

The Official Guild of Vergers magazine

Spring 2012
Issue 274

Virger The



The Dean's Verger of Lincoln is not sure what the Guild Chairman is doing - Picture [Issue 273] in the last Virger Magazine - but it looks like he has been doing it in Lincoln Cathedral for a long time! [not the verge by the right ear]



www.cofegv.org.uk



Shop



Name Badge £7.50

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Catalogue for 2011 is Out Now!

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

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

The Shop Manager

Mr Andrew Baker

70c The Close

Salisbury

Wiltshire

SP1 2EN

Or email direct: spitndribble@yahoo.co.uk
Or via the Guild Website: www.cofegv.org.uk



Lanyard £2.00

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'It's Good for the Roses'

A few years ago and as the voluntary virger at Holy Trinity Church here in Blackpool, the then vicar Canon Dick Cartmell informed me we would be having a donkey on Palm Sunday, no problems so I thought???

The Sunday School would be suitably attired in "biblical clothing", (usually made out of candy striped bed sheets). And a young boy would be "Jesus" on the donkey. No problem, So I thought. However we were to process a short distance on to the promenade, where much to the amazement of the holiday makers we would "sing our praises." Just imagine the looks on the holiday makers faces when Dick (the vicar) began the proceedings with "Away in a Manger" on Palm Sunday!! The donkey was a male called Prince and was quite well behaved. Imagine my horror when the vicar informed me the donkey would be led into the Church, behind the crucifer, "Oh God I prayed don't let Prince do a "whoppsie" on our newly carpeted nave. Who would carry the "bucket", I ask, Not I, I kept my distance supervising the crucifer in case she "got lost" on the promenade. Anyway Prince did behave himself as the donkey lady explained Prince has already "been" that morning.

The following year and yet another donkey for Palm Sunday, this time it was a "lady donkey called Daisy". Only problem was I think "Daisy" was in season, as the most pungent smell came from her rear end, and she was quite boisterous, O Lord grant me patience but please hurry!. However "Daisy" was reasonably well behaved. Must have had a word from "above" I have already explained to our new vicar Tracy we have a donkey on Palm Sunday, and her duties will be "the bucket". I joke, You really cannot get the staff these days.

TonyHales Holy Trinity Blackpool, and the Priory Church of Saint Mary Lancaster

The Guild 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:

First is the **Foundation** Unit, which comprises 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 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** or the **Training Officer**.

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Chairman's Letter – March 2012

Lent has duly arrived and with it the usual round of Lent groups, extra services, concerts and not to mention the spring cleaning. It is always a time in the year when the sun illuminates those cobwebs that you have missed, the great dirty black ones high in the canopy of the quire screen, the ones that have just sprung up overnight gluing down the chair in the sanctuary. Well I hate them! I can understand the need for spiders to catch food in them but why must they spin them inside our buildings. Ironically I have one, sprayed gold and captured onto a square of silk on my wall at home and they are beautiful. Last month I was looking through a guide book of one of our more illustrious Cathedrals, stunning pictures were proudly filling the pages and then there it was, huge, hanging like a forlorn bungee rope from triforium to pillar capital. A work colleague did say that I would never have let the photographer take that image until it had been removed (which has been known to happen). This made me wonder if my house was in order before I could comment. Well I went out from the vestry and looked with fresh eyes and yes you have predicted the answer, it was festooned with little silver strands. There is a message for us all is this, one that will task our minds as to the meaning and another far more practical, get your duster and vacuum out there is no excuse. Well rant over for today....

Amanda Berry is stepping down from being our General Secretary soon and we are in need of someone to fill her shoes. In fact it is two pairs. Amanda also held the role of Communications Officer; we are advertising the positions separately. If you think that you would like to be considered for one of the roles within the guild please see the job descriptions published within these pages. If you would like to chat through the job and the commitment expected please contact me or another guild officer.

May I wish you a happy and blessed Easter. Perhaps I shall see you at the Newcastle Festival on the 8th May.

James Armstrong

Vacancies for Guild Officers

The Central Council seek to appoint a suitable person to the post of **General Secretary**

The General Secretary is a non-voting member of Central Council and shall carry out the decisions of the Central Council and submit a report thereon at the Annual General Meeting.

The General Secretary may be either a Full or Associate Member of the Guild.

Enquiries relating to the work of The Guild and requests from third parties will be directed to the General Secretary, who is authorised to provide such information as appropriate.

If you think that you could be that person or you know of someone who could be approached please contact James Armstrong National Chairman

headverger@carlislecathedral.org.uk or phone 01228 535169 by 5th May 2012

Interview date to be arranged

The Central Council seek to appoint a suitable person to the post of **Communications Officer**

who shall be responsible for all communications and publicity in relation to the Guild, including (but not limited to) the Guild magazine, and the Guild website.

If you think that you could be that person and have the necessary skills to continue and develop our vision for greater communication within our membership and to present the Guild to the wider community.

Please contact James Armstrong National Chairman

headverger@carlislecathedral.org.uk or phone 01228 535169 by 5th May 2012

Interview date to be arranged

S.T. CHURCHWARE

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Forthcoming Events

2012

Tuesday 8th May

York Province Festival
Saint Nicholas' Cathedral, Newcastle

Tuesday 25th September

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

September 2013

St Albans



Chaplain's Page

Dear Friends, as we approach Easter we travel that painful way to the cross, and we remember that although Jesus had spoken of resurrection, it was so totally outside the experience of the disciples that they could not even begin to comprehend what it might mean. In the ancient world crucifixions are never given a positive interpretation – they have no symbolic power for Jews, Romans or Greeks.

Although, for the authors of the New Testament the cross became, not just the instrument of death for our Lord Jesus but also the symbol of our salvation, the cross was did not become the symbol of Christianity until the sixth century. In the Gospels, the cross has many interpretations: indeed each of the evangelists view it differently. For Mark and Matthew, the cross is unrelieved pain and suffering: a gallows from which Jesus hangs helpless and torn apart by his pain and isolation and through which we see fear rather than hope. For Luke, the cross is a pulpit from which Jesus continues to teach the lessons of the kingdom – forgiveness, acceptance and love. While in John's Gospel we see the cross as a throne from which Jesus reigns as King and Lord – not just of the people of Israel but for the whole cosmos. The Epistles present the cross as the symbol of healing and reconciliation, the Tree of Life and the sacrifice and salvation for all people. We often put the Gospels together so that we lose the individual flavour of each evangelist's writing and we are in danger of ignoring the events in favour of their interpretation, such that we are more used to seeing the cross as something beautiful: the image of the patient Saviour hanging there as if there is no pain, rather than the stark reality of the twisted contorted Christ who suffers just like any other human being in the same situation. We have just read the Passion according to Saint Matthew so we will concentrate on the interpretation of the cross as a gallows. Reflecting on the life of Jesus – the man who lived so close to God that he had said, 'If you have seen me, you have seen the Father' – the man in whose flesh God walked the earth among us, healing the sick, teaching the poor, accepting all who came to him in repentance, the man who understood from his own experience what it was to suffer, - he was prepared to take upon himself that suffering, that intolerable pain for the sin of the world. So as we travel the road to Golgotha, the place of the skull, we feel the humiliation as Jesus was stripped and nailed to the cross, we feel the hammer blows driving home the nails through the wrist bones causing excruciating pain and muscle cramps, and then the fear as the pained body on the cross bar is hoisted into position. Look at the cross and see it as a gallows: the pain Jesus suffered was unbearable and unimaginable. As we read the account of the crucifixion in Matthew's Gospel, we enter into the physical suffering of Jesus as we would do if we were standing beside him. This is not the Christ on the Cross that we are used to seeing – the patient Christ looking as if he suffered no pain, but rather a man undergoing realistic and horrendous torture. Small wonder that Jesus felt abandoned by God and cried out, 'Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani.' When death came it was a relief to those standing by: an end to all the physical suffering, but from this appalling death sprang the possibility of eternal life, in which we know that Christ, Emmanuel stands beside us in our suffering enabling us both to participate in the sacrificial death of Jesus, his outpouring of love and in his glorious resurrection.

I wish you all a very blessed Lent and Passiontide and a glorious and joyful Easter Day.

With my 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/shown improvement, please inform the
National Welfare Officer or National Chaplain**

*Blackburn, Chester & Manchester: Margaret Scott
Chichester, Guildford & Portsmouth: David Lee & Family
Gloucester, Hereford & Worcester: Paul Birkin & Jim Wooldridge
Oxford: John Bayliss, Don Mitchener & Margaret Morris
Rochester: Victor Warren
Saint Albans: Peter Hudson
Salisbury: Babs Taylor
Somerset & Avon: 'Dick' Chenoweth, Lionel Holway, Christopher Jones, Peter Martin
York: John Roycroft*

Parochial Fees (4 Funerals and a Wedding Report)

At General Synod in February, a revised Draft Parochial Fees and Scheduled Matters Amending Order 2012, was submitted for further discussion and debate. The Amending Order was approved by Synod; it now has to be seen by the Archbishops' Council and then approved by Parliament, before taking effect on 1st January 2013. There are changes (which you may have seen in the national press) that directly relate to fees paid to vergers and the exact implications and workings of said changes are being currently investigated. A full report will be prepared and submitted to Central Council and subsequently to the Membership, as soon as possible.

**Michael Golby, FCEGV
Welfare Officer**

**Deadline for the
Summer Issue:
Friday 27th May
2012**

York Province Festival

Cathedral Church of Saint Nicholas, Newcastle upon Tyne

Tuesday 8th May 2012

By kind permission of the Dean and Chapter of Newcastle, the Durham and Newcastle Branch of the Church of England Guild of Vergers is hosting the York Province Festival at Saint Nicholas' Cathedral, Newcastle.

This is a great opportunity to visit our historic, bustling 'party' city, share in traditional choral worship, but most importantly, to renew old friendships and turn new acquaintances into friends.

Programme

From 9.30 a.m.	Registration and refreshments in the South Transept
10.30 a.m.	Welcome by the Dean followed by tour of the Cathedral
12.00 noon	Eucharist in the Quire
1.15 p.m.	Lunch in the Cathedral Refectory
2.30 – 4.00p.m.	Tours: Trinity House or Guildhall
	or free time to explore Newcastle
4.00 p.m.	onwards Tea in the Cathedral Refectory
5.00 p.m.	Robing prior to Choral Evensong
5.30 p.m.	Choral Evensong followed by group photograph
6.30 p.m.	Depart

Travel and Accommodation

Newcastle is situated on the main East Coast Line. North-south services are reasonably frequent and the Cathedral is five minutes' walk from Newcastle Central Station.

By car from the south, the A1(M) then A184 & A189 (or the A167) give direct access to Newcastle city centre. The nearest public car-park is in Dean Street which again, is 5 minutes walk from the Cathedral. Newcastle Airport is linked directly to the Central Station by the Tyneside Metro system.

There are plenty B&B's and Hotels in Newcastle the details of which are available from Newcastle/Gateshead Tourist Information: <http://www.newcastlegateshead.com/>
Tel: 0191 440 5720.

If you have any queries at all regarding your visit please contact Gordon Scott, Head Verger. Tel: 0191 232 1939 E-mail: Vergers@stnicholascathedral.co.uk

Application Page
One per person (photocopies accepted)

Full day's events including lunch £20.00 ☐
Full day's events excluding lunch £10.00 ☐

Cheques to be made payable to 'CEGV Durham & Newcastle Branch' - (Festival) and sent with this form to Roy Foster Esq., 47, Moormill Road, Kibblesworth, Gateshead, Tyne & Wear, NE11 0YP.

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

Menu

Please indicate choice...

Starter: Vegetable soup

Main course: Glazed gammon *or* ☐
 Roast beef *or* ☐
 Stilton and broccoli quiche *or* ☐
 Mozzarella and tomato tart ☐
 All served with a selection of rice & pasta, garden salad, potato salad, etc.

Dessert: Cheesecake and cream *or* ☐
 Eaton Mess ☐

Cheeseboard: A selection of Northumbrian cheese with biscuits.

Tea, coffee and biscuits to follow.

A glass of wine is included with lunch and soft drinks are available at the counter.

Do you have any special dietary requirements?

.....

Tours

Newcastle Trinity House *or* ☐
Newcastle Guildhall *or* ☐
Free time to explore ☐

Name:.....

Address:.....

.....

Telephone:.....E-Mail:.....

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

.....

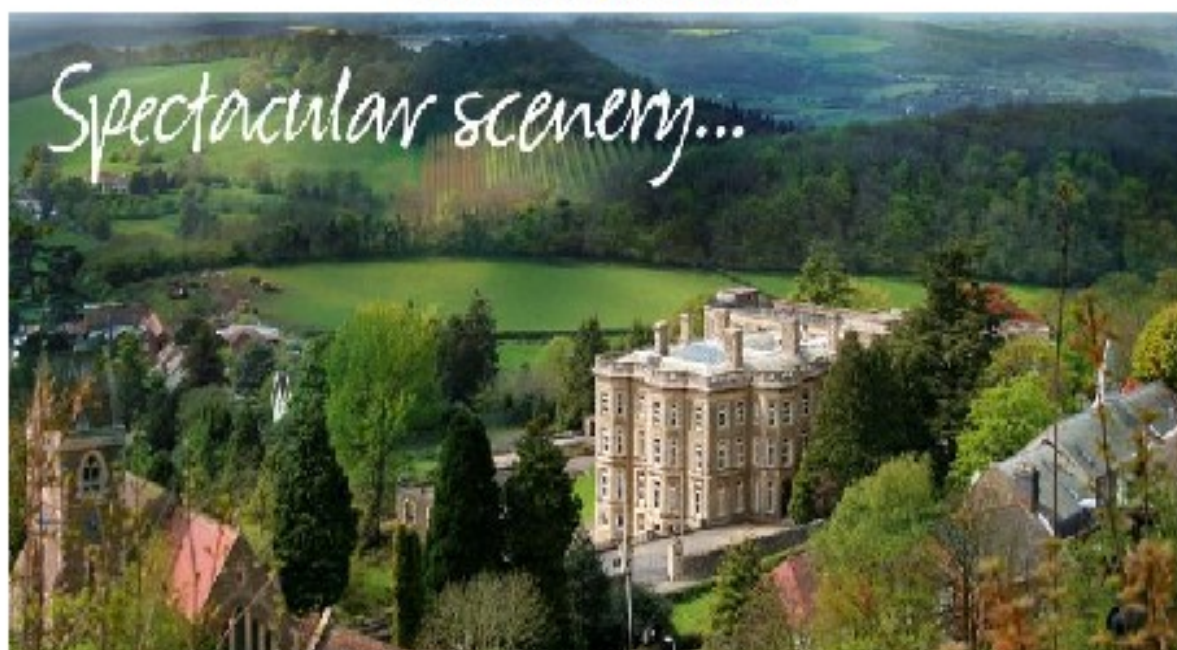
Closing date to guarantee inclusion for lunch is 10th April, 2012



Sunday 5th - Thursday 9th August 2012

Elim Conference Centre
De Walden Road
West Malvern
Worcestershire
WR14 4DF

Booking Form



Please pull out the middle four pages and use this as your booking form
and send it by post or email in a PDF to:

**Margaret Burston,
10 Prestbury Close
Blackpole
Worcester
WR4 9XG**

margaretburston@tiscali.co.uk

01905 455961

**PLEASE SUBMIT YOUR BOOKING FORM BY
Friday 27th July 2012**

Name: (Mr/ Mrs/Miss/Dr/Rev):.....

Address:.....

.....

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

Home Telephone:.....

Mobile Telephone:.....

Email:.....

Parish Church.....

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 ROOM

Sunday – Thursday inclusive £260.00

Monday – Thursday inclusive £195.00

DOUBLE ROOM

Sunday – Thursday inclusive £228.00 per person

Monday – Thursday inclusive £171.00 per person

All prices include all meals

The cost of one overnight delegate is £65.00 in a single room

This also includes all meals

Receipt required. **Yes/No**

MEDICAL INFORMATION

Do you suffer from anything we need to be aware of: **Yes/No** *(If Yes, please list below)*

If Yes, please list below

.....

.....

ALLERGIES Yes/No *(If Yes, please list below)*

.....

.....

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 £4.

PROGRAMME FOR THE WEEK

The History of.....?

Sunday 5 th August	
16:00	Registration
18:00	Dinner
19:15	Central Council Meeting
Monday 6 th August	
Feast of Transfiguration	
07:30	Morning Prayer – Church
08:30	Breakfast
09:30	Registration Continues
11:00	The Annual General Meeting
13:00	Lunch
14:00 – 16:00	Keynote Speaker Bp. Michael Perham - History of the Eucharist
16:30	Service rehearsal
17:00	Opening Conference Eucharist - Church
20:00	Guild Congregation
Tuesday 7 th August	
John Mason Neal	
07:00	Morning Prayer – Church
07:30	The Eucharist – Church
08:30	Breakfast
10:00 -12:00	The Very Rev. Michael Tavinor - History of Hymns
12:40	Mid-Day Prayers
13:00	Lunch
14:00 -14:45	How to walk in Procession – James Armstrong
15:00 -16:00	Practical Sessions:- Leading Intercessions & Taking the Office
18:00	Dinner
19:00	Committee Meetings
Wednesday 8 th August	
07:30	Morning Prayer – Church
08:00	The Guild Requiem – Church
08:30	Breakfast
10:00 - 12:00	Canon Paul Bradshaw – Development of the Daily Office
12:40	Midday Prayers followed by Lunch
14:00 -16:00	Canon Paul Bradshaw – Development of the BCP
17:00	Choral Evensong
18:30	Dinner
Thursday 9 th August	
08:00	Morning Prayer – Church
08:30	Breakfast
09:30	Final get together –
10:30	Solemn Eucharist – Church followed by
12.30	Lunch and Departure

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

The Training Team are looking forward to welcoming you to this new and exciting centre.

Lunch

Cream of Cauliflower Soup

Please Tick One

Roast Leg of Lamb

& seasonal vegetables

OR

Mediterranean Veg Tartlets

topped with Goats Cheese

Pear and Apple Canterbury Tart with cream

Tea and coffee

Note here any special dietary requirement :

Tours

We hope to offer everybody two tours, depending on demand. Please tick your preferred 2 tours and a 3rd choice option in case your 1st & 2nd choices are full.

Preference	1 st Date	2 nd Date	3 rd Date
General Cathedral Tour			
"Hidden Places" Tour			
Cathedral Vestments & Candle Carving			
"Green Mart" Tour			
St John's Hospital (Alms-house complex with Norman origins)			
Stained Glass Studio and Stonemasons' Workshops			
Cathedral Libraries			
Own arrangements			

Named adult if applicant is under 18 years old :

We look forward to welcoming you to Canterbury Cathedral to celebrate the 80th anniversary of The Guild of Vergers, and the 18th birthday of the Canterbury Branch!

Early booking is essential, as the lunch venue and some of the tours have limited places. Please return your form by the 25th August.

Lunch

will be served in the beautiful setting of the Study Centre in the Precincts of the cathedral. Please make your choice of main course on this form.

Tours

Specialist "behind-the-scenes" tours are being offered as well as the more conventional tours of the cathedral – please see the booking section for details. These will be allocated as booking forms are received; once a tour is full we will offer you your 2nd choice.

Alternatively, there are many other things to do in Canterbury, e.g. River Trips, "The Canterbury Tales", St Martin's Saxon Church (a reasonable walk involved) Roman Museum, City Museum, St Thomas' RC Church. Please make your own arrangements; extra charges may apply.

Costs

Full day, including 3-course Lunch - £25
Any part of the day, excluding lunch - £10

This Festival has been generously supported by

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80th Anniversary

Celebrations

1932 – 2012



Canterbury

Province

Festival



Canterbury
Cathedral

Monday 24th & Tuesday 25th
September 2012

By kind permission of the
Dean & Chapter of Canterbury

Optional events for those who wish to join us
on Monday 24th September 2012

Festival Day

Tuesday 25th September 2012

4.00 to

6.00 Registration for early birds

5.30 Choral Evensong:

No robes or reserved seats, but members and friends are welcome to join the congregation.

6.15 Free Time

Chance to explore the City, have dinner at a venue of your choice etc. Alternatively, join the Branch Committee for an informal meal at a local hostelry. Please indicate on your form if you'd like to join us. Full details will be available at Registration.

8.30 Candlelit Pilgrimage of

Canterbury Cathedral

Places limited; admission by Free Ticket, which will be sent out in advance.

Overnight accommodation

is available throughout the city, see

www.canterburyvc.org.uk for more details.

OR write to Canterbury Information Centre,
12 Sun Street, Canterbury, Kent, CT1 2HX,

OR phone them on 01227 378108.

A special rate applies for Members and Guests staying at the Cathedral Lodge, within the cathedral grounds.

Places are limited. A separate brochure is available on request, or visit www.canterburycathedralodge.org

OR phone 01227 865350 for details. Please quote "Guild of Vergers Festival" when booking.

9.30 to Registration & Coffee

11.00 Cathedral Study Centre

10.30 Welcome and notices

11.00 The Bell Ceremony / during which the bell of HMS Canterbury is rung, a page is turned in the Books of Remembrance, and we pray for peace

11.15 The Eucharist

Our Lady Undercroft, crypt

12.30 Lunch, Cathedral Study Centre Auditorium

2.15 Tours or free time – see choices

Please book using the form opposite

4.30 Tea Cathedral Study Centre

5.00 Robe for Evensong

5.30 Choral Evensong, Quire

Sung by the Cathedral Choir

6.15 Group Photograph

6.30 Farewells and Depart

Please complete both sides of the form opposite, detach, and send by the 25th August 2012

with full payment payable to "CEGV - Canterbury Branch" & post to "Guild of Vergers, Canterbury Festival"

The Vesturer, Cathedral House, 11 The Precincts, CANTERBURY CT1 2EH.

One form per person, please. Photocopies accepted. Please note that for any forms received after 25th August we may not be able to guarantee your place at any of the meals or tours, but you will be welcome to join us for the other events of the day. We will advise you if you have been successful.

If you will be under 18 years of age on the day of the Festival, please name overleaf the responsible adult who will accompany you during the day.

Canterbury Province

Guild of Vergers

80th Anniversary Festival

Please return form by 25th August 2012.

Cheques payable to "CEGV - Canterbury Branch".

All bookings will be acknowledged, and further instructions will be sent.

Name

(as you'd like to see it on your label)

Address.....

.....

.....

Postcode

Email

Tel

I wish to attend Evensong on Monday 24th ☐ Please Tick

I would like to join the Branch Committee for dinner on Monday 24th ☐

I would like to attend the Candlelit Pilgrimage at 8.30pm on Monday 24th ☐

Tuesday Full Day Attendance @ £25 ☐

Tuesday Attendance without Lunch @ £10 ☐

I wish to robe for Evensong on Tuesday ☐

or ☐

I wish to robe, and I am a National Officer or Area Leader ☐

My Branch wishes to admit me to The Guild during the Eucharist ☐

* Branch name

**GLOUCESTER, HEREFORD
& WORCESTER BRANCH**

Since last writing we have held a number of events starting with, on 1st March, a visit to the Beauchamp Community organized by Les Hooper. April saw our quiet day at Holland House, Cropthorne led by Bishop Christopher Mayfield. In June our chairman and wife hosted a barbecue at their house in Tewkesbury. Some members were able to attend the guild festivals in Leeds and Cambridge bringing back favourable reports. November saw us return to Holland House for our Christmas dinner and entertainment by some members with their favourite prose or poetry. This year began with our AGM at Saint Stephen's Church, Worcester where officers were duly elected for the forthcoming year as follows: Tony Day Chairman, Robert Beattie Treasurer, Sue Lyall Secretary, Canon Graham Lyall Welfare Officer and Raymond Fowler Membership Secretary. A programme was suggested for the coming year.

Sadly the first event of the year was a thanksgiving service for Colin Rodway which was attended by a number of the members on 17th January. On the 21st February some of us went to Worcester Cathedral for the admission to the Guild of Carol Oliver, Graham Williams and Simon De Garis during Choral Evensong. Earlier in the afternoon we were able to either have a guided tour, visit the library or go up the tower. The day was rounded off with pancakes!

Peter Young
Branch Correspondent

**LEICESTER &
PETERBOROUGH BRANCH****January 2012**

We met at Saint James the Great Church, Birstal for an extraordinary meeting, mainly to discuss and approve the increase of Branch fees caused by the rising costs of postage and other costs. Our new treasurer, Clive Mobbs, proposed the increase which was approved by all present. Sylvia Crawley has stood down as our Virger Magazine distributor after a number of years. We thanked her and presented her with a card and a plant. We did the same for Mary Mozley to thank her for her services as Branch Treasurer, we also wished Mary and her husband, Brian, Bon Voyage as they were going to Australia in March for a month. Our Chairman, Jack Lippit, has been poorly in hospital, but we were very pleased to see him at the meeting. Alf Bateman was unable to attend the meeting due to health problems. Fifteen members were present. In future the AGM will take place on the second Saturday in January. Clive and Kate Mobbs will act as Virger Magazine distributors from the beginning of this year. After the Grace, we had light refreshments and a chinwag. We thanked Clive and Kate for being our hosts for the afternoon.

Spring Meetings: 7.30 p.m. Monday 16th April: Holy Apostles, Leicester
7.30 p.m. Monday 14th May: Saint Peter's, Braunstone, Leicester
7.30 p.m. Monday 14th June: All Saints, Asfordby, Leicester
Robes to be worn please.

Marjorie Thomas, Dip GV
Branch Correspondent

OXFORD BRANCH

It will be noted that I am the sole compiler of this report – the reason being that our Branch Social Officer and Correspondent, John Bayliss, died on 2 February; his obit appears elsewhere in this issue. Our prayers are with his widow, Anita (Annie) and her two Daughters. Also in our prayers is Simon Shergold (Verger at Eton College Chapel), whose Mother passed away in January, and Ann and Peter Hudson (of Saint Albans) following the loss of their only Son, Jonathan, who died of cancer in February, at the age of 36. Peter was the instigator of the forming of this Branch and remains as an Honorary Vice President.

The church of Saints Andrew and Mary, Maidenhead, was again the venue for our Annual General Meeting, in January, with proceedings commencing with Holy Communion led by our Branch Chaplain, the Reverend Canon Roy Taylor, followed by the meeting and refreshments (courtesy of Canon Roy), prepared and served by 'The Ladies' – once again, our sincere thanks. At the beginning of the meeting, Tim Woods (previous Chairman), announced his pending move from Eton College (where he has been for nigh on 20 years), to Tonbridge School, Kent, to be their Chapel Verger, taking up this post at the end of March. The thanks of this Branch for his contributions and support over many years were duly recorded and a 'Farewell/Best Wishes' card was signed

by those at this meeting and presented to Tim. (We have already earmarked Tonbridge as a venue to visit when arranging our social calendar!)

We are looking forward to the first of our Quiet Days this year, to again take place at Douai Abbey, in late March, which will be led by the Guild's National Chaplain, Canon Maureen Palmer. The day, not only providing us with time to reflect on the season of Lent thereby leading us into the celebration of Easter, will also provide us with a time to give thanks to God for those who have gone before us knowing that they are in Our Lord's safe hands and loving care.

Michael Golby, FCEGV
Branch Chairman

J & M SEWING SERVICE LTD

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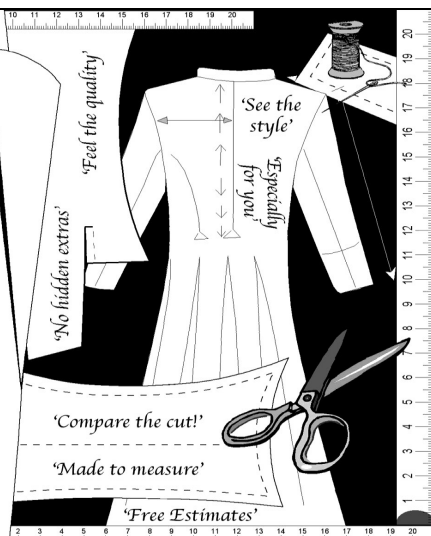
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R.I.P

John Bayliss
21st February 1930 — 2nd February 2012

After deteriorating health over a number of years, John passed away whilst in hospital and although he had been determined to see out his remaining time in his beloved cottage at Hurst (next to the church which he had served for many years), this was not to be by the very nature of the care he required.

John was born in London but evacuated during the Second World War ending up in Berkshire where he became involved with farming eventually becoming a Herdsman. After living in digs for some 19 years, he moved into No 1, Church Cottage, Hurst, in 1969, which remained his home until his death. He changed his job becoming a member of the County Council Highways department and soon became a foreman because of his man-management skills. When he was no longer able to undertake the physical aspects of this work because of back problems, he transferred to the Library and Museum department of the same County Council where he undertook security and cleaning responsibilities, eventually retiring in the late 1980's.

John met Anita (Annie) at a funeral when they established that they had family links; they married in 1982, John thereby 'adopting' a readymade family of two daughters (from Anita's previous marriage), with grandchildren to follow. John had already been tending the gardens and cemetery surrounding the church – St. Nicholas – as he was a keen gardener (being a member of the RHS at Kew Gardens). He grew many exotic plants from seed in his greenhouses numbered 1, 2 and 3, (at the back of the cottage), and some of these were planted in the church gardens and surrounds and have now developed into substantial trees – a lasting memory.

During the mid eighties John was encouraged to take an active role within the church and this led to him taking on the role of vergier. He joined the Oxford Branch of the Guild in 1989 and soon after became its Social Officer and Correspondent, a position he held until he died. He and Annie were active supporters of the Branch and only John's failing health prevented positive involvement in the last year or so. John loved his role as a vergier – it gave him much joy and satisfaction – and it was a ministry that he fulfilled with great pride and dedication. His generosity and thoughtfulness will always be remembered, as will his advice and encouragement delivered in his softly spoken voice. We give thanks for his contribution to the Guild, especially to this Branch and he will be greatly missed by each and every one of its members. Our thoughts and prayers are with Anita, Louise, Sarah and other family members, at this time. 'May he rest in peace and rise in glory'.

Michael Golby, FCEGV
Oxford Branch Chairman

Colin Rodway
8th September 1944 — 29th December 2011

We have all been saddened by the passing of Colin, our lifelong and inspirational Church member who has served us as Chorister, PCC member, Churchwarden and Vergier.

His deeply appreciated enthusiasm and commitment, friendship and good humour, extend beyond our own congregation through his work for many charitable and professional associations both locally and nationally. Our sympathy goes out to his family.

A service of Thanksgiving for Colin was held on January 17th, and his memory observed at our weekly services.

From Holy Trinity, Malvern February Magazine

Joan Olive Mount

Joan died of a hefty stroke on January 19th. Luckily she was with friends who whipped her into hospital and sent for Canon Hall, who was with her and the family when she died.

Joan trained as a children's nurse, and was much loved nanny and nurse at Kent & Canterbury Hospital. Here she met Brian, they married and the family of girls grew to three. She had always had a love of Saint Paul's and latterly became a very busy vergier there, especially after Brian died.

She will be remembered by all of us who knew her with the greatest love and affection, and I am sure all in the Guild will send the family their greatest sympathy and prayers on their loss. May Joan and Brian rest in peace.

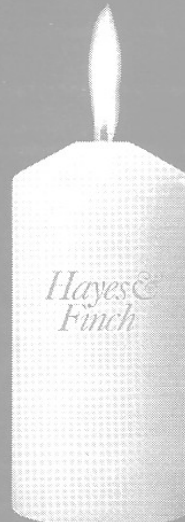
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*Rest eternal grant unto them, O Lord,
 and let light perpetual shine upon them*

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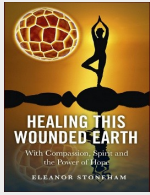
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Book Review



Healing this Wounded Earth: with Compassion, Spirit and the Power of Hope by Eleanor Stoneham (Verger at Saint Peter's, Limsfield)

When we look at the news and assess the state of the world, it's hard to avoid the conclusion that human civilization is sick, and through our sickness we are deeply wounding the Earth. I have no doubt that the Living Planet will survive whatever humanity throws at it, but I am not so confident that Homo Sapiens will. It is this strand of pessimism that Eleanor Stoneham sets out to counter with messages of hope from many quarters. The world's problems, she argues, are caused by our own healing needs, flowing from our woundedness or emotional traumas, together with a loss of the sense of the sacred in our lives. It is only through healing and a new earth consciousness, a deep spirituality, that we will be able to build a better, more sustainable future. The solution, therefore, is to rediscover our souls, and transform ourselves both individually and collectively. The expressed mission of the book is to explore the principles of healing, compassion and spirit in our work places, families and communities.

It's hard to exaggerate the importance and urgency of this message. And the more books that are written on this theme from different philosophical, religious, spiritual, intellectual and experiential perspectives, the more this message will spread, and the greater our hope of survival will become. Hence this book is important. It will appeal most, I think, to those with a religious, particularly Christian, background, but Eleanor Stoneham takes an inclusive approach, drawing on sources from many religious and spiritual traditions besides her own Anglican Church. We are creating the future of humanity and Earth. Far better to do it consciously, and with deliberate intent, than travel down the slippery slope of apathy and denial. Please read this book, and act upon its message.

Book Review by Malcolm Hollick author of Hope for Humanity and The Science of Oneness



Could your radio mics be illegal?

2012 is not only the Olympic Year; it's also the year that the Government sells off highly valuable radio frequency bands – mainly used for radio microphones at the moment – to private companies.

Why are they doing this?

Well, firstly to bring the UK in line with the rest of Europe, and secondly to enable smartphone providers – such as Vodafone – to deliver a new kind of '4G' mobile phone service to us.

What's actually happening?

Certain radio microphone frequencies on the UHF spectrum are becoming illegal to use from October 2012. If you're on Channel 70 – or you don't have a license to use your radio mics – then you're fine. But if you do, then you'll need advice on whether your systems can be used.

Where can I get advice?

Being the friendly people that we are, we're offering free assistance to all – simply send an email with your radio mic frequencies to 'digital.switchover@hans-kolberg.co.uk' and we'll get back to you within 24 hours explaining what to do next!

What if I have a problem with my sound reinforcement system that's not about radio mics?

Well, we'll give you free advice about that too!
Send an email to advice@hans-kolberg.co.uk and look forward to our response.

HANS KOLBERG



London, Southwark & Chelmsford member Phillip Chancellor receiving the Royal Victorian Order from the Queen at Buckingham Palace. This is in the personal gift of the Queen and was presented in recognition of Phillip's 15 years as Verger of the Queen's Chapel of the Savoy. This is the chapel of the Royal Victorian Order. The only other verger to receive this was the late David Dorey.

Stephen Haude
Area Leader

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Did you know?

The word 'Lent' appears to have its beginnings in Anglo-Saxon, where the word means to lengthen, indicating that days are getting longer and spring is coming.

Simnel cake, made with fruit and spices, is often eaten on Mothering Sunday. Traditionally it was made by children and given to their mother. Simnel cakes are eaten at Easter too. The cake sometimes comes decorated with 11 marzipan balls, one for each of the disciples. The 12th, Judas, who betrayed Jesus, is not included.

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

Psalms 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 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 contained in, or for any offence caused by any of articles or letters published herein.