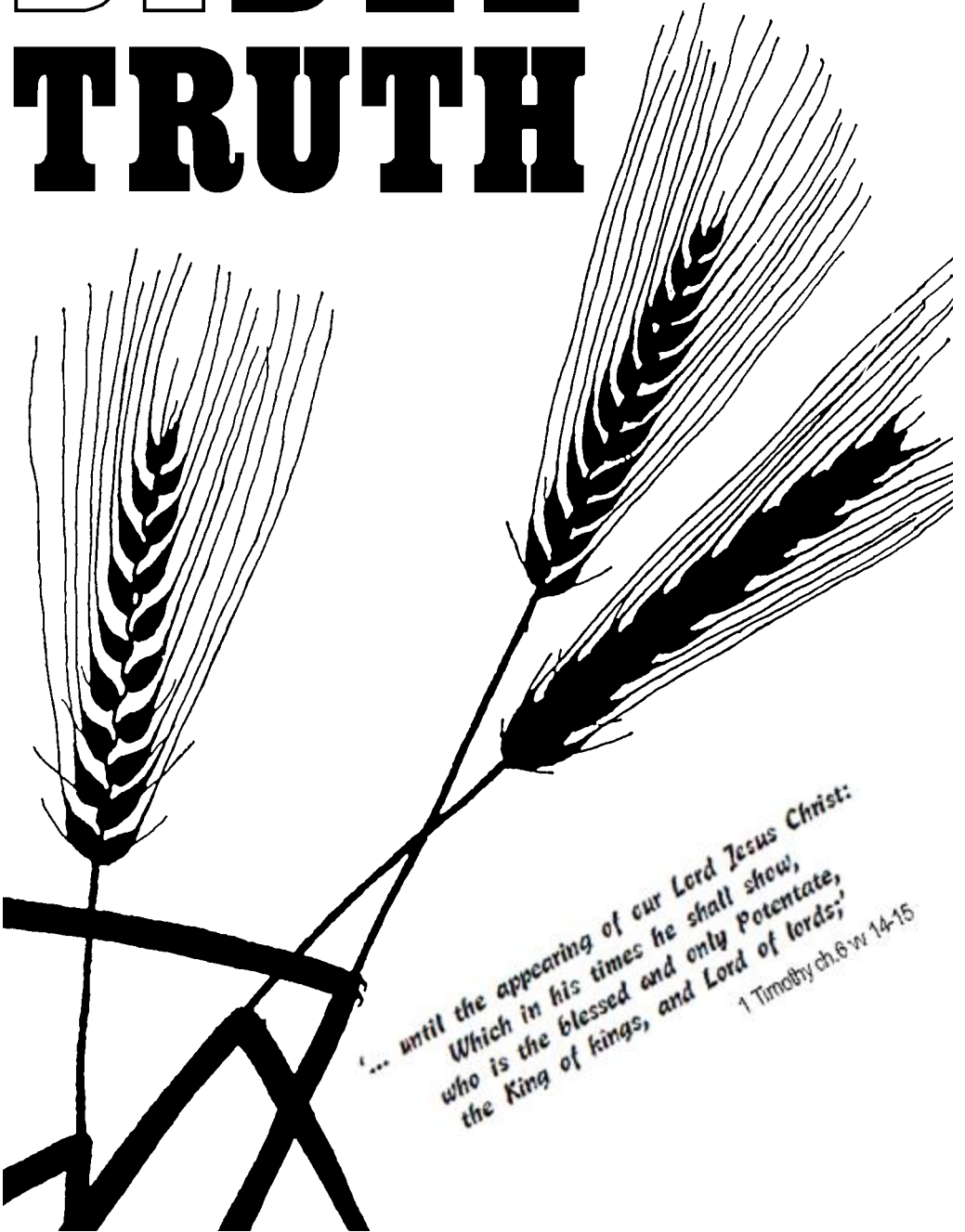


BIBLE TRUTH

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*... until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ:
Which in his times he shall show,
who is the blessed and only Potentate,
the King of kings, and Lord of lords;
1 Timothy ch.6-w 14-15*

THE 350TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER

2012 is an important anniversary for Church liturgy. Some denominations may have little time for the Church of England. Nevertheless all should remember how its worship over the centuries has sustained the people of England and indeed many others in Commonwealth lands through the Anglican Communion.

Its worship manual, *The Book of Common Prayer*, is still the only such liturgy authorised through England's Parliament and it is remarkable how it frequently incorporates the principle of the People of Israel being those that use its observance. We hope to expand upon its value in future articles but meanwhile just consider its value as described by the following.

'In 1549 Archbishop Cranmer stated before Parliament that he was prepared to prove that the Book of Common Prayer had been in use in the Church for fifteen hundred years past; this takes us back to AD 49 the very days of the early Church and to the time of the Apostles themselves. Thus the BCP is not solely of ecclesiastical authority.'

Alfred W Faith, *Our National Liturgy, The Book of Common Prayer*, Covenant Publishing Co., Ltd 1958

'In Thomas Cranmer's time Cambridge University library only had about 600 books whereas his library was more extensive and he had books by many authors which Oxford and Cambridge did not have. Cranmer himself spoke Latin, Hebrew, Greek, German, French, and Italian.'

W. Hume Campbell, *The Prayer-Book in the Church*, Longmans 1915

'It was the Prayer book that gave common prayer to a nation that had become fatally divided over religion. The Prayer Book also provided continuity, it gave voice to the praise and prayer of the English from one generation to another. The Prayer Book to "things eternal looked" and made a deliberate effort to place political correctness outside the prayer and worship of the Church. It achieved this without any loss of conviction proclaimed in strong, clear credal statements'

Andrew Hawes, 'Sacred Vision' in *New Directions*, October 2011

Anniversary Events

Sunday 22 April, 11am St George's Day, Bristol Christ Church City - choral St George's-tide celebration of the traditional 1662 Book of Common Prayer order for Holy Communion.

Sunday, 29th April, 4.00 p.m, Truro Cathedral - Sung Evensong to celebrate the 350th anniversary of the 1662 BCP, the Bishop of Truro will preach.

1st May-14th July - Exhibition at Lambeth Palace Library 'Royal Devotion-Monarchy and the Book of Common Prayer', Tickets £12 (adults) (£10 concessions).

Wednesday 2 May, London St Paul's Cathedral 5pm Book of Common Prayer Evensong.

Wednesday 9 May Bristol Christ Church City - Birmingham's Concordia choir, 'evening celebration in Words and Music of renowned passages from Book of Common Prayer'.

Sunday, 13th May, 4 p.m., Oxford, Whitchurch St Mary's Church: Full Choral Evensong in celebration of the 350th Anniversary of the 1662 Book of Common Prayer. For more details please contact Dalby Landen: 01189 842414.

Tuesday 15th May 7.30 p.m. Sherborne, Dorset - Lecture by the Revd Canon Eric Woods, Vicar of Sherborne Abbey, to mark the 350th anniversary of the 1662 BCP; 'Books of Common Prayer prior to 1662'. Griffiths Room, Digby Memorial Hall, Digby Road,

19th May is the exact anniversary of the passing of the Act of Uniformity in 1662.

Saturday, 19th May: Blackburn Prayer Book Society Branch Festival, Blackburn Cathedral. 11.00 a.m., Choral Communion (all words and music from the Seventeenth Century); celebrant the Bishop of Blackburn; preacher the Rt Revd & Rt Hon Lord Hope, former Archbishop of York. (It is planned to place a statue of Thomas Cranmer in the Cathedral during this service.) Afternoon speaker: the Revd Norman Taylor, whose book *For Services Rendered* is being reissued for the anniversary year.

Sunday, 20th May, 6.30 p.m., Rotherfield Peppard All Saints, Evening Prayer to mark the 350th Anniversary of the 1662 Book of Common Prayer.

Sunday, 20th May: Blackburn Cathedral is marking the anniversary at Evensong at 4.00 p.m. The Dean and Chapter have invited the Rt Revd Robert Hardy, a former Bishop of Lincoln, to preach on the Prayer Book theme.

Sunday, 20th May, 6.00 p.m., York, Kirkby-in-Cleveland, St Augustine's Church - Choral Evensong to celebrate the 350th Anniversary of the 1662 BCP.

Sunday, 20th May, 10 a.m., Cirencester Parish Church: Holy Communion (BCP) to mark the 350th anniversary celebrations. Celebrant the Revd Canon Leonard Doolan; organist Antony Hammond. For further details, contact susanemson@hotmail.co.uk or telephone 01285 654591.

Sunday, 20th May, 5.00 p.m., St Edmundsbury Cathedral - 'O Lord, open Thou our lips'—Concert by the Cathedral choir to mark the 350th anniversary of the 1662 BCP.

Sunday, 20th May, 3.30 p.m. Norwich Cathedral Evensong to celebrate the 350th anniversary of the 1662 BCP; Preacher: the Bishop of Norwich.

Saturday, 26th May, Lewes, Sussex, at St Thomas a Becket, - Sung Holy Communion to celebrate BCP 350.

Tuesday 29th May 7.30 p.m., Sherborne, Dorset - Lecture by the Revd Canon Eric Woods, Vicar of Sherborne Abbey, to mark the 350th anniversary of the 1662 BCP; 'the publication of 1662 and subsequent attempts at revision', Griffiths Room, Digby Memorial Hall, Digby Road, and at the same venue and same speaker -

Tuesday 12th June, 7.30 p.m., 'The relevance and value of the Prayer Book today'.

Saturday, 16th June – Sunday, 17th June, Oxford Christ Church Cathedral: A weekend of celebration of the 350th anniversary of 1662.

Tuesday, 19th June, 7.30 pm, Nottingham, Aslockton, Thomas Cranmer Centre - 'What do we think Cranmer was doing? The 1662 Prayer Book 350 years on', a talk by the Revd John Richardson.

Sunday, 24th June: Plymouth St Andrew's Minster Church, Choral Evensong to celebrate the 350th anniversary of the 1662 BCP; Preacher The Rt Revd John Ford, Bishop of Plymouth.

Sunday, 24th June, 10.00 a.m., St Albans Elstow Abbey Choral Mattins to celebrate the 350th anniversary of the 1662 BCP.

Sat 30 June, Bristol - re-enactment of the historic procession from Christ Church to St Mary Redcliffe on 2nd July 1543 when Cranmer's original litany in English was sung. Involves the choirs of Christ Church City & St Mary Redcliffe.

Sunday, 1st July, 6.00 p.m, Guildford, Compton St Nicholas Church, 'Surrey's Flagship Norman Church'. Choral Evensong marking the 350th Anniversary of the 1662 BCP, Address by the Rt Hon. Lord Hurd of Westwell, Lay Patron of the Prayer Book Society.

Sunday, 1st July, 6.00 p.m, Oadby, Leicester, St Peter's Church - concert by the trio "Voice & Verse" to commemorate the 350th Anniversary of the Book of Common Prayer;. Lance Pierson illustrates the BCP's influence; Belinda Yates and Heather Chamberlain provide music which has illuminated this unique book of worship.