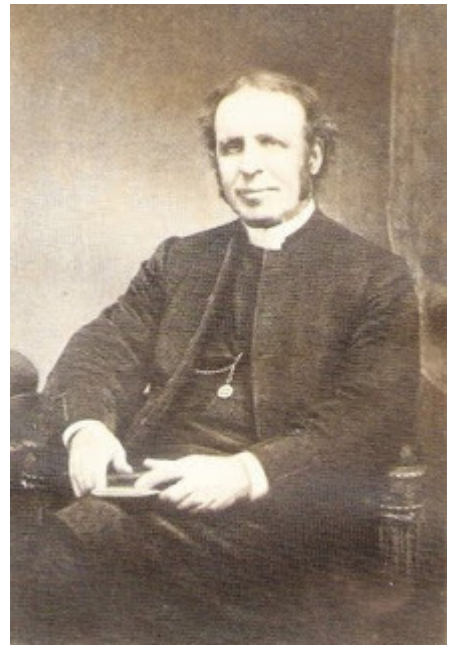


Prayer of the Month • May 2013

The blessing of the Lord rest and remain on his people, in every land, of every tongue; the Lord meet in mercy all who seek him; the Lord comfort all who suffer and mourn; the Lord hasten his coming, and give us, his people, the blessing of peace.

Bishop Handley Moule, 1841–1920



This is a rich and generous blessing, which has an enjoyable sense of comprehensiveness about it: ‘rest and remain’, for example, and the sprinkling of ‘every and ‘all’. It teaches us not to be stingy in our blessing of others. It also contains an echo of the Aaronic blessing of Numbers 6.24-26: ‘May the Lord bless you and keep you ...’. Each phrase adds to the one before and brings greater inclusiveness.

Handley Carr Moule, Bishop of Durham from 1901 to 1920, was born in Dorchester, the eighth and youngest son of Henry Moule, inventor, and Vicar of Fordington for over fifty years. Two of his brothers became missionaries in China. Handley himself (named after a godfather), went to Trinity College, Cambridge, and became an assistant master at Marlborough College, before being ordained deacon in 1867 and priest in 1868, and becoming a curate to his father. In 1880 he became the first principal of Ridley Hall, Cambridge, and in 1899 Norrisian Professor of Divinity at Cambridge until his appointment as Bishop of Durham in 1901. As a New Testament scholar he wrote over sixty books and pamphlets. He was also active in the ‘Higher Life’ movement, a movement devoted to Christian holiness, its name deriving from a book of William Boardman, *The Higher Christian Life*, published in 1858. One of the expressions of this evangelical movement was the foundation of the Keswick Convention. Moule was a speaker at the first convention in 1875, attended by over 400 people, under the banner ‘All One in Christ Jesus’, which is still the Convention’s motto. Moule died on 8 May 1920, and is buried in St Cuthbert’s Cemetery, Durham.

Colin Lunt