

The Virger

www.cofegv.org.uk

Autumn 2011 Issue 272



The Official Guild of Vergers magazine

From the Publications Team

Marek's Walnut, Sultana & Cheese Loaf

INGREDIENTS

MAKES 1 LARGE LOAF

15g Fresh Yeast
(or 1 1/2 tsp Dried & a pinch of Sugar)
450g Strong Wholemeal Flour
1 tsp Salt
1/2 tsp Paprika
1 1/2 tsp Mustard Powder
175g Cheddar Cheese, grated
100g Walnut Pieces, finely chopped
100g Sultanas



METHOD

Grease a 900g (2 lb) loaf tin.

Blend the fresh yeast with 300 ml warm water.

(If using dried yeast, sprinkle it into 300 ml warm water with the sugar & leave in a warm place for 15 minutes, until frothy.)

Put the flour, salt, paprika, mustard powder, 100g of the cheese, the walnuts and sultanas in a large bowl and mix together. Make a well in the centre, then pour in the yeast liquid. Mix together to make a smooth dough that leaves the sides of the bowl clean.

Turn the dough on to a lightly floured surface and knead well for about 10 minutes, until smooth and elastic. Place in a clean bowl. Cover with a clean tea-towel and leave in a warm place for about 1 hour, until doubled in size.

Turn the dough on to a floured surface and knead lightly. Shape the dough to fit the prepared tin. Cover and leave in a warm place for 30 minutes, until the dough rises almost to the top of the tin.

Sprinkle with the remaining cheese and bake at 190°C (375°F) mark 5 for 45 minutes, until well risen and the loaf sounds hollow when tapped on the bottom.

Turn out on to a wire rack to cool.

This loaf will keep for a week in an airtight container and can be frozen.



The Website has a members only section, with extra information, pictures and soon past issues of the Virger magazine, just for you. To access this area send an email to the communications officer with your name and Branch and you will be sent your log-in and password details and information on how to set up your own space on the Guild Forum.



Welcome to the Autumn 2011 issue of the Guild of Vergers Magazine. Please let Marek or myself know what you think and of any ideas you might have for the next issue.

If you have any articles for the magazine or would like to become a member of the publications team please contact the Communications Officer for more details.

Communication Officer and Chairman of the Publications Team -
Magazine Editor: Amanda Berry
Sub-Editor: Marek Barden

If you would like to include Branch news, articles, book reviews or any other information you feel our readers would find of interest please send to the editor.

Deadline for the Winter issue:
Friday 25th November 2011

Amanda Berry
 70b The Close
 Salisbury
 Wiltshire
 SP1 2EN

berryberry50@hotmail.com

The_virger_magazine@yahoo.co.uk

Badges!

*Because Recognition
Is everything*

**Guild Personalised,
Woven, Enamel,
Embroidered, Button,
Photo ID Security**

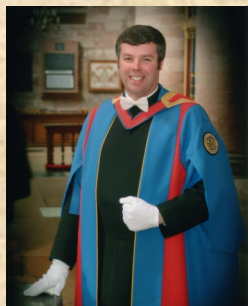
**Rubber stamps
Key fobs, Pens, Mousemats
Desk and Door nameplates
All produced to your own specifications
By Recognition Express, Yorkshire**



ALL AVAILABLE FROM THE GUILD SHOP

Front Cover: Icon of Christ in Glory by Juliet Venter (www.juliet-icons.co.uk)

Copyright © Juliet Venter 2010, all rights reserved Reproduced by kind permission of the artist



Chairman's Letter – September 2011

Many of you have been in the Guild for as long as I have and will have known me throughout my verging life, but for those who may not know me that well a brief resume; I was born and bred on a farm just outside Wooler, Northumberland. I started my working life at A. C. Burns Ltd, an agricultural chemist and merchant in Tweedmouth, Northumberland where I made up preparations for application to various parts of animals, i.e. Head Fly Ointment, Horse Embrocation & Cow Teat and Udder Cream which once came to the rescue of the Overseas Liaison Officer whilst on a walk along Hadrian's Wall. As well as working full time I held an honorary position in St Mary's

Parish Church, Wooler.

It was during this time that I discovered the Guild and joined the then Newcastle branch as their most northerly member. I moved to Hexham Abbey eight years later as the full time Verger, a position that I was very proud to hold, especially as I would end up with my picture at the end of a long line of vergers on the wall. My next move was to my present post here in Carlisle as Head Verger, trying desperately to fill the shoes of John Campbell who moved to Lincoln. I have now just completed twenty one years here in Carlisle so I think I now own the shoes.



I am very humbled that you chose me to be your National Chairman for the next three years. Trying to live up to the bench mark that Chris Crooks the outgoing National Chairman has set. If I may, can I thank Chris for all the hard work he has contributed to the guild during his terms of office. I last served you as National Chairman ten years ago and under the guidance of Chris the Guild's Central Council have had the confidence to grasp some difficult decisions and have reformed our thinking, making us a stronger organisation ready to meet future challenges head on.

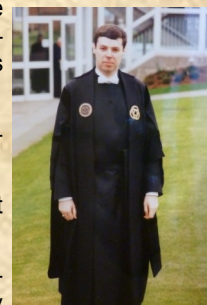
As a new venue has been found for next year's Training Conference we have had to find a new time of year as well, so look out for the announcement later in the magazine. It's been all go in the Training Officers' life in the last few months, as well as securing the new venue for conference John Shearer has been relocating his life and job. We wish John all the best as he takes up his position as Verger of the Temple Church, London.

It is a great delight to congratulate Pam Derbyshire as she celebrates 25 years as verger of St Peter's Scorton, Lancashire this month.

In our prayers, please hold those who are responding to career, financial or health issues within their lives at this time.

Our next big event will see us gathered in Cambridge for the Canterbury Province Festival hosted by the Ipswich branch. I trust you have all booked your place by now and that I will see you all there. Until then my friends enjoy what is left of the summer.

James Armstrong
National Chairman



St Mary Redcliffe, Bristol

Following the appointment of John Shearer to The Temple Church, London,
St Mary Redcliffe wishes to appoint a

HEAD VERGER

to lead our vergers' team and take a senior role in the life and mission of our Church.

The post will carry a starting salary of £21,000 p.a. and rent-free accommodation.

Further details and an application pack can be obtained from Mrs Pat Terry, Church Administrator by email on pat.terry@stmaryredcliffe.co.uk, telephone 0117 929 1487 or in writing to St Mary Redcliffe Parish Office, 12 Colston Parade, Bristol, BS1 6RA.

The closing date for applications is Friday 30th September and interviews will be held in the week commencing 17th October.

We hope that the appointed person will be able to take up the post from Advent 2011, but we are willing to wait for the right candidate. An enhanced CRB disclosure is required.

There is a genuine occupational requirement that the post holder be a practising Christian.



Chaplain's Page

My Dear Friends,

Greetings from a somewhat chilly Hereford! The weather is cold and grey and much too windy to sit outside. Last week I was fortunate enough to attend a couple of services at 'Musica Deo Sacra' at Tewkesbury Abbey – a wonderful Festival in which music is performed within the context of the Liturgy. Now this week is the Three Choirs Festival with more wonderful music and the chance to meet friends. Music is one of the powerful ways in which we can express the inexpressible: the mystery which is both in our understanding and beyond our understanding or to use another liturgical word, to appreciate 'Glory'. There is a tension between the God who we can scarcely understand because of his mystery and awe – the transcendent God - and the God who is with us – the immanent God. Part of the necessity for taking a break from work, a holiday (which incidentally has the same root as the words healing and wholeness), is to restore the balance between our visions of God. Walking in the countryside, swimming in the blue waters of the sea, relaxing with a book, enjoying the company of friends and family, or whatever is your particular way of having a holiday, helps us to see God in awe and mystery but also to see God in the ordinary things of life which sometimes pass us by.

Much of the manifestation of God's presence in the Old Testament concerns the appearance of his glory – glory in the natural events of storm, earthquake or fire. For Moses, the manifestation of God was a reflected glory, in which the skin of Moses' face shone whenever he spoke with God while for Elijah it was a deep silence. For the authors of the New Testament the 'glory of Christ' was often seen as a reflection of the glory of the Father. In John's Gospel alone the glory of God is possessed by Christ and was manifest at the beginning before the creation of the world when 'the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us and we perceived his glory; the glory as of the only begotten of the Father full of grace and truth.' The glory of Christ is seen at many times during the ministry of Jesus, but again for John, supremely at the crucifixion, where Jesus cried 'It is accomplished.' August brings the Feast of the Transfiguration of our Lord, and so highlights the aspects of glory which we understand in our daily lives.

A few weeks ago, with just a year to go before the Olympic Games, the Medal designs were displayed: gold, silver and bronze medals given to athletes who triumph in particular events. One of the previous Olympic winners said, 'Receiving the medal is the point of utter glory – the point at which all the training and heart-ache recedes into the past as one lives in the present glory.' - a personal glory, but an ephemeral glory.

On the 6th August 1945 we experienced a very different sort of glory – a very dark glory which changed the world for ever as the atomic bomb was dropped first on Hiroshima and three days later on Nagasaki. Japan was at war and the US government called for surrender. There was no surrender and on the Feast of the Transfiguration, Hiroshima experienced a transfiguration into total destruction. The bright mushroom was a very dark glory: it ended the war but at what terrible cost.

How different was the Transfiguration of our Lord in which Peter, James and John witness the glory of Christ. Jesus is transformed: his face shines like the sun and his clothes become dazzling white while the voice of God proclaims him as Son of God, beloved by the Father. It is as if a corner of the veil has been lifted to display the glory of Christ: a setting aside of his humanity so that his divinity is momentarily apparent.

Three events of glory: a personal but ephemeral glory, a terrifyingly dark glory and a glory which reveals something of the awe and majesty of God in the life of his beloved Son.

If we lose touch with the glory, we lose touch with God and as +Michael Ramsey suggests: ***'It is when the Creator is forgotten that His gifts and creatures are allowed to dominate and to become ends in themselves. So it is that technology, or money, or comfort, or sex can rule man, instead of having their true place, which is ruled by man for the glory of God.'***

How can we recapture the glory? I suggest that it isn't by pushing the human machine beyond its boundaries – the Gold medal is a momentary triumph. It isn't the gain of power and especially not the dark glory of war. It is the point at which we meet our Lord in the Eucharist – the point at which we hold out our crossed hands to enthrone the Bread of Life; the point at which we take the precious and life-giving blood of Christ. Sharing the glory given to us in bread and wine we can then 'go into the world' to spread the glory and light of Christ.

I wish you all happy holiday: a time for relaxation and renewal: a time when you can regain the glory of God within the natural world, within your family and friends and within the Eucharist.

***With every blessing,
Canon Maureen***



Prayer Requests

If you know of someone for whom prayers would be of benefit or someone who has been prayed for and has recovered/shown improvement, please inform the National Welfare Officer or National Chaplain

Gloucester, Hereford & Worcester: Fred Austin, Paul Birkin, Colin Rodway & Jim Wooldridge

Guildford & Portsmouth: David Lee

Oxford: John Bayliss, Jean Ebdon, Don Mitchener & Margaret Morris

Rochester: Victor Warren

Salisbury: Babs Taylor

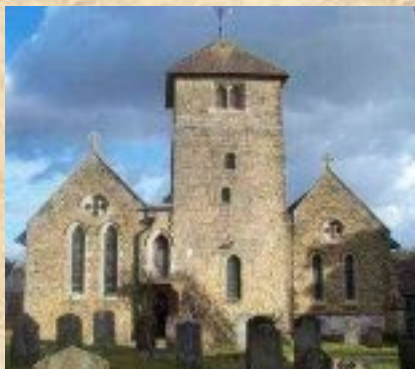
Somerset & Avon: Marek Barden, 'Dick' Chenoweth, Peter Martin & Ian Millard

And everyone not specifically mentioned who needs love, counseling and the grace of Our Lord

CHICHESTER, GUILDFORD & PORTSMOUTH BRANCH

Visit to Haslemere

It was a fine day in January when around twenty members of the Verger's Guild descended on St Bartholomew's Church hall in Haslemere.



These occasions are becoming something of a regular fixture in the annual diary of the Guild and a very pleasant time was had by all.

The event, arranged by Carol Skeates and assisted by Martin and Cynthia Taylor, was a chance for members to meet for an informal chat, which was both warm and amusing.

The hall in which the lunch was held used to be a school, which is somehow still evident even after such a well executed conversion. Indeed, it is almost possible to hear the echoes of scraping chairs, slamming desks and bellowing teachers of years gone by.

A big thank you to Carol who single-handedly went off to the local fish and chip shop to pick up the order. And excellent food it was too, (Ricky and I somehow ended up having two portions each) but, luckily, the lunch was rounded off with a very healthy portion of fruit serving as desert.

A raffle was also included which, whilst being a lot of fun, managed to raise £23 for the St Bartholomew's Church Fund.

And then it was time to head back out into the countryside for the journey home. Indeed, it was almost like a spring day.

Everyone who came along thoroughly enjoyed themselves, a very good opportunity for people too see old friends and to become better acquainted with newer members.

For those who could not attend this year, I would certainly recommend any 'fish and chip' lunches held by the Branch in future. A lovely way to begin any new year!

Robin Freeman
Branch Correspondent

CHICHESTER, GUILDFORD & PORTSMOUTH BRANCH CONTINUED

18 members gathered at St Jude's Church, Southsea which was the venue for our meeting on 24th August. It was also a good opportunity for some to visit the excellent D-Day Museum which is on the sea front at Southsea.

The Church is mid-Victorian and situated in the busy shopping centre. Thankfully it escaped damage during the 2nd World War when Portsmouth itself suffered very badly. St Jude's boasts a fine collection of Victorian stained glass windows some of which, since it's re-ordering, are in the most unusual places! We were told of the many changes that have taken place over the years and plans for future work, after which we were shown round the large building returning to our meeting room for refreshments. The evening concluded with Compline led by St Jude's newly ordained Curate. Our thanks go to Adrienne Bridger – for hosting an interesting and informative evening.

LEICESTER & PETERBOROUGH BRANCHES

Summer Meetings

We began our summer with a service of Holy Communion with nice traditional hymns for Pentecost led by the Reverend Dr Peter Hooper, Team Rector of the Bradgate Team of Ratby, Groby & Newtown Linford. The service was held at the Parish Church of St Philip & St James, Ratby. The Epistle for Pentecost, complete with all the big words, was very clearly read by Sylvia Crawley from St Bartholomew, Kirby Muxloe and the Intercessions were led by yours truly. Included in the intercessions were prayers for Canon Maureen, leading the Annual Training Conference, and the

hope that a suitable new venue would be found for next year because of the closure of All Saints Pastoral Centre. Also we prayed for those members who were unable to be with us through health problems or for other reasons.

Following the service, refreshments were served and we had a good chin-wag. Our Branch Chairman, Jack Lip-pitt, thanked the Reverend Hooper. Thanks were also given to Sue, Reverend Hooper's wife, for preparing and serving the refreshments and to David Collins, the Bradgate Team Reader, for playing the organ at the service.

15 members attended, which was very encouraging, and we had a prospective new member, Mr Les Michelmores from St Mary's Church, Humberstone in Leicester. He has been a chorister like myself. We hope he will enjoy our fellowship in the future.



The church was built between the late 12th and early 13th centuries with traces of mediaeval architecture. It was restored and reordered between 2000 & 2002 as dry rot had set in in various areas of the building.

While the work was being carried out, the building had to be closed. Now, since it has reopened, it is nice to see that some of the pews have been put back, new chairs purchased and a lot of the stonework highlighted. A refreshment area with toilet facilities has been created in the old choir vestry. Until 1984, Ratby was the Parish/Mother Church with Groby being called the Chapel of Ease. Then the Team Ministry was established.

S.T. CHURCHWARE

Church Plate ❖ Carved Wood ❖ Altar Wine
❖ Hassock Kneelers & Pew Cushions ❖
Vestments & Linen

***We specialise in CANDLES – wax &
nylon oil burning***

176 Short Heath Road, Erdington
Birmingham B23 6JX
Telephone/Fax: 0121 350 6177
Telephone: 0121 693 6277
Email: Church6177@AOL.com

So now it is the Team of St Philip & St James, Ratby, St Philip & St James, Groby with All Saints, Newtown Linford.

On Monday 11th July, we set out on a lovely summers evening to Launde Abbey for supper. We had a lovely surprise when Canon Maureen appeared after reading a book in the library. She was spending time there on a retreat for retired clergy. She joined us for supper. Also, Margaret Steadman was celebrating her 80th birthday which was going to be on Friday 15th July. Our Branch Chaplain, the Reverend James Shakesphere, presented her with a plant and a card from us all. After supper we went down to the chapel and had a Vigil Service led by our Branch Chaplain, which included the singing of the hymn, Hail, gladdening light, led by yours truly. I had not sung it myself for many years and it was a privilege to be able to help lead the Branch through it. 10 members attended plus Canon Maureen. It was a lovely evening in the quiet countryside.

On Monday 8th August 10 members from the Leicester Branch and 8 members from the Peterborough Branch met at All Saints, Paston, which is north of Peterborough. Five members of the Leicester Branch missed the turning and had to stop someone to ask for directions. We reached our destination eventually and were welcomed with a nice cup of tea. We had a service of Holy Communion with hymns led by the Reverend Gillian Jessop, Rector of All Saints. The Epistle was read very clearly by Lance Bloom the Verger, Area Leader for Leicester & Peterborough. We prayed for members who were unable to be with us due to ill health, including our Chairman, Jack Lippitt, Jean Evans and Valerie Clark. After the service we had some tasty refreshments provide by Lance and his wife.

All Saints, Paston, has stood on the edge of what was originally the marshy fens for almost 800 years. For many years it was called the Church in the Fields and was described by Andrew Percival in 1833 as a kind of oasis in the desert. The present building is mainly Gothic in style. The chancel windows on the south side are fine examples of Perpendicular tracery. The north chancel aisle is in fact a former Chantry. The central pillar is octagonal whilst the other pillar is circular. It has fine iron railings which date from the reign of Charles 1st. This area is now used as the choir vestry. Outside, the Lych Gate is not as old as it appears, having been added in 1922 as a war memorial. It originally had gates.

We would like to thank the Rector, the Verger and the Pianist for hosting the evening.

Marjorie Thomas Dip GV

LONDON, SOUTHWARK & CHELMSFORD BRANCH

Rev'd Tom Finds His Niche

After a delightful lunch in the Hassocks Hotel opposite the station I took a 10 minute walk to find Tom's new home. Luckily Tom was at home working on a sermon and Tom showed me around his 1960's house complete with big garden. I trust Tom now has some furniture as he was sleeping on a mattress on the lounge floor (but he is doing deals with a local antique shop). After Walthamstow he feels the silence at night to be quite tangible. Tom took me to his local pub and after a welcome pint took me on a tour of his three Churches.

The first, St Francis of Assisi in Hassocks is modern and 'hall-like'.



Next came St Cosmos & St Damian in Keymer. This is very beautiful Victorian Gothic where worship is in the Anglo Catholic tradition. The incense lingered and they have a Walsingham mass every month.



The third church where the licensing took place is the Saxon church of St John the Baptist in Clayton. It is accessed through a lych gate when you enter a beautiful graveyard that surrounds the church.



Tricks of the Trade

When the elastic has finally stretched out of your cotton gym socks, give them a new life in the sacristy sock bag! They make great "mitts" on your hands for picking up polished brass, dusting and polishing cloths.

You will want only **100% cotton socks**. Worn toes and heels won't matter at all. They can be laundered many times and will continue to grown softer and more serviceable. Men's old cotton tee-shirts are another candidate for polishing and cleaning cloths.

Once upon a time birdseye baby diapers made great cleaning and polishing rags -but now, of course nearly everyone uses disposables!



The rear portion overlooks the Sussex Downs where on the hill you see two windmills known locally as 'Jack & Jill'.



Among the graves I found that of the Queen's dressmaker Sir Norman Hartnell who made her wedding dress and Coronation gown.



The tiny church was full to the gills with local faithful for the Licensing Eucharist, which was celebrated by the Bishop of Horsham, the Right Reverend Mark Sowerby. We vergers were there in force with Doreen and George Cook from Yorkshire, Denise and Melvyn Mead from Croydon, Keith Farrin from Horsham and myself. We sang the hymns with gusto, heard the Bishop preach an excellent sermon and watched proudly as our dear friend Tom was licensed as Assistant Priest to the three churches in this lovely part of Sussex just six miles from Brighton. The service was followed by a reception with a sumptuous spread in the Parish Hall with one or two speeches.

The evening ended with a 'vergers only' session with Tom in the local pub.

I caught the 11.15 train to London Bridge and got home at 1 a.m. with a warm glow. Watch out Tom! Branch visits being planned!

Stephen Haude
Area Leader

The Jubilant Verger

Anyone that has been involved in organising or assisting with any kind of larger, more formal service will have experienced that immense feeling of relief that washes over you when the congregation has left and all has gone perfectly! One of the Vergers at Westminster Abbey obviously felt that way as he was spotted performing cart-wheels down the aisle after the wedding of the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge (after the guests had gone, although if anyone was watching the Royal Wedding on ITV they were still transmitting from the Abbey at this point and caught the unsuspecting Verger on camera).

**The wedding was completed
with pomp and circumstance;
the Abbey, undefeated
by undue happenstance.
From the bottom of their heart
the Abbey Choir had sung;
the Clergy, too, had played their part,
the tower bells had rung.
Two thousand people in and out,
the Verger had to smile,
and then he gave a happy shout –
and cart-wheeled down the aisle.**



By Nigel Beeton

(published in the Parish Magazine for St Mary the Virgin, Davyhulme)

Sent in By Geoffrey Timms

Blackburn, Manchester & Chester Branch

VESTMENTS AND VESSELS FOR ZIMBABWE

An Anglican Benedictine priest in Leeds is appealing for any good quality, light-weight but robust vestments and vessels to serve the persecuted congregations of Anglicans in Zimbabwe.

Fr.Nicholas Stebbing recently took 24 chalices and 34 chasubles out to Zimbabwe, where the Anglicans have been thrown out of their churches, nuns imprisoned for holding a service in their own chapel, and the congregations and clergy desperate to learn more about their own faith and for the basic resources for practising that faith.

According to Fr.Nicholas "priests have no churches, no vestments and no chalices and celebrate the Eucharist with tin mugs and the occasional glass".

With the kind permission of the Provost and Vestry committee of St John's Cathedral in Oban, Argyll, verger Lindsay Campbell is making up some linens to send to Fr.Nicholas, along with two unused vestment sets and a Home Communion set.

If any other verger has any unused vestments and vessels in their building which they'd be able to send onto Fr.Nicholas.

Fr.Nicholas can be contacted at nstebbing@mirfield.org.uk

from Lindsay Campbell DipGV
St John's Cathedral, Oban (Carlisle Branch)

Missing Persons...?



I'd love to find out a bit more about my first boss, Maurice Eales. He and his wife Hilda were very good to me, but we lost touch, and I have no idea what ever became of them. If you can help - do please let me know.

My interest was re-awakened when – at this year's Training Conference - I saw a picture in the Guild Chronicle of the 1981 Vergers' Conference at Harborne Hall, Birmingham, which includes him, 3 years before I met and worked for him in Llandaff Cathedral, 1984-5.

Amazingly in the same picture is David Elson, my second boss at Wells Cathedral, 1985-91. I had no idea these two had ever met, let alone spent a week together at the Guild Conference !

Here is what I remember:

Maurice came from Towcester in Northamptonshire. He had been a professional football referee, a fireman, and a Verger. He served as verger in St Peter & St Paul, Mansfield (Nottingham); a large civic church in Northamptonshire, possibly All Saints, Northampton (but this is not certain); from 1984 – 1988 (?) he was Head Verger of Llandaff Cathedral (Cardiff); and sometime shortly after that he was the verger at St Faith's Parish Church Havant (Hampshire).

There is a possibility that they later moved to Sidmouth, but this again is speculation. I remember that they had one son, but I can't remember now if there were any other children.

Did you ever come across them ? If so – do you know what became of them ?

If you can help, please phone on **01227 769752**

or email me at chriscrooks@btinternet.com

or write to me at **5 The Forrens
The Precincts
Canterbury
CT1 2ER**

Many Thanks,
Chris Crooks.

MA in Christian Liturgy



An ecumenical programme in liturgical studies including pastoral, historical and theological approaches to Christian worship.

Directed by Dr Juliette Day, modules are taught by a team of liturgy experts, including Professor Paul Bradshaw, Dr Bridget Nichols, Professor Tom O'Loughlin, Dr Alistair Stewart-Sykes, Professor Martin Stringer, Dr Phillip Tovey, Dr Tom Whelan.

Modules are delivered through intensive study periods and supplemented by tutorial support for home-based study. These can also be taken individually by non-MA students.

Optional modules include:

The Eucharist
Christian Initiation
The Liturgical Year

Liturgy, Mission and Cultures

Music in Christian Worship
Christian Prayer
Worship, Art and Architecture

MA degree programme validated by



www.sarum.ac.uk/liturgy-and-worship/
phone 01722 424827 • courses@sarum.ac.uk

About the Front Cover



Icon of Christ in Glory ~ A note from the artist ~ Juliet Venter

At the end of 2009 I received a commission for an icon of Christ in Glory from a client who planned to present it to the Institute for Orthodox Christian Studies (IOC) in Cambridge. When I began preparatory research for the work, I discovered how ancient it is as an iconographic theme.

Art historians tell us that artists of the early Christian era adapted it from the Roman artistic formula of the enthroned emperor as an object of homage, which is evidenced by numerous stone and ivory relief carvings. There are church mosaics of Christ in Glory surviving from as early as the fifth century in both Greece and Italy.

Moreover it is an iconographic type common to both Eastern and Western churches: this was important to the commission, as the IOC welcomes students of all Christian denominations. The version of the icon reproduced here was by way of a preliminary study, and has now been taken to the USA by a private collector.

The Christ in Glory - or Majestas Domini - image developed in slightly different directions in the decorative schema of Western and Eastern churches. In buildings of the Byzantine model, it became the 'Christ Pantocrator' of the central dome: famous historic examples include the mosaics of Daphni near Athens, and of the Chora church in Istanbul. In western Europe, a full-length version of the image once dominated the altar end of most churches, though the passage of time and the iconoclasm of the Reformation have left us very few examples. A few Romanesque wall-paintings are left to us, notably that of St Clement de Taull in Spain, of the Torpo Stave church in Hallingdal (Norway), and the over-painted vestiges at St Michael & All Angels in Copford (Essex). More durable examples are the tympanum stone reliefs of Christ in Glory dominating the western portals of so many great romanescque and gothic cathedrals.

However, this was to be a personal icon, more intimate in scale, and in composing it I chiefly drew on tenth- to twelfth-century prototypes found in illuminated manuscripts, both Eastern and Western. The icon illustrates the prophetic vision of Revelation 4, of Christ on a throne encircled by a rainbow and surrounded by four winged creatures understood as symbolic of the four evangelists. Christ appears in a mandorla or vesica piscis, an aura expressing his transcendent power. He is surrounded by stars as ruler of the cosmos and seated on the rainbow of God's everlasting covenant of mercy. His feet rest on the sphere of the earth: 'the heaven is my throne and the earth my foot stool,' saith the Lord Omnipotent (Isaiah 66, quoted Acts 7). Christ's right hand is blessing (in the Roman orator's gesture signifying authority from the emperor) and in the other he holds an open book. The text shown may vary - often 'Alpha Omega Sum', or 'I am the light of the world...'.
The quotation from John 14 used in this icon ('I am the way, the truth and the life') was especially appropriate to the IOC, whose course for newcomers to the Orthodox faith is entitled 'The Way'.

The quotation from John 14 used in this icon ('I am the way, the truth and the life') was especially appropriate to the IOC, whose course for newcomers to the Orthodox faith is entitled 'The Way'.

Juliet Venter's icons and medieval-inspired miniatures can be viewed on her website: www.juliet-icons.co.uk



**Parish Nursing
Ministries UK**

Is your church looking for an innovative way of outreaching in the local community and a new way of looking after the holistic needs of the church congregation? Is a nurse in your congregation is looking for a way of serving in the local community and church using the skills and experiences gained from nursing? Parish Nursing Ministries UK is a mission activity that is doing just this.... and more! Whatever you may be interested in doing; here's a little about what we do.....

Parish Nursing : Our History

In 1985, a hospital chaplain named Granger Westberg saw the potential for Christian nurses to lead healthcare programmes through local churches in Chicago. He began with six nurses and there are now over 11,000 nurses working through churches around the world, in the USA, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, South Korea, Swaziland and 17 more countries. We began in the UK in January 2004, and since then over a hundred nurses from all denominations have taken up the one week induction training and with their churches have developed health ministry through their local congregations and into their local communities.

What about the mission?

It's mission..... simply because Jesus sent people out to preach and to heal. His concerns were for people to be whole - spiritually and physically. Whenever he encountered someone, he cared about their spiritual needs as well as their physical needs and vice versa. Nowadays, we separate these out. However, this health ministry is about churches getting more involved in physical, mental, and social wellbeing combined with intentional care of the spirit - just as we see in the ministry of Jesus.

And your church can do this as well!

Parish Nurses complement the work of the NHS with many continuing to work there whilst working in a voluntary capacity within the church for just a few hours a week, although they can be paid. Parish Nurses do not perform clinical tasks but fulfil other aspects of their wider nursing role, such as being health educators, and are able to identify health needs of those they serve either providing support or making sure appropriate care is sought.

So if you think you might be interested what do you do next?

We trust that this brief insight into Parish Nursing Ministry has encouraged a curiosity to find out more! Please visit our website. www.parishnursing.org.uk to learn more or call us on 01788 817904 and we will be happy to discuss the concept and its potential for your church further.

THE NEXT TRAINING COURSES FOR NURSES ARE IN OCTOBER 2011 & FEBRUARY 2012. PLEASE CONTACT 01788 817904 TO FIND OUT MORE.

OXFORD BRANCH

Visit to Guildford

On a hot and humid day at the beginning of August, a small group met at Guildford Cathedral (in Surrey), to participate in a pre-arranged tour of this fairly modern but imposing building, which stands aloof on Stag Hill, and from where a wonderful panoramic view can be experienced.



Under the guidance of Mrs Chris(tine) Franco (who had previously worked here as a Verger), we enjoyed a leisurely and informative tour of the surprising and beautiful interior of this building, which, in only a short time, has amassed its own extensive history.

Time spent in the Sacristy with Paul and Stephen, going through the vast collection of vestments contained in massive vestment cabinets (which most cathedrals would die for!), proved 'informative and interesting' – sorry Andrew! (who takes great pride in keeping these tidy).

We enjoyed much needed nourishment in the Refectory, after which, there was free time to explore further within the Cathedral, and also to visit the Seeds of Hope Children's Garden, situated outside at the east end of the Cathedral.

This garden has been created as a place where children can use nature to explore the concepts of loss and death; an information pack is made available providing games, activities, writing and drawing opportunities, which it is hoped will help young people to work through their issues.

The garden is divided into four sections, not only to represent the seasons of the year, but also the stages in dealing with loss.

This was a fitting end to a most enjoyable day; our thanks to everyone who contributed to making it so (and for providing 'special transport' for one of our members, who was determined to complete the day's activities).

**John Bayliss
& Michael Golby**

ROCHESTER & EAST CHICHESTER BRANCH

Visit to Burrswood

Thursday 26th May was not a good day for weather, after the lovely days we had experienced in the weeks before. Even so, it found members of the Rochester & East Chichester Branch, along with a small number from the Canterbury Branch, at Burrswood Hospital, Groombridge in Kent. Burrswood is an independent Christian hospital, situated among the beautiful countryside of the Kent/Sussex borders, about 4 miles from Tunbridge Wells. It is a registered charity, providing in-patient medical & nursing care with input from counsellors, physiotherapists, a Chaplain and support staff. Patients enjoy the comfort of individual en-suite rooms.



Burrswood was founded by Dorothy Kerin in 1948. She was a 20th century healing visionary, having been miraculously restored to full health overnight in 1912 aged 22 years after suffering from 5 years of severe illness. The hospital became a fully registered in 1999. The present Archbishop of Canterbury is one of its Patrons and its work is strongly supported by the Church of England & many healthcare professionals, who refer patients to it. On 14th May 1960 a chapel, the Church of Christ the Healer, was consecrated at Burrswood. Services are held every day with special healing services on Thursdays and Saturdays, which are attended by up to 90 people. I can well recommend a visit to the chapel. The Branch's visit coincided with the Thursday healing service which we attended, a number of us receiving the laying on of hands from the chaplaincy staff. After the service we had an enjoyable lunch in Bocky's Tea Rooms, which is open to patients, guests, visitors and members of the public. One of the Chaplains then gave us a brief talk on the forming of the Hospital and its work, both medical and caring. Unfortunately owing to the weather, we were not able to enjoy walking round the extensive grounds. Having recently been a patient there, I can fully recommend Burrswood together with the work that is carried out there. One notices that it is indeed a very special place where your whole person can be cared for, not only in body but also in mind and spirit as well.

**Ernest C Bissenden
Branch Correspondent**

SALISBURY BRANCH

Visit to Tidworth

Monday 20th June saw several members of the Branch gathered at St Michael's Garrison Church, Tidworth for their Summer Quarterly Meeting.



The day started with a short Holy Communion Service in their side chapel, led by the Army Padre, the Revrend Michael Parker.

Afterwards we gathered for a short meeting, to bring the members up to date of events that are in hand, also to apologise of the lack of minutes of the last meeting, we informed the members that it was with deep regret that our New Branch Secretary Andrew Munro had to stand down at short notice due to ill health and now need someone to take on this important job.

We all then went to the Hall across the road for lunch, which was wonderful, I think we all had a job to move after, but we had too, for three workshops, kindly arranged by Beth & Amanda.

Beth introduced the Army Padre, the Reverend Keith Barry, from Bovington Garrison, who talked about the History of the Church Vestments.

Our Branch Chaplain, Canon David Letcher, talked about the Altar and Credence tables.

Then Amanda, gave a talk on the Virge and how it was introduced and demonstrated how it should be carried.

All too soon it was time for tea, so it was more cakes; I do think we vergers get too well fed!

The Chairman thanked the Staff for a wonderful lunch and tea, also thanked Beth, David, Keith and Amanda for their time in preparing the workshops, especially having been to the Conference the week before.

**Babs Taylor
Branch Chairman**



BABS TAYLOR RACE FOR LIFE

Race for Life- 20th July 2011

Well, I did it, in 1 hour 1 minute and 4 seconds, it took me longer this year due to my shoulder and arm being very painful, and you will see by the photo that I had to wear my sling.

The race was held in the evening this year and the weather was just right, the course was totally different from last year, some of it was uneven, but they did put plenty of signs out and coloured the uneven part with pink marking spray.



At the end after receiving my medal and goody bag, I with my husband made our way to the car, but we heard the announcement that a little girl of no more than 5 years old was going to get out of her wheelchair and attempt to walk the last 500 metres, so we all raced back to the finished line and cheered her on, we all had tears in our eyes, because she managed it, even though it was a struggle for her. The little girl's name is Shaniqwa, and this makes it all the worth while doing the Race. I managed to raise £200.

Babs Taylor
Salisbury Branch Chairman

SOMERSET & AVON BRANCH

Visit to Yatton

Thankfully, the recent spate of monsoons in the area held off on the evening of 11th July for a Service of Admission held at the Church of St Mary the Virgin, Yatton.

The candidate on this occasion was the newly appointed vergers for the Church, Roger Lawrence, who was following in the footsteps of his predecessor and Branch member, Norah Broomfield, who had retired after over 20 years' service.

A tour of the church led by historian Allan Denny (who also assisted the St Mary's vergers in their duties) started the proceedings.

The Service of Admission was preceded by Evening Prayer, with the Team Rector, Reverend Ian Hubbard, officiating. The Guild's Training Officer & local Area Leader, John Shearer, presented Roger to Branch Chaplain, Colin Maggs, for admission, before a congregation comprising of nearly a score of vergers, and many members of the St Mary's congregation.



After the service, a most welcome and pleasant 'Bring and Share' supper was enjoyed by all, laid out in a tempting manner by members of the St Mary's 'catering corps'.

The next event planned at the time of writing is a service at the Church of the Branch Chairman, Reyn Badger, that of St Peter and St Paul, Bleadon, not far from Weston-super-Mare.

It is hoped that members of the St Mary's, Yatton choir will join the choristers at Bleadon on the evening of 19th September to sing the now rarely heard service of 1510 by John Merbecke; this too will be followed by the now regular 'Bring and Share' supper.

The Church of St Martin, Knowle, Bristol, that is attended by the Branch Vice-Chairman, Lionel Holway, will be the venue for the Branch's meeting on 10th October at the usual time of 6.30 pm.

A Eucharist will be celebrated, which will be followed by a Branch meeting and, yes, you are quite correct – a 'Bring and Share' supper; well, it is such an enjoyable and sociable way to finish the evening.

Jean Cobb
Branch Secretary

WINCHESTER BRANCH

Winchester goes to Romsey

June saw Vergers and Virgers from the Winchester Branch descend on Romsey Abbey for their Annual Eucharist.

The Reverend Tim Sledge, Vicar of Romsey welcomed us and was the Celebrant and our Chaplain Canon Keith Anderson preached in the Chapel of St Nicholas, watched over by Lord Louis Mountbatten who is buried there.

The organist of the Abbey, Robert Fielding accompanied the hymns with great gusto as their fine organ filled that



wonderful space.

Our Chaplain admitted Robert Crawford-Moody, a Verger at Winchester Cathedral into the Branch.

We were then treated to a sumptuous Buffet kindly provide by Chris Harpham and friends.

So a final thank you to Chris and Alex, Vergers at Romsey for arranging and hosting the event.

J & M SEWING SERVICE LTD

1 Charlotte Square,
Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 4XF

'Quality is not expensive..... It's priceless'



CASSOCKS
SURPLICES
ALBS
COTTAS
STOLES
CLOAKS
CHOIR ROBES
VERGERS ROBES
FRONTALS
BANNERS
you name it,
we probably make it.

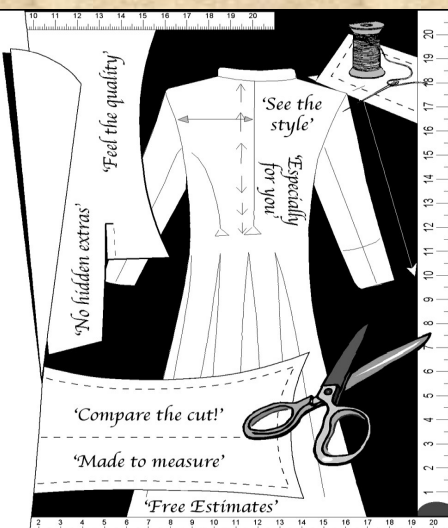
Visit our Website
www.jandmsewing.com
or ask for our free catalogue

Tel. 0191 232 9589 Fax. 0191 230 1215

Email jandmsewing@btconnect.com

OUR MOTTO ... "THERE'S ALWAYS TIME FOR COURTESY!"

Established by
Joyce Davison & Maureen Waterston in 1980



Important News from the Training Officer

NEW VENUE & NEW DATES FOR THE ANNUAL TRAINING CONFERENCE

Sunday 5th August until Thursday 9th August 2012

I can now confirm that the next annual Training Conference has found a new venue for next year. It will be held at the Elim Conference Centre, West Malvern Worcestershire.

The new venue has been refurbished to a very high standard and offers fully equipped conference facilities; the bedrooms are en-suite with tea, coffee and biscuits, linen towels and complimentary toiletries provided. The Centre is a just a short drive from the town of Malvern, and is located in the picturesque Malvern Hills. It is a near the M5 which provides quick and easy access when travelling south from Birmingham or North from Cardiff and Bristol. It is just a few hours from London and linked to Birmingham and Paddington Stations by a frequent and fast rail service to Great Malvern.

Although it does not have its own large chapel on site, we have been granted permission by the local Vicar to use St James, West Malvern for our worship centre. There is no bar on site, but there is a local hostelry just 5 minutes walk away from the Centre. As this Centre is part of the Elim Pentecostal Church, we must respect that no alcohol is permitted on site.

For those that wish to view a picture of the Centre, please look at www.elim.org.uk/Groups/121077/Elim_Conference_Centre.aspx

I am very pleased that we have found a venue that I believe will suit our needs for the next year and I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at our annual Training week. More details will follow in future magazines.

John Shearer
Training Officer



Forthcoming Events

2011

Tuesday 18th October: St John's College, Cambridge (Ipswich Branch)

2012

Tuesday 8th May: York Province Festival — St Nicholas' Cathedral, Newcastle

September: Canterbury Province Festival — Canterbury Cathedral (80th Anniversary of the Guild)

2013

September: St Albans

A VERGER'S PRAYER

Our Vergers,
Are in the cathedral;
Hallowed be their Keys.
The Visitors come,
and will be done
if they step over the barriers.
Give us this day a day in bed
and forgive us our stresses
as we try to forget those
who stress against us.
And lead us not into the Dean's office,
but deliver us from flower ladies.
for ours is the vacuum,
the vestry and the laundry,
for what feels like forever, Amen.

by Chris Crooks
from his Gala Dinner Speech at the Annual Training Conference 2011

Charles Farris Ltd
QUARRY FIELDS, MORE, WILTSHIRE BA12 6LA
TEL: 01747 861839
FAX: 01747 860934
EMAIL: sales@charlesfarris.co.uk

FOR SECURE ONLINE ORDERING, BROWSING NEW PRODUCTS, LATEST AND SEASONAL OFFERS – VISIT:
www.charlesfarris.co.uk

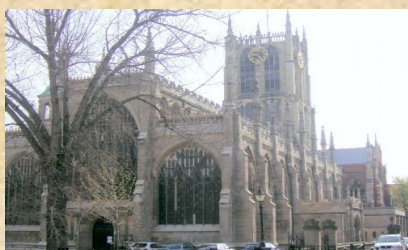
YORK BRANCH

Visit to Hull

The 27th June saw a truly eclectic collection of churches was on the menu for the CEGV York branch when 15 members gathered from the various corners of our region to investigate Hull. Hull recently commemorated the 70th anniversary of the most intense WWII bombing of any town outside London: 95 per cent of its houses were damaged or destroyed by the Luftwaffe and much of the historic centre flattened.

Two of the churches on our tour had to be rebuilt from war time ruins but the third (and, ironically, by far the biggest target) was a miraculous survivor.

We gathered at *Holy Trinity* at the invitation of verger Gordon Barley who took advantage of the normal Monday closure of the building to give us a private tour.



Holy Trinity claims to be the largest parish church in England (by floor area - 34,000 square feet). We are fortunate that all its individual 19th century pews, mediaeval font, rood screen and 14th century brickwork survived.

Less fortunate was the next port of call - the Danish Seamen's Church of *Sanct Nikolaj*. This reopened in the mid 1950s after being completely destroyed in raids.



This elegant structure is one of only two left in Britain, survivors from the days when Denmark's vessels queued up to deliver bacon and butter to the British market via ports all along the east coast. A shrinking local congregation reflects how the children of Danish immigrants are largely integrated into the community, while modern shipping doesn't give time for shore-leave, but the immaculate church still survives as a wonderful advertisement for Denmark itself. Traditional Danish fish-based food was provided for lunch and, in a highly welcome change from British practice, beer was readily available for

the meal at only £1.25 per bottle. We were given a gentle but warm welcome by Pastor Steen Tygesen who described how he ministers to his remaining flock all over Britain, and also made us feel quite jealous about the institution of Church Tax as practiced in his country.

The final port of call was *The Charterhouse* - an ancient almshouse charity which boasts a beautiful Georgian Chapel dating from 1777.



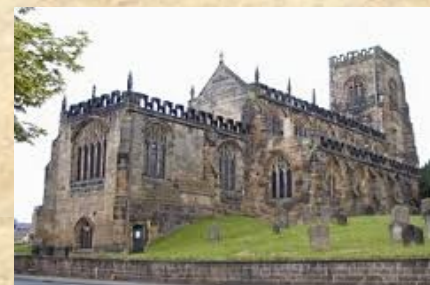
Another casualty of war, the classic Georgian buildings were restored to their former appearance and the chapel has recently been restored with many ugly additions removed, creating a more simple glory. We were treated to a traditional communion service conducted by Master of the house, the Reverend Canon Stephen Deas with organ accompaniment provided by trip organiser and Branch Chairman Richard Babington. The wealth of the charity allows the buildings to be maintained to very high standard and, as one of our party observed: "the floor is so polished you can see your face in it!" - not an obviously good thing in the gents' toilets, but there you are. And so home again.

Visit to St Mary's, Thirsk

A brief half-day visit on 26th July to Thirsk, located centrally in our region, saw more than 20 virgers, family and friends gather in the structurally-unchanged 14th century Parish Church of St Mary's.

A splendid high building dating largely from 1430, with later clerestory, chancel and tower, the church boasts six hatchments from the Bell family beneath a fine mediaeval carved ceiling. Of particular note are the chantry screens & the (largely) 15th century 21ft tall font

while two Georgian pew doors survived the inevitable (but quite sympathetic) Victorian restoration of 1876. During the 16th century an apprentice-hermit lived above the south porch, reaching his solitary residence by means of a rope ladder before graduating to a cell in the Old Lady Chapel in Osmotherley. Today there is a spiral staircase to the room and no hermit.



The crypt has an unusual history as well - originally built when the chancel was extended over a dropping hillside it probably served as overnight accommodation for visiting priests and now, after a bad flood last winter, has been remodelled to form a versatile café area. One particularly unusual stained glass window dates from 1932 and records the life of Sir Robert Bower who was, supposedly, the most handsome officer in the British Army. It has to be said the window doesn't really do him justice if this was truly the case. We were guests of verger John Lazenby, the longest-serving member of the branch who has been proudly serving what is often called 'The Cathedral of North Yorkshire' for 48 years.

After our welcome by Reverend Canon Richard Rowling we were given a talk about the church by Tourism Officer Margaret Hunton, followed by a communion conducted by Rev Graham Bowkett. The party then dispersed to eat our way through the various catering establishments in the town while several also enjoyed a visit to the James Herriot museum in the town - the famous writer was the local vet and was married in St Mary's, as were his daughter and granddaughter.

Neil Pickford
Branch Publicity Officer

The Guild Training Course

At the recommendation of the General Synod, the Central Council of the Guild formulated a course, to cover the work and ministry of the Verger.

The Course is formulated in two stages.

First is the **Foundation Unit**, this consists of sixteen assignments, covering preparation for worship, care of the building, records and archives, care of the churchyard, and care for the people of God.

The second stage is the remaining three units:

Pastor Unit covering the individual's personal development, their relationship with people and God, care for others and resources.

History Unit covering the history of church building, architecture, the history of worship.

Administration Unit covering communication, forms & registers, the structures of the Church.

If you are interested in learning more about the Course, please contact the **Training officer**.



News from the Diocese in Europe



LEARNING TO BE A VERGER

In September of 2009 I retired from my job and started working as a verger at Saint Alban's Church in Copenhagen (the only Anglican Church in Denmark). Saint Alban's was built in 1884 and the first verger worked there for 40 years. Since he retired the Church had not had a verger until our priest, Jonathan Lloyd asked me to take on the job. In the beginning I did not know much about the job, but with the help of our priest I soon got into it.

In 2010 Jonathan Lloyd arranged for me to go on a week's work experience course at Canterbury Cathedral. This turned out to be the most wonderful experience for me. As you can imagine, it was quite different coming from a small church to the Anglican Mother Church.

Every day I worked with the various vergers seeing and learning how they did their jobs. Many things were done the same way as at Saint Alban's, only on a much larger scale, of course. I learnt so many things from the vergers at Canterbury Cathedral that I could put into use in Copenhagen.

I must say it was an absolutely pleasure to work with the vergers. They were so kind and keen to share their knowledge with me. It is very rare that one meets such dedicated and professional people as they are. As I said, I learnt an incredible amount of things and every time I do those things at Saint Alban's I always send a kind thought to the vergers at Canterbury Cathedral.

Apart from the work and all I learnt, it was wonderful to be a part of Canterbury Cathedral. I had never been to Canterbury before, so that was also a great experience. I was there for the Pentecost service which was led by the Archbishop. It was amazing to see the huge Cathedral filled with people for the service.

Coming from a small church it was also very interesting to see the big vestry and all the beautiful vestments and learning how to take proper care of everything. I was even allowed to verge the Dean for Evensong one evening. I was a bit apprehensive about it, but I got such good instructions and support from the vergers that everything went well. It was a fantastic feeling.

I can only thank the vergers at Canterbury Cathedral from the bottom of my heart for taking such good care of me and teaching me so much. Coming from the only Anglican Church in Denmark, it is obvious that one does not have the support and help from other vergers. Working and talking with other vergers was therefore a huge inspiration for me. It is something every verger working for a Church outside England would benefit hugely from. Without exaggerating I can say that it was one of the best experiences of my life.

In June of this year I went back to Canterbury as part of a pilgrimage Jonathan Lloyd had arranged. It was wonderful to be back and to see the vergers again. It is definitely not the last time I shall be there. As one of the vergers said to me: "Canterbury really grows on you".

The things I learned from the vergers have all been implemented at Saint Alban's with great success and it has helped me tremendously with my work there.

So thank you Andrew (and congratulations with your baby, Persephone), Chris C, Chris H, David T, Don, Julia, Margaret, Paul, Russell, and Stephen.

Jane Angela Passant
Copenhagen, 8 August 2011



Shop



Name Badge £7.50

Guild Fleece £25.00



New Catalogue for 2011 is Out Now!

The Guild shop has Guild branded articles to add a little something to every Verger's uniform, whether a Guild fleece, designed to help the Verger as they tackle the Medieval heating or a Guild gown badge to spice up your official Verger robes. The shop has something for you.

For more information on the shops products, to order a catalogue or to place an order contact the shop manager:

The Shop Manager

Mr Andrew Baker

70c The Close

Salisbury

Wiltshire, SP1 2EN

Tel: 01722 421559 or 07979617473

Or email direct: spitndribble@btinternet.com

Or via the Guild Website: www.cofegv.org.uk



Lanyard £2.00

Silk Tie £13.00



Book Review



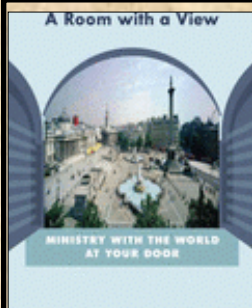
Congratulations to John Shearer on his appointment as Verger/Administrator at Temple Church, London. By the time of publication John will have moved and begun his work in this new post.

Also congratulations to Jean Cobb of the Somerset & Avon Branch on her forthcoming marriage to Tom Cobb from Ipswich. We wish you well for your future life together and hope your move to Ipswich in October will be a smooth one.

Paul Birkin of the Gloucester, Hereford & Worcester Branch would like to thank everyone for the card we signed at conference and for our continued thoughts and prayers.



Paul Birkin of the Gloucester, Hereford & Worcester Branch would like to thank everyone for the card we signed at conference and for our continued thoughts and prayers.



A Room with a View

by Nicholas Holtam

If you are at all interested in what the Bishop-designate of Salisbury is like, then this book is a very good place to start.

These chapters come out of 11 years of ministry at St Martins in the Field which has included a major building development costing £36,000,000.

The first chapter sets out a vision for any local church which needs to be rooted in context; inclusive and welcoming beyond any imagining; Eucharistic; prayerful; a community of service and learning; and a place for the creative arts.

As St Martin's is a church that with a very successful crypt restaurant as well as a bookshop, there is a short section justifying commercial endeavour.

Next comes a chapter based on the work for which St Martin's is famous; its work among the homeless and the poor. The thinking here is politically alert, well researched, passionate. There follow two chapters about the nature of good religion and its place among the other religions of the world.

Later on there is a chapter on sin, coming from days of teaching ethics at Lincoln Theological College. Here we find an intelligent narrative for truthful humane and liberal discipleship, all of which is enriched in a later chapter enriched by devotions for Holy Week, and a sermon.

In this book Nicholas Holtam reveals his love of art, living as he presently does so close to the National Gallery, music, which is so much part of the tradition of St Martin's, and literature.

It is said that a priest shapes the place and the place shapes the priest in equal measure – from the introduction comes these words which sum up all we need to know: **'St Martin's values standing in that historical tradition (the Church of England) and we try to do so creatively. It is a courageous church capable of exercising leadership and breaking new ground'.**

THE RIOTERS PRAYER

Our father, who art in prison,
mum knows not his name;
Thy riots come, read it in the Sun,
in Birmingham, as it is in London:
Give us this day our welfare bread,
and forgive us our looting,
As we loot from those who defend
their stuff against us;
Lead us not into employment
but deliver us free housing,
For mine are the tellies,
the mobiles and the trainers,
Forever and ever.....innit!

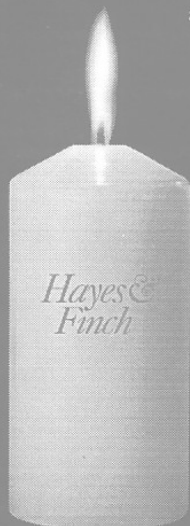
From Chris Crooks

Hayes & Finch

LIMITED EST 1882

One of the world's finest manufacturers
and suppliers of Church furnishings.

Suppliers of Candles, Altar Wine, Altar Bread,
Metalware, Vestments, Church Furniture
and Furnishings.



To receive your free copy of our full
colour catalogue, please call –

0845 450 5596
(local call rates apply)

Head office and factory:
Hanson Road, Aintree,
Liverpool. L9 7BP
Telephone: 0151 523 6303
Fax: 0151 525 1246
Email: sales@hfltd.com

Shop at your convenience
online at -
www.hfltd.com



Did you know?

The number of times the word 'God' appears in the Bible is 3,358, while the number of times the word 'Lord' appears is 7,736.

The Bible mentions dogs, livestock, lion, game animals, and various other animals but it does not mention the domestic cat!

The Verger

The Verger stood at the Golden Gate
his head was bended low,
He meekly asked the Man of Fate
which way he had to go;
"What have you done" Saint Peter said,
"to gain admittance here?"
"I was Verger of the Cathedral Church
for many a long year"
Saint Peter opened wide the gate
and gently tolled the bell:
"Come inside and choose you harp" he said,
"you've had **your** share of Hell"

From Chris Crooks
from his Gala Dinner Speech at the Annual Training Conference 2011

'I would rather be a door keeper in the house of our Lord,
than to dwell in the tents of the
Ungodly'

Psalm 84

The Guild seeks to make effective the ministry of Vergers through the following key **objectives**, by :

Promoting the spiritual nature of the **Vergers' Vocation** through Christian Fellowship and spiritual guidance for all its Members;

Encouraging the advancement of knowledge by education, through maintaining standards of good practice, and by equipping Members for Ministry as vergers in all its aspects, through the provision of advice, training, resources, and by organizing and promoting training courses and conferences; Providing the means and opportunity for **communication** and discussion of ideas and proposals of common interest to Members;

Providing **support** and encouragement to the Membership in all aspects of their duties whatever they may be and wherever performed;

Advising, upon request, and making recommendations as to terms of employment and welfare of any Member;

Recording the gamut of work undertaken by Vergers; in addition noting each Member's training, experience and qualifications.



The Official Publication for the Church of England Guild of Vergers

Leading the way since 1932

Presidents: The Archbishops of Canterbury and York

www.cofegv.org.uk