

THE VIRGER

The Official Magazine of the Church of England Guild of Vergers

Autumn 2024 | Issue 324



www.cofegv.org.uk



John Kirby-Shearer, The National Chairman writes....



The summer is here, but up until now, no one had told the weather what time of year we are in. However, the sun seemed to make a welcomed appearance at our Annual Training Conference and Retreat in West Malvern. It was a joy to welcome six members from North America, a new member from the Channel Islands along with friends old and new from around the United Kingdom. We came together to understand the Ministry of Welcome. Our guest speakers included Br Stuart Burns, Canon Tim Goode, The Rev'd Wendy Dalrymple and Bishop Mike Harrison. A packed timetable of talks, services and some free time for some to climb up to the top of the Malvern Hills or to have a dip in the pool, all made our week together, another highlight in our calendar. One of the poignant moments this year was our Guild Requiem. A group of singers led the eucharist service by singing Faure's Requiem where we remembered Mthr. Rosemary Durward and other members of the Guild who have gone to greater glory. We were delighted to be joined by Keith Durward as we gave thanks for the life of Rosemary, our former National Chaplain.



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The work of the Guild continues to move on as the work of the Way Ahead Group gathers momentum. A timetable of areas that need to be worked on has been drawn up and groups of members are being asked to assist in updating Job Descriptions, Training Units are well underway. It is important to make these changes to ensure that the Guild continues well into the future.

Booking forms are now on the website to reserve your space for conference in 2025. We have held the prices to those of last year and a further saving can be made if you sign up for the Early Bird Scheme. This will give a further saving of up to £25.00. Plans for next year's conference are currently underway as we focus on the Ministry of Music in our worship. Further details of our speakers will be announced very soon.

Our Festival in October is to St. George's Chapel, Windsor. We are thrilled that we can visit the Chapel and attend Choral Evensong. There is also the opportunity to visit the rest of the Castle at a slightly reduced rate, so it is a day that will excite many. Again, the booking form can be downloaded from the website and must be sent in by 2nd September. Please support this wonderful day

I hope that all those who are currently on a break away from their churches and cathedrals, enjoy a restful time wherever you go. I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible over the coming year, either at Windsor, Executive Meetings or at next year's Conference.

John Kirby-Shearer

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.





The Ven Dr David Jenkins, National Chaplain writes...

Dear Sisters and Brothers

I am writing this letter only a few days after my return from this year's national training conference and retreat and I thought I might glance back over last year's epistolary offering to seek inspiration for what I might say this year and I was sorely tempted to simply resubmit for what was true last year remains very much so this year. It was, once again, a combination of great fun, great company, stimulating talks, and great worship. If you have never attended a conference and are pondering whether to do so I would warmly encourage you. It is an excellent opportunity to make new friends, learn new skills, and enjoy the beautiful countryside of the Malvern hills. What more could you want?

So, what are the abiding memories for me from this conference? What have I learnt or had refreshed for me? First, the standard of the worship was, as usual, very high. The Requiem Mass was deeply moving, and it was lovely to have a professional choir to lead us. We were also blessed to have such a fine musician and organist to accompany our music; thank you Phil. The quality of the talks and addresses was uniformly high, but it was a particular delight to have +Mike Harrison, Bishop of Dunwich, and Bishop of Exeter-elect, to lead a teaching session and to preach at our service of Evensong. The verging was of a very high standard and clearly for some this was the first-time verging in such an environment and so thank you to Fr Tom and Denise and those who took such care with the rehearsals and training and well done to those who tried something new at conference.

Above all, we were hoping this year to recapture something of the retreat aspect of our stay and so we built in more down time into the programme which I think we were universally appreciated. It meant that the pace felt a little less frantic and there was plenty of time for coffee and chat. For me the real magic of the conference is the space it provides for friendships to be formed and for conversations to be had.

On that theme of fellowship, I, like many of us, was touched and moved by the input and discussions around our experience of welcome and hospitality within the church. It was the predictable mix of uplifting stories of kindness and faith and rather less edifying tales of less than happy encounters with both the institutional church and individual churlishness. What stood out, however, was the widespread commitment among the vergers present to make the welcome offered the very best that it could be. We heard deeply moving stories of churches trying very hard to reach out to those who perceived themselves to be marginalised, and to those whose experience of church was far from welcoming and inclusive, and to learn of the quite extraordinary lengths some congregations

and individuals went to make their fellow worshippers and enquirers feel welcome. There was much for us to reflect upon, not least how what we learnt might be transposed to our branch life and to the wider fellowship of the Guild.

I do also want to remind all of you that there are bursaries available to help with the cost of the conference. Several people asked me about these at conference this year and I was struck by the fact that there was some confusion about who might qualify to apply. These bursaries are open to all UK vergers who want some assistance. Our Bishops are very generous each year in donating towards a Bursary fund that we want to use! In addition, each first-time attendee will also get a discounted first-time price! Please also be assured that the application process is confidential.

Looking forward, I remain reassured that we have a future as a Guild that remains bright and full of potential. Many of us are rightly concerned about the future direction of the Guild especially given falling numbers and the fact that some branches are struggling to fill key posts, but it was clear from the conference that there is a cohort of younger, intelligent, and very motivated vergers coming up who want the Guild to flourish and are prepared to help out. It was especially pleasing to see younger vergers stepping up into roles of national responsibility. We do, however, need to brace ourselves for change and to encourage our fellow branch members to approach the future with open hearts and minds. We heard a lot at conference this year about the need to be open to change and to making ourselves vulnerable to what God might be calling us to. Please do pray for the guild and for those who are seeking to determine a way forward.

So, thank you once again to all who organised the conference this year and thank you to John, Stephen, and Robert for all their hard work as they lead us. Thank you also for our kindness towards me as I seek to serve the Guild as its National Chaplain. I am deeply grateful. As we head off on holiday or return to the day job I hope you all get a chance to have a well-earned rest over the summer period and return to your branches, parishes, cathedrals, and chapels, refreshed and enthused. Please remember if you have a celebration or occasion at which you think my presence might be an asset (!) then please do contact me giving as much advance warning as possible. I will do my very best to make myself available. Until then every blessing to you all.

Yours in Christ

Fr David
National Chaplain



Executive Committee Round-Up

At our last meeting of the Executive Committee, we discussed several pertinent topics that relate to you as members.

The Virger Magazine

We have been looking at how this essential work is read by more members of the Guild, as we feel that it is a vital mouthpiece of the Guild. A while ago we started discussing this and we looked at how other organisations worked with their publication.

It was felt that there should no longer be the opt in or out to receive the magazine and that Membership Capitation (that which is paid via your Branch and sent on to the National Treasurer) should now be one fee that includes the magazine. We did look at how we offer a reduced Capitation rate where there are two people who reside at the same address (this aspect is essential) who only wish to receive one magazine. This was passed to Executive who approved this from the next renewal.

National Capitation

The National Treasurer reported to us that there has been an ongoing financial shortfall from money that the Guild receives (from National Capitation) and that paid out – which includes insurance, which we all can personally appreciate has increased over recent years. It was felt that an increase of c.£7 per member would address this shortfall, but following a discussion it was felt to increase by only £5 per member.

The new National Capitation rates from 2025 will therefore be

Full or Associate Member

£30.00 (this includes the magazine)

A second person at the same address

£10.00 (no magazine is included)

Slight restructure

It was reported, with sadness, that the Somerset & Avon Branch – which was once a very strong and thriving Branch – has now closed. This meant that in the South West Region two out of the four Branches have now closed. It was felt that remaining two Branches – which are going well – should amalgamate into the South East Region (now South Region) and that the Statutes would be adjusted to reflect the changes of the number of Regions.

Elections

At the AGM the following members who had been nominated were elected to their respective roles.

National Chairman

3 years John Kirby-Shearer
(Durham & Newcastle with Carlisle)

General Secretary

5 years Stephen Stokes (East Anglia)

Training Officer

3 years This role is currently vacant following the withdrawal of their nomination for personal reasons

Overseas Membership Officer

3 years Charles Maggs
(Canterbury with Rochester)

Media Officer

2 years Jason Stevenson (Lincoln & Southwall)
remaining
of 3 years

We are also pleased to announce that the following role was also appointed by the Executive Committee.

Shop Manager

3 years Geoff Izzard (Gloucester, Hereford & Worcester)



Conference Reflections

Mrs A. Marie Goddard writes about her first Conference...

Help! Verger lost!!

This was posted on the Guild of Vergers FaceBook page, this was my first step on my journey to the 2024 Guild Training Conference. Well, maybe not quite the first!

Within my first year as a Full member and having just started the Foundation course I was excited to sign up for the 2024 CEGV Training Conference – The Ministry of Welcome. After 9 years of “Winging It” as the Verger of St Helier Parish Church, (*Town Church*) Jersey, at no fault of the church, I was finally going to be able to get some training!

With the blessing and support of the Church Rector and the Associate Rector, among numerous others within the church, I filled out the form and forwarded the booking fee. Within a day or two I received confirmation of my booking, I'm in!

However, by the time I had booked my flight and stop over hotel in Birmingham, as well as a lot of Google searching, I realised I had no clue how to get from Birmingham to West Malvern! After a short while of mulling this over I suddenly remembered Facebook. Though I will confess to being somewhat Facebook illiterate, I thought I would reach out and give it a go. It was the quick and numerous responses of encouragement and support that gave me my first inkling of the acceptance and welcome I could look forward to, as well as camaraderie and sympathy for my plight from those travelling to the conference from the US. I was soon festooned with directions, advice and reassurance and was soon confident of where I needed to go.

Monday 5th August 2024,
Turbulent flights, cancelled trains and a confused taxi driver did not stand in my way. I was finally here!

Meeting new people for the first time can always be a bit daunting. Especially for an introvert like me. What will they be like? What will they think of me? Will I fit in? I was not disappointed. After being dropped off at the wrong entrance by the previously mentioned confused taxi driver, I was soon found and directed into the building by Denise Mead, Conference Secretary, with a bright smile and a warm welcome she led me in to quickly meet the others and set me up with my room for the stay. With luck, I had arrived just in time for dinner and when I found my way to the food hall I was met with bright faces and exclamations of, “You're New!”, and suddenly found myself being hugged in welcome.

Veterans of the Conference were happy to guide me in proceedings and explain the general order of business, such as when robes were needed and when not.

The AGM was worth attending as it gave me an introduction into how the Guild stands today and their hopes for the future. Encouragingly, they even allowed this newbie to put forward an observation which was listed to and acknowledged.

Coming from a less formal church I was initially a bit daunted by the formality of the services and the reading of Psalms but I quickly got the hang of most of it. As this was a training Conference I was encouraged to volunteer during services and was soon Verging in the Choir for Evensong and then the next day serving in an entirely new role, that of Acolyte. I won't lie, I was very nervous but even though I accidentally sat when I should

have been standing no one batted an eye and instead offered sentiments of praise and encouragement when the service was concluded.



Speakers were invited to talk into the Conference subject – The Ministry of Welcome. The calibre of those speaking and how they presented their insights on what this meant to them through their work in the faith was very thought provoking. I found that I would need to exercise restraint when I return home in not demanding that we make changes here there and everywhere in response to what I heard.

In conclusion, I found myself enjoying my time at the Elim Conference Centre. Making new friends and acquaintances. Being encouraged to push the boundaries of thought as to what it means to Welcome those whom we meet and hearing that I am not alone in this peculiar job. I would whole heartedly encourage anyone who has not yet been to one of these conferences to book your place for next year!

Conference Reflections

Lewis Wright, Branch Secretary of the East Anglia Branch, reflects on his first visit to Conference...

My experience of the conference was one that I will never forget. Firstly I would like to thank the Bishops that help support the bursaries for conference, this helps everyone to attend.

From day one, everyone was very welcoming, supportive and hospitable, great to see as that was the theme this time around. We had five great talks from various clergy, an array of backgrounds and all very different. These were very refreshing and helps to put certain things into a different perspective, and great to carry through into my career. I would highly recommend the talks.

Conference had a variety of services to accommodate all, however, different services that may not be familiar to some, and that they can learn and see how they are led. Conference is a training course amongst other things, and the training team are superb. They are very calming and teach you

what you need to do for the services, but this is done very methodically, and to the point, which makes things very clear.

I enjoyed meeting the overseas members, from the US and Canada. Great to hear how things are both similar and different to how things are in the UK while all doing the same. It was great to meet others in my profession and chat how we do things in our own Churches and Cathedrals, and things we can pass on.

Conference is a great way of networking especially for me as a younger Verger. It was a privilege for me to verge Bishop Mike from the St Edmundsbury and Ipswich Diocese for the last time before he moves on to become Bishop of Exeter and serve at the last Eucharist.

While at conference you do get some free time and this can be to reflect, swim, go for walks or just chat. Was lovely to go up the Worcester Beacon with a few of the other Vergers and our National Chaplin, Archdeacon David, and to go to the local pub and socialise in another environment.

I want to say a big thank you to everyone who organised the conference and for everyone who went and made it a good first experience for me. I would highly recommend it and please do get in touch with the team if you have any questions, they are all happy to help.

Conference Reflections

Ben Elliott-Hill, Deputy Regional Representative – North and member of the York Branch, reflects on his Conference....

Another Training Conference and Retreat has come and gone. Whilst I could focus on a particular aspect of the Conference I am sure that will be covered elsewhere. What I would like to do, however, is focus on the church we worship in each year and, in particular, some of the windows and their significance to the time of year we, generally, attend.

The Victorian parish church of St James, West Malvern has some wonderful stained glass windows, but did you know that some of them portray links to feast days that have been celebrated at the same time as the Conference has taken place? I will start with the window by the organ and entrance to the vestry. It displays saints carrying out the Acts of Mercy. In the bottom left hand corner is St. Oswald, King and Martyr of Northumbria who we remembered on Monday. The window tells the story of how Oswald gave a large banquet



at Bamburgh Castle but, upon hearing that there were poor people outside he ordered the whole banquet, dishes and all, to be taken out to them. St. Aidan, also remembered in August, was so overjoyed by the king's gracious act that he took the king's right hand, and declared "May this hand never perish", and, for a long time after Oswald's martyrdom in 642, it never did.

On the opposite side of the church are two more windows with relevance to this past week. Turning right after entering the church, the first window you come to depicts the Transfiguration, which we celebrated on Tuesday, the moment where Jesus took Peter, James and John up a mountain and was transfigured before their eyes, His face shone brighter than the sun and His clothes became dazzling white. It is there that Moses and Elijah appear, representing the Law and the Prophets, reminding Jesus of what was due to happen to Him in Jerusalem.

The next window, to the west of the Transfiguration one, shows the feeding



of the 5000, which was the Gospel reading at the Opening Eucharist. The inscription at the bottom of the window, "I am the Living Bread which came down from Heaven" is a reminder of this Sunday's gospel (11th August) – John 6: 41–51.

Next year's Conference takes place between the 4th and the 7th August 2025 so will, once again, encompass the feasts of St. Oswald and the Transfiguration. When you visit why not make it a point on those particular days to seek out these windows to help you to focus for those days. As next year's Conference is on the theme of the "Ministry of Music", on the feast of the Transfiguration, pick up a hymn book in the church and look up the hymns listed for the feast. One in particular is very appropriate for the Transfiguration and when we attend Conference: Tis good, Lord, to be here!

Another local connection, with a feast kept at this time of year, is found at the church at nearby Colwall where Mary Sumner, founder of the Mothers' Union, was married (remembered in the Church of England calendar on the 9th August). It's a couple of miles or so from The Elim Conference Centre and could be a potential place to visit during the longer free time period.

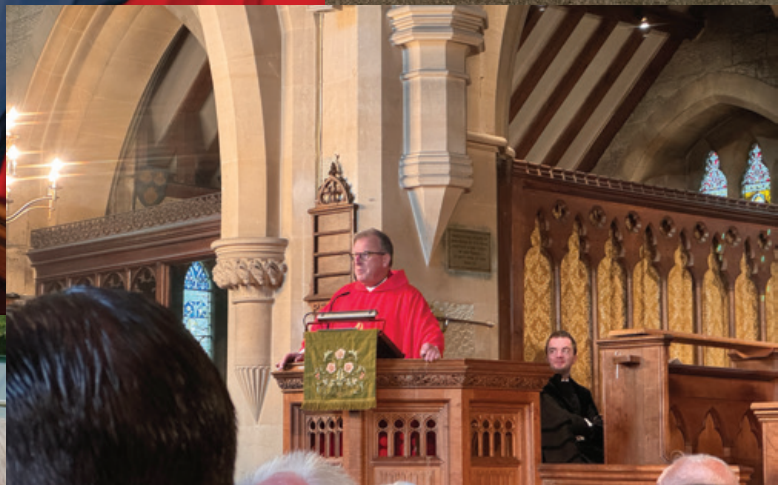
Photos from Conference 2024













From the desk of the new Overseas Membership Officer

I always knew conference 2024 was going to be different. I just didn't know how different. When I attended in 2023, I collected my foundation certificate, made the acquaintance of some very lovely people, and generally had a good time – although I opted out of the hike to the beacon when I saw the weather! I had said to Sue, the Training Administrator, that I would return in 2024 to collect my academic hood having completed the Guild Diploma; and return I did.



In November of 2023, I was honoured to be asked to serve on the 'Way Ahead Group' which looks into ways in which we can make our guild more sustainable in the future and

to ensure not just its survival, but also to ensure it thrives into its centenary in 2032 and beyond.

The 'Way Ahead Group' met in London in April with some brilliant and thought-provoking ideas flying around and although nothing much was finalised, it gave the more senior members of the guild much food for thought. Personally, I felt much progress had been made during those meetings and it was wonderful to engage with yet another aspect of our guild.

Later that same month, the General Secretary found himself in the finest cathedral in the land – that is to say Canterbury Cathedral – in his role as Ostiarius of Lambeth. There he thanked me for my contribution to the 'Way Ahead Group', with a suspicious amount of flattery I might add, and asked me if I would be willing to take on the role of Overseas Membership Officer which was to become vacant once John Campbell stepped down from the role.

I was unsure about this new role to begin with, I doubted what I would be able to bring to it, or even if I would be able to do it at all. John has set the bar very high during his long and fruitful tenure as Overseas Membership Officer, and his will certainly be a hard act to follow. However, I am glad now that I did stand for election for the role.

Having been elected at the AGM at the start of the conference, it was a joy to connect face to face with some of our overseas members who were present at the conference this year. Conference provided an excellent opportunity for me to get stuck in, and our overseas members were very obliging in finding me plenty of things to do in those first few days!

To be able to assist them with their enquiries during the day, to be able to socialise with them down the pub in the evening, and to be able to get up and to share in prayer and the eucharist with them in the morning was perhaps the best start I could have hoped for, and I look forward to working with all our overseas members over the coming months as we engage with each other and support one another.

Charlie Maggs
Overseas Membership Officer



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Andrew Wynn-Mackenzie, National Membership officer, writes on behalf of the Guild...

The Guild would like to offer congratulations to Karina Katsiuba, Verger at Lichfield Cathedral on their wedding blessing in August. Karina offers this story of her life in Ukraine and Lichfield.

Photo Credit: Nick Stafford



Karina, of HeadQuarter Membership, and her husband Constantin have known each other for 30 years and are originally from Ukraine. In the past, Karina was a barrister and civil law lecturer at Yaroslav Mudryi National Law University and Constantin an engineer and private business owner. One day changed their whole life, war engulfed Ukraine and their native Kharkiv. After the explosion, when the family miraculously escaped, they were forced to leave the country to save their son. The Lord led them to Lichfield, a city with a magnificent Cathedral, a place of hope, hospitality, healing and holiness, where Karina has had the privilege of working as a Verger for over a year and a half. On their wedding anniversary on 10 August, Karina and Constantine's marriage was Blessed at the dedication service by The Rt Rev'd Jan McFarlane Dean-designate of Lichfield surrounded by the prayers of the entire Cathedral Family. The sound of Recessional Music was highly symbolic of the service All You Need is Love The Beatles performed by the Cathedral organ.

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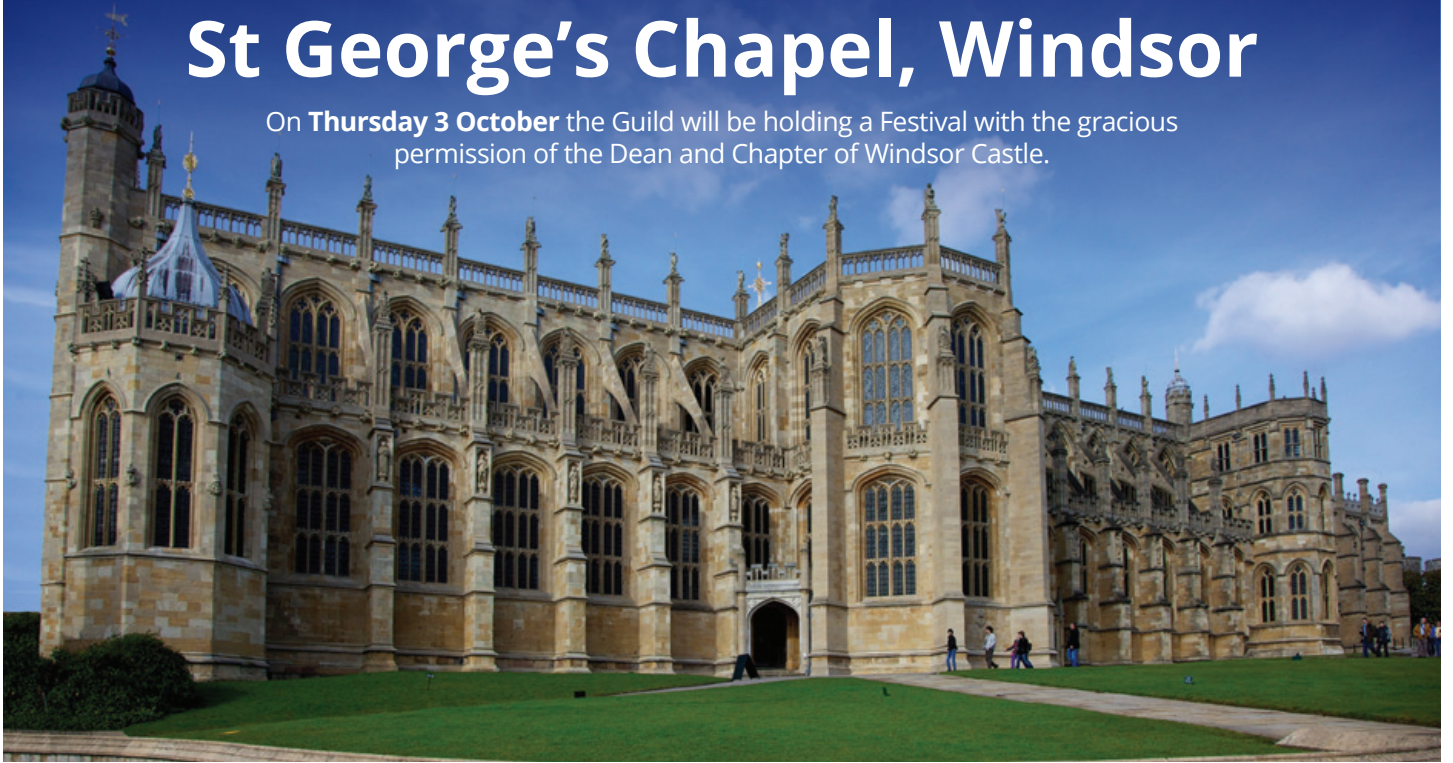


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Cantuar Festival Lite St George's Chapel, Windsor

On **Thursday 3 October** the Guild will be holding a Festival with the gracious permission of the Dean and Chapter of Windsor Castle.



It has been about 14 years since we were last at Windsor and we are very much looking forward to this fantastic day.

For a nominal fee we will hold our day there, have a guided tour of the Chapel and then venture out into

the Town to find our own lunches and refreshments. For those who have not been for a while there is the chance to view the Ledger Stone of Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II along with Prince Philip who were interred in the King George VI Memorial Chapel.



Should you wish to visit the State Rooms we have arranged for a group rate.



We will end the day with the beautiful music of Evensong from the Chapel.

Robes are not needed so please only bring yourself!

For further details please see the enclosed booking form or contact the General Secretary

We look forward to seeing you there.

Geoff Izzard, Guild Shop Manager writes...

Introducing Your New Shop Manager: Geoff Izzard



At our annual conference in Malvern, I was delighted to be announced as the new Shop Manager for The Guild of Vergers' Shop. I see the shop as something that should be serving the Church of England's dedicated Vergers and clergy support teams.

Whilst I have been a member of the Guild for less than two years, I have always had a passion for the "silent ministry" of the Church and have been a very active member of my own Church community for more than ten years. As your new Shop Manager, I hope to bring a fresh perspective and a commitment to enhancing the shopping experience.

For those that have already met me, you will already be aware that I am very open and approachable. For those that I am yet to meet, you will quickly learn that the only thing brighter than my personality is my shirts.

I am excited to connect with the wider Guild community, ensuring that our shop continues to develop and grow as it provides the quality products and services tailored to our needs, and I hope to add new chapter of service under my management.

Calling for Fresh Ideas: Help Us Shape the Future of The Guild of Vergers' Shop

The CofE Guild of Vergers' Shop is your shop and is dedicated to serving Church of England's Vergers. Whether you're responsible for the smooth running of services, maintaining the sacred space, or assisting in the liturgical duties, you will have thoughts on what a Guild of Vergers' shop should be.

The Shop should be dedicated to providing high-quality resources and essentials for Vergers serving in the Church of England. As part of this mission, I wish to strive to continually improve and expand our shop offerings to better meet your needs. But to truly serve you, I need your help!

I believe that the best ideas come from those who live and breathe the role every day. That's why I am reaching out to the Verger community to ask for your input. Whether you're a seasoned Verger or new to the position, your experience is invaluable in shaping the future of our shop.

What am I Looking For?

Product Suggestions: Is there a particular item that you think would make your duties easier or more efficient? Whether it's a formal, casual, or practical accessory, I'd love to hear your thoughts.

Enhancing Existing Offerings: Maybe there's something in our current range that could be improved. Would you like to see alternative materials, designs, or sizes? Or perhaps you have ideas for customisable options or eco-friendly alternatives?

Service Improvements: The Vergers' Shop is not just about products; it's also about service. Let us know how we can improve your shopping experience. Do you have ideas for a smoother online process, or other services that cater to your specific needs?

Educational Resources: As Vergers, your role often involves balancing practical duties with spiritual leadership. Would you benefit from additional resources such as books, educational and training materials, or even online courses related to your responsibilities?

How to Share Your Ideas

We want to make it as easy as possible for you to share your suggestions. Here's how you can get involved:

Email Us: Send your ideas directly to CEGVGuildShop@gmail.com. We review every suggestion carefully.

Why Your Input Matters

Vergers are the unsung heroes of the Church of England, playing a vital role in maintaining the sacred space and ensuring the smooth running of services. Your work is essential, and we want to ensure that The Vergers' Shop becomes an even better resource to support you in your ministry.

By sharing your insights, you help us offer products and services that are more aligned with your daily needs, making your job easier and enhancing your ability to serve the Church community.

Thank you for your ongoing dedication and for helping us shape the future of The Vergers' Shop. We can't wait to hear your ideas.

Geoff Izzard
CEGV Shop Manager



Christopher Eynon, of Bristol writes...

Dear Friends,

It is with much regret and sadness that I have to inform you that the Somerset and Avon Branch of the Guild has had to close due to lack of support. At an Extraordinary General Meeting of the Branch held in May, and after much discussion, a vote was taken and the painful decision was reached whereby it was decided it was no longer viable to remain open.

Lack of support was the main reason, but since just before the outbreak of Covid we have lost many faithful and loyal members through death or retiring because of age, and support for Branch social activities gradually died away. The last two social events were supported by just one member.

However, we still have many happy memories of members in times past enjoying themselves and of those members now in God's care having reached the end of life's journey. We miss them but we shall never forget them and the joy they brought into our lives.

The closure of the Branch I am afraid has left us sad, but there are no younger persons in the 'pipeline' to fulfil all those vacant spaces.

God bless you all, the only compensation is that I am still able to remain a member of the Guild.

Christopher M. Eynon, former Chairman of the Somerset & Avon Branch.

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**.

Blackburn, Chester and Manchester
Freda Murphy, Anne Woodward

Oxford
Michael & Betty Golby, Audrey Ashby,
Heather Ringrose, Molly Payne

Chichester, Guildford and Portsmouth
Sue Ansell

St Albans
Jackie Rudom, Peter Hudson

HQ Member
Marek Barden, Chris Eynon, Roger Lawrence,
Barbara Taylor

London, Southwark and Chelmsford
Gordon Leonard, Arnel and Ian Solarno

**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



Tuesday 10th September

Quiet Day at Douai Abbey
Information from
Heather Ringrose
01628 4886836



Saturday 21 September

Quiet Day at Hereford Cathedral
Information from
David Anwyl-Hughes
07833 641903



Thursday 3 October 2024

A Festival Lite to be held at
St George's Chapel, Windsor.
Booking form included with
this magazine



Monday 4 until Thursday 7 August 2025

Annual Retreat and
Training Conference

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

Molly Payne, Vice Chairman of the Oxford Branch, writes...



Visit to Mortimer, Tuesday,
18th June 2024

On Tuesday, 18th June, nine members of the Oxford Branch of the Guild of Vergers joined in a visit to Mortimer,

near Reading for the Admission of David Chater-Lea to the Guild. We met at St John's Church where the Verger, our member Lorna Jones, made us welcome with refreshments. We gathered afterwards for a service of

Holy Communion incorporating David's Admission, led by the Vicar, the Revd. Paul Chaplin assisted by our Chairman, Michael Golby. A photograph was taken of the event by Dave French, our Media Officer.

Lunch had been arranged for us at the Horse and Groom, a public house just a few steps along the road from the church.

Our afternoon visit was to another church in the area, St. Mary the Virgin at Stratfield Mortimer, which, at one time, had been the Parish Church but is now only used on special occasions. Lorna showed us around this beautiful old church, pointing out things that were of special interest. We all agreed that it had been a lovely visit but eventually it was time to say our 'good-byes' and depart for home.

David Anwyl-Hughes, Branch Secretary of the Gloucester, Hereford and Worcester Branch, writes...

Hereford Cathedral Quiet Day Saturday 21st September 2024



A Quiet Day provides an opportunity to stop, reflect and recharge. In computer terms a "hard reboot" comes to mind. Sharing worship, prayer, hospitality and fellowship with friends and colleagues is a great blessing. Sitting in silence

and stilling the mind away from the busyness and doing of everyday life is an immense joy.

To this end our branch chaplain Canon Maureen has kindly arranged a Quiet Day at Hereford Cathedral for Saturday 21st September 10.30am to 3.30pm in The Old Chapel. A programme for the day will be circulated prior to the event.

The Dean and Chapter are generously providing the room free of charge, but coffee tea will cost £2.50p. The Cathedral has a lovely little café which

sells a range of drinks, sandwiches, and light meals alternatively participants may like to bring a packed lunch. There is also a delightful gift shop. The ground/loos, shop and cafe are all on flat ground so there are no accessibility issues.

Hereford is a beautiful city with ample parking and good rail connections. There is limited disabled parking in the Cathedral grounds.

Members of other branches of the Guild are most welcome to join us.

If you would like to attend, **please contact me** by email, telephone or text. dwah@btinternet.com / 07833 641903



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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



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