



The Prayer Book Society of Canada
National Chairman - The Rev'd Dr. Gordon R. Maitland

Advent 2021

Dear friends and supporters of the Book of Common Prayer,

I would like to begin with some exciting and encouraging news. Many of you will be familiar with the name of the Rev'd Chris Dow, who is a member of our National Council and has been one of the chief architects of our highly successful BCP app. He was also one of the co-authors of the new prayer "For Reconciliation with the Jews". A few weeks ago he told us that he had been appointed Rector of St. Jude's Cathedral in Iqaluit and Dean of the Diocese of the Arctic. He took up the duties of his new position on Advent Sunday. We look forward to hearing more from him about this wonderful new call to ministry. It is always a blessing to see faithful and godly clergy raised to senior positions of leadership in our Church, and it gives us hope for genuine renewal in Canadian Anglicanism.

As you will remember, one of our major projects during this past year was the overhaul and redevelopment of the PBSC website, "prayerbook.ca". The relaunched website has been receiving much favourable comment, and we have now started turning our attention to our Facebook page, "facebook.com/pbscanada". Kerry Dickson, our website custodian, has agreed to take on the additional job of managing our Facebook presence. Thanks to her efforts there are many more items being posted and more conversations taking place, and this is greatly increasing our visibility. If you are already online and using Facebook, please bookmark our site and return to it often. We are sure that you will be edified by what is being posted there.

Our annual bursary programme for theological students wrapped up in late November. In recent years the bursaries committee has been greatly impressed by the overall calibre of the applicants, and this year was no exception. The candidates, who were mostly in their 20s, demonstrated a fresh and vivid appreciation of the Prayer Book. Their responses were thoughtful and intelligent, and in some cases showed surprising insight. One candidate expressed the view that the BCP is a more appropriate book of worship for our time and our world than the BAS, which was after all the product of a period of economic prosperity, expectations of imminent world peace and harmony, and general complacency; whereas the BCP has "a robust understanding of sin which puts into perspective the tragedies of this world and necessitates Christ". This is indeed a refreshing refutation of those who argued at the time of the introduction of the BAS that the BCP was irrelevant and out of date! It is so very encouraging to see young folk of such abilities unabashedly upholding the Prayer Book, and it certainly gives us hope for the future of the Anglican Church.

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This letter is our last opportunity to appeal to your generosity before the next year begins. Of course, no one receiving it should feel under any compulsion to make a financial donation, especially if their financial circumstances make that impossible. We want you to remain in contact with us, to hear about the work of the Society, and to offer your prayers and intercessions on our behalf. Having said that, if you can support us, please do so. We are deeply grateful for any and all donations which come our way.

Finally, I would remind those who are able to and have not yet done so to please consider signing up on our website to receive our quarterly mailings electronically via Mailchimp. This will help to lower our operating costs by reducing our mailing expenses. Signing up is very easy. Simply connect to our website, and on the top navigation bar you will see a tab labelled "Connect". In the drop-down menu under "Connect", click on the link "Stay in touch". On this page you will find an area labelled "Subscribe" where you can enter your name and email address. Needless to say, the database of emails will be kept strictly confidential and your email will not be given to any third party without your explicit permission.

I wish all of you God's blessings during the Advent and Christmas celebrations this month, despite all the limitations and restrictions which you might have to bear because of the pandemic. And I certainly hope and pray that the good Lord will grant us all a happy and prosperous New Year.

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gordon R. Maitland". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "G" and a small cross at the end of the last word.

The Rev'd Dr. Gordon R. Maitland