

# LITURGICAL REVISION IN THE CHURCH OF WALES

## 1. The Constitutional Position

Liturgical revision in the Church in Wales is governed by a Canon passed by the Governing Body in September 1955. Under this, each service undergoes a two-fold process of revision. (1) The Standing Liturgical Commission, in consultation with the Bishops, prepares a revised version of the service, and this is authorized for *experimental* use for ten years. During this period, opinion about the revised form is noted. (In what follows, the services at this stage of revision are denoted by (E).) While the experimental period lasts, the B.C.P. form is also permitted. (2) A further draft is prepared by the Standing Liturgical Commission and Bishops and debated by the Governing Body. This draft takes notice of the findings of the experimental period. In form passed by Governing Body, it becomes part of the Church in Wales Book of Common Prayer. (Services which have reached this stage are denoted by (D) below, since they are regarded as definitive.) The B.C.P. form is not allowed as an alternative to the (D) form of any service, except Holy Matrimony.

## 2. Services produced since 1965

- 1966 Eucharist (E), came into use on Low Sunday, 2 April 1967, seven months after authorization.  
This provision includes Propers (E), closely based on B.C.P.
- 1969 Mattins, Evensong and Lectionary (E). Lectionary has a weekday psalter with 10-week cycle.  
Baptism and Confirmation (D). Already questions are being raised about these, because of the Church in Wales Doctrinal Commission's report 'Christian Initiation' (1972).
- 1970 Ministry to the Sick (E).
- 1972 Modern English version of 1966 Eucharist, published for study and discussion only. Since 1974, the Bishops have permitted its use on a regular basis in parishes, provided the Bishop of the diocese has been consulted.
- 1972 'Services and Ceremonies for the Presentation, Ash Wednesday, Holy Week and Easter.' Contains all the traditional ceremonies for these days, and is quite widely used. It is *not* an (E) or (D) provision, but is sanctioned by each Bishop for use in his diocese.
- 1974 Burial of the Dead (D).

- 1974 'Companion to the Ministry to the Sick.' Directions for family, priest and patient.  
1975 Holy Matrimony (D).

All the above are in print. The Commission also produced a Modern English form of the 1969 daily offices, but this is unpublished as yet.

### **3. Work-load of Commission in April 1975**

The Commission was preparing drafts of Eucharist, Calendar, Offices, Lectionary and Propers (all D). The work on the Calendar has involved collaboration with the Roman Catholics in Wales, as a result of which an agreed list of Welsh Saints and dates upon which to observe them has been worked out. (The Roman Catholics submitted the list to the Vatican earlier this year.) The gauging of opinion on Eucharist and Calendar was done through questionnaires sent to all individual clergy, P.C.C.s, and any individual lay-people who expressed interest. (The return of the Calendar questionnaire was 78 per cent, I think.)

Work had also been going on for about two years on The Ordinal (E). The Commission was preparing The Ordination of Priests first.

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