15a.m., with Choral Matins following at 11a.m. (Holy Communion on the last Sunday of each month). No services are held during August.

On the first Sunday of the month, the 9.15a.m. Communion is celebrated in the other chapel at the Tower, namely that dedicated to St John the Evangelist. Constructed as part of the White Tower in the late eleventh century, St John's Chapel is recognised as one of the finest

examples of Romanesque architecture in the British Isles. Services at both chapels are free and open to all, and we warmly encourage our members to make a visit.

The heart and the head: a sermon for Trinity Sunday

The Revd Richard Smail

I was a sickly child. When I was five and six, I had several long bouts of tonsillitis. (The tonsils came out when I was seven: I don't know what took the doctors so long.) I also suffered from aches in my joints, which were initially diagnosed as rheumatic fever. They weren't, but I had to spend a lot more time in bed.

But, as the eighteenth-century poet, William Cowper—best known for his pet hares and gentle melancholy—tells us in a poem which has become a hymn: 'God moves in a mysterious way, His wonders to perform'. If I hadn't been ill for all that time, my mother wouldn't have read to me, and I might never have become hooked—as I still am—on poetry. Because it wasn't children's stories or tales of adventure that my mother chose, but wonderful, highly rhythmic, mostly narrative poems—long, dramatic, emotional rollercoasters, which (and this is the vital thing) appealed to the heart as much as to the head. The heart *and* the head.

Do you remember...?

*The wind was a torrent of darkness among
the gusty trees.
The moon was a ghostly galleon tossed upon
cloudy seas.
The road was a ribbon of moonlight over the
purple moor,
And the highwayman came riding—
Riding—riding—
The highwayman came riding, up to the
old inn-door.*

From 'The Highwayman' by
Alfred Noyes

Marvellous! Who could resist such an opening? But it's the interplay of rhythm and meaning, the appeal to the head *and* the heart, which gives those words their power.

And again:

*Then out spake brave Horatius,
The Captain of the gate:
'To every man upon this earth
Death cometh soon or late.
And how can man die better
Than facing fearful odds,
For the ashes of his fathers,
And the temples of his Gods...'*

From 'Horatius' by Thomas
Babington Macaulay

Great poetry fills the head and moves the heart. That's what makes it great. Of course, you *can* have a poem where sound and rhythm overwhelm meaning. Here is part of Dame Edith Sitwell's 'Came the Great Popinjay':

*Came the great Popinjay
Smelling his nosegay:
In cages like grots
The birds sang gavottes.
'Herodiade's flea
Was named sweet Amanda,
She danced like a lady
From here to Uganda.'*

Charming, but ultimately lacking in real meaning: the heart but not the head.

Then sometimes the poet's head rules his heart:

*'My nerves are bad tonight. Yes bad.
Stay with me.
Speak to me. Why do you never
speak? Speak.
What are you thinking of? What
thinking? What?
I never know what you are thinking. Think.'*

From 'The Waste Land' by T. S. Eliot

Surely that's just prose with the lines broken in odd places!

Poetry matters because it's one of the ways men and women have

If religion, our faith, is to be healthy and joyful and life-affirming, as it should be, it too must appeal to the heart as well as the head

tried, and still try, to express what it means to live life in all its fullness. By communicating their magical distillation of experience to those who hear or read poetry, poets invite us to share what it means to be fully human; and to be fully, joyfully, healthily human is to live according to the desires of the heart as well as the wisdom of the head.

If religion, our faith, is to be healthy and joyful and life-affirming, as it should be, it too must appeal to the heart as well as the head. Otherwise faith becomes unhealthy: if the *heart* rules, then religion becomes inward-looking, and worship the endless repetition of songs of such glutinous sentimentality they practically stick to the wall. If the *head* takes charge, worship becomes merely historical re-enactment and sermons turn into theological lectures.

One of Cranmer's great skills in his devising of the BCP was to bring out precisely that *via media*—that middle way—between the tensions of head and heart, which Anglicanism—or certainly traditional Anglicanism—creates so successfully.

Think of the invitation to confession which we heard at the beginning of our service. In it, we are bidden 'to ask those things which are requisite and necessary as well for the body as the soul'. **The body as the soul: the heart** (that is to say) **as the head**.

The same appeal to both heart and head can be seen mostly strikingly in the phrasing of the final blessing. You will have heard these words hundreds—perhaps thousands—of times, but I wonder if familiarity may have blunted the perception of their significance: 'The peace of God, which passeth all understanding, keep your **hearts and minds** in the knowledge and love of

God.' **Hearts and minds... knowledge and love. Knowledge** from the head and **love** from the heart.

So those words are not merely decorative rhetorical doublets of the kind beloved of Cicero and other classical writers, who found emphasis in repetition; they are an acknowledgement—no, an affirmation—that faith—true, deep, living faith—is a matter for the whole person.

So, the genius of traditional Anglicanism is that it was created to tread that middle way, that *via media*, which acknowledges and affirms the need to balance the complementary, but not competing, virtues of emotion from the heart and reason from the head.

A lot of the argy-bargy that constantly threatens to get in the way of what the Church *should* be doing—praising God, feeding the faithful, encouraging the perplexed, teaching (by practising) humility, open-heartedness and love—is caused by one or other faction seeking to claim the moral high ground, to argue that they, and they alone, represent the 'true' Church of Christ. But our Lord, who alone perfectly responded to the call of both heart and head, had firm words for such people:

And there was also a strife among them, which of them should be accounted the greatest. And (Jesus) said unto them, 'The kings of the Gentiles exercise lordship over them... But ye shall not be so: but he that is greatest among you, let him be as the younger and he that is chief, as he that doth serve.'

Loving service—the product of heart and head—should be the hallmark of the faithful Christian, because in service we

turn away from the corrosive obsession with ourselves towards the other, and in love, that other becomes the beloved. Yet the focus is not one of romantic attraction but, as C. S. Lewis put it: 'of love which is not an affectionate feeling, but a steady wish for the loved person's ultimate good as far as it can be obtained'.

A humble Church: Church—that's you and me; a learning and a teaching Church; but above all a Church which roots its identity in loving service, through the wisdom of the head and the desire of the heart.

But where is the ultimate union of the head and the heart to be found? Where else but in the God who, in His great love, created the world and everything in it; that world in which we live and breathe and have our being. For He is love (as St John reminds us); love that is the living, beating heart of God. And yet He is also—as the same St John affirms in that sublimest of Scriptures, the opening of his Gospel—the Word, Wisdom, the Wisdom of the head; what the Greeks called the *Logos*.

However, the miraculous truth, which raises our faith above any other kind of belief, is that the beating heart of God and the directing Wisdom of God are not unapproachable mysteries, because they came among us in human form in the person of Jesus Christ: 'And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only Begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.'

The **truth** of the **head** and the **grace** of the **heart**.

The Revd Richard Smal is Honorary Priest-in-Charge of Rousham in North Oxfordshire, and Chaplain to the Oxford Branch of the Prayer Book Society.

Remembering Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II 1926—2022



Press Association

The officers and members of The Prayer Book Society join countless others in heartfelt thanksgiving to Almighty God for the long and glorious reign of Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

We give thanks for her unwearied devotion to duty; for her steadfast courage; and above all for her living faith in God, which was the foundation of her life and reign.

Whatever her personal or family circumstances, and whatever darkness or disaster may have surrounded her, her family, the nation, or the world, Her Late Majesty kept her eyes firmly fixed on Jesus, and never lost sight of her divine calling to serve. We trust that the Eternal King, whom she so faithfully served on earth, will crown her with everlasting life in the kingdom of His glory.

Like his late mother, His Majesty the King is a man of living faith. A weighty burden of responsibility has been entrusted to him and it is one that he cannot carry without the prayerful support of his people. The Prayer Book takes seriously our Christian duty to pray for those in authority. There can surely be no better way of honouring Her Late Majesty's memory than by praying for her heir.

May our gracious King, like his late mother, keep his eyes fixed on Jesus, the King of kings; may God be his defender and keeper; and may truth and justice, holiness and righteousness, peace and charity abound in his days.

God save the King.

Reflections on the State Funeral Prudence Dailey

I was astonished and deeply honoured when I received a telephone call from the Cabinet Office inviting me to attend the Queen's State Funeral, as one of a group of 200 MBE recipients in this year's Jubilee Birthday Honours List.

On the day, I had to arrive two hours before the start of the service, and took my seat in the nave, along with other recent honourees. In addition to the Order of Service, there was a separate ceremonial booklet listing exactly who would be arriving and when in the numerous processions, from domestic faith leaders to foreign Heads of State and Heads of Government. The layout of the Abbey meant that my view was very restricted; but some of the taller public figures—such as the Prince and Princess of Wales—were easy to spot. Then came Her Late Majesty's coffin, lifted high with the orb, sceptre and crown sparkling magnificently atop—a poignant reminder of the familiar coronation photograph of Queen Elizabeth bearing these emblems of office, which now bookended her reign.

The service—said to have been put together by Her Late Majesty herself during her lifetime—was, of course, splendid, with many prayers from the BCP, lessons from the Authorised Version, lovely music and well-chosen hymns (sung with gusto by the congregation, I was pleased to note). For me, among the most moving elements were the last two lines of 'Love divine, all loves excelling': 'Till we cast our crowns before Thee, Lost in wonder, love, and praise'. Surely, our faithful Queen had looked forward to casting down her earthly crown at the feet of the King of kings.

Pusey House Theological Conference

Descent of the Dove: knowing and loving in Spirit and Truth

The Prayer Book Society was proud to sponsor the third Pusey House Theological Conference (Oxford, 4th–6th July)

Taking its title from Charles Williams's idiosyncratic synopsis of salvation history, *The Descent of the Dove*, the conference explored mankind's responses to the Holy Spirit, from the Old Testament through to the present day. The Principal of Pusey House, the Revd Dr George Westhaver, provided a warm welcome to all and introduced an outstanding list of international speakers.

The richness of the subject matter and the quality of the conference were apparent from the first lectures, in which Jack Levison and N. T. Wright presented the continuity of the theology of *ruach* in the Old Testament and *pneuma* in the New. Susan Gillingham continued this idea with a survey of the high theology and physical manifestations of the Spirit in the Psalms, while questioning attempts to see a trinitarian theology in the Psalter. Issues arising from the relationship of the three Persons of the Godhead were never far away, and the shadow of the great schism fell briefly across the room when the word *filioque* was uttered by Marcus Plested in his introduction to the pneumatology of Macarius the Great.

Speakers followed Charles Williams in seeing a connection between romantic love and a sanctifying Spirit, which 'leads us into all truth' (John 16:13). Others, like Judith Wolfe, took this further in seeing the ability of the Spirit to give and create gifts (like love). This inspiration was seen in Isaiah 11 and 61 and, as a corollary, Psalm 51—'take not thy holy Spirit from us'. Malcolm Guite led us, with his characteristic insight and enthusiasm, through an antiphonal survey of English poets—Herbert, Milton, Hopkins, Eliot—each taking something from his predecessors' representations of the Spirit and leaning on them.

There was a strong ecumenical and international flavour to the conference, with speakers from the Orthodox and Roman Catholic traditions, and our worship one evening was enriched with a service of Orthodox Vespers. North America was particularly well represented in terms of speakers and delegates, many relishing the opportunity to travel again.

The event was rounded off with a typically rich and incisive summary by Rowan Williams, who noted the variety of the papers delivered, as befitted the subtlety and complexity of the subject matter—'the wind bloweth where it listeth' after all.

The Society had a well-visited stand, surrounded by the books and furniture of Dr Pusey's study. I was pleased to hear how important the Prayer Book is to some of the younger conference attendees.



A survey of the high theology and physical manifestations of the Spirit in the Psalms

The event was hospitably accommodated in the neo-gothic precincts of Pusey House and their neighbours, St Cross. However, it was framed liturgically, from beginning to end, with Matins, Evensong and Holy Communion, conducted using the BCP.

I would commend the conference—it will surely return in 2024. In the meantime, if you happen to be in Oxford, you will find a warm welcome for PBS members at Pusey House.

The Revd Christopher Hancock
Trustee of the Prayer Book Society.

Key dates for 2023

National Finals of the Cranmer Awards
25th February at 10.30a.m. at Liverpool Hope University
www.pbs.org.uk/event/national-cranmer-awards-final-2023

Annual Commemoration of the Martyrdom of Thomas Cranmer
21st March in Oxford
Speaker: Professor Alec Ryrie, University of Durham
Booking forms will be enclosed with the Lent 2023 issue of *The Prayer Book Today*.

Peter Toon Memorial Lecture
Wednesday, 10th May at 4p.m.
Pusey House, Oxford
Speaker: Msgr Jeffrey Steenson
Preacher at Evensong: the Revd Dr Ben Sargent

Choral Matins for the Benefactors of the Society & members of the 1662 Circle
20th May at 11a.m. at the Chapel Royal, St James' Palace

PBS Pilgrimage to the Holy Land
31st August – 10th September
www.pbs.org.uk/event/pbs-pilgrimage-to-the-holy-land

Lichfield Branch Relaunch
23rd September at Lichfield Cathedral
12.30p.m. Sung Communion
Celebrant and preacher:
The Bishop of Lichfield
After lunch, an address by Bishop Rowan Williams (Archbishop of Canterbury 2002-2012)
www.pbs.org.uk/event/lichfield-branch-re-launch-celebration



The 2022 Cranmer Awards

The Kilmister Award

The Trustees are delighted to announce that the following members of the Society are to be the first recipients of the Kilmister Award, a brand-new honour for lay people who have made an exceptional voluntary contribution to the work of the Prayer Book Society: Jonathan Baldwin (Chester); George and Joanna Comer (Rochester); Rosemary Hall (Newcastle); Merriel Halsall-Williams (Lichfield); Arthur Moss (Carlisle); and Sally Tipping (Exeter).

The Kilmister Award was established this year in memory of the Society's founder, the late C. A. Anthony Kilmister OBE. In total, 50 Awards will be presented over the next ten years.

Bradley Smith says, 'I am delighted that those named above are to be the first recipients of the Kilmister Award. Their dedicated service has been recognised by those who nominated them, and the exceptional character of their contributions has been judged by the Trustees to be worthy of the Award. I warmly congratulate them all, and sincerely thank them for their ongoing dedication to our common Society.'

The Wells Cathedral Chorister Trust

The Wells Cathedral Chorister Trust recently became a Corporate Member of the PBS. It exists to help young singers from any background to contribute to a cathedral tradition that has endured for more than 1000 years, to train in a world-class musical environment, and to enjoy a unique education at Wells Cathedral School. The Trust has established an endowment fund to provide bursaries for talented children, in order to give the opportunity for choral training to a wider group of young people.

For more information and to find out how you might be able to help, please visit the website: www.wcct.co.uk.

The Edith Matthias Prayer Book Trust

The Edith Matthias Prayer Book Trust Fund was established to enable cash-strapped parishes and other institutions in the Church of England to obtain Prayer Books in order to maintain or re-introduce BCP worship. Understandably, calls upon the Fund have been limited during the period of the pandemic. As this situation continues to improve, members and churches are reminded that the Fund stands ready to make discretionary grants. Application forms are available from Copyhold Farm.

Comings and goings

Former Trustee, **John Scrivener**, has stepped down after twenty years as editor of the Society's journal, *Faith & Worship*. The final issue under John's distinguished editorial hand was a special anthology of articles from the early days of the Society until the present day, which members should have received in the August mailing. John has been succeeded by new joint editors, **the Revd Dr Michael Brydon**, Chaplain to the Bishop of Sodor and Man, and **the Revd Jonathan Beswick**, Vicar of St Peter's, London Docks. Their first issue is enclosed with this mailing. Our sincere thanks go to John for his long and dedicated service, and we wish his successors well in their new roles.

The Revd Dr Daniel Newman, who has served as a Trustee since 2016, has recently begun a new chapter in his ministry in the United States of America. Daniel has made a great contribution to the Society's life and witness, and his fellow Trustees are delighted to report that he will continue to serve on the Board, accessing meetings remotely, until his term of office comes to an end in 2023. We assure Daniel and his family of our prayers and warmest good wishes.

In June, we welcomed **Sarah Caffrey** to the administrative team at Copyhold Farm. Sarah works from the office three mornings a week, registering applications for membership, handling queries and processing orders. She is pictured here with her faithful assistant, Betsy, who also enjoys her visits to Copyhold Farm.

Following Belinda Clarke's retirement after twenty-five years' service to the Society, **Gemma Thatcher** has taken on the role of Finance Administrator. Gemma has worked for the PBS since 2018 and is well known to members. We are delighted that she has taken on this new responsibility. Gemma is pictured here with her daughter, Maya, following her baptism (Prayer Book, of course) at Kidmore End Church, Reading.

Finally, congratulations to two Trustees, **Iain Milne** and **Stephen Edmonds**, who both have become fathers for the first time. Mums and new-borns are thriving.



Sarah Caffrey



Gemma Thatcher

Keep up to date

For all latest news and resources from the PBS visit

www.pbs.org.uk

New Corporate Members

We are delighted to report that the Prayer Book Society has gained a further thirteen Corporate Members since the last issue of this journal was published! Between them, they represent thirteen different Dioceses and a range of Church traditions. Some serve small rural communities; others are found in large towns and cities. They are united by their regular use of the Book of Common Prayer, and we warmly welcome them all.

The mid-Sussex hamlet of Highbrook is set in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. It has neither a shop nor a pub, All Saints' Parish Church and the village hall being the only public buildings. There is great local affection and support for the church, where Prayer Book services are held every Sunday, including Matins, Holy Communion and Evensong.

All Saints', Heaton Norris, can be found in a very different setting. Built in Gothic Revival style, All Saints' was erected to serve the terraced streets that rose in the area in the late 1800s. Substantially reordered in 1991 to create a hall apart from the main worship space, it is widely used by the local

community. Services are held on Sundays at 11.30a.m., after which a community lunch is served in the hall. All are then invited to stay for Evensong.

The tiny church of All Saints', Waterden is as different again. Isolated, even by the standards of rural North Norfolk, the village of Waterden disappeared in late mediaeval times, leaving the building quite alone in the fields. There being no power supply, All Saints' offers monthly services of Evensong from April (once the light is good enough) through to and including September.

Bodley's magnificent Holy Trinity, Prince Consort Road, is a church of some architectural distinction. It serves not only the resident population of South Kensington, but also those who work or study at the colleges and institutions nearby, as well as visitors to the Royal Albert Hall, museums and local parks. Sunday morning services alternate between Matins, sung by a quartet of young professional singers, and Holy Communion.

Oxford's Pusey House was opened in 1884 as a memorial to Edward Bouverie Pusey (1800–1882), Regius

Professor of Hebrew and Canon of Christ Church, who was for 40 years a figurehead of the Oxford Movement and its *de facto* leader after Newman's conversion in 1845. According to its founding documents, the house exists to promote theological study and holiness of life, and to provide spiritual counsel and comfort to members of the university. At Pusey House, the Prayer Book orders the worship and prayer life of a lively and growing community of students and young people.

The churches of St Andrew and St Mark stand at the heart of the diverse community of Surbiton in the Diocese of Southwark. They pride themselves on offering the best of the Church of England's rich tradition: an excellent choir, thoughtful sermons and beautiful worship. St Andrew's is currently closed whilst major building works are carried out. Meanwhile, worship continues at St Mark's, where Prayer Book services are offered on Sundays at 8a.m. and Fridays at 8.30a.m.

By the middle of the eighteenth century, the ancient church of St Columba, Topcliffe, North Yorkshire, was in a poor state of repair. The tower

Introducing our new Cosin Scholar

The Revd Luke Aylen, a PhD research student and a self-supporting curate at St Peter and St James' Church in Hereford city centre, has been awarded the Prayer Book Society's John Cosin Scholarship.

The scholarship encourages postgraduate research in areas of study relating directly to the Book of Common Prayer, and is worth £2,000 a year, renewable for up to three years.

Luke studied at the University of Aberdeen, the London School of Theology, and Trinity College Bristol. He is working on a PhD Thesis entitled, 'Examining the Use and Misuse of Vocation Theology in the Church of

England: A Theological and Practical Study of Christian Call Drawing on the Stories of Members of Religious Communities'.

Says Luke, 'The language of calling is used fairly liberally in the Church of England today, not only in relation to "encouraging" clerical vocations but also in the anti-clericalism movements that seek to bring greater dignity to the vital significance of the laity and employments beyond ecclesiastical ministry. The New Testament and early formularies of the Church of England (the BCP, Thirty-Nine Articles, and Ordinal) draw on call language more tentatively, aware of the weighty



Photo credit: Hereford Diocese

in particular was at serious risk of falling down, as was recorded by the churchwarden at the time: (it is) 'in a very shatter'd and ruinous condition; partickerlerly, up as high as the second floor it being much Bulg'd and Crack'd... so that when the bells are rung... one may discover the... whole steeple to spring and play very much'. In 1855, the Revd Henry Hawkins pulled down and rebuilt the whole church, including the tower. Today the church thrives with regular services of Matins, Holy Communion and Evensong.

Built in the fifteenth-century perpendicular style, St Michael's, South Shields in the Diocese of Durham was consecrated in 1882. Firmly rooted in the Catholic tradition of the Church of England, St Michael's is proud to offer regular Prayer Book services on Sundays and Thursdays alongside contemporary forms of Eucharistic worship.

The parish of Middleton in the Diocese of Chichester is very ancient. The present church of St Nicholas was built in 1847 on a plot of land safely away from the beach, where the former church, split apart by a disastrous storm in 1837, could still be seen. The old church was finally washed away to sea in the 1840s. Under the recent leadership of the Revd Dominik

Chmielewski, St Nicholas' congregation has grown considerably; Prayer Book services, which had previously featured very little, were introduced and now attract growing numbers. Every child baptised at St Nicholas, Middleton-on-Sea, receives a special gift edition of the BCP.

The church of St Peter, Bushey Heath, Hertfordshire, was originally a chapel of ease within the parish of St James', Bushey. St Peter's became a parish in its own right in 1889, shortly after which a new chancel, rather richer in style than the rest of the building, was added. Dominated by a large east window of five lights, the chancel was the only part of the church to be retained in George Fellowes Prynne's twentieth-century rebuild. A church in the Catholic tradition, BCP Holy Communion is celebrated at St Peter's every Sunday at 8a.m., while the principal Sung Communion service alternates between the Prayer Book and Common Worship. St Peter's was for many years the late Tony Kilmister's regular place of worship.

Pembury Old Church is one of two churches in the parish of Pembury: the 'Upper Church' is situated in the centre of the village, whereas the 'Old Church' is surrounded by countryside. It is the

Continued page 16



All Saints', Waterden



Holy Trinity, Prince Consort Rd



St Columba, Topcliffe

implications of asserting something as the call of God.

'My thesis argues that a distinctive Anglican theology of calling emerges from the historic formularies: one ordered and lawful, that presents the Christian as a social person and their life of good works as public. Comparing these with call language in the Common Worship suite of liturgy and recent publications by the Church of England's Faith and Order Commission, I suggest there has potentially been some level of "departure" from the traditional doctrine of the Church of England, contrary to Canon B2.'

Luke's thesis is being completed part-time and is due to be submitted in the spring of 2025.

The former freelance video director and editor says, 'I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the members of the Prayer Book Society for selecting me as a recipient of the John Cosin Scholarship. The money will play a vital role in supporting me to do this research. I look forward to contributing with some of the insights from my research in due course.'

The Chairman of the awarding panel, the Revd Dr Daniel Newman, PBS Trustee, adds, 'Luke is a highly commended applicant, and we are delighted to award this scholarship to support research evaluating the Church's current understanding of an important area of its life in light of the Book of Common Prayer. We look

forward to his contribution to one of our events or publications.'

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 Thomas Cranmer's death, Cosin held the post of Vice-Chancellor of Cambridge University, before becoming Bishop of Durham from 1660 to 1672.

New Corporate Members

Continued from page 15

Old Church which has become our newest Corporate Member in the Diocese of Rochester. Prayer Book worship is offered at Pembury Old Church on the first and second Sundays of each month at 11.30a.m. The regular pattern includes one BCP Communion and one Matins; contemporary forms are used on other Sundays.

St Nicholas', Nicholforest, is our first Corporate Member in the Diocese of Carlisle. The church is located in a semi-wooded area about half a mile from the village. This charming country church of rock-faced sandstone was rebuilt and enlarged by the addition of a chancel in 1866. Gothic in style, it contains a fine collection of stained glass by John Scott. Prayer Book services are held at St Nicholas' on the first three Sundays of each month, with one Matins, one Holy Communion and one Evensong.

Last, but by no means least, is St George's, Great Bromley, in the Diocese of Chelmsford. Sometimes called the Cathedral of the Tendring Hundred, St George's is a fine

example of the gothic architecture of the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries. Key features include a splendid tower and a magnificent double hammerbeam roof spanning the nave. A service is held every Sunday, including BCP Holy Communion at 10.30a.m. on the first Sunday of each month, and Evensong on the third Sunday.

Any church, chapel or cathedral where there exists substantial commitment to Prayer Book worship, either exclusively or as part of a mixed pattern of worship, is invited to join the PBS as a Corporate Member. Our directory of member churches is growing. Will yours be the next one to sign up?

For further information about the benefits of Corporate Membership, please visit the website www.pbs.org.uk or get in touch with Copyhold Farm. We would be delighted to hear from you.

News from the Branches

Chichester

The first event in a busy 2022 was a joint Candlemas celebration for the Corporate Member churches of Crowhurst in East Sussex and Barnham in West Sussex. Geography means that it takes over two hours to drive from Battle in the 'far east' to Chichester in the west. The pilgrims were warmly welcomed to Barnham for Prayer Book worship, a Candlemas procession, lunch and tea.

The annual Choral Communion at Chichester Cathedral was celebrated on 19th February when the Dean, the Very Revd Stephen Waine, celebrated, and our Branch Administrator, the Very Revd Lee Duckett, Dean of Battle, preached. After the service, members enjoyed a hot lunch in the historic Sherborne Room at the Bishop's Palace. Canon David Nason gave an excellent after-lunch talk, which was both thoughtful and humorous in equal measure.

On 11th June, a summer tea was held in the delightful setting of Lordington House, by kind invitation of John and Audrey Hamilton. After a splendid tea, members repaired to the small downland church of St Peter, Racton, for Evensong, conducted by parish Reader, Edward Mynors. The church was almost full, a fine French Alexandre harmonium accompanying the joyful singing of the hymns and Canticles.

Later in June, on the Sunday closest to St Peter's Day, members in Chichester West were invited to a Patronal Festival Evensong at Terwick. The beautiful little church, which featured on the front cover of a May issue of Country Life, was full to bursting with local parishioners and PBS members for a very special service, followed by delicious refreshments in the churchyard. A fine sermon by the Very Revd Nicholas Frayling, former Dean of Chichester, included words in praise of our precious Prayer Book heritage.

Continued page 20



St Peter's Racton

Correspondence

Dear Editor,

It is often overlooked that the Prayer Book, which our Society has for 50 years been stoutly defending, is a repository of the most lucid communications by humans with their Creator. For that reason, I have found it essential to take a Prayer Book with me wherever I have found myself to be—1962 Glasgow (where I attended an Episcopal church in Govan); 1963 aboard an oil tanker collecting crude oil at the head of the Persian Gulf and discharging it in Aden for refining; 1969–70 as Civil Engineer on the Invergordon Deep Water Berth, where Sunday was a working day; 1972–75 with the Public Works Department in Sandakan, Sabah (formerly North Borneo); Bahrein during 1975–76 and Ilorin, Nigeria between 1977 and 1978.

I was confirmed by Christopher Chavasse, Bishop of Rochester, at the age of fifteen in 1957. He was the twin brother of the celebrated WWI double VC, Noel. Christopher was awarded the Military Cross and the Croix de Guerre and the brothers had competed in the 1908 Olympics. Christopher was known as the Flying Curate when playing for

St Helens Rugby League Club. It must have been unbearable for him to lose a leg in a boating accident later in life.

At my confirmation, my rector, Ernest Pratt of St Mary's Church, Stone, Kent, presented me with a booklet entitled 'Holy Communion' by Bishop Walsham How. It is still in my possession, but has been superseded by a small (comprehensive) edition of the Prayer Book, which was printed by Oxford University Press in 1969. This has sustained me in all my overseas postings and accompanied me on my many visits to family in New Zealand since 2002.

Its advantage over the standard small Church Edition is that it fits into a trouser pocket in a tropical climate and contains all I have ever needed in liturgy. (Incidentally, the Prayers in Time of Plague and in Time of War have recently been committed to memory.)

Yours sincerely,
Roger Seaman

Pilgrimage to the Holy Land



Prayer Book Society Pilgrimage to the Holy Land
with Bishop Michael Langrish
31st August — 10th September 2023

See www.pbs.org.uk/event/pbs-pilgrimage-to-the-holy-land

Not for ease: the spiritu

*Father hear the prayer we offer:
not for ease that prayer shall be...*

Love Maria Whitcomb Willis (1824–1908)

This article is animated by two common stereotypes of traditional worship. First, there is a recognition of its beautiful language; this is frequently offered as a concession before setting out a preference for revisions. Among churchgoers, there are those who enjoy Sunday breakfast before they set out, and those who wait until they return to an awakening household. The psalmist characterised such types as the loud cymbal and the well-tuned cymbal. Each has its respective hymnody with contrasting demands on devotion and lifestyle. And the second stereotype is a complaint of nostalgia and medievalism. The Prayer Book provides for daily or more frequent attendance, and for many more rites and conditions than are in modern Anglican practice regarded as obligations.

The grudging concession of beauty as an attribute of the language that draws on that of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries implies the suggestion that it is an optional extra, like icing on the cake or chocolate on your cappuccino. But language is integral to the intention of the liturgy, and its function is not to soothe or entertain but to aggravate; not to ease but to unsettle. Indeed, rendering it into simple English has the effect of weakening the depth of belief and commitment: for example, indifferently to impartially, visible and invisible to seen and unseen, property to nature. Well-intentioned revisers of these terms tend to ‘cloke and dissemble’ meanings that put strain on belief and behaviour and diminish the challenge to devotees. The Prayer Book in its 1662 version is elegant and precise for public use. However, while it is easy on the ear, it makes no claim to be soothing on the soul.

By the end of the eighteenth century, England was ripe for the rehabilitation of the Christian faith, its normative beliefs and regular practice. At the intellectual level, the so-called Age of Enlightenment had taken a toll that can be discerned in forms of modern liturgical practice, in the loss of a heavenward aspiration in architecture and of the demands of Christian living at the personal level. The relatively few churches that were built in the eighteenth century introduced the pagan Greek style, the Gothic having been deliberately discarded by Wren after the Great Fire, in the quest for an English style. In 1789, revolution had come within twenty-one miles of Dover beach. The English

response was slow but in 1818, the government voted for the Church Building Act, with a million pounds to provide a free place in church for every adult. Pew rents had been widely exclusive of the poor but selective of the affluent classes, who desired to hear eloquent but unchallenging sermons.

However, the maintenance of true religion and virtue would require more than a government initiative. It remained for Augustus Pugin (1812–52), a convert to the Church of Rome, to perceive the spiritual integrity of Gothic and to articulate this as a systematic rejoinder to the legacy of the eighteenth century. In his own compelling drawings in *Contrasts* (1836), he made the case by setting an illustration of the masonry and craft of St Mary Redcliffe against the pretension of modernity of All Souls Langham Place. Pugin’s French ancestry and his conversion to Roman Catholicism in 1835 notwithstanding, he held to the notion of a distinctly English style of ecclesiastical architecture. His forthright apology pointed to the morality of Gothic against the deceits of the debased neoclassical style. In particular, his argument appealed to truth and honesty. The vaults, the pointed windows and the spire point our aspirations heavenward. The flat ceiling, sometimes painted or with decorative plasterwork, as in the baroque or the London churches of Wren, gives the sense that all that is necessary for devotion may be confined within the box—a notion that persists in several Christian attitudes in the current technological age.

It was not for ease that John Keble and the Tractarians conducted their mission in Prayer Book piety and discipline. Their provisions serve generations who know they are not in control of their own destiny, and who look upward to Almighty God in the quest for goodness and survival. This expression recurs in the Collects: ‘ALMIGHTY God, who seest that we have no power of ourselves to help ourselves’; ‘forasmuch as without thee we are not able to please thee’. These words are not merely poetic but confrontational of the uncomfortable truths of which many Christian prayers and hymns are in denial, whether by deliberate or accidental omission.

We may classify six types of prayer: petitions address the needs and intentions of the faithful, while intercessions do the same for fellow beings and the world. Thanksgiving acknowledges blessing experienced or witnessed by the faithful, and praise is a response to the majesty of

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the well-tuned cymbal*

ality of the Prayer Book

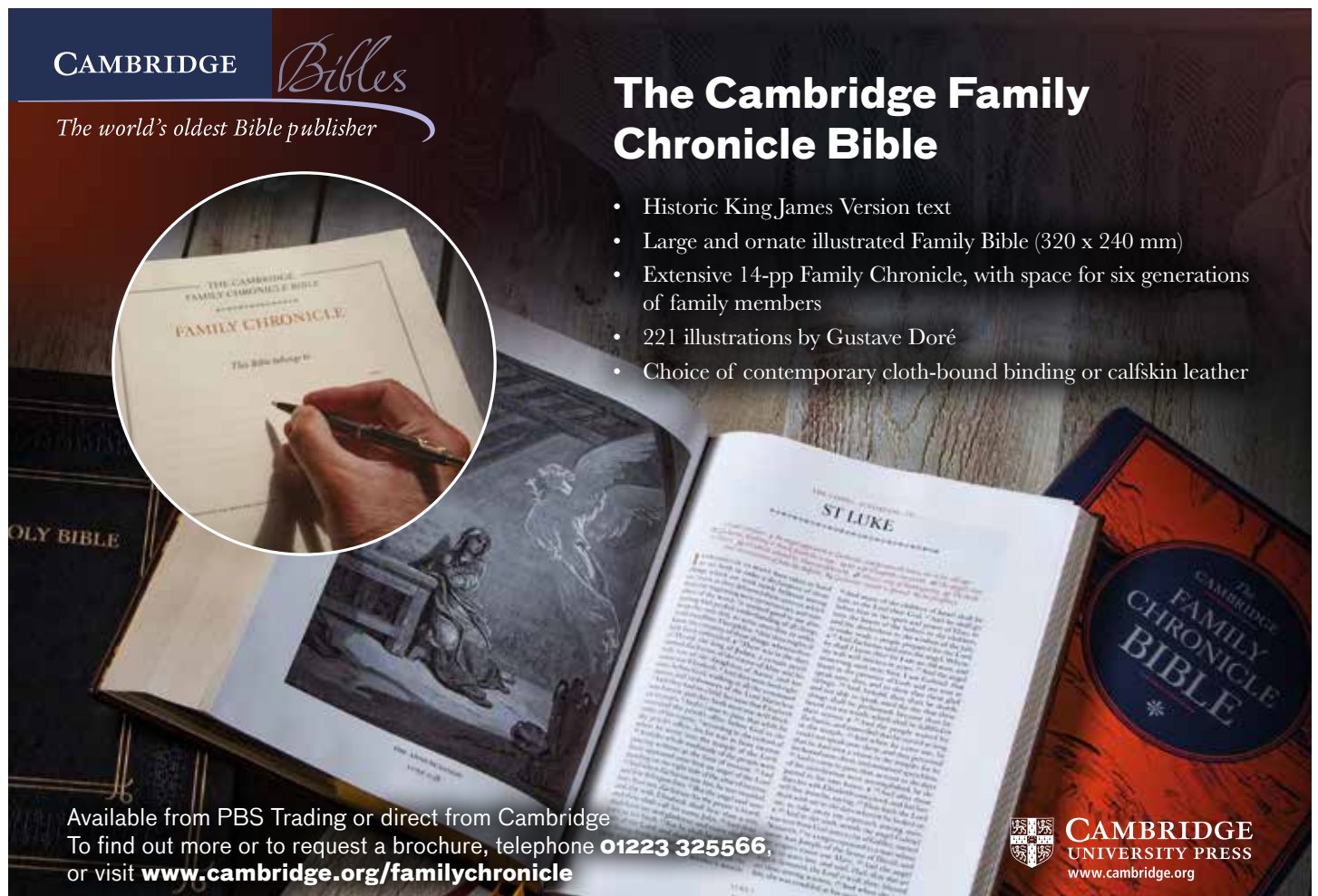
God expressed often in abstract terms. Confession is an acknowledgement of personal shortcomings in the Christian life, and lamentation is a collective reflection for a part in history. Of these, lamentation is perhaps the rarest to be heard and the most difficult to engage in, even though the Church has a place for it at this time, for example in respect of several lapses in safeguarding children. The type which allows most ease by demanding the least personal adjustment is surely praise, and yet it is the most popular and has some of the most captivating of the modern tunes.

It is the principle of personal adjustment that is at the heart of Prayer Book spirituality. Its texts address the interior soul and look for an outcome in human behaviour: 'give unto us the increase of faith, hope and charity; and, that we may obtain that which thou dost promise, make us to love that which thou dost command'; 'STIR up, we beseech thee, O Lord, the wills of thy faithful people; that they, plenteously bringing forth the fruits of good works, may of thee be plenteously rewarded'; 'Keep, we beseech thee, O Lord, thy

Church with thy perpetual mercy; and, because without thee the frailty of man cannot but fall, keep us ever by thy help from all things hurtful, and lead us to all things profitable to our salvation'; 'LORD, we beseech thee to keep thy household the Church in continual godliness; that through thy protection it may be free from all adversities, and devoutly given to serve thee in good works'.

In a frequently misunderstood clause, St Augustine urges the faithful to love God and do as they will. This is not a licence for ill-discipline but a plea to adopt such a spiritual disposition that only good works will ensue. Neither faith alone nor a life of good work is the way to justification. This is where the Prayer Book gets it right.

Professor Roger Homan
Vice-President of the PBS.




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Exeter

The first annual meeting of the Branch since the pandemic was held on 18th June in Bovey Tracey, when Mrs Esme Heath was presented with a bouquet of flowers and a book of Devon, in recognition of her many years of service as Branch Secretary and also Membership Secretary. This follows her resignation from the Branch pending a move from Devon.

Following receipt of reports on the truncated activities of the Branch due to the lockdowns, the guest speaker was Richard Lee, Secretary of the Historical Novelists' Association. The afternoon concluded with Evening Prayer in St John's Church.

The 50th anniversary of the Prayer Book Society was commemorated on 10th July, with Sung Matins in St James's Church Avonwick, led by Reader, Keith Butler, with the sermon given by the Branch Chairman, Prebendary Paul Hancock. This was followed by refreshments in the church.

On Sunday, 18th September, the 50th anniversary of the Society was commemorated during Evensong at 4p.m. in Exeter Cathedral, when the preacher was the Dean, the Very Revd Jonathan Greener. Choral Evensong was sung by 'Chorus Ecclesiae' from Kingsbridge in St James's Church Avonwick on Sunday, 25th September at 6p.m.

A Quiet Day was held on Thursday, 13th October in Black Hall, Avonwick (by kind permission of Mrs Marigold Seager-Berry) from 10a.m. to 3.30p.m. The theme was 'Words to inspire faith: the Psalms', led by the Branch Chairman.

During the pandemic lockdowns, members received a number of homilies by the Chairman, to help overcome the difficulties the situation produced, especially across a county as large as Devon.

The congregation of St James's Church Avonwick had a surprise when the Archbishop of Calgary, Canada and his wife joined them for Holy Communion on 24th July. Archbishop Greg Kerr-Wilson was on holiday before the Lambeth Conference. Being in holiday dress, no one realised who he was until after the service. Hence, on welcoming them to the service, it was explained to them that it would be the BCP order and that a booklet with an easier-to-follow setting of the service would be helpful. Needless to say, they were able to take a full part! Archbishop Greg is also the Metropolitan of the Ecclesiastical Province of Rupert's Island, which includes the Arctic, the North, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba and Ontario from west to east.

News from t

Chichester (continued from page 16)

On the same evening, members in Chichester East attended Choral Evensong at St Peter's, Bexhill, as part of the parish's 1250th anniversary celebrations. St Peter's is renowned for its cathedral-standard choir, and is one of only a few churches in the Diocese to offer a full Choral Evensong every Sunday. The worship is both reverent and uplifting.

During the first six months of the year, another five Chichester parishes joined the Society, making a current total of nineteen Corporate Members in the Diocese; several others are currently considering membership.

Our members have enthusiastically supported PBS services across the Diocese and beyond. We were honoured to be invited by our friends in Rochester to attend an Ascension Day service in Groombridge, just over the diocesan boundary, and Branch members regularly attend the new *Evensong at Olav's* initiative at St Olav's Christian Bookshop in Chichester. We now look forward to our plans for the second half of the year, including the Annual Meeting of Members in Lewes, Evensong at Coombes Parish Church, and the Cranmer Awards Heats at St Mary's, Battle.

Hereford

A full church celebrated the work of the Revd Sir Henry Williams Baker and his colleagues in creating *Hymns Ancient and Modern* in 1861, in All Saints' Monkland, Hereford in July. It was wonderful to have the church, on both the Saturday and the Sunday, full of an enthusiastic congregation of hymn-singers, singing in four-part harmony. PBS members John and Naomi King organised this event. Their aim was to rekindle and promote authentic singing of the great hymns in parish churches.

There was a morning of traditional hymn-singing, a series of lectures, a sung Prayer Book Communion and a full-sung Victorian Choral Evensong. The eager congregation shared a most splendid commemoration of *Hymns Ancient and Modern* (first edition 1861 and 1868 Supplement).



The Revd Sir Henry Williams Baker

The Branches

Ireland

The Ireland Branch covers Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland, which have a combined population of just over 7,000,000 and an area of 32,593 square miles. Anglicanism is represented by the Church of Ireland and also covers the whole island; it has a membership of 375,400 in twelve Dioceses and United Dioceses.

Owen Wilson, a PBS member resident in Co. Fermanagh, contacted Copyhold Farm offering to assist with the Branch (which had been inactive for a number of years). The result was that, on the recommendation of Prudence Dailey, the PBS Board of Trustees appointed Owen as the Branch Administrator. The activities of the Branch, in common with other PBS Branches, have been limited by COVID restrictions. Nevertheless, there have been some developments, including:

- a series of advertisements in the monthly *Church of Ireland Gazette* under the strapline, 'Do you love traditional worship?'. These have raised the Society's profile in the CofI and resulted in a modest increase in members (the first for a number of years). It is planned to have a further series of advertisements in the *Gazette* under the new strapline, 'The Classical Prayer Book Tradition';
- John Service (PBS Churches & Clergy Co-ordinator), with assistance from Owen, making initial contact with the Church of Ireland Theological Institute, Dublin (the CofI's sole ministerial training faculty), to discuss presenting each student with a pack containing the BCP, a copy of 'Using The Book of Common Prayer', and other helpful material about understanding and use of the Prayer Book (as the Society does for new ordinands in England);
- the 'Church of Ireland Directory' agreeing to include an entry about the PBS (including Branch contact details) in their annual publication, beginning this year;
- Owen starting up a newsletter to Branch members;
- Dr Kenneth Ferguson (a Branch member resident in Dublin), with encouragement from Prudence Dailey and Owen, submitting an article entitled 'The early history of the Book of Common Prayer in Ireland, 1551–1647', which was published in *Faith & Worship* (Lent 2021). This is a detailed and fascinating account of the development and use of the BCP in Ireland during the Tudor and Stuart periods.

In the future, it is planned to hold events/meetings in areas where there are 'clusters' of members. In the longer term, it is envisaged that Branches would be established in individual CofI Dioceses, where there are sufficient active members for this to be feasible.

Liverpool

As reported in the Lent 2022 issue of *The Prayer Book Today*, the Revd Canon Dr Philip Anderson, Precentor of Liverpool Cathedral, and the Revd Nicholas Johnson, Vicar of St John the Baptist Tuebrook, have been appointed as joint co-ordinators of the Liverpool Branch of the Prayer Book Society.

The Branch was relaunched on Saturday, 6th August, the Feast of the Transfiguration, with Evensong at St John's, followed by refreshments and a successful meeting, during which members were invited to share their ideas for future Branch activity. This moving sermon was preached by Canon Anderson at Evensong:

'Wherefore I will not be negligent to put you always in remembrance of these things, though ye know them, and be established in the present truth (2 Peter 1:12).

'A little while ago, a man came to the Prayer Book Communion service held in the cathedral after Evensong on a Sunday afternoon. He had come some distance. Afterwards, he hung back as the congregation dispersed. He said he wasn't sure he believed in God, but his ex-wife had just died, he was estranged from her, and he needed to come somewhere where he could be connected with the love that had once bound them together, and clearly still did.

'So, he had chosen to come to a space where he felt the words used would be strong enough to carry him, and where God's visible Word, in the Sacrament, would be offered with quiet wonder. He had sought out the language and the doctrine of the Prayer Book, wanting to believe. Like so many



The Revd Nicholas Johnson, Vicar of St John the Baptist Tuebrook

people today, his desire to know God was struggling to find a mooring, but here was a safe harbour. He rested on the faith of the saints through many generations before us, in the gathering of verses from across the Holy Scripture that is the liturgy, a compendium that gives voice to what the Church believes to be the essential story—the story of the redemption of the world by our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

‘Today, the Feast of the Transfiguration marks an event in history of tremendous clarity, so much so that St Peter, years later, refers to it, so that it is one of the few events in the life of Christ, apart from His Passion and Resurrection, mentioned both in the Gospels and in the other writings of the New Testament. The disciples see eternity opening around the person of their Teacher. The figures of Elijah and Moses are on either side of Christ in glory, and the light that flows from Him is that depicted in icons with golden paint; the light that is God’s goodness, truth, and love.

‘I was eighteen when I first really encountered the Prayer Book, when I went away to university. It was used in the college chapel for Evening Prayer—a few of us met to hear the Bible, pray the Canticles, lift before God the needs of the world. I hadn’t been raised with the traditional liturgy of the Church of England. When I was confirmed, I was given a copy of the Alternative Services Book, and a few years later it was redundant, obsolete, replaced.

‘I was nineteen when I joined the Prayer Book Society and, in part, perhaps like many members earlier in the Society’s history, my joining was motivated by a sense of loss—a new chaplain came and told the little flock that more people would come and join us at Evening Prayer if we didn’t use such old-fashioned language. I’d just learned to love it, for its strangeness, its grandeur, its power to slow me down and make me think; its note of the majesty of a God worth devoting one’s life to. I’m pleased to say that, in the end, the chaplain did see sense and we returned to 1662.

‘To be a Christian in England in 2022 is to be among a minority for the first time in centuries. Let’s not pretend that we are persecuted, but it isn’t always easy or comfortable to confess that Christ is Lord. So, what are we to do? Not hide in the past, but have faith in God. But the Prayer Book speaks of God with seriousness and confidence. Its simplicity is deliberate—Cranmer meant for his words to be memorable, so that the worship of the English people was truly popular, not clerical or monastic. Like the man I mentioned, experiencing grief, the Prayer Book is for many the old friend they knew they had—not just beautiful, but true, compassionate in its statement of our frailty, and straightforward about our need for God.

‘People can pick it up and are given a way of consecrating each day to God. It is a way of navigating a great library of Scripture, so that like the disciples, who had taken the words of Moses and Elijah to heart since childhood, we find ourselves preparing for eternity, the Word having taken root in us. Elijah and Moses were those rarest of Old Testament characters—people who met God and survived

the encounter with His holiness. Elijah covered his face. But in Christ, God and man, the divine fire lightens our darkness and saves us from the shadows. He trains us to stand as children of God, by the gift of the Spirit within. The Prayer Book remains one of the most precious fruits of the spiritual life of our Church, and one of the most important supports for all who seek God.

‘Today is the beginning of a new chapter for the Prayer Book Society in Liverpool. We ask God to give us wisdom and courage as we share the treasure we have received. Amen.’

To be a Christian in England in 2022 is to be among a minority for the first time in centuries. Let’s not pretend that we are persecuted, but it isn’t always easy or comfortable to confess that Christ is Lord. So, what are we to do? Not hide in the past, but have faith in God

Manchester

Back in February 2021, the Prayer Book Society received this email from Joshua Gaskell, then a 28-year-old ordinand from the Diocese of Manchester:

I have been thinking of joining the Society for a few years now as I’ve always had a hearty passion for the BCP and its ability to nourish and to guide the soul. I finally took the jump earlier this month to support more Prayer Book learning, content and awareness in theological training in the Church of England. I’m currently a first-year ordinand at St Mellitus College, North West. For a few years previously, I have been a Sunday School teacher and churchwarden at my former parish in the sleepy terraced streets of post-industrial South Manchester. A few friends and I reintroduced a small Matins and Evensong service on Sundays, as well as several low-key Daily Office services midweek, which have grown from strength to strength in the last few years (prior to lockdown putting the damper on things!).

However, with this in mind, I noticed that there is no central communication point for the Manchester Diocese in your PBS correspondence page. I was thinking that it might be good to get something started.

Almost a year later, with all COVID restrictions lifted, the Trustees formally appointed Josh as Manchester Branch Co-ordinator. Tasked with getting some form of local PBS activity up and running, he immediately began to enthuse



The Bishop of Manchester and others celebrating the relaunch of the Manchester Branch

local parishioners, existing PBS members, and senior churchmen around the Diocese; and on 23rd July, the Branch was formally relaunched with a splendid celebration in Josh's home parish of All Saints' Heaton Norris, Stockport. The occasion was marked by a glorious service of sung Matins, led by the Branch's new chaplain, Fr Hugh Bearn of St Anne's Tottington, accompanied by the superb efforts of the choir at All Saints' Heaton Norris. The Rt Revd Dr David Walker, Bishop of Manchester, preached on the glory of Scripture and how deeply enriched the pages of the Prayer Book are with it. Using the words of the first reading from Joshua 1:1–9, Bishop David heartily encouraged the congregation to 'Be strong and of a good courage', for the Lord our God is with His people, and promises to be so unto the ends of the earth.

The congregation themselves were of hearty voice, as All Saints' was bathed in rapturous singing of rousing hymns, Canticles and responses. The chosen Psalm for the service was 121.

Following the service, the hospitable congregation of All Saints' provided a sumptuous buffet lunch, which was washed down nicely by a wine reception. Members attended from across the North West, with Manchester, Chester, Liverpool and Blackburn Dioceses being very well represented, and some coming as far as 'down south'! It was encouraging to see a great deal of non-PBS members in attendance, with many remarking how wonderful the Society is, and having a keen interest to join. The Bishop of Manchester ceremoniously cut the mammoth 'Manchester tart' to great applause.

A good day was had by all, with many looking forward to the next service and event. For enquiries regarding future events, please email manchesterpbs@gmail.com to be added to the mailing list. Joshua Gaskell is of course the Manchester Diocese Branch Co-ordinator, telephone number 07523179434.

The Chairman of the Prayer Book Society, Bradley Smith adds:

All Saints' is reputed for its hospitality and, as one local lady remarked to me, 'no one is a stranger in this church'. How right she was. People of all ages and backgrounds, united by the worship they had offered in church, now feasted together; old friendships were renewed; new friendships were made.

The Mothers' Union and the Church Lads' and Church Girls' Brigade had set up exhibitions, as had the PBS. Many of the guests left with copies of our magazines and other literature in their hands. Plenty of fruitful conversations were had, and it was wonderful to hear much enthusiasm for the Prayer Book tradition, its words as fresh and clear and inspiring as they were in 1662.

What a privilege it was for me to attend this great celebration to mark a new chapter in the life of the Prayer Book Society in the Diocese of Manchester. I went on my way rejoicing. Josh is a natural leader; his energy and enthusiasm are infectious, and I feel sure the Branch is in very good hands.

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Salisbury

The Salisbury Branch held its summer meeting in the sumptuous surroundings of Bowood House. Proceedings were ably conducted by the Branch's long-standing Treasurer, Ian Woodhead.

Coming towards the end of his second year in office, PBS Chairman Bradley Smith was the guest of honour.

A goal of the Society should be that people of all ages come to life in Christ through a Prayer Book service in every parish. Smith cited an example in Middleton in Chichester Diocese, where a new young priest had increased the number of BCP services from one a month to weekly at 8a.m. on Sundays, plus Feast Days and a weekly Choral Evensong. They are 'done beautifully' and have rapidly come to be loved by a congregation that is growing. The Society has needed to donate two separate consignments of BCPs to cope.

New Evensongs are popping up all across the country, attracting congregations of young adults in particular. This has fed into a renewal of the Society's Branches, especially in the North and Midlands.

There are also signs of deeper commitment than mere church attendance emerging. A father in his thirties recently made contact with PBS HQ at Copyhold Farm, looking for advice about praying every day from the BCP with his young children. The Society was able to explain how to break the offices up into manageable and memorable chunks.



The work of the Prayer Book Society is intensifying, Bradley told his audience. Work is being done to promote use of the Prayer Book with choristers and in prisons. The PBS is also hoping to fund a Prayer Book missionary in a Diocese. A new PBS Committee for Children and Families has been set up and will include one representative of the national Society. Among other things, it will create catechetical resources using BCP material.

Bradley concluded by noting that a BCP Communion service returned for the first time in many years at General Synod this February and was the best attended service of the session's acts of worship.

The Chairman's talk was followed by one of the Salisbury Branch's deservedly legendary afternoon teas and concluded with Evensong in the beautiful Bowood private chapel, led by the Revd Linda Carter, Team Vicar of the Marden Vale Team.

St Edmundsbury and Ipswich

In glorious weather on Trinity 5 at St Agnes Exning (Newmarket), we had a congregation of twenty for Matins and a sermon, and seventeen for Evensong and a sermon. Parishioners attended mainly in the morning at their regular service, with some visitors, but folk had also travelled from the north east of the county, as well as from beyond Ipswich to this far-western reach of the Diocese. The parish is linked to St Mary's Newmarket and grouped with Exning and Landwade, currently forming 'Shared Ministry in North Newmarket'. Members of other parishes in the group attended in the afternoon.

Our lunchtime speaker, Bishop Graeme Knowles CVO, was sadly laid low by COVID, but is happily recovering his strength and was sorry to be indisposed. The meeting and discussion that deputised for him were largely enabled by libations kindly provided by the PBS!

We aired some intentional approaches to reviving the life of the Society in the county and ascertaining where services according to the BCP are extant, even if the parishes are not (yet) Corporate Members, and how we might helpfully coordinate future gatherings with neighbouring Dioceses across East Anglia. We opined the hope that all cathedrals and churches with choral foundations might be/become Corporate Members, and thereby encourage others.

The support of PBS Chairman Bradley Smith is warmly acknowledged, and the quality and impact of the new PBS publicity material was remarked upon. It feels as though we have much to look forward to in this 50th year of the PBS.

Bradley Smith writes:

I would like to say what a pleasure it has been to work with Canon Mark Haworth over recent months. I was delighted when he offered to get the Branch up and running again—not an easy task in a large and rural Diocese—and I hope we can look forward to many more PBS services and events across the county. I would also like to record my thanks to the rector, the Revd John Hardy, and churchwarden, Lady Victoria Fairbairn, for their support and warm welcome on the day.



Evensong in Bowood's private chapel

York

York Branch relaunches with day out in Whitby

The York Branch of the Prayer Book Society relaunched on Saturday, 13th August, with a splendid day out in Whitby.

The day began at the well-known St Mary's Church at the top of the '199 steps' on the east side of the town. The ruins of the nearby Abbey were faintly visible through a stubborn patch of sea mist, and it was immediately obvious where Bram Stoker got his inspiration...

Our morning liturgy took the form of Holy Communion followed by a said service of Matins, both held in the chancel of St Mary's, a part of that church often missed by sightseers. The Revd Will Ellis, one of the curates of Whitby with Ruswarp, celebrated at Communion, and the Revd James Kenny, Curate of Market Weighton and Branch Co-ordinator, took Matins—as it turned out, on his 26th birthday! Members and friends took the opportunity to look round St Mary's after this. Several organists in our group also tried out (with permission!) the organ situated on the west gallery.

For lunch, it was decided a picnic was in order, so we made our way down through the town centre to the beach. The aforementioned sea mist had still not cleared, meaning that any stragglers (I speak of myself) faced a challenge finding the main group again—but we all got there in the end. Despite this, the sea mist was probably a blessing, as it meant the temperature was much cooler than elsewhere and we were saved from sweltering conditions. The sea was also refreshingly cool for those who braved a paddle...

The afternoon's proceedings took place at St Hilda's Church. Will Ellis gave a fascinating talk on the history and architecture of St Hilda's. Then, soon after that, it was time for Evensong. The service was congregationally sung with great enthusiasm, including all the Psalmody for the thirteenth evening of the month. The hymns were 'To the Name of Our Salvation', 'O God, Our Help in Ages Past' and 'Sun of My Soul, Thou Saviour Dear', to the respective tunes of Oriel, St Anne and Abends. Will Ellis officiated and James Kenny preached a stirring sermon, taking as his text, James 5:8: 'Be ye also patient; stablish your hearts: for the coming of the Lord draweth nigh.' James reminded us that to be rooted in the Book of Common Prayer is to be rooted in the Catholic faith, as received by the Church of England. That foundation is what has enabled the Church of England to endure throughout the ages, and therefore it is vital for the faith set forward and the rhythm of prayer enjoined by the Prayer Book to remain central in the Church of England if it is to endure any further.

Many thanks to all those who were involved in making the day happen. Further Branch events are being planned and will be announced in due course.



Picnic on Whitby beach



Getting to grips with the town's history



York Branch members and clergy

The life and legacy of Lord Burghley (1520–1598)

William Cecil, Lord Burghley, was the man who made Elizabethan England work. Elizabeth I called him her ‘Spirit’. He managed the realm from November 1558 until his death in August 1598. He was the leading minister, at least as important as Cardinal Wolsey or Thomas Cromwell in a previous reign. His list of attainments spans the breadth of English polity.

Born in Stamford in 1520 and educated at St John’s College, Cambridge, he studied law at Gray’s Inn. He married Mary Cheke, sister of Sir John Cheke, one of Cambridge’s leading scholars. Mary died young and he then married Mildred Cooke, one of five famously well-educated sisters.

By the time he was thirty, he was the Third Principal Secretary of Edward VI’s Privy Council. He was a devout Protestant and played a role in the creation of the 1552 Book of Common Prayer.

When Elizabeth ascended the throne, she appointed Cecil her Principal Secretary and he became her most trusted adviser. As Secretary of State, all royal correspondence passed through his hands, and, as Lord

Treasurer and the Master of the Court of Wards, he acquired even greater power.

Cecil believed deeply in the common law and acted accordingly. On Elizabeth’s behalf, he brought England out of the religious and political chaos of the 1550s, re-established the Church of England and created a nation with a clear English Protestant identity. Through him, England avoided wars of religion. In Church matters, he collaborated with the Queen in establishing a *via media* that, above all, demanded loyalty to the throne.

A patron of historians, linguists and theologians, he was Chancellor of the University of Cambridge from 1559 until 1598, and was instrumental in founding Trinity College, Dublin, in 1592. He was also a great builder, Burghley House in Stamford being his greatest surviving architectural achievement.

Amongst his many other achievements, he stabilised the currency and reformed the Customs, he oversaw the defence of the realm, and he created a more centralised state than had hitherto existed. His attainments and their breadth laid the foundations for much of the country as

we know it today.

The Lord Burghley 500 Foundation was responsible for organising a series of events to mark the quincentenary of Burghley’s birth in 1520, culminating in a service of thanksgiving at Westminster Abbey on 22nd June 2022 (delayed for two years because of COVID restrictions). The splendid service, conducted by the Dean of Westminster, the Very Revd David Hoyle MBE, included numerous texts from the Book of Common Prayer, with lessons from the Authorised Version of the Bible.

The address was given by the Rt Revd and Rt Hon. the Lord Chartres, a patron of the Foundation, and the Marquess of Salisbury, Chairman and Director of the Foundation, read George Herbert’s ‘The British Church’. The service closed with the National Anthem.

It was at the invitation of the Lord Salisbury and his joint Chairman, Mrs Miranda Rock, that the PBS was represented by Bradley Smith, Daniel Newman and John Service at this very special celebration in honour of Lord Burghley’s life and lasting legacy.

Prayer Books for Choristers Fund



Following our appeal in the Lent 2022 issue, we have raised a further £1,127 towards this exciting project. Could you make an anniversary gift to the PBS to help us present a special edition of the BCP to every junior chorister in the country? Donations can be made online via www.pbs.org.uk (please put ‘CHORISTERS’ in the ‘reasons for donation’ field) or by cheque made payable to ‘The Prayer Book Society’.

Rachel Mahon, Director of Music, Coventry Cathedral says, ‘I think this is a wonderful initiative by the Prayer Book Society in honour of its 50th anniversary. Presenting choristers all over the country with a copy of the Book of Common Prayer will preserve it as a central part of the Church and of choristers’ lives for generations to come.’

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... and after



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... and after



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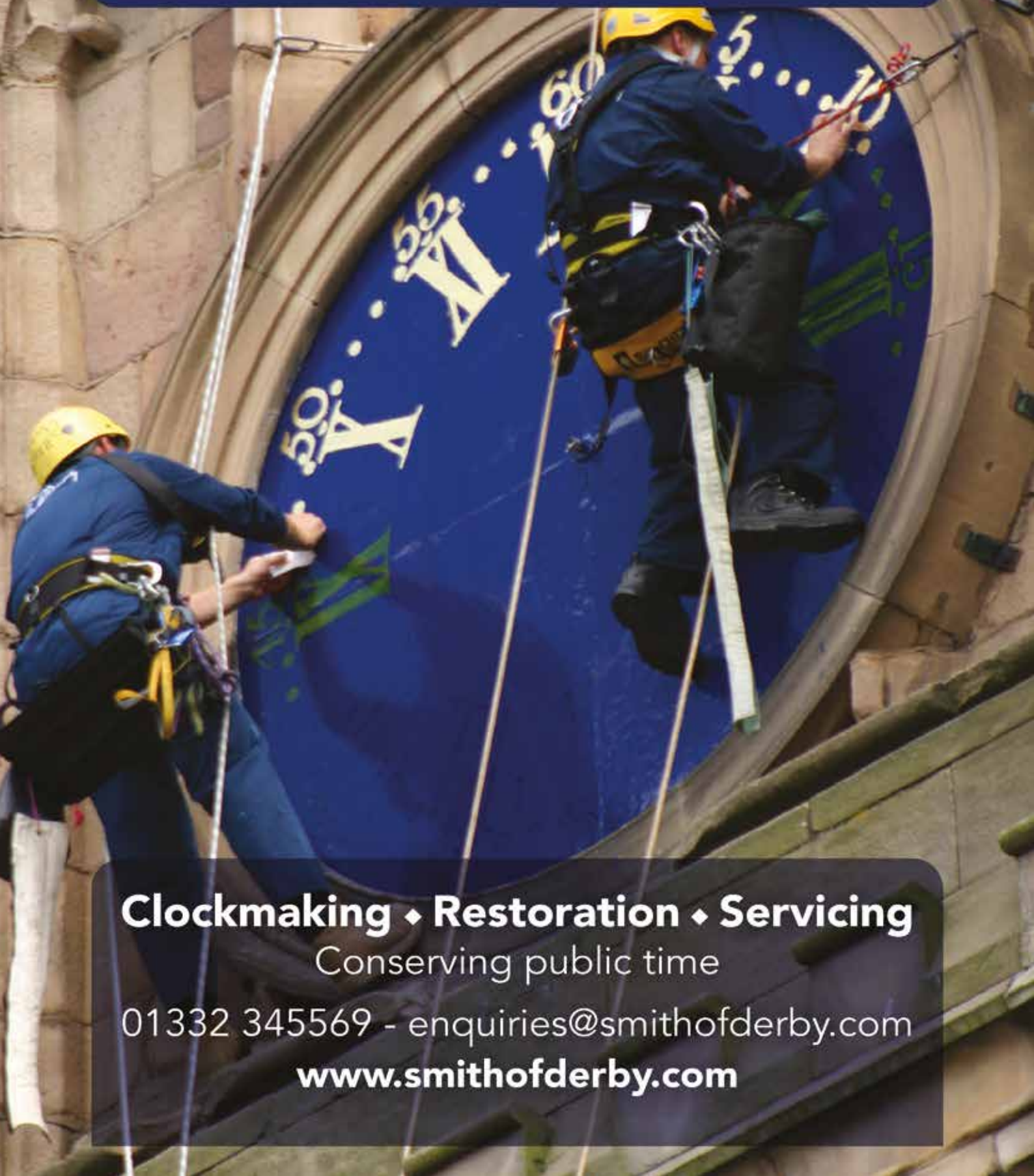
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