

PRESS INFORMATION
For immediate release

3 October 2012

How the BCP Changed Public Prayer

The influence of the Book of Common Prayer on public worship beyond the Church of England, and the story of its detractors and admirers, will be among the topics of a symposium to be held at Sarum College, 15-16 November 2012.

“Denominational pastors and scholars across denominations will gather to discuss the impact of the 1662 Book of Common Prayer,” says Dr James Steven, symposium convener and director of liturgy and worship. “The story to be told is rarely heard yet has surprising implications for understanding the evolution of public worship both globally and amongst English denominations.”

Scholars and leaders from Baptist, Methodist, Roman Catholic, Reformed traditions as well as the wider Anglican Communion will mark the 1662 Prayer Book’s 350th anniversary.

Contributors include Chris Ellis, vice-president of the Baptist Union; Susan Durber, principal of Westminster College, Cambridge; Norman Wallwork, Methodist Minister and member of the Joint Liturgical Group; Alan Griffiths, lecturer in liturgy at St John’s Catholic Seminary; Colin Buchanan, assistant to the Bishop of Bradford; David Frost, principal of the Institute for Orthodox Christian Studies, Cambridge.

At 12pm before the symposium, the Royal School of Church Music (RSCM), based at Sarum College, will lead a [special choral service](#) with hymns, anthems, readings and prayers from the RSCM’s festival service book ‘At All Times & in All Places’, published specially for this anniversary year.

Further details on the symposium and the choral service can be found on the Sarum College [website](#). The price to attend is £50 non-residential and £95 residential with an en-suite room.

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Notes for editors

Contact for more information

Christine Nielsen-Craig, director of marketing and development
Sarum College: 01722 424812 | 07800 866084 | cnc@sarum.ac.uk

The Book of Common Prayer from the Outside

An Ecumenical Symposium to mark the 350th Anniversary of the 1662 Prayer Book, Thursday 15 to Friday 16 November 2012, held at Sarum College. The conference programme begins with lunch at 1pm. Departures 2pm on day two. Arrive early to attend the RSCM Celebratory 350th Book of Common Prayer Service at 12pm on Thursday prior to the conference.

Sarum College is an independent ecumenical centre for Christian study and research based at 19 The Close, Salisbury, SP1 2EE. Sarum College receives no regular funding from churches or other public bodies, and is a registered charity (no. 309501). The college website address is: www.sarum.ac.uk

The Royal School of Church Music (RSCM) supports a world-wide network of over 8,000 churches, schools and individuals. RSCM is committed to achieving the best use of good music in worship – whatever the resources, whatever the style. www.rscm.com