



exploring worship today

Supporting and resourcing the liturgical life of the Church of England

Praxis News

Issue 19 - September 2002

What is Praxis?

Praxis was formed in 1990, sponsored by the Liturgical Commission, the Group for the Renewal of Worship (GROW) and the Alcuin Club. It exists to provide and support liturgical education in the Church of England.

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Getting in touch - please note our new details

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Praxis moves to new administrative base

Praxis is moving to a new administrative base over the Summer, after twelve years of operating from the centre of London.

In an arrangement with the Royal School of Church Music, the *Praxis* administration will be re-sited to Cleveland Lodge, at Westhumble in Surrey from September 2002. The biggest differences that this will make is that *Praxis* will have a new postal and Internet address, and a different phone number (see details in the left-hand column). Nobody will have to travel out to the leafy slopes of Box Hill, however (where Cleveland Lodge is situated). St Matthew's, Westminster will continue to host Council meetings and some of the London *Praxis* events, since it is ideal in its central location.

Ever since the inception of *Praxis*, the day to day administration for *Praxis* events has been handled by Philip Chester. In early days, his chaplain's study at King's College was the nerve centre, and when Philip moved to St Matthew's, Westminster *Praxis* moved with him. Anyone who has rung the *Praxis* office over recent years will have realised that they

were getting in touch with a busy parish office as well. *Praxis* owes a debt of gratitude to Philip for his generosity and dedication.

Editor on the move, too...

The editor of *Praxis News* has also moved this Summer—please note the details on the back page for correspondence and other contributions.

Important notice for subscribers

In order to stream-line the *Praxis* administration, *Praxis News* will be available only to affiliates of *Praxis* from now on, and there will not be an option to renew a subscription just to *Praxis News* without also being an affiliate. If you would like to continue to receive *Praxis News*, and to support the work of *Praxis* by affiliation, you will find an affiliation application form in the centre of the new *Praxis* Programme. If you have any queries, please contact the *Praxis* administrative office.

Children and Liturgy – a Praxis e-mail discussion group

One of the initial complaints about *Common Worship* was that it was not easy to use inclusively with children. Since then, a wealth of experience and good practice has built up, and resources have been adapted and created for one-off services, regular all age worship and children-centred services. But many of these resources have been available only in individual parishes and deaneries.

The Liturgical Commission and the *Praxis* Council are concerned that good practice, ideas and resources are shared widely. By starting an e-mail list which will run for the next 18 months, we hope to encourage communication and sharing about how our liturgical resources might be used to inspire worship. At the beginning of 2004, it would be helpful for those most concerned with this subject to get together and form some resources, thoughts and ideas for publication.

If you are interested in contributing to this discussion, please contact Dana Delap at dana@liturgy.org.uk.

Have you seen...?

three new books, out this year

The Wine Danced

(Angela Ashwin, Eagle 2002, £7.99, available through IVP)

Angela Ashwin has spent some years researching into the way that eucharistic worship feeds and connects with everyday life, and this book is one of the outcomes of her reflections along the way. The book contains over sixty mediations, each of about a page and a half in length. Some are based on the words we use in communion services, and most are based on biblical quotes, covering a whole spectrum of eucharistic perspectives. Many of the meditations draw in quotes from other writings, and each ends with a 'word for weaving' - a thought to dwell upon and to take with you into the day. The scattering of black and white illustrations also provide stimulation for reflection, and it's a shame that there aren't even more of these.

To read this book through in one sitting would do it an injustice. It requires time and thought, and to be used in bite-sized chunks. It would be an ideal companion on retreat or through Lent or as a personal 'thought for the day'.

A Light on my Path

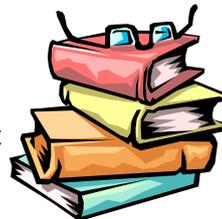
(David Durston, Canterbury Press 2002, £12.99)

This delightful little hardback book by the Chancellor of Salisbury Cathedral is an excellent companion to the psalms and is both informative and devotional.

Firstly, a substantial introductory section explores the origins and different types of psalms, contains a glossary of frequently used words and phrases, provides an index of key themes and suggests a reading scheme. We also find wise advice on how to read the psalms ourselves, and how we might handle the tricky bits that are hard to chew in this day and age.

In a second section, each psalm is given a page or so of commentary, describing its (probable) original purpose and providing the reader with a brief suggestion for prayer. We could keep the book beside us day by day as we read the psalms—whatever reading plan we follow. I would envisage the book being used mainly for personal prayer, but the concise

and pertinent commentaries could also be read aloud to a congregation from time to time.



r father n hvn

-up 2 d8 txts frm d bible

(Simon Jenkins, Westminster John Knox Press 2002, £6.99)

If you can read the title, then you will probably enjoy dipping into this entertaining little pocket-sized book, written and compiled by the editor of *ship-of-fools.com*. Essentially it is the outcome of a competition to put favourite verses of the Bible into text messages. Try this one out:

I wil B with U 24/7, 2 d end of time
(Matt 28.20)

There are also some humorous hieroglyphics, for example:

0:-) Angel
//oo\\ Sampson (pre-haircut)
\\o/\\o/ Gospel choir
]:-)]:-)]:-) —> *
Three kings follow the star

Teenage texters to hand who were asked for their verdict on the book considered it cool—but didn't think they'd be using it to text their friends. No matter—it's a bit of fun and is bound to give you a bit of amusement.

Report: Praxis fringe meeting at General Synod

liturgical authorisation process. Michael Perham (Dean of Derby and Chair of the Synod Business sub-committee) kicked off by outlining the recent 'tinkering' that had been achieved to make the current process more workable, but he added that a complete review of the Worship and Doctrine Measure might well be desirable and necessary, as long as we can find a way of protecting doctrine.

Paul Roberts (Member of Synod and of the Liturgical Commission and Chair of *Praxis*) then made a case for a radical loosening up of

the process. Paul would like to reduce the time (and cost) currently spent by synod on each item of liturgy and also to find ways of giving official permission to local experimental and grass roots innovation (appropriate pastoral oversight), allowing the possibility of evolution, rather than having to authorise liturgy in a prescribed form.

The presentations were followed by a brief yet lively and positive discussion, concluded by David Stancliffe (Bishop of Salisbury and Chair of the Liturgical Committee) who stressed the need

for good quality liturgical education to be widely available to under-gird the greater freedom and trust that might be given to the Church under this sort of proposal.

It was a constructive hour, and well worth airing the subject. This will not be the end of this particular matter.



The most recent booklet in the Grove Worship Series is No. 171 'Collects—an alternative view' compiled by a number of GROW members.

Coming up in October: The laying on of hands (No. 172) by Carolyn Headley and in December: Urban Liturgy (No. 173) by Tim Stratford.

All are available from Grove Books at www.grovebooks.co.uk or telephone 01223 464748.

Any hope in sight of a National Liturgical Officer?

Hopes of the Church of England funding a liturgical officer at a national level in the near future have been dashed recently when members of the General Synod meeting in York in July passed a budget proposal which kept liturgical funding at its current levels.

Earlier this year, the Chair of the Liturgical Commission's 'Formation Group' Jeremy Fletcher, made representation to the Finance Committee of the Archbishop's Council, making a strong case for a centrally-based liturgical officer. Whilst the Finance Committee gave time to the proposal, and were sympathetic to the need for such a post it considered a recommendation to be inexpedient given the current financial climate. The Archbishop's Council was equally sympathetic, but rejected the post for the 2003 budget.

A strong case

There are at least two ways of presenting the argument. The first is to examine the priorities of the Archbishop's Council and to consider the relative funding distributed amongst them. The Archbishop's Council has four 'themes' (social concern, evangelism, children and young people and the ministry of all the baptised) and two 'fundamentals': enhancing worship and seeking visible unity. Worship is the only one of these areas that has no full-time post-holder at Church House, Westminster, whilst the other areas employ all sorts of people. All the official Church of England liturgy that is done centrally is done by busy people in their spare time. Apart from those who administer the work of the Liturgical Commission, there isn't a worship adviser available at the end of the telephone at Church House to which the parishes and dioceses can refer, and there is nobody there to weave a common thread between liturgy and the other key work of the Church.

The second point is that *Common Worship* has earned the Church a surplus of £1/2 million already (with more to come as the stock is sold). Some of this surplus has been channelled into *Visual Liturgy 4*—but that will easily be recouped. Members of the Liturgical Commission, regardless of whether they have any other income, have also had to sign away their rights to any royalties, to increase the revenue for the Church. Since the liturgists have made so much money for the Church, it seems ironic, at the least, that the Church in turn is unable fund a liturgical post.

The Church should pay for its own core activities

The Praxis National Education Officer, Mark Earey, was very much valued, not only as a *Common Worship* adviser, but for his general liturgical training and advice. As time went by, the Praxis post was increasingly funded from the proceeds of *Common Worship* but that arrangement was due to come to an end this year and has, indeed, done so (and Mark has moved on). Praxis certainly doesn't have the funds to support such a post and, in any case, the Praxis Council agrees that an officially recognised adviser working from Church House would be preferable. A partnership would also seem to be most unlikely. Funding for the Praxis post was hard to find, since scores of potential partners expressed the opinion that the Church should be paying for such a core activity itself.

Is there anything else that can be done?

That's it for this year. The issue remains on the Archbishop's Council agenda and if representation is made next year then the Finance Committee will give the matter renewed consideration.

Event Report:

Growing spiritually in the Prayer Book tradition



Ruth Lambert reflects on a day in Cambridge...

On 13th June about three dozen people made their way to St. John's, Cambridge for a day of stimulating talks and communal worship.

After a welcome and prayer we were treated to an excellent talk by Revd. Dr. Angela Tilby, Vice Principal of Westcott House, entitled 'The Genius of Cranmer and the Universal Church'. Cranmer was described as 'a fascinating figure: a shy, scholarly archbishop; brave and visionary in his concept of what an English prayer book could be, timid and fearful when it came to facing the consequences of his vision.' Dr. Tilby went on to outline Cranmer's legacy to his divided church explaining how the contradictions of his character are embedded in the texts themselves, expounding three examples. She argued that Cranmer's idiosyncracies thus contribute to the universality of the Prayer Book in these particular areas, each reflecting different theologies held in tension:

1. The tradition of holding regular daily offices of prayer and praise in Morning and Evening Prayer.
2. The Eucharist's language, liturgies and postures.
3. The language of devotion, demonstrated in newly composed prayers and in the use of Latin collects, both translated and revised.

Dr. Tilby concluded that Cranmer's own questioning character contributed greatly to the spirituality and theology of the Prayer Book he gave us, reflecting his evangelical yet Catholic faith, and shot through with a serious call to honest, faithful and fruitful relationships.

The next contributor was Baroness P.D. James, famous author and lay patron of the Prayer Book Society. She spoke in the morning about the importance of the Prayer Book in the English tradition, giving an historical overview of how she perceives the BCP to have influenced the Church of England over the past four centuries. In the afternoon she spoke much more personally, and evocatively, about her own experience of growing spiritually with the Prayer Book; and all that this has meant to her own faith development and understanding.

Revd. Alec George, a member of Praxis Council, also spoke after lunch, discussing how we might make the words of our liturgies, including the Prayer Book, live. He valued the BCP for its 'overwhelming tide of Scripture'; for its relational liturgies and its overlaying spirals of meaning.

Many were able to join in a celebration of Prayer Book Communion before lunch, and the day concluded with a quiet and reflective service of Evening Prayer - BCP, of course! Many thanks to all concerned for this valuable and informative day.

On 6 July over forty members of Synod gathered at the invitation of Praxis to consider the complexity of the Church of England's

Praxis Programme 2002/2003

The new programme of *Praxis* events has been published with this edition of *Praxis News*. Here's a summary, as a taster. Copies of the programme can be obtained from the Praxis Office (details on front page):

- Wholeness and healing
Revd Ian Forester
1 October 2002 (Cambridge)
- Memorials and funerals
Canon Stephen Oliver and Canon Donald Gray
15 October 2002 (London)
- Liturgy, mission and culture
George Kovoov
17 October 2002 (St Helen's)
- Worship and space
Mr Martin Stancliffe, Revd John Naudē, Revd Richard Curtis
17 October 2002 (Birmingham)
- Rebuked or remade – exploring penitence in worship
Ms Angela Ashwin and Revd Canon Gordon Oliver
22 November 2002 (London)
- Using the Bible in regular worship
Revd Dr Paul Bradshaw and Rt Revd Colin Buchanan
1 February 2003 (Mirfield)
- New 'Patterns for Worship'
Revd Peter Craig-Wilde and Revd Mark Earey
8 February 2003 (Durham)
- On another planet? - Relating Christian worship to people of a postmodern culture
Mr Jonny Baker, Revds Philip Chester, Nick Mercer and Paul Roberts
12 February 2003 (London)
- Worship for all in a multi-faith culture
Rt Revd Dr Peter R Forster, Revd Canon Bruce Saunders, Revd Canon Michael Ipgrave
20 March 2003 (Birmingham)
- Resourcing Adults and Children in the Eucharist
Revd Canon Betty Pedley, Revd John Muir, The Very Revd John Methuen
10 May 2003 (Halifax)
- Times and visions
Revd Anders Bergquist and Mr David Green
13 May 2003 (Cambridge)
- The voice of stillness - Silence, Music and noise in worship
Ms Angela Ashwin and Mr John Harper
27 June 2003 (Durham)
- Services of the Word that work
Revd Gilly Myers
27 September 2003 (Lincoln)
- New tools for worship – consultation
Date to be confirmed (Merseyside)

Notice board



'New Patterns for Worship'

Watch out for this thoroughly updated resource book to supplement *Common Worship*. Whilst organised like the old *Patterns*, this book has more in it and a new interior design which contributes to its 'flickability' and ease of use. It's due to be published in November this year and will cost £22.50

On the edge?

The Liturgical Commission is at the early stages of preparing a report into liturgical 'boundary pushing'. The book would be along the lines of *Making Women Visible*, a discussion document published in 1988 which explored the use of inclusive language with the ASB. Controversial issues explored this time would include the naming of God (eg should we address God as 'Mother?') and the possibility of extempore congregational participation in the eucharistic preface.

New Collects are taking shape

The 'collects sub-group' of the Liturgical Commission has already compiled a collection of alternative collects and will take the final texts to the Liturgical Commission in October. If the prayers pass to the House of Bishops in November, then they may make it onto the February 2003 agenda of General Synod. We hope to print some samples in the next issue.

Correction: Jeremy Fletcher is not a member of the collects sub-group as attributed in issue 18.

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We reserve the right to edit material and make no guarantee to include material submitted.
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