

THE VIRGER

The Official Magazine of the Church of England Guild of Vergers

Winter 2019 | Issue 305



A VISIT TO SALISBURY BRANCH

MEET OUR FELLOWS

Doreen Cook

CEGV AMBASSADORS TO VGEC

www.cofegv.org.uk



FROM THE DESK OF THE EDITOR



Gosh - what a busy week it turned out to be as the deadline approached for submissions to this edition of the Virger!

The day before the deadline our church hosted the final concert for a local Arts Festival: a 230-strong children's choir, around 70 musicians accompanying them, and 450 parents, siblings and friends filled the nave. Friday was mostly spent putting everything back into its place and trying to re-set the boiler which had decided to stop working. Saturday, and on entering the church I found we had been broken into (nothing of any intrinsic value taken or broken)

so the day was spent waiting for the police and SOCO, and, of course, the boiler man, whilst also getting ready for another concert. Normal four services on Sunday and then Julie Masters' funeral on Monday. I'm sure this all sounds familiar - it's just "what we do" from day to day. I pray we all have some time to ourselves to appreciate Advent despite the melée of school and other carol services. And that our Christmas, when it comes, will be filled with joy and peace.

Blessings

Jane Gorrie
Editor

Please note that all submissions for the next edition should reach Jane via email, **CEGVMedia@gmail.com** no later than the date here:



How should you do this....Submissions for all editions of The Virger should reach me before the set deadline. If they miss this date, they may be held over to the next edition. All articles should be sent in MS Word files only and photographs in JPEG format. Please attach text and image files separately in one email.

Cover photo - the Virge of St Mary's, Horsham. If you would like us to feature your Virge on the front cover, please send a good, clear photo to the Editor. Please remember to get permission from your clergy or Wardens as appropriate.

FROM THE DESK OF THE NATIONAL CHAIRMAN



At the time of writing, Advent Sunday is just around that corner where vergers turn their thoughts to the myriad of Carol Services. The congregation who attend are overwhelmed by the message of Advent and Christmas, enjoying wonderful music and readings. To the Verger, it tends to be "here we go again" with decorating, chair moving and so much additional work on top of the usual diary of services. During this hectic time, do try to make time for yourselves and find time to reflect on the season that we are in and its meaning.

2020 is also around the corner. It is a time of transition and change as we look forward to an exciting time within the Guild. We need to focus on the upcoming elections of the new Regional Representatives who will replace the Area Leaders. Our magazine has undergone a style change and is under new editorship with Jane Gorrie. Later in the year, we will say

goodbye to Canon Maureen and welcome Rosemary as our new National Chaplain. Also, there will be elections of other officers during the year. The new year will also be a time for AGMs within our branches. We will also be bedding in the changes that have been agreed in the management of the Guild, and the officers will be having plenty of discussions over the next few months.

The weather is never on our side during this busy period. The varying temperatures mean heating our churches, as well as trying to keep ourselves warm and healthy. Already this winter, I have heard of a verger who fell over on black ice while walking to work. Please stay safe and warm during this season and I wish you all a Merry Christmas and prosperous New Year.

John Kirby-Shearer

FROM THE DESK OF THE NATIONAL CHAPLAIN



Dear Friends,

Greetings for the season of Advent! I am sure that you are all looking at the diary and wondering how you will eat or sleep over the next few weeks!

I am sure that some of you will know the children' carol which begins:

How far is it to Bethlehem?
Not very far.
Shall we find the stable-room
Lit by a star?
Can we see the little Child,
Is he within?
If we lift the wooden latch
May we go in?

The carol ends:

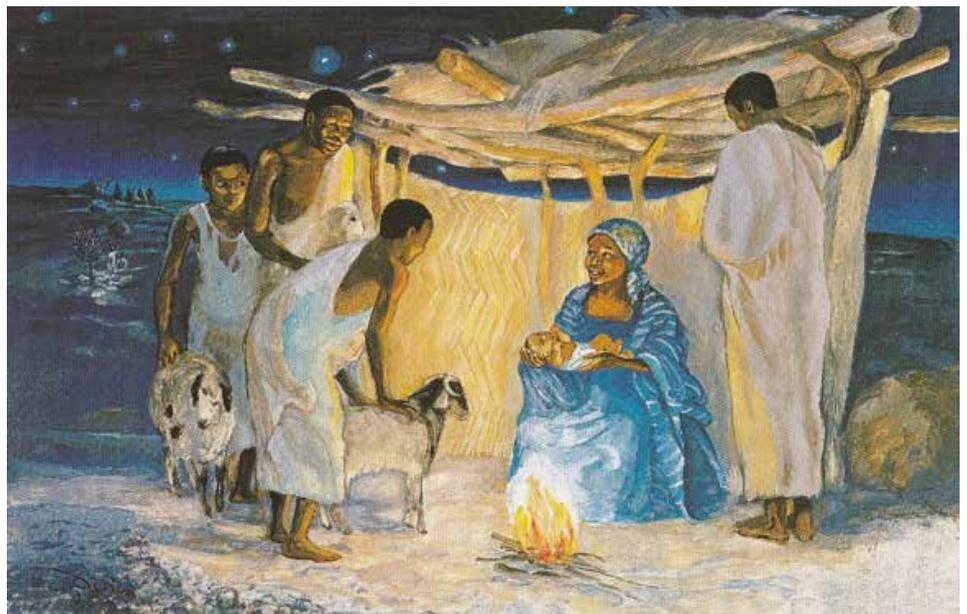
God in his mother's arms.
Babes in the byre,
Sleep, as they sleep who find
Their heart's desire.

This is such a simple message but one we do well to ponder. During the days of Advent we are on a journey to Bethlehem - it's not very far but the going is hard and uphill and we will take a month of hard grind to get there. For Mary, the journey must have seemed interminable for she was uncomfortable, perhaps hungry and thirsty, and she must have been very frightened that the baby would appear before they reached Bethlehem, or that they would find nowhere to stay when they arrived.

For us, we must negotiate our way through endless Carol Services, tinsel on the floor, crumbs from mince pies that we must clean up and the smell

of mulled wine, which will pervade our churches. We might well ask, 'What has this to do with the birth of a child?' Yet, we will reach Bethlehem, and we will enter the stable-room on Christmas morning when we receive our Lord in the joy of his birth: our heart's desire in bread and wine. We shall perhaps, as we relax on Christmas night, be able to appreciate that we have found our heart's desire in that Child.

I especially like this depiction of the Nativity from Africa, with the makeshift tent over the Virgin and Child and the shepherds standing within the light.



We understand the simple message that Jesus, this little Child is not only a man who was born, lived and died two thousand years ago: he was also God. He is the God of love; the God for whom we long; the God who longs for us; the God who is our heart's desire.

As Herod said to the magi, so God now says to us: 'Search diligently for the Child' and when you have found him, your heart's desire, worship him in wonder and awe.

I wish you all the joy of the Christ Child and the peace that he will bring.

Every blessing and much love,

Canon Maureen

'We understand the simple message that Jesus, this little Child is not only a man who was born, lived and died two thousand years ago.'

YORK BRANCH NEWS

A small number of guild members went to Sheffield for Ben and Maria's wedding in June. We were given a guided tour of Sheffield Cathedral by Paul, the Canon's Virger. He showed us the Virger's window which depicts an angelic-looking verger with wings (unlike any Virger I've come across) holding up the completed cathedral. We were also shown the 3 virges, the oldest being about 1920 inscribed GVPN (northern province). The newest one resembling a mace, which, without careful handling could give a nasty clunk to the head!



"Window given by the Virgers of the Diocese of Sheffield".

We had a nice lunch in the Cathedral Café, and then we moved on to Carver Street, to the church of St Matthew. This large, Anglo/Catholic church is ornately decorated was the venue for this Nuptial Mass for



Ben and Maria. Father Grant Naylor presided and we watched our youngest member make his vows and shared Eucharist with them. A lovely day and a packed church.

"Maria and I would like to thank all members of the Guild who sent well-wishes, cards and gifts. It was a truly blessed day" Ben Elliott-Hill.

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**.

Our prayers are asked for:

Oxford Branch

Molly Payne and Gerry Knight.

Bill Pearce whose wife, June, passed away in June.

Somerset & Avon

Marek Barden, Joy Stevens, Trevor Llewellyn, Lionel & Mary Holway

London, Southwark & Chelmsford

The Very Rev'd Canon Ian Elliott Davies, Rector of St Thomas the Apostle Anglican Episcopopol Church, Hollywood, California, Janet and Gilford Crowell

York

Sam Fletcher, Del Boden, Andrew Handcock, Ted Lemons, Doreen & George Cook

St Albans

Peter Hudson

East Anglia

Marjorie Wakeling, Val Pizey

Blackburn, Chester & Manchester

Tony Hales, Freda Murphy, Patricia Platt, Margaret Scott

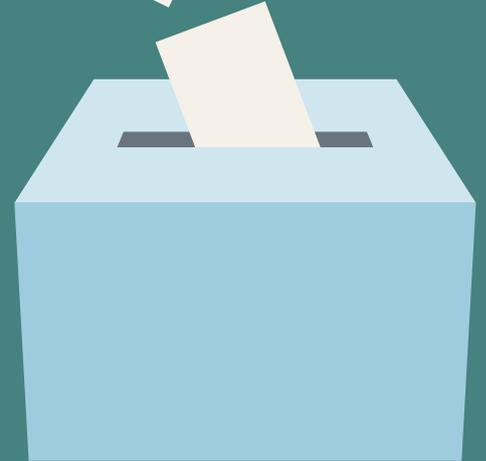
Leicester, Peterborough with Derby Branch

David Edwards

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



FROM THE GENERAL SECRETARY



As you should have all by now received either an email or a letter advising you of the changes to the Guild that were voted on at the AGM in August. Here is just a short reminder:

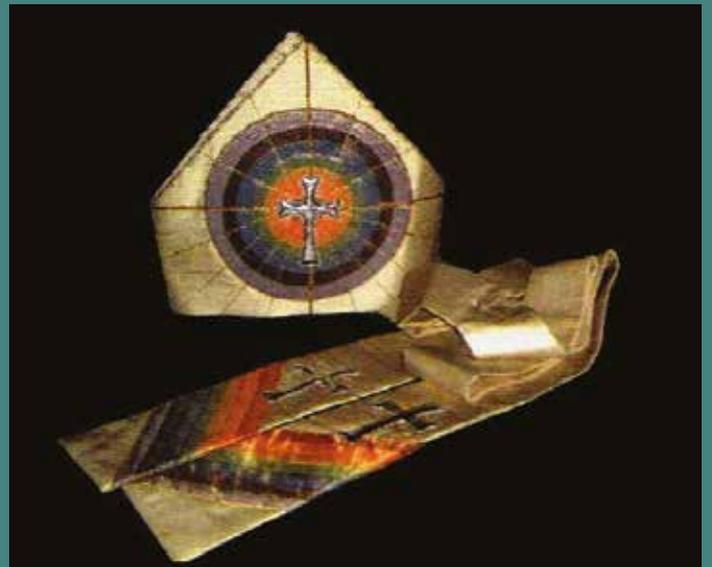
At your next Branch AGM you will be asked to elect a New Regional and a Deputy Regional Representative. These may not be from your Branch, but will be responsible for keeping you informed of what is happening in the Executive Group Meetings. You are also asked to keep them informed about what is happening within your Branches.

In August 2020 we have elections for the following posts:

- National Chairman (3 years), currently held by John Kirby-Shearer (who may be elected for one further term). This post is now open to every full member of the Guild, rather than only being elected from the Area Leaders (as previously).
- National Treasurer (5 years), currently held by Robert Beattie.
- Training Officer (3 years), currently vacant
- Overseas Membership Officer (3 years), currently held by John Campbell.
- Legal Advisor (5 years), currently held by Timothy Wigglesworth.

If you are interested in standing for any of these roles please do not hesitate to contact me CEGVGenSec@gmail.com for further details. All candidates are asked to submit a brief biography for inclusion in the next Virger Magazine.

Stephen Stokes
General Secretary



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CEGV AMBASSADORS TO VGEC

On 21st October Denise Mead, Irene Money and Stephen Haude boarded our 10-hour flight from Heathrow to Houston, Texas. We were on our way to the conference of the Vergers Guild of the Episcopal Church.

This was held at Camp Allen, a 7-mile plot of woodland and lakes owned by the Episcopal Church and 65-miles from Houston in Navasota County. It was beautifully appointed with quality en-suite rooms, superb food and a big chapel. This was a trial departure from the usual big city conference and the first time we didn't have to lug our heavy robes 5,000 miles. This enabled us to travel light with carry-on cases.

The keynote speaker was Rt. Revd Andrew Doyle, Bishop of Texas. Over three day of sessions we had speakers of the highest calibre covering the topics: 'Confessions of an Episcopal Evangelist' by Mollie Carnes and 'Digital Literacy for Ministry' by Revd Stacy Williams-Duncan.



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During the AGM elections John Townsend, who many of you remember when he flew over to our Malvern conference, was elected to the governing board of the VGEC. John is also a full member of our CEGV in the London, Southwark & Chelmsford Branch.

We three Brits had a wonderfully warm welcome and had a great time of comradeship with our American peers. Next year the VGEC conference will be in Seattle. If we go, alas, robes will be needed for the big cathedral procession.

Stephen Haude
Branch Correspondent

MEET OUR FELLOWS

DOREEN COOK

Being a Fellow of the Guild of Vergers is a role I am extremely proud of. Out of 12 Fellows world-wide there are only 2 women. I was the first, and our National Chaplain, Canon Maureen Palmer, the second.

I have enjoyed my role as Verger for many years. The church has been my Spiritual home for all my life and it was my desire to care for the church buildings (wherever I happened to be worshipping) and the churchyards.

An interest in the architecture, history and the ways a church was prepared for worship led me towards becoming a Verger. But the role is much more. Very often the first person a stranger will meet is a Verger, so the role is then very much a pastoral one, caring for the visitor as well as the regular congregation. It has always been important to me to make sure the altar and vessels associated with a service, especially the Eucharist, are in the appropriate place and ready for the priest to begin a service. The seating, the heating and the lighting are also of importance. Carrying the Verge to escort the person leading the service, clearing a pathway "weakest to the wall". Vergers also verge any special visitors patrons, royalty, and other dignitaries.

I willingly took the Diploma course which is a correspondence course with the oversight of my vicar and studied the structure of the Church of England its history and traditions, its administration and pastoral care.



It has been my privilege to serve the church as a verger for over 40 years and a red-letter day when we celebrated the Northern Provincial Rally in my home parish of Kirkleatham North Yorkshire in 2004. At the service I was overwhelmed to be made the first female Fellow.

I have always been happiest in church and deem myself privileged to sweep the floors, dust, move furniture, change light bulbs, sweep the paths, clean the silver, make sure the services are recorded, ensure we have clean linen and enough wine and wafers for the service all jobs that fill me with pride. I have done all these things for the glory of God and for the love of God

'An interest in the architecture, history and the ways a church was prepared for worship led me towards becoming a Verger.'

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BRANCH DIGEST

GLOUCESTER, HEREFORD AND WORCESTER BRANCH

PRESENTATION OF A GUILD OF VERGERS' DIPLOMA AND ADMISSION TO THE GUILD OF VERGERS

Those attending Evensong at Worcester Cathedral on Sunday 3rd November were not only treated to a beautiful service including a visiting choir from St. Peter's in Nottingham but also to the presentation of a Guild of Vergers' Diploma and an Admission to the Guild.

Nathaniel Hitchings was presented with his diploma certificate by the Canon-in-residence, Rev Canon Dr. Stephen Edwards and his academic hood by the Rev. Canon. Dr. Maureen Palmer, National Chaplain. This represents the culmination of several years of study by Nathaniel and he received a well earned round of applause from all those present.

We also welcomed Kirstie Anwyl-Hughes, as an associate member of the Guild. Kirstie was admitted by Canon Maureen who hoped she would enjoy being part of the Guild and taking part in its varied activities.

Taken after the service in front of the High Altar.

David Anwyl-Hughes
Branch Secretary



Left to right: Rev. Canon Greville Cross (Branch Chaplain), Peter Young (Branch Chairman), Carol Oliver (Worcester Representative), Robert Beattie (National Treasurer). Rev Canon Maureen Palmer (National Chaplain), James Prior (Dean's Verger), Kirstie Anwyl-Hughes, David Anwyl-Hughes (Area Leader), Anita Mansell and Nathaniel Hitchings Dip GV.

OXFORD BRANCH

VISIT TO DOUAI ABBEY – 10TH SEPTEMBER 2019

Oxford Branch paid our customary Autumn visit to the Abbey this year and our speaker for the day was the Revd. Canon Angela Tilby, Canon Emeritus at Christ Church, Oxford. Her theme for the day was Procession and Pilgrimage.

She likened our Christian journey to one of Procession – whether leading, in the centre of the procession or bringing up the rear, no position is any more

important than another. She also likened it to Pilgrimage - we should consider our own pilgrimage as a journey of hope. Canon Angela was a very interesting speaker and left us with a lot of questions to ponder.

Our next event will be our annual Christmas Lunch at Charvil on Tuesday 3rd December when we expect to have a very enjoyable time of food and fellowship.

The Branch AGM will be held on Tuesday, 21st January 2020 at CSK, High Wycombe.

'She also likened it to Pilgrimage - we should consider our own pilgrimage as a journey of hope.'

LEICESTER BRANCH

There is little to report from our branch as following the festival we haven't met since as a group and our programme for 2020 is not yet confirmed.

We would like to thank all the vergers who attended the Leicester Festival, for making it such an enjoyable couple of days. Our festival team worked hard to put together an informative and entertaining program. When we first mooted the idea of hosting the festival, members who had previously attended other Festivals said we needed a good "goodie bag"... Here is the team at work

We have a number of bags left over which have been passed over to the Guild shop to sell, so do get one while stocks last.

We are very grateful for the very kind messages of thanks and encouragement received from friends old and new.



SALISBURY BRANCH

MEMORIES OF LIFE BEFORE VERGERING

Hello. My name is Edwin Taylor (Eddie) at present an assistant verger at the parish church, the Priory church of Lady St. Mary in Wareham, Dorset. I started my working life as a toolmaker in the engineering trade. I worked on press tools for the aero/motor industry, also moulds for the cosmetic trade, spending some 50 years in the trade. During this time I fulfilled roles as churchwarden at one of our 5 churches in the parish, and also as a sub-deacon visiting and assisting the priest at that time.

When our son reached his early 20's he joined Youth with a Mission/Mercy Ships (YWAM). Our first venture with

my wife and daughter was to join him in Bogota, Colombia to help refurbish a retreat house on a street kid's farm. From there I went alone to work on repairs in Victoria, Canada, and Cadiz, in Spain. I spent time in Newcastle dockyard during the time a rail ferry was being converted into a hospital ship. Back to YWAM, I helped with drilling water wells in Guatemala, and helped build houses in the poor area of Ensenada, Mexico. The houses are good for 20 years, termites permitting. Finally to San Pedro, in the Dominican Republic, again to build houses, all of this using holiday time from work until retirement.

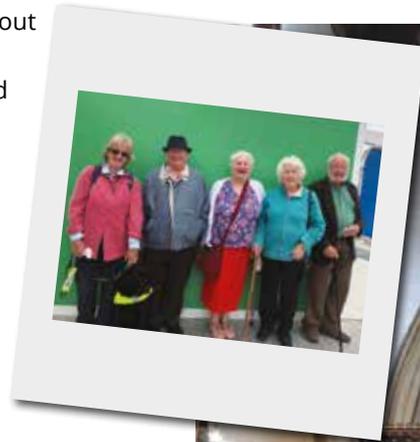
Soon after I was invited to take up the position of assistant verger. I feel the work overseas has been my ministry and to be a verger is to continue that journey.

Foot note. This summer past our rector and his wife visited our son and his wife and children as part of his sabbatical in San Pedro. They work with the local churches holding various courses, including marriage preparation, and work in the local schools spreading the gospel.

BRANCH DIGEST

CHICHESTER, GUILDFORD AND PORTSMOUTH BRANCH

A few of us had a splendid day out by the seaside in Worthing in September.... We were hosted by London Branch member Carole Sharpe, who arranged for us to see the Flower Festival at St Andrew the Apostle church, and to stay for mid-day prayers. We then enjoyed lunch at a local sea-front restaurant and later had a turn on the WOW (Worthing Observation Wheel). Later we had a tour of "the Fishermen's' Church", Christ Church, before heading off home. Huge thanks to Carole (and her gorgeous Associate Guild member guide dog, Layla) for organising us and showing us round.



We are having our Christmas lunch in Cranleigh on January 14th for a change, and our Branch AGM will be at St Bartholomew's Church in Haslemere on Thursday 27th February.

'We then enjoyed lunch at a local sea-front restaurant and later had a turn on the WOW (Worthing Observation Wheel)'



YORK BRANCH

The York Branch of the Guild met up at the beginning of September for a shared Eucharist at York Minster. At the end of the month a small number of branch members met up at Holyrood House for a quiet day, led by our branch Chaplain the Reverend Marian Gardner. We reconnected with friends and other Vergers. It was a lovely place to recharge our spiritual batteries. We had morning and afternoon prayer in the chapel and had time to reflect on readings .

On the 21st Oct we were at St Michael-Belfrey in York. We admitted three new members that day - Libby Naylor from Beverley Minster; Patrick Smith from St Mathew's Church Withernsea, and Ted Lemmons from St James the Great Sheffield. After the Eucharist we shared fellowship (and lunch) in a restaurant in little Stonegate.

Our Christmas meeting is in Leeds Minster on December 2nd and our branch AGM is on Monday February 3rd 2020.

Wishing everyone a reflective Advent, a Joyful Christmas and a Peaceful New Year.

'We had morning and afternoon prayer in the chapel and had time to reflect on readings.'

EAST ANGLIA BRANCH

The East Anglia Branch held their last meeting on Thursday 3rd October at Bury St Edmunds Cathedral. We were delighted to join with Chapter 4 (the Cathedral Volunteer Social Group) for a talk by Charles Garland, who is a member of the Cathedral.

Charles is a writer, composer, television and film producer as well as a director. He spoke about his life and how he came to work for the BBC. He worked on such programmes as Hi-De-Hi; 'Allo! 'Allo!; You Rang; M'Lord; Oh! Dr Beeching, and everyone's favourite Dad's Army. He was very amusing and thanks must go to the Chapter 4 for letting us join them.

Our meeting followed afterwards and during the meeting the group were presented with a small (hand held) cross to be used when praying. The crosses were blessed by the Rev'd Catherine Forsdike before distribution. One of these crosses will also be sent to each of our branch members who were unable to attend on the day.

Pam Cobb
Branch Secretary



LONDON, SOUTHWARK & CHELMSFORD BRANCH AT HAMPTON COURT PALACE

On 7th November 10 branch members received a very warm welcome from James Harris, Dean's Virger of the Chapel Royal. James gave us a comprehensive and interesting history of the Chapel, after which we were pleased to receive the Eucharist in this famous treasure of a Chapel.

We then had lunch in the Palace Refectory. Some of us had the famous medieval meat pie. Delicious – but heartburn followed in my case! James then gave us a lovely tour of the Royal Apartments. Being out of season it was blessedly un-crowded. James was a gem and we thank him for his time and generosity.

Stephen Haude,
Branch Correspondent



A VISIT TO SALISBURY BRANCH

As a young private in the 1st Canterbury Boys' Brigade Company we used to camp in Landford, south of Salisbury. While on our annual camp we would go on a road trip to the Bovington Tank Museum and on another year we went to the Fleet Air Arm Museum, at RNAS Yeovilton, where I purchased one of the many mugs I have collected over the years.

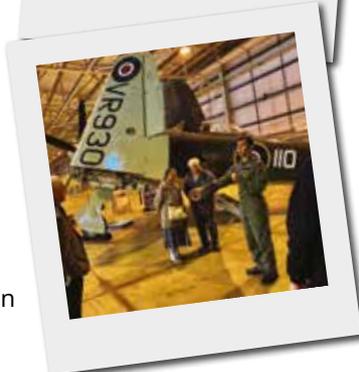


Fast forward more than 30 years later, imagine my surprise and delight to receive an invitation to join the Salisbury Branch on 21 October as they visited 'behind the wire' at HMS Heron, RNAS Yeovilton. Admittedly I thought we were visiting the Museum, but imagine my glee to realise we were going to the side where the public are not permitted.

As I arrived and had my photo taken and attached to my pass that required that I be accompanied at all times (strange how this keeps cropping up!!) the person who was tasked with accompanying me was the Verger, our very own Tina Cullen. We were taken to the Base Chapel, St Augustine's, where we met with some of the Chaplains, talking about the life on the base.

Following tea (with another mug for my collection (given - not taken!!)) we were driven off to the Historic Flight hangar where we were met by a sub-lieutenant who took us around.

Whilst there, we got to see the only airworthy Mk 1 Fairey Swordfish. The Swordfish, launched from HMS Victorious, was responsible for hitting the rudder of the German Battleship Bismark which sank on 27 May 1941. It should be noted that the Swordfish at RNAS Yeovilton was not one of those involved in the hunt for the Bismark.



Moving upwards saw a Mk II Swordfish, while not air-worthy, was a sight to behold, we went on to see a Hawker Sea Fury, where our own Martin Taylor managed to hop on up to take a good look inside.

As we moved around we got to see a rather strange helicopter, the Westland Wasp, which looked like it was missing a lot of its bodywork, however this was intentional to make it as light as possible for using at sea. This helicopter was retired from service in 1981, but then returned to service for the Falkland's War in 1982.



We were then taken into a fenced off area to get a view (albeit it restricted owing to H&S restrictions) of the Sea Vixen that, following difficulty with its landing gear, was forced to make a belly-landing at RNAS Yeovilton in 2017 - it is great to see that this has not benched this magnificent aircraft as they are working on restoring it to air-worthiness.

We then, getting more up to date, we went to see a Sea Harrier and the Phantom, seeing the Royal Navy aircraft from 1934-2006.



Following lunch, back at the Chapel, we went off-base to St Bartholomew's Church. The Church was deemed as unsafe and was made redundant in 1988. The RNAS purchased the church to become the Anglican Church for RNAS Yeovilton in 1992 for £1.00. This beautiful church is now used for regular services following a huge amount of fundraising. It was rededicated on 11 November 1993.





Within this church they have a Stone Altar that was rediscovered after being hidden in the ground for over 500 years, now topped with glass to ensure the Chalice does not topple while in use.

This was a fantastic day, seeing beautiful aircraft, meeting members who I have not seen for a while and the opportunity to give an update on what is happening regarding the future of the Guild.



Thank you, Salisbury Branch, for a wonderfully organised day.

Stephen Stokes
General Secretary

OBITUARIES

Julie Avril Masters 1934 – 2019

It was a huge honour to attend the Service of Thanksgiving for Julie Masters on 25th November 2019 with other Chichester, Guildford and Portsmouth members. Julie was an active Associate member for many years serving with her husband Keith at Chichester Cathedral. The service was held in the Lady Chapel the Cathedral which was filled and overflowing with family, friends and colleagues. A touching Eulogy full of fond memories was given by her eldest grandson Liam, followed by a very warm and thoughtful Address by Revd Canon Tim Schofield. "May she rest in peace, and rise in glory."



Stephen John Guy 13th December 1960 – 4 September 2019

On Monday 16th September, in a most beautiful service of thanksgiving, family, colleagues and friends said goodbye to Stephen and gave thanks to God for his life amongst us. Stephen had served at Hereford Cathedral as a verger for 21 years, a self-effacing man, he loved his role and loved his cathedral and in turn was loved and respected and highly valued by so many whose lives he touched.

In 2016 he had been diagnosed with Non-Hodgkin T-cell Lymphoma. He underwent two rounds of chemotherapy bravely bearing the effects of the treatment. In May 2017, following a period of remission and further treatment, he underwent stem cell treatment at the QE in Birmingham – his brother David being a match. He was later told that he was in complete remission and he and his husband Dave started planning a big trip to the USA and Canada.



In 2019, the cancer returned and nothing more could be done. He was given between two weeks and two months to live. Due to his faith, strength and courage he continued for over four months and died peacefully at home with his husband Dave and beloved Westie Rio by his side. During

his last months he planned and created the beautiful service we attended.

Our grateful thanks to the Dean, the Very Rev. Michael Tavinor and Canon's verger Tim Pryse-Jones for arranging and enabling members of the Guild to attend, robe, process and form a guard of honour for Stephen in the North Porch. Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord; and let light perpetual shine upon him. May his soul, and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

David Anwyl-Hughes
Branch Secretary – Gloucester,
Hereford and Worcester Branch



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You may be interested in events happening across the country hosted by local branches. Please ensure that you contact the local contact prior to attending in case details have changed, especially times or locations. While we are a local Branch-based organisation, we wish to remember that we are equally a National organisation. If your Branch wishes to have their events listed here please let us know.

Monday 4 and Tuesday 5 May 2020

York Province Festival, Carlisle Cathedral

Monday 10 – Thursday 13 August 2020

Annual Training Conference Elim Conference Centre, West Malvern. Anyone wishing to come should contact Margaret Burston on CEGVConference@gmail.com

Wednesday 16 September 2020

East Anglia Branch have offered St Edmundsbury Cathedral as a venue for a Festival Lite. More details will be forthcoming in the near future.

Monday 9 – Thursday 12 August 2021 tbc

Annual Training Conference Elim Conference Centre, West Malvern. Anyone wishing to come should contact Margaret Burston on CEGVConference@gmail.com

If your Branch has any events that you wish to have advertised on this page please contact the Communications Officer CEGVMedia@gmail.com



Church of England Guild of Vergers

York Province Festival

4th & 5th May 2020 Carlisle Cathedral

By kind permission of the Chapter

Monday 4th May (*optional*)

17:45 Evensong sung by the Choristers and Lay Clerks

18:30 for 19:00 Food & Fellowship at The Castlegate Coffee House
for those stray souls staying overnight

Tuesday 5th May

09:30 Arrival & Robing (*should you wish*)

10:15 Guild photo at the High Altar

10:30 Admissions & Eucharist with Hymns

Celebrant :- The Very Revd Mark Boyling Dean of Carlisle

11:45 Sandwich Lunch with a glass of wine or soft drink

13:00 Free time, take a tour of the Cathedral, see the refurbished Fraternity and Undercroft, have coffee and cake in our new café or simply have retail therapy in the city.

17:45 Evensong (*optional*) sung by the Choristers and Lay Clerks

18:20 Departure for those who have not needed to set off earlier.

Please contact James or his team to let us know you are planning to attend.

by phone 01228 535169 or e-mail headverger@carlislecathedral.org.uk

The festival is free but a donation for your meals would be appreciated

CARLISLE CATHEDRAL



NATIONAL CONTACTS

National Chairman

Mr John Kirby-Shearer,
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The Guild 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.



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