

# PRAYER BOOK SOCIETY

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## CHESTER DIOCESE BRANCH

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### BRANCH NEWSLETTER - OCTOBER, 2017.

#### OUR BRANCH'S HEAT FOR THE CRANMER COMPETITION.

This will take place on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> November at The Queen's School, Chester: their address is City Walls Road, CH1 2NN. The start time will be 2 pm, the judges will be led by Bishop Peter and parking is available.

Numbers have waxed and waned a bit over recent years.... It is not too late for youngsters to start preparing: entrants at branch level heats are allowed to read from the BCP, though the winner of each age group will be expected to declaim from memory in the final in February.

#### ST MARY THE VIRGIN, MOLD - SUNDAY 19<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER.

A PBS member informs me that a special service of Choral Evensong will be held that evening at 5.30 pm. Singing will be led by Laudes Choir and they want to make a special effort to gather as large a congregation as possible who will be rewarded with cheese and wine afterwards for their efforts! Any further details from John Nicholas, [j.r.nicholas@btinternet.com](mailto:j.r.nicholas@btinternet.com)

#### LAUDES CHOIR.

Laudes is an occasional visiting choir dedicated to church music and bringing Evensong (and other services) to churches with no choir. They also sing in cathedrals and anywhere that would welcome them. Based on the Wirral/Chester they have sung at St Asaph Cathedral, Shrewsbury Abbey, Southwark, Liverpool, Blackburn, Derby, Carlisle and Hereford Cathedrals as well as smaller more local places.

If you would welcome a visit from Laudes for a one-off Evensong or other service/event, please contact: Becky Ford 0151 336 5088 or email [b-ford@live.com](mailto:b-ford@live.com).

#### AN EXCELLENT IDEA

Enclosed are two cards which I collected from the PBS Conference in September - one was included with the recent copy of *The Prayer Book Today* which you have received recently. There is a substantial supply at Head Office (address on the back of the card) so if you want to contact them for a small (or large!) supply to push around in your area, please do so.

I think they are excellent and help to dismantle the argument that the language is too difficult. The Daily Telegraph also gave a good report on them shortly after the conference.

#### TRAINING DAY FOR LAY READERS.

A second training day for Lay Readers was organised by our Society on 17<sup>th</sup> October at St Marylebone Parish Church entitled *Bringing The Book of Common Prayer's Morning and Evening Prayer to Life* and was attended by Lay Readers from as far afield as Carlisle and Chichester. Just something else which the Society does to further our cause.

*"During discussions with delegates it became clear that, contrary to the belief of many clergy, congregations rarely have a problem with the ancient language of the Prayer Book. Indeed, many value its distinctiveness"*

which supports the introduction of the cards above.

Those on the internet who would like further information of the various things which Head Office organise during the year should ask our new PR man to put them on his mailing list - [tim@timstanleypr.co.uk](mailto:tim@timstanleypr.co.uk)

#### ST MARY'S, WHITEWELL.

I attended the recent service of Matins at our most recent corporate member and can report that support for this much loved but rarely used order of service is alive and well. The pretty little church is a bit off the beaten track but support was well above their normal congregation. Singing was led by Vox Vocavit who sang the Te Deum and Jubilate to Stanford in B flat: several of us talking over coffee afterwards remember singing that music at school.....

Among the congregation were a couple who will be married in St. Mary's next year and who were making one of their required number of attendances. They hail from Worcester and like worshipping there so much they just come for the service anyway. It was their first experience of the Book of Common Prayer: they were so moved by the language that they plan to join the audience at the finals of the Cranmer Competition in Worcester in February. I shall make sure they are aware of the BCP version of the marriage service....I'll bet they probably haven't experienced that either.

#### SUBSCRIPTIONS.

Those whose subscriptions are due at this time of year have a reminder enclosed. It will be appreciated if you would pay reasonably promptly so that cheques may be cleared by the end of the year - thank you.

#### A LITTLE EARLY, PERHAPS .....

As this is my last Newsletter of the year, may I thank you all for your continued support and, with my wife (who does all the book-keeping for us), wish you all a blessed Christmas and peaceful and healthy New Year.

J. D. BALDWIN.