

The Prayer Book Society of Canada Newsletter

Lent 2012

The Prayer Book Resurgent at Huron University College

It goes without saying that the Book of Common Prayer will have no future in the Anglican Church of Canada if our young people are not exposed to it and if seminarians are not trained how to use it. It is with joy, then, that we can report that both these things are happening at Huron

On St. Andrew's Day (November 30), 2011, the Rev'd Gordon Maitland, Chairman of the Prayer Book Society of Canada, was invited by the Rev'd Canon Dr. Todd Townshend, Professor of Field Education and Contextual Theology, and Interim Instructor in

to demonstrate what had been taught in class.

There was one more incident that was to make the day extraordinary for Prayer Book enthusiasts. The College chapel needed a new altar edition of the BCP as the old one was badly worn and almost unusable.



Pat Bryan, the Rev'd Gordon Maitland and Canon Bill Cliff

University College in London, Ontario. Huron College is both an undergraduate college affiliated with the University of Western Ontario and a seminary of the Anglican Church of Canada.

Liturgy, to lecture to seminarians on using the Book of Common Prayer for the celebration of the Holy Eucharist. It was also arranged that he would be the celebrant at the chapel Eucharist that day in order

The College Chaplain, the Rev'd Canon Bill Cliff, asked if the PBSC would be willing to donate a copy. When this request was presented to the National Council of the PBSC, a long-time and faithful member of the Society and

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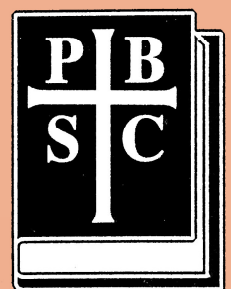
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the National Council, Pat Bryan, asked if he could personally donate the altar book in memory of his recently deceased wife Freda. Not only was this request graciously received, it was also arranged that the new altar book would be dedicated for use at the celebration on St. Andrew's Day.

St. Andrew's Day began with the lecture given to a senior class of seminarians. The students were attentive and obviously interested in celebrating the Eucharist using the Prayer Book rite with sensitivity and care. If there was any regret, it was that the time was too short to cover everything that might have been covered. Clearly, another class on the BCP will have to be arranged!

The 12:30 PM community service of Holy Eucharist was celebrated with joy. The director of music for the

chapel, Dr. William Lupton, had been teaching the seminarians the Merbecke musical setting of the various parts of the BCP rite in the days leading up to the service, and thus everyone was able to join in the singing of various parts. The Rev'd Gordon Maitland was not only the celebrant, but also delivered the homily (on the life and significance of St. Andrew). During the course of the service the new altar book was dedicated and used for the first time. It is also worth noting that the Eucharist was celebrated eastward-facing, which heightened the solemnity of the occasion.

In addition to seminarians and some faculty, there were also present several undergraduates as well as the Principal of the College, Dr. Stephen McClatchie. Dr. McClatchie is not only a supporter of the Book of Common Prayer in the life of the

Canadian Church, he is a member of the Prayer Book Society of Canada! At his installation as Principal in the fall of 2011, Dr. McClatchie insisted that the Installation Eucharist be celebrated according to the Book of Common Prayer.

While it would be a mistake to think that these events mean that all is well again with the Anglican Church of Canada, they do point to a refreshing change of attitude towards the Book of Common Prayer. It is hard to believe that only a few years ago the Prayer Book was neither used in Huron College Chapel, nor taught to seminarians. In the long run, it may well be that the Prayer Book will once again be used willingly, instead of grudgingly, in our Canadian churches by clergy who have discovered anew the spiritual treasures and pious joys inherent in it.

ANGLICAN ESSAY COMPETITION FOR YOUNG CANADIANS

\$4,750 available in prizes!

In celebration of the 350th anniversary of the 1662 Book of Common Prayer and of the 50th anniversary of the 1962 Book of Common Prayer (Canada) in 2012, an essay competition is announced with the intention of raising the interest in and use of the *Book of Common Prayer* amongst Canadians aged 17-30. The competition is sponsored by the Prayer Book Society of Canada, Ottawa Branch.

Prizes of \$2,500, \$1,500 and \$750 are being offered for the best essays of approximately 3,000 words on the following topic: "Discuss the relevance of the *Book of Common Prayer* in the 21st century (in the light of two given quotations)". Competition details, and a list of suggested reference books, are available from the addresses below.

The essays, to be submitted in e-mail format, will be judged by a jury of three eminent Canadian Anglican theologians. The closing date for applications is **June 30, 2012**, and the prizes will be awarded by December 31, 2012. Essays may be written in either English or French.

Further information, and a complete statement of the Terms of Reference for this competition, are available. Interested candidates or teachers are urged to contact:

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613-726-7984

OR

Revd. Dr. Ronald Hunt
ronald-hunt@sympatico.ca
613-283-0740

Celebrating the 1662 Book of Common Prayer

*By Diana Verseggy, President
of the PBSC Toronto Branch*

In this year of celebration of the 350th anniversary of the 1662 Book of Common Prayer, my home parish of St. Thomas's in Toronto was quick off the mark with a service of Holy Communion done according to the 1662 book on February 2nd. The service was carefully researched and directed by our Associate Priest, the Revd. Robert Mitchell, and the celebrant was the Dean of Divinity at Trinity College, the Revd. Dr. David Neelands. Every effort was made to conduct the service according to the ceremonial that would have been used in 1662. Choral music that would have been sung in cathedrals at that period was selected by choir member Bryan Martin. The service music was Thomas Tallis' "First Service (Dorian)", from a collection of church music published in 1641.

Most of the parts of the service were familiar from our 1962 Canadian BCP, but there were some interesting and striking differences. The service began, as in our Canadian book, with the Lord's Prayer, the Collect for Purity and then, which is not so usual, the entire Ten Commandments. The option of using the Summary of the Law instead is, I am told, a Canadian innovation! The *Kyrie* ("Lord have mercy") was absent. The Collect for the Queen followed (not optional in the 1662 book), then the usual Collect for the Day, the Epistle and Gospel (King James version, of course!), and the Nicene Creed. The sermon was given by the Revd. Dr. Ephraim Radner of Wycliffe College. Dr. Radner warned us beforehand that sermons in the seventeenth century were typically at least an hour in

length, but considerately kept his down to about twenty minutes!

A selection of offertory sentences followed, then an anthem by Thomas Tomkins, during which a collection was taken up. Then came the Prayer for the Church as usual, followed by the Exhortation to Communion (now found on pages 88-89 of our Canadian BCP). Despite the rubric in our book that this exhortation is to be read at least twice a year, on a Sunday in Advent and a Sunday in Lent, I had never heard it read aloud in church before, and I must say that I found it deeply moving.

After the Confession, Absolution and Comfortable Words came some of the most notable differences. There were no proper prefaces or "Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord" after the *Sanctus*. The Prayer of Humble Access came right after the *Sanctus*, followed by the Prayer of Consecration up to the words of consecration. Communion was administered then and there, which I found quite an inspired way of "inserting" the congregation into the sacramental act. This was followed by the Lord's Prayer (there was no "Peace" or *Agnus Dei*.) Then came a prayer after Communion, incorporating parts of both the last section of our present Prayer of Consecration and our present prayer after Communion. The service concluded, as in our book, with the *Gloria* and the blessing.

There were no candles or flowers on the altar, which was smaller than what we commonly see and covered with a brocaded cloth. The clergy were vested in cassock, surplice, scarf and academic hood. The celebrant and assisting priest stood at the north and south ends

of the altar respectively, a practice that I am told used to be quite common in Canada, but which I myself had only ever seen once before. (I must say that I liked being able to see what the priest was doing, without the in-your-face distraction of westward celebration!) Almost all of the responses were sung by the choir alone, except for the Lord's Prayer and the Confession, which were repeated responsively line-by-line by the congregation after the priest (I suppose because the Prayer Book had so recently been re-introduced after the ten years of Puritan rule, the service would still have been somewhat unfamiliar to most people). There was no congregational singing at that date (something that I did miss.)

The overall impression that this rite made on me was certainly one of austerity, but also one of deep piety. Some phrases, that have been dropped from our 1962 Prayer Book as perhaps overly solemn, struck me to the heart. "We brought nothing into the world, neither may we carry anything out"; "He hath ordained holy mysteries, to our great and endless comfort"; "The remembrance of [our sins] is grievous to us, The burden of them is intolerable"; "Although we be unworthy, through our manifold sins, to offer unto thee any sacrifice ..." Beside these strong words, our 1962 book began to look a little anaemic!

In this anniversary year, many parishes might find it rewarding to revisit our heritage of worship in the 1662 BCP. Fr. Robert Mitchell has kindly made available on our website (www.prayerbook.ca) the service booklet that he compiled. Other parishes are welcome to use it as a resource.

A Review of Peter Hitchens' "The Rage Against God"

By Peter A. Scotchmer

Militant atheism is fashionable. Books denying the existence of a Deity are bestsellers, and believers in a merciful and omniscient God suffer, according to biologist Richard Dawkins, from a "delusion". According to his compatriot, the journalist Christopher Hitchens, God is "not great". As both Dawkins and Hitchens were raised in nominally Anglican homes, it is appropriate that reasoned and moderate Christian responses to their intemperate polemics should come from Anglican writers. In his landmark book *The Dawkins Delusion*, (SPCK, 2007) scientist and theologian Alister McGrath has argued that atheism is itself a "delusion" – one about God. Now it is the turn of Peter Hitchens, Christopher's younger brother, to answer what he calls his brother's "rage".

A journalist like his brother, and a former Trotskyite who once in his youth burned his own copy of the Bible, Peter Hitchens has now returned to the Church of England as an adult. His journey home is the subject of *The Rage Against God*, published recently by Zondervan. Hitchens junior respects his brother's right to disagree with him, but perhaps mindful that "the soft answer turneth away wrath", eschews personal attack in favour of spiritual autobiography, in the tradition of Augustine's *Confessions*, Bunyan's *Grace*

Abounding, or Lewis' *Surprised by Joy*, to show how he was led back to faith.

As a foreign correspondent in Moscow, Peter Hitchens became disenchanted by the failure of Marxism as practised by Soviet authorities to deliver on its promise to establish heaven on earth. In a museum in Beaune, France, he had



"The Prodigal Son" by Thomas Hart Benton

an epiphany while viewing van der Weyden's "The Last Judgement" (a painting easily accessible by googling) which spoke to him deeply and personally about his life's priorities. But when he returns to the faith of his fathers, he is shocked by what he finds in church. He sees himself in Thomas Hart Benton's famous painting "The Prodigal Son" (also accessible by googling) in which a downcast reprobate returns too late to the abandoned family homestead, roofless and devastated by neglect. The painting is for Hitchens a metaphor for what has

happened to the Church of England while he was away:

The desolation is infinite. And as I surveyed the melancholy remnants of my own church, out of which I had petulantly stomped, I felt the same [as Benson's Prodigal].... The new, denatured, committee-designed prayers and services were not just ugly, but contained a different message, which was not strong enough to satisfy my need to atone.

What he yearns for is the strong meat of the Book of Common Prayer, and yet this need is answered with ecclesiastical indifference, carefully documented. He has this to say about the BCP's Evensong service:

This sunset ceremony is the very heart of English Christianity. The prehistoric, mysterious poetry of the Magnificat and the Nunc Dimittis ... are

extraordinarily potent. If you welcome them, they have an astonishing power to reassure and comfort.

By his own admission, Peter Hitchens is the prodigal son returned, chastened by experience but nevertheless determined to affirm traditional Anglican worship in a cynical and faithless world. His determination to do so compels our respect; his honesty, our admiration.

(Reprinted from the PBSC Ottawa Branch newsletter)

Choir Activities at Christ Church Cathedral, Ottawa

By Garth Hampson

We at Christ Church Cathedral, Ottawa continue to offer regular services of Evensong. We also do special Compline services and a late afternoon program under the title of "Twilight Service". These feature various groups of singers from our very fine choirs - a) the Men and Boys' Choir under the direction of Matthew Larkin and b) the Cathedral Girls' Choir under the direction of Tim Piper.

Both choirs bring us the great music of our Anglican traditions.

The Boys and Men have recently toured England and France where they sang Mattins and Evensong services at St. Paul's in London, Salisbury Cathedral and Bath Abbey as well as Chartres in France. The Girls' Choir is preparing for a tour this August where they will sing the morning services at Westminster Abbey and then become resident choir to do daily Evensongs at Canterbury Cathedral. In Belgium they have been invited to sing the daily ceremony at the Menin Gate at Ypres before going on to Vimy, France.

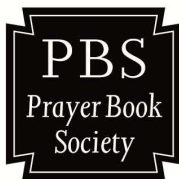
One of the highlights of this year will be the singing of a Festal Evensong to commemorate the Diamond Jubilee of our Queen on Sunday, May 6th in Christ Church Cathedral. Both choirs will sing at that 4:30 PM Evensong service. The Men and Boys' Choir recently sang at the Diamond Jubilee medal presentations at Rideau Hall on Feb. 6th, the day of the Queen's accession to the throne. The following day the Girls' Choir sang at the unveiling of the memorial window for Queen Victoria in the foyer of the Senate on Parliament Hill.



PBSC ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of the Prayer Book Society of Canada will be held on Saturday, May 5, 2012, at St. Alban's Cathedral, Prince Albert, Saskatchewan, beginning at 2:00 PM. The annual Chairman's and Treasurer's reports will be presented, and the meeting will elect up to fifteen Councillors to serve as members of the National Council alongside the officers and the branch chairmen.

Nominations are invited for the positions of National Chairman, Vice-Chairmen, Treasurer, Membership Secretary and Recording Secretary. Nominations for these positions must be received by the end of March, since these officers are elected by the branch chairmen. Nominations are also invited for the positions of Councillor and Honorary President, and these may be either submitted beforehand or presented at the AGM. Nominees for all positions must be members of the PBSC, and nominations require a mover and a seconder, both of whom must also be members of the PBSC. Nominations are to be sent to the national Recording Secretary, Ronald Bentley, at 737 Hot Springs Way, Gloucester, ON, K1V 1W8 (rwbentley@sympatico.ca).



**Choral Evensong in St Paul's Cathedral,
London, England,
followed by a Reception in the Crypt
in Celebration of the 350th Anniversary
of the 1662 Book of Common Prayer**

Wednesday, 2nd May 2012
Choral Evensong 5.00pm; Reception 6.30pm

The Trustees of The Prayer Book Society (England) warmly invite you to join them in celebration of this 350th Anniversary Year. All are welcome at the service of Choral Evensong at which we will be joined by our Ecclesiastical Patron, the Bishop of London and the Dean and Chapter of St Paul's Cathedral along with our President, Vice-Presidents and honoured supporters of the Prayer Book Society. This will be followed by a reception in the Crypt. The dress code for the event is lounge suit/day dress.

If you would like to attend the service and/or reception please either complete the application form and return by airmail to the PO Box address shown on the form, or e-mail the relevant details to the address indicated. (If you do not wish to send credit card details by e-mail and prefer to supply them by telephone, please be aware that this is a residential telephone number and **bear in mind the time difference**—the UK is on GMT.)

The closing date for applications is Wednesday, 11th April 2012. We expect demand to be high, so please do not make irrevocable travel arrangements until acceptance of your booking is confirmed. Tickets will be sent out approximately 3 weeks prior to the event (so please indicate if you would like them to be sent to a different address).

Payment must be made in pounds sterling. There is a £5 administration charge per booking (not per person). Tickets for the Reception are £35 per head and are limited in number so will be allocated on a first come first served basis.

Those attending are requested to bring photographic identification (passport or photographic driving licence) as proof of identity MAY be required.



**The Book of
Common Prayer
350th year**

Choral Evensong and Reception in St Paul's Cathedral London, England on Wednesday, 2nd May 2012

APPLICATION FORM FOR TICKETS

Name_____

Address_____

Telephone_____

Email_____

	Price each	Number required	Total price
Tickets for service	£0.00		£0.00
Tickets for reception	£35.00		
Administration charge			£5.00
Total			

Please debit my Visa/Mastercard/Maestro account with the above total sum.

Card No.
 Start Date / Expires End / CVV
 (If applicable) (Last 3 digits on back of card)

Cardholder's Signature_____ Date_____

Please provide full names of all those attending the service and/or the reception
 (continuing overleaf if necessary).

Please indicate if any of those attending will be using a wheelchair.

Title (Mr/Mrs/Miss/Rev'd/other)	Christian name in full	Surname
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Please note that tickets to the reception are limited and will be allocated on a first come, first served basis. **The closing date for applications is Wednesday, 11th April 2012.**

Please return this form to: Clare Scherer, Prayer Book Society, P O Box 733, Chichester,
 West Sussex PO19 9QA, UNITED KINGDOM

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Opinions expressed in this
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