



The Prayer Book Society of Canada – Toronto Branch
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Dear members and friends of the PBSC Toronto Branch,

Advent is upon us, and we are coming to the end of this anniversary year of the 1662 English Book of Common Prayer and our 1962 Canadian edition. As I promised in my last letter, I sent a follow-up mailing to all of the parish incumbents in the Diocese of Toronto, reminding them of my letter of March and of the significance of Advent Sunday this year, which marks 50 years to the day since our Canadian Prayer Book was formally promulgated for use in 1962. I also drew their attention to the letter sent out to the clergy and people of the Diocese by Archbishop Colin Johnson on May 2, in which he urged parishes “to celebrate the gift and heritage of our Book of Common Prayer in a manner that is appropriate [to them]”; even referring to the article written by our National Chairman, the Revd. Gordon Maitland, that appeared in the March issue of the *Anglican Journal*, and mentioning the Prayer Book Society of Canada by name! The response on the part of parish clergy was, shall we say, cautious; a number of parishes ordered our wall charts showing the historical development of the Prayer Book, but personal contacts from clergy have been few. Several noteworthy ones are described in this issue of *The Lamp*, including a very cordial letter from the Revd. Daniel Graves at Trinity Church in Bradford, who is a long-time member and supporter of ours. Still, I am sure that a good number of parishes celebrated the anniversary “under our radar” so to speak; and the letter from Archbishop Johnson has certainly been a big boost for the profile and visibility of the Society.

Looking overseas briefly, you have all no doubt heard about the appointment of the new Archbishop of Canterbury, the Rt. Revd. Justin Welby. He is certainly a very intriguing choice. He was educated at Eton College, and worked as an oil company executive for 11 years earning a six-figure salary, but nevertheless gave it all up to study for the priesthood and then serve in a small town parish. He is a great admirer of Holy Trinity Brompton, a flagship parish for the charismatic movement and the home of the Alpha Course, and yet has links to a Benedictine monastic house, at which he goes on annual retreats. He is opposed to same-sex marriage, but insists that the church “must have no truck with homophobia”. He is in favour of women’s

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THE PRAYER BOOK SOCIETY OF CANADA – TORONTO BRANCH

The work of the PBSC Toronto Branch is important to me! In support of it through the end of 2012, I enclose a cheque made out to the “Prayer Book Society of Canada – Toronto Branch”, for:

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ordination, while recognizing “remarkable signs of God’s grace and action” in the ministry of those who are conscientiously opposed. He is refreshingly optimistic about the future of the Church of England, emphasizing the spiritual hunger among ordinary people and believing that the Church is at a point where “the tide of events is turning”. His main claim to fame, perhaps, lies in his courage and his gift for mediation; he has served on numerous missions to Nigeria, working for peace between warring groups, and indeed on more than one visit was kidnapped and narrowly escaped being shot. While serving as Bishop of Durham, he made the revolutionary proposal that instead of the diocese telling the parishes how much their parish assessment would be, the parishes should tell the diocese what they could afford to give! Several colleagues have commented that he is a man who can “make things happen”. Importantly, he is no head-in-the-clouds academic; Archbishop Williams, with all his gifts and brilliance, often made public statements so carefully nuanced that it was hard to fathom what exactly he meant. In short, I am feeling more hopeful about the future of the Anglican Communion than I have in some time, and I am looking forward to seeing Archbishop Welby in action after he is enthroned next year.

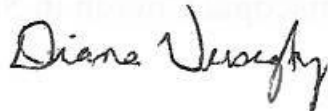
Coming back to the home front, our main challenge next year will be the upcoming General Synod, to be held in Ottawa in early July. Since this is not too long a trip from Toronto, some of our executive members will likely be helping to staff the PBSC publicity booth there. We will be working hard so as not to lose the momentum and profile that we gained during this anniversary year. More on our plans in my next letter.

Before signing off, I would like to hear from you if you would prefer to receive this letter and *The Lamp* electronically. We are now in a position to accommodate you if so, and it will certainly be a cost saving if a large portion of our members elect to switch to this format. Please e-mail me at the address on the letterhead if you would like to make this change.

Finally, as ever, a reminder that we rely upon your financial support to carry out the work of the branch. We hope that you will remember the PBSC Toronto Branch in your year-end charitable givings. Many thanks for your past help!

With best wishes for a blessed Christmas and a happy New Year,

Yours faithfully,



Diana Verseghy.

We welcome your comments!
