

KEY TO LISTS OF THE PARTICULAR ACTS OF WORSHIP IN THE BRITISH ISLES

‘Particular’ occasions are those appointed for observance within a short period, normally very soon after the event and for a specified date or period within the year. The term is used to contrast these acts of worship from the anniversary commemorations, ordered to be observed each year.

The following explains the content of the columns in the lists:

CODE

For ease of reference and cross-reference each *particular* occasion in the British Isles has been given an identification code in the format 1563–E1, or 1830–1, or 1643–E10[P].

- **year** This denotes the year during which the observance was marked. If the observance extended across two or more years, only the first year is given. Dates for the period before the calendar change in 1752 are in old style, but with the year taken to begin on 1 January.
- **letter** ‘E’, ‘S’ or ‘Ir’ indicate an occasion which took place in all (or, in some cases, some part) of England and Wales, or Scotland, or Ireland. When an occasion was observed in two, but not three, of these kingdoms, both geographical identifiers have been used, e.g. 1641–ES
- **letter and number** Where one or more occasions took place in one year within the same geographical area(s), these are numbered chronologically, reckoned on the date of the first observance (e.g., 1651–E1, 1651–E2 and 1651–E3).
- **number only** When an occasion took place in all three countries, no letter is given but only a number, e.g. 1977–1.
- **(R) and (P)** During the civil war from 1642 to 1648, occasions were ordered independently by the crown (the royalists) and by parliament. These are distinguished by the suffix (R) and (P) respectively.

Additional occasions and further material

Volume 1 of *National Prayers* contained an ‘Analytical list of particular occasions of special worship’ for the whole period of the edition. As research has proceeded, additional occasions have been found, and further material – translations or supplementary documents – can now be provided for some of the listed occasions.

For the period of volume 1 (1533–1688), such additions are given in an appendix of ‘Additions, translations and corrections’ in volume 4. The additions to volumes 2 and 3 are incorporated within those volumes.

In some cases, the addition of occasions or observances requires a re-coding of existing occasions. These additions and changes are indicated after the codes in the lists for the British Isles, using the following superscript letters:

^A additional occasions for volume 1, in appendix to volume 4

^a additional occasions given in volumes 2 and 3

^F further material for an occasion in volume 1, in appendix to volume 4

^R re-coding of occasions in volumes 2 and 3

^T translation of document in volume 1, in appendix to volume 4

Imperial observances

Occasions in the English and British lists which were also widely observed in the overseas empire are indicated as follows:

- * occasions ordered or encouraged by authorities in London for observance in all the overseas colonies and dominions
- † occasions commonly observed in colonies and dominions by order or encouragement of the authorities within these territories

DATE(S)

The date(s) of observance, with conventional abbreviations for months.

- after: refers to the date of the order, indicating that the start of the observance is unknown
- asap: as soon as possible
- from: the date of the first known observance, when this was to occur for a period of time or when the precise further dates of observance are uncertain
- various: differing dates or days, decided upon by each regional or local authority (for example, in Scotland dates settled by individual presbyteries)

? indicates unknown or uncertain matters, due to fragmentary or ambiguous evidence.

DAY(S)

Days of the week: Mon, Tu, Wed, Th, Fr, Sat, Sun

AREA(S)

- E England (used after the disestablishment of the Church in Wales in 1920)
- E&W England and Wales (used until the disestablishment of the Church in Wales in 1920)
- Edinburgh indicates observance within the burgh
- Edinburgh area 'area' includes various contemporary formulations, e.g. 'Edinburgh and Lothian': precise designations are given in the headings for relevant occasions
- Dublin refers to the city only
- Dublin area 'area' includes various contemporary formulations, e.g. 'Dublin, suburbs and adjoining liberties'; precise designations are given in the headings for relevant occasions
- Ir Ireland (included until the disestablishment of the Church of Ireland in 1871)
- lines 'lines of communication': the area within a series of twenty-three fortifications which parliament ordered to be built during the civil wars of the 1640s to protect London and its environs from attack
- London refers to the City of London
- London area 'area' includes various contemporary formulations, e.g. 'London and Westminster', 'London and within the bills of mortality'; precise designations are given in the headings for relevant occasions
- Lothian and Tweeddale the area of south-east Scotland administered by the synod of this name, important because it included Edinburgh
- S Scotland

UK the United Kingdom, used from 1915 for occasions arranged by co-ordination between leaders of the main churches (not just the established churches) both in England and Wales and in Scotland (and sometimes Ireland, and from 1921 Northern Ireland), and which were observed by all or nearly all churches, including those of Ireland, and from 1921 Northern Ireland

DESCRIPTION

The type of special worship. There was some variation in type and description, particularly before the 1560s, during the 1640s and 1650s, and during the twentieth century, but the principal types were as follows:

fast day/s

prayer/s

service/s (or thanksgiving service/s): used for occasions which were not ordered to be observed as special holy 'days', but when special services (in E&W and Ir with printed liturgies) were nevertheless to be held

thanksgiving day/s

thanksgiving prayer/s

A singular description (fast day, prayer, etc.) is used when the special occasion was ordered for one specified date and for places of worship in one area (e.g. one date for the whole of E&W).

Plural descriptions (fast days, prayers, etc.) are used when the special occasion was to be repeated on successive specified dates; or for a specified or unspecified period (days, weeks, months); or when the occasion was to be held on different dates in different areas (e.g. one date for the London area, and a different date for elsewhere in E&W).

CAUSE

A summary description of the main cause or purpose of the appointment, given in a modernized form. The contemporary phrases (which typically contain much religious phraseology) will be found in the printed text of the orders (e.g., a proclamation) in the relevant *National Prayers* volume.