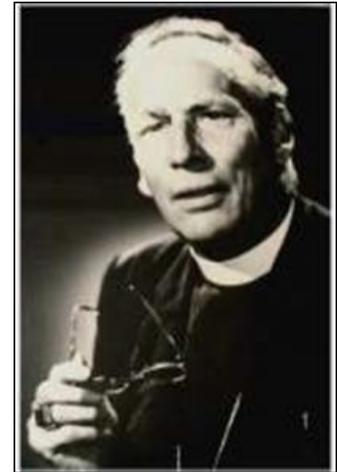


Prayer of the Month • August 2013

O Holy Spirit,
whose presence is liberty,
grant us that freedom of the Spirit
which will not fear to tread in unknown ways,
nor be held back by misgivings of ourselves and fear of others.
Ever beckon us forward to the place of your will,
which is also the place of your power,
O ever-leading, ever-loving Lord.

George Appleton, 1902–93



This is a prayer to be living according to the will of God. This means being guided by the Holy Spirit. Great trust is required to depend on God alone, and it is easy to have doubts about ourselves in this and to be worried about what others will think. Can we ever be free of these doubts, so that we can be influenced by God alone? Well, the Holy Spirit is a spirit of liberty, of freedom, not a weak presence, though, but rather a spirit of power. In his presence and power we experience liberty and grow in trust.

George Appleton is probably best known today as editor of the Oxford Book of Prayer (1989), and the composer or compiler of other prayers and collections. He had the facility to compose prayers in ordinary, understandable language, without being trite. Born in 1902, he was educated at Selwyn College, Cambridge, and ordained in 1926. He served a curacy in Stepney before spending twenty years in Burma as a missionary for the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel. He wrote about Burma and about Buddhism. Returning to England, he became Vicar of Headstone, then Rector of St Botolph's, Aldgate, before becoming, in 1962, Archdeacon of London and a Canon of St Paul's Cathedral. He went to Australia to become Archbishop of Perth in 1963, and was Archbishop in Jerusalem 1969-74. He died on 28 August 1993.

Colin Lunt