

# The Virger

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Winter 2010 Issue 269



The Official Guild of Vergers magazine





## From the Publications Team



### Marek's Spiced Ginger Cake with a dash of Ginger Wine

#### Ingredients

500g of Plain Flour  
500g of Molasses Sugar  
250g of Unsalted Butter  
2 jars of Clear Honey  
3 teaspoons of Baking Powder  
3 teaspoons of Bicarbonate of Soda  
4 teaspoons of Mixed Spice  
2 Eggs  
300ml of Milk  
2 jars of Stem Ginger (Pureed)  
100ml of Ginger Wine

#### Method

Preheat the oven to 190°C/gas mark 5.  
Grease and line a 25cm springform tin.

Put the flour, baking powder, bicarbonate of soda, sugar and mixed spice into a large bowl and blend together. In another smaller bowl beat the eggs. Melt the butter and honey in a saucepan on a gentle heat until blended together, then remove from the heat and add the milk and ginger wine. Puree the stem ginger in a bowl. Pour the honey mixture into the flour mixture along with the eggs and pureed stem ginger. Whisk the mixture together to form a smooth batter and then pour it into the prepared tin.

Cook for 1¼ to 1½ hours until the cake is firm and a skewer pushed into the centre comes out clean. The cake will rise during cooking, but will fall slightly on cooling. The middle should remain a bit sticky. This cake is inclined to burn slightly on the top, so keep a careful eye on it during cooking and turn the temperature down slightly towards the end of the cooking process if it is burning.

Allow the cake to cool in the tin completely before taking it out. This cake will keep for up to two weeks in an air tight container and can be frozen. It is delicious served cold on its own, or spread with butter. But it is even better heated and served with custard, cream or ice cream.

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### Corrections

Apologies to Christina Lawrence from the Rochester & East Chichester Branch for incorrectly spelling her name in the last edition of the *Virger* magazine.

**W**elcome to the Winter 2010 issue of the Guild of Vergers Magazine. As you can see we are still experimenting on the design and layout. 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 -**

**Amanda Berry**

**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 Spring issue:  
Friday 25th February 2011**

Amanda Berry  
70B The Close  
Salisbury  
Wiltshire  
SP1 2EN

berryberry50@hotmail.com  
The\_virger\_magazine@yahoo.co.uk



## Chairman's Letter—December 2010



As I write, we have just observed Armistice Day and Remembrance Sunday; days made all the more poignant these days knowing that so many parts of the world don't enjoy the peace we value so much in this country. The price we pay for this peace includes the reality that requires men and women from our Armed Forces to be deployed overseas, to some of the most dangerous parts of the world, and we are all aware from the news bulletins of the cost in human lives. Several of our members serve in military Garrison Churches, and know only too well the effect on families, friends and community.



This year the 11<sup>th</sup> November also saw the 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the burial of the "Unknown Warrior" – a significant and poignant reminder of the human casualties of war – inside the west end of Westminster Abbey, amongst the monuments to the greatest in the land; a grave that has since commanded the respect of monarchs, statesmen, clergy and visitors alike. The vergers of Westminster have for the past 90 years solemnly lead processions around the resting place of this man of unknown rank or service. Even the Queen is virged around - not over - this spot. *"Greater love hath no man than this - that he lay down his life for his friends"*.



The church's seasons march on with their familiar regularity and as Remembrance gives way to Advent, then turns to Christmas, so we look forward to the coming of the Prince of Peace.

Meanwhile, in the life of The Guild, we enjoyed a great festival in September at Eton College & St George's Chapel Windsor, with record numbers attending. My sincere thanks to all who helped to plan, host and assist at the various venues on the day. Ten members of the CEGV were privileged to attend the National Conference of the Vergers Guild of the Episcopal Church of the USA (VGEC) at Washington National Cathedral in October; Central Council met in November; and plans are well ahead for next year's National Conference and the Festivals at Cambridge and Leeds. I have also recently been to Portsmouth and Chelmsford cathedrals and met up with some marvelous members on their home patches.

Our many congratulations to Tom Cameron on his recent ordination to the priesthood at St Paul's Cathedral. Several of us were honoured to be invited, and it was my privilege to virger our very own National Chaplain, who was the preacher on this happy occasion. It was a great day, made all the more memorable for me by bumping into several old friends, not least amongst them Alan Cottam, former Head Verger of Sheffield (where he was Tom's boss) and Wells Cathedrals (moving back to Sheffield just before I arrived in Wells), and a Fellow of the Guild – an avid fan of this magazine, I've discovered !

Thank you to those who supported my appeal by petitioning the Prime Minister to safeguard the nation's heritage and vital community buildings by ensuring that the VAT exemption scheme (Listed Places of Worship Grants Scheme) is renewed from March 2011, when it was due to expire. The good news is that the scheme is to continue for four more years from April 2011, but the bad news is that some repairs, (bells, clocks, pews and organs etc.) will no longer be included.

Just before Christmas I will be in Rochester Cathedral, and in the New Year I will be at the London and Southwark Branch Dinner, and later in Southwark and Ely Cathedrals for enthronements of new bishops. I hope to see some of you at these and many other events.



With very best wishes for a busy Christmas and a peaceful New Year !

**Chris Crooks,**  
**National Chairman.**  
**November 2010.**

### Congratulations Robert & Hayley



Saturday 13th November 2010 Saw the wedding of Robert Preston, to his fiancée Hayley Moore at Truro Cathedral, where Robert works as Verger.





# Chaplains Page

**D**ear Friends,

Celebration of the saints and remembrance of the Fallen are now behind us and we look forward to celebrations of a very different sort – the remembrance of and thanksgiving for the birth of our Lord Jesus. We will hear again the familiar scripture passages; we will sing again the hymns and carols relating the birth, and for many of us, as one service follows another we often have little energy to ponder what the birth of this Holy Child might mean for us or indeed for the world at large.

As I have been preparing an Advent Course for the Cathedral, I struck again by the story of the annunciation to Mary in the Gospel. The angel Gabriel announces to Mary that she will conceive and whom she must call Jesus. Mary questions the angel, 'How can still a virgin.' The answer to Mary is full of illusions about how for his people, the Jews, throughout their history. He says, 'The come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow that reason the holy child to be born will be called Son of God.'

The verb 'to overshadow' was used to describe the cloud of as he accompanied his people during the long years of their derings. The cloud went before the people as a reminder that of promise – was with them. During the night the cloud was so that they were assured of his constant presence. The same again at the Transfiguration after Jesus was seen by the discip- ing with Moses and Elijah. In this mysterious way God fulfils his is a constant presence and will initiate the coming of the new Jerusalem.

What happened to Mary at the annunciation is best understood in the light of these biblical images of the work of the Spirit. God is with her, a constant presence, as he had been with the Jews during the Exodus; as he had been with Jesus during his wilderness temptations; as he had been on the mountain of Transfiguration and as he was with Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane and on the cross.

The overshadowing of Mary by the Spirit suggests that as God as Spirit had hovered over the waters of chaos at the time of crea- tion, so he is now present, initiating this new creation. Mary becomes the instrument of salvation, not just for the Jews but for all human beings who will accept the love and forgiveness of God.

On a human level, Jesus was born of Mary who was herself descended from a priestly family, and also the son of Joseph, a descen- dent of the house of David. Born a human being, he was vulnerable and subject to all the hazards common to humanity. But Jesus was also Son of God, born according to the Spirit: the Word made flesh and the Wisdom of the Most High. As the ancient hymn Paul uses in Colossians suggests, 'For in him God in all his fullness chose to dwell and through him to reconcile all things to himself.'

For us, as we hear these words of the angel again, we pray that as we worship the infant Christ, we too may be filled with his Spirit so that we may reflect the love and forgiveness of God in the world.

My thought and prayers will be with you at this exceedingly busy time of the year and I hope and pray that each of you will take the time to reflect on the birth of Jesus and that the impact of that story will go with you into the New Year.

**With my love and every blessing for the Feast of the Nativity of our Lord.**

**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.*

*Somerset & Avon: Peter Martin, Ian Millard.*

*Oxford: Don Mitchener, John Bayliss,  
Margaret Morris, Jean Ebdon.*

*Devon & Cornwall: Alyn Heath.*

*Salisbury: Babs Taylor.*

*Rochester: Victor Warren.*

*Guildford & Portsmouth: David Lee.*

*Gloucester, Hereford & Worcester: Jim*

*Wooldridge,*

*Fred Austin, Paul Birkin*

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



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### R.I.P.

**Joyce Davison**

**24th May 1939 - 8th November 2010**

To all the people who remember Joyce, from their dealings with, and their visits to  
J&M

This is to let you know the sad news that Joyce died in hospital, in the early hours of Monday morning, 8th November.

Since retiring from the business in 2004, Joyce had not enjoyed good health, having suffered from Parkinson's Disease for some 7 or 8 years – and latterly, having contracted a form of Leukaemia.

In recent months, Joyce's condition had worsened, and after several spells in Hospital and in the Marie Curie Hospice in Newcastle, she was taken into The Freeman Hospital in Newcastle almost two weeks ago.

Unfortunately, there was nothing that the Medical team could do, other than try and keep Joyce as comfortable as possible in her last days, and she finally passed away on Monday, with several members of her immediate family around her, including Gordon her husband.

Maureen (her long-time Partner in "J&M") had been able to spend several hours with Joyce over the course of a few days whilst she was being looked after at The Freeman.

Joyce and Maureen were of course the original "J" & "M" when they set up the business together early in 1980.

**Enid Thurman (South & West Yorkshire)**

**Val Richardson (Chichester, Guildford & Portsmouth)**



## Washington DC Welcomes British Vergers

By Stephen Haude, London & Southwark

At Heathrow Terminal 5 Irene Money and I met up with John Shearer and James Armstrong. We were all on the same flight to Washington DC for the 22<sup>nd</sup> Conference of the Vergers Guild of the Episcopal Church. Unlike us, they hold their annual conference in a different part of America each year. This is hosted by a different cathedral or church a bit like our Cantuar/Ebor festivals. Next year it is in Cleveland, Ohio. The last one that I attended was hosted by Emilie Rowe in Albuquerque, New Mexico (who so many of you know from our conferences).

Ten of us represented the CE OV. To the above mentioned I add Revd Tom Cameron, Dr. Andrew Page and Dee, Amanda Berry and her niece Lucy Supple and Chris Loder. As always, we received a warm welcome from our counterparts in the USA. The schedule covers two whole days plus the first evening and the final morning – spanning four days. The first evening began with Choral Evensong in the National Cathedral at the church of St Albans, which stands, on the

Next day was taken up with meetings and key-who is Canon to the Presiding Bishop and Pri-Eucharist and lunch we attended their equivalent of workshops or tours. I chose a lecture Deutsch. It was superb and entitled 'Walk that David wrote for a university seminary on attention to detail and painstaking research into us while just a tourist who happened to Stump. That evening we attended the 'Vergers classy restaurant next door to our hotel. During those vergers who had completed the VGE training course. No less than 21 virges with certificates were presented. Amanda Berry also received a virge after completing the course.



note speech by Revd Charles K Robertson mate of the Episcopal Church. After a noon lent of our AGM. This was followed by a by one of the cathedral vergers David Softly and Carry a Big Stick'. This is a thesis the history and ministry of the verger. His was most impressive. David first bumped walk in on us during our Festival at Boston Banquet' in Maggiano's, a great meal in a the evening presentations were made to

Saturday was the National Acolyte Festival when 2,000 acolytes from all corners of the USA came to the cathedral. Their procession from the West Door took nearly an hour. We vergers robed and were at the end of the procession. The Bishop of Washington then presided the Eucharist. In the evening we had a tour by night of Washington visiting the White House, Capitol Hill, Lincoln Memorial etc.

Sunday, our final day saw our closing Eucharist. We all robed and processed down that long aisle (the 2,000 acolytes had gone home by then). This was followed by frenzied photo calls at the high altar where groups from all states of the guild queued for their photo slot. All our transport during the conference between hotel and cathedral was provided by the odd-looking yellow school buses that you see in movies. Bone shaking icons, but fun!

It was a good conference. It was great to be welcomed in fellowship

by the American Guild. I then went on to spend a few days in northern New York State with my old friend Nancy Nicholson who many of you will know from her attendance to our conference. I hope some of our American friends will come over to join us at London Colney in June.



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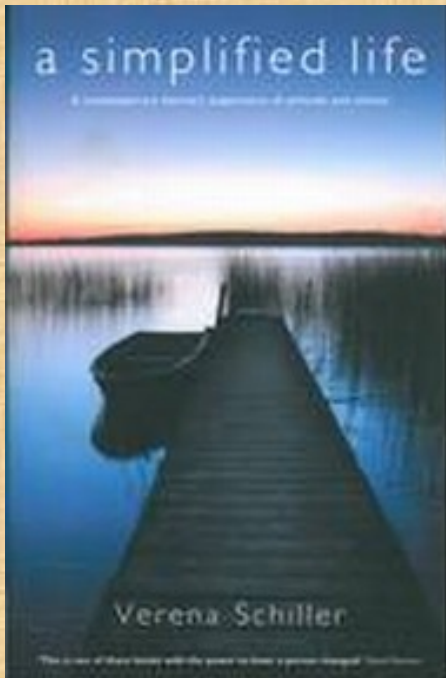


## Book review

### A Simplified Life

#### A contemporary hermit's experience of solitude and silence

By Verena Schiller, Canterbury Press, 2010



**B**ooks may delight, inform, or radically alter our understanding – a rare book achieves all three.

Sister Verena is a hermit - defined here as one who is anchored physically in order to journey spiritually - living on the Llyn Peninsular in Wales. Existing deliberately in solitude and silence 'in response to an insistent call from God that she might well rather not have heard' outside a world of relentless busyness.

Counter-culturally - since humans would not readily encounter too much reality, and are absorbed in the tyranny of achievement – a hermit separately dwells outside community, made accountable by a spiritual guide. 'A person who prays, maybe someone committed to the life of a hermit, can learn to live at the point of intersection where the love of God, and all the tensions and suffering we inflict on one another, meet – and are held to God's transforming love.'

So many, she reasons, have struggled to maintain their faith in the face of unbelievable atrocities and natural disasters. The solitary hermit continues to struggle, finding that 'between heaven and hell, there is another place. . . called hope.' Hope born and reborn through doubt and questioning, in times of despondency and of peace.

She contrasts this solitary life with being in a religious community where the regular call to worship holds each one within the whole. 'Yet we are all like knots in a net ... if one knot breaks, the others hold until the rent is strengthened.' Her own rupture came during a colossal storm where physical, psychological and spiritual survival seemed wrenched apart: her stone hut survived, but her spirit endured for a year the sense of all light being reflected outwards before it could reach her.

Her own words best sum up such a rich book: "God is both the call and the response, the one who transforms. And this is the human journey we all share personally and corporately, whether we can name God or not, for God lives within each one of us and in our relationships with one another, whether recognised or not".

Reviewed by Lavender Buckland, LLM

Published in November 2010's edition of the Sarum Link

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## Somerset & Avon Branch

On a very wet Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> August members of the Somerset & Avon Branch left various areas of Bristol and North Somerset to visit our colleagues in Wales at Llandaff Cathedral. I must say at this point it was not raining when we left but we seem to be driving into it and it got steadily worse as the day went on, but it did not dampen our spirits and we all had a good day.

Our host at Llandaff was Alan Robinson who gave an excellent Guided tour of the Cathedral.

We started our tour in the David Chapel (Welch Regiment Memorial Chapel), George Pace was the man behind the building of this chapel, it is both modern and light and obviously pays homage to members of the Welch Regiments who have lost their lives in various battles, but also remembering very much those members of the Regiments who still serve.

When you enter the Cathedral, as soon as you descend the steps, your eyes are instantly focused on: The Pulpitum (Pace's Arch) and the Majestas, this again was the work of Pace and considered his greatest achievement, the reinforced concrete arch surmounted by Sir Jacob Epstein's aluminium statue of Christ in Majesty (the Majestas) which stands between the Nave and the Choir.

On the North wall is fixed the Triptych 'The seed of David' painted by Dante Gabriel Rossetti. The three panels were designed for the reredos of the high Altar but due to its size it blocked out the light from the east window and a lot of beauty of the paintings were lost due to poor lighting and so, after a time of different changes within the Cathedral, it was later moved and installed in the Illityd Chapel.

As you walk around Llandaff Cathedral you are very aware of a great deal of

work by the Pre-Raphaelites; I could actually write a lot more on the interior of Llandaff Cathedral but I think the best way of appreciating this building is to visit it.

It was lovely to see one of our 'older' members on the day that was John Price of Saint Dingat of Tredegar (who very kindly was brought by Alan Silverthorn as John does not drive). John informed us that he will be celebrating 50 years as a Vergers at his Church on 4<sup>th</sup> September (he started 'working' at the age of 22 in the Church) and that he has been a member of the Guild for the past 35 years. It was lovely to see John who I must admit never seems to age or look any older; it must be the Welsh rain!!!

Monday 11<sup>th</sup> October was our next Date fixed for a meeting together of our members and this time was at 'my church,' All Saints, Wrexham. The evening started with a short service led by the Rev'd Rosey Lunn followed by a leisurely look around the interior of the Church and then over to our newly refurbished 'Cross Tree centre' for a supper and a quiz evening. The 'Cross Tree' is an absolute bonus for us as we lost our community room when our Rectory was sold over 5 years ago. It took a lot of fund-raising and application for grants to be able to achieve what we have done and it is proving to be a real asset to both Church and community.

Our Annual New Year's lunch is now in the planning stage, although saying that the date and menu have been decided upon, the forms are now printed so that all remains is to get them out to our members. So from the Somerset & Avon Branch we wish everyone a Happy Christmas and New Year.

**God Bless**

**Jean Cobb**

**Secretary Somerset & Avon Branch**

## Lincoln & Southwell

### New Verge for St. Botolph's BOSTON.



On Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> July a new verge was dedicated at St. Botolph's Parish Church, Boston, Lincolnshire.

The verge was given in memory of Lorna Diglin, who died in 2008 and who was a member of the Lincoln & Southwell Branch as was her husband, John Diglin who, for a number of years, had been a vergers at St. Botolph's before his death in 2002.

The verge was designed to commemorate the 700<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of St. Botolph's which took place in 2009 by incorporating the shield of St. Botolph, the shield of the Borough of Boston, seven rings around the verge to signify the 700 years of the life of the church and lines along the verge to illustrate the lines of the tower which is such an important feature of the church. On the boss at the base of the verge is the badge of the Guild.

The verge was designed and made in silver by

## Birmingham, Lichfield & Coventry Branch

On the evening of October 28th vergers from Birmingham, Lichfield and Coventry met together at the Cathedral Heights in Birmingham (generously offered free by the Dean and Chapter) for their annual dinner. Although few in number, the warmth of friendship and the hospitality, more than made up for it.

The table setting was one of autumnal beauty, due to the creative skill of Dee Caulton Ball.

Cathedral caterers provided our meal, and as always it was a culinary delight. Four courses, beautifully presented, and a pleasure for the taste buds.

Our speaker for the evening was Canon Nigel Hand. His gift for oration and sense of humour rounded off an enjoyable and memorable evening.

Our thanks go to Dee and Andrew for their organisation and hard work that made this event possible in the first place, and we look forward to next year.

**Anne James**

**Hon. vergers-Birmingham Cathedral.**

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## Chichester, Guildford and Portsmouth Branch

### Visit to the Cathedral Education Centre, Guildford.

On Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> October 13 members of the Chichester, Guildford and Portsmouth Branch met at the Education Centre at Guildford Cathedral to hear a talk by Paul Williamson, Head Verger of Guildford Cathedral. Paul told us of his early life on a farm in Cheshire and how he became interested in historic buildings which led to him going to Lampeter to read history which was followed by further study at Coalbrookdale in the Ironbridge Gorge which, of course, is the home of excellent museums. During this time Paul's course involved field trips and he was delighted to find himself spending 6 weeks at Hereford Cathedral where he learnt a great deal from the team of vergers and, of course, much appreciated his surroundings.

His experience at Hereford encouraged him to apply for a job at Canterbury Cathedral where he was part of a team of 9 vergers. Needless to say life at Canterbury was very busy but Paul really enjoyed his time there being a part of many important occasions including the enthronement of Archbishop Rowan Williams. We also heard some very amusing stories of Thomas the resident Cathedral Cat at Canterbury who always seemed to appear at the right time to join in processions – often walking behind the Archbishop or Dean! Paul's interest in historic buildings then led him to work for the National Trust where he was House Steward at Charlecote Park where, reputedly, Shakespeare was found poaching. Paul had promised himself that if a vacancy occurred at the home of George Bernard Shaw at Ayot St. Lawrence he would apply. A vacancy occurred and his application was successful. This was prior to his move to Greys court the former home of the Brunner family and where one can see Red Kites.

However, Paul's time at Hereford Cathedral had given him a taste of Cathedral life and he was appointed Head Verger at Guildford Cathedral in 2009. Paul, thank you for a very inspiring, amusing and informative afternoon enjoyed by all present.

**From Cynthia Taylor, Associate Member of the Chichester, Guildford and Portsmouth Branch.**

## Blackburn, Chester & Manchester Branch

On the evening of 5<sup>th</sup> July, 19 members enjoyed the hospitality of Stanley Parkinson, Verger and Sexton of St. Nicholas' Ribby-Cum-Wrea, near Preston. Stanley gave us all a talk about the history of the church and showed us the new extension at the west end of the church. This was followed by a celebration of the Eucharist, by the Rector assisted by our Branch Chaplain, Rev'd David Brown. There followed a mouth watering buffet and there was so much to eat. Some of us had a doggy bag to take home. The next visit of the Branch was again in the Fylde coast are of Lancashire, this time



to Holy Trinity, South Shore, Blackpool, where Tony Hales was the host. It was good to go back to Holy Trinity after about 4 years, to see all extensive restoration work that had been done, and the reordering of the church. After the tour of the church, there was a sung robed Eucharist, we were joined by a small congregation, including a retired Verger, Mike Withington and his wife from Salisbury Cathedral who were on Holiday in Blackpool. We all then proceeded to the Broadway Hotel for a delicious lunch and fellowship in the bar. A most enjoyable day.

**Geoffrey Timms  
Branch Secretary  
Blackburn, Chester & Manchester  
Branch**

Will Godfrey, Strategic Director  
– Resources Directorate presenting the Award.

## Oxford Branch

A much needed day for reflection and recovery (after the Festival at Eton and Windsor on September 9), was provided when this Branch met for a Quiet Day at the Community of St. John the Baptist, Begbroke (between Oxford and Woodstock), in early October.

This was a new venue for us following the closure of our previous meeting place at Elmore Abbey, Speen; unfortunately this may be the only visit to Begbroke, as, like the Brothers of Elmore, the Sisters are moving on and these premises are also to be sold – a (sad) reflection of changing times within our religious communities.

We were warmly welcomed by Sister Jane, who, later in the day, spoke to those present, about the history of this Order, how they came to be and of their previous community at Clewer, Windsor. We joined the Sisters (only three on this day), for the Midday Office, and after lunch, we celebrated Holy Communion in the Chapel led by our Branch Chaplain, The Revd. Canon Roy Taylor.

Despite an overcast and chilly day, there was time to wander in the gardens, orchards and the graveyard surrounding the separate church, and after further refreshments, discussions and farewells, we departed. (We were pleased to greet John Hutt on the day – one of this Branch's earliest members – who, because of transport problems, is unable to attend the majority of our events).

Finally, the Oxford Branch, through these pages, wish to thank all those members and guests who attended and supported the Festival and for the subsequent responses we have received; there were one or two glitches for which we apologise and hope these didn't distract from the day as a whole. The Oxford Team, in return, received great encouragement and enthusiasm from all the venues used and other local organisations, for which we are so appreciative – thank you. And the weather.....

**John Bayliss & Michael Golby  
Oxford Branch Correspondents**



Every year Bristol City Council recognises the achievement of individual employees with something called the Celebration of Success. Earlier this year I was nominated for the Resources Directorates Customer Focus Award. The awards ceremony took place in September in the Council House and I was very pleased to find that I had won. I was presented with a certificate of my achievement and a gift voucher for £50 by Will Godfrey, the Strategic Director of the Resources Directorate. As a winner I was then entered as a finalist in the Corporate Awards 23<sup>rd</sup> of November. At the time of writing this I am waiting to find out if I have won a second time, so fingers crossed, it would be good. This award has been a very good thing as it means that the City Council acknowledge the fact that I have done my job well often under very trying circumstances. For the first time ever it seems that the Council can see just how hard a verger works.

**by Marek Barden, Verger to the Lord Mayor of Bristol**



## South & West Yorkshire Branch

On September 20<sup>th</sup> 2010, 20 members and friends met at the Chapel, Sir William Turner's Court, Kirkleatham, Middlesbrough for a Quiet Day conducted by our National Chaplain, Canon Maureen Palmer. The theme was "Climbing the Heights" and took the form of short addresses followed by periods of silence. The morning session was rounded off by Eucharist, with music and hymns played by the Branch Chairman on the recently installed pipe organ.

After a buffet lunch, the afternoon sessions involved Bible study and thoughts on Psalm 121; "I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills..." At the conclusion there was the obligatory group photograph before members dispersed.

The almshouses and hospital that now comprise Sir William Turner's Court were funded and endowed in 1676 by Sir William Turner who was at that time Lord Mayor of London and a successful businessman who owned much of the land around Kirkleatham. There used to be a school on the estate but that building is now the Old Hall Museum. Sir William Turner's chapel is a most interesting building. Measuring just 10.6 metres by 10 metres it was completed in 1742. The floor is of black Carrara marble and the Turner family pew made from Spanish mahogany. The "east" window (it



actually faces south) was designed by Sebastiano Ricci, an Italian artist. The ceiling of the chapel is arched in nine vaults and the decorated plaster above the altar is of exceptionally fine quality. The columns are made of wood and coated with sand to give the appearance of stone. There is a magnificent candle chandelier made by Claude Demy and date stamped 1735. This chandelier was acquired in 2007 to replace the original which had deteriorated beyond economical repair. There are many other interesting and rare artefacts in the chapel.

The location created a wonderfully peaceful and intimate setting for the Quiet Day as we sat in the box pews. Whilst such an event is not to everyone's taste, it is a chance to relax and contemplate the various thought provoking statements with which Canon Maureen punctuated her addresses. The biggest hurdle was clearing one's mind at the

start and maintaining a state of relaxation throughout the day!

Our thanks to Canon Maureen for her meticulous preparation of the talks and prayers and to our Area Leader, Doreen Cook, for arranging the meeting and the refreshments, not forgetting George Cook the photographer in residence!

## York Branch

### Visit to Beverley Minster, East Riding of Yorkshire

On Monday 18<sup>th</sup> October, 18 members assembled at Beverley Minster to hear a talk given by John Philips, Secretary of the Friends of Beverley Minster. His talk, entitled "Masons' Marks" gave a fascinating insight into the marks that appear on the stone work in so many of our churches. He explained that virtually every ashlar (large cut stone) would have a mason's mark on it although it was not always visible. By this means the master mason could determine who had done what work and pay them accordingly. Records already exist to show the dates that parts of the Minster were built and with meticulous observation, the speaker had traced certain specific marks to various locations in the Minster in an attempt to corroborate this information and at the same time establish the approximate date that the masons with those specific marks would have been working. This had thrown up one or two anomalies and further research had suggested that some of the ashlars could have been cut and prepared at the quarry near Tadcaster by masons working there rather than at



the Minster itself.

John Philips also showed the link between the form of the mason's marks and the tools with which they worked at that time such as the square, compasses, level and plumb rule. The tracing room at the Minster was explained where the architect would draw the plans on a floor specially prepared with plaster so as to be smooth. From these drawings templates would be made for the masons to use. Tracings taken from the floor showed part plans of windows and walls going back many years.

We were then shown how the size of stone used in the construction gradually increased over the period as handling methods improved. This was another way of corroborating the various construction dates. He explained that staircases were built very early on to facilitate access to the upper sections and scaffolding at that time would have

## 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.

If successful, the Guilds Foundation certificate is awarded.

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, and the purpose of a congregation.

**Administration Unit** covering communication, forms and registrars, the structures of the Church of England, and the role and importance of people in the life of the church

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



been kept to a minimum. The use of a treadmill crane was explained and indeed on an earlier visit members had seen the crane that still exists in the Minster being operated by one of the Vergers!

To round off his talk he showed slides of restoration work at present being carried out at York Minster. Masons' marks could clearly be seen on the prepared ashlar and we were told that these were put on the side that butted onto another ashlar so as to become invisible when in situ.

Following a vote of thanks to the Speaker, members agreed that it had been a fascinating talk and they would be returning to their own churches ready to look for masons' marks and other construction details about which they had just learned.

After a very nice lunch prepared by staff at the Minster, there was a business meeting followed by Communion, celebrated at the High Altar by the Branch Chaplain Rev. Marian Gardner, assisted by the Head Server, Dudley Gue - also a member.

Our thanks to John Dell and his staff for arranging such an interesting visit for us.

**Richard Babington.**  
**Branch Chairman.**

## Leicester Branch

**O**ur Chairman Jack Lippit is 80 years young! On Monday September 13<sup>th</sup>, fourteen members and Jack's church family and members of his own family met to celebrate his special birthday. Various Clergy were also repre-

this year we had our AGM at the Church of St. James the Great, Birstall, hosted by Clive and Kate Mobbs and John Walters. Our Chaplain the Rev'd James Shakespeare led the opening prayers. The Chairman welcomed us all to the meeting and after the formal part we had the various reports from the Officers. The Area Leader was present Mr Lance Bloom and his wife Sandra. He was sad to report that the



**Congratulations** to Betty Brown who received the gold long service medal of the Royal School of Church Music at York Minster after 66 years with the Choir at Guisborough Parish Church and a member of the York Branch.

The medal was presented by Lindsay Grey director of the RSCM. Also at the surprise presentation was the Archbishop of York Dr John Sentamu. In a special letter to Betty, he said "Those who take part in teaching others in music and worship are such an important part of our church life. ... Thank you for all that you have done in pointing others to Jesus through the gift of music"



sented including the Rev'd Tenny Byron, Rev'd James Shakespeare (Branch Chaplain) and Rev'd Canon Chris Burch Team Rector of Branstone Team Ministry.

We began with a splendid array of refreshments and followed by Jack cutting his cake decorated with 'Verger Jack is 80' on top. We presented him with the gift of a Guild tie and a card with a photograph on Leicester Cathedral on the front. We finished off the evening with Compline in St. Peter's church led by the Team Rector. We remembered in our prayers members who could not attend due to ill health.

Monday 11<sup>th</sup> October nine members and friends from the church met at the Church of St. Mary Anstey, home of Val Clark who is Verger. We had Evensong (BCP) said with hymns led by Lay Reader Bert Tegg. The first lesson was read by a member of the church. The second by Val Clark.

We were fed and watered in the Church Hall afterwards, organised again by Val and a team of ladies from the church.

We would like to reassure everyone that we are all well after the supper which we had at Launde Abbey in July. Chicken with VERGER!, which should have read VEGETABLES. All is forgiven for a very hard working Communications Team!

Monday 8<sup>th</sup> November. To finish off

Peterborough Branch may have to close due to low membership, but our Secretary did invite any remaining members to join our Branch if that happened.

In the Secretaries report she thanked everyone who had hosted the venues during the year, and the dairy is full for the next year.

Next came the Treasurers report and she thanked everyone who had handed in their subs promptly.

Included within the Chairman's report came the news that one of our Associate Members Evelyn Weston has been in hospital for treatment, but now has returned home and is making good progress. Another Associate member Jean Wright has celebrated her 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday. We congratulate her and hope she will enjoy better health in the future.

All of our officers remain the same Jack Lippit Chairman, Kathryn Mobbs Secretary, Mary Mozley Treasurer, Marjorie Thomas Correspondent and Sylvia Crawley magazine distributor.

All were re-elected unanimously. Eighteen members attended at the end of the meeting we had some delicious refreshments prepared by Clive, Kate and John and we would like to thanks them.

Following that we had Compline in the side Chapel.

As we shan't see each other until March 2011 we would like to wish all our members across the globe a very Happy Christmas and a healthy New Year.

**From Marjorie Thomas Dip GV**  
**Correspondent Leicester Branch**



## Salisbury Branch

### Quiet Day The Hands of Martha The Heart of Mary

On the 27th October, 17 members and friends of the Salisbury Branch, met in Salisbury Cathedral's St Edmund & St Thomas Chapel.



We were warmly greeted by our Area Leader and Verger at the Cathedral Amanda Berry. Once everyone arrived, Amanda welcomed everyone to the Quiet Day and introduced Carole Sharpe and Beth Steele who so kindly agreed to take parts of the day for us. Introductions over, Beth Steele explained the outline of the Day. Silence was kept whilst music was played to bring our minds in readiness for the short service of preparation & prayers. Both Beth & Amanda led us in to prayers & readings of Martha, soft music was played in between each of the prayers & readings. Carole continued with the theme of The Hands of Mary. How Martha was overwhelmed by the presence of Jesus Martha's personality type is such that she likes to take charge because she doesn't want to be controlled and she gains her affirmation from being well organised and competent but at the same time she uses those skills to avoid engaging. Martha's are strong, hard working and single minded. They are generous to a fault in providing for those under their care but they also tend to be domineering and make no bones about saying if they aren't happy and, having a strong sense of injustice, are often unwilling to let sleeping dogs lie: intimate relationships are frequently the arena in which their control issues are most obviously played out and where questions of trust

assume real significance.

At their worst Martha's are controlling, abrasive, self-centred and avenging. They have no problem tackling people head-on and can often drive people away by their bluntness and seeming bullying behaviour.

We then had a break for reflection and to wander around the cathedral. Carole then continued with Martha's talents and weaknesses followed by prayers, before we had another period of reflection before we all met at the Sarum College for Lunch.

After Lunch we all gathered in the Chapel in Sarum College for the second half of the day "The Heart of Mary"; Amanda led the prayers followed by Beth inviting us to sit with Mary and to listen: Mary sits with the men and listens raptly at Jesus' feet. Mary anoints Jesus' feet with expensive oil. Mary is a warm and emotional person who cares a great deal about her relationships and devotes a lot of time and energy to maintaining them. We finished the day with Silence and stillness as we prayed around the cross and lit our candles which we placed around the cross at the floor.

Amanda led us then into the final prayers of the day, when we all joined hands to say the Grace together, before we departed for home.

On behalf of those who attended the day, our thanks go to Amanda who was able to use both the Cathedral & Sarum College & Chapel for our Quiet Day. To Beth and Amanda who organised the whole day and a Big THANK YOU to Carole who so kindly travelled from Epsom to be with us.

**Babs Taylor**  
Chairman Salisbury Branch.

### The Canterbury Festival – Eton and Windsor

On a warm sunny day in September over a hundred and twenty vergers congregated at Eton College for the Canterbury Festival and the enjoyment of greeting old friends, catching up on news and making new friends is only one of the reasons vergers travel for many miles to attend a festival. When Amanda asked me to write about the day my first thoughts were of sunshine and sore feet; the first being

unexpected due to the weather the previous few days and the second only partly due to my not yet having grasped the idea of 'sensible shoes'

My second thoughts were of how unexpected and extremely enjoyable the day had proved to be.

The surprise of arriving at the car park to find a mini bus 'shuttle service' laid on was very much appreciated by many of us throughout the day.

So what are my other unforgettable memories of the day?

Well, realizing that the Lower Hall where we gathered to robe was covered in school-boy graffiti and that every inch of wood was carved with a boy's name, some of which had been there since the 1600's. Later, on a guided tour of the college we were to hear about this ancient tradition and to see the names of the Princes' William and Harry carved on a doorjamb and to see where the names of successive generations of families have been all carved together; window sills, doors, paneling and pillars all covered with the names of boys who had attended the college throughout its long history.

The memory of the warren of passages and staircases', of the three beautiful chapels, processing up stairs, and back down again, listening to a scholar rehearsing on the organ and the 'Hen Run'. And who could forget St Georges Chapel, Windsor with all its amazing heraldry and where we ended the day at evensong. What an amazing setting!

Those who chose the tour of St Georges will have their own memories of that amazing building, for me queuing in the late afternoon sunshine beneath the walls of the castle then entering the quiet chapel amid all the history and the heraldry of the Knights of the Garter will be a memory that will stay with me for years to come. For anyone who like me has never organised a day like a National Festival, we can only imagine the amount of effort that was put into making the Guild Members so very welcome and our sincere and grateful thanks go to the Oxford Branch who gave their time to enable us to enjoy such a memorable day.

**By Beth Steele**  
Salisbury Branch





## St. Albans Branch

June saw many members gather together for their annual Alban Supper. Once again this was held at All Saints Leighton Buzzard on June 23<sup>rd</sup>. However this year, before the meal, we were given an excellent and interesting talk on the windows of the Church by, Brian Willet, one of the Vergers there. The church has some fine examples of Kempe glass the most impressive being the great west window showing the Saints George, Ethelreda, Michael Hugh and Alban. The suburb Meal was once again provided by the ladies of the Leighton Buzzard Dining group. We were delighted that the Arch-deacon of Bedford accepted our invitation to join us on this occasion.

We were also very pleased to welcome The Right Revd Dr Alan Smith Bishop of St Albans and the Right Revd Richard Inwood Bishop of Bedford as honorary



Branch President and Branch Vice President respectively. We shall soon be inviting the new Bishop of Hertford the Right Revd Paul Bayes who has recently been inaugurated to join the Bishop of Hertford as honorary Branch Vice President.

Our next event was the summer outing, this was a visit to St Andrews Church Bedford where we welcomed two new members and presented Janet Lindsay with a Long Service Certificate. Janet Lindsay now enjoys the position of Verger Emeritus at St Andrews having served as its Verger for 25 Years. Tony Kempson and David Jones from All Saints Church Leighton Buzzard were admitted as Full Members by Revd Canon Peter Palmer during Evensong. This takes our membership to 31. Janet was presented with her certificate and flowers during the service as well. Again this had been arranged without her prior knowledge. My brother and I successfully managed to get these into the church without most people seeing them. The visit started with a welcome and talk about the Church by Revd Canon Dr Christopher Dent. We then joined the congregation for their annual tea party which due to the inclement weather was held in the church hall rather than the Vicarage Garden. Nevertheless there was an excellent spread and even I found lots of things I could eat!! At the sung Evensong Service that followed, there were 14 members in a robed procession at the start and end of the ser-

vice. Revd Canon Peter Palmer gave a very interesting and thought provoking sermon based on the words of the last hymn as the readings allotted for the day were less inspiring!!! Our thanks go to Gareth Burrows for organising this and the team at St Andrews for a very enjoyable afternoon.

September 9<sup>th</sup> was the date of the Canterbury Festival at Windsor and Eton. Some of our members went to this event. The day started by following signs to parking at the Eton College Laundry car park. Luckily there was still space!! A minibus was provided to take people back to the college main building where the vergers gathered in the old school, a classroom still in use today with benches and desks inscribed with the names of past boys. These were done by the boys themselves; nowadays the school's carpenter does it for the boys. There was a Eucharist Service in the College Chapel for which there was a robed procession. This was followed by Lunch for those who had

paid for the 3 course meal. My mum and brother Paul ate rolls sitting by Eton Bridge by the Thames where loads of swans and ducks congregated. The afternoon was filled with tours either around Windsor Castle or Eton College itself. Mum and my brother went on the Eton College tour and were taken to places the normal tours do not go led by the Eton College vergers. They were shown the carvings for Prince William and Prince Harry and also visited by arrangement of the Provost, the room where the Kings Scholars were given their Gowns earlier in the day. Then it was back to Windsor Castle for Evensong in St Georges Chapel. The vergers were led into the Quire for Evensong at which the Choir composed of both boys and men sung. Luckily for mum it was one of the Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis settings they had heard of and sung recently at our own church. It was a worthwhile and memorable day for my Brother and Mum and our thanks go to members of the Oxford Branch for their organisation of the day.





Many of our members were taking notes for when it will be our turn!!!

September 25<sup>th</sup> dawned bright and cheerful and many branch members went to St Albans Abbey for the 50th Anniversary of Revd Canon Peter Palmer's Ordination to the Priesthood celebration. (The Revd Canon Peter Palmer is our Branch Chaplain taking up this appointment in the late 1990s when he retired as a full time priest.) It was a busy day at the Abbey and the bride at the wedding before our service was ¾ hour late which meant we were delayed in getting to our seats. However the Lady Chapel was full, even the Dean of St Albans found a space. Canon Peter presided over the service supported by 2 Archdeacons. Jonathon Smith, Archdeacon of St Albans, gave the homily, which, he in jest, apologised for as it was sounding more like an obituary than a homily and David Gunn-Johnson, Archdeacon of Barnstable, (and who was Canon Peter's first curate at St Matthews Oxhey) led the prayers. Nonita Palmer was fine until the homily brought tears to her eyes and then this carried on when she watched all the people (120 of the 140 present) coming up for communion, remembering that each one had played some part in their lives. The atmosphere in the chapel was memorable, all the responses were loud and clear and everyone participated in the singing of the hymns (all well-known). The service was followed by an excellent buffet in the Crypt. It took Canon Peter at least 10-15 minutes to get to the crypt as there was such a long receiving line at the end of the service. Unfortunately due to the

timing our Branch chairman, Lindsay Kemp, and I, had to leave to be on hand at a wedding at St Mary's Hemel so my dad Philip Russell stood in to present our gifts to Canon Peter after the Toast. Philip allowed Canon Peter to open the present while he explained what it was. A gold plated wooden handled paper knife -Gold for 50 years and the handle made from wood rescued from All Saints Leighton Buzzard tower after the fire there, his first Church. This brought a gasp from the audience as the significance of the gift was realised. Philip then gave Canon Peter the red book with the words 'this is your life'. This book had been compiled by my mum with contributions from members of Canon Peter's congregations as a representation and celebration of Canon Peter's life as a priest. Paul Russell also gave Nonita Palmer a large vase of flowers as part of this presentation. Canon Peter, for a moment, was lost for words as the gifts had been totally unexpected so he took a moment to collect his thoughts to reply to the toast. The Book was made available for anyone to look at for the rest of the buffet.

Our final event of the year will be a pre Christmas dinner at one of the local restaurants a change of venue to the last few years. And then it will be a new year with a another full programme of events but with not so many significant anniversaries.

**Mark Russell**

**Branch Correspondent**



## Forthcoming Events

### 2011

Tuesday 10th May 2011—York Province Festival—Leeds Parish Church (South & West Yorkshire Branch)

**Tuesday 18th October — St. John's College, Cambridge**

### 2012

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

25th September —Canterbury Province Festival—Canterbury Cathedral (80th Anniversary of the Guild).



## Canterbury Province Festival 2011 Tuesday 18 October St John's College, Cambridge



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# The Church of England Guild of Vergers

## CENTRAL COUNCIL

### Finance and the Future :

### The Administration and Resourcing of The Guild.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Draft - 12<sup>th</sup> November 2010.**

#### Introduction:

Some of our Members may be aware that there are pressing issues concerning the future administration of The Guild, due partly to changes outside our control (i.e. the discontinuing of personal cheques issued by banks by 2018); partly due to our own hopes (an application for Charitable Status is currently being discussed by Central Council); and partly due to the new technologies now available to us, un-heard of when the Guild was founded nearly 80 years ago.

The purpose of this paper is not to scaremonger, but rather to provide Area Leaders, Branch Officers and Members, with a framework to begin discussions on the future administration of the Guild of Vergers; and sets out to ask fundamental questions about how we order our affairs.

We have issued this paper so that full and open discussion can be held at every level, and we would welcome your feedback to the next Standing Committee in January, or via your Area leader at the next Council meeting in June 2011.

There are three main topics that will need to be addressed in the near future:

how **membership information** is gathered, where it is stored and who is responsible for it

how members pay **subscriptions**, particularly with the banks announcing that cheques will be withdrawn in 2018, and how the national and local elements of that subscription are gathered and then passed on.

If we are successful in our attempt to become a Charity, one major benefit would be the additional 28% income from Gift-Aid from eligible tax-payers. However, **how would Gift Aid payments be made**, who will administer them, and how will the Gift-Aid be claimed back ? We would have to be certain who the charity is, i.e. : The Guild "nationally" – i.e. the Central Council funds held by the National Treasurer, as opposed to each individual Branch of the Guild with their own accounts ?

The questions are expanded below, and we would welcome your feedback on how you and your Branch would like to see the Guild advance in these areas.

No final decisions can be made until the issues have been debated at Branch level, and then brought to Central Council for resolution, and any fundamental changes that require constitutional amendments endorsed at the AGM.

These discussions will need to be held in parallel with the Standing Committee's work on our application for Charitable Status.

However, we ought to set ourselves some targets and goals, and a time-frame, before "doing nothing is no longer an option".

*Chris Crooks,*  
National Chairman,  
On behalf of Central Council  
November 2010.

#### **a. Membership Information.**

The current situation is that Branches (Branch Secretaries/Administrators, Treasurers or Membership Secretaries) are responsible for gathering the membership details of all their current members, keeping a Branch list up-to-date, and forwarding to the General Secretary details of any new members, resignations, change of membership status, deaths, members leaving or joining the Branch for another, on one of the various forms provided for the purpose.

#### **b. Subscriptions.**

Currently there are three types of subscription levied :

National Subscription, usually called "Capitation"

Magazine Subscription, also paid nationally

Branch Subscription, retained locally to run the Branch.

These are set at two different levels, **Full Members** and **Associate Members**. This is further complicated by the Guild's wish to honour members by making them (i) "**Life Members**" or (ii) "**Fellows**", which is then funded centrally, or Branches wishing to make (iii) "**Branch Honorary Members**" or (iv) "**Branch Life Members**", when National dues are funded by Branch funds, who have to pay the two national elements of the subscription to HQ....

A further, significant, complication is that all individual Branches have always set their own Branch subscription fee. There are currently no national guidelines, nor indeed do the national officers even know what Branches each charge their members. The Branch Treasurers currently have to collect the subs (cash or cheques) from all members in their area (except i. to iv above), retain the Branch element, and send on the appropriate amount of national capitation and magazine subs to the National Treasurer (via another cheque).



**c. Gift Aid**

If we are successful in our attempt to become a Charity, one major benefit would be the additional 28% income from Gift-Aid from eligible tax-payers. However, **how would Gift Aid payments be made**, who will administrate them, and how will the Gift-Aid be claimed back ?

We would have to be certain who the charity is, i.e. : The Guild "nationally" – that is the Central Council funds held by the National Treasurer, as opposed to each individual Branch of the Guild with their own accounts ?

The charitable benefits to us could be a big advantage, and even if – say – only 33% of our Full members are eligible tax-payers, an additional 28% received from the Government on their subscriptions alone could be several hundred pounds.

[\(Please see insert for 'pros' and 'cons'\)](#)

## News from Central Council

### Elections 2011

**2011** sees the election of Area Leaders for the next three years. Those duly elected by their Branches will be sworn-in by the National Chaplain at the Congregation during the Training Conference in June; I would encourage all Area Leaders to attend. As an added bonus we have been working on a "Handbook" for Area Leaders and National Officers, bringing together the various publications and information available to Guild members, for Leaders to take back to their Areas, to encourage the use of our corporate publications. These handbooks will be available to all Area Leaders and National Officers at the 2011 Conference.

As you will remember, the current **National Chairman's** term expires at this year's National AGM, and having served two consecutive terms, the current incumbent is not eligible for re-election. A new Chairman will need to be elected from amongst the Area Leaders returned for the new three-year term, and will be duly admitted by the National Chaplain, during the Congregation in June.

**To Branch Officers:** Please note that Area **Elections** for Area Leaders will need to be completed in good time this year, and no later than the 31st March. By that time you will be required to submit your annual return to the General Secretary, indicating your officers for the next term, and the name of your Area Leader. These details will then be circulated by the General Secretary to all Branches, so that the names of all Area Leaders are known as soon as possible.

Please note that in 2010, 4 Branches had not submitted their completed **Branch Returns** by the time of the National AGM, which means that the figures recorded for membership and finance for 2009/10 do not reflect the whole picture across the country, and only give a partial picture of our membership numbers.

**Nomination forms** for National Chairman will also be available from the General Secretary (or to download from the members section of the website), with a request that nominations are received back by the 1st May, so that details of all candidates can be circulated to Branches in good time before the June Central Council meeting.

In addition, two further national officials' posts will be up for election; the **Oversees Liaison Officer's** three-year term comes round in 2011, and John Campbell has indicated that he is happy to continue and due to the untimely death of Richard Falla, the **Conference Secretary** requires a new officer to complete the remainder of Richard's term to the AGM of 2012. Margaret Burston has kindly offered to fill that role for the time being, and Central Council have gratefully received that offer, so that the 2011 Conference can be administered in the efficient manner we have come to take for granted. Margaret has indicated that she would be prepared to stand for election to fulfill the remainder of Richard's term.

Your assistance with this will be much appreciated. Further advice or assistance can be obtained from the General Secretary.

**Congratulations to Mr Roger Lawrence**, from Yatton Moor Team Ministry in North Somerset, following his election as **Training Registrar** at the Central Council Meeting in November. We look forward to working closely with Roger, in the administration of the training course, and the annual Conference. Roger's contact details appear in the usual place in the magazine.

### Subscription Charges

At its most recent meeting Central Council heard the Treasurer's report predicted a small deficit for the year, this followed deficits in both of the preceding years. At the same time, costs increased in postage, rail travel and VAT, all of which being significant to the Guild expenditure, have already been announced for 2011 and all other costs are also rising.


Due to this, the Council agreed to raise subscriptions, which have been held for the last two years, for full members to £10 and for Associate Members to £5. The cost of the Virger will remain unchanged since 2006 at £5.

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## Tricks of the Trade

### The care of Altar linen.

It should be soaked immediately after Mass, for two reasons,

- 1) To remove any particles of the Blessed Sacrament
- 2) Wine stains are easier to remove when soaked

They can be machine washed with other whites, and ironed as one would iron any linen, a little starch can be used, but not too much!

Towels can be folded, but pacificators look unsightly when folded, with creases where there should not be creases. A clean pacificator should only be used once before washing, but a towel may be used several times before washing, depending on how enthusiastic the Priest is about drying his hands!

Corporals should be washed once a month, and starched, so that the creases hold in place.

### A Verger Ditty

Sam Watson, fondly remembered as a verger at Carlisle Cathedral in the 1920s, was "a tall portly man, well set up; and his appearance was eminently suited to the dignity of his new office." He soon inspired the following:

But passing all the rest by far,  
For most majestic mien,  
Is Mister Watson, who doth bear  
The virge before the Dean.

In robes of velvet, gorgeous, rich  
As daily may be seen,  
That folks can scarce discover which  
Of those two is the Dean.

Visitors to the cathedral as they saw Sam Watson would ask with bated breath, "Is yon the Bishop?"



### ***Walk Softly and Carry a Big Stick—with Love: The Emerging Ministry of the Verger in the Late 20th Century to the Present***

by David S. Deutsch

MTS Thesis, Wesley Theological Seminary, May 2010

A full copy of this very interesting thesis can be found on the Vergers Guild of the Episcopal website at [www.vergers.org](http://www.vergers.org) - Washington 2010 Conference page



## Did you know?

### The Church of England

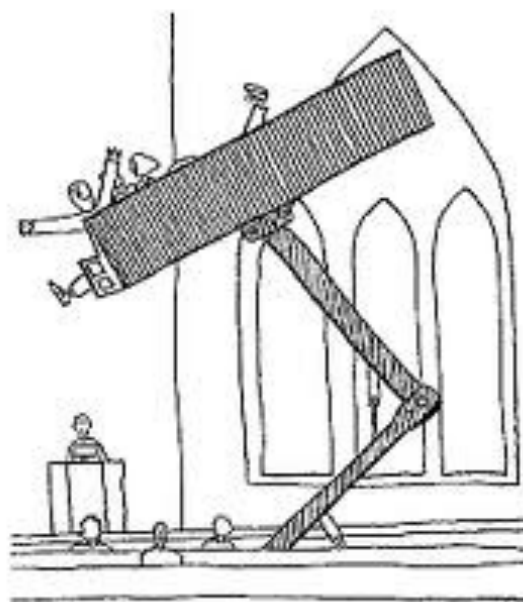
More than 1.7 million people take part in a Church of England service each month.

Around a million participate each Sunday

Forty three per cent of the population attend church at Christmas, rising to 48 per cent in London and, nationally, 22 per cent among those of non-Christian faiths

Seven in ten people agree that Church of England schools have a positive role in educating the nation's children

The Church of England provides activities outside church worship in the local community for 375,000 children (aged 5 to 16 years) and 38,000 young people (aged 16 to 25 years)



SOME OF THE YOUNG PEOPLE WANTED  
CHURCH TO BE MORE EXCITING



## **York Province Festival**

### **Leeds Parish Church – Tuesday 10th May 2011**

By kind permission of the Rector of Leeds the South & West Yorkshire Branch of the Guild of Vergers are hosting the York Province festival at Leeds Parish Church.

A unique opportunity to visit our modern thriving City, share in traditional choral worship, but most importantly to renew old friendships and turn new acquaintances into friends.

## **Programme**

from 9.30am	Registration and refreshments – Leeds Parish Church
10.45am	Welcome by the Rector of Leeds
11.00am	Walk to Holy Trinity Church to look round prior to
12.00 Noon	Holy Eucharist
1.15pm	Lunch at a bistro near the Parish Church
2.30pm/4.00pm	Tours, Canal trip, or free time to explore Leeds
4.00pm onwards	Yorkshire Tea in the Parish Church
5.00pm	Robing prior to Choral Evensong
5.30pm	Evensong followed by group photograph
6.30pm	Depart

## **Travel and Accommodation**

Accessibility by road, rail and air (Leeds Bradford Airport is only 12 miles and a 23 minute drive

away) is straightforward – details on this and all other aspects relevant to your visit and stay are

available by contacting us on [0113 322 3500](tel:01133223500) or [www.yorkshire.com/tourist-information](http://www.yorkshire.com/tourist-information)

We wish you a happy and rewarding Festival, and welcome!



**Application page**  
**One copy per person, please (photocopies accepted)**

Full day's event **including** lunch      -      £20.00

Full day's event **excluding** lunch      -      £ 7.50

Cheques to be made payable to '**CEGV, South & West Yorkshire Branch – Festival**' and sent, with this form, to Mrs Jean Steer, Secretary, 10 Heath Mount, Leeds LS11 8TY

A receipt will be issued as confirmation, together with other relevant information

**Menu**

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**Indicate choice (please circle)**

Starter:                      Vegetable soup *or*  
                                    Pate

Main:                         Chicken in sauce *or*  
                                    Salmon with salad *or*  
                                    Vegetable lasagne  
                                    all served with a selection of vegetables

Dessert:                    Apple Pie *or*  
                                    Ice Cream *or*  
                                    Sweet of the Day (a surprise)

Plus a glass of wine – other drinks available at the bar

Any special dietary requirements?

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**Tours**

**Indicate choice**

- A    Canal Trip, *or*  
B    Guided tour of the Church, *or*  
C    Free time to explore other places of interest

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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Contact details: telephone \_\_\_\_\_ email \_\_\_\_\_

If you are under 18 years of age on the day you will need to be accompanied during the day's event by a named responsible adult, who will be \_\_\_\_\_

Closing date **to guarantee** inclusion of lunch is **8<sup>th</sup> April 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  
Virger

*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](http://www.cofegv.org.uk)*