



PRAYER BOOK SOCIETY

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CHESTER DIOCESE BRANCH

From the Hon Secretary and Treasurer

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BRANCH NEWSLETTER – NOVEMBER, 2023.

This is an experiment - those members of the Chester Branch whose email is held by Head Office are receiving this Newsletter by email. The main advantage is that it will save the Society 75 pence postage for each address for each Newsletter. If you are happy for this to continue, then no action by you is necessary. If you would prefer to receive a paper copy from me, then all you have to do is let me know and I'll ensure I send you one next time.

THE ARCHDEACON OF MACCLESFIELD MOVES ON...

Many of you will have read that Ian Bishop, lately Archdeacon of Macclesfield and a former Rector of St. Michael's, Middlewich, was recently consecrated bishop in Westminster Abbey by the Archbishop of Canterbury and has been appointed to be Bishop of Thetford in Norfolk. We send our very best wishes to him and his family in this exciting appointment and record the contribution which the Bishop family has made to the Chester Diocese Branch during his 22 years of service here.

Some years ago (15, perhaps?), Bishop Ian's eldest son, Joe, came third in the National Finals of the Cranmer Competition and the youngest in the family, Will, won the Junior Section prize - both in the same year. The middle son, Dan, entered a couple of years later, did not feature among the prize winners, yet is the one who chose to be ordained and follow his father - Joe is a doctor in South America and Will is an actor, last I heard he was flying to New York for an audition... As Archdeacon, Bishop Ian was often on our panel of judges of our Cranmer heat.

Bishop Ian's appointment also made it onto *Have I Got News For You* on Friday 6th October... Look it up on iplayer.

It tickles my sense of humour that

- when he was at school, he was probably shown on the school roll as Bishop, Ian;
- to us in Cheshire he was Ian Bishop;
- and now he is Bishop Ian.

Aah...the nuances of the English language and the difference a comma can make!

CORPORATE MEMBER'S BCP HOLY COMMUNION.

St Mary's, Whitewell - another English anomaly, in that the parish is in the country of Wales but in the Diocese of Chester...

They are celebrating BCP Holy Communion on Sunday 26th November at 11 o'clock - a fairly infrequent occasion for them so all are particularly welcome to join them on this date.

THE KILMISTER AWARD.

Several of you have been in touch to congratulate me on being a recipient of this award by the Society - for which many thanks. In my letter to the Chairman thanking all those who planned our Society's 50th anniversary last month I included the following thoughts:

The reference by one of the bishops to Tony [Kilmister] being a street fighter (a) is accurate and (b) was what was required in those early days. Some in the highest echelons of the Church of England really were determined to bin the BCP, once and for all.

The Bishop of Chester before last, Michael Baughen, visited our Deanery and I went along to the meeting; afterwards, I went up to him, introduced myself of the secretary of the diocesan branch of the Prayer Book Society to which he replied most frostily "Goodness, you're not still using that old thing are you?". As I recall, our conversation finished there...

*Around that time, Kenneth Povey, then the Chaplain to the Anglican community in Copenhagen, was appointed Vicar of Gawsworth. The Gawsworth patronage is vested solely in the owner of the local 'big house' (Gawsworth Hall), at that time one Tim Richards. When the bishop heard of the appointment, his reaction was reported back to the patron as being along the lines of "well, if that's their b***** attitude, they can b***** paddle their own canoe". He was not happy with that appointment. Canon Povey was one of our former Chairmen and had a very successful time at Gawsworth.*

Thus, diplomatic niceties were not the primary weapons in those early days - street fighting was sometimes required and was what Tony could rise to when necessary.

CRANMER HEAT - 2023.

This was held on Saturday 4th November in what is sometimes referred to as the 'cathedral of South Cheshire', St. Mary's Church, Nantwich, where our Branch Chairman is the Rector and we were honoured to have this year's High Sheriff of Cheshire as one of the judges. The number of entrants was small but the standard was very high.

The winners of each section were: Seniors - Marina Herath from St. Pauls, Macclesfield and Juniors - Finlay O'Brien from St. Mary's, Nantwich.

We wish them both the best of good fortune in the finals which will take place in Hampton Court Palace at the end of February 2024.

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Finally my wife and I wish you all a very Happy Christmas and a healthy New Year.

J. D. Baldwin.