



THE LAMP



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

LAMBETH 2008: WE WERE THERE!

By Prudence Dailey, Chairman of the Prayer Book Society in England

At the time of writing, the team from the international Prayer Book Societies are now back in our own home towns, reflecting upon a hectic and exhausting fortnight in Canterbury.

Prior to our arrival, we had seen alarming accounts in the press which almost made it sound as though the University of Kent campus was surrounded by barbed wire fences with armed sentries, under orders not to allow any unauthorised person near. At the same time, we had been told that we would not be given security passes because we "would not need them", and we wondered nervously what that meant. Would we actually get to speak to any bishops at all?

Fortunately, the reports turned out to be exaggerated, with only the blue "big top"—where the bishops and spouses met for worship and discussions—fenced off (allowing them, perhaps, to juggle with fire in private). Most of the University campus was entirely open, enabling us to wander around freely and engage the bishops in conversation. We even bumped into the Archbishop of Canterbury, who spoke to us, and managed to hide the surprise he may have felt when 17-year-old Alex Urquhart of the Prayer Book Society of Canada genuflected and kissed his ring.

Other opportunities for meeting the bishops included a rather splendid civic garden party amidst the ruins of St Augustine's Abbey to which – let's be honest—we had not actually been invited; but the sun was shining, and nobody seemed to mind a few gate-crashers. One of the Canterbury City Councillors even expressed an interest in joining the Prayer Book Society! We were also very grateful to Bishop Anthony Burton, who invited us to meet a number of bishops in the lovely house where he and his family were staying (by courtesy of the Revd Fredrik Arvidsson, chaplain of the King's School, Canterbury, a Trustee of the Prayer Book Society in England, who had very kindly allowed the Burtons to stay there while he was away on holiday).

And then there were our two receptions, the first with the Bishop of London and the second with crime novelist PD James, held in the beautiful and historic room above the gateway of St Augustine's Abbey. Frustratingly, on both occasions some of those who were originally intending to come found themselves at the last minute obliged to attend urgent meetings which they could not get out of; but both receptions were truly happy occasions, likely to be remembered for some time by all those who were there.



Prudence at our stand in the "Marketplace"

It was fortunate that, although we had been unable to book a stand in the 'Lambeth Marketplace' beforehand, we had brought all our display equipment with us. The Zacchaeus Fellowship initially offered to share their display space with us from the end of the first week onwards, but by Wednesday of the second week they had run out of literature and so packed up and went home, leaving the whole booth to us for the last three days. Having an exhibition stand did make a great difference, providing a point of contact for those bishops, bishops' spouses and others who particularly wanted to talk to us (rather than being randomly accosted on the campus)!

As we predicted, we had a bit of work to do explaining what we actually meant by "The Book of Common Prayer", since the Anglican Communion boasts a great variety of service books under that title, some of which are local variations of the historic Book of Common Prayer, while others bear little relation to it. We had copies of the 1662 Prayer Book for sale on our stand, and sold a good number of these, especially when we first opened. A visitor from The Episcopal Church in the USA expressed surprise that the 1662 Prayer Book was actually still in print, and was amazed to learn that it had recently been reissued with new typography by Cambridge University Press. A Kenyan Bishop said that he was desperate for copies of the 1662 book for his theological students, and found it almost impossible to obtain copies in his country—or, if they were available, they were very expensive. We were pleased to be able to tell him about our scheme for supplying Prayer Books to Africa, and to assure him that we would be able to help him.

Our purple umbrellas were a great draw, bearing the "PBS" logo and a quotation from Psalm 68 verse 9: "Thou, O God, sentest a gracious rain upon thine inheritance / and refreshedst it when it was weary." These proved particularly popular with the bishops' wives (as well as with the Archbishop of Canterbury). Ironically, it was blazing hot for the whole two weeks and did not start to rain until the very last day of the Conference, but a few of our brollies were seen in use around the campus, and are now (we hope) keeping dry members of the episcopacy in the four corners of the Anglican globe.

As the conference drew to a close, signs of weariness were evident, and a number of bishops were overheard grumbling that they their noses had been kept to the grindstone for the whole time. One of the many ecclesiastical outfitters in the Marketplace displayed a sign that we might never have expected to see: "ALL

CROZIERS 10% OFF". One couldn't help wondering whether it was enough of a discount—although 90% off would have been a bad portent indeed for the Anglican Communion.

So was it all worth it for the Prayer Book Societies? In considering that question, we have to remind ourselves of our stated purposes in being there, which were:

- To raise awareness of the historic Book(s) of Common Prayer;
- To raise awareness of the Prayer Book Societies, and to make a positive impression;
- To make contacts that may prove useful in the future.

It used to be popular in business to say that "if you can't measure it, you can't manage it"; but nowadays it is generally accepted that not everything worthwhile is straightforwardly measurable. Our presence at Lambeth was rather like that, and any assessment must necessarily be anecdotal. For instance, one of the Canadian Bishops, boarding the coach to take him to our reception, told a PBS member: "I'm here for PD James, not for the Prayer Book!" Getting back onto the coach afterwards, the same bishop was heard to comment, "Well, it seems that I did come for the Prayer Book, after all".

There are certainly things that could have been better. It is hardly satisfactory that—just as in 1998—none of the worship at Lambeth was conducted according to the Book of Common Prayer (which would have been more familiar around much of the Anglican Communion than many of the forms of worship that were used). Nor are we happy about the 'watering down' of references to the historic Formularies—the 39 Articles, the 1662 Prayer Book and the Ordinal—in the latest draft of the Anglican Covenant.

Our spending two weeks in Canterbury was, however, hardly likely to influence these things. Our aims are long-term: we have sown a seed, and now we must wait to see whether and how it will germinate.

Postscript

We have just received a message from the Bishop of Lincoln, England, thanking us for the umbrella presented at the Lambeth conference. "Like the BCP itself", he says, "it will be a splendid shelter under which to seek refuge in stormy times!"

THE GRAND VALLEY BRANCH OF THE PRAYER BOOK SOCIETY OF CANADA

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Who Killed the Bible?, and *The Possibility of the Tragic*

English Novel (in preparation)



Friday 10 October 2008 – 11 AM

Department of English
Redeemer University College
Ancaster, Ontario

The Idea of Christian Tragedy

Shakespeare's *King Lear* and
Dickens' *Bleak House*

Saturday 11 October 2008 – 3:00 PM

Annual General Meeting
Grand Valley Branch, Prayer Book Society
at St. George's Church, Hamilton

The Future of the Prayer Book

Including an update on the state of
the Prayer Book in the U.K.

Saturday 11 October 2008 – 7:30 PM

Inaugurating the
St. George's Church Lecture Series

**The Church and
the Unity of Holy Scripture**

including reference to problems in translation
and hermeneutics in the light of current
scholarship on original text and sources and
the New Testament's use of the Old Testament

Sunday 12 October 2008 – 10:30 AM

Mr. Robinson will preach at

Morning Prayer

St. George's Reformed Episcopal Church

134 Emerson Street, Hamilton

Lections for the day:

Psalms 76 and 121

Isaiah 59:1-15

2 Corinthians 10:1-7 and 17-18

*All are welcome to attend. For further details, and for directions to St. George's Church,
consult the parish website at www.stgeorgehamilton.ca*

Announcing a Conference:

ANGLICANISM: A GIFT IN CHRIST

**November 25-27, 2008
at St. Paul's Church, Bloor St., 227 Bloor St. E., Toronto**

*Sponsored by the Anglican Communion Institute
Co-sponsored by Wycliffe College and St. Paul's Church*

Schedule:

Tuesday, November 25

- 6:00 PM – Buffet banquet
- 7:30 PM – Plenary session I: The Rt. Revd. N.T. Wright (Durham, UK)

Wednesday, November 26

- 8:00 AM – Continental breakfast
- 9:00 AM – Plenary session II: The Rt. Revd. N.T. Wright
- 10:00 AM – Break
- 10:30 AM – Plenary session III: Dr. Edith Humphrey (Pittsburgh Theological Seminary)
- 11:45 AM – Lunch
- 1:30 PM – Plenary session IV: The Revd. Dr. George Sumner
- 2:30 PM – Break
- 3:00 PM – Plenary session V: The Revd. Dr. Jo Bailey Wells (Duke University)
- 4:30 PM – Plenary session VI: Dr. Sumner, Dr. Humphrey, Dr. Wells
- 5:30 PM – Eucharist: Bishop Patrick Yu, celebrant

Thursday, November 27

- 8:00 AM – Continental breakfast
- 9:00 AM – Plenary VII: The Most Revd. Josiah Idowu-Fearon
- 10:15 AM – Break
- 10:45 AM – Final plenary session
- 12:00 PM – Conclusion

Cost of the full conference: \$225. Individual plenary sessions: \$20 each (\$10 for students). To register, contact St. Paul's Church or Wycliffe College. For further information, e-mail the conference organizers at aciregistration@wycliffe.utoronto.ca

This conference is an opportunity to hear gifted theologians and speakers on various topics of theological, biblical, liturgical and missionary significance: New Testament, Old Testament, Hymnody, Christian witness in the Muslim world, and the parish as the centre of Christian renewal. Along with speaker presentations there will be opportunities for fellowship and worship, and general conversation about our life in the Anglican Communion at present.

Church Crawl 2008

The annual Grand Valley Branch Church Crawl took place on August 8th and was accounted a great success by all who took part. Some thirty members visited (by bus) St. Andrew's Church in Grimsby, founded in 1794, St. Luke's Church in Burlington, dating from the 1820's, and St. Mary's Armenian Church in Hamilton. Here the participants attended a short service of Vespers followed by a dinner prepared and served by members of the church. St. Mary's is the newest building of the three by far, but a very old version of Christianity – Armenia was the first Christian nation, having become so in AD 301! Thanks are due to the hosts at all three churches for their warm welcome and for sharing their love and knowledge of their respective parishes; also to Fr. Hayrik Hovannysian for conducting the service of Vespers and for making the participants feel at home at St. Mary's, and to the church people for the splendid meal that they served. A very successful outing despite the intense thunderstorms and torrential downpours that followed the participants around all day!



BURSARIES AVAILABLE

The Toronto Branch of the PBSC is pleased to announce the availability of a limited number of bursaries of up to \$1000, for students engaged in religious studies at Wycliffe and Trinity Colleges who value the Book of Common Prayer, use it in their daily devotional life, and wish to promote its continuing use in the Anglican Church of Canada. Students in the ordination stream are especially encouraged to apply.

Students wishing to be considered for one of these bursaries should submit a copy of their curriculum vitae and the names, addresses and phone numbers of two references, together with a covering letter explaining their interest in the bursary and in the Book of Common Prayer, to Dr. Diana Verseghy, 12 Sherbourne Dr., Maple, ON, L6A 1G8. E-mail: diana.verseghy@sympatico.ca. The deadline for applications is Friday, October 31st. Candidates will be interviewed in late November by a selection committee, and awards will be made in mid-December.

ONTARIO REGIONAL CYCLE OF PRAYER, OCTOBER-DECEMBER

(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.)

OCT.	5	<i>Trinity XX</i>	Christ Church, Deer Park (Toronto)
	12	<i>Trinity XXI</i>	Christ Church, Bobcaygeon
	19	<i>Trinity XXII</i>	St. George's Church, Guelph
	26	<i>Trinity XXIII</i>	St. George's Memorial Church, Oshawa
NOV.	2	<i>Trinity XIV</i>	Church of the Transfiguration, Toronto
	9	<i>Trinity XV</i>	St. Alban's Church, Delhi
	16	<i>Trinity XVI</i>	Christ Church, Brampton
	23	<i>Next Before Advent</i>	St. Martin-in-the-Fields, Toronto
	30	<i>Advent I</i>	St. John's Church, Peterborough
DEC.	7	<i>Advent II</i>	St. James' Church, Fairmount
	14	<i>Advent III</i>	St. Bride's Church, Mississauga
	21	<i>Advent IV</i>	St. John's Church, Cambridge
	28	<i>Holy Innocents</i>	St. Anne's Church, Toronto

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).

Branch contacts within our region:

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