

Summer 2012
Issue 275



Virgil
Filo



Welcome to the Summer 2012 issue of the Guild of Vergers Magazine. 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 Autumn Issue: Friday 24th August 2012

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Book Review



Heaven by Paula Gooder

Opening a new book by Paula Gooder is a bit like opening a box of chocolates: you just know there are going to be wonderful things inside. And this slim volume is full of wonderful things. Given how little anyone can claim to know about heaven with certainty, she helps us try to make sense of the many, often contradictory, ways it has been described, stirring the mix of ideas to encourage readers to re-imagine the rather nebulous (sorry!) heaven of popular culture in a manner which "takes seriously the reality of God and the reality of a realm beyond our own."

But not that far beyond. Heaven and earth were created together, bound together and will be transformed at the end of days. Paula Gooder suggests this means that heaven was created as somewhere closely associated with earth for the transcendent God to dwell alongside humanity. Celtic spirituality talks of the "thin places" which bring heaven closer – and in Christ, all places are thin, or sacred, because all are potentially doorways to heaven. And that's only chapter one – her style is so

engaging and her enthusiasm so infectious, you just have to read on. Help yourself to another chocolate, so to speak.

Like all the best boxes of chocolates, the contents of this one are varied: language, imagery, worship and the history of ideas packaged alongside questions about life after death, judgement, angels and resurrection. If you wish, you can read it purely on an academic level (and the excellent notes will give you guidance for further study), but how and, perhaps, when we see heaven affects how we live our lives on earth.

If it is somewhere distant in time and space, that posits a very different response than if heaven is close at hand. But what if heaven is actually here and now? Should we live today as we would hope to live in eternity? And pastorally, we need to know as individuals what we think about heaven if we are to offer real hope to the dying and the bereaved. I know I'm going to find this book really helpful, and I hope you do too.

Reviewed by Norma Fergusson



Shop



Name Badge £7.50

Guild Fleece £25.00



Catalogue for 2012 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.com
Or via the Guild Website: www.cofegv.org.uk



Lanyard £2.00

Silk Tie £16.00



Front Cover: Designed by Mrs Amanda Berry. **Jubilee Logo:** The emblem is the winning design following a national competition for children aged between 6 and 14. It was designed by 10-year-old Katherine Dewar, from Chester.



Chairman's Letter – June 2012

As the Olympic Torch is carried up and down the country I was thinking that we to will be preparing to carry ourselves towards our very own educational Olympics.

Our Training Conference will be sure to exercise our minds under the starting gun of the Training Officer and his team. Please register soon with the forms included in this magazine. The other national event in this our 80th anniversary year is the Canterbury Province Festival to be held in Canterbury Cathedral. To avoid disappointment you will need to book soon as I am told that a good many have already done so.

I must congratulate Gordon Scott and all the team from the Durham and Newcastle branch for all their hard work in making the York Province Festival at Newcastle Cathedral such a success. It was great to see so many of you there. There was a good few folk who had travelled a great distance to spend some time in the City and I do hope we have convinced you that we have a lot to offer up north.

Various key positions within the guild at national level are waiting to be filled :- General Secretary, Communications Officer and now Dee Coulton-Ball after several years of increasing our profile with General Synod as our Liaison Officer has decided to step down. Dee, many thanks for all your hard work. So if you think you could offer to serve the guild in any of the above positions please do contact me.

Wishing you well and see you at conference.

James Armstrong



Did you know?

About 50 Bibles are sold every minute. It is the worlds best-selling book. Some 1 billion copies of Bibles have been sold.

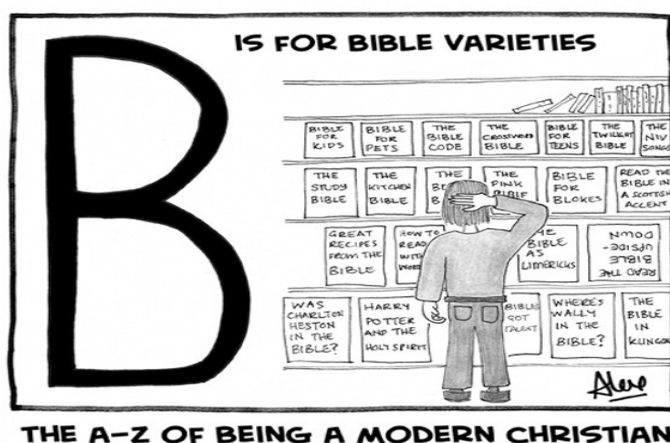
The Bible was written in three languages: Hebrew, Aramaic, and Koine Greek.

Psalm 18, verse 8: 'It is better to trust in the Lord than put confidence in man', is the exact middle point of the Bible.

The Epistle of James, written about A.D.45, is the oldest book of the New Testament and Revelation, written about A.D.95, is the youngest.

CAKE OR DEATH

by alex baker



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**.





Chaplain's Page

Dear Friends,
The days of our lives are rather like beads threaded on a string! Most days, and beads, are grey and often uninteresting, even boring but occasionally there is a large brightly coloured bead which lights our life and reflects the joy for several days to come. I don't know how you are placed in your Cathedral/ Church/ Community but here in Hereford we seem to be expecting red bead after red bead for the foreseeable future.

Yesterday the Olympic Torch came through the city, and although I have to confess my interest in the Games is marginal, it did provide a real lift for many of the people here. The Cathedral was full of visitors and the Close full of people picnicking and enjoying the sunshine.

The next celebration will be the Diamond Jubilee commemoration with the Eucharist followed by wine – provided by the Dean Emeritus who celebrates the Diamond Jubilee of his deaconing on the same day! – a picnic and sing song, and finally Choral Evensong. The red bead of that day will be a day of reflection too for Her Majesty's contribution to the life and well-being of our country. She is an example to us all: a person of strong faith, who lives out that faith with integrity, and follows the example of our Lord Jesus in devotion to duty and service. Recently in a lecture about Coronations, the speaker suggested that the high spot of the service was not the crowning but rather the anointing – the setting aside for service – and the whole within the context of the Holy Communion following the command of Jesus 'Do this in remembrance of me.' The Queen is due to visit Hereford in July when she will be whisked round spending a little time with each of the important organizations and places within the city. (She has ten minutes in the newly refurbished Close at the Cathedral and the Dean is allowed just 30 seconds to say something meaningful.) However brief the visit, it will be another of those 'red bead days' on which we shall look back with joy. We need those 'red bead days' but they are not only necessary to 'keep us going' and relieve the boredom of humdrum lives, but they provide useful points for reflection on our lives and on the lives of those around us. As we reflect on the Queen's reign, we give thanks that we enjoy a democracy and the freedom that such democracy brings and that we enjoy stability. We are indeed truly blessed.

With my love and prayers
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
Gloucester, Hereford & Worcester: Joy Birkin, Margaret Burston & Jim Wooldridge
Lincoln & Southwell: Reverend Robert Whitehead
Oxford: Anita (Annie) Bayliss, David Dutton, Jean Hedley & Margaret Morris
Rochester: Victor Warren
Saint Albans: Peter Hudson
Salisbury: Barbara Carr & Babs Taylor
Somerset & Avon: 'Dick' Chenoweth, Lionel Holway, Christopher Jones, Peter Martin
York: John Roycroft

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

Thanks for: Ralph White of the London, Southwark & Chelmsford Branch
who has returned to work after suffering ill health

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R.I.P

Paul Birkin
Gloucester, Hereford & Worcester

Julian Morley
Leicester & Peterborough

*Rest eternal grant unto
them, O Lord, and let light
perpetual shine upon them,
May they rest in peace*

CANTERBURY & EAST KENT BRANCH

On Saturday 24th March fourteen members of the Branch met at Saint Paul's Church, Sandgate, for a Eucharist followed by a bring and share lunch and our AGM. Paul Lockyer, Vice Chairman, presided over the meeting in the absence of our Chairman, Julian Thorn, who was attending his cousins wedding.

The Minutes of last years AGM were read followed by the reports from the Secretary and the Treasurer. We then went on to elect our Branch Officers for the coming year — Julian Thorn: Chairman, Paul Lockyer: Vice Chairman, Jim Boughton: Secretary & Bryan Webb: Treasurer. We did not elect an Area Leader as it was Rochester's turn and there was a problem finding someone to fulfil the role, so this was referred back the committee for further thought.

It was regretted by all of us that we have lost several members. Chris Crooks, Rosemary Ballard and other members all felt that efforts should be made to advertise the Guild if and when we travel and see other Churches with a Verger, or someone doing the Vergers job, and encourage them to join the Guild. Jim Boughton reminded us that it was our Guild and a discussion on where would we like to go and where would we like to meet gave rise to several ideas. Chris then gave us an update on the 80th Anniversary in September, which is going well. We then had a cuppa and a natter. The meeting closed at 3.15 p.m.

We would like to thank the Vicar, the Reverend Mark Hayton, and his Churchwardens for letting us have our meeting at Saint Paul's.

Cherry Johnstone
Branch Correspondent

LEICESTER & PETERBOROUGH BRANCH

SPRING MEETINGS

We began our spring meetings on Monday 12th March with a Branch Supper held at Saint Crispin's Church Hall, Braunstone. There was a good selection of food in the three courses we had as well as good portions. During the evening we had our usual raffle and raised £36.00 for Branch Funds. Wine and Primula plants were presented to the catering team. There were two plants left over, so one was put into the raffle and the other was sent to one of our members, Evelyn Weston, who was unable to attend due to ill health.

Sylvia Crawley, another of our members, read out a story retold of 'The Prodigal Son' called 'Pa Pardons Penitent Prodigal' by Judith Cooper of Northampton. Sylvia did well to get through it without getting tongue-tied with all the P's.

We thanked Jack Lippett, our Chairman, for organising the evening and the catering team for all their hard work. Thirteen members and friends attended and it was a very good evening.

On Monday 16th April, thirteen members of the Branch along with members of the congregation met at Holy Apostle's Church, Leicester, for a service of Holy Communion with hymns presided over by the Curate, the Reverend Tim Day, assisted by the Reader, Daphne Over.

During the service we prayed for the family of the late Julian Morley, Dip.GV, former Secretary and Area Leader of this Branch. In recent years he had been made a Life Member of the Guild. Julian had passed away that morning after a long illness. After the service we all signed a sympathy card for Julian's family. We then had some very tasty refreshments and the usual chinwag.

Our Chairman, Jack Lippett, thanked the Curate, the Reader, the Organist and the Verger, Anne Anderson, for hosting the evening.

On Monday 14th May, thirteen members of the Branch along with members of the congregation met at Saint Peter's Church, Braunstone, for a service of Holy Communion, presided over by our Chaplain, the Reverend James Shakesphere. The robed members processed around the outside of the church, led by our Chairman, Jack Lippett, who is Verger at Saint Peter's. We sang some lovely old fashioned hymns in the service which I personally enjoyed very much.

During the service we had three admissions, including Geoff and David from Derby Cathedral. We hope that they will enjoy our fellowship in the future.

After the service we had our usual refreshments provided by members of the congregation. Jack Lippett thanked Reverend James for taking the service and the Organist from Huncote, who had come to play for us. Our thanks go to Jack for acting as our host for the evening.

Marjorie Thomas, Dip.GV
Branch Correspondent

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LONDON, SOUTHWARK & CHELMSFORD BRANCH

VISIT TO SOUTHWARK CATHEDRAL

On Friday 23 March the Branch were invited to a visit and tour of Southwark Cathedral by the Head Verger and Branch member Paul Timms.

Southwark Cathedral is not a Cathedral of mighty abbots, kings and politicians; it is a Cathedral of mostly ordinary people who found their lives changed by faith. The Priory Church of St. Marie Overie at Southwark has dominated the south bank of the River Thames for at least 900 years. It was saved from demolition in the early 19th Century and was raised to cathedral status in 1905 as the centre of a new diocese which reaches as far south as Gatwick Airport with a total of 306 parishes.

We were greeted at the Cathedral by Paul Timms who then handed us over to the Canon Chancellor Jane Steen who was to introduce us to the Stations of the Cross.

After lighting our candles we embarked on our journey around the Cathedral to the 14 Stations. It was a very moving experience with the Canon Chancellor reading the reflections and meditations and us members of the Branch reciting the readings. The 13th Station was a sculpture by David Mach RA called Die Harder. It was a massive sculpture of the figure of Christ in pain and anguish on the Cross pieced by thousands of spears. The pain in the face of Christ was captured brilliantly.

David Payne one of the guides then related the history of the Cathedral to us as we walked around.

The evening was rounded off with cheese and wine. There was a wonderful selection of cheese for us to enjoy while we were exchanging stories about our various places of worship.

Our thanks go to Paul Timms and the Cathedral staff for a very entertaining and most enjoyable evening.

Alan Taylor
Branch Correspondent

OXFORD BRANCH

On one of those glorious, summer-like days that we enjoyed in the middle of March, fifteen members, friends and guests descended on Douai Abbey, Upper Woolhampton, Berkshire, for the first of this year's Quiet Days. To drive through the countryside of Bucks, Oxon and Berks in such weather, with the flush of spring so apparent, was a joy and delight and enhanced the pattern of and the theme for the day being 'The Wilderness Adventure of Jesus and The Wilderness Pilgrimage through Lent'.

We were privileged to have as our Speaker and Celebrant, Canon Maureen Palmer – the Guild's National Chaplain, who led and guided us through the day in a gentle but disciplined manner, providing us with thought provoking material and allowing us time, in silence, to digest and reflect thereon and to relate same to our own individual situation – much needed in our preparations for the forthcoming Easter celebrations. One phrase that stuck with me was 'any relationship with God is an adventure'.



On behalf of all those present, our sincere thanks to Canon Maureen for leading us on the day and for this opportunity to meet with her, some for the first time. Also, our thanks to the Brothers of Douai Abbey for making us welcome (as always) and for the wonderful meal that was provided at lunch time – our first experience of 'eating in'. The second Quiet Day will be on Tuesday, 30th October, again at Douai Abbey.

Michael Golby, FCEGV
Branch Chairman

WINCHESTER CATHEDRAL - A POEM

How many times must I tell you that you can't do that in here?
Please don't climb upon the gates or swing on the chandelier.
No smoking, sir, it's not allowed, it is a church you know, and if you persist, I'm afraid you'll have to go.
Madam, could you stop your Johnny spitting on the Bishop's Throne,
or is that the sort of thing you'd let him do at home?
Sir, please remove the gum you've just parked on the seat. Did you get permission to sit in the choir and eat?
No, we have no public toilets here but there are plenty in the town.
Yes, I always wear this 'get up' - it's called a Virger's Gown.
Lord, my feet are killing me, my throat is aching too. All in all it's been some day, I'm glad it's nearly through.
You want to say your prayers? Madam, how very odd. You are the first to mention that you wish to speak to God.
I'll show you where the Chapel is and leave you there to pray.
Perhaps you'll say a prayer for me, it's been one hell of a day!

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 (Almsouse 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 ☐

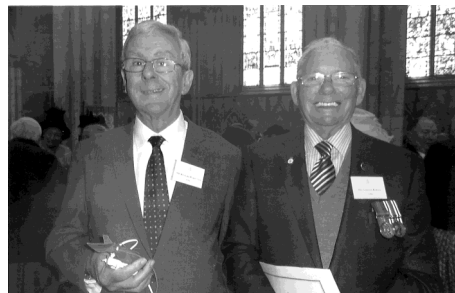
My Branch wishes to admit me to The Guild during the Eucharist ☐

* Branch name

YORK BRANCH

TWO MEMBERS RECEIVE ROYAL MAUNDY MONEY FROM THE QUEEN

On Thursday 5th April, two members of the York Branch received the Royal Maundy Money from Her Majesty the Queen at a wonderful service held in York Minster. Gordon Barley, Verger of Holy Trinity in Hull and Richard Babington of Saint Patrick's Church, Patrington, were two of the 172 recipients (86 men and 86 women). Normally, the Royal Maundy is given to people nominated from within the Diocese of the Church in which the service is held, but this year the Queen decreed that all Diocese in the UK should be represented to mark her Diamond Jubilee. The Queen was accompanied by the Duke of Edinburgh and Princess Beatrice of York with a number of clergy taking part in the service including the Archbishop of York, John Sentamu and the Roman Catholic Bishop of Middlesbrough.



Twice during the service, the Queen left her seat to distribute the money in red and white leather purses assisted by the Lord High Almoner (The Bishop of Manchester) and six Yeomen of the Guard carrying the purses on large platters. The red purse contained a Diamond Jubilee £5.00 coin and 50p piece, whilst the white purse contained specially minted silver 1, 2, 3 and 4 pence coins adding up to 86 pence. Large crowds greeted the Royal party and the sun shone from a cloudless sky, a welcome contrast to the snow and rain of the previous days. Following the service there was a lunch for recipients and their families held in the Assembly Rooms, where there was an opportunity to meet others before dispersing.

FAREWELL SERVICE FOR STEPHEN RUTHERFORD

On a gloriously sunny day 5 members of the York Branch attended the farewell service for Stephen Rutherford at Saint Aidan's Church, Catterick Garrison, North Yorkshire. The service was well attended with people from many nationalities, some in national dress.



Stephen has been a Verger at the Church for 32 years and has taken an active role in many aspects of the work there. The service was led by the Chaplain Richard Smith with a very entertaining sermon given by another padre Rory MacLeod, standing in at very short notice for the Deputy Chaplain General. During the service, presentations were made to Stephen by the Sunday School and the church. Among the presents was a wooden bowl and towel to represent the service he had given to the church and it was only when he removed the towel that he saw the mouse carved into the bowl, the hall-mark of George "Mouseman" Thompson, a very famous local craftsman who had also made many items of furniture for the church.

The hymns were chosen by Stephen and included 'Trust and obey' and 'O Jesus I have promised.' After the service there was a group photograph followed by a superb lunch of chicken or lamb curry cooked by the Ghurkas at the camp. During lunch we were able to talk to many of the people there and hear at first hand of the work that Stephen had done over the years. Unfortunately Stephen's time at the Church had been brought to a premature end by financial cutbacks resulting from the present economic situation. We were delighted to hear that Stephen and his wife Sally have been invited to attend a Garden Party at Buckingham Palace in May.



Richard Babington
Branch Chairman

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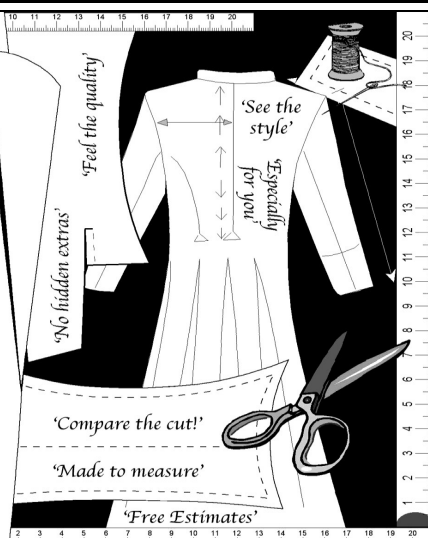
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**Deadline for the
Autumn Issue:**

**Friday
24th August
2012**

Established by
Joyce Davison & Maureen Waterston in 1980

R.I.P

Julian Morley — A Personal Reflection

We are saying farewell to a much loved and caring person and many here will have happy memories of Julian. The number here is testimony to the high regard people have for him, many of you having come long distances to be here, and to encapsulate his significant life into a few minutes is an impossible task. I have probably known Julian longer than anyone present since we were born in same road back in Birstall near Leicester. I even met Betty before Julian did since she has been a friend of my wife since school days. However, back in those early days Julian was just a passing acquaintance – no specific friendship.

Julian started his working life as an electrician. Then came National Service and we were both in the Royal Signals at the same time, serving in different Regiments at Catterick in Yorkshire, and I recall spending very cold nights, huddled together under our great coats as we returned after week end leave on unheated buses in mid-winter.

After National Service, continuing as an electrician didn't work out and Julian joined the Fire Service where he remained for all his working life. He was always, and is still, known as "Jim" in the Fire Service, and apart from being Jim he was referred to as "The Master", and he was especially known as a great joker. He was the one, when they were washing down after a call out, that would turn a hose onto the crew and start a water fight. He was the one, when they had to organise their own cooking during weekend duties, who kidded the new recruits that the beautifully crimped edge on the pastry was done with his false teeth. He was the one, when there was a serious water leak in the station, with water pouring through the light fittings, was called for as the electrician, to see what should be done, he stuck a bucket under the leak. But above all he was known as a first class fireman. That's a peep at his Fire Service time, and service has always been his watchword, for his has been a life of service wearing a variety of different hats – often several at the same time.

First of all his has been a life of great faith, and devoted, loving service to Christ. A life long service to the scouting movement, from scout to leader and worked on county and national camps and jamborees. A life of dedicated service to the noble art of bell ringing, completing many peels and was tower captain back in Birstall. A life of loyal service as a vergers and supporter of the Guild of Vergers. Through all these differing aspects of his life there has been a selfless dedication in encouraging, supporting and helping people, practically, pastorally, by befriending and talking through difficulties – all done in an almost invisible way. An astute judge of character, "always see if they have clean shoes" when assessing a stranger, was his maxim!

I came to know Julian more when I retired from work 20 years ago and he invited me to join him every Wednesday doing maintenance jobs at the church, and through that a firm friendship developed. The maintenance team now consisted of 3 and we were soon dubbed "The Last Of The Summer Wine", our 3rd member always wore a raincoat and a flat cap and was a natural for Clegg, I being tall was Foggy and Julian was of course Compo. He was asked by the MU if we would entertain them at their Christmas party and he said "Yes". We'd never done anything like that but, with his encouragement, we wrote a script and did a performance all suitably attired, he bought a jacket from a charity shop, dirtied it and ripped it for part of his Compo costume. I recall one of the lines directed at Compo was "Can anything decent come in trousers like that". We dug up a huge Christmas tree one year for the church and in true Last Of The Summer Wine manner we all finished up on our backs with tree on top. Helpless with laughter. So it has been a full life, a happy life shared with Betty, Richard, Vernisha, and his most recent delight, his grandson Daniel. He has been the friend of everyone, always wearing a smile, always aware of those less fortunate and a constant servant of our Lord Jesus Christ.

It was with sadness that I did the farewell speech and presentation when he left Birstall church in 1998, it is with great sadness that I say farewell now to a true friend. Rest in peace Julian.

By a friend of Julian & Betty

*Sent in by Kathryn Mobbs. DipGV (Hons)
Vergers at St. James the Great, Birstall, Leicester*

Forthcoming Events

2012

Tuesday 25th September
Canterbury Province Festival at Canterbury Cathedral
(80th Anniversary of the Guild)

Sunday 5th — Thursday 9th August
Annual Training Conference
Elim Conference Centre, West Malvern

September 2013

Saint Albans
Details to be confirmed

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‘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.

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