



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.

All the articles in *Praxis News* may be reproduced for local non-commercial use. You can download this and earlier issues, plus extra material, from: www.praxisworship.org.uk

Getting in touch

For general enquiries, affiliation and programme information, contact Praxis, St Matthew's House, 20 Great Peter St, Westminster SW1P 2BU
Tel: 020 7222 3704,
Fax: 020 7233 0255,
Email: Praxis@london.com

To order resources, contact Sarum College Bookshop, 19 The Close, Salisbury SP1 2EE
bookshop@sarum.ac.uk
Tel: 01722 326899
Fax: 01722 338508
Email: bookshop@sarum.ac.uk

Praxis in the 'post-product' era

Much of *Praxis'* work over the past few years has been focussed on the introduction of *Common Worship*. Now that the main body of *Common Worship* has emerged and churches are settling into using it, Praxis needed to re-assess its aims and objectives. This was the reason for the *Praxis* Consultation—a gathering of representatives from *Praxis'* sponsoring organisations—the Alcuin Club, the Liturgical Commission and the Group for Renewal of Worship which met with the Praxis Council in February.

Much of *Praxis'* energy has been spent on the preparation of the Church of England for 'the product' - *Common Worship*, and in the training of clergy, readers, leaders and other interested people to use the new material as it was being published. Not surprisingly there has been tremendous interest in *Praxis* training events and in the *Praxis* publications in the rush to find out all about the new services. The question that the Consultation wanted to address was whether it was time for *Praxis* to take a break.

Is there still work to be done?

The answer to this was emphatically 'yes!' The first thing to say is that whilst it is true that interest is waning with regard to using the *Common Worship* services that have already been published, there are still further *Common Worship* resources in the pipeline. As and when these see the light of day, there will be further training to be done.

Secondly, the establishment of *Common Worship* has not been and is not the end of *Praxis'* work. There has been much achieved that lies beyond *Common Worship* that should be continued and built upon, for example:

- Regional networks
- Cross-churchmanship liturgical

friendship and enthusiasm

- Keeping the Liturgical Commission accountable to the wider body of the Church

There are other areas that have great potential for development, for example:

- Expansion of the website
- Internet discussion groups
- Being a resource pool of trainers available for POT, CME and other diocesan or regional events.

Amongst *Praxis'* original aims, there is a chance to re-examine the possibilities of:

- Opening up creative liturgical thinking to a wider circle of people than 'liturgical specialists'
- Commitment to lay involvement in liturgy
- Ecumenical partnership
- Exploring the boundaries; taking risks in worship; trying things out

Finally—other work in progress:

- The *Praxis* Council is hoping to restructure and resite the central administration, for smooth and efficient running of the organisation.

So *Praxis'* work continues. Further exciting developments afoot regarding *Praxis News*, will be reported in the next issue.

Watch this space!

Inside this *Praxis News* ...

Book reviews	2
Worship with deaf people	2
Daily Prayer	3
Initiation Services	3
Praxis Fringe at Synod	4
Lost festivals	4
Notice Board	4

Have you seen...?

My Communion Book: a Child's Guide to Holy Communion

(Diana Murrie, CHP/NS 2002, £4.50)

This book has been thoroughly updated in this new edition for the *Common Worship* service of Holy Communion Order One.

Because of the wealth of options within *Common Worship*, no single book can now encompass all the possible variations that a child might encounter at their parish church, but this booklet handles this sensitively with lots of phrases like, 'We *may* hear...' (emphasis added) and the printing of both contemporary and traditional versions of the Lord's Prayer. Texts such as the confession are not printed at all.

This means that the book probably needs to be used *alongside* the *Common Worship* books or booklets or any locally produced order of service, rather than replacing them completely. It could also be used at home, or in children's learning groups, as part of the explanation of, and preparation for, communion.

The pictures are lively, colourful and attractive. As well as working through the service stage by stage with the liturgical text and explanatory comments, there is also advice for those who accompany the children about how to help them to understand what is going on and to reflect on their experiences.

The Calendar and Collects according to the use of the Church of Ireland

(Columba Press 2001, £8.00)

The Church of Ireland is preparing in earnest for a new Prayer Book, due to be published in 2004. The collects and

calendar are now available in final form, and as they replace collects made available for experimental use in 1995, and match the already authorised lectionary, the Church of Ireland's General Synod decided to publish this book of collects ahead of the main Prayer Book.

The book contains collects in two styles and a post-communion prayer for the Sundays and festivals of the year. Services in the new prayer book will be designated 'style one' for traditional language and 'style two' for contemporary language, and the collects follow suit, with the traditional collect (Collect One) printed first. The contemporary collect is sometimes a modern translation of Collect One, sometimes a completely different prayer. Post-communions are all contemporary language prayers and, like the collects, drawn from a variety of sources.

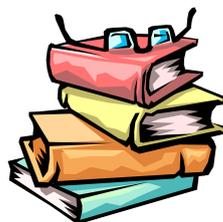
A useful resource for the Liturgical Commission's newly established Collects sub-group perhaps...?

Living the Eucharist: Affirming Catholicism and the Liturgy

(Stephen Conway, ed., DLT 2001, £10.95)

According to the publisher's information: 'A new vision of liturgical renewal from leading Anglican Catholic writers' who 'discuss the eucharistic liturgy in a way that is both enlightening and practical, providing theology, history and markers for "best practice" in the new era of *Common Worship*.'

mmmmmmmmmmmmmm



Event Report: Consultation between the Liturgical Commission and chaplains among deaf people



This Praxis-sponsored consultation took place in London on 1 February and brought together some 13 chaplains and 6 members of the Liturgical Commission.

It was primarily a time of learning, and in particular, of understanding the needs of people whose language (in the case of British Sign Language – BSL) is visual. A number of challenges became clear:

- The problems of translating English texts into BSL, which, for instance, uses different word order, has no 'passive' and no pronouns (so what do you do with 'on the night he was betrayed'?).
- The question of how to record 'visual texts'.
- How to translate for meaning, rather than word-for-word (and the experience of seeing 'Our Father which *art...*' signed using the sign for painting raised a laugh and made the point!).
- How a visual language can allow for ambiguity or multi-layered meaning (spoken words allow us to paint our own pictures in our minds – but what if the language puts the picture in front of your eyes...?).

It was a fascinating day full of new discoveries for all present, and it was clear that any attempt to translate prayers written in English into BSL is going to result in prayers that struggle to relate naturally to the language and culture of deaf people. There was a clear sense of a need for creative ways of applying 'dynamic equivalence' to the task of liturgy for deaf people within the Church of England.

The April 2002 booklet in the Grove Worship Series is No. 169 'Leading Intercessions', the first of a number of booklets with a practical training focus.

Coming up in June: Worship and Mission (No. 170) by Mark Earey and Carolyn Headley and in August: Collects: an alternative view (No. 171), compiled by a number of GRO members – all available from Grove Books at www.grovebooks.co.uk or telephone

If you are involved in liturgical research...

...you may be interested in the conference of the *Society for Liturgical Study* entitled 'The Place of Prayer'. The conference takes place at Mirfield between 27-29 August 2002. It's open only to members but if you are interested in membership, please contact Dr Carol Wilkinson: 52 Lowick Drive, Poulton le Fylde, Lancashire FY6 8HB.

Daily Prayer:

How is your book surviving?

A member of the Liturgical Commission complained that her copy of *Common Worship Daily Prayer* had fallen apart after only three weeks. 'You must be praying too much!' came the reply. What are the answers, however, to the following questions...

How do I stop the cover from curling up?

Large bookshops sell clear plastic covers which are just the right size for Daily Prayer and which will prolong the life of your copy, whilst also strengthening the flimsy cover. Just ask for size 204.

It is also possible to have your paperback copy bound in a hardback—at a price. But it might be worth it if you want to have a more sturdy book that looks less worn after a couple of years' use.

How can I use the book without Ribbons?

Christian bookshops sell sets of ribbons all joined together—or you can buy your own ribbons from a card shop or department store. It isn't difficult to sew them together at one end to use as a temporary measure.

Can we have some of the daily services in booklet form?

Night Prayer is already available in modern and traditional language (though without the seasonal variations). Once the final version of Daily Prayer has been prepared, there will probably be some further 'separates' available, but not before then. What might be most useful? Morning and Evening Prayer bound together with the Psalter. What do you think?

When will there be a hard-back edition (with ribbons)?

This answer depends on you (see the questionnaire at the back of Daily Prayer), and whether or not the general opinion is that the lectionary should be included at the back of the final version, after all—despite the original assumption that it would be .

If the lectionary is included, it will add 300 pages and quite some delay to publication. The lectionary will not be dated (cf the one in the ASB) and will be quite complex to use in ordinary time, so there are significant doubts as to its advantages.

If the lectionary is included, then the final hardback version won't be out for some years. If the lectionary is not included, then it could be ready as soon as early 2004. It will certainly have ribbons.

Do you have a view?

The Liturgical Commission would like to know. Drop a note to the Secretary of the Liturgical Commission, Mr David Hebblethwaite, Church House, Great Smith Street, Westminster, London SW1P 3NZ.

Lectionary resources website with a difference...

'The Text This Week' is a site featuring a wide variety of resources based on the 3-year Revised Common Lectionary, including:

- A Scripture Index to locate links to study resources relating to specific passages.
 - Artwork indexed by Biblical theme
 - A Movie Concordance for lists of films indexed by spiritual theme.
- There are no ready made sermons here, but there are links to such sites, as well as to such things as 'culturally relevant, lectionary based graphic and video resources, designed for use in weekly worship'.

Take a look for something a bit different... www.textweek.com

Forthcoming event



Praxis event:

Growing Spiritually in the Prayer Book Tradition

A date has now been fixed for this event, which was flagged up in the Praxis programme:

Thursday 13 June 2002

Venue: St John the Evangelist, Hills Road, Cambridge.

Speakers: Baroness James of Holland Park OBE (the author P.D. James); Revd Angela Tilby; Revd Alec George.

Can 17th century theology nurture 21st century spirituality? How can we lead Book of Common Prayer services so that the spiritual growth of our Prayer book congregations is better served? This day will be of interest to clergy Readers, musicians, members of the congregation and those who have never been familiar with Prayer Book services, but who find themselves leading them and wish to do so with greater integrity. fessor Louis Weil

James E Hedges Professor of Liturgics
Episcopal Church Divinity School of
the Pacific,

Initiation Services Rumours of a new edition

Are you using the green and gold old-style Common Worship Initiation Services? Is your copy full of pencilled-in amendments, or do you manage with a copy of the list of changes made in 2000 to the text tucked inside the front cover?

A new day is dawning with the possibility of a fully updated version shining soon the horizon.

Plans are in hand to publish an up-to-date edition with the following features.

- It will be in the standard 'Common Worship' style, both on the cover and in the layout and typography.
- The text will be fully amended in line with the synodical changes and subsequent Common Worship services.
- It will include a revised commentary.

The *Initiation Services* is necessary resource for anyone preparing or leading a baptism, despite the presence of the bare bones of the baptism service in the main Common Worship volume. A definitive Initiation volume awaits the addition of Reconciliation, which is come way off yet. However, this revised version will be very welcome.

Praxis fringe at General Synod—July 2002 at York University

If you remember the pipe-work diagrams that used to appear regularly in *Praxis News*, graphically describing exactly where each bit of Common Worship had reached in the authorisation process, you will know that getting liturgy through General Synod is a complicated business.

Praxis is planning to host a lunchtime meeting during General Synod on Saturday 6 July. Our aim is to gather opinion and to instigate a move to simplify the rules regarding liturgical revision.

At present, even the small oversights that are becoming apparent in the *Common Worship* Sunday lectionary will have to go through the complete legal passage in order to be amended. This seems to be unnecessarily expensive and time-consuming. Similarly, the alternative set of

collects (see right hand column on this page) will have to travel the full length of the procedural 'pipe'.

Desirable changes to the law might include

- The loosening of the rules requiring services alternative to those in the BCP needing the full synodical process;
- The speeding up of the revision procedure at the discretion of Synod for straightforward items of business.

Do you have an opinion?

If you are a member of General Synod, then look out for the flyer. If you're not, then lobby your diocesan members to come to the lunch and make heard your point of view.

Oversights are bound to occur in a new scheme, and these will be ironed out over time, as they are discovered and re-visited by the General Synod (who will have to authorise the corrections to the previously authorised Lectionary—cf the article above this). Common sense decisions will be made locally, of course, but the printers of lectionary almanacs need some clear guidance.

The recommendations are simple:

Baptism of Christ Automatically transfer it to the Second Sunday of Epiphany when The Feast of the Epiphany falls on a Sunday.

All Souls' Adjust the rules so that All Souls' can be transferred to the Monday when 2 November falls on a Sunday.

After a Sunday Christmas Allow for local discretion.

If you spot any more oddities, do let us know.

Notice board



New editor for *Praxis News*

With the end of Mark Earey's term as *Praxis* National Education Officer, the editorship of *Praxis News* has passed to Gilly Myers, secretary of *Praxis*. All future contributions should be sent to her (contact details at the bottom of this page).

Collects sub-group gets moving

The sub-group of the Liturgical Commission charged with taking forward the provision of alternative collects has now been formed and begun its meetings. The group comprises:

- Paul Roberts (chair)
- Angela Tilby
- Dana Delap
- Peter Craig-Wild
- Jeremy Fletcher

In addition, John Burniston and David Scott have been drawn into the group from outside the Commission.

The intention is to respond to the sense of urgency expressed in the General Synod debate and to bring some idea of a suggested way forward as soon as possible. Watch this space.

Times and Seasons

Work is moving on apace with this collection of seasonal material for use with *Common Worship*. The sub-group are expecting to bring a full draft text to the Liturgical Commission in the autumn, which might mean that it would be ready for a General Synod 'commendation' debate in, say, July 2003. Further revisions in the light of this debate and comments from the House of Bishops could result in publication in 2004.

Key festivals fall through the net

Did you notice that the Baptism of Christ was missing this year because Epiphany was on a Sunday (rendering the usual 'first Sunday of Epiphany' was obsolete)? If you are a train-spotter of the liturgical calendar variety then you may have also noticed that All Souls (being a lesser festival, and not transferable without being a patronal festival) simply disappears in years when it falls on a Sunday. And the carefully chosen readings for the first Sunday of Christmas go by the board when Christmas Day is on a Sunday... leaving a further dilemma of choosing between the Naming and Circumcision of Christ or the Second Sunday of Christmas on the following week.

These are all small glitches that have been discovered in the scheme, but doesn't it make you realise just how complicated it all is!

Praxis News is edited by Gilly Myers. Material for inclusion should be sent to: Gilly Myers, 3 Carisbrooke Drive, Mapperley Park, Nottingham NG3 5DS.

Tel: 0115 960 5447 Email: gilly@myers.uk.net

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

The views expressed are not necessarily those of *Praxis* or the *Praxis* Council.