

# THE VIRGER

The Official Magazine of the Church of England Guild of Vergers

Spring 2025 | Issue 326



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# From the desk of the Chairman



For the past few years, one of my short breaks in January is to venture to a lovely place called Glen Clova in the Cairngorms. Four of us have spent four or five days in a wooden lodge, with a hot tub and more latterly, a log burner, to

relax, walk and enjoy the stunning scenery. Three years ago, we ventured on an interesting walk up the hills to Loch Brandy. I would take issue with the description that it was a 'Moderate Walk'. The only one of our group who found it truly wonderful, was Max, our westie. After a couple of hours, we reached the summit and I have to say, I am pleased that I did not give up. This year, I walking was a bit more of a challenge, but I was talked into a walk up to Corrie Fee.

Nowadays, for me to make such a walk now, would be challenging, but to reap the reward of experiencing the views and that sense of achievement, the effort is needed. I was glad that this year, I managed Corrie Fee. Sometimes the road ahead seems long and daunting but when you finally crest the top and see what you have achieved, you find that the hard work and the slog has paid off,

Groups or indeed branches that have closed, being reformed as Groups. This would make it easier for members to socialise and meet either for coffee or meals. This would increase fellowship and support on a local basis and engender the recruitment of vergers in the area who are not members of the Guild. Further details of how this can be achieved have been sent to Branch Officers. If you wish to know any more, please contact your Branch Chairman or the General Secretary.

The fees have been streamlined making it simple to administer and every member's household will receive a magazine, which is the Guild's mouthpiece. Over the past few years, we have widened the tone of the magazine with a range of interesting articles covering wide range of topics. It is also important that members share what is happening within their Branches or Groups. Other members would love to know if there is an interesting visit that they can attend, so please send in your articles, photographs and news to our new Media Manager, Jason Stevenson, in good time.

**John Kirby Shearer**



The Guild has now embarked on a period of change. With many branches finding it difficult to find volunteers to undertake the role of officers, a new system is now available to formally close the branch, but reform as a 'Group' and transfer the administration to Headquarters. Initially, the Groups will be made up of the same members, but this could spawn larger Groups to breakdown into smaller more localised



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

Dear Friends

Words matter. They signal where we come from and where we belong. I come from a culture where language is colourful, descriptive, and almost impossible for a non-native to understand. So, my family dry their clothes in an airing cupboard whereas I use the hot press!

Words also matter in church. They can signify much about what we believe and how we think about our faith and our relationship with God. For example.....do we say Lord's Supper or eucharist or Mass or Holy communion. These speak to what we might call church tradition, but they also communicate something of what we believe spiritually and how we practice our faith.

I start here because I am writing this letter to you on the Feast of the Presentation, which rejoices in not just one but four different titles! *The Feast of the Presentation of Christ in the Temple* or *The Feast of the Meeting of the Lord* or *The Feast of the Purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary* or the much more Anglican *Candlemas* is among the most ancient feasts of the Church and is the most ancient of all the festivals in honour of the Virgin Mary; each title potentially revealing a different aspect of the history and meaning of the feast.

The feast is also a good example of an occasion where Christian doctrine and tradition meets folklore and popular superstition to create an intriguing synthesis which only serves to enrich the mix for Candlemas is also important within the secular and pagan calendars. This day is the traditional day to remove the cattle from the hay meadows and from the field that is to be ploughed and sown in the coming spring. In other parts of the world, contemporary celebrations at the Presentation have also been influenced by pre-Christian customs, such as the spreading of ashes by farmers in their fields on this day each year to ensure a better harvest, and keeping ashes on the roof of a house to keep evil spirits away. And before you get too superior about all these superstitious practices in other 'less civilised' places, and succumb to some Anglican conceit, in this country Candlemas has long been connected with many popular sayings concerning weatherlore. It is popularly held that if the day's weather is good, then we shall have more cold and wintry weather before the Spring finally arrives.

But what does this Feast mean for us today? We are the inheritors of this heady mix of pagan and Christian symbolism and belief; how do we make sense of it all? What today can we present to the Lord as we stand or kneel before Him? The penitential season of Advent and the self-inflicted self-righteousness of New

Year resolutions have given us plenty of opportunity for us to look at ourselves in the spiritual mirror. So, in what condition do we present ourselves to Christ? What sacrifices did we make during Advent? Have we begun cultivating a new virtue? Have we attempted to give up an old vice? Have we said our prayers? Have we set a Christian example to our neighbours? Have we thanked God for all that we have received? What has changed in our way of life since we celebrated the Birth of Christ forty days ago? Lots of difficult questions with even more challenging answers!

I suspect that for most of us the answers to these reflections will be underwhelming if not downright depressing. Yet if the feast is about anything it is about encounter and in particular about the encounter each of us may have with our Christ and saviour. Simeon and Anna had waited a lifetime to encounter the Christ and as soon as they set eyes upon this tiny child they knew. They knew and recognised him for what he was; the son of God. For us perhaps the light sometimes burns a little less brightly and we fail to recognise our moment of encounter. One of the roles of a vergers is to facilitate that encounter by providing a safe and holy space in which such a moment might take place. Many of us I think stumble around failing to hear the call but if the church is truly to be the body of Christ here on earth then each and everyone one of us needs to have that encounter or at least be open to the reality, not the possibility but the reality, that Christ waits to meet all of us just as he did that day over 2000 years ago when he came into the lives of Simeon and Anna. So, if Christ is ready to meet us; are we ready to meet Him?

**Yours in Christ**

**Venerable Dr David Jenkins**

**National Chaplain to the Guild of Vergers**



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# From the Executive Committee

## Way Forward - Branches becoming Groups

In January the Executive Committee met to discuss how to pave the way forward for changes that are urgently needed to keep the Guild in existence for years to come.

We were very aware that any change for is scary, and there is often the adage of 'if it ain't broke, don't fix it'. For some Branches this is good, and we are not requiring any change, but for some Branches where Officers have wanted to step down, after giving of many years to their Branch and the Guild, but no one is able to step up—meaning that the old Officers remain and remain, there is a want for a better system. Below is what was agreed by the Executive on how to move forward.

The Executive want to thank those Branch Officers for their time and gifts that they bring to the role and to acknowledge the tireless way they continue to promote the aims of the Guild, Thank you. Secondly, we accept that we as Members have busy lives, often juggling a busy work life and family life, where sometimes additional commitments to the Guild cannot be taken without something else having to give, much to the detriment of your own personal life.

To answer some worries for Branches, and to look into other aspects, the Executive set up a working group called 'The Way Ahead Group', seeking some answers to these questions of Branch Management in today's society and to look at other aspects, such as Training, Succession Planning etc.

One of the solutions that has been worked on is the formation of Groups, rather than Branches, where no longer are 3 Branch Officers needed to be found, only one Group Contact. No longer would there be the need for Formal Branch Meetings where only a small number of Members are able to attend owing to the distance that members sometimes need to travel, late at night, which can be disheartening for the person organising the event.

Over the last number of decades smaller Branches have been forced to amalgamate with neighbouring Branches that can sometime mean that a person may have to drive over 90 minutes in one direction to meet with others. Groups can now be formed from the larger areas and where Branches have closed in the past.

The Executive Committee has met and approved an update of the Statutes (these are now on the website) that now shows how Groups may be formed and organised. How the subscription would be paid, going forward. The new section of the Statutes to note is section 2 and the changes to 1.14 and 10.

What this means to you as a Branch:

- At your AGM or at an EGM called for this allow a discussion to be held on the matter
- Should your Branch decide, by vote, to become a Group to decide who the single Contact will be?
- To formally vote to close the Branch and follow the rules of transferring the finances of the Branch to the National Treasurer.
- To pay this year's current subscription, as normal, but next year all will be paid by members centrally.
- A reminder that Branch Life Membership would cease to be, for Branches that have closed, on the beginning of the following Financial Year. The Members would be asked to pay the standard Membership Fee moving forward.
- One concern that was raised, was what happens with the funds that the Branch holds and if it would be lost, the agreement was that while the National Treasurer would hold the Branches funds (ring fenced) the Group, formed in the stead of the Branch, would be able to draw upon the funds – with proper receipts – for legitimate expenses of the Group.

Branches that do not wish to adopt this method, are invited to continue as is, with subscription being collected by your Branch Treasurer and National Membership being paid, by the Branch, to the National Treasurer.

We do ask that you take time to discuss this in your Branches, and please do reach out to us with any questions so that when you discuss this you are armed with as much information as you can possibly have.





As we step into AGM season, a reminder to all branches that Annual General Meetings must be held **by 31 March 2025**. This is a crucial time for reflection, planning, and ensuring the continued strength of our Guild at every level.

To keep everything running smoothly, please ensure the following:

- **Annual Returns** – These must be sent to your **Regional Representative, the National Treasurer, and the General Secretary**.
- **Capitation Fees** – These should be sent directly to the **National Treasurer**.
- **Membership Records** – A full set of **current membership details** (including addresses, emails, and phone numbers) must be sent to the **General Secretary**.

By meeting these requirements on time, we uphold the integrity of our Guild and ensure that all branches remain well-connected and fully engaged in our shared mission.

Thank you for your dedication, and best wishes for your AGMs!

# Festival Light at Lichfield Cathedral

Save the Date

**Thursday, 2 October 2025**

Lichfield Cathedral, a true gem of England's ecclesiastical heritage, will host **Festival Light** on **Thursday, 2nd October 2025**, welcoming Vergers and church professionals to a day of reflection, fellowship, and worship. Nestled centrally between **York and Canterbury**, Lichfield's stunning medieval architecture and deep-rooted history make it a perfect setting for this special occasion. With **easy access by road and rail from Birmingham**, it is ideally placed for visitors from across the country.

The day's programme will feature moments of worship, learning, and community, all culminating in the **glorious choral Evensong**, where the soaring voices of the cathedral choir will fill this sacred space with a timeless offering of praise.

More details, including the full schedule and **booking form**, will be available in the next issue of *The Virger Magazine*.

For now, **save the date**, spread the word, and prepare to experience the light of faith and tradition at Lichfield Cathedral.



# Egar Society

**S**tuart Freed is a retired Technology teacher, who spent some thirty years in the classroom. He has been a member of the Elgar Society for some 35 years during which time he has served a Chairman of the Southern Branch, Society

Council member, Vice-Chairman and, since 2021, Chairman of the Society.

He is an experienced speaker on the life and music of Edward Elgar, giving talks on various facets of his life and music to

a variety of audiences both within the Society and to outside groups such as PROBUS, the WI and other bodies. He also speaks locally on Jazz.

Stuart lives in Worcester with his wife Jan and a grumpy cat.



## 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 Golby, Audrey Ashby,  
Heather Ringrose, Thelma French, 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

### For those who have died

Betty Goldby  
Peter Hudson  
Trevor Chesterton  
The Rev'd Canon Graham Lyall, Gloucester, Hereford  
and 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.**

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# Welcome to Our Spring Edition!

Dear Friends,

From the thrust of Christmas to the calm of Ordinary Time, and then the rush toward Easter, we move through the seasons with purpose and dedication. As vergers, we are privileged to serve in the house of God, caring for the beautiful and intricate buildings that have stood for centuries—some for over a millennium.

Allow me to introduce myself.

My name is Jason Stevenson, and since August 2024, I have served as the Guild's Media Officer—the very same week I began my role at Taunton Minster.

Unlike many, I did not grow up in a religious household—apart from my grandmother, faith was not a central part of my upbringing. In fact, as a schoolchild, I was probably one of those who saw church as just another interruption in life! But everything changed when I befriended the vicar's son at my local church. That friendship has remained strong for 27 years, and in time, his family became my surrogate family, sharing both joy and sorrow along the way.



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## My Journey as a Verger

I began my journey as a verger at St Botolph's Parish Church (Boston Stump) in 2008, a role I balanced with university studies in Middlesbrough. Over the course of seven years, I immersed myself in church life—assisting in the shop, the café, and wherever else I was needed. Daily worship became an integral part of my routine, and the church community became my family in Christ, a bond that had been forming ever since I first stepped through its doors at the age of 11.

More recently, I have had the privilege of taking part in civic functions in Taunton, including High Sheriff services and Royal Foundation services. These events have highlighted what it truly means to be a modern verger—a role that extends far beyond liturgical duties.

In reality, a verger today must be a:

- ✦ Data administrator
- ✦ PBX (Private Branch Exchange) operator
- ✦ GDPR consultant
- ✦ Website and social media manager
- ✦ Digital imaging specialist—and so much more.

Sometimes, I feel like Bert in Mary Poppins—a one-man band! 🎵  
My Vision for Guild Media

One of my key aims as Media Executive is to renew and refresh the Guild's website, ensuring it is fit for both the present and the future. This is not a task to be rushed—it requires careful planning, thought, and execution.

I look forward to the journey ahead and to working with you all as we continue to preserve, protect, and modernize the work of vergers across the country.

**Jason Stevenson**  
**Guild of Vergers Media Executive**

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.





# Forthcoming Elections – A Call to Serve

**A**s we approach the next Annual General Meeting of the Church of England Guild of Vergers, it is time once again to consider those who will take up key roles within the Guild. The strength of our Guild lies in the dedication of its members, and these positions offer an excellent opportunity to serve and shape the future of our community.

Several roles are reaching the end of their current term, and members are encouraged to step forward for election or re-election. If you feel called to serve or know someone who would be well-suited to one of these positions, please consider putting forward a nomination.

## Elected Positions

The following offices are due for election at the upcoming AGM. Each of these is a three-year term, and candidates must be members of the Guild:

- **Welfare Officer** – This role is open to all members and focuses on supporting and promoting the well-being of our community. The Welfare Officer plays a vital role in offering care and assistance to Guild members, ensuring that the Guild remains a source of encouragement and support.

- **National Membership Officer** – Open to all members, this position is key to growing and maintaining the Guild's membership. The officer will work closely with branches and individual members to encourage engagement and participation in Guild activities.
- **Training Officer** – This role is open to **Full members** who currently hold a Guild Diploma. The Training Officer is responsible for supporting and developing the Guild's education and training initiatives, ensuring that vergers across the country have access to resources and learning opportunities.
- **Conference Secretary** – Open to all members, this role is vital for the planning and organisation of the Guild's Annual Conference. The Conference Secretary works to ensure that the event is a success, managing logistics, schedules, and communications to provide a valuable experience for attendees.

## Appointed Position

In addition to the elected roles, the following **appointed position** is also due for renewal or new appointment:

- **Guild Chronicler** – This **three-year appointment** is open to all members and involves maintaining records of Guild activities and ensuring that the rich history of our community is preserved for future generations. The Chronicler plays an important role in documenting events and milestones, contributing to the Guild's ongoing narrative.

## How to Apply

For further details, including **role descriptions**, please contact the **General Secretary** at [CEGVGenSec@gmail.com](mailto:CEGVGenSec@gmail.com).

**A completed and correct Nomination Form** (where required) must be received **no later than 30 April 2025**.

Serving in one of these roles is a rewarding way to contribute to the Guild's mission, strengthen our community, and ensure that the work of vergers continues to thrive. **If you feel called to serve, now is the time to step forward!**

Would you like any additional details or a call for nominations from current officeholders?



## Les Mitchelmore, Branch Chair of Leicester, Peterborough with Derby and Regional Rep for the Midlands Area writes...

**H**aving said previously that our branch is flourishing with new members across our three Diocese.

We welcome Helen Fisher and Nicolas Green, recently admitted members at Derby Cathedral. This was a joint meeting of Leicester and Derby Branch.



Congratulations to Joanne Blanchard, Secretary of the Lincoln and Southwell Branch on completing the Guilds Diploma. Sadly, Joanne was unable attend the Conference to receive her certificate and Guild Hood. As Joanne had been awarded a distinction it was important that her hood was not just posted on,

As Regional Representative I attended the September meeting of the Lincoln Branch held in the Chapel of St Anne's Bede houses Lincoln a stunning Chapel build in 1847 and designed by AWN Pugin. This beautiful surrounding made even more special for Joanne. To put the icing on the cake to our surprise John Campbell who had attended the Head Vergers Guild Conference held at Leicester Cathedral and I had been speaking to John during the day and neither of us had mentioned we were attending the meeting to support Joanne, A great evening was had by all.



Additionally, Jason would like to offer his apologies for it not being included in the last edition. Knowing Joanne for the last few years, since she joined the guild in Lincoln and Southwell. It is great to see hard work pay off.

## Oxford branch

**O**n Tuesday, 3rd December, members and friends of the Oxford Branch of the Guild enjoyed our Christmas Lunch at the now familiar venue of the Wee Waif Restaurant. Some members had travelled quite a long way to be with us. We enjoyed welcome cups of coffee and greetings before the meal. There was a long table nicely arranged for us with place cards that had our menu choices on them in case we had forgotten what we had ordered. Our Branch Chairman, Michael Golby, welcomed us and after our Chaplain, the Revd Marie Jackson had said the Grace we all enjoyed a very tasty meal.

After the meal, a presentation was made to our Secretary, Heather Ringrose, thanking her for all her hard work in organising the meal. We also sent our thanks to the kitchen staff for preparing our meal. Eventually, it was time to gather up our belongings, say our 'Good-byes' and set off on our journeys home.

**Molly Payne, Vice Chairman.**

'It is always a joy to welcome new members into the Guild, especially someone you have known for many years and who has been involved with Branch activities during that time but had never taken that final step - to become a member. This was recently rectified, and Carol Wotherspoon joined our fellowship, and relevant paperwork was completed. However, as can frequently be the case, to find a convenient date and venue to 'officially' admit someone, can become a nightmare. However, on the 18th of December, 2024, an opportunity presented itself - all those required to be involved were available, required Certificate prepared (thank you General Secretary), and the ceremony undertaken at the conclusion of the weekly morning Communion Service at the church (for a number of our members), of Christ the Servant King (CSK), Booker, High Wycombe. The regular refreshments after the service were much needed and appreciated!'

**Michael Golby, Oxford Branch Chairman**

## York Branch

**T**he York Branch met on a crisp December day, that had enough warm to bring the squirrels out to play (just) in ruins of the once great monastery of St Mary, in the grounds of the county museum. Thankfully we met not in the ruins, but in the stunning church of St Olave, dedicated to the King of Norway martyred for his Christian faith. This medieval masterpiece whose foundation predates the conquest nestles snugly next to the grounds of the abbey so was ideal for those travelling to York.

We had a liberal catholic Eucharist which was moving

and calming, which was needed. We were all recovering from our AGM in which we held our breaths in case we acquired a post on the committee. Sadly, I sneezed, spoke and that is why I am writing this article as a newbie to the Branch.

The members were warm, friendly even though we were all cold, there was that genuine warmth of gathered vergers. Smiles, caring chatter, moans about our cathedrals, parishes, and praise for them. It was also a joy to see how the admittance of a new guild member Ann Wilkinson, a member of the team of Hull Minster. The admittance was

gently done, without gowns amongst her friends.

Finally, as all vergers and clergy do, we made our way along the river to a fine upmarket pub to eat what I think is one of the best of Christmas lunches I have enjoyed, supplemented with of course a quiz on the side.

Well, done active members and long may the Branch prosper, and I look forward to reporting on our printable doings, and enjoying each other's company.

**Canon James Wilson**  
**National Life Member**  
**York Branch Correspondent**



## St Albans Branch, Janny Huskison writes...

**D**uring the second half of our year of events we had the aim of visiting a range of places within our diocese.

### Visit to St Andrew's Bedford

Despite the heavy rainfall, members travelled from Heath and Reach, Potters Bar and Leighton Buzzard on 21st September to enjoy a most interesting tour of St Andrew's, Bedford, where we were welcomed by the Vergers, Gareth Burrows and Alan Colley. Our members from St Andrew's gave us a very informative talk about the origins of St Andrew's dating back to the colonial days of the Indian Raj, when families returned from India, often to educate their children at the schools around Bedford.

The Tin Tabernacle of 1895 was replaced by the Early

English style nave between 1920 and 1930, with the bell tower and chapel being added in the 1960s and a new Church Centre in the early 2000s. There is interest for embroiderers, musicians and bell ringers at St Andrews. We viewed a full set of altar frontals, designed by Joan Freeman and embroidered by the St Andrew's Guild of Embroidery in the late 1960s and early 1970s. This is said to be one of the few – if not only – full set of embroidered altar frontals and vestments made by the parishioners themselves. The Harrison and Harrison organ was installed in 2015. Six bells from the redundant church of St Mary's date from 1594 to 1748 and there are the two treble bells which were cast in 1982.

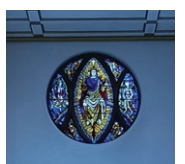
We were all impressed by the facilities available, and the wide

range of activities that go on at the church each week. We were also treated to a delicious afternoon tea. Luckily we all returned to our homes safely, because by the following day the road we had used, the A412 was 6-8 feet under water.

### Trip to St Albans Abbey

Our recent visit to St Albans Abbey took place in October. We were given a most interesting talk on some of the altar frontals and copes, which were brought out for us to gain a closer inspection, including that of the Dean. This had the most incredible embroidered depiction of the story of St Alban. Do look for the single daffodil on the beautiful covering of the shrine of St Amphibalus. Our visit was rounded off by attending the mid day mass at St Alban's shrine and lunch in the café.

Our year was rounded off by our visit to All Saints, Leighton Buzzard for our Christmas lunch, which was enjoyed by all.





## East Anglia Branch Vergers Meal Out



Every year we have our delayed Christmas lunch (as you all know, Advent and Christmas are very busy times for us all). We all had such a lovely time chatting and meeting a new Verger in our branch, who will be formally joining the Guild of Vergers in March at our AGM, followed by Choral Evensong as well as four others. Due

to work commitments and a farmers protest on the A14, we were short on numbers, however, this did not spoil our time together. We look forward to this social every year.

**Lewis Wright East Anglia Branch Chairman**

## Vergers on tour

We were invited to visit Bradford Cathedral in February by Head Verger Sam Fletcher.

Before entering the building we took the time to walk along the story boards outside. Starting at 600AD and ending at modern day. It gives a fascinating snap shot of the Cathedral's history. On entering we were struck by the simplistic elegant design with lots of quiet spaces to sit, pray and reflect.

Libby's day off



The Nave, completed in 1485, has undergone many changes of the centuries.

Above our heads the roof is lined with wonderful painted wooden Angels which

are said to have links with Kirkstall Abby.

The Tower, completed in 1508. It was bombarded by the army of Charles 1 in 1642/3.

It stands 100 feet tall and houses 12 bells.

The West window depicts women in the Bible and there is an interesting list of Vicars/ Incumbents dating back to C13th

The Font is made of Caen stone which is creamy coloured Jurassic limestone found in France and has a Tudor wooden canopy circa 1536.

The Lady chapel is at the heart of the Cathedral's daily ministry. On the West side there is one of the earliest commissions of Stained glass carried out by William Morris and Ford Madox Brown. It is back lit to show of the wonderful design and colours. The bottom panel showing the Pelican pecking at his own heart. A Christian symbol used in several other Pre Raphaelite designs. The high altar frontal is a tapestry frontal made by the Morris Co.



There are lots of things to see here, beautifully carved pews and regular exhibitions. While we were here there was a young people's exhibition called Beacon of Hope.

In March there is a William Morris Stained glass tour.

We visited in Feb, but there is a full summer season of events.

Including the Patronal fest July 2nd, Literary Fest July 8th, evening concerts, visiting choirs and free lunch time organ recitals.

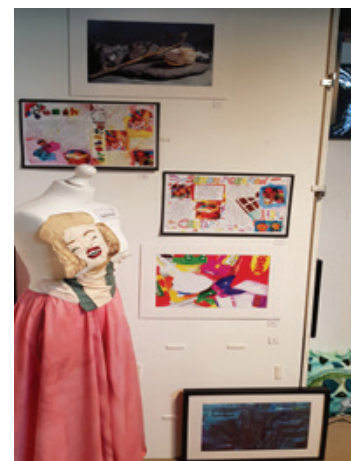
Entry to the Cathedral is free. Donations welcome.

For more information about upcoming events [bradfordcathedral.org](http://bradfordcathedral.org)

**Su Graves Chairperson, York Branch**



*William Morris & Co*



*Beacon of Hope  
Young peoples exhibition*



# NATIONAL CONTACTS

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## The Guild Prayer

Almighty Father, from whom every family in heaven and earth is named,  
who has called us into the fellowship of your Church,  
grant, we pray, that in all our churches we may fulfil the duties  
and enjoy the privileges of our spiritual home.  
And on those who offer themselves for service as vergers in the house of God  
bestow the fullness of your grace,  
that, united in love to you and to one another,  
we may show forth your glory and hasten the coming of your kingdom.  
Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.



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