

confessions and funerals. To that is added a chapter on church property, and finally another one on ecumenical relations and the legal arrangements which govern them. In all of these matters Dr Doe comes across as immensely well-informed, yet at no point does it appear that he has a particular axe to grind. Considering the many bitter controversies which some of the above subjects have generated in the past two centuries, that is an achievement bordering on the miraculous! The result is a book which all Anglicans can own as a clear and detailed expression of the church in which they live and worship. No matter what else they may disagree about, all can come together at these points – and it is well to remember that these points take up about 400 closely packed pages!

The only improvement to this book which can be imagined is that it should be published in paperback and made widely available at an affordable price, preferably with a study guide for the use of Parochial Church Councils and the like, for whom it ought to be a basic reference work. The Anglican Communion has never made exclusive claims to Christian truth, and neither does Dr Doe, but he has succeeded in demonstrating its coherence and in justifying its existence as a valid and viable option in the modern pluralistic world. The present reviewer came away from it heartened and pleased to be an Anglican, which is in itself an experience sufficiently unusual these days to make this book a must for anyone who thinks seriously and cares deeply about the church to which he or she belongs.

GERALD BRAY

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