

¶ *How much will it all cost?*

That depends on the formats in which you choose to use the new services – books, booklets, service cards or locally produced orders of service. We want to make sure that *Common Worship* in all its forms is both durable and of high quality, but the prices are being kept as low as possible to make sure that the material is available to all churches.

¶ *What happens next?*

What matters most is the next step: churches using *Common Worship* in ways that fit the local situation, turning words into living worship. There will be decisions to be taken: clergy have been sent more information about the new services to help with this. Maybe some fresh ideas about worship in your church will result. The aim of it all is to glorify God and to connect our worship with the worship of every time and every place – and with the never-ending worship in heaven.

This leaflet was written and produced by the Education and Communication Sub Group of the Liturgical Publishing Group.

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Common Worship

Services and Prayers for the Church of England

New liturgy for the Church of England is coming soon...

¶ **What is Common Worship?**

Common Worship is a series of new services for the Church of England. They replace those in *The Alternative Service Book 1980* (ASB) from 1 January 2001.

¶ **Why do we need new services?**

Our world is constantly changing and our understanding of God is always developing. Our worship needs to reflect this. After 20 years of use, the weaknesses as well as the strengths of the ASB have become apparent. The Church therefore began to revise the ASB, so that we could continue to draw on both modern and traditional services. The result is *Common Worship* – services which bring together the best of both ancient and modern, classic and contemporary.

¶ **What's in Common Worship?**

Common Worship consists of a main service book containing the most frequently used services, supported by other books containing material for particular needs (such as funerals and marriage). The new services will also be published in booklets and service cards, on computer disk and available free on the Internet. The main *Common Worship* service book will include Prayer Book services of Holy Communion and Morning and Evening Prayer as well as modern language services.

¶ **What are the new services like?**

Some of the new services (Baptism, for instance) contain new material based on fresh thinking. Others (such as Holy Communion) are gentle revisions of the ASB. They all provide strong and recognisable structures, whilst allowing for flexibility in local use. Much of the new material will feel familiar because it draws on words from the ASB and *The Book of Common Prayer*.

¶ **What happens to The Book of Common Prayer?**

The Book of Common Prayer (BCP, sometimes known as '1662') is authorized permanently and is completely untouched by this revision process.

¶ **How will Common Worship affect us?**

That depends on what sort of services you now have in your church. You may have noticed some changes already. For instance, you may be using the new *Common Worship* lectionary as the basis for Bible readings. The new Baptism service is also in widespread use. Most of the remaining services will be published in the autumn of 2000.

¶ **Can we continue using our existing services?**

You can carry on using any services from *The Book of Common Prayer*. Services from the ASB will no longer be authorized, being superseded by the *Common Worship* services. If it proves impossible to complete the changeover in time, special permission may be sought from the bishop to continue with ASB services for a limited period.

¶ **Who will make the decisions about our services?**

Decisions about which forms of service to use (other than for baptisms, marriages etc) are taken by the incumbent and the Parochial Church Council (or equivalent) together.