



The Prayer Book Society of Canada

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

Thanksgiving 2024

Dear friends and supporters of the Book of Common Prayer,

I am pleased to say that we have no shortage of articles to present in our newsletter as we head into autumn. These articles really represent the range of activities that we do as a Society, and which individual Prayer Book supporters undertake at a local level.

On the one hand, we have a scholarly and critical review of a new Office Book published by the Anglican Church of Canada. While the attempt to get Anglicans to pray more and to read the Scriptures is certainly commendable, our reviewer, the Rev'd Chris Dow, also points out that there are a few flaws in this work that ought to be addressed to make this contemporary language version of Morning and Evening Prayer more faithful to the Christian tradition.

On the other hand, we have a couple of wonderful and practical accounts of local people organizing services for the edification of their neighbours and friends. In one instance it means holding regular services of choral Evensong at a church in London, Ontario. The other instance involves an undertaking on a larger scale – some people in Viking, Alberta, taking on an unloved and defunct church, refurbishing it and holding Prayer Book services for the edification of local people.

This newsletter includes a call for applications for bursaries to support theological students, and there is also an announcement about the imminent launch of a years-long project undertaken by the PBSC to develop a table of Old Testament lections to complement the Eucharistic lections already printed in the BCP. This latter project, originally envisioned as just a table of scriptural citations, has blossomed into the production of handsome printed editions of the full augmented lectionary that can be ordered via Amazon, as well as a wealth of supporting documents that are posted on our website.

Finally, you will find in this issue an obituary of a humble, yet stalwart, member of our Society (representative of the countless grassroots folk who have contributed so much to our work), as well as an article about a Prayer Book conference that I had the privilege to attend earlier this year.

These articles are a testament to the positive energy that is being channeled towards renewal in our Church and the building up of the Body of Christ. Needless to say, many of these initiatives would be impossible without the financial support of those who love the Book of Common Prayer. If at all possible, please send a donation in the envelope provided, or make a donation online at our website through Canada Helps. Your contributions help to ensure that our activities continue. God bless you all as we celebrate in this season of Thanksgiving the abundance and blessings that God has provided for us.

Your servant in Christ,