



THE LAMP



"Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path." (Psalm 119)

PBSC TORONTO BRANCH LENTEN QUIET DAY SATURDAY, MARCH 28, 2015

Theme: The Scriptural Roots of the Prayer Book

Leader: The Revd. David Burrows

David Burrows was born and raised in Montreal and received his B.Sc. degree in Science and M.A. in Theology from McGill University. After studying for several years at Wycliffe College in Toronto and serving as a student assistant at Trinity Church, Port Credit and St. Luke's, Coxwell, he was ordained a priest in May 1983. He then served as curate at All Saints', Peterborough and as incumbent at Christ Church, Bobcaygeon, St. John's, Dunsford and St. Luke's, Burnt River before coming to St. Olave's Church in the west end of Toronto in 1995. He has served for several years as a chaplain with the Toronto police force. David runs a weekly youth drop-in at his church basement and a travelling soup and sandwich ministry to the homeless downtown. He and his wife Penny have four children and are now the proud grandparents of three grandchildren.

Schedule for the day:

9:30 AM	Morning Prayer (parish service)
10:00 AM	Holy Communion (parish service)
10:30 AM	Coffee and welcome
10:45 AM	First talk
11:30 AM	Period of silent reflection
12:15 PM	Lunch
1:00 PM	Second talk
1:45 PM	Period of silent reflection
2:30 PM	Coffee break
2:45 PM	Third talk
3:30 PM	Wrap-up
4:00 PM	Evening Prayer



Revd. David Burrows

The Quiet Day will be held at **St. Thomas's Church, 383 Huron Street, Toronto**. St. Thomas's is located a short walk south of Bloor Street, midway between the St. George and Spadina subway stops. A voluntary contribution of \$10 is suggested to cover lunch and refreshment breaks, but you are welcome to pay what you can. Please notify Diana Verseghe (416-739-4422) if you intend to come, if possible by March 21st in order to help us plan for the catering.

PBSC GRAND VALLEY BRANCH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**Saturday, May 9, at the Church of St. John the Evangelist
23 Water St. North, Kitchener**

The meeting will begin at 12:30 PM and end at approximately 4:00 PM. Refreshments will be served; the annual President's and Treasurer's reports will be presented, and elections of branch officers for the coming year will be held. The meeting will conclude with Evening Prayer led by the rector of St. John's, Canon Christopher Pratt.

The featured speaker for the event will be Dr. Jesse Billett, who will give an overview of his discovery of the Prayer Book and its meaning in his life. Dr. Billett is an Assistant Professor in the Faculty of Divinity at Trinity College, Toronto, where he teaches church history, mediaeval liturgy, and a course on the Book of Common Prayer. He holds degrees in music and history from Harvard University and the University of Cambridge, England. It was during his three years as a choral scholar in the choir of King's College, Cambridge, that he had the opportunity to be immersed in daily worship according to the Prayer Book pattern, and ultimately became an Anglican (he was formerly a non-denominational Evangelical). Jesse lives in mid-town Toronto with his wife Jill, who runs a seniors' home care company, and their three small children.



Dr. Jesse Billett

ST. MICHAEL'S YOUTH CONFERENCE, AUGUST 10-15



Now in its twentieth year, the St. Michael's Youth Conference offers a week-long programme of worship, discussion and relaxation aimed at stimulating and enriching the spiritual growth of teens, and enhancing their knowledge and understanding of the faith. Activities include swimming, archery, canoeing, on-site games, interactive courses on Christianity and Anglicanism, music instruction, and daily Prayer Book worship. The cost of registration, which includes all meals, activities and outings for the full week, is only \$250! For registration forms or further information, contact Diana Versegby at diana.versegby@sympatico.ca, or visit the conference website at www.stmikesontario.com.

P.D. JAMES – R.I.P.

The celebrated mystery writer P.D. (Phyllis Dorothy) James passed away on November 27, 2014, at the age of 94. Well-known for her many popular crime novels, what was less commonly recognized was her love of the Book of Common Prayer. She was a patroness of the English Prayer Book Society, and there are allusions to the BCP in many of her novels. In an interview published by the English *Church Times* in April 2009, she had this to say:

“My love for the Prayer Book began in very early childhood, before I could read - when I could only listen to it. Of course, it was the only book used then. Later, when I could read, during long, boring sermons I would read it and specially loved the instructions - for instance, those to priests for giving Holy Communion in time of pestilence. That conjured up pictures in my childish mind of the priest walking with the sacred vessels through the almost deserted village, almost certainly to become ill himself; or the prayers for when in danger on the sea, knowing that they would have been read by everyone on board, and the ship would almost certainly founder.

“There is so much history, romance, and great beauty in it. And the prayers like the General Thanksgiving and the prayers after Communion are so superb that they meet my need in praying much better than my own words do, and I still use them in private prayer.

“I enjoy services in other denominations, like those of the Reformed Church, or going to a Roman Catholic mass with a friend - but what is essential to me is an atmosphere of devotion and concentration on God. If there's a great deal of happy-clappy singing and announcements of birthdays, and so on, I can see that it binds people together, but I don't personally find it's useful to me. I want silence, so I can concentrate on God - not just talking to him and giving him a list of my requirements.”

In 2003, when the Prayer Book Society of Canada was preparing to publish volume I of Sue Careless' series, *Discovering the Book of Common Prayer – A Hands-On Approach*, Sue boldly suggested that the Society should approach Baroness James (she is a peer in the English House of Lords – Baroness James of Holland Park) to write a few words of introduction to it. To our surprise and delight she agreed most graciously, and penned several paragraphs which now appear in the book. They are reprinted at the right.

“It is both a privilege and a pleasure to write these few words of welcome to this three-volume introductory guide to the Book of Common Prayer published by the Prayer Book Society of Canada. Unhappily the Prayer Book has been neglected both here in the U.K. and abroad during the past few decades, but many in the Church are beginning to rediscover its riches. I hope that these volumes will abundantly succeed in introducing the Prayer Book to thousands of worshippers to whom it may be unknown, and in showing how its use could enrich our spiritual lives.



“For over four hundred years Cranmer's Prayer Book has solaced, sustained, rebuked and exalted Christians throughout the English-speaking world, providing for all the rites of passage in this our earthly journey in cadences of incomparable beauty, dignity and grace.

For many of us this marvelous book of prayer and praise is part of our early childhood, so that in our private and spontaneous prayers the well-known words of the Book of Common Prayer come readily to our lips and our minds as they do in those moments when we are most in need of God's help, when we see people in distress, when we are touched by compassion, when we experience great moments of joy and exultation for which we need to give thanks. To imagine that people cannot understand the Book of Common Prayer, or that the language is so archaic as to be irrelevant to the twenty-first century, is disproved every day by the millions who love and use it in their corporate and private worship. When we put the Prayer Book into the hands of our children, we do more than introduce them to a priceless part of our religious, cultural and literary heritage; we bestow historic continuity as we pray as our forebears have done for centuries.

“I hope that this introductory guide will bring many more Christians and those searching for faith to the treasure of the Prayer Book and will open the eyes of new generations to its riches. Here indeed is language almost worthy of the God it celebrates.”

ONTARIO REGIONAL CYCLE OF PRAYER, APRIL-JUNE

(Over the coming months, please remember the following parishes in your prayers. You might consider using for this purpose one of Prayer #8 or #9, found on pages 43 and 44 of the Book of Common Prayer, or the prayer "For the Parish" found on page 736.)

APR.	5	<i>Easter</i>	Parishes of PBSC members outside of Ontario
	12	<i>Easter I</i>	St. Mary's Church, Walkerville (Windsor)
	19	<i>Easter II</i>	St. Luke's Church, Broughdale (London)
	26	<i>Easter III</i>	St. John's Church, Woodhouse (Simcoe)
MAY	3	<i>Easter IV</i>	St. Paul's Church, Port Dover
	10	<i>Rogation</i>	St. Bartholomew's Church, Toronto
	17	<i>After Ascension</i>	St. James' Church, Humber Bay (Toronto)
	24	<i>Whitsunday</i>	Parishes in the ACNA
JUNE	31	<i>Trinity Sunday</i>	Christ Church, Deer Park (Toronto)
	7	<i>Trinity I</i>	St. Brice's Church, North Bay
	14	<i>Trinity II</i>	St. Paul's Church, Dunnville
	21	<i>Trinity III</i>	St. John's Church, York Mills (Toronto)
	28	<i>Trinity IV</i>	Trinity Church, Cambridge

The Prayer Book Society of Canada was founded in 1986 by Anglicans who were alarmed at the erosion of classical Anglican doctrine, worship and spirituality that was proceeding alongside the adoption of new liturgies. The Society's aim is briefly to support the continuing use of the Prayer Book for all who value it as their preferred medium of worship, preserving as it does faithfulness to Holy Scripture and adherence to the orthodox Anglican doctrine of the Christian faith. The Mission Statement of the Society, adopted in 1995, is: "To promote the understanding and use of the Book of Common Prayer as a scriptural system of nurture for life in Christ".

The Society operates on two levels: the national level and the branch level. The National Council is responsible for setting policy and direction for the Society, and for overseeing activities with a national scope. All branch presidents are *ex officio* members of the National Council. The branches are individually responsible for organizing local activities and initiatives in their own geographical areas, in support of the aims and objectives of the Society.

The Ontario Council of PBSC Branches is an informal coalition of branches in southern Ontario, formed in 1994. It serves as a forum for the planning of joint activities, and provides a network of support for the branches. It publishes this newsmagazine, "**The Lamp**", which appears quarterly in the months of March, June, September and December. Opinions expressed in these pages are not necessarily those of the Society as a whole. Contributions of articles and news items are welcome, and should be sent to the editor (see opposite).

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