

The Virger

Spring 2015
Issue 286



www.cofegv.org.uk

The Official Magazine of the Church of England Guild of Vergers





Welcome to the Spring 2015 edition of *The Virger*. If you would like to include Branch news, articles, adverts, photos, book reviews or any other information you feel our readers would find of interest please send to the Communications Officer by the Deadline Date below.

PLEASE NOTE THAT ANY ARTICLES ETC... SUBMITTED AFTER THE DEADLINE MAY BE HELD OVER UNTIL THE NEXT EDITION TO AVOID DELAYS IN PRODUCTION!

Marek J Barden, MLJ

49 Ridgeway Road, Long Ashton, Bristol BS41 9EZ

E-mail: CEGVCommsOff@gmail.com

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

**PLEASE NOTE
THE DEADLINE FOR
THE NEXT EDITION IS:
Saturday the 16th
of May 2015**

HOLY NAME EMBROIDERY

New Commissions, restoration,
conservation, repairs etc... undertaken

Welsh Marches Based

Dee Caulton-Ball

Ecclesiastical Embroiderer

01547 220000 or 07890514888

deecb@hotmail.com



CHARLES FARRIS
CHANDLERS 1845
LONDON

For secure on line ordering, browsing new
products and seasonal offers visit

www.charlesfarris.co.uk



Tel: 01747 861839

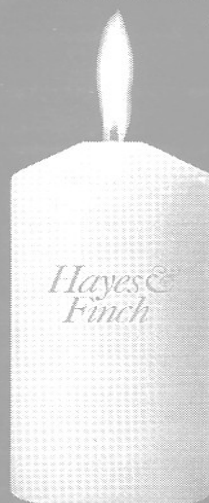
Charles Farris Limited, Quarry Fields, Mere, Wiltshire BA12 6LA

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

FRONT COVER: The Temptations of Christ, a twelfth century mosaic in Saint Mark's Basilica, Venice.



NATIONAL CHAIRMAN'S LETTER



"I am doing my best" I have noticed I use these few words when I feel I am being backed into a corner and things have slipped a little out of control. Recently work has been feeling a little more out of control. The loss of Andrew, our Assistant Verger, who moved in November to become a member of the staff of Salisbury Cathedral has left me with considerable more work to do.

Whilst I joked with the congregation and staff that I would manage the majority of the work load on my own until after Christmas, but warned them just to stay out of biting range just in case. I knew this would be a major challenge for me and I was not wrong, no major errors but I did hit the wrong

microphone switch on the sound system on two occasions, Oops.

Well here I am in Lent looking at the ever looming Easter with still no full time assistant, do not get me wrong I have had some help, I managed to bring out of retirement John, a verger who had moved into the area, for two days a week and my part time colleague David has been a super hero and Jenny our cleaner come verger has been a star. However as Head Verger the buck stopped with me and if something needs doing you have just to get on with it.

I am telling you all this because, as most of you will not have verger colleagues to call on to give you a hand with the tasks that this time of the year brings, the spring clean, the buying of Palm Crosses and hoping that you ordered the Paschal Candle, the extra services for Holy Week and the washing and ironing of linen, dressing of the Altar and the church for the festival of Easter.

I have a renewed understanding of working on your own, so let us and I am sure we will, do our very best and excel at all we do.

May I on behalf of the Guild wish you all a holy Lent and a joyful Easter. Alleluia.

James Armstrong



NEWS FROM NEW ZEALAND



AN UPDATE FROM CHRISTCHURCH CATHEDRAL



The new Transitional Cathedral made of cardboard has been open now for 18 months and celebrated its second Christmas in 2014. As he wrote to me, Chris Oldham could hear the choir rehearsing in the background, the sun was shining and it was very pleasant.

The whole congregation had another awful shock back in July as the Dean, the Venerable Lynda Patterson died suddenly, but they gave her a good funeral there and Chris along with Bishop Victoria Matthews and the Reverend Nicky Lee took her back to Ireland for the family funeral.

At Christmas animals were brought to the Cathedral to bring alive the manger, they had sheep, goats, cattle, horses and, of course, a donkey, several dogs and a guinea pig. And the staff did not have a mess to clear up afterwards.

*Courtesy of Cherry Johnstone
Canterbury Branch Correspondent*



THE DIPLOMA COURSE



The Central Council of the Guild, at the recommendation of General Synod, formulated a course to cover the work and ministry of the Verger. The course is formulated in four units set in two stages:

The first stage is the **Foundation** Unit, which comprises of sixteen assignments, covering preparation for worship, care of the building, record-keeping, and archives, care of the churchyard, and caring for the people of God.

The second stage comprises of the other three units:

The Verger as **Pastor** covers the individual's personal development, their relationship with the people and God, care for others, and for Church resources.

The Verger as **Historian** covers the history of church building, architecture, and the history of worship, including the Book of Common Prayer, and the Bible.

The Verger as **Administrator** covers communication, forms and registers, and the structures of the Church.

Students who complete the course successfully receive a diploma, an academic hood, and the right to use the post-nominal letters '**Dip.GV**'.

If you are interested in learning more about the Course, please contact the **Training Registrar: Susan Ansell** or the **Training Officer: John Shearer**.



NATIONAL CHAPLAIN'S LETTER



Dear Friends,

I recently led a Study Day on the Early Church and one of the topics we considered was the whole question of martyrdom. Today we have been horrified by the murder of Coptic Christians in Libya: a sure sign that martyrdom is not a thing of the past but a very real threat to Christians everywhere.

Why were and are Christian people martyred, or discriminated against or ridiculed? One of the reasons is that we subscribe to a life of love: we love as Christ loved us, and such love is sometimes seen as a threat to others who live in a community of individuals who have no real concern for others.

In the early Church the Christians were always missionaries: they always wanted to spread the good news of the coming kingdom of love, and their very inclusivity was a threat to Jews and Romans alike. In addition to this, the early Christian Church was considered to be against the State because Christian people took little interest in politics and did not want to associate themselves with the brutality of the Roman Empire. They would not participate in the cult of Emperor worship and were seen as enemies of the State; making the authorities afraid that such standing aside might cause the disunity and even the fracture of society. The Romans did not know what to make of the Christians who accepted martyrdom and who were so courageous and resolute in the face of persecution, and this added to isolation. Among the early martyrs there was Ignatius of Antioch, who was fearful that his courage would not be sufficient; there was Polycarp Bishop of Smyrna and an old man, who said, 'Eighty and six years have I served Christ and he hath done me no wrong; how can I blaspheme my king who saved me?' There were women like Agnes who, rather than marry a pagan person and renounce their faith, went to their death. At the Reformation torture and martyrdom again was used to try to make people conform and again men and women went to their death with courage and patience.

In our own day, the rise of IS has once more thrown us into a situation of martyrdom for those who stand firm for their beliefs. We feel helpless to save these people or indeed to make any significant difference by political means. However, we can pray! Ignatius urges the churches to 'Pray for me that I may endure.'

As we make the Lenten pilgrimage towards the Passion of our Lord, we are confronted afresh by suffering and pain and the need for endurance. Let us pray for those in great danger of persecution and for ourselves that, even though we are blessed by freedom of worship and we live in a tolerant society, we too may endure such that our lives will conform more and more to that of Christ our Lord and that as we imitate him, we may draw others to the light of his love.

I wish you all a holy and blessed Lent.

With every blessing and much love,

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 or shown improvement, please inform the National Chaplain or the National Welfare Officer

*Blackburn, Chester & Manchester: **Margaret Scott***

*Chichester, Guildford & Portsmouth: **Sue Ansell & Marilyn Lee***

*Gloucester, Hereford & Worcester: **Joy Birkin, Louis Huband & Graham Williams***

*Leicester & Peterborough: **Alfred Bateman***

*London, Southwark & Chelmsford: **Ken Allen***

*Oxford: **Anita (Annie) Bayliss, Ernestine Denham, David Dutson & Jeanne Scott***

*Rochester & East Chichester: **Tina Lawrence***

*Saint Albans: **Peter Hudson***

*Salisbury: **Jean Jackson***

*Somerset & Avon: **Reyn & Jeanette Badger, Norah Broomfield, Pat Dawes,***

Lionel & Mary Holway, Roger Lawrence & Joy Stevens

*York: **George & Doreen Cook***

R.I.P

Doreen Bull, Roy Burston, Harold Cargill, Sylvia Kerr, Elizabeth Merritt, Henry Powe

And everyone not specifically mentioned who need love, counsel and the grace of Our Lord

THE VERGER'S PRAYER

**Almighty Father, from whom every family in heaven and earth is named,
who has called us into the fellowship of your Church,**

**grant, we pray, that in all our Churches we may fulfil the duties and enjoy the privileges of our spiritual home.
And on those who offer themselves for service as Vergers in the House of God bestow the fullness of your grace,
that, united in love to you and to one another,
we may show forth your glory and hasten the coming of your Kingdom. Through Jesus Christ, Our Lord. Amen.**



CARLISLE, DURHAM & NEWCASTLE BRANCH NEWS



The Annual General Meeting was held in the Chapter House of Durham Cathedral on Thursday 29th January at 11 o'clock in the morning. Members gathered from 10.30 a.m. for some warming and welcome refreshment, the weather being cold and snow in abundance. In fact, the snow-covered landscape accounted for some absentees, and only 14 members were able to attend the meeting.

After the usual business of an AGM, suggestions were invited for visits. As well as the York Province Festival, which will be held in and around Berwick-on-Tweed, venues such as Lanercost Priory in Cumbria, Saint Mary's Cathedral in Edinburgh, Chester-le-Street, where the remains of Saint Cuthbert were enshrined in a wooden church for 107 years prior to being transferred to Durham; and Durham Cathedral were suggested. Enough work for Committee Members to organise. The final business of the AGM was the formal admission of four new members to the Guild, three 'Bedesmen' from Durham Cathedral (see note below): Harry Rhodes, John Adams and Mervyn Hockin, and one Robert Craddock, Virger at the Cathedral of Saint Mary in Edinburgh. This was done in the authorised manner by the Branch Chaplain, Reverend Peter Welby. The event concluded with Eucharistic worship in the Gregory Chapel of Durham Cathedral, and lunch, for those who could remain, in the Cathedral restaurant.

NOTE ON BEDESMEN

Following the Dissolution of the Priory of Durham a Statute of 1555 provided for eight 'elderly and infirm' men to be appointed to serve in the Cathedral. Their duties included, so far as expense allowed: Assistance to the Sub-Sacrist, attending to the lighting of the place (extinguishing the lights), and ringing the bells. The tradition continues to this day. The appointment and duties of the Bedesmen were confirmed in Statute 31 of the Durham Cathedral Statutes in 2000, though the role of Bedesmen is no longer restricted to the 'elderly and infirm' nor are women prohibited from this office.

Peter Welby
Branch Correspondent & Chaplain



GLOUCESTER, HEREFORD & WORCESTER BRANCH NEWS



We begin our report with the December Christmas Dinner. A chance for the Branch to don their party hats as we met at Holland House, (the Worcester Diocesan Retreat Centre). This was an all-round excellent event, enhanced by the attendance of our National Chaplain, Canon Maureen, who always manages to keep us cheerful as we cautiously sample the odd tiny glass of fermented grapes! Well the non-drivers did, - the drivers sucked wine gums and drank water.

Our well attended Branch AGM was held on the 27th January at Saint Stephen's Church, Worcester. It was a very pleasant evening which was enhanced by a fun charity raffle and refreshments. A number of Committee changes took place: Our Chairman Tony Day, (from Tewksbury Abbey), has stepped down from the role after seven years in office, which culminated in the very successful Canterbury Province Festival recently held at Hereford Cathedral. The whole Branch sends Tony every good wish and a huge thank you for his excellent service. He will continue to advise us in the background. Our former Correspondence Officer, Peter Young (from Malvern Priory), was elected as our new Branch Chairman. Congratulations and best wishes to Peter. Raymond Fowler, (a former National Chairman and Area Leader), has stepped down as Membership Secretary after ten years devoted service. We express our thanks to Raymond for his excellent commitment and genuine love of the Guild. This post has been replaced by three members, newly entitled as Diocesan Representatives, whose remit is to help grow our presence within the three Diocese which our Branch covers. We feel this is another way to link up with the Diocesan Communications Teams.

The remaining members of the Committee were all re-elected unopposed. This included our long standing Chaplain Father Graham Lyall, who has been in post longer than any others present at our AGM. It is a case of 'time out of mind' for Father Graham but he is most loved and his commitment to the Guild and the Area is outstanding, ably supported by his lovely wife Sue, our Branch Secretary. We are very grateful for their care and support.

We send our condolences to two of our members who recently lost their husbands. Margaret Burston, (Area Leader) whose husband Roy passed away in January. Margaret wishes to express her deepest thanks to Father Graham for his continuous caring support and also to the many who sent messages of condolence and those who supported her at Roy's funeral. And Rosemarie Powe, (Associate Member), whose husband Henry passed away during February and whose funeral took place in Worcester Cathedral. We also think of those who are ill, especially we remember our beloved Louis Huband, who has been seriously unwell since last November but is at last at home recovering. We long to see him back at the Cathedral and at Guild meetings because as we all know he is one of the Guild's great characters. Other members of the Branch whom we send our best wishes too are Graham Williams and Joy Birkin.

New members welcomed to our Branch are: Bridget Swan, previously from the Carlisle Branch, and now at Hereford Cathedral. Also Julia Thompson, previously from Canterbury, and now installed as the Head Verger at Tewksbury Abbey. Congratulations and best wishes to Julia and Bridget. The Branch will be reassembling on Shrove Tuesday at Worcester Cathedral, (Robert Beattie's penthouse suite), for a pancake party. Amongst other events being planned will be an Evesham Quiet Day during April. The Branch wishes all a very Happy and Holy Easter.

Philip Dunne
Branch Correspondent



IPSWICH BRANCH NEWS



A (belated) Happy New Year to everyone from all in the Ipswich Branch. Well there is not a lot to report on at the moment as it has been a very quiet time for us since our last meeting (October 2014), but, we did start the New Year off with a social gathering at a local eatery, which luckily for us has a special offer on for the over 50's! (All of us came under that banner).

All thoroughly enjoyed the carvery and 'very large' puddings that followed, I wish now that I had taken a photo of my chocolate fudge cake (with ice cream) to share with you, it certainly would have fed a family of four! Vergers and spouses alike had a super time catching up. Our next meeting will be in March.

One thing that I would like to share with members, nothing to do with the Guild as such, but about the area of East Anglia where some of our Vergers live and work.

When I first came to live in this part of the country in 2011 I noticed that whilst out on walks with my husband Tom the villages here have their own 'Village Signs'. The various signs depict village life, pictorial evidence of past and present. Some are very ornate and are well worth stopping to admire and take in the skill involved in producing these signs.

The first village signs were erected in the early half of the 20th century on the Sandringham Estate in Norfolk to foster a community spirit in the local villages. Since then the concept has spread, first through East Anglia and now through the whole of Britain. The Village Sign Society was formed in 1999. I hope you enjoy the attached photos of some of our Village Signs.



Until Next time.

Jean Cobb

Area Leader – East Anglia



THE GUILD SHOP



GS003
Lapel Badge
(Full Member)
£6.00

GS007
75 Years
Leading the Way
by
John Campbell
£2.00



GS005
Name Badge
£7.50

The Guild shop has Guild branded articles to add a little something to every Vergers uniform, whether it's a Guild fleece, designed to help the Verger as they battle with the Medieval heating on a cold morning or a Guild Gown Badge to spice up your official Vergers robes. The shop has something for you.

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

The Shop Manager

Mr Andrew Baker

70b The Close

Salisbury

Wiltshire

SP1 2EN

Tel: 01722 421559

or E-mail direct: CEGVGuildShop@gmail.com

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

GS002
Gown Badge
£16.00



GS008
Car
Window Sticker
£1.50



GS006
Pair of Guild
Cufflinks
£15.00



GS009
Guild Bookmark
£1.00



Monday the 9th - Thursday the 13th of August 2015

Elim International Centre
De Walden Road, West Malvern,
Worcestershire. WR14 4DF

Booking Form

Please detach these pages and
use as your booking form.

Either send it by post
or scan it and email in PDF format to:

Margaret Burston
10 Prestbury Close
Blackpole
Worcester
WR4 9XG

margaretburston@sky.com

01905 455961

**Please submit your booking form by
Friday the 17th of July 2015**

Name: Mr/Mrs/Miss/Reverend.....

Address:

.....

.....Postcode:.....

Home Telephone:..... Mobile Telephone:.....

Email:.....

Parish Church etc:.....

Attendance Full Time or Part-Time (Tick the boxes you will be attending)

Sunday			Dinner
Monday	Breakfast	Lunch	Dinner
Tuesday	Breakfast	Lunch	Dinner
Wednesday	Breakfast	Lunch	Dinner
Thursday	Breakfast	Lunch	

Cost for the Week

Single Occupancy Room

Sunday – Thursday inclusive £316.00

Monday – Thursday inclusive £237.00

Shared Double Room

Sunday – Thursday inclusive £280.00 pp

Monday – Thursday inclusive £210.00 pp

One Day Overnight Charge

The cost of one overnight delegate is £79.00 in a single room, this also includes all meals.
(Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner)

Day Rate no accommodation is £28.00 plus £8 evening meal

Deposit of £35.00 or payment in full to be sent with the Booking Form

Cheques to be made payable to “**CEGV Conference Account**”

Medical Information

Do you suffer from anything we need to be aware of: Yes/No

If Yes, please list below:

.....

.....

Do you suffer from any allergies? YES/NO If Yes, please list below:

.....

.....

Are you on any Medication? YES/NO If Yes, please list below:

.....

.....

Do you have any special dietary requirements? YES/NO

If Yes, please list below

.....

.....

Next of Kin Contact Details

.....

.....

.....Telephone Number:.....

How do I get there

While the Elim Conference Centre is nestled in the heart of the Malvern Hills, the M5 provides quick and easy road access when travelling south from Birmingham or North from Cardiff and Bristol.

Elim Conference Centre is just two and a quarter hours from London by car, and linked to Birmingham and London Paddington stations by a frequent and fast rail service. The nearest airport is Birmingham International, just one hour away.

By road: The main entrance to Elim Conference Centre is located on Croft Bank. There is a car park outside the main entrance. Croft Bank is accessed from West Malvern Road (B4232). Further parking is available - follow the signs for Elim International Centre when you arrive at Croft Bank.

For Sat Nav: WR14 4DF

By rail: The nearest stations are Great Malvern and Malvern Link. Taxi services from either to the Conference Centre will cost from £11, or let Conference Secretary know if you require a lift.

Draft Outline Programme for the week

‘Handling History’

Sunday 9 th August	
18:30	Dinner
19:15	Central Council Meeting
Monday 10 th August	
07:45	Morning Prayer – Church
08:30	Breakfast
09:30	Registration
11:00	The Annual General Meeting
12:30	Lunch
13:30 -14:30	
16:00	Service rehearsal
17:00	Opening Conference Eucharist and Guild Congregation – Church
20:00	Dinner followed by Social Evening “The Wizard of Oz”
Tuesday 11 th August	
07:00	Morning Prayer – Church
07:30	The Eucharist – Church
08:30	Breakfast
10:00 - 11:45	
12:00	Angelus & Midday Prayers followed by Lunch
14:00 -16.00	Talk to be arranged Guest Preacher???
17.15	Choral Evensong and Sermon – Guest Preacher
18:00	Dinner
19:00	Free Time, Swimming and/or Prayer Walk
21.00	Compline
Wednesday 12 th August	
0700	Morning Prayer – Church
07:30	The Guild Requiem – Church
08:30	Breakfast
10:00 - 12:00	Talk to be arranged
12:00	Angelus & Midday Prayers followed by Lunch
14:00 -16:00	
17:00	Committee Meetings followed by Dinner
18:30	Dinner
20:45	Compline
Thursday 13 th August	
08:00	Morning Prayer – Church
08:30	Breakfast
09.30	Final get together –
11.00	Solemn Eucharist – Church followed by
12.45	Lunch and Departure

We encourage all delegates to attend the services to experience new traditions and customs and participate fully.

Towels are provided in your rooms, but should you wish to use the heated outdoor pool, please bring your costume and your own towel.

No Alcohol is permitted on the Elim International Centre.



It's Snow Time for an AGM!

Holding your Annual General Meeting in January can mean that attendance is hit by bad weather. This was the case with our Branch AGM on 29th January as a number of members from Boston turned back because of the snow. The Branch has around forty members and must be geographically among the largest in the country. We have members from up in North East Lincolnshire, down South to the borders of Norfolk and from Skegness on the East Coast to Nottingham in the West.

Twenty of us were able to make it to Lincoln Cathedral. The business meeting re-elected John Campbell, Dean's Verger from Lincoln, as our Chairman with Mike Haynes as Secretary, and Dean Bird as Treasurer. Reports from the Chairman confirmed membership is steady. The Treasurer's accounts proved us solvent. We actually increased our reserves by 99p clear – so no need to increase fees. Kenn Richards, beginning the second of his three year term, continues as our Area Leader, and presented his annual report.

Sadly, we heard of the death of Graham 'Scott' Amos, a member for 20 years. Scott had been Head Verger at Saint Botolph's, Boston Stump, since 1987 and a volunteer Verger since his retirement. He was 85. The meeting gave him a minute's applause to celebrate a Christian life well lived.



Following the meeting, the Reverend Paul Peynton, one of Lincoln Cathedral's team of Vergers, gave a talk about the Cathedral's new statue, an icon of the Virgin and Child, and explained its symbolism.

Following Paul's talk and a short act of worship we enjoyed a supper of baked potatoes and apple pie.

Our next meeting will be in Gainsborough on Wednesday 4th March, the guests of Eddie Scarisbrick.

Colin Beevers
Branch Correspondent



ANNUAL DINNER

On Tuesday 3rd February, the London, Southwark and Chelmsford Branch held their Annual Dinner.

We were honoured to be able to hold our dinner in the auspicious surroundings of the "Drawing Room" of the Inner Temple, Crown Office Row, London. Inner Temple is one of The Inns of Court and has over 8000 qualified members which includes Judges and Barristers. We were indebted to our Area Leader, John Shearer, for the opportunity to dine here as he is the Verger at Temple Church which is part of the estate. There was an exquisite table setting with place names provided by our Chairperson Denise Mead and we were privileged again to have members of the Standing Committee with us.

During the welcome to our guests, John Shearer announced that one of our members present, Michael Hennessy from Saint Giles in the Fields, had completed 25 years as a Verger.

Grace was said by our Branch Chaplain Bishop Edward Holland before having an excellent meal served by the very efficient waitresses who made sure that our wine glasses were never empty.

Our after dinner speaker was Mark Hill Q.C., Chancellor to the Chichester Diocese. He related some amusing anecdotes and finished by reading the poem, "Blame the Vicar" by Betjeman.

The Annual Dinner is an opportunity for members of the Branch to get together and talk about their places of worship and renew acquaintances.



A very enjoyable evening was had by all and the thanks of the Branch go to John Shearer and Denise Mead for their organisation.

Alan Taylor
Branch Correspondent



WINTER AGM

Fourteen members were present for our AGM on Monday 26th January. We began with a short Act of Worship in the Church of Holy Trinity, Barrow on Soar, Leicestershire. This was called Prayer for the Day - Epiphany, and was led by the Priest in Charge, Reverend Rob Padison. The service included the Versicles & Responses, a Psalm Reading, an Address, and finished with the Prayers of Intercession. We prayed for our retiring Chairman, Jack Lippitt, Sylvia Crawley, John Walters and Sandra Slater, all of whom were absent through illness or otherwise indisposed. The Prayers ended with The Verger's Prayer.

Following the service we made our way to the Church Hall for our AGM. Our new Branch Chaplain, Canon John Tonkin, opened the meeting with a prayer. The Agenda included reports from the Area Leader, Lance Bloom, the Secretary, Kathryn Mobbs, and the Treasurer, Clive Mobbs.

Jack Lippitt has stood down as Chairman after fourteen years, so with no other members coming forward Marjorie Thomas was elected Chairman. The other members of the Committee were unanimously re-elected: Secretary - Kathryn Mobbs, Treasurer - Clive Mobbs, Branch Correspondent - Marjorie Thomas, Magazine Distributors - Kathryn & Clive Mobbs.

It was decided that a monetary gift be sent to Jack Lippitt along with a card which included the Vergers Badge on the front as a token of thanks from the Branch. Also a get well card signed by all present. Fourteen years is a long time and we wish him better health in his retirement and hope to see him at future meetings.

As Jack was absent for the AGM the Area Leader, Lance Bloom, chaired the meeting. The date and venue of the next AGM will be Monday 25th January 2016 at 2.30 p.m. in Kirby Muxloe Church Hall.

We had a raffle with some lovely prizes which raised some money for Branch funds. Canon John closed the meeting with prayer. Afterwards we enjoyed some light refreshments provided by Margaret Steadman and Pauline Haynes, Vergers from our host Church.

Marjorie Thomas, our new Branch Chairman, thanked everyone for coming and we look forward to our next meeting which will be a lunch at the Red Lion in Rothley, Leicestershire at noon on Monday 23rd March. The April meeting will be a service in the Church of Saint Philip & Saint James, Ratby, at 7.30 p.m. on Monday 27th April, robes to be worn please.

Marjorie Thomas, Dip GV
Branch Correspondent



OXFORD BRANCH NEWS



It was with pleasure that the Oxford Branch welcomed Canon Maureen to our AGM in High Wycombe on Tuesday 20th January, and for good reason. We admitted two people (Margaret Gray and Christopher Waterhouse) into full membership that day, and who better to admit them? The admissions took place during a Communion service, held at the Church of Christ the Servant King.

But after the service we were instructed to sit tight – something was afoot (and not only twelve inches). A presentation was due to take place – for our Administrator, Jeanne Scott, was stepping down after long service with the Guild.

Jeanne has been involved for at least 25 years, was one of the founder members of the Oxford Branch, and even served as the Guild General Secretary during that time.

Commendations and greetings were sent from the Saint Albans Branch, (which was also represented at the meeting) and from elsewhere.



Naturally there was a gift for such a long-standing member.



I somehow suspect that Jeanne will still be a source of encouragement and advice to the Oxford Branch, despite her departure from office.

After the presentation, a large array of particularly delicious sandwiches and cakes appeared (courtesy of the CSK catering team) and disappeared (courtesy of the members present) with commendable speed. The AGM ran as such things do: we welcome our new officers and appointees to their posts.

Dennis Wildman
Branch correspondent



NEW CHAIRMAN FOR THE YORK BRANCH

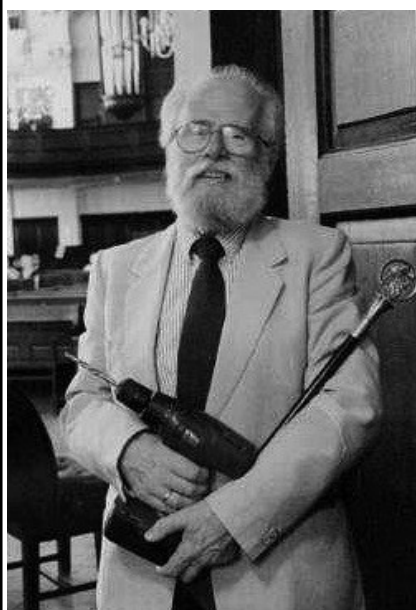


Due to an impending family move south York branch has seen a change of officers. At the 2015 AGM Secretary Rosemary Babington (left), and Chairman Richard Babington (centre), stood down and we welcomed as the new Chairman John Dell (right), the Head Verger at Beverley Minster.

Neil Pickford
Area Leader



MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR RALPH SMITH



On Wednesday 3rd December 2014 a Choral Eucharist in Thanksgiving for the Life of Ralph Smith, the former Head Verger at Saint Martin-in-the-Fields, was held at his Church. Guild members from several Branches attended to pay their respects.

Ralph was born on 4th January 1943 in Weymouth, Dorset. After gaining a BSc in Botany and Zoology at Durham University, he began training as a teacher, and took up a position in Durham Johnston Comprehensive School where he taught for 21 years.

In 1998 he became Parish Verger at All Saints, High Wycombe, before being appointed Head Verger at Saint Martin-in-the-Fields in the year 2000. He worked there with great faithfulness and dedication until he was forced to retire through ill health after 12 years. He retired with his wife Margaret to his home in Durham, becoming a member of the PCC at Saint Mary's Church in Shincliffe Village and he passed away on 21st August 2014. He passed on his knowledge to his son, Marcus who is the Head Verger at Saint Clement Danes, the RAF Church in the Strand, London. Many members of the public attended this service, which shows the high esteem in which Ralph was held.

The service was conducted by the Vicar of Saint Martin's, Reverend Dr Sam Wells, who also reflected on Ralph's time at Saint Martin's. The Prayers were

lead by the Associate Vicar, Reverend Richard Carter. The Choral Scholars were present and sang The Kyrie, the Sanctus and Benedictus and the Agnus Dei during Communion.

A source of annoyance for the Vergers present and the Clergy that we spoke to afterwards, was an elderly lady who used a tablet to film the service. She followed the whole service holding the tablet up high with total disrespect to the dignity of the occasion. A reception was held afterwards in The Gallery in The Crypt where a short film was shown of Ralph conducting a tour of his Church. A wonderful service for the family members to remember Ralph.

Alan Taylor, Branch Correspondent
London, Southwark and Chelmsford Branch

COME & JOIN US ON OUR
FACEBOOK PAGE:

<https://www.facebook.com/CofEGV>

or for Smartphone users with a
QR Code/Barcode Scanner App
then just scan the QR Code below:



J & M SEWING SERVICE LTD

High Quality Church Robes - Made in England
and individually manufactured to order
in our Workshop in Newcastle-upon-Tyne



CASSOCKS + SURPLICES
ALBS + COTTAS
CLERICAL BLOUSES
CLERICAL SHIRTS

STOLES & VESTMENTS
CHOIR ROBES
VERGERS ROBES
BANNER & FRONTALS

you name it, we probably make it.

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

Order on-line at www.jandmsewing.com

or ask for our free Catalogue

Tel: 0191 232 9589 Fax: 0191 230 1215

email: jandmsewing@btconnect.com

1 Charlotte Square, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, NE1 4XF

Established by Joyce Davison & Maureen Waterston in 1980



GUILD PRAYER CYCLE ~ MONTHLY INTENTIONS



- 1st Pray for the **Guild Presidents**: The Archbishops of Canterbury and York.
- 2nd Give thanks for the ministry of the **Guild Officers**: The National Chairman, General Secretary, The National Treasurer, The Communications Officer, The Liaison Officer, The Overseas Liaison Officer, The Conference Secretary, The Training Officer and The Welfare Officer.
- 3rd Pray for the **Guild Officials**: The Guild Chronicler, The Legal Advisor, The Shop Manager and The Training Registrar.
- 4th Pray for the **Area of Birmingham, Lichfield and Coventry**: for the Area Leader, the Branch Chairmen and the Branch Secretaries.
- 5th Pray for the **Area of Blackburn, Chester, Liverpool and Manchester**: for the Area Leader, the Branch Chairmen and Branch Secretaries.
- 6th Pray for the **Area of Carlisle, Durham and Newcastle**: for the Area Leader, Branch Chairmen and Branch Secretaries.
- 7th Pray for the **Area of Chichester, Guildford and Portsmouth**: for the Area Leader, the Branch Chairmen and the Branch Secretaries.
- 8th Pray for the **Area of Devon and Cornwall**: for the Area Leader, the Branch Chairmen and the Branch Secretaries.
- 9th Pray for the **Area of East Anglia**: for the Area Leader, the Branch Chairmen and the Branch Secretaries.
- 10th Pray for the **Area of Gloucester, Hereford and Worcester**: for the Area Leader, the Branch Chairmen and the Branch Secretaries.
- 11th Pray for the **Area of Kent and East Sussex**: for the Area Leader, the Branch Chairmen and the Branch Secretaries.
- 12th Pray for the **Area of Leicester and Peterborough**: for the Area Leader, the Branch Chairmen and the Branch Secretaries.
- 13th Pray for the **Area of Lincoln and Southwell**: for the Area Leader, the Branch Chairmen and the Branch Secretaries.
- 14th Pray for the **Area of London, Southwark and Chelmsford**: for the Area Leader, the Branch Chairmen and the Branch Secretaries.
- 15th Pray for the **Area of Saint Albans and Oxford**: for the Area Leader, the Branch Chairmen and the Branch Secretaries.
- 16th Pray for the **Area of Salisbury**: for the Area Leader, the Branch Chairmen and the Branch Secretaries.
- 17th Pray for the **Area of Somerset and Avon**: for the Area Leader, the Branch Chairmen and the Branch Secretaries.
- 18th Pray for the **Area of Winchester, Bournemouth and the Channel Islands**: for the Area Leader, the Branch Chairmen and the Branch Secretaries.
- 19th Pray for the **Area of York, Hull & West Yorkshire**: for the Area Leader, the Branch Chairmen and the Branch Secretaries.
- 20th Give thanks for the contribution made by the **Overseas** members of the Guild and for our Sister Guild: **The Vergers' Guild of the Episcopal Church, USA**.
- 21st Pray for the **National Chaplain** and for the **Branch Chaplains**.
- 22nd Pray for the students enrolled on the Diploma Course and for all who Mentor them and support them, for our Assessors.
- 23rd Give thanks for the **Founders of the Guild**: Victor Buck, Laurence Farrington and Stephen Pentecost and all who met in York in September 1932.
- 24th Pray for the Bishops, Priests and Deacons with whom we work.
- 25th Give thanks for the congregations with whom we work: for Church Wardens, Cathedral Stewards and Councils.
- 26th Pray for all with whom we have a working relationship: the Armed Forces of the Crown; the Police and Local Authorities.
- 27th Pray for the musicians of our Cathedrals and Churches as they offer music in worship.
- 28th Give thanks for all those Vergers who faithfully served God and their respective congregations and who have now passed into the nearer presence and greater light of God.
- 29th Pray for all who visit our Cathedrals and Churches as visitors and pilgrims that they may be touched by the love of God.
- 30th Pray for those religious communities with which we have contact.
- 31st Pray for the General Synod of the Church of England.

THE VERGER'S PRAYER

Almighty Father,
 from whom every family in heaven and earth is named,
 ho has called us into the fellowship of your Church;
 grant we pray, that in all our churches we may fulfil the duties and enjoy the privileges of our spiritual home.
 And on those who offer themselves for service as vergers in the house of God bestow the fullness of your grace,
 that, united in love to you and to one another,
 we may show forth your glory and hasten the coming of your kingdom: through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



GUILD PRAYER CYCLE ~ YEARLY INTENTIONS



January 6 th	Feast of the Epiphany	Bournemouth & the Channel Islands
January 19 th	Saint Wulfstan	Gloucester, Hereford & Worcester
January 25 th	Conversion of Paul	London, Southwark & Chelmsford
February 2 nd	Presentation of Christ	Oxford
February 3 rd	Saint Blaise	Hull & West Yorkshire
February 27 th	George Herbert	Salisbury
March 8 th	Edward King	Lincoln & Southwell
March 10 th	Saint Cuthbert	Durham & Newcastle
April 3 rd	Saint Richard of Chichester	Rochester & East Sussex
April 21 st	Saint Anselm	Chester
May 1 st	Saint Philip	Birmingham
May 8 th	Julian of Norwich	Norwich
May 17 th	Saint Pascal	Guildford & Portsmouth
June 5 th	Saint Boniface	Devon & Cornwall
June 29 th	Saint Peter	Peterborough
July 15 th	Saint Swithun	Winchester
August 6 th	Feast of the Transfiguration	Carlisle
October 10 th	Saint Paulinus	York
October 19 th	Saint Denys	Manchester & Blackburn
November 11 th	Saint Martin	Leicester
November 20 th	Saint Edmund	Ipswich
Sunday before Advent	Christ the King	Liverpool
November 30 th	Saint Andrew	Somerset & Avon
December 29 th	Saint Thomas	Canterbury

Lord God;

Take my being: fill me with emptiness, that I may be a vessel ready to be filled with your grace and love.

Take my hands: which have handled holy things, wielded tools of maintenance; defended, protected and directed.

Take my feet: which have trod your courts and have led the way.

Take my soul: which has been fired and sustained by faith.

Take my eyes: which have looked upon pain and have shone with delight – and see through them.

Take my lips: which have sung your praise and confessed my sin – and speak through them.

Take my heart: which has beaten with delight and has been broken in pain – and set it on fire for Jesus our Lord. Amen.



FORTHCOMING NATIONAL VACANCIES



**The current term of the following National Officers is due to end
at the next meeting of the Central Council in August:**

The National Treasurer (5 year appointment)

The Training Officer (3 year appointment)

The Liaison Officer (3 year appointment)

The Welfare Officer (3 year appointment)

The Conference Secretary (3 year appointment)

The Guild Chronicler (3 year appointment)

All current post holders are willing to stand for re-election.

For further information and job descriptions please contact the General Secretary

Nominations must be received by 1st July 2015



Central Council Contacts



NATIONAL CHAIRMAN

Mr James Armstrong, FCEGV
2a The Abbey
Carlisle
Cumbria
CA3 8TZ
Tel: 01228 547653 (Home)
01228 535169 (Work)
E-mail: CEGVNatChair@gmail.com

TRAINING OFFICER

Mr John Shearer, MA
3rd Floor East, Goldsmith Building
Temple
London
EC4Y 7BL
Tel: 020 7583 8122
Mobile: 07891 168133
E-mail: CEGVTrainOff@gmail.com

GENERAL SECRETARY

Mr Stephen Stokes
20 Benians Court
Cambridge
CB3 0DN
Tel: 01223 322860
E-mail: CEGVGenSec@gmail.com

TRAINING REGISTRAR

Mrs Susan Ansell, Dip GV
11 Roberts Way
Cranleigh, Surrey
GU6 7FN
Tel: 01483 548980
E-Mail: CEGVTrainReg@gmail.com

NATIONAL TREASURER

Dr Andrew Page, MA, DPhil, FCEGV
Pools Top
Downton on the Rock
Ludlow
SY8 2LL
Mobile: 07764 615210
E-mail: CEGVNatTreas@gmail.com

COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER

Mr Marek J Barden, MLJ
49 Ridgeway Road
Long Ashton
Bristol
BS41 9EZ
Mobile: 07578 121152
E-mail: CEGVCommsOff@gmail.com

NATIONAL CHAPLAIN

Canon Maureen Palmer, BSc, PhD, Dip Theol (Oxon)
28a Green Street
Hereford
Herefordshire
HR1 2QG
Tel: 01432 353771
E-mail: CEGVNatChap@gmail.com

WELFARE OFFICER

Mrs Irene Money, MBE, Dip GV
4 Almshouses
Church Street
Edmonton, London
N9 9PE
Tel: 020 8807 0232
E-mail: CEGVWelfare@gmail.com

LIAISON OFFICER

Mrs Denise Mead
54 Howley Road
Croydon
Surrey
CR0 1AZ
Tel: 020 8688 5971 (Home)
020 8688 8104 (Work)
E-mail: CEGVLiaison@gmail.com

OVERSEAS LIAISON OFFICER

Mr John Campbell, FBGU, FCEGV
Cantilupe Chantry North
Minster Yard, Lincoln Cathedral
Lincoln
LN2 1PX
Tel: 01522 561636 (Home)
01522 561638 (Work)
E-mail: CEGVOverseas@gmail.com

The views and opinions expressed in the articles and letters in this edition of The Virger Magazine should be taken as those of the author unless it is specifically indicated that the Central Council of the Church of England Guild of Vergers has given its endorsement.

The Central Council of the said Guild accepts no responsibility for the accuracy or otherwise of statements, or for any offence caused by any of the articles or letters published herein.