



Praxis News of Worship

Supporting and resourcing the liturgical life of the Church of England

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.

Affiliation

The sponsoring organisations do not fund *Praxis* financially. The work that *Praxis* does is supported mainly by affiliation. If you are not an affiliate, why not consider becoming one? Just get in touch with the office—details on the back page.

Website

Have you visited the *Praxis* website? View us online at www.praxisworship.org.uk

Eucharistic Prayers and children

This summer, Durham Diocesan Synod unanimously passed a resolution “*That this Synod request the House of Bishops to commission the expeditious preparation of a Eucharistic Prayer suitable for use on occasions when a significant number of children are present or when it is otherwise pastorally appropriate to meet the needs of children present.*” It had worked its way up through parish and deanery synods with an equally positive reaction, and is now awaiting debate at General Synod. Similar motions are also being considered by other diocesan synods.

The pressure to act on this important issue came from both without and within Durham diocese. During an Education debate at General Synod last February, the issue of Eucharistic Prayers when the majority of those present are children was mentioned. A remarkable number of people encouraged me to take the issue further, citing the positive experience of introducing Additional Collects, the pressure from schools admitting children to communion before confirmation, and the example of other parts of the Anglican Communion.

Within the diocese, I have been liaising with the Board of Education to inform schools of the breadth of permissions available to them in a *Service of the Word with Holy Communion*. Since the regulations were introduced for Admission to Communion Before Confirmation, some schools have become eucharistic communities in their own right. Many of our 56 Church of England schools in the diocese celebrate Holy Communion at some point in the year, some

monthly or weekly, and clergy vary in the way they use the liturgy to engage children – or otherwise!

Why might we need another Eucharistic Prayer, when we have so many already? Because, as the Roman Catholic *Directory for Masses with Children* states, “*there is a fear of spiritual harm if over the years children repeatedly experience in the Church things which are barely comprehensible.*” When there is a poverty of liturgical expertise in leading imaginative and transforming worship with large numbers of children, we should at least be providing good, accessible words for their communion. Of course we hope to educate and enthuse too, but realistically, there are those who will not engage with further training in this area.

The Liturgical Commission is unanimously positive about the project, seeing it as an integral part of the Transforming Worship agenda. There are some choices to be made about how we might go about forming a prayer suitable for communicant children, either taking an existing prayer and reshaping it, or starting from scratch. If General Synod approves the motion, I am hoping the debate will inform that choice. Certainly, the Education Division may be able to help in the preparation of language that is suitable for junior school children. This prayer, suitable for Key Stage Two, needs to be awesome yet accessible; contributions from all sources will be warmly welcomed to the discussion...

Dana Delap

Dana is a Reader and Prison Chaplain in Durham

Inside this issue of

Liturgical Commission News	2
In Memoriam	2
Readers' Admission and Licensing Services—new material	3
Musical News	3 & 4
Have you seen? - Book Reviews	7 & 8
Colin's Column	8
Notice board	8

Launch of Website



The *Transforming Worship* website was launched at the end of October, and it is well worth having a look at it.

The website (www.transformingworship.org.uk) was first displayed to the Liturgical Commission's annual day for the representatives of Diocesan Liturgical Committees, who were most enthusiastic about what they saw.

This attractive site links to all the BCP and *Common Worship* texts and contains responses to frequently asked questions (including the definitive answer regarding Epiphany 2008), sample orders of service

for those looking for a starting point (for adaptation to their particular context), details of the *Transforming Worship* events, the Liturgical Commission, official and informal partners, and a host of other pages and links containing worship-related information. It is a tremendous resource to have all this gathered together in one place.

The website continues to be work in progress; under the watchful eye of Peter Moger, the National Worship Development Officer, it will develop yet further over the coming months and years.

Editor

News from the Liturgical Commission

Common Worship: Festivals

The second of the two volumes of worship material for the liturgical year is well on the way. *Common Worship: Festivals* complements *Common Worship: Times and Seasons* and will be launched in February 2008.

This will be an altar book, containing all the propers that might be used by the eucharistic president on Festivals and Holy Days. It also contains a good deal of music. In due course, this will also be available online.

Draft 'Pillar' Lectionary

The Liturgical Commission is currently working on the draft of a new lectionary. This is a daily lectionary in which each set of readings stands on its own - without the listener needing to hear the reading on the

previous or subsequent days to make sense of it. The way in which the readings stand independently, rather than flowing along continuously from day to day, gives rise to the term 'pillar'. The readings will have an appropriate emphasis during Seasonal Time. This lectionary will be of particular benefit to churches and Cathedrals where there does not tend to be a regular congregation on a daily basis, and where the importance of mission - allowing an occasional worshipper to hear the gospel in an accessible way - overrides the local benefit of reading through whole books of Scripture at a time.

It is hoped that draft material will be ready by the Summer of 2008. This would enable designated parishes to try it out before the

lectionary is taken to the General Synod in 2009.

Transforming Worship booklet

A graphic-rich study book, produced to support the *Transforming Worship* initiative, is due out in February 2008. There will be accompanying web-based guidance on its use, and the Liturgical Commission hopes that it will be widely used at grass-roots level, helping congregations to engage with questions such as:

- ◆ How does worship change us?
- ◆ How can our worship be even better?

Church House Publishing is making plans for bulk purchase discounts.

Transforming Worship Roadshows

The Roadshows are training days that are organised by the Liturgical Commission (rather than by one of their partners). The first of these focuses on leading worship and is targeted, through the CME network, at curates with their training incumbents. There may be some spaces available, however, and these are open to anyone.

These Roadshows run through to April 2008 and continue in Durham, Lincoln, Coventry and Manchester. See the *Transforming Worship* website for full details and the booking form (www.transformingworship.org.uk).

Subsequent Roadshows will be on All-age worship and Worship in Schools.

In Memoriam

Peter Akehurst

Peter Akehurst died at the age of 90 in late October, probably unknown to most readers of this journal. He was an Englishman, ordained in England, but on the Liturgical Commission of the Church of the Province of South Africa in the 1960s, and his graciousness and conviction were together employed there in helping them steer away from the apparently resolute anglo-catholic course the Province had followed for a hundred years. He came back to England in 1969 and did two incumbencies, but he also joined GROW and contributed wonderfully to the early Grove Booklets – in fact he wrote five of them: on spirituality, on harvest, on extemporary praying, on Holy Week, and on inter-faith worship. But he also shared with Tony Bishop in 1973 in providing a complete set of modern collects to accompany Series 3 Communion, four years before an official set was authorized. They went through four printings and equipped virtually every parish which used Series 3. They were criticized for being 'too outward-looking' (sic).

Peter's writings – and his own prayers – were deeply imbued with his poetic and linguistic skills, so that there was always a nuance, a flavour, conveyed by them which no-one else could have brought. If ever GROW had an elder statesman or patron on its books, Peter was that man. I had the joy of staying in touch with him over the years, and have always left his company enriched. I would think the angels are singing at his homecoming.

Charlie Moule

Charlie Moule died at the age of 98 in October. He was for many years Lady Margaret's Professor of Divinity at Cambridge, and, being a bachelor, on retirement in 1976 he took up residence in Ridley Hall, and continued for five years there to illumine students wonderfully, before departing to the South coast. Of course New Testament was his subject – one he conveyed to others by giving (what not all theology dons did) an infectious credence to the text.

He was also renowned for beginning his lecture courses with prayer (a rare phenomenon in universities). However, he earned the gratitude of liturgists with his *Worship in the New Testament* (Lutterworth, 1961), and this was equally marked by his commonsense way of taking the New Testament on its own terms. It included his famous warning against 'panliturgism' (his own neologism). The book was so valued that, after three initial printings, it was taken up in the Grove Liturgical Studies and republished, first in two halves as nos 12 and 13 in the series (1978 and 1979), and then reunited as a single (12-13) volume. Like its author the volume lasted far beyond expectations; like the volume the author has now gone from us. He was modest and peace-loving and godly. Everyone loved Charlie Moule.

Colin Buchanan

Other news...

Weekday Eucharistic Lectionary

In 2008 Canterbury Press is planning to bring out a lectionary containing the full texts of the *Common Worship* daily eucharistic lectionary. The Bible readings will be from the *New Revised Standard Version* of the Bible; the Psalms will be from *Common Worship*.

Prayers on the Jubilate website

Subscribers to the Jubilate Group's website (www.jubilate.co.uk) have access not only to many hundreds of hymn texts and tunes but also to prayers based on Bible verses. *Bible Praying: Scripture Prayers for Worship and Devotion* was a book compiled by the late Michael Perry and published in 1992. One reviewer described it as 'a disarmingly simple, yet masterful anthology of prayers taken directly from the text of Scripture, organized and arranged liturgically.' The prayers are now available online, with the provision of a search facility by keyword, theme or biblical reference.

Editor



Readers' Admission and Licensing Services

- new material from the Liturgical Commission

Over the past few years the Liturgical Commission has been working in consultation with the Central Readers' Council on a set of texts that can be used in a variety of contexts for the Admission and Licensing of Readers. The understanding behind the material reflects the distinctive character of Reader ministry (and, thus, is intentionally not a watered-down version of an ordination service).

Recognising that Admissions take place in a number of contexts – Holy Communion, BCP Evensong, A *Common Worship* Service of the Word, for example – the outcome is a set of material that is flexible and designed to be adapted for local use. There is, therefore, no prescribed order of service, rather a collection of required and optional elements, with notes of guidance for those who are putting a Readers' service together.

Contents

The Admission and Licensing of Readers

◆ The Declarations

...which may be made before the service (and printed at the front of the service booklet - Note 5), or at the beginning of the Admission and Licensing within the service.

◆ Introduction

...with an alternative in the Resources section.

◆ Admission

...including

The Presentation of Candidates (there is an alternative approach at Note 6)

The Questions

The Admission

◆ The Licensing

Resources

◆ Alternative Introduction

◆ Collects

◆ Bible readings

◆ Intercessions and Litany

◆ Optional collects for use at Morning or Evening Prayer after the Third Collect

◆ Introductions to the Peace

◆ Post-communion Prayers

◆ The Renewal of Commitment

◆ Blessings

Notes

As usual the notes cover a whole range of matters relating to the service. These notes include such topics as:

- ◆ The positioning of the Admission and Licensing within the service.
- ◆ The Licensing, within the same service, of Readers who have moved parish, or into the diocese.
- ◆ The inclusion of a re-dedication of other Readers in the service to their ministry at the end of the service (a Renewal of Commitment is included in the Resources section).

Welcome of Newly Licensed Readers

This is also a short liturgy for use in a parish Church on the Sunday following an Admission and Licensing, and it includes the reading aloud of the licence, as is customary with a new Reader.

How to use this material

As already mentioned, this is not a ready-made service – someone still has to do the work!

- ◆ The starting point, as Note 1 makes clear, is the form of service to be used – a matter that is to be determined by the Bishop.
- ◆ The notes explain where the Admission and Licensing should be placed within the service.
- ◆ There is no expectation that all of the optional material should be used on every occasion – although it might be appropriate in an Annual Readers' Service in a cathedral, for example.
- ◆ There is, of course, no obligation to use the optional material provided - although the resources are all examples of good practice.
- ◆ The delegation of roles within the service is encouraged.
- ◆ Advice is given in the notes regarding the vesture of the candidates.
- ◆ There are possibilities for:
 - Action - the sharing of the Peace, for example;
 - Movement - some hint of this in the rubrics at the Licensing;
 - Symbol – the Readers are admitted by the delivery of a copy of the Scriptures by the Bishop and the licensing is sealed by the presentation of the licence – both with accompanying words; vesting in a blue scarf may be another symbolic act, but the laying on of hands may not;

- ◆ Hymns, songs, other music, movement, use of space, symbol and action, are all elements that will shape the service in which the Admission and Licensing sit.

When can we begin to use it?

This set of resources went before the House of Bishops earlier this year and was commended without revision. Services that do not have a corresponding original in the *Book of Common Prayer* do not need to go through the Synodical process of authorisation, so this material is now commended for use, with immediate effect.

How can we get hold of it?

The entire provision is to be published online during December 2007 on the Church of England website (www.cofe.anglican.org/worship/liturgy/commonworship/texts/). A hard copy will follow in due course. This will appear in the format of a General Synod document, rather than in the usual *Common Worship* style, since there is likely to be only a limited market for this product.

Editor

Liturgical ribbons

To the great delight of the general (Church of England) public, *Daily Prayer* appeared with six brightly-coloured silky strands with which to mark our pages – and they are very helpful. The *Festivals* book is due to have a similar number. But how do you stop them fraying? Suggestions at a recent meeting of the Liturgical Commission ranged from the application of clear nail varnish to singeing with a match (which sounds like a recipe for disaster). Are there any better ideas out there?

Praxis Programme: corrections

Praxis Yorkshire events on pages 10 and 19 have a mistake in Chris Clough's email address at the bottom of the pages. Please correct your copy if you are likely to need it (c.m.i.clough@blueyonder.co.uk).

The Durham event entitled *Liquid Mass* is on Thursday 18 September 2008 (and not 14 September, as stated on page 23 of the programme).

How to obtain a *Praxis* Programme

Simply contact the Praxis Office, as detailed on the back page of this issue.



Musical News



A regular feature of articles and the latest news of music and worship

edited by Anne Harrison

Looking ahead

Among the many and varied opportunities for training and fresh inspiration promised in 2008, here are some which should appeal to a wide range of people involved in parish music-making.

Sarum Singing Break

A mid-week musical retreat for singers based at Sarum College, Salisbury, and led by Geoff Weaver with assistance from Philip Seddon. 12 noon on Tuesday 12 February to 2 p.m. on Thursday 14 February (details online at www.sarum.ac.uk).

Music and Wholeness

A weekend at Lee Abbey (North Devon) with Adrian Snell, composer, performer and music therapist. A chance to consider 'how experiences of music can be part of a journey towards wholeness in Christ.' Friday 15 February to Sunday 17 February 2008 (details online at www.leeabbey.org.uk).

Musicians – unplug!

Also at Lee Abbey, a weekend led by Peter Gunstone and Andrew Maries, who are described as 'musicians seeking to follow God in life and the church, and to use their gifts to encourage others to do the same'. Friday 29 February to Sunday 2 March 2008 (further information as above).

Releasing Worship

On the same dates (Friday 29 February to Sunday 2 March 2008), a Music and Worship Foundation weekend for church music leaders at the Frontier Centre, Northampton. With input from Geraldine Latty, John Leach, Sam Hargreaves, Heidi Longworth, David Peacock and Roger Peach, the programme offers 'creative worship' alongside practical workshops. To find out more send an e-mail to heidi@mwf.org.uk or visit the MWF website (www.mwf.org.uk).

RCO Residential Course

A three-day course for organists offering tuition, demonstrations and master classes in Cambridge. The centenary of the birth of Olivier Messiaen (1908-1992) will be marked by a recital in King's College Chapel given by Jennifer Bate. Thursday 3 April (morning) to Saturday 5 April

(afternoon) 2008; details from the Royal College of Organists (www.rco.org.uk).

National Network of Pastoral Musicians

An ecumenical weekend conference at Worth Abbey, Sussex. Among the composers present will be Christopher Walker. Saturday workshops are likely to be open to non-residents. Friday 18 July to Sunday 20 July 2008 (for information nearer the time, visit the NNPM website www.nnpm.org.uk).

Hymn Society Conference

Colin Gibson, a hymn-writer and scholar from New Zealand, will be one of the speakers at the 2008 conference of the Hymn Society of Great Britain and Ireland, to be held at Liverpool Hope University. Tuesday 22 July to Thursday 24 July (details will be posted nearer the time on www.hymnsocietygbi.org.uk).

The Society is also inviting authors to submit entries by 29 February 2008 for a Hymn Search on the theme *One in Christ*. Selected texts will then be made available to composers, with 16 June deadline for tunes. Details from the Revd Michael Garland (michael.garland50@tiscali.co.uk or St Mary's Vicarage, 63 Church Street, Charlton Kings, Cheltenham GL53 8AT).

RSCM International Summer School

A week of learning, discussion and worship – with time to relax – in Canterbury. The programme includes a festival service in Canterbury Cathedral directed by Bob Chilcott, composer, conductor and former member of the King's Singers. Speakers include the distinguished Scottish composer, James MacMillan, and the RSCM's Millennium Youth Choir will give a concert. Monday 11 August to Sunday 17 August 2008 (for more information visit the Royal School of Church Music's website, www.rscm.com, or ring 01722 424843).

Deep calls to Deep

A worship symposium at the London School of Theology, exploring 'current and future directions of corporate worship across a broad spectrum of worship expressions'. Thursday 11 September to Saturday 13 September 2008 (to sign up for full details when they become available, send an e-mail to symposium@lst.ac.uk).

Seasonal resources

Some reminders of a few publications which may be useful during the seasons of Christmas and Epiphany:

Veni Emmanuel (Decani Music, 2001) includes psalm settings (selected according to the Roman Lectionary but with some overlap with *Common Worship*), short pieces such as Gospel Acclamations with seasonal verses, and a variety of songs and hymns for the period from Advent through to the Presentation of Christ. There are also suggested service outlines and prayers.

Carol Praise (HarperCollins/Jubilate, 2006 edition) includes many of the carols, songs and hymns from the volume of the same name published twenty years ago, with additional new music and a CD-ROM. This contains all the texts (to help, for example, in the preparation of service sheets), suggested readings with extracts from the *Dramatised Good News Bible*, instrumental parts for some of the music in the book, and other material designed to assist those planning seasonal worship.

The Carol Book (RSCM, 2005) is a loose-leaf folder of music for congregation and/or choir, most of which can be photocopied under the terms of the CCL's Music Reproduction Licence. It also comes with a CD-ROM providing texts, prayers, outline orders of service, clip art etc.

World Carols for Choirs is the title of two books published by OUP, one with 31 pieces for SATB choirs (2005) and the other with 29 for upper voice choirs (2006). Some of the music, drawn from a wide range of countries and languages, is found in different arrangements in both; pronunciation guides and singable English translations are provided.



A passionate balance

The final chapter of a recently published book by Alan Bartlett (who teaches Church History, Spirituality, and Anglican Studies at Cranmer Hall in Durham) discusses worship as 'the heart of Anglicanism'. In highlighting the importance of the distinctive musical tradition of Anglican worship, the author mentions in particular the continuing value to many of Choral Evensong 'with its combination of beauty and spaciousness for the participant'. Other musical styles are hinted at rather than discussed (for

example, in a quotation about exuberant praise from a book by David Ford and Daniel Hardy). As well as drawing attention to Richard Hooker's views on music, the chapter encourages the reader to consider a broad and rich conception of the 'beauty of holiness'.

A Passionate Balance: The Anglican Tradition (Darton, Longman & Todd, 2007) forms part of a substantial series on traditions of Christian spirituality, edited by Philip Sheldrake.

RSCM celebrations

Marking the eightieth anniversary of the founding of the Royal School of Church Music (originally the School of English Church Music), a new music book and a CD are now available.

Psallam is an anthology of musical resources – chosen in part to reflect diverse elements of North American culture – along with liturgical texts and readings. At its heart is a service based on themes from the Book of Psalms: trust in God, lament, praise. It includes a setting of a prayer traditionally used by choristers ('Bless, O Lord, us thy servants') composed by the retiring Director of the RSCM, Professor John Harper. His music was inspired by the singing heard during a Russian Orthodox liturgy in Nice and is

dedicated to 'all who sustain the voluntary work of RSCM International throughout the world'.

The piece can be heard on *Out of the Stillness*, a recording produced by John Rutter and featuring the RSCM's Millennium Youth Choir under their current conductor, David Ogden. The music also includes one of Ogden's most popular anthems, 'A Gaelic Blessing', a Passiontide piece by Philip Wilby ('Wondrous cross') and a setting of 'God be in my head' by Sydney Nicholson, founder of the RSCM. One of the tracks on the CD (Ogden's 'Christ has no body now but yours') was played as part of a BBC Radio 4 Friday morning 'Act of Worship' on 19 October.

Singing too slowly?

An interesting and sometimes provocative article by Professor David Wulstan was published in the Advent 2007 issue of *Faith and Worship* (The Prayer Book Society Review, No.61) and is available to read online (select 'Publications' on the website www.prayerbook.org.uk). 'Hymns, their Rhythm and Tempo' argues for hymns to be sung at a speed which 'allows the words to make sense to the greater glory of God' – which may mean a tempo fast enough to permit the singing of two lines without taking a breath.

There is a wealth of historical detail as well as practical advice for organists. The need to keep a steady rhythmic flow is emphasised, the writer having clearly suffered from congregational singing prone to dragging; 'irrational' pauses will only make this worse, he says. Some of the comments on poetic and musical stress are worth pondering by those who write words for a specific tune or who seek the best tune for a particular text.

New Kendrick songs

Graham Kendrick released a new album in October 2007. *Dreaming of a Holy Night* features thirteen new songs for the Christmas season. The songwriter admits on his website (www.grahamkendrick.co.uk) that writing Christmas songs is particularly challenging, since 'so much has already been done – it is hard to be original!'

Soloists and vocal groups looking for seasonal material in a popular style may find inspiration here (presumably it will be possible to buy the sheet music in due course). Even if it's too late for 2007 carol services, at least there's plenty of time to plan ahead and learn a song or two for 2008.

Plenty of flats

During the 2007 Hymn Society conference in Northampton, John Barnard gave a presentation entitled 'Since Abbot's Leigh: hymn tunes of our time'.

One of the striking features of the seventeen recently composed tunes which he had chosen was the unintentional preponderance of 'flat keys', particularly E flat major (five, including 'Coe Fen' by Kenneth Naylor, 'Palace Green' by Michael Fleming and 'Corvedale' by Maurice Bevan) and D flat major (five again, including 'San Rocco' by Derek Williams and 'Cross Deep' by Barry Rose). Of the remaining seven, only two had sharps in the key signature, and one of those was written with guitar rather than organ accompaniment in mind (Graham Kendrick's 'Beauty for brokenness') – guitarists are generally not fond of chords that involve flats.

There are undoubtedly a number of reasons for the musical effectiveness of some of these tunes, not least that the melodies fall into a comfortable vocal range, but it would be interesting to know whether they would have been felt to be so successful if they had been written in, say, D major. Among John Barnard's own tunes, the best-loved is in E flat major ('Guiting Power', written for Michael Saward's text 'Christ triumphant').

It is hard to explain how music in one key sounds different from another, but many musicians relish the particularly rich 'sound world' of music in D flat major. Some pianists and organists enjoy the physical aspects of the key (for the uninitiated, it involves playing mainly on the 'black notes' of the keyboard), but it is not entirely comfortable for less experienced accompanists.

The BBC Radio 2 programme *Sunday Half-Hour*, along with local radio stations, ran a competition earlier in 2007 – listeners were invited to submit words for a new hymn or worship song. The four winning texts were set to music by the judges (Barry Rose and Dave Bilbrough) and can be viewed and heard via the BBC website. One of the winners was Gareth Hill, a Methodist minister based in Cornwall. His hymn, 'Dear Lord, where are the signs of hope?' has been given a tune which Barry Rose has called 'Draycott' – and which joins the growing repertoire in D flat major.



Have you seen...?

Book reviews



House of God: House of the People of God – A Study of Christian liturgical space

Robin Gibbons
Alcuin/SPCK
xii/180 pages, £14.99

Robin Gibbons is a Melkite (ie a Greek Catholic in a Uniat Church, under the aegis of Rome). He is also teaching theology in England, and can add knowledge of Anglicanism to the context both of Eastern and Western Christianity which his particular affiliations and location involve. His learning and enthusiasm are shot through this historical and theological examination of the place of space in the community of grace. I think it will appeal to the Alcuin members.

I would begin a critique by asking myself what John the evangelist, Stephen, or Paul, or the writer to the Hebrews or Peter would have said, if asked to write a discourse on Christian use of space. I think in each case they would have said something like 'We have no temples (bar being ourselves the dwelling-place of God); we need to meet weekly so a place which is accessible and will accommodate us will be very helpful; but under persecution we will meet as we can, not necessarily always in the same place, often in people's homes; and if we employ art or symbol it will have to be such as can be left behind or can travel with us; in any one place we have no continuing city.' If this is right, then *no* New Testament theology of physical space separated or circumscribed for worship is possible – we are either discussing what is *convenient* (as, for instance, we might be discussing the size of print in a Bible used for reading in the assembly), or we have strayed into Old Testament thought-forms. Chapter 9 very nearly expresses just these conclusions.

But, although Robin Gibbons is well aware of this, he is busy balancing it against a this-worldly history of church buildings, in which the shape of the buildings, even the *minutiae* of the design, the hallowed use of

furnishings, and the mysteries of symbolism, have all conspired to give us a 'House of God' mentality in understanding the purpose of our buildings. He fully concedes that such an outlook both sacralizes buildings, and also desacralizes the rest of life. This (mercifully) has its problems for him; and I think that, amid much exalted theological thinking and technical history, he is telling us that the apostolic answer and the post-Constantinian answer can be held together. My suspicion is that anyone in his context *has* to reach this conclusion, however much it may involve self-contradiction – and my further suspicion is that, while he is trying to hold contradictories together, the present-day Constantinian inheritance of his own Church will inevitably press such an author towards the 'House of God' understanding, at the expense of the supposedly authoritative New Testament writers.

He has a few pages on Anglican architecture, with considerable dependence on J.G.Davies, and an occasional look at Richard Giles. Addleshaw and Etchells are nowhere to be seen – nor is Peter Hammond – and the 20th century is treated as a mere footnote, and the emphases of the Gothic Revival appear to be the substance to which it is footnoted.

And I did want to ask him for an exposition (and/or a critique) of the iconostasis in Eastern ritual. But, amid all the lofty discussion, I found no hint of this particular and central architectural 'given'. I found myself thinking that his reflections are there to remain at the cerebral – and conceivably the devotional – levels; practical reform is not actually in view.

Colin Buchanan

The Intercessor's guide: how to plan, write and lead intercessory prayers

Raymond Chapman
Canterbury Press, 2007
Paperback; 88 pages

Those who are familiar with Raymond Chapman's books of intercessions (*Leading Intercessions*, based on the *Common Worship* lectionary, and *Hear our Prayer*, based on the gospel readings) will recognise the style of this little book. It is designed to help those leading intercessions to start from scratch rather than from a supplied formal structure.

The first two chapters supply some very useful and readable background on the purpose of the prayers of intercession, and who has led them, from early forms of liturgy until now. From chapter 3 onwards we are in the present day with *Common Worship*, and Chapman deals with the content and wording of the prayers, and with actual preparation for leading them. There is a good summary of the mistakes that can ruin even the best intentions. His concluding chapter gives some examples that have been composed using these guidelines, and provides a commentary on the context and background of each.

It is a good and solid guide for those who are beginning to lead intercessions, but it is a shame that there is a missing chapter. The assumption is that the style of the service, and of the intercessions, is a Sunday eucharist where everything has to flow together and nothing must surprise or stand out. But that is to miss out on so many of the opportunities offered by different service styles and by *Common Worship's* flexibility. There is little or nothing about the creative use of music, image, symbol, space or movement, or about leading intercessions in all-age services, services of the word or fresh expressions. Nor does the list of further resources encourage us to step out - two of the 12 suggestions are explicitly designed for use with the ASB and a further five date from before the publication of *Common Worship*.

For this reviewer it is a good guide, but with a worthy but faintly outdated style reminiscent of the 1980s. There are books about leading intercessions that offer more to churches trying to renew their worship.

Anna de Lange
Co-author of *How to lead the Prayers*
(Grove Books W169)

Reflections for Daily Prayer *Church House Publishing* £3.00

This pocket-sized booklet is the first of a series of daily reflections to accompany the readings from the *Common Worship* Lectionary.

Covering Monday to Saturday over a three-month period, there is an excellent list of

contributors and - for each day - a list of the morning readings and psalm, a short reflection and a collect. This is an ideal book to use with Morning Prayer or Prayer During the Day, and I would recommend it.

Editor

... and a cube

Worship, Window of the Urban Church

Tim Stratford (editor)

SPCK, 2006

£13.99; ISBN 0281057834

This book, containing nine chapters by ten authors, seeks to explore how an urban setting will affect a congregation's worship. While there are certainly references to ecumenical projects, much of the book is written from an Anglican background which reflects the denominational allegiances of most of the contributors.

While there is some good theoretical reflection on worship in an urban context, one of the book's great strengths is the plethora of examples given from congregations with which the authors have been involved. There is some acknowledgement of the variety to be found in urban areas and the book includes material from the habitat of the chattering classes (Islington) as well as outer estates in Liverpool.

One of the themes that runs through the book is the way in which acts of worship interact with the real lives of the worshippers. The chapters by Ann Morisy and Ann Jeffries, Erica Dunmow and Tim Stratford are strongest in this respect. None of the contributors, however, seems aware of the fact that there has been writing on this topic for thirty years and an engagement with the discussion so far would have been welcome. Most of the contributors want to see how it is possible to work with the received liturgical traditions of the Western church and so I confess I was annoyed by John Vincent's rather cavalier approach to liturgical history and theology. Other contributors show that this is not necessary.

While there is much food for thought in every chapter, for me the two best are the last by Dunmow and Stratford. Erica Dunmow draws in part on her MA research into the question of who exercises power in the leading of worship, though her chapter ranges more widely than this. She is insightful and creative and blends discussion of theory with numerous practical examples in a way which is easy to appropriate.

Tim Stratford uses a version of the pastoral cycle to see how worship may help people to reflect on, and take action about, their everyday concerns. While I think he makes the action reflection cycle fit the shape of the eucharist rather too neatly, I am convinced that he is onto something very significant here. It would repay those who plan and conduct worship to study this chapter carefully and discuss it with others.

Indeed, the great strength of this book will be if it provokes discussion in urban and other churches about the issues it covers. Chapters from the book would make good material for use in PCCs and clergy chapters. Every ordinand and Reader in training should engage with these issues and this book will help them to do it. Its concerns touch on matters which are vitally relevant to all churches – not just the urban ones – and here (as elsewhere) the urban church has much to teach others.

Charles Read
Norwich Theology Centre



The Christingle Cube

Church House Publishing, 2007

£6.99

Hugh Beney, age 5, reviewed the new Christingle Cube for *Praxis News of Worship*. He says 'I really like it. The people in the pictures are all smiling and laughing. The children look like the people in my school, and the church looks like mine too. The picture of the orange at the beginning is the world too, and it is in space. I can see the stars and the planets and even Mars. The best thing about the cube is doing the puzzle and following the arrows to find the whole story. If you don't follow the arrows, the story isn't right. My favourite picture is of the gifts, because they are sweeties in the orange. The orange is the world and God's love is around the whole world. The candle is alight on the orange, and that's good, because it's Jesus.'

Hugh's mum enjoyed playing with the cube with Hugh, but both wondered if the cube is really only relevant for a few days or weeks a year. It raised interesting questions about Christmas and the incarnation with Hugh's older brother and sister, and they took it away to play with it and read it to Hugh again. It has since come out every night at Hugh's bedtime, for further reflection and discussion. It complements the Communion and Baptism cubes, and these have been firm favourites in our house, so after Christmas it may come out when they do. It may not be as useful as the other two cubes but it is equally well made, and would make a fun Christmas gift for a church-going child.

Hugh Beney's mother

Watching and Waiting

A guide to the celebration of Advent

Kenneth Stevenson

Canterbury Press 2007

£12.99

Every year I look forward to the Advent antiphons. I have always loved the hymn based on them, *O come, O come, Emmanuel*, and the Cathedral Choir in Durham sings them so hauntingly before and after the *Magnificat* on the days that precede Christmas.

Kenneth Stevenson's new Advent book gives a chapter to each of these ancient refrains, weaving together rich strands of

anecdote, history, theology and reflection with a selection of biblical texts, Christian writings, prayers and liturgy.

The book is engaging. It reflects on a whole range of issues: the nature of wisdom, leadership and power, handling tradition, inclusion, hope, sovereignty... and ends with a very moving personal perspective on the Coming of Jesus, gained by having looked death in the eye.

The book really took flight after the introduction, so don't get bogged down in this, but head on through it with anticipation. And, when you do get into the main part of the book, I would suggest that you start on 17 December with *O Sapientia* and read a chapter a day.

Editor



Colin's Column

Not the first word, but the last -
Colin Buchanan writes...

I suppose most people in old age have omissions in their past which they regret, or from which they repent. As I have written about my involvement in both our General Synod and the International Anglican Liturgical Consultations, I have inevitably gone back over old activities, not always with smug self-congratulation. One of my regrets is not tooth-combing sufficiently the vast proposed *Times and Seasons* which came to hand in the House of Bishops in my last twelve months, or so. I discovered my omissions when writing in the Grove Worship Series 191 about the Lent-Easter Cycle (Anne Horton reviewed this kindly in the last *Praxis News of Worship*). One such was a failure to scrutinize the 'Chrism Eucharist', which is drafted in the dullest possible form. But a more subtle Maundy Thursday omission (if omissions can be subtle) relates to 'The Stripping of the Sanctuary' (page 303 in *Times and Seasons*).

What is my problem? Well, I have always found a Watch a very moving experience, but have not set much store by 'stripping' ornaments and furnishings. (I also have no heart for a procession with unconsumed wafers, to reserve them overnight, to treat the Good Friday morning communion as an extension of the Maundy Thursday rite - one in which the worshippers receive communion twice! *Times and Seasons* has all this - though the procession is curiously never mentioned). But my problem is the very title 'Stripping of the Sanctuary'. Why a problem? Well, it is a total novelty: we have never had a 'sanctuary' before in our liturgical directions.

In my (ASB) days the Commission decided, after some false starts, never to write a heading or rubric which presupposed some particular shape or architectural layout to the worshipping space. Furthermore the communion table, according to the 1662 rubrics (which wonderfully ignored all Laud's efforts in the 1630s, railing in a space round the table), could be 'in communion time' anywhere in the building - with the implicit corollary that out of communion time it might also be anywhere. 1662 is the starting point in law. So constitutionally there is no special 'place' earmarked as 'sacred' (the 'sanct-' part of the word) in church buildings, as indeed there is no biblical ground for labelling places 'sacred'. Even if the table is properly a 'holy table', there is not one location designated as 'holy' where it belongs. In some buildings (such as dual purpose ones) the table is indeed 'brought out'. And this is true in the main *Common Worship* book - not a hint of 'sanctuary' in its index. So how come *Times and Seasons* is treating us to 'The Stripping of the Sanctuary'? In formal terms we do not know what a 'sanctuary' is, nor where it is, so how can we know how to strip it?

Of course there are many sloppy linguistic uses around. But they should not be canonized through inadvertence such as I confess.

The Rt Revd Colin Buchanan is the former Bishop of Woolwich, and former editor of *News of Liturgy*.

Notice board



Vasey Memorial Lecture

2008 is the 10th anniversary of Michael Vasey's untimely death, and the annual liturgical lecture given in his memory will take place on Wednesday 21 May at St John's College, Durham. To mark the passing of ten years, this event will be more fulsome than usual. At 5.30 pm there will be an act of worship in the college chapel, based on Michael's own work. A meal in the college will follow at 6.30 pm and the lecture - given by Canon Dr David Kennedy - will be given at 7.30 pm.

Next Joint Liturgical Study - Justin Martyr

The Alcuin/GROW Joint Liturgical Study No.64 is due in December: Colin Buchanan (ed), *Justin Martyr on Baptism and Eucharist: Texts in Translation with Introduction and Commentary* (SCM-Canterbury, £5.95). It is over 30 years since the previous series of Grove Liturgical Studies published Geoffrey Cuming's *Hippolytus: A Text for Students* (which is still in print). In the intervening years a great range of patristic texts, either directly liturgical or bearing closely upon liturgy, has followed. But Justin, standing earlier than any of the texts actually published, has been omitted until now. Colin Buchanan makes good the lack, and in the process not only treads on familiar ground, but also re-opens questions many have thought closed.

Praxis Midlands Website

Having reported on the new Midlands' website in the last issue, we have been informed that things have changed again. Now called *Praxis Midlands*, their website has had a complete makeover. Do take a look (www.praxismidlands.org.uk).

Grove Books have been experiencing some delays in publication. The Worship Series No. 192 - *How to Worship with Data Projection* by Ian Tarrant has just appeared and No. 193, *Sowing in Tears—how to lament in a Church of praise*, is due out very shortly.

All books in the Worship Series are available from Grove Books at www.grovebooks.co.uk or telephone 01223 464748.

Praxis News of Worship is edited by Gilly Myers and is copyright © Praxis 2007.

Material for inclusion should be sent to: Gilly Myers

Before 31 January 2008: 6a The College, Durham DH1 3EQ;

after 1 February 2008: 2 Booth Clibborn Court, Park Lane, Salford, Manchester M7 4PJ.

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.

Getting in touch with *Praxis*...

For general enquiries, affiliation and programme information, contact

Praxis 19 The Close, Salisbury, Wiltshire, SP1 2EB Tel: 01722 424 858 Email: Praxis@praxisworship.org.uk