

THE VIRGER

The Official Magazine of the Church of England Guild of Vergers

Spring 2023 | Issue 318

NATIONAL CHAPLAIN

FR DAVID



www.cofegv.org.uk



FROM THE DESK OF THE EDITOR



A new year, fresh challenges and unexpected opportunities. Once January is done, the year begins to turn its face towards the first signs of spring - snowdrops and catkins, then celandines and crocuses - and then as the end of February approaches, the first daffodils. The Birch tree in my neighbour's garden (in the photo from the last edition) now has black, pointed buds on every branch and I noticed the resident blackbird has recommenced singing out his boundary marking each morning and evening.

It is also good to see how the old year has passed - there are two "looking back" pieces this time, both with some lovely photos - these always help to give interest and context to your articles - do please keep them coming!

We have so many events coming up this year - even before mentioning the Coronation, which will, of course be momentous - both in our own churches, with celebratory services galore - and I hope with chance for everyone to be able to join the crowds in London or to watch "live" on television as in 1953. That's an unprecedented time to wait between Monarchs!

The Festivals both offer superb places to explore. Having lived in London for many years, I was constantly surprised by Croydon's history and connection to events and fascinating people. If all else fails, there's a brilliant, vibrant multi-cultural street market just around the corner.... Sheffield, too, offers a history-packed cathedral which has stories that go back 1,000 years. There being a place of worship here dates from even further back, via the Normans, Crusades and so on. The city is full of attractions, and (for me), is in the foothills of the Peak District National Park, so all this and scenery too!



There's also Fr Tom Cameron's Pilgrimage to Walsingham (details on page 3 - sign up via the Shrine and with Fr Tom) as well as our own National Conference and Retreat In Malvern. It's a wonder we fit our own breaks and holidays in....

Happy 2023 to all, may it be filled with fun and fellowship!

Jane Gorrie
CEGV Media Officer



Snowdrops and celandines sheltered under a Blackthorn hedge

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.





FROM THE DESK OF THE NATIONAL CHAIRMAN



While I was doing housework, I had the Disney film *Christopher Robin* on the television. It is a modern story of Winnie the Pooh and his friends and an adventure that unfolds in London. Some of it was filmed in Middle Temple while I worked at the Temple Church as Verger. At the end of the film, we see a grown-up Christopher Robin declaring his love for his family, which brought smiles from Pooh and his friends. Some of Pooh's friends, like Eeyore and Tigger, remind me of vergers. There are those whose cup is always only half-full and they grumble each week at the thought of extra work. There are those who are so bouncy and dynamic that they bring joy and light to their roles within the church and embracing change.

The Guild of Vergers has been through a great deal of change over the past few years. Processes have been tightened up and made more formal, coupled with the changes in our meetings as a result of Covid-19. Branches have met online, using Teams or Zoom. This has also been the case with the Executive Committee. It has saved the

Guild money and time in travelling. However, there is a great deal to be said for the face-to-face meetings and engaging with other members in fellowship.

I am acutely aware that, as I am, our members are getting increasingly older and our numbers are dwindling. Branches are struggling to meet and, in some cases, maintain their presence in the wider Guild. This matter is going to be addressed this year by the Executive Committee, so that we can try and turn the table and grow towards our centenary year, which is only nine years away. Annual General Meetings will be taking place in all our branches at this time of year and some are finding it hard fill the necessary posts to make their branch viable. Should your branch find itself in this position, please alert either myself or the General Secretary and rather than close, we will transfer members to become Headquarter members, so that they can still be part of the Guild family.

The penitential period of Lent is fast approaching. It is a time for reflection and preparation. I remember many

a sermon suggesting that instead of becoming an Eeyore and giving up chocolate and biscuits, we should really become Tiggers and take things on in our lives. We currently have some outstanding national posts in the Guild that require members to be filled, and we are struggling to find folk to take on these duties. If you have the time and talents to assist the Guild, please let us know. Get involved or see us fold.

Finally, you will notice that the Chaplain's Letter is written by our newly appointed National Chaplain the Venerable Dr David Jenkins. I welcome him warmly to minister to the Guild and I am looking forward to his input and support. David will be leading our Conference this year, so please ensure that you book your place for West Malvern. Please continue to hold Mthr Rosemary in your prayers as she moves house and continues her treatment.

John Kirby-Shearer
Chairman



Guild of Vergers • Visit to Walsingham • July 11th-13th

Come and marvel at the mystery of the Incarnation,

Share in the Healing ministry, Stations of the Cross, Mass.

Bookings can now be made for this directly with the Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham

(walsinghamanglican.org.uk), or telephone **01328 824202**

(stating that you are with the Guild of Vergers)

Please also let Fr Tom know that you are coming (**07984 531546**).

FROM THE DESK OF THE NATIONAL CHAPLAIN



Dear brother and sisters

May I begin my first letter as your National Chaplain by saying what a great honour it is to have been asked to fulfil this role. Please be assured of my prayers and support over the coming years and if I can ever be of assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me. I would be especially keen to be invited to Branch events either in person or by Zoom and at the time of writing we are trying to set up a Zoom meeting for the Branch Chaplains to meet with me.

May I continue this first epistle to you by thanking Mother Rosemary for all she has done in serving the Guild and in helping me to settle in. I am sure I speak for all of us as I wish her every blessing for the future.

I am writing this letter just on the cusp of Lent. The first signs of Spring are beginning to emerge, and I passed a wonderful sprinkling of snowdrops on my morning run today. I love this time of year. As a Christian, and as a priest, Lent, Holy Week and Easter has always been at the heart of my faith journey. These seasons never fail to refresh and renew me, physically, mentally, and spiritually. That sense of travelling from the sobriety and reflection of Ash Wednesday through the pain and humiliation of the Cross to the joy and glory of Easter moves me anew each year.

This year we commence that Lenten journey in the middle of a bruising time for the Church of England. The ongoing national conversations over sexuality and marriage have caused much pain and anxiety to many within and without the Church of England. Added to this challenge are the perennial concerns around the future of our parochial structures and the pressures on parish share and diocesan and cathedral budgets. All of this can make for uncertainty and tension.

Yet as vergers you are called to help keep the 'show on the road' regardless of the weather conditions and that, of course, is what you do with commitment and style! I have written elsewhere of how very aware I am of just how hard you all work and how committed you are to the role. Archdeacons (of which I am one) are sometimes referred to as the engine room of the Church of England and I have always regarded vergers as fellow participants in that role.

So as we enter this annual Lenten journey we recall both the cost of discipleship and its rich rewards. The *via crucis* is not an easy path but it is the way that leads to fullness of life in Christ and I thank you for inviting me to make that journey with you.

May I wish you all very blessing and a very prayerful Lent.

Fr David
National Chaplain



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.

Blackburn, Chester & Manchester Branch
Ann and Frank Woodward

Chichester, Guildford & Portsmouth Branch
Sue Ansell

Durham & Newcastle with Carlisle Branch
Jimmy & Margaret Guy

East Anglia Branch
Val Pizzey

Gloucester, Hereford & Worcester Branch
Margaret Burston, Paul & family

Leicester & Peterborough with Derby Branch
Isaac Hofer-Villiers, Pauline Haynes

Oxford Branch
Audrey Ashby; Michael Golby; Heather Ringrose

Salisbury Branch
David Hall

Somerset & Avon Branch
Marek Barden, Mary Holway, Roger Lawrence,
Trevor Llewellyn

York Branch
George Cook

RIP

Ivor Watts, former verger at St Mary Redcliffe,
Bristol - Somerset and Avon Branch

Dr Stella Rogers, Associate Member, Gloucester,
Hereford & Worcester Branch

**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.**

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



16 May 2023

A Festival has been offered by the York Branch for Sheffield Cathedral. Booking form included with this magazine.



11-13 July 2023

The Rev'd Thomas Cameron has offered to lead a pilgrimage to Walsingham. Please phone him on 07984 531546 or tom.cameron2@aol.com for more details.



**Monday 7 until
Thursday
10 August 2023**

Annual Retreat and Training Conference



**Wednesday 27
September 2023**

Croydon Minster has been offered by the London, Southwark Branch for a Festival. Booking form included with this magazine.



2027

The suggestion of returning to Leicester for a Festival to coincide with the 100th anniversary of the modern diocese.



2032

The 100th anniversary of the Guild. The proposal is that this might take place in York Minster as many of the previous major celebrations (75th & 80th) have taken place down South. There would be only one Festival this year and there will be both financial and logistical work from the National Guild.

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

A VERGERS RETROSPECTIVE

In 2020 I did a retrospective look at the year gone, with a photo from each month. Now, with 2022 behind us, I thought I'd do that again and share with Vergers across the country what we can get up to at Chester Cathedral. Special thanks to Gareth Rainsforth and Francis Hills for their photos and help throughout the years.

God bless you, and send you a good year.



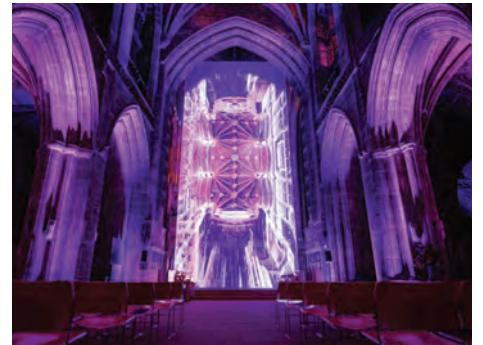
January

Cathedrals are of course multipurpose venues, being used for Services, events and in this photo a wonderful exhibition. "Threads through Creation" was comprised of a sequence of twelve huge textile panels retelling the creation story in the book of Genesis and our Chapter House gave it a home throughout January.



February

Vergers' jobs are diverse and the duties differ from Cathedral to Cathedral and Church to Church. Here though is a job I'm sure most Vergers will have had to do at some point, making the Ash for Ash Wednesday; and in 2022 one of our Vergers had to contend with the elements to get it made!



March

Cathedrals reflect the Liturgical year through the colours found on vestments and altar frontals; here though, our Verger Gareth was able to capture it through our Nave lighting. Purple is the colour for Lent!



April

The joy of Easter day is always preceded by Holy Week and the sadness of Good Friday, when the Vergers strip all the altars of silverware and décor. This is a bare altar in one of our Chapels, with an Icon veiled behind, waiting for Easter.



May

Vergers open doors and turn the lights on for all who visit the Cathedral, and in May we saw the installation of our new glass West Porch doors. They allow us to have the Wooden Doors open so the city can see inside, but we can still keep the heat in! It has been described as the perfect fusion of Ancient and Modern and across the glass are images from the Churches in the diocese!



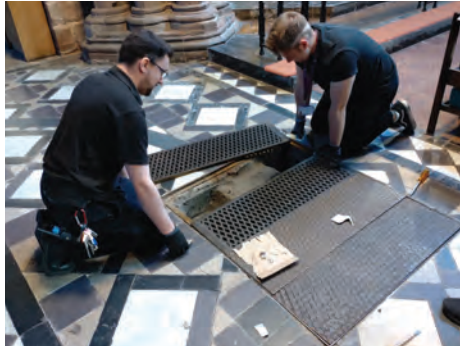
June

Our Vestry team are all keen photographers, and we are often blessed with some wonderful photos. This one, by Gareth Rainsforth, taken in June last year captures the strength and symbolism of the Eagle lectern perched in the Quire.



July

The Vergers at Chester Cathedral often find themselves moving the Liturgical Furniture, and at 7am on this Sunday morning in July it resembled a rather large jigsaw puzzle!



August

Have we mentioned how diverse a Vergers role is? In August last year the team were tasked with the unique job of removing the sound of the clunk made when processions walked over this grate.



September

September saw the passing of our Queen, and the country mourning her loss, with Cathedrals and Councils responding accordingly. In the midst of flowers being laid, candles being lit, and books being signed, there was the Proclamation of our new King; and the Union flag went to full mast. Our Head Verger gave this privilege to his sons, who may not grasp the significance of what they did until they are slightly older, but there they are, taking part in a moment of history.



October

Lightning Storm across the city, and one of our volunteers captured this bolt over the Cathedral.



November

In 2022 a new Burse and Veil was gifted to us, made by one of our Volunteer Vergers. We use Blue for Advent, to distinguish from the purple of lent.



December

December brought a very busy Advent, with many events, services and at Chester Cathedral lots and lots of trees! These two were found outside the open West Doors, and thanks to our new porch you can see into the Cathedral!

Corentyn Smith, Head Verger, Chester Cathedral

LIVING IN LOVE AND FAITH

The Church of England has recently released its response to the ongoing Living in Love and Faith process, this was presented to the General Synod in February which was adopted – with one amendment. They opened with the letter from the bishops who wrote:

“We want to apologise for the ways in which the Church of England has treated LGBTQI+ people – both those who worship in our churches and those who do not.

“For the times we have rejected or excluded you, and those you love, we are deeply sorry.

“The occasions on which you have received a hostile and homophobic response in our churches are shameful and for this we repent.

“As we have listened, we have been told time and time again how we have failed LGBTQI+ people.

“We have not loved you as God loves you, and that is profoundly wrong. We affirm, publicly and unequivocally, that LGBTQI+ people are welcome and valued: we are all children of God.”

They went on to state:

The differences among you are also present among us, the College of Bishops. We are partnered, single, celibate, married, divorced, widowed, bereaved; heterosexual, gay, bisexual and same-sex attracted. We have diverse convictions about sexuality and marriage.

Within the Guild, we acknowledge that there are many differing views on this matter. Some will feel that the church has not gone far enough. Others will feel that the Church has gone too far. Yet we all acknowledge that we are all one in Christ.

We wish to affirm that all are welcome within the Guild no matter the demographic, gender, sexuality, marital status or any other identity or category.

We will continue to walk together in God’s love with all.

Church of England Guild of Vergers
February 2023



HOLY NAME EMBROIDERY

New Commissions, Restoration, Conservation,
Repairs etc... Undertaken
Welsh Marches Based

Dee Caulton-Ball
Ecclesiastical Embroiderer

TEL: 01547 220000 or 07890514888
E-Mail: deecb@hotmail.com



A NOTE FROM OUR TREASURER

Conference Bursaries

We believe the Guild's Annual Training Conference and Retreat to be a valuable experience for any of our members; and it is a requirement for those completing the Guild's Diploma. Although hosting a four-day residential Training Conference is an unavoidably expensive business, we do not want anyone to be deterred from attending by cost alone, even amidst the current 'cost of living' crisis.

Some churches and cathedrals will agree to pay their vergers' conference fees, but sadly a great many do not. So the Guild has long operated a bursary fund, funded by donations from dioceses and bishops, which enables us to reduce the conference fees for vergers who might otherwise have difficulty attending; and we would like to encourage more members to take advantage of this. These bursaries are not solely for those in exceptionally dire straits – anyone living on a typical verger's salary and paying their own conference fee would likely be eligible for a modest discount if requested!

We are especially keen to encourage new Conference attendees, so have agreed a new policy that any first-time Conference delegate will automatically be offered a bursary of £100, without even needing to request it. Those who have attended our Conference before, or who think they might require an even larger discount, should contact the National Chaplain to enquire about a bursary.

Shop Manager

The Executive Committee seeks to appoint a new Shop Manager to run the shop stall at national events and sell stock by post the rest of the year. The Shop Manager would need some storage space at home (or church), a car for transport, and to usually be available to attend our two annual Festivals and Conference – for which their travel expenses would be reimbursed. Please contact the General Secretary if you might be able to help in this way.

EBOR FESTIVAL 2023

10-10:30 Registration and light refreshments at the west end.

10:45 Welcome by TBA

11:00 General Guided Tour of the Cathedral or Specialist Verger's Guided tour * extra charge for tours

12:30 join in with the Daily Eucharist at the High Altar Afterwards an opportunity for a midday group photograph.

1:15pm onwards free time to explore the city and find some lunch

4:30 return for light refreshments in the Chapter House

5:15 Robe up (optional) Chapter House

17:45 Choral Evensong. In the Nave

Group photograph. Depart
We have invited the Guild Shop to attend the event.

In your free time there are lots of things to see and do in this vibrant city.

The winter garden, free admission, lots of Museum and art galleries and of course a vibrant selection of eating venues. If you are staying over you will need to book your own accommodation



We look forward to welcoming you to the beautiful city and cathedral of St Peter & St Paul. Birthplace of the Guild of Vergers. Post code S1 1HA

See enclosed booking slip for more information.

Su Graves (Chairperson) York Branch

Su.graves2405@gmail.com

Or Alan Gardner (Treasurer)

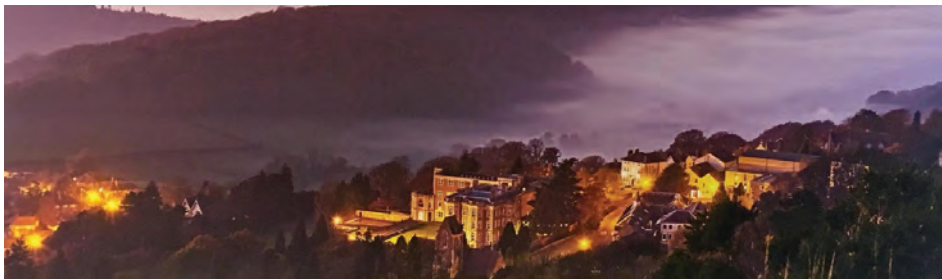
all@thegardners.org.uk



OUR ANNUAL TRAINING CONFERENCE AND RETREAT

MONDAY 7 AUGUST – THURSDAY 10 AUGUST 2023

Have you booked for this year's annual Training Conference and Retreat?



For all first time attendees we are able to offer a discount at point of booking please contact the Conference Secretary for this CEGVConference@gmail.com.

If you are still unsure, please do give any of your Officers who will hopefully direct you to an 'old hand'.

If the answer is no, then think about it. This is a wonderful time for Fun, Fellowship, Friendship. Where we can meet new members and new faces and reacquaint ourselves with old friends.

It is a time to share our collective knowledge with each other and soak up the wealth of information we all have to bring.

Set in the beautiful Malvern Hills, with a heated swimming pool, en suite rooms, all meals (and any dietary requirements) catered for. You are able to participate in

as much or as little as you want, as well as have a say in how the Guild is run at the National AGM on Monday 7 August at 10.30am.

You can book for a day visit, or for the whole (or part) residence.

Please remember that the deadline for booking is 23 June. Full payment must be received by 23 June. The Booking form is available in this magazine and online. If you are in need of a bursary, please make direct contact with the National Chaplain CEGVNatChap@gmail.com.

Even if you have never been before you would be made to feel most welcome and it would a joy to have you with us.



FORTHCOMING ELECTIONS

The following roles' terms of office are due to come to an end at the next AGM, the current role holders are all eligible for re-election:

- Media Officer, this role is becoming vacant in August. The role of the Media Officer is to oversee the publication of the Magazine and to keep the online presence of the Guild, both the website and Facebook, up to date. This is a three-year appointment.
- Training Administrator, this Officer works with the Training Officer

and is a prime point of contact for Candidates who are on or looking to embark on the Diploma, this is a three-year appointment.

- Shop Manager, this role 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.
- Deputy Regional Representatives, this role is to deputise for the Regional Representative at Executive Committee meetings and in three years' time you would become

the Regional Representative [RR]. The RR is a valuable member of the Executive Committee who are involved in the management of the Guild. This role, for three years, is appointed at Branch Level in rotation of the Branches within each Region. Please speak to your Branch Officers for more information.

For further information and job descriptions, please contact the General Secretary, CEGVGenSec@gmail.com. A completed, and correct, Nomination Form must be received ASAP.



THE DIPLOMA COURSE

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

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

The second stage comprises of the other three units:

- The Verger as **Pastor** covers the individual's personal development, their relationship with the people and God, care for others, and for Church resources.
- The Verger as **Historian** covers the history of church building, architecture, and the history of worship, including the Book of Common Prayer, and the Bible.

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

Students who engage with the full four units are expected to attend at least one full CEGV Annual Training Conference prior to completion.

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

If you are interested in learning more about the Course, please contact:

the **Training Registrar: Susan Ansell**
CEGVTrainReg@gmail.com

or the **Training Officer: Les Mitchelmore**
CEGVTrainOff@gmail.com.

HF
HAYES & FINCH
 ESTABLISHED 1882
 One of the World's Finest
Manufacturers & Suppliers of Church Furnishings

0845 450 5593 sales@hfltd.com
www.hfltd.com

CHARLES FARRIS
 CHANDLERS 1845
 LONDON

For secure on line ordering, browsing new products and seasonal offers visit
www.charlesfarris.co.uk

Tel: 01747 861839
 Charles Farris Limited, Quarry Fields, Mere, Wiltshire BA12 6LA

LINCOLN AND SOUTHWELL BRANCH



Members exploring Bishop Grosseteste University Chapel

It's been a while since I've sent in a report from the branch (2022). It has been a good year with new members joining the Guild, but sadly seeing the passing of three longstanding good servants of the Church: Stephen Birch, Elizabeth Haynes and Richard Bickmore. We miss them.

The year began with our Annual General Meeting. Then, and again

this year we have found it better to hold the meeting over the internet: no travelling on a dark night in difficult weather conditions and we can involve our Regional Representative. Turnout has been better, too, with over half the membership taking part of both occasions.

Our first physical meeting was in March at the chapel of Bishop Grosseteste

University. The University began life as a women's teacher training college at the end of the Nineteenth Century. We were hosted by the volunteer Chaplains and learnt how the Chaplaincy functioned for the students.

May's meeting began with a lunch (what vergers' event doesn't involve food?) in the village of Scampton, near Lincoln, home of RAF Scampton and the famous 617 Squadron - the Dambusters - who carried out the World War II raid breaching the Ruhr Dams. It was also until recently the home of the Red



RAF Memorial Window, Scampton



Members Ivor and Rosemary explore Scampton Church displays



Sylvia with her card from the King



Dorothy Moss leads our Jewish Tour of Lincoln

Arrows display team. Guided by John Campbell we explored the exhibits in the church of St John the Baptist, including its new RAF Memorial Window. From there we explored All Saints in the nearby village of Ingham before finishing with tea at John and Pauline's home.

In the medieval period Lincoln was home for one of the largest Jewish communities in England and was home to Aaron the Jew who was famously wealthier than the King, Henry II.

When he died they had to set up a new government department to handle his estate!. Members enjoyed a tour looking at Jewish sites in the city and in the Cathedral, guided by Dorothy Moss.

In October we held a special tea to celebrate member Sylvia Bird's 100th Birthday, Sylvia Turks was born in Birmingham's Bullring and her grandfather sold food off a barrow and out with his horse and cart. She went to Windsor Street School and

enjoyed running. Spotted by a scout for Small Heath Harriers She ran for them and ran for England at White City in a careers that lasted from 1936 to 1954. At 14 she worked briefly for Norton Motorcycles before joining the Post Office and learning to type. Called up at 18 Sylvia worked making bullets. At 20 she met Aircraftsman Frank Bird who she married. They were together for sixty years receiving a card from the late Queen for their 60th wedding anniversary. She moved to Lincoln when her son took up work there.

In September we were again in Lincoln Cathedral for our 90th Anniversary Eucharist with the Acting Bishop of Lincoln, the Right Reverend Stephen Conway, Bishop of Ely. During the service ten new (and not so new) members of the Guild were admitted as members in what was a very enjoyable evening, finishing with a buffet supper in the Chapter House.

Our Christmas Lunch in November crowned the year with our guest speaker, the National Chairman John Kirby-Shearer.

**Branch Correspondent
Colin Beevers**



Bishop Stephen with Guild members at our 90th Anniversary Eucharist



Our Celebration Cake made by Verger Jo Blanchard

OXFORD BRANCH : CHRISTMAS LUNCH 2022

On Tuesday, 6th December 2022, eighteen members and friends of the Oxford Branch, including our special guests, the Reverend Mother Rosemary Durward, our National Chaplain, and Dennis Wildman (one of our members who had come up from Wales especially for the lunch), met at the Wee Waif Restaurant, Charvil, for our Christmas lunch. On arrival we had tea or coffee to warm us up, but we all took the opportunity to greet our friends and catch up on our news before sitting down to lunch. Some of us had chosen the traditional Christmas lunch with turkey and all the trimmings while others had made simpler choices, but we all agreed that the food and service had been excellent.

We all value the time that we spend together but after a leisurely lunch, we began to think about going home. We exchanged greetings for the busy festive season ahead then, saying our

'good-byes', we all left so that we could get home before it was dark.

Molly Payne, Vice Chairman and Branch Correspondent



Photo by Dave French, Media Correspondent

OXFORD BRANCH

As this is the first Virger Magazine in 2023, the members of the Oxford Branch would like to wish all our friends and colleagues a happy, healthy and peaceful 2023. I think we all deserve a better year.

Oxford Branch have two dates in our calendar so far. The first is our Spring Quiet Day at Douai Abbey to take place on Tuesday, 25th April and then the Autumn Quiet Day, also at Douai Abbey will be on Tuesday, 12th September. If you

would like further information on either of these two events, please contact either Michael Golby, Chairman, on 01494 437234 or mikegolby@yahoo.co.uk 485836m or Heather Ringrose, Secretary, on 01628 485836 or heatherringrose8@gmail.com.

**Heather Ringrose
Branch Secretary**



J & M SEWING SERVICE LTD
High Quality Church Robes - Made in England and Individually manufactured to order in our Workshop in Newcastle-upon-Tyne

By Appointment to Her Majesty The Queen
Manufacturers of Church Robes

CASSOCKS & SURPLICES	STOLES & VESTMENTS
ALBS & COTTAS	CHOIR ROBES
CLERICAL BLOUSES	VERGERS ROBES
CLERICAL SHIRTS	BANNERS & FRONTALS

Order on-line at www.jandmsewing.com
or ask for our free Catalogue
Tel: 0191 232 9589 Fax: 0191 230 1215
email: jandmsewing@btconnect.com
1 Charlotte Square, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE1 4XF

Established by Joyce Davison & Maureen Waterston In 1980



Badges, Lanyards, Medals, Enamel Badges, Name Badges, Name Plates, Engraved Signs, Printed Pens, Mugs, Awards, Rubber Stamps.

ALL AVAILABLE FROM THE GUILD SHOP

Obituary

Dr Stella Rogers (1931–2022)

On a blustery January evening a number of Vergers gathered at Hereford Cathedral to attend the funeral of Dr Stella Rogers, Associate Member of the Gloucester, Hereford & Worcester Branch.

Stella had served the Cathedral for many years as a Cathedral Guide and as a volunteer in the library she was also a faithful member of Evensong when her health allowed her. She was also a long-time friend to The Rev'd Canon Dr Maureen Palmer (onetime National Chaplain). Maureen wrote, about Stella, in the order of service that Stella was an only child and when she and her mother were evacuated to a farm on the edge of Dartmoor that this suited Stella, who threw herself into helping on the farm, to the despair of her mother, who wanted her daughter to wear pretty dresses and to hand round food when she had friends in to tea!

Stella was instrumental to the Guild in many areas, from helping Maureen with the material for the Vergers Conference, to setting up the Obit and Legacy Book. During her time at Winchester, while she was running the Thorold-Lyttleton Diocesan Library, she learnt calligraphy. This then went on to assisting the Cathedral in writing certificates in calligraphy for those who visited (which the Americans loved!).



Now, for most of us, a funeral service is bread and butter. This service, was however, different as it was incorporated with Evensong. This was such a beautiful service, at a service that Stella loved and attended, with the beautiful singing from the Choir. The music sung was *Ubi Caritas* by Maurice Duruflé, the *Evening Services in G minor* by Henry Purcell and the anthem *View me Lord* written by a former organist of Hereford Cathedral, Richard Lloyd. The Service ended with the *Kontakion of the Dead* from the Orthodox Funeral rite with the melody from the Kiev tradition.

What a truly meaningful and beautiful service to honour such a hardworking woman.

May she rest in peace and rise in glory

Stephen Stokes FCEGV
General Secretary

The Cathedral Church of St Mary the Virgin
and St Ethelbert the King in
Hereford



THE FUNERAL
of
STELLA ROGERS
1931–2022

Thursday 12 January 2023
5.30 pm



NATIONAL CONTACTS

National Chairman

Mr John Kirby-Shearer,
MA, Dip GV (Honoris), FCEGV
Mobile: 07891 168133
email: CEGVNatChair@gmail.com

General Secretary

Mr Stephen Stokes,
Dip GV (Hons), FCEGV
Mobile: 07968 111240
email: CEGVGenSec@gmail.com

National Treasurer

Mr Robert Beattie, MA
Tel: 01905 619429
Mobile: 07968 290319
email: CEGVNatTreas@gmail.com

National Chaplain

The Ven. Dr David Jenkins
FRHistS
Mobile: 07900 990073
email: CEGVNatChap@gmail.com

National Membership Officer

Mr Andrew Wynn-Mackenzie
Mobile: 07940 769970
email: CEGVMembership@gmail.com

Training Officer

Mr Leslie Mitchelmore
Mobile: 07872 567390
email: CEGVTrainOff@gmail.com

Training Administrator

Mrs Susan Ansell, Dip GV
Tel: 01483 548980
email: CEGVTrainReg@gmail.com

Media Officer

Mrs Jane Gorrie
Mobile: 07866 401469
email: CEGVMedia@gmail.com

Welfare Officer

Mrs Irene Money, MBE, Dip GV
Tel: 020 8807 0232
email: CEGVWelfare@gmail.com

Conference Secretary

Mrs Denise Mead
Tel: 020 8688 5971 (Home)
020 8688 8104 (Work)
email: CEGVConference@gmail.com

Overseas Membership Officer

Mr John Campbell, BEM, FBGU, FCEGV
Mobile: 07733 276335
email: CEGVOverseas@gmail.com

Mailing Address

Mr Stephen Stokes, Dip GV (Hons), FCEGV
General Secretary
The Church of England Guild of Vergers
124 City Road
London
EC1V 2NX

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

Find us on



<http://bit.ly/CofEGV>