

THE 1755 PRAYER BOOK PRAYERS FOR THE KING AND THE ROYAL FAMILY

I am now going to look at the Prayers for the King and for the Royal Family. These are included in both the section on Morning Prayer and that on the Litany. There are separate prayers for the King and for the Royal Family.

Now various members of the Royal Family died during the time that this Prayer Book was in use in the church, and each time the relevant prayers should have been altered in manuscript. There was no need to change the prayer for the King because they were all Georges, and he is simply referred to as "George our most gracious King". However, it was necessary to change the entries for the Royal Family. In fact, we shall see that the first change was done in rather a messy way and it was not possible to incorporate later amendments. These changes may need some explanation, because the succession was quite complicated.

Let us start with these facts:

- George I came to the throne in August 1714
- His only son, Prince George of Hanover (the future George II), married Caroline of Brandenburg-Ansbach on 22 August 1705
 - Their eldest son Frederick, Prince of Hanover, was born 1 Feb 1707.
(Frederick's grandfather, George I, made him Duke of Edinburgh in July 1726)
 - They had two other sons, George who died in infancy, and William (born in 1721) who became Duke of Cumberland.
 - There were also five daughters.
- George I died and George II came to the throne on 11 June 1727.
- His son, Frederick, was made Prince of Wales on 8 Jan 1729
- In 1736 Frederick married Augusta, who thus became Princess of Wales.
- Queen Caroline died in 1737.
- Frederick and Augusta's first son, George was born on 4 June 1738.
- Frederick died on 20 March 1751. Thus he pre-deceased his father, and his son George became Prince of Wales in his place.
- George II died 25 Oct 1760 and was succeeded by his grandson George, Prince of Wales, who became George III.
- George III married Charlotte on 8 Sept 1761.

So, between 1737 and 1751 the prayers for the Royal Family would have been for:

"Their Royal Highnesses Frederick, Prince of Wales & the Princess of Wales, the Duke (Cumberland), the Princesses, and all the Royal Family" Then:

- Frederick died in on 20 March 1751, just before this prayer book was published.
- His son, George, then became Prince of Wales.
- Frederick's wife, Augusta, then became the Princess Dowager of Wales

Thus, as published in our Prayer Book, the prayers were for:

"Their Royal Highnesses George, Prince of Wales, the Princess Dowager of Wales, the Duke and Princesses, and all the Royal Family."

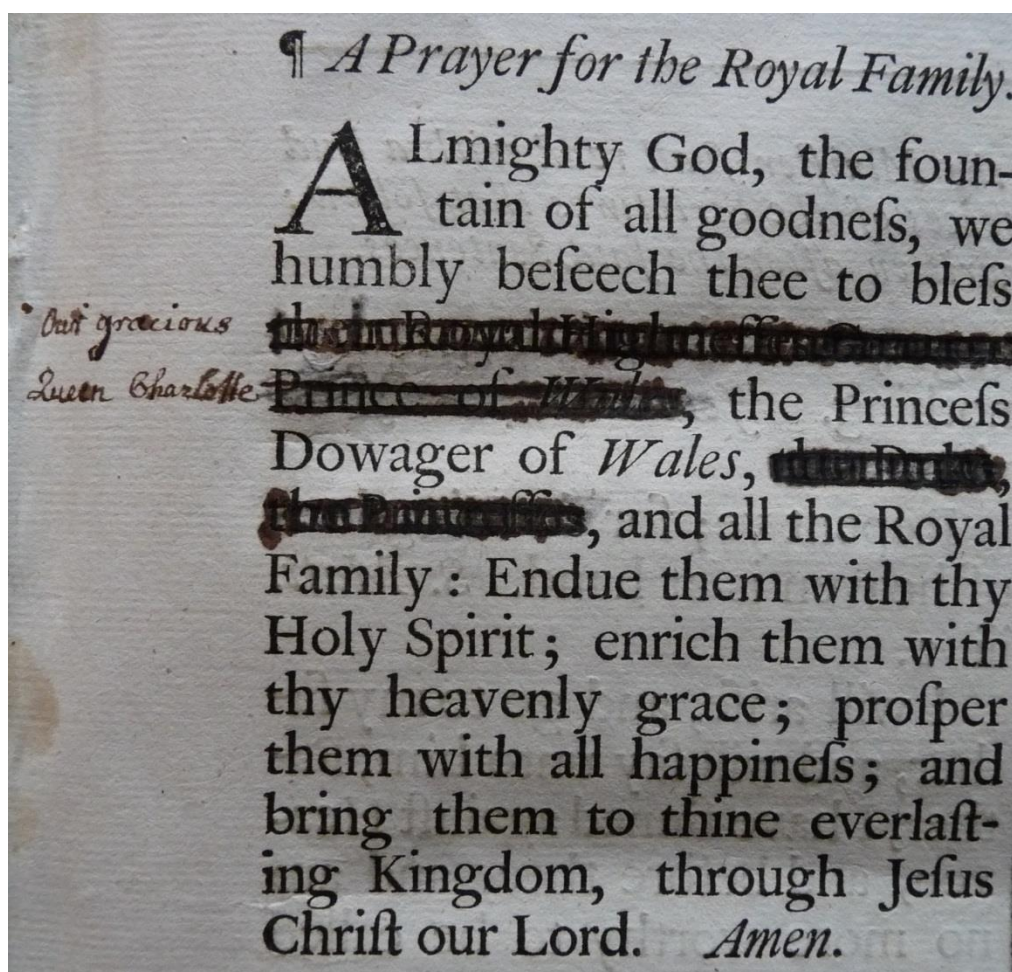
So we can see that, although the Prayer Book is dated 1571, it must have been published after the death of Frederick in the March of that year. In fact, we shall see shortly that it was published after 8 October.

It is, in fact, rather difficult to confirm that this is what was originally printed because, when the churchwardens carried out the corrections noted below, instead of just putting a neat line through the words, they tried to black them out completely (see below).

Then, King George II died in October 1760 and was succeeded by his grandson, King George III.

- When George II died in October 1760 his grandson, George, Prince of Wales, succeeded him as George III
- And his wife became Queen Charlotte
- There was no longer a Prince of Wales at that time, because George III 's first son (the future George IV) was not born until August 1762
- Augusta, the Princess Dowager of Wales, was still alive.

It was then necessary to correct the prayer book.



After correction, this section reads:

"Our Gracious Queen Charlotte, the Princess Dowager of Wales, and all the Royal Family"

The next changes should have been when

- George III's eldest son (given the title 'Duke of Cornwall') was born in Aug 1762
- Augusta the Princess Dowager of Wales died in February 1772

However, by this time, the churchwardens had presumably decided that they had made enough of a mess with their alterations and could not incorporate any more.