



The Prayer Book Society of Canada

National Chairman - The Rev'd Canon Dr. Gordon R. Maitland

Michaelmas 2023

Dear friends and supporters of the Book of Common Prayer,

As I reported in my last letter, circumstances beyond our control prevented the Prayer Book Society of Canada from having an information booth at General Synod in Calgary at the end of June, as we have had at previous Synods. However, National Councillor the Revd. Matthew Perrault and I were present as observers representing the Society. The two of us managed to hand out to almost every delegate present a PBSC bookmark with a QR code directing people to our Common Prayer Canada app. It was gratifying to hear many delegates say that they had already downloaded the app to one of their devices. We were also pleased to be present when the prayer “For Reconciliation with the Jewish People” was voted on for the second time for approval and was passed unanimously. Let anyone should think that this was a trivial matter, it is worth stating that the news of this prayer being accepted was widely published in the Jewish media. It was reported in the national newsletter of the Jewish Federations of Canada and appeared internationally in an article in the Jerusalem Post. We have every reason to be proud of this achievement.

I was pleased to be introduced at General Synod to Ms. Alicia Brown, who is the Communications Officer for the Anglican Church of Canada. It is her department (*not* Faith, Worship and Ministry) that is responsible for publishing the worship materials (service books and hymnals) for the Canadian Church. We had an excellent conversation about the next (revised) printing of the BCP, and she expressed her appreciation for the Society’s input into its production. This next printing will include the updated name of the Sovereign (Charles instead of Elizabeth) along with the necessary alteration of pronouns to go with that change. The Table of Moveable Feasts (pp. xiv, xv) will be updated for the next 50 years, and the prayer “For Reconciliation with the Jewish People” will replace the prayer “For the Conversion of the Jews” in the Prayers and Thanksgiving section (p. 41). She assured me that there would be a pew edition, a large print edition, and several leather-clad gift editions of the book. The ambitious target for printing these books was set for January 2024, but Ms. Brown intimated that production delays would probably push that date forward to the summer of 2024. God willing, the revised printing will be in people’s hands by this time next year.

There are two articles in our newsletter for this quarter that I hope will interest you. One is an item that was posted earlier on our website and that I mentioned in my last letter: an essay entitled “A Liturgy of Comfort” by the Revd. Benjamin Crosby, a graduate student at McGill University in Montreal, in which he writes eloquently about the spiritual enrichment that he has found using the service of Holy Communion in our 1962 BCP according to the traditional ceremonial of the 1662 Prayer Book. The other is my review of a new biography entitled, *A Memoir: Harold Lee Nutter, VI Bishop of Fredericton and Metropolitan*. Archbishop Nutter’s ministry as Dean and later Bishop of

Fredericton spanned the turbulent times that the Canadian Church went through during the 1960s to the 1980s, including the introduction of the Book of Alternative Services. He was also the PBSC's first Episcopal Visitor. For those interested in a personal account of that challenging period, this book makes for an interesting read.

Finally, I would like to draw your attention to an item that has recently been posted on the "Educational Resources" page on our website. It consists of a four-part video study series on the Holy Trinity, led by Canadian theologian Dr. Edith Humphrey. Although it was originally produced back in 2005 (through a PBSC initiative called "Parish Alive!"), it has been digitally refurbished and is well worth a look, as Dr. Humphrey's insights still provide much food for thought. The four segments are each 15 to 20 minutes long, and are suitable for either small group or individual study.

As always, we welcome your continued financial support for the ongoing work of the Society, as far as your means will allow. Your generosity is essential if we are to continue to bear witness to the importance of the Book of Common Prayer in the life of the Anglican Church of Canada and beyond. An envelope is provided for a contribution by cheque or credit card, or you may choose to make a donation using the Canada Helps link under "Connect" on our website.

I wish every one of you God's richest blessings, and hope and pray that the good Lord will prosper you in all of your undertakings in the months ahead.

Your servant in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Gordon R. Maitland" with a small cross at the end of the line.

The Rev'd Canon Dr. Gordon R. Maitland