Exciting plans for 2026

Ordinands Association

Originally formed in the 1960's, the Association of Ordinands has fallen off the radar of many of today's ordinands. Its aim was to link together and support all current ordinands on TEIs and non-residential courses.

In conjunction with its current chair Helen Hambling, ordinand at Wycliffe Hall and PBS member Edward McMillan, currently studying at Ridley Hall, we plan to relaunch the association.

Tradition Day

"We may think that we have finished with tradition but tradition has not finished with us." That's the intriguing view the Revd Canon Paul Wright, Sub Dean of the Chapels Royal and ex army Padre.

So many of our institutions are underpinned by tradition: The Monarchy, our Military Services and indeed the Book of Common Prayer.

We are planning, with Canon Wright, to host a day in May 2026 at the Chapel Royal St James' for newly-appointed clergy, current and perspective ordinands to explore the importance of tradition.

Close Encounters with the BCP

The popularity of Prayer Book services is growing, particularly with younger ordinands and clergy.

We are in the early stages of organising a two day Residential Youth Conference which will explore and open up the BCP to the next generation of Church of England priests.

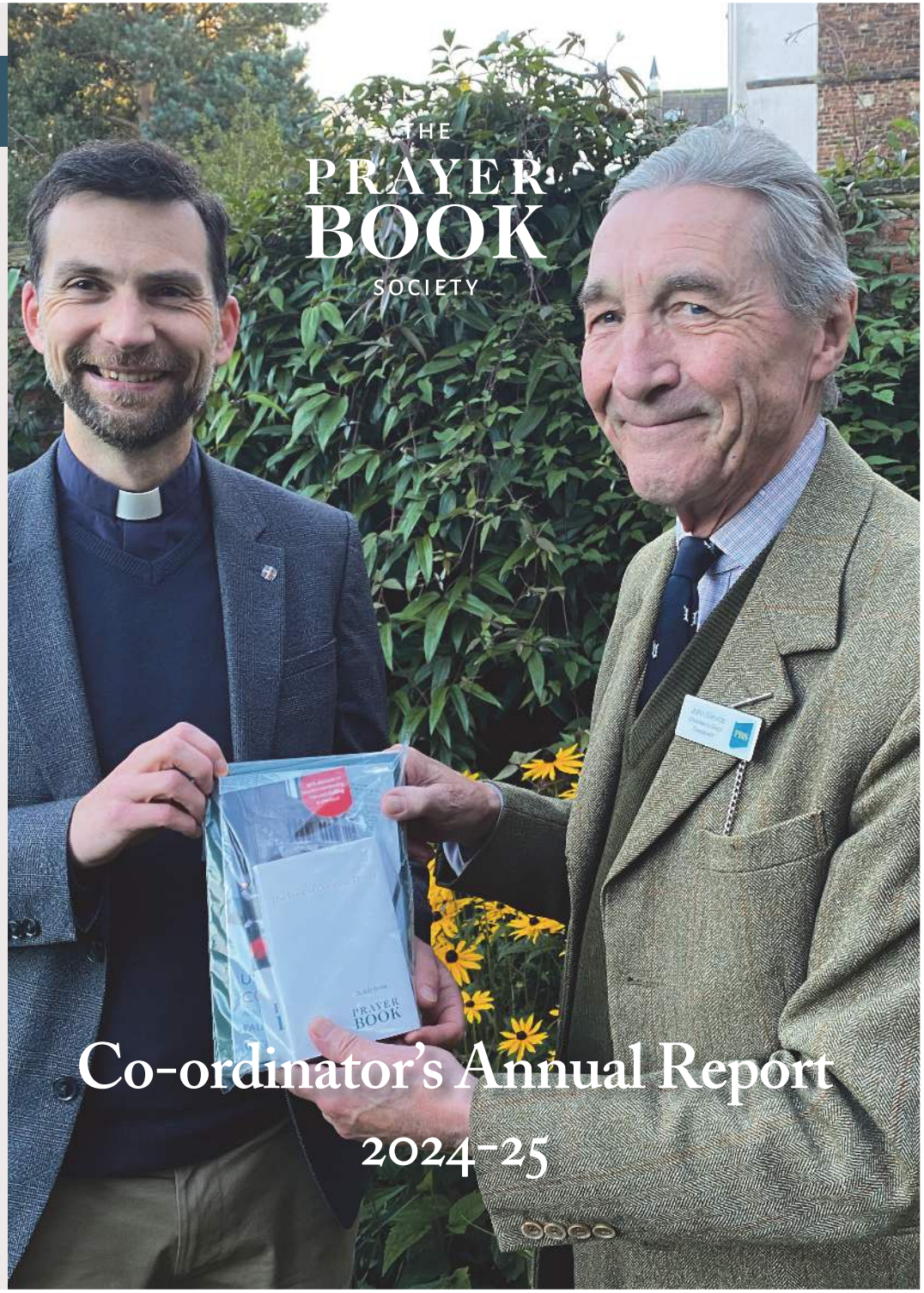
Wycliffe Hall, Oxford is the probable location of the conference which will be staged in September next year.

Leaflet roll-out to Corporate Members

Starting this year we have been providing the nearly 250 Corporate member churches with leaflets and suitable display stands to promote the PBS to members of their congregations.

Member churches in the dioceses of London, Southwark and Oxford have now all received their resources.

Chichester diocese will be next and we plan to continue the roll out until all the English dioceses have been contacted.



Co-ordinator's Annual Report

2024-25

Ordinand Packs

Every new Ordinand entering training at the beginning of the 2024 academic year, was presented with a BCP resource pack by the Society. This year 639 packs were gifted to students. “I strongly feel that with every passing year the gratitude for the gift of the BCP packs, and moreover the Society's standing at TEIs, increases.”

Evensong in the City

The Society continues to support this wonderful initiative at St Bartholomew the Great, Smithfield, London. Designed for young financial centre city workers, the early evening Evensong is followed by bangers and mash and drinks. Annual attendance is approaching 1,900 and this year St Bart's laid on a special Choral Evensong to mark VJ Day.

Prayer Books for Prisoners

Jane Woods, a Licensed Reader and Chaplain at HMP Hollesley Bay, a young offenders prison asked specifically for two young inmates aged 14-17 to be gifted a BCP. Our outreach to prisoners continues. In 2024, we provided 50 copies of the BCP to prisons across the country. My contact with the Anglican Prison Chaplains Association continues to be an excellent ongoing initiative. At their bi-ennial conference the PBS sponsors a wine reception.

Corporate Members

In the last 12 months we have signed up 22 new Corporate Members. That's almost one every fortnight. I'm currently working on another ten leads.

Photos: (Cover) John Service with the Revd Nick Moore, Warden, Cranmer Hall. (Above) Benefactors Day at the Savoy Chapel, Cranmer Commemoration, Oxford, Resource pack for Sheffield University.

New BCPs for Old

The accession of King Charles III has naturally outdated many editions of the BCP which include prayers for our former Queen, Elizabeth II.

But even these older copies have real value. In November I collected 50 in good condition. Forty were sent to Revd David Brown Chaplain of Holy Trinity Las Palmas, in Gran Canaria. The remainder are now being used by the members of the newly refounded Anglican Society at Sheffield University.

Cranmer Awards

The 36th Awards Finals took place on 22nd February at Holme Pierrepont Hall, Nottingham.

Twenty-one students took part in the two age group sections. Six younger judges were recruited, which better represented the age of the competitors. Prizes were awarded by the Venerable Phil Williams, Archdeacon of Nottingham. The standard of the competitors remains impressively high.

For the 2026 competition there are an additional six new regional diocesan heats, which I have been able to recruit. The final will take place in the Chapel Royal, Hampton Palace.

(Above) Sheffield students with BCPs, Holme Pierrepont Hall, Festival Gathering St Bartholomew the Great, Smithfield.