



The Prayer Book Society of Canada

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

Lent 2025

Dear friends and supporters of the Book of Common Prayer,

I want to begin by expressing my deep and sincere gratitude for the generous response to our appeal for financial assistance with bursaries for theological students that appeared in our December mailing. It enabled us to fund all of those deserving students who applied, with some money left over! We feel that these bursaries are an important ministry, since they not only help those who will be the future clergy of our church but also enable us to connect with BCP-friendly ordinands who will maintain (or reintroduce!) the use of the Book of Common Prayer in their future congregations.

Another means of connection with at least some future clergy has been made possible by the appointment of our Vice-Chairman, the Rev'd Chris Dow, as Chaplain and Director of Field Education at Wycliffe College in Toronto. You can read about his new appointment in the accompanying newsletter. And for lay folk, we are delighted to publicize the re-instatement of occasional retreats at Monastery, Nova Scotia. These retreats have in the past been a wonderful source of spiritual refreshment to all participants, and it is gratifying that a group of Maritime clergy is spearheading this initiative.

The Prayer Book Society of Canada has been blessed to have had capable Episcopal Visitors over the last number of decades, and that tradition continues with the appointment of our new Episcopal Visitor, the Rt. Rev. William G. Cliff, XIII Bishop of the Diocese of Ontario. He writes eloquently about his love for the BCP in the cover article of the newsletter. Also included is a sermon from our immediate past Episcopal Visitor, the recently retired Bishop Michael Hawkins, who is now serving as Honorary President of the PBSC.

Another very interesting article in our newsletter describes the recent approval for trial use, by some congregations in the Diocese of Central Florida, of the Old Testament lectionary devised under the auspices of the PBSC to complement the eucharistic lectionary in the Canadian BCP. This is at least one export to the United States that will not be subject to any tariffs! Also, please take note of the announcement in the newsletter of our Annual General Meeting, which will take place at the end of May. It is an important event in the life of our Society, so we encourage you to make every effort to attend online via Zoom.

Finally, I would like to end this newsletter with some personal notes. After more than thirty-four years of ordained ministry I am retiring from active parish service as of the end of March 2025. My wife, the Venerable Jane Humphreys, has accepted a new ministry as the Executive Archdeacon (CEO) of the Diocese of Ontario, and we are moving to Kingston, Ontario, at the end of April so that she can begin her new appointment as of the first of May. However, I will still continue as National Chairman of the PBSC, and Bishop Cliff will no doubt find some ministry opportunities for me in Kingston. We are much excited about this new adventure in our lives, and we look forward to many more years of service to the Church.

May God bless you and your family during this Lenten season, and grant you peace and joy at the upcoming celebration of our Lord's Resurrection.

Your servant in Christ,