

# THE VIRGER

The Official Magazine of the Church of England Guild of Vergers

Winter 2021 | Issue 313



## Guild of Vergers Training Conference 2021 at West Malvern

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# FROM THE DESK OF THE EDITOR



**A**s I sit writing this very belatedly on Remembrance Sunday afternoon, I have been struck, this weekend particularly, how since the summer, life has been slowly returning to a form of normality. I am now regularly singing in the church choir (3 or 4 hymns only - but it's a start). We have had Harvest Festival, collecting and distributing food; there was All Saints and All Souls (with another chance to sing in a larger but carefully socially-distanced choir for a special evening service); theatres and restaurants are open; transport is almost back to normal and there seems to be less fear in the

air. I'm sure we are all praying that this winter will see Christmas services, Carol Services and celebrations returning, as well as the opportunity for family visits - albeit on more safety-conscious terms.

I'm pleased to report that, as my husband and I had tentatively planned, we have found and moved into what we are now calling our "forever home" only eleven months after our unexpected move to Scotland. Only six miles from our previous, temporary place in Galashiels, we are now in the historic market town of Selkirk, where William Wallace was crowned and where Scott

had his Courthouse (and where there is still a busy, castellated Sheriff's Court which we can see from the house). We are surrounded by hills, heather and water - all contributing to the most wonderful Borders scenery. The attached photos are view into and a particular favourite "wild swimming" location (the Rosebay Willowherb gives away the season), tucked away in those hills... I think I may have landed in a little patch of heaven!

**Jane Gorrie**  
CEGV Media Officer



## Cover photo

The cover shows this years' Official Conference photo, copies are available from Stephen Haude, London Branch - email [s.haude1805@btinternet.com](mailto:s.haude1805@btinternet.com)

Please note that all submissions for the next edition should reach Jane via email, [CEGVMedia@gmail.com](mailto: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.



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# FROM THE DESK OF THE NATIONAL CHAIRMAN



**B**y the time this edition reaches you, the season of Advent will be fast approaching. It is the season where we prepare for the birth of Jesus, born in the stable. All too easily, the public see it as the run up to Christmas, with the shops full of Christmas goodies, decorated trees, and our churches holding the myriad of Carol services for the attached schools. That juxtaposition of festivities with Christmas decorations from 1st December and our churches with purple altar frontal and the advent wreaths, tends to make vergers a tad schizophrenic, yet we all survive and for some, relax come Boxing Day. Getting back to normal working patterns after a difficult period will feel very strange.

It is heartening that the Guild continues to move forward towards the 21st century. This is important to make changes so that the Guild can survive into the future. Our churches embraced new technologies with streamed services. Some will see this as a way of surviving, others might seem that without the presence of folk in the pews, could be a difficulty in the future – who knows, the jury is yet to hear the pros and cons.

***“When the pace of Christmas preparations become overwhelming, we are wise to find a quiet space to be with God and to pray.”***

Here in Scotland, Glasgow hosted COP26 and, as expected, there has been much talk about climate change in the news. The leaders from around the world, gathered and kickstarted discussions as to how we should change our lives in travel, heating our homes and the whole issue of fossil fuel. Personally, I feel that the impact on our churches and huge cathedrals has yet to be addressed. Many years ago, I suggested at one church where I worked, the PCC should explore solar panels. Just think on how many of our churches have flat-ish roofs that could accommodate such panels.

As vergers, responsible for the lighting, some questions need to be addressed - do you have modern LED lightbulbs? Have all the floodlights in our buildings been upgraded to LED and are as eco-friendly as possible? Just what is our carbon footprint? These are a few questions that perhaps we should think about and act upon, in conjunction with PCCs and Church committees. Perhaps vergers could kickstart the debate within our churches.

I wish you all a prayerful Advent and a very Merry Christmas, when that joyful day arrives.

**John Kirby-Shearer**  
Chairman



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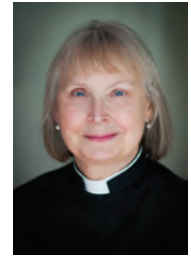
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# FROM THE DESK OF THE NATIONAL CHAPLAIN



One of the challenges of working in the church is having to plan services several seasons ahead. In September, a Cathedral Precentor told me, with good cheer, that he had 48 services that he was responsible for before Christmas. Of course, there is a trickle-down effect. I wasn't at all surprised when a verger joked, with equal good cheer, that when the last service is over on Christmas Day, she lies down with a bottle of whisky.



*Black Madonna with the infant Jesus, The Garden of Remembrance, St Mary's Church, Stoke D'Abernon.*

Vergers care about the work they do, but Christmas can lose its sparkle through overwork. How can we hold on to the holy and avoid Christmas becoming just another season from which we need to recover? The answer isn't far away. When the pace of Christmas preparations become overwhelming, we are wise to find a quiet space to be with God and to pray.

Among all the revellers this Christmas, there will almost certainly be a few who will be struggling. So many have lost loved ones to Covid and others are still suffering the effects of Covid on health and well-being. Christmas is especially hard for those who are bereaved.

The Guild is undergirded by a commitment to friendship and support to its members. Branch Chaplains and the Guild Welfare Officer, Irene Money, are there for vergers facing

crises all year round. Irene is an important point of contact for branch chaplains as well as vergers, because she brings the experience of a verger to her rôle. Please do make contact with us in good times as well as in times of need.

My Christmas card to you, of an oil lamp and flickering candles, was painted during lockdown by an artist committed to the care of historic churches. Her inspiration came from words of Isaiah: *"The People that walked in darkness have seen a great light"* (Isaiah 9: 2).

On Christmas Day, we will hear confirmation of the birth of the Messiah: *"For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given"* (Isaiah 9: 6). Trusting in prophesy and the blessed Word of God, may our eyes be opened to His glory and may our celebrations be reverent and full of hope. I wish you all a very Happy Christmas and peaceful New Year.

**Mthr Rosemary**



*Oil Painting by Caroline Hervey-Bathurst. Hampshire and the Islands Historic Churches Trust.*

# Meet your National Life Members: The Rev'd Canon James Wilson



It has been 22 years since I left St Mary Redcliffe as a Verger to start my training for ordination. 30 years since a tall and, yes, young Head Verger of Carlisle Cathedral asked if I would hold a ladder whilst he hoovered the walls of that beautiful building. I was a volunteer guide and was fascinated by the varied work the vergers undertook. They are cleaners, historians, liturgists, planners, floral artists, security, cashiers but most importantly they were the visible face of the cathedral, with generally a smile and a cup of coffee for those in need. It was not long before James Armstrong had managed to glean everything about me. He helped me come to terms with so much of who I am by being there simply to listen, a gift so often in short supply today.



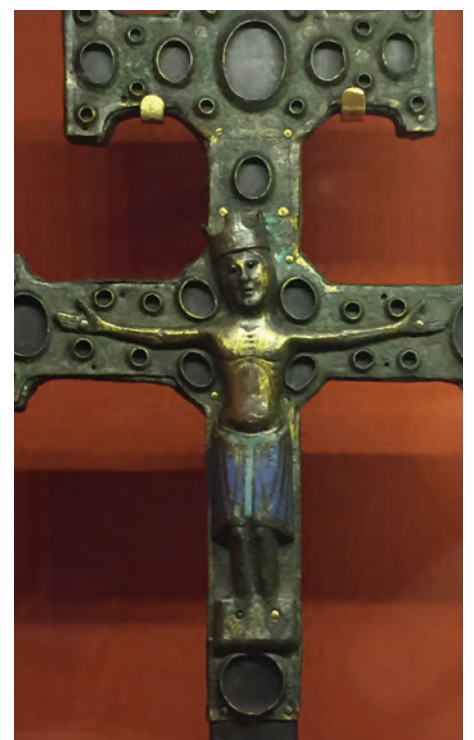
I learnt so much at Carlisle, such as how to learn about your building by cleaning it! How to plan a service not simply with words but including the movement within it. But most of all I learnt, as a gay man, that I was not despised by the church, even though time and again we all feel excluded and rejected. James encouraged me, as he has done for many, to move to Bristol for a verger's post at St Mary Redcliffe, and I would not have coped without our chats. As I became a member of the Guild, I met more people that had given their lives to serve in the church as the welcomer and enabler. They came in all shapes, sizes, genders and sexualities and yet all shared the same calling. A perfect model of the church. 22 years on, I am in touch with many, and I am proud to call many vergers, friends. But it was those that were not afraid to be who they were that strengthened me more and gave me confidence. People like David Dorey and Keith Nelson, both sadly no longer with us, who encouraged me so much to be myself. David even said I had nice Latties!

That is why, at 56, as a member of the College of Canons at Bristol Cathedral, Vicar of St Gregory the Great, I have been emboldened to be who I am and have been active in promoting the national churches course "Living in Love and Faith". I hope that it will encourage others not to be fearful of who they are, that they are made in God's image and are capable of loving and being loved. I am so blessed with my Civil Partner, Professor Tom Smith, who often acts as Vicar's Spouse at the events of our church and at the cathedral.

I will be appearing soon on a National Church film concerning the course. If your Church has not done so encourage them to do so, if you feel you have not got the time or feel you will not be

heard, make time as you will be. No matter where you are coming from in the discussion it's vital we talk. Maybe your branch could organise a course? Or even the National Guild? The power of Zoom (the internet) has opened up many more opportunities to meet. The Guild has always had one primary and almost sacred calling. That is to be a place of sharing and listening to each other. At its best, it is the sanctuary for the tired and over-worked, a place of learning from each other. But most of all a place where we can stop and chat over a drink and simply be ourselves.

**The Rev'd Canon James Wilson**  
**National Life Member.**





# Geoffrey Arthur Timms

16th April 1940 - 30th September 2021



**S**ir David Attenborough, Winston Churchill, Her Majesty the Queen, Peter Shilton, Gordon Banks, Geoffrey Timms.

You might wonder what all these people have in common?

Well I can tell you; to me, they are, what I would class as a safe pair of hands!

As a funeral director I knew that whenever we came here, whether for a funeral or for anything else, we didn't have to worry.

Everything was clean, tidy and set up ready to begin.

Geoffrey would be here to greet you with a cheery smile and a handshake. Dressed immaculately in his black cassock and robe, with black gloves, Geoffrey (or as we used to call him, to his amusement - Darth Timms) was so precise in everything he did. He was a stickler for time keeping and woe betide if you were running behind schedule.

Geoffrey was admitted as a full member of the Church of England Guild of Vergers, on 27th March 1995. He has, over that time carried out a number of duties within our local branch. Every role that Geoffrey held, he carried out with his utmost care, diligence and pride. He made a lot of friends during his time in the Guild and many of those members send their condolences, thoughts and prayers to you, his family at this time.

During the Service of Admission to the Guild, the candidate affirms their agreement to uphold certain rules and principles.

Geoffrey, like the rest of us Guild members here today, gave his response to the questions asked of him. However, he didn't just answer these in word alone, but in action throughout the 26 years he was a proud verger. The questions asked are these:

Will you support the Aims and Objects of the Church of England Guild of Vergers?

**He did.**

Will you care for the House of God, for the people who worship and the people who visit there?

**He did.**

Will you endeavour to follow the example of Christ in your daily life?

**That he did and so much more.**

He is the epitome of what a Verger should be. He gave so much to this (the) church, the Guild and to the God which he served.

He is going to be greatly missed by so many people, not least his loving family.

He was, for many the first person you came into contact with when visiting St. Mary's. For us as funeral directors, and for visitors.. and his church family alike, he was that safe pair of hands.

Good night Geoffrey

May the Lord bless your going out and your coming in from this time forth and for evermore.

**Amen.**



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# All in a day's work

## - notes from a Dean's Vergers Diary

**Tuesday 29th May 2018**

**06:15** The day starts well, not warm, but mild - mild and bright - I walk to the cathedral and prepare to open up.

**06:30** Opening the south west door of the cathedral I am greeted with a; hanging sleeping bag, a back pack and several paper products arrayed on the ramp and railings of the entrance, on the east green is a naked male performing a cross between a sacred dance and an alien ritual!

**07:10** A visit from Big Alan, characteristically attired in fur coat, nightgown, evening gloves and a fur head band - I make him a cup of coffee and after an exchange of a few words about Bradford Bulls beating Scunthorpe 34 -12, I retreat to ring the Mattins calling bell.

**07:30** I answer a knock on the vestry door, there stands a chap in a baseball cap and trench coat, a shoulder bag finishing off the ensemble, he asks (as he loosens his coat to reveal the wearing of a pink bra!), "Are there any elders of the church available?", I note that they (such elders as we have) have just started Morning Prayer. He says he will wait! Morning prayer over I get a member clergy, (an 'elder') to talk with the guy.

**08:00** I excuse myself from attending Holy Communion, to chaperone (from a distance) the Succentor who is in deep conversation with said trench-coated chap who has, in addition to his pink bra, displayed that he is wearing stockings!

**08:30** Chap given a cup of tea and leaves quietly.

**12:30** Holy Communion in the Retro Choir, all is set, but as the clock strikes, indicating the start of the device, there is deadly silence. Thinking that there is a malfunction with the mics I check the sound system for malfunction - all is well. I return to the retro-choir to investigate where I find a congregation of c15 sat in silent meditation and the celebrant sat 'asleep' in his chair. He had entered a few minutes early, put chalice etc. on the altar and sat to await the clock striking 12:30 and nodded off!

'All in a day's work'

**John G Campbell**  
- ex cathedra Lincolnia





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## LINCOLN BRANCH



Although few in number, an enormous welcome was extended to members of the Lincoln / Southwell Branch CEGV for our September meeting, from the Imam and the Chairman of the Lincoln Mosque. The Imam sat, ex cathedra, to interpret the building as well as to explain the Five Pillars of Islam. The generous offering of a tour to all areas of the building was appreciated by all present and the open dialogue gave those present a greater understanding of our differences but more importantly our common scriptures. The branch hopes to

reciprocate by offering an interpretive tour of Lincoln Cathedral to members of the mosque congregation and not least the Imam who has not yet been able to visit the cathedral.

**John G Campbell**  
Branch Chairman



## LONDON, SOUTHWARK & CHELMSFORD BRANCH VISIT TO CHELSEA OLD CHURCH

It was a delight to be together again on 28th October for our visit to Chelsea Old Church that was hosted by Oliver Harcus.

The Church that stands on Chelsea Embankment overlooking the River Thames dates back to the 13th Century. It was totally destroyed by a direct hit

from a heavy bomb in 1941. It was rebuilt and reconsecrated in 1958 attended by the Queen Mother.

Chelsea Old Church remains faithful to BCP worship and is part of the Prayer Book Society. Saint (Sir) Thomas More was a regular worshipper during the 15th century and his statue stands outside overlooking the Thames, close to where his official barge was moored to take him to Westminster and Hampton Court.

Oliver Harcus, justifiably proud of his church, gave us a fascinating outline of its history and then virged our procession for a BCP service of Holy Communion celebrated by Revd Brian Leathard, Rector of St Luke's, Chelsea. Fr Brian is helping Chelsea Old Church during its current interregnum. Our



branch Chaplain, Revd Canon John Ackland preached the sermon.

This was followed by afternoon tea kindly provided by Oliver's Mum. It was a delightful visit and we thank Oliver and his church for making us feel so welcome.

**Stephen Haude, Branch Correspondent**







## OXFORD BRANCH VISIT TO DOUAI ABBEY

**O**n Tuesday, 14th September, several members of the Branch, and Guests, met at Douai Abbey for our Autumn Quiet Day, our first 'get together' since our Spring meeting in 2020. Canon Maureen was our guest and as it was Holy Cross day, she told us how, over the early centuries, the cross was adopted as the symbol of the Christian Faith. We then had a lovely service of Morning Prayer.

Our Speaker for the day was Heather Searle, an LLM from the Church of Christ the Servant King in High Wycombe. Heather led us in a study session centered on Psalm 84 which was very thought provoking. Following our morning's study we joined the Brothers in the Chapel for their Noonday service and then to the Refectory for a delicious lunch.

The afternoon session with Heather was a personal time studying a version of the Creed by Sheridan Voysey, together with 'Waiting on God in Expectancy' – a key to sustaining prayer, both of which were very challenging. Our thanks to Heather for her thoughtful and much needed input.

It was a day of giving thanks, to enjoy fellowship with colleagues and friends (in person once again), and encouragement to those present, for the future. We look forward to meeting again for our Christmas Lunch in early December. We wish everyone connected with the Guild, Seasonal Greetings and a New Year of Hope and Expectations.

**New Members:** We are delighted to welcome three new members to our fold – Heather Searle, Liam Derry and Rory Darling.

Molly Payne (Branch Correspondent) and Heather Ringrose (Branch Secretary)

**Prayer Request:** Gerry and Hazel Knight, Jean Hedley

**RIP:** Margaret Livesey, a member of this Branch's extended family, and for her husband, Richard, and family.

## 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 Chaplain** or the **National Welfare Officer**.

Prayers for our Vergers during this time of half-open churches, for those who feel alone, are furloughed, redundant or struggling in new, unfamiliar and uncertain times.

### **Somerset & Avon**

Marek Barden, Mary Holway, Roger Lawrence, Trevor Llewellyn

### **York Branch**

George Cook

### **St Albans Branch**

Peter Hudson

### **East Anglia Branch**

Val Pizzey

### **Blackburn, Chester & Manchester Branch**

Patricia Platt, Margaret Scott

### **Oxford Branch**

Gerry and Hazel Knight

### **Durham and Newcastle with Carlisle Branch**

Jimmy and Margaret Guy

### **Gloucester, Hereford and Worcester Branch**

Margaret Burston, Paul and family

**And all people facing hardship and difficulties and who are facing uncertainties.**

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

# EAST ANGLIA REPORT



This had been arranged for May 2020 but due to Covid had to be deferred. Valerie was also presented with her Foundation Certificate.

Sadly, I have to report that two of our members have passed away recently.



## Val Jeffery 1933 - 2021

Val Jeffery of East Anglia Branch has died at the age of 88. As with everything to which Val belonged, she was an enthusiastic and committed member from her first meeting to her last and loyally served her local church in Aldeburgh for many years.

Val was renowned for her cheerful welcome and hospitality; she and husband, fellow verger Dick hosted the annual general meeting with a BBQ for many years.

Val had a phenomenal memory for people and enjoyed a wide circle of friends. She remembered their life stories and marked their birthdays and anniversaries. She had an immaculate dress sense, was prepared to call a spade a spade and speak her mind but was also a very good listener.

Val's funeral in Aldeburgh Parish Church on 22nd September, was attended by almost 300 people and



**O**n Monday 4th October the East Anglia Branch held their first face to face meeting since October 2019. Eleven of us met at Bury St Edmunds Cathedral enjoying lunch together in The Pilgrims Kitchen. We adjourned to the Cathedral where Rev Alan Forsdike led a short service and we were able (at last) to

officially admit three members to the guild – James Stark, Mark Hawker and Callum Brittain. We then held our first meeting in the Edmund Room.

I am also pleased to say that Ian and I travelled to Banham, Norfolk where Valerie Plummer was admitted into the Guild on Sunday 5th September.



she was verged in and out of church by two vergers, Margaret Craggs and Ian Cobb. General Secretary Stephen Stokes, and vergers Pam Cobb and Linda Denness were also in attendance.

The service was most moving, uplifting and whilst appropriate to the occasion for giving thanks to God for her life, had its lighter moments. It was Val's specific wish that her 'going out' music would be to the quirky "Birdie Song" and wanted the congregation to be encouraged to join in with the actions. And so, they did; with a smile on their lips having paid great tribute to a remarkable lady.

#### June Harris 1934 -2021

June was born in Ipswich in 1934. She was 7 years old when she was baptised at St Augustine's Church, Ipswich where she was a faithful member for the rest of her life. She left school at 14 but suffered with ear, nose and throat problems which affected her hearing and eyesight permanently.

June first met Robin when he bought his lunch from the bakery where she worked. This eventually led to courtship and their marriage in 1968. June and Robin adopted their son Gregory in 1973. June became actively involved with the church becoming a member of The Family Life Group and the Mothers Union at St Augustine's.

June and Robin became joint Vergers at St Augustine's and were officially enrolled into the guild in January 1999. They retired as Vergers in 2013 but retained their membership.

In 2018 June had a horrendous fall and in 2020 suffered a stroke taking 90% of her sight and another stroke her speech. Despite her suffering greatly, she bore it bravely with courage and a smile.

June's funeral took place on Monday 25th October. She was verged in by our Branch Chairman Ian Cobb.

May God bless you – Rest in peace.

**Marjorie Wakeling** lost her brave fight against cancer in March last year. She had a graveside funeral at the time. Saturday 30th October finally saw a memorial service held at St Augustine's church, Ipswich. It was a celebration of her life and her strong faith. Nine

Vergers were in attendance as well as many church members. Several people got up and spoke about how Marjorie's faith had impacted upon their lives. She is greatly missed by all who knew her.

**Pam Cobb (Branch Secretary)**



*Pam Cobb, Stephen Stokes and Callum Brittain.*



*Ian Cobb, Pam Cobb, Valerie Plummer and Rev Canon Steve Wright.*



# A VERGER IN GENEVA

**H**oly Trinity Anglican Church in Geneva, Switzerland was built in 1853 and has had a verger for many years - perhaps since the beginning. Whilst working on the Diploma Foundation Unit I came across an article in the church Council's Minutes in 1937 stating that the verger was accused of not cleaning the floor properly. I joined the church in 1974 and have always known a verger, so when the last verger left in 2008, and I had just stepped down from being warden, I suggested to our then incumbent that I take on that role. He readily agreed but, when I asked what exactly I was supposed to do, his reply was "Whatever you want to do"! As at that time our wardens had a lot to do with an interregnum, I just carried on one or two of the tasks I had had as warden, i.e. training sidespeople and servers, checking on some of the supplies, etc. So when I discovered the Guild of Vergers and the Diploma Course, I was quite excited - at last I would find out what the verger's job really entailed.

I must admit that it was a bit of a shock when I received the first part - the Foundation Unit. However, I got stuck in and found it all extremely interesting. Of course, living in Geneva, Calvin's city, I had to look seriously into the Reformation and its effects and made several trips to the cathedral (even though Protestant, it is still called the cathedral) and the crypt which is an archeological site.

The course is for cathedral vergers as well as parish vergers, which means that not everything applies to me (e.g. we have no graveyard here). However, it has shown me where I can be of more help and what I should keep an eye on, and has encouraged me to play a more welcoming role.

I do thank the Guild of Vergers for having put this course together, the Training Officer and the Assessors for all the work they do, and especially to Susan Ansell for her encouragement and support.

**Christine Damary**  
**Verger, Holy Trinity Geneva**  
**1st October 2021**

*"I must admit that it was a bit of a shock when I received the first part - the Foundation Unit."*







# EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ROUNDUP

**W**hen we engaged with the restructure of the Guild a short while ago, one of the main areas that needed to be amended was the Constitution. As we reported at the AGM one of the things which we overlooked was the wording regarding the Statutes. We have, as many of you now know, 3 levels of our working documents:

- The Job Descriptions – these are able to be amended by consensus of the Standing Committee as job rôles change (providing that they still fulfil the rôles laid out in the Statutes and Constitution) and are able to be amended to reflect this.
- The Statutes – these are the working ‘nuts and bolts’ of the Guild, and lay out the working of the Guild. Anything in this area may be amended by consensus of the Executive Committee.
- The Constitution – this is the Backbone of the Guild and any amendments can only be made with consensus of the Membership at the AGM.

Unfortunately, we have noted that the wording in the Constitution stipulates that amendments of the Statutes can only be amended by consensus of the Membership at the AGM. This was an oversight, so we are working with the Executive Committee to amend this wording and this will be presented to the next AGM for amendment, should the Executive back it.

We have also been listening to you regarding how to pay for Conference and Shop merchandise, that some of you prefer not to pay by bank transfer. We are now introducing a SumUp device for both the Shop and Conference, this will enable you to pay cash (for the shop), or by card (for both the shop and Conference). We will be able to generate an invoice and you will be able to pay, securely, using your card online – this ensures that we do not have access to your card details. When the Shop is open in person, you will still be able to pay by cash or with your card, using Tap and Pay or chip & PIN as you prefer. We will still also be able to receive cheques if this is your preferred payment method.

As you will see in this edition, there are many rôles available to be filled at the next AGM. Completed Nominations Forms must be received by the General Secretary by 1 March 2022, these rôles will be shortlisted by the Executive Committee at the March Meeting. We will be writing to you, via your Branch Officers, in early March. This will enable you to give your thoughts to the Regional Representatives to assist their decisions on the shortlist.

The main area that we discussed was the centralisation of magazine sending. We have reported in the past that we have noticed that, on occasion, it can take over a month from the magazines being sent to the Branches to you receiving them. We do acknowledge how busy each of us are, and that on occasion the magazine Distributor may receive the magazines when they are away and they have to wait until they are back. The intention is that we will send them to you direct from the printers, so that you get them earlier. There are many benefits of this; you get the magazine quicker, it is more timely (sometime the Advent Message has been received after Christmas), it takes a high level of burden off your Branch Officers, and it will decrease the Branches’ postage costs. This will increase the National Capitation costs, but it should reduce the Branch Capitation costs, so the overall cost should equalise themselves out. However, in order for this to work, the General Secretary needs to have the correct details, and knowledge as to who receives a magazine. We would still send additional magazines that the Branches request to them as normal. The positive thing to take away from this is that there should be no change to receiving the magazine, but that receipt of a magazine should be closer to the print deadline.

*“The main area that we discussed was the centralisation of magazine sending.”*

# DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



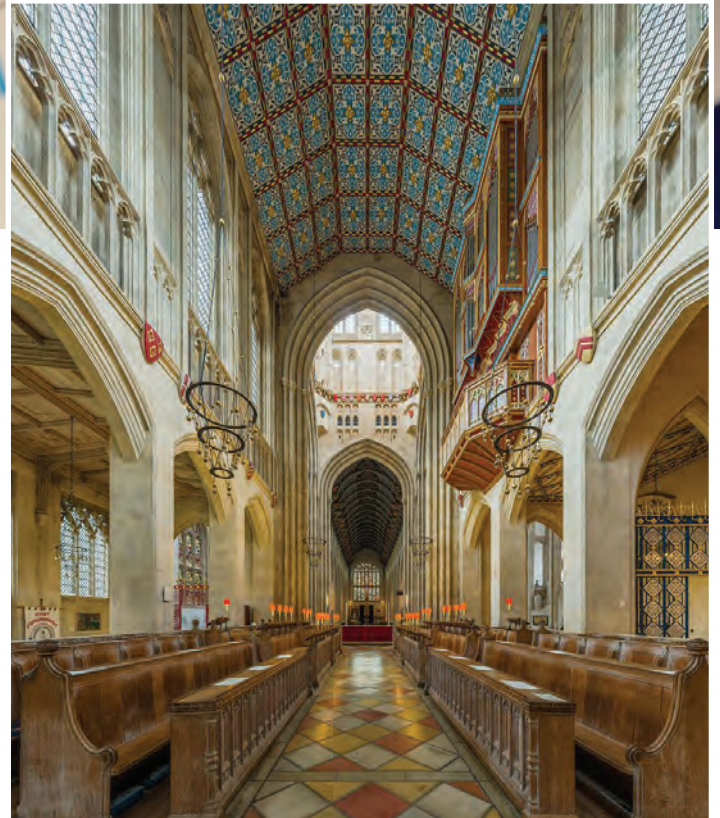
## Tuesday 5 May 2022

A Full Festival at Worcester Cathedral (informal dinner for early arrivers on 4th May, a full day in and around the Cathedral, finishing with Robed Evensong). Full details in the next edition of the Virger



## Monday 15 until Thursday 18 August 2022

Annual Retreat and Training Conference

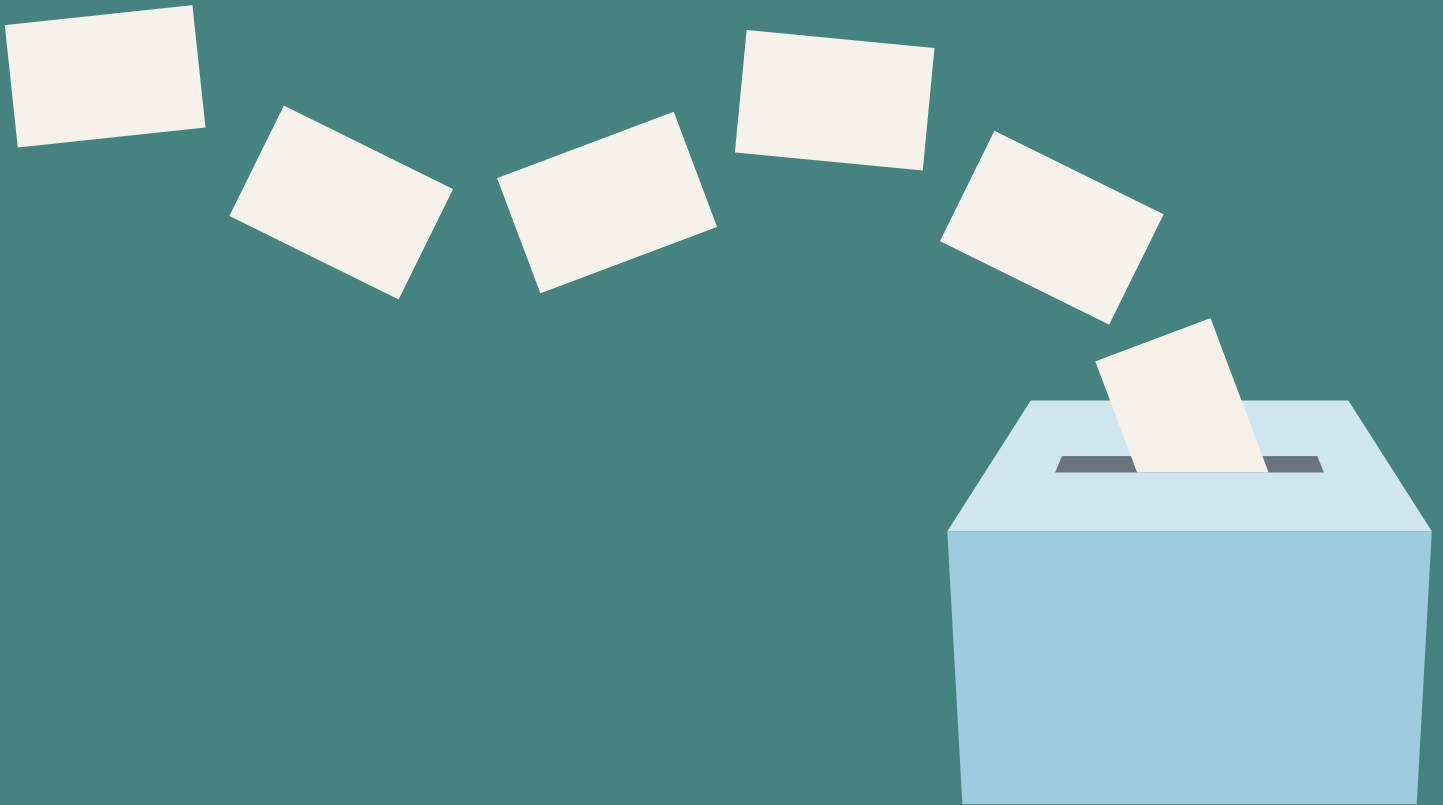


## Wednesday 14 September 2022

A Semi-Lite Festival, St Edmundsbury Cathedral (provide you own lunch BUT Robes are welcome to be worn (hence the 'Semi')

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





# FORTHCOMING ELECTIONS

**T**he terms of office for the following rôles are due to come to an end at the next AGM, the current rôle holders are all eligible for re-election:

- **Conference Secretary:** this rôle has become vacant with immediate effect. The post-holder works with the Training Officer and the Conference Centre to facilitate the bookings for Conference. This is a three-year appointment.
- **Welfare Officer:** this Officer works with the National Chaplain and is a prime point of contact for members with any welfare and pastoral concerns. This is a three-year appointment.
- **Guild Chronicler:** this rôle collates and maintains the Guild's historic records. This is a three-year appointment.
- **Shop Manager:** this rôle is appointed by the Executive Committee, and looks after the Shop stock while also arranging for the shop to be set up at National Events. This is a three-year appointment.
- **National Membership Officer:** this is a new rôle set up to replace the Liaison Officer (now no longer a viable rôle owing to the General Synod's adjustments). This rôle primary looks after all members who have been displaced from a Branch and are part of the Headquarters Membership. This is a three-year appointment.

For further information and job descriptions, please contact the General Secretary, [CEGVGenSec@gmail.com](mailto:CEGVGenSec@gmail.com). A completed, and correct, Nomination Form must be received by 1 March 2022.



# NATIONAL CONTACTS

## National Chairman

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## General Secretary

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## National Treasurer

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## National Chaplain

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## Liaison Officer

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## Training Officer

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## Training Administrator

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## Welfare Officer

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## Conference Secretary

Vacant  
Contact the General Secretary  
**email:** CEGVConference@gmail.com

## Overseas Membership Officer

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## Mailing Address

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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.



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

Find us on



<http://bit.ly/CofEGV>