



# The Server

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S. Cattwg, Pendoylan

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# Autumn 2012

## Guild of Servants of the Sanctuary

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Any items for publication should be sent or Emailed by the second Saturday of January, April, July and October  
Printed by The Additional Curates Society.

## From the Editor's Desk.



Revd. Fathers, Brothers and Sisters,

In May I visited the Chapter of the Holy Apostles in Guernsey and received a very warm welcome. The Chapter members and Officers were most welcoming and wanted to know all about the Guild on the mainland and how things were fairing. I stayed in Les Cotils Christian Centre situated high on the cliffs above St Peter Port, which is very comfortable with a great breakfast. That evening I attended their Chapter meeting (report in the News from the Chapters section). The accommodation was very comfortable although if you have no transport it is a bit of a walk up hill from the Town. I would certainly recommend anyone visiting the Island to attend their Chapter meetings they would be very welcome and to stay in Les Cotils.

On several occasions at the General Council meetings some concern has been expressed at the reduction of numbers who are attending the two major Guild National Festivals each year. Can I urge you all to seriously think about joining us at the Autumn Festival in Coventry on 20<sup>th</sup> October. The church is only a few minutes walk from the railway station. If you book through Trainline you will find that the return fare from London to Coventry, using a railcar, can cost just under £9.00.

I recently heard a long standing member say that for the first time ever he had attended the Easter Festival this year and found it a wonderful experience, so much so that he is now busily arranging a group from his own Chapter to attend the Coventry Festival. Could you do the same? I hope to see you all there.

Yours

*Peter*

## Welcome to New Members

**Probationers:** Christopher Jones, Alan Stewart, Ivy Proctor, Jean Milburn,

**Full Members:** Peter Barrie, Robert Foster, Valerie Hawker, John Simarpi,

**RIP:** Denis Buckmaster, David Goodey, Florence Rose, Michael Watts, Edward Wood (Priest).

### The Chantry Book

Bro. Edwin Sheppard. Edwin, died on the 4<sup>th</sup> June and had been a Guild member for well over fifty years. For much of his later life Edwin looked lived with and looked after his disabled brother, Robert, and for several years Edwin was unable to attend Chapter meetings, as his brother could not be left alone for any length of time. However since the death of Robert Edwin had been a faithful attendee at meetings. His funeral was held at S. Georges's, Waterlooville and where the Guild was well represented. God bless you Edwin may you rest in peace and rise in Glory



oOo

### Rail Enthusiasts

Brothers Philip and Robert Mitchell, as well as being GSS members, are keen railway enthusiasts working on the Plym Valley Railway. They both have been involved with the restoration of the diesel electric locomotive 'Royal Oak' and recently all that hard work came to fruition as the locomotive re-entered service on the Plym Valley Railway after many hours of restoration.



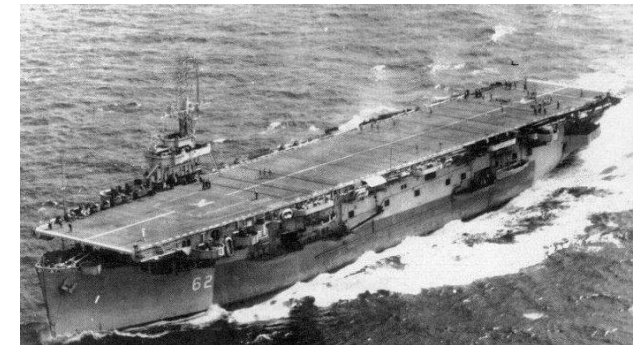
## The Diary of the Revd James Arter RNVR 1943-47

After being hidden in a garage for decades the "lost war diaries" of a Swansea vicar have been discovered. They detail the terror and hardship that reigned when German bombers began three nights of heavy bombing on 19<sup>th</sup> February 1941.

As light snow fell more than 400 people were injured and 227 people were killed, 37 of them under the age of 16, and the flames could be seen 80 miles away. The Rev James "Jimmy" Arter, was a 26-year-old curate when the attacks came and he describes how he tried to put out incendiaries using sand bags and how homeless people wandered the streets trying to salvage what they can from the rubble of their homes.

In the aftermath of the bombing, the young clergyman wrote: "Wreckage and mess everywhere and above all a stench of burning and a sense of 'what's the good of it all'". He called the attack 'bloody murder' and it inspired him to join the Royal Navy as a chaplain. The experience of the Swansea Blitz challenged him profoundly and he felt that his ministry ought to be closer to the front line. He wanted to be more engaged and decided he could best serve by joining the Royal Navy.

He trained at Torpoint after joining up in 1943 and went on to serve in HMS Khedive (right) in the Far East.



After the war he left the Royal Navy and returned to Swansea where he married but his son says that he never heard his father talk about his experiences during the bombing, nor during his time as Royal Naval Chaplain.

The Rev "Jimmy", who went on to serve in several churches in the diocese of Swansea and Brecon, died aged 56 in 1971 in the Brecon area.



## GUILD SHOP

Spiral Bound Laminated Guild Office (can be personalised)

A4 size - Plainchant	£4.00
A5 size - Plainchant	£3.00
Words Only Guild Manual	£0.90
Organ Accompaniment to The Guild Office	£1.25
Guild Lapel Badge	£2.00
Prayer cards -Before and After Serving, Guild Collect, Key Fobs	
individual costs	£0.60
Pens	£1.00
Additional Copies of the Server	£1.50
Guild Ties Royal Blue	£8.50 All

the above figures include p&p and are available from Grand Councillor Nigel Makepeace, address inside front cover.



*Key Rings (above) can be personalised with Guild Badge on one side and contact number on other side or with Guild Badge on both sides. Only £1 inc p&p. Please state when ordering 'standard' or quote your contact number. Available from Terry Doughty.*

### The Language of Bees by Bruce Reed

If bees could talk, and we came across them busy in a flower garden and enquired what they were doing, their reply might be: 'Gathering nectar to make honey/ But if we asked the gardener, he would most certainly answer: 'They are cross pollinating my flowers/ In carrying out their manifest function to make food, the bees were performing a latent function of fertilising flowers. The mutual dependence of bees and flowers is an analogue of churches and society.

### Why Police Chaplains?

Serving in today's police service is increasingly complex and challenging. More than ever, members of the police service need to be able to draw on a range of support and resources to help deal with professional and personal issues; this is where Police chaplains come in. These Chaplains recognise that much of police work, by its very nature, is stressful and can be dehumanising. They understand that everybody is a complete person -body mind and spirit - and care for them in this holistic way. They also care for and support the organisation, including acting as "critical friends" within the decision making processes.



The majority of UK police forces now have chaplains who aim to provide independent pastoral care to members of the Police Service and their families, and help them handle the increasingly complex and demanding nature of their work. Chaplaincy teams are drawn from a wide range of faiths and denominations who respect and care for members of the police community

Regardless of religious belief they aim to:

- Support and encourage staff and their families
- Respect and reflect the diversity of belief within the service and the wider community
- Value each individual member of the service

### **Why do we need Chaplains?**

Police work is always demanding, often daunting and somewhat dangerous. Chaplains are not spiritual welfare officers, counsellors or psychologists. They are available to anyone who needs them, in whatever way that might be. One way to sum up their role is as a listening ear. Their role is unique and they seek to support staff in all aspects of their duties.

In order to do this they endeavour to:

- Develop a clear and strong link with operational policing
- Get to know the people and understand the job they do

- Build relationships based on friendship and trust.

They do this by:

- Visiting police stations
- Attending training sessions
- Spending time on duty with officers and police staff
  - Responding to major and critical incidents

### A network of advice



Chaplains, through the National Association of Chaplains to the Police, can seek to build on existing force, regional and national networks to promote local support and involvement, harness the energy and support of the communities, improve community cohesion, promote and enhance local and neighbourhood policing initiatives and to provide a coordinated and professional 'faith groups' response to major incidents

The National Association of Chaplains to the Police supports the work of individual Chaplains by:

- Representation and liaison with other agencies
- Offering accredited chaplaincy training
- Provision of Advice and Good Practice
- Working with partners to ensure that in cross service deployment, pastoral support is available for emergency service workers.

### What about confidentiality?

The basic principle of all chaplains is to provide safe, independent, confidential support and mutual understanding to all members of staff, whether or not they have a defined religious belief. Chaplains seek to support, comfort and counsel without prejudice.

At the present time there are only five full time Police Chaplains who are based in the major police areas throughout the country but they are assisted by over 480 priests throughout the country who provide their time and expertise on a part time as required basis. One of the interesting facts about these volunteer Chaplains is that two of them were very senior service Chaplains, one Chaplain General in the Army and the other a Chaplain in Chief in the RAF.

### News from the Chapters.

**S. Mary of Margam.** Following the Christmas festivities our first meeting was held at S. Mary's, Llasawel where we celebrated Mass and welcomed two new servers. February's meeting was held at S. Teilo's, Tonmawr, where we celebrated a votive Mass to celebrate the Patronal Festival. We visited Margam Abbey in March for a said Mass as our organist was unavailable. We hope that our new Chapter members enjoy the Guild fellowship.

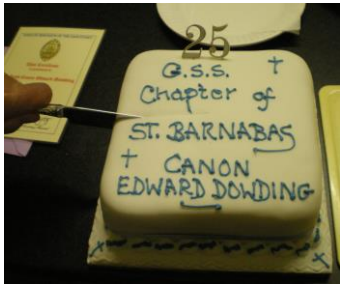


**S. Osmund and S. Swithun.** The Bournemouth Chapter met in the church of S. Ambrose, Westbourne, Bournemouth in May to sing the Guild Office led by Fr Robert Leigh their Chaplain. The Chapter had rehearsed the Office for some time and sang it well. After the Office Fr. Paul Hastrop preached and gave Benediction. Before the service two probationers were admitted as full Guild members and the evening ended with refreshments in the church hall.



**The Holy Apostles, Guernsey.** The Chapter sang the Guild Office in S. Stephens's church led by their Chaplain the Very Revd. Can. Trickey. Incidentally S. Stephens has the finest pipe organ in the Channel Isles. The meeting was preceded by a meal in the local hostelry adjacent. To sing the Office there were 18 members present. The Office was sung unaccompanied, and the Vicar Phillip Carrington preached on S. Phillip and S. James. Before the beginning of the Office Grand Councillor Peter Keat read out a letter of greeting from the Warden to the Chapter and all its members. Refreshments followed the meeting and Councillor Peter thanked them all for their generous hospitality.

**S. Barnabas, Cardiff.** On Monday 5<sup>th</sup> March our Chaplain Canon Edward Dowding celebrated 25 years as our chaplain. A good number of chapter members turned out at S. Mary's, Cardiff for a service of Stations of the Cross, which was followed by a reception in the church hall with a specially made cake to mark the occasion. Bro. Geoffrey Parker our Chapter Secretary presented Canon Edward with a book token and thanked him for all his hard work over the years, Councillor Michael Andrew presented Canon Edward with a certificate to mark his 25 years as chaplain. We held our April meeting



at S. Augustine's Church Rumney where Canon David Hathaway celebrated and preached. Our May meeting had to be cancelled due to unforeseen circumstances. On Monday 11<sup>th</sup> June the Feast of S. Barnabas, our Chapter Patron, a small number of Chapter members travelled to S. Cattwg's Church in Pendoylan, where Fr. Edward Counsell presided and preached.

**S. Joseph of Arimathea, Portsmouth.** Our May meeting was held in the Church of S. Faith, Gosport, this is only the second time we have ever visited the church. We received a warm welcome and our Chaplain Fr. Alan (whose birthday it was) led us in a Meditation based on the Guild Office and the personalities mentioned in the psalms. We also admitted Nigel Powel as Probationer, refreshments followed the service. In June we visited an 11<sup>th</sup> century church, which we had not visited before, Our Lady of Warnford. Our numbers were disappointingly low but it was great to say the Office in such an ancient church.

**S. John the Divine, Leicester.** Fr. Colin, our chaplain, led us in Stations of the Cross at St. Nicholas, Fleckney, in March. The 24 members present were joined by supporters and members of St Nicholas congregation. This was a most inspiring service, most apt for part of our Lenten discipline. We gathered in the Church Hall afterwards for light refreshments and fellowship. Fr. Colin and the people of St. Nicholas were thanked for their warm welcome and for providing refreshments. 23 members were present for our April meeting at All Saints, Narborough. Fr Alan Hawker celebrated the Sung Mass and also preached. Fr. Colin, our chaplain, was unwell and unable to be present - a very rare occurrence. Once again the people of All Saints provided refreshments after the service. We are grateful to Fr. Alan and the people of All Saints for their kind welcome to us. Many members were unable to attend the May meeting at St. Hugh, Market Harborough, there being only

17 members present - the lowest attendance for over 2 years. There were some supporters and members of St Hugh's present to swell the numbers. Fr, Colin sang the Office and Fr. Andrew Quigley, Team Vicar, gave the address and led us in prayer and devotion. After the meeting the ladies of St. Hugh's provided refreshments. Our thanks to Fr Andrew and St. Hugh's people for their kind welcome to us

**S. Lawrence, Walsingham – GSS Eastern Area Festival.** The Eastern Area Festival was held at S. Mary's Parish Church, Walsingham on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2012. Watching the weather change so much in the week before, we were all delighted that the day dawned with glorious sunshine. The festival started with a concelebrated Mass for the Solemnity of Our Lady of Walsingham, with Bishop John Salt, OGS, formerly bishop of St Helena, being the principal celebrant and preacher, being joined by 9 associate priests from a wide area. The congregation



was over 100, from a wide area, and with our Organist, raised the roof with good strong hymns. We were joined by four Yr4God youngsters from the Shrine who helped in many ways for the day. The afternoon started with many members going to the sprinkling at the Holy Well in the Shrine at Walsingham, and then with a procession of Servers, Priests and

Bishop from the Parish Hall to S. Mary where Solemn Guild Office was led by Fr. David Moore, Warden of the Guild, followed by Benediction given by Bishop Salt. The day was so enjoyable many are looking to another festival in Walsingham.

**S. Juliam, Midsomer Norton and Frome.** In March we met with the Bath Chapter and joined the congregation of Christ Church in Frome for Stations of the Cross and Compline. Fr Neil Maxted, our Chaplain, led the evening. Our Easter Mass took place at S. John the Baptist Midsomer Norton the celebrant being Fr Christopher Chiplin. For our May meeting we visited S. Thomas in Wells for a Chapter Mass. One of our Priest associates Fr Nicholas Fridd celebrated and gave a short talk on the lives of Charles and John Wesley as it was



their feast day. The June meeting was a milestone for our Chapter as we celebrated 85 years since our founding in 1927. A Sung Mass was held in Christ Church, Frome with our Chaplain, Fr Maxtead as celebrant assisted by Fr Littler. Fr Maxtead spoke on the history of the Chapter and on S. John the Hospitaller.

**Our Lady Star of the Sea and S. George, Plymouth.** Our first meeting of the year was a Mass at S. Thomas the Apostle in Plymouth we did not meet in February but in March we visited S. John the Evangelist in Ivybridge where we progressed around the Stations of the Cross. We sung the Guild Office at the Holy Spirit in Plymouth in April and held our AGM, after singing a short Guild Office in S. Stephen's by Saltash. We ended the first half of the year with a Mass at All Saints, Millbrook near Torpoint.

### Stamp of Approval

Alan Sabey the Secretary and Treasurer of the Chapter of the Holy Rood, West London area has been invited to show his 1948 Olympic Games philatelic collection from 24th July to 9th September. It's on show at the British Library, Euston Road, London and entrance is free. In the past his pages have been awarded a Silver medal and Australian National prize in Sydney in 2000 and a Silver-gilt medal in Beijing in 2008. He is also providing one very rare sheet containing 1908 British Olympic Association labels printed in with some French publicity labels for fairs etc, and printed in France. Due to lack of funds there will not be any competitive entries or dealers as in the past, but the displays will be on the three occasions that London has hosted the Games - 1908, 1948 and 2012. All three displays are by invitation only.



## Cycle of Prayer

**October 2012**

- 1 PG20. Northumberland and Durham. Cllr Roland Robbins.
- 2 PG20/20. S. Benet Biscop, Newcastle/Gateshead the North East and adjoining areas.
- 3 PG20/57. S. Godric of Finchdale, Durham.
- 4 PG20/128. S. Oswin, Northumberland/North Tyneside.
- 5 Diocese of Durham.
- 6 PG20/307. S. Hilda of Whitby, Scarborough/Whitby.
- 7 **Trinity 1.8 May we walk in the way of the Commandments.**
- 8 Diocese of Newcastle.
- 9 Diocese of Sodor and Man.
- 10 PG21. Cheshire and Lancashire. Cllr Jeremy Wood.
- 11 James the Deacon, companion of Paulinus.
- 12 Diocese of Blackburn
- 13 S. Edward the Confessor. Help us put our faith into practice.
- 14 **Trinity 19. Draw us into the peace that is beyond our understanding.**
- 15 Diocese of Manchester.
- 16 PG21/18. Our Lady and S. Barnabas, Lancashire and Furness area.
- 17 Diocese of Chester.
- 18 S. Luke the Evangelist. For our own G.P. Dentist, Surgeon and all medical staff.
- 19 PG21/21. S. Francis and S. Chad, South and Mid Cheshire.
- 20 **AUTUMN NATIONAL FESTIVAL S. JOHN THE BAPTIST COVENTRY. Pray for those unable to attend.**
- 21 **Trinity 20. For all concerned in the affairs and future of the world.**
- 22 PG21/137. Our Lady and S. John, the Wirral.
- 23 PG21/152. Our Lady and S. Nicholas, Liverpool and District.
- 24 PG21/182. S. Webburgh, Stockport and District.
- 25 S. Crispin and S. Crispinian, Brotherly Love.
- 26 Diocese of Liverpool.
- 27 Diocese of Carlisle.
- 28 **Last after Trinity. Bible Sunday. Openness to the Word of God.**
- 29 S. Simon and S. Jude. Lost Causes.
- 30 Diocese of Truro.

## November 2012

- 1 ALL SAINTS. May we follow them.
- 2 ALL SOULS. For all the Faithful Departed.
- 3 PG22 Cornwall. Cllr Nigel Owne.
- 4 **4th before Advent. Make us witnesses to Our Lord within our community.**
- 5 PG22/114. S. Michael Mount Bay, Mounts Bay, Penzance.
- 6 PG22/231. S. Wylow and All Cornish Saints, Part Cornwall.
- 7 PG22/240. S. Mark, Cambourne/Redruth.
- 8 PG22/247. S. Uny, S. Ia, S. Anta, S. Ives.
- 9 PG22/250. Holy Cross, Liskeard.
- 10 Diocese of Birmingham.
- 11 **3rd before Advent. Remembrance Sunday. Remember all victims of war wherever they may be.**
- 12 PG23. Birmingham. Cllr Phillip Jarvis.
- 13 PG23/186. S. Wulfstan, Redditch.
- 14 PG23/83. Sacred Heart, Birmingham.
- 15 The Scottish Episcopal Church and all its peoples.
- 16 S. Hugh. Bishop of Lincoln. c1200.
- 17 The Scottish Guild of Servers.
- 18 **2nd before Advent. For all victims of famine, oppression and natural disasters.**
- 19 Hilda Abbess of Whitby.c680. All centres of religious learning.
- 20 The Scottish Guild of Servers Council and All its Officers.
- 21 P.E.V. Ebbsfleet. The Rt Revd Jonathan Baker
- 22 S.Cecilia.. c230 - Patron Saint of Musicians.
- 23 S. Clement. Bishop of Rome and Martyr.c230. Patron Saint of Sailors.
- 24 P.E.V. Richborough. The Rt. Revd. Norman Banks
- 25 **Sunday next before Advent. Christ the King. For all young people.**
- 26 P.E.V. Beverley. The Rt. Revd. Martyn Jarrett
- 27 The Church of Ireland and all its people.
- 28 The Anglican Church in Australia. All the Australian servers and supporters.
- 29 Day of Intercession and Thanksgiving for the Missionary work.
- 30 S. Andrew the Apostle. Patron Saint of Scotland

## December 2012

- 1 Episcopal Church in U.S.A. All presiding bishops, clergy and people.
- 2 **Advent 1. The Church's New Year.**
- 3 S. Francis Xavier. For the Church in Asia.
- 4 EU/GP Bernard of Clairvaux, Gibraltar.
- 5 All Catholic Societies.
- 6 S. Nicholas. Make us mindful of the needs of others.
- 7 S. Ambrose. May we benefit from his teaching.
- 8 Immaculate Conception of Our Lady.
- 9 **Advent 2. Guide us in the reading of your Word.**
- 10 AFZ/100. Sacred Heart, Harare, Zimbabwe.
- 11 Anglican Church in Canada. For all Canadian servers and supporters.
- 12 For the work of the Salvation Army.
- 13 For the Deanery and Deanery Synods.
- 14 For all PCC's and their members.
- 15 For all migrants and refugees.
- 16 **Advent 3. Give us patience in all our dealings with others.**
- 17 For all prisoners of conscience, hostages and their families.
- 18 For the homeless and the work of Shelter.
- 19 For all who live alone.
- 20 For all who are lonely.
- 21 For all who are unwell, we lift them to the Lord in prayer.
- 22 Strengthen our faith to receive Him.
- 23 **Advent 4. The Coming Christ Child.**
- 24 CHRISTMAS EVE. The Most Holy Night.
- 25 **CHRISTMAS DAY. The Most Holy and Blessed Festival.**
- 26 S. Stephen, The First Martyr. For all Martyrs.
- 27 S. John the Evangelist. Spread the Word.
- 28 Holy Innocents. For all God's Children.
- 29 The Holy Family. Blessings for relations and friends.
- 30 **1st Sunday of Christmas. For His Church throughout the world.**
- 31 Give thanks for the Blessings of 2012.

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## The Guild Diary

**Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> September 2012. Midlands Area Festival. S. Mary de Castro, Leicester. 12 Noon Solemn Mass, celebrant and preacher the Rt Revd Martin Warner. 3.30pm Guild Office, Procession and Benediction.**

**Cancelled**



## Prayer for Autumn Days

**God of the seasons**, there is a time for everything; there is a time for dying and a time for rising. We need courage and your help to enter into the transformation process.

**God of Autumn**, the trees and bushes are shedding their green and are letting go of what has been. We, too in our lives, have our moments of surrender, with all their worries, insecurities and risk. Father help us to let go when we need to do so.

**God of fallen leaves** lying in amazing coloured patterns all over the ground, we realize that these reflect our own lives which also have their own individual patterns. As we look and see the patterns of our own growth, may we learn from them.

**God of misty days** and harvest moon nights, there is always the dimension of mystery and wonder in our lives. We always need to recognize your power-filled presence and gain strength from this.

**God of the harvest** and of the fields of ripened grain, many gifts of growth lie within this autumn season of our surrender. We must patiently wait for the harvest in faith and hope. Lord grant us patience when we do not see the blessings.

**God of the birds** flying south for another season and of the animals hibernating for the winter, they know the seasons and Lord your wisdom enables us to know what needs to be left behind and what needs to be carried into the future. We look and yearn for insight and vision.

**God of life**, you believe in us, you enrich us, you entrust us with the freedom to choose life. For all this, Father, we are grateful. Amen



**National Autumn Festival**



**Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> October**

**S. John the Baptist, Coventry.**

**12 noon Concelebrated Mass Preacher Fr Darren Smith  
3.30 p.m. Guild Office, Procession and Benediction.**

**S. John's is in the centre of Coventry at the lower end of the Precinct, near Ikea, 7 minutes walk from the railway station. There are many car parks nearby although the recommended one is Belgrade Plaza off junction 9 of the ring road. There are two Park and Ride bus services, North and South, both pass the Church.**

**Light refreshments will be available in the hall before Mass. Ploughman Lunches with soup and a roll will be available after Mass.**

**Further details are available from Grand Councillor Nigel Makepeace, details inside front cover of The Server.**

## The “Sword On The Stone” Affair

In 2000, a former Mayor of Christchurch, Mike Winfield, owner of a salvage yard, bought some stone scrap from the Priory. He noticed that on one of the broken stone slabs a double-handed sword had been carved, with its handle representing a fleur-de-lys, evidently the lid of a mediaeval stone coffin. On hearing this the Priory committee sent him solicitor’s letters “instructing” and “demanding” he return the stone they had sold him; why it was discarded was not explained. Whose coffin lid this was this, who would have been buried with a sword decorated with a fleur-de-lys, a symbol of French aristocracy? In a follow up letter, the Priory’s archivist said this had been the grave of Walter de Pinckney, a Norman Knight the Constable of Christchurch’s Twynham Castle (right), who had been killed in the Priory’s precincts in 1145 being hacked to death when (after some unspecified outrage) he and his bodyguard were surrounded by angry townspeople while seeking sanctuary in the Priory. Another suggestion was it was Stephen de Stapelbrigge, a Knights Templar who appears in Priory records after the Order’s downfall, him being under some sort of supervision. Various church records of the time state *1319 Induction of Stephen de Stapelbrigge into Priory ... ordered by John Sandale, Bishop of Winchester, with the authority of the Pope.*”



An ex-Templar at the Priory, on the authority of the Pope? This is one of those references, which reveal insights into society. In this case it would contradict some of the ideas about the Templars. But in 2001 a letter stating that the find was the grave slab of Stephen de Stapelbrigge, the former Templar, was put forward. Six years before the letter writer and Curator Ray Lax had rescued another grave slab from the Priory’s North Crypt and dated to the mid-14th C. This was decorated with “*a sword, with a Maltese Cross, both fairly common embellishments for Templar graves.*” With help this new slab was tentatively identified and “*They saw no reason to doubt that this slab had probably covered the last resting place of Stephen de Stapelbrigge.*” The slab was repaired and placed on display in the Priory Museum.

Stephen de Stapelbrigge, is taken to mean ‘Stephen of Stalbridge’ a Dorset village near Sherborne, and the family had strong church links in the area. Other Staplebriggs were in the church records, including some as rectors of Stalbridge. Gilbert de Stapelbridge had acted as sheriff of Dorset 1224-6. In Stephen’s lifetime, several de Stapelbridge men held church posts in the region, including an Abbot of Sherborne, 1309-22, and a Canon of Salisbury, 1313-30. After Stephen’s time the de Staplebrigge family seem to disappear from church records, maybe family had fallen from grace!

The documented career of Stephen is odd for he was ‘received’ into the Templars twice within two years. His first recruitment was 15<sup>th</sup> August, 1295 (Feast of The Assumption) by the Grand Preceptor of England. In 1297 he was received again, this time by the Master of the Templars in England. What makes this odder, is that judging from other dates in his lifetime, he was still a child. The Cistercian Order, on which the Templar Order was based, would not admit a boy “*until such time as he is able to bear arms with vigour, and rid the land of the enemies of Jesus Christ.*”

Not all Templars were Knights, most were “Serving Brothers,” helping look after the Templars’ estates, and older boys were used in menial roles. His was born in 1286 and would make him 9 and 11 when inducted. Perhaps early enrolment was the privilege of noble families. We do not hear of Stephen until the aftermath of the Templar collapse, when the King’s bailiffs arrested him. Oddly he was not arrested until three years after the suspension of the order.

In England the roundup of the Templars began in January 1308. But Stephen was not arrested until June 1311. He had been lying low but was taken to London and interrogated over 87 offences. Whether torture was used is not known. King Edward had written the Pope saying torture was not an option in England as it lacked professional torturers, but the Pope sent a team of professional torturers under two Dominican friars to extract confessions. Ironically it was Edward himself who would die at the wrong end of a red-hot poker. Luckily for Stephen, before then Edward and the Pope had reached a compromise that all English Templar prisoners had to do was admit their order was heretical and they would be sent to live the rest of their days under the supervision of the church as novices. Stephen confessed, making his deposition in French, the aristocratic

language of court and so French family connections explains the fleur-de-lys on the tomb.

Stephen was sent to an Augustinian establishment in London but in 1313, along with another Templar, he escaped, but was recaptured at Salisbury, retried, and put back into gaol for five years. In 1319 he was moved to Christchurch Priory and the 1319 list of those *'ordained and probably joining the Augustinian convent as canons'* in Christchurch includes de Staplebrigg, describing him as *"an ex-Templar who received the first tonsure and seems to have been under supervision."* So it was not until late 1319 that de Staplebrigg was ordained, as an Augustinian novice.

Another oddity is that he was not ordained at Christchurch, but at Breamore, in the Avon Valley some twenty miles away. The Church here is ancient, 11th century, with much of its Saxon fabric surviving. Again, here things proved not what they seemed as there was a Priory on the banks of the River Avon which was destroyed in the Reformation. Why the ceremony was held at Breamore is unknown - could it have been to help conceal the presence of an ex-Templar at the Priory? The former knight lived out the rest of his life here, which lasted four decades after the Templars' downfall. A church record of pensions being paid suggests he was still alive in 1338 and he lived till 1346, dying at age 60. If this was the case, he would also have outlived the Pope, three Priors, and the king who had him arrested, surviving to see three king Edwards on the throne, and the start of the 100 Years War.

### **If Jesus Were Born Today**

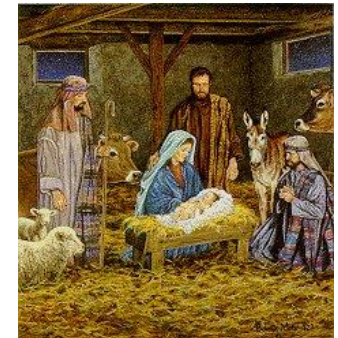
*A frightening look how the Social Services and the media would have 'interacted' with the first Nativity.*

Child advocates would remove the child from the custody of his young mother when they discovered she was living with a man (not the child's father) in a barn. In most jurisdictions that would constitute child neglect. Mary would then have a court appointed lawyer to represent her in the dependent-neglect proceeding, and Joseph would be out of luck once it was determined that paternity could not be established within a reasonable degree of medical certainty through medical tests such as blood or DNA testing.

Joseph would then be excluded from juvenile court as a stranger to the proceedings and investigated for possible sexual deviance (all those oxen and asses around), and he would be told that he had no standing to object since he was not the natural father of the child and was not yet married to Mary. The Division of Children and Family Services would ask the court to order Mary to take parenting classes, and the Court would order that social homemaker services be provided as well, since obviously Mary can't keep house properly (the place where the DHS workers found the child was kept remarkably like a barn). Mary would be allowed to have one visit with Jesus per week at the Centre for Youth and Families. The visit would be an hour long, and supervised by a therapist.

Jesus would be put into foster care to prevent any psychological damage resulting from the lack of civilization to which he had been exposed at such a tender age.

At the eighteen month dispositional hearing, the court would consider terminating parental rights because of Mary's refusal to bring a paternity suit against Jesus' true biological father (or even to identify him to the satisfaction of the Court). The Court would be appalled at the life choices Mary would have made: she would have completed her marriage to Joseph. Since Mary and Joseph had fled the jurisdiction with Jesus once to escape encounters with the authorities, they would determine that Mary and Joe had plans to abscond with the Ward of the State to Egypt again, Parental rights would be terminated, and Jesus would be put up for adoption. He would be adopted by the Herods, a well-connected and politically powerful family, who have been searching for just such a child as Jesus.



Of course, Jesus will die in the custody of his adoptive family, because that's all they wanted him for in the first place. Social services will NOT have intervened prior to his death because the state social workers could never imagine someone as highly placed as the Herods exploiting children or torturing them. The political ramifications for the Herods would have been too severe. In all likelihood, the social service agencies would cover up the death as one occurring from accident, and Herod's good name will be preserved. Now can you believe what you read in the papers!!!!



## Coventry Cathedral

This year marks the Golden Jubilee of the opening of Coventry Cathedral, in fact Coventry has had three Cathedrals in the past 1000 years: the 12th century Priory Church of S. Mary, the mediaeval Parish Church Cathedral of S. Michael and the modern Coventry Cathedral of S. Michael. Coventry's fortunes and story are closely associated to the story of its Cathedrals - a story of death and rebirth.

On the night of 14<sup>th</sup> November 1940 Coventry was devastated by bombs dropped by the Luftwaffe and the Cathedral was hit by several incendiary devices and destroyed. The decision to rebuild the cathedral was taken the morning after its destruction as a sign of faith, trust and hope for the future of the world. Shortly after the destruction, the cathedral stonemason noticed that two of the charred medieval roof timbers had fallen in the shape of a cross. He set them up in the ruins where they were later placed on an altar of rubble with the words 'Father Forgive' inscribed on the Sanctuary wall. Another cross was fashioned from three medieval nails by local priest, the Revd Arthur Wales and the Cross of Nails has become the symbol of Coventry's ministry of reconciliation. Her Majesty the Queen laid the foundation stone on 23 March 1956 and the building was consecrated on 25 May 1962, in her presence. The ruins remain hallowed ground and together the two create one living Cathedral.

For 50 years, the cathedral has been a centre of worship and mission, a place of pilgrimage, liturgical creativity, and healing; a focus for reconciliation locally, nationally and internationally; for education and the arts; a venue for national services and television and radio broadcasts; and a focal point for the City, the region, and even for the world. The Jubilee theme of "Peace & Reconciliation" is a celebration of the city and cathedral'

The Golden Jubilee will be a celebration of the cathedral as a centre of cultural and creative excellence for Coventry and the nation, with a combination of cultural, civic, and worship events taking place throughout 2012. The past 50 years have witnessed the creation of a much admired choral and classical music tradition and the building itself has been voted the nation's favourite 20th century building. To celebrate the Jubilee many types of events are taking place, far too many to mention here but one event that will be worth looking at is the major exhibition of art from the cathedral Archive that is not normally available for public.

The Dean says "The various programmes and cultural activities taking place in communities across the UK demonstrate that London 2012 goes beyond sport. The cathedral's Golden Jubilee is thrilled to be part of the Cultural Olympiad and shares the Olympic values of peace & reconciliation. In partnership with Coventry City Council and London 2012, we have a once in a lifetime opportunity to both showcase Coventry to millions of people across the world and celebrate the extraordinary spiritual and cultural heritage of the cathedral. In keeping with our 1,000-year Benedictine tradition, we look forward to extending a warm welcome and hospitality to many thousands of visitors in 2012 - providing people of all faiths and none with a stimulating and engaging artistic programme."

The Princess Royal attended a service in May to celebrate its 50th anniversary 50 years after her mother attended its consecration ceremony.

Brother David Blant reminded me of the Jubilee for which I am grateful. He also said :- Here in the Midlands there has been a lot of reminiscing about the opening of the new Coventry Cathedral that took place just 50 years ago. I am sure that you are aware that on Saturday, 6th October, 1962, just a few months after the official opening, the GSS held their Autumn Festival in the Cathedral, with the Bishop of Coventry in attendance. My wife and I were among the vast congregation that attended the service that day and I still have the service booklet that was handed out.



## Advent Meditations



**First Week of Advent.** "Jesus said to his disciples: 'Be constantly on the watch! Stay awake! You do not know when the Master of the house is coming.'"

O Jesus, your voice sounds through the house of my world: Be on your guard! Stay awake! Yet I hardly hear you. Busy with so much, I go about the things I do like a servant trapped in household routine, hardly giving a thought to what my life is about. My spirit within has grown tired and you, my God, seem far away. How can I hear your voice today? Speak to my heart during this season of grace, as you spoke to your prophets and saints. Remind me again of the journey you call me to make and the work you would have me do.

I am your servant, O Lord. Speak to me in this holy season and turn my eyes to watch for your coming. O Emmanuel, Jesus Christ, desire of every nation, Saviour of all peoples, come and dwell among us.



**Second Week of Advent.** When John the Baptist made his appearance as a preacher in the desert of Judea, this was his theme: Reform your lives. The reign of God is at hand!"

O Jesus, in an empty desert your prophet John proclaimed: God is here, at your side. God has come to bring about a kingdom where injustice and suffering will be no more, where tears will be wiped away, and where those who turn to God will feast at a banquet. In an empty desert John said these things.

Give me faith like John's, O Lord, strong enough to believe even in a desert that you and your kingdom are no farther from me than my hand. Make my heart strong like his, not swayed by trials or snared by false pleasures. Give me courage to be faithful until your promises are fulfilled. O King of all nations, Jesus Christ, only joy of every heart, come and save your people.



**Third Week of Advent.** John's disciples said to Jesus, "Are you 'He who is to come' or do we look for another?" In reply, Jesus said: "Tell John what you hear and see: the blind recover their sight,

cripples walk, lepers are cured, and the poor have good news preached to them.

O Jesus, I rejoice at the signs that say you are near. Your power is everywhere if I could see it. Yet my eyes often see only darkness and what has yet to be done. I believe in you, yet when I look around evil seems so strong and goodness so weak. If you have come, why is there still so much suffering and why do the poor still despair? Where are your miracles today?

Your grace, O Lord, is more fruitful in my world than I imagine. I know your power is everywhere around me, if I could only see it. Show me today where the blind see and cripples walk. Make my vision sharper than it is.



**Fourth Week of Advent.** The angel Gabriel said to Mary, "Do not fear, Mary, you shall conceive and bear a son and give him the name Jesus. Great will be his dignity and he will be called Son of the Most High.

O Jesus, I believe you were born of Mary and are God's Son. Your mysterious coming is beyond understanding. Yet like your holy mother, Mary, I wish that you come to me, for you promised you will. Let me serve you in any way I can and know that you are with me day by day as my life goes by. Like Mary, your mother, though I know you only by faith, may my whole being proclaim your greatness and my spirit rejoice in your favour to me. O Wisdom, holy Word of God, Jesus Christ, holding all things in your strong yet tender hands, come and show us the way to salvation.

oOo

### A Prayer for Servers

God of Glory, your beloved Son has shown us that true worship comes from humble and contrite hearts. Bless our brothers and sisters, who have committed themselves to your service as servers. Grant that their ministry may be fruitful and their worship and service be pleasing in your sight. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen

### It's a Funny Old World

Funny how most people set our clocks to rise at 6:00 a.m. to be at work on time by 8.00 a.m. - but however on Sundays they can't make church for 11.00am to praise the one who gave them the jobs!

Funny how we call God our Father and Jesus our brother, - but so many of us find it terribly hard to introduce them to the rest of our family.

Funny how much difficulty some people have learning the Gospel well enough to tell others about it, but they find it incredibly simple it is to quickly pass on the latest gossip or scandal about someone else.

Funny how we tend to think how small our sins are but how big we think 'their ' sins are.

Funny how people vehemently demand justice for others, but on the other hand always expect compassion and mercy from God for themselves.

Funny how very often we can't think of anything to say when we stop to pray, our minds seem to go blank, but we don't have any difficulty at all in thinking of things to talk about to our friends.

Funny how most of us, when lost, are so quick and trusting to take directions from a complete stranger we meet in the street and to follow those directions, but we are still very hesitant to take God's direction for our lives, directions that are offered by a friend and brother.

Funny how so many church goers fervently sing out load hymns such as 'Standing on the Promises', but in reality all they ever seem to do is to just sit on the premises.

And lastly:-

Funny how most people want God to answer their prayers, but they often refuse to listen to his counsel.

### With thanks to Colin Limming



oOo

### Saint Lucy (283–304),

S. Lucy is also known as Saint Lucia, she was a wealthy young Christian martyr who is venerated as a saint by the Roman Catholic, Anglican, Lutheran, and Orthodox Christians. Her feast day in the West is 13<sup>th</sup> December; with a name which is derived from *lux, lucis* "light", she is the patron saint of those who are blind. Saint Lucy is one of the very few saints celebrated by members of the Lutheran Church among the Scandinavian peoples, who take part in Saint Lucy's Day celebrations that retain many elements of Germanic paganism with much use of candles and flowing white robes. Saint Lucy is one of seven women, aside from the Blessed Virgin Mary, commemorated by name in the Canon of the Mass. Lucy was a Christian during the Diocletian persecution and she consecrated her virginity to God refused to marry a pagan, and had her dowry distributed to the poor. Her would-be husband denounced her as a Christian to the governor of Syracuse. Miraculously unable to move her or burn her, the guards took out her eyes with a fork. In another version, Lucy's would-be husband admired her eyes, so she tore them out and gave them to him, saying, "Now let me live to God".





## The Church Commissioners

The Church Commissioners is the official body which manages the historic property assets of the Church of England. It was set up in 1948 and at that time it combined the assets of Queen Anne's Bounty, a fund which was established in 1704 for the relief of poor clergy and to augment their low incomes. The bounty was funded by the tax on the incomes of all Church of England clergy, money which was paid to the Pope until the Reformation, and thereafter to the Crown. In 1890, the total amount distributed by this fund was £176,896. There was another committee which was absorbed in 1948 and this was the Ecclesiastical Commissioners who were formed in 1836. The Ecclesiastical Commissioners were a body whose full title was the Ecclesiastical and Church Estates Commissioners for England. These commissioners were authorized to determine the distribution of revenues of the Church of England, and they made extensive changes in how revenues were distributed. The modern successor thereof is the Church Commissioners. An earlier Ecclesiastical Duties and Revenues Commission had been set up under the first brief administration of Sir Robert Peel in 1835 with a brief, "to consider the State of the Established Church in England and Wales, with reference to Ecclesiastical Duties and Revenues" this body redistributed the churches wealth between the dioceses and changed diocesan boundaries and the permanent Ecclesiastical Commission was formed the following year.



The latest figure I have to hand gives the value of the Commissioners' assets was around £5.6 billion. Most of the income is used to pay clergy pensions.

The Commissioners also oversee pastoral reorganisation, the consent of the Commissioners being required for establishing or dissolving team and group ministries, uniting, creating or dissolving benefices and parishes, and the closing of church buildings and graveyards.

The Church Commissioners are now based at Church House, Westminster, having for many years being sited in No. 1 Millbank. They are an exempt charity under English law.

## Joseph of Copertino (1603-63)

Joseph of Copertino was born of very poor parents at Copertino near Brindisi. He was actually born in a garden shed because his father, Felice Desa, who was a carpenter. Known locally as a charitable man, Joseph's father often guaranteed the debts of his poorer neighbors, driving himself into debt as a result. Felice died prior to Joseph's birth, leaving his wife Francesca Panara destitute and pregnant with the future saint. This meant that Joseph was resented by his mother and he had an unhappy childhood. He was awkward and a little different from the other children who lived in his village and it was the children who nicknamed 'the Gaper', for his habit of wondering about open-mouthed.

When he was 17, Joseph attempted to join the Friars Minor Conventuals, but his lack of education prevented him from gaining admittance. He was soon after admitted as a Capuchin, but dismissed from the Order shortly after, when his constant fits of ecstasy proved him unsuitable. Eventually, in his early twenties, he was admitted into a Conventual Franciscan friary near Copertino. At first he was assigned to care for the friary mule. Soon he was sent to study Theology, but he had a learning disability, and legend has it that he would study intently one small section of the material he was set to learn, because that was all he was able to do, and pray that the material he studied would be what he was tested on.



Despite his persistent awkwardness and poor education, he was ordained in 1628. He became notorious for, when immersed in prayer it was not uncommon for him to swoon and even levitate which is probably why he is the patron saint of airmen, air passengers and astronauts. The religious authorities, disturbed by these phenomena, kept him in isolation and for thirty-five years he was not allowed to celebrate a public Mass or attend choir and refectory with his community. He was even on one occasion, brought before the Inquisition.

In 1655 the Franciscans petitioned for his return to Assisi and two years later he was restored to their house at Osimo in strict seclusion. Here he died and was buried, the object of both official respect and popular veneration.

### Key Facts to Tell your friends

The Church of England has more than **16,200 churches**, serving every inch of the country and open to every local inhabitant. There are 42 mainland cathedrals, plus one in Peel on the Isle of Man plus the Diocese in Europe's cathedral which is in Gibraltar.

A survey conducted in September 2008 has confirmed previous survey results from the last six years to reveal that about

**85% of the population visit a church building or place of worship each year;** for reasons ranging from participating in some form of worship, to attending various concerts or community events, or just simply wanting a quiet space for a while.

**20%** have been to seek a quiet space.

**45%** of all grade I listed buildings in England are places of worship.

**85%** of listed places of worship in England belong to the Church of England. In total well over **12,200** of the Church of England's **16,200** buildings are listed by the government as being of special architectural or historic interest.

**Three Cathedrals** are now World Heritage Sites they are Canterbury Cathedral also Durham Castle and Cathedral (right), S. Paul's cathedral and Westminster Abbey and St Margaret's Church.

Every year around **12.5 million people** visit Church of England cathedrals and these include over **300,000 pupils** who are on school visits.

Four out of England's top twenty paid admission 'visitor attractions' were S Paul's Cathedral, York Minster, Canterbury Cathedral and Westminster Abbey. Also three out of five people named visiting places of worship as an activity they would be most likely to do if they visited the UK.



### The Final Inspection



**Lest We Forget.**

The soldier stood and faced God,  
Which must always come to pass.  
He hoped his shoes were shining,  
Just as brightly as his brass.

'Step forward now, you soldier,  
How shall I deal with you ?  
Have you always turned the other cheek?  
To My Church have you been true?'

The soldier squared his shoulders & said,  
'No, Lord, I guess I ain't.  
Because those of us who carry guns,  
Can't always be a saint.

I've had to work most Sundays,  
And at times my talk was tough.  
And sometimes I've been violent,  
Because the world is awfully rough

But, I never took a penny,  
That wasn't mine to keep...  
Though I worked a lot of overtime,  
When the bills got just too steep.

And I never passed a cry for help,  
Though at times I shook with fear.  
And sometimes, God, forgive me,  
I've wept unmanly tears.

I know I don't deserve a place,  
Among the people here.  
They never wanted me around,  
Except to calm their fears.

If you've a place for me here, Lord,  
It needn't be so grand.  
I never expected or had too much,  
But if you don't, I'll understand.

There was a silence all around the  
throne,  
Where the saints had often trod.  
As the soldier waited quietly,  
For the judgment of his God.

'Step forward now, you soldier,  
You've borne your burdens well.  
Walk peacefully on Heaven's streets,  
You've done your time in Hell.'

Author Unknown~

### Need washing??

A little girl had been shopping with her Mum. She was 6 years old, red haired, freckle faced image of innocence. It was pouring outside. The kind of rain that gushes over the top of gutters. We all stood under the awning and just inside the door. We waited, some patiently, others irritated. I am always mesmerized by rainfall, I got lost in the sound and sight of the heavens washing away the dirt and dust of the world. Memories of running, splashing so carefree as a child came as a welcome reprieve from the worries of my day. The little voice broke the hypnotic trance 'Mum let's run through the rain,' she said. What?' Mum asked. 'Let's run through the rain!' She repeated 'No! We'll wait until it slows,' Mum replied. The child waited about a minute and repeated: 'Mum, let's run through the rain, "We'll get soaked if we do,' Mum said. 'No, we won't, Mum. That's not what you said this morning,' the young girl said as she tugged at her Mum's arm. This morning? When did I say we could run through the rain and not get wet? 'Don't you remember? When you were talking to Daddy about his cancer, you said, 'If God can get us through this, he can get us through anything!'

The entire crowd stopped dead silent. You couldn't hear anything but the rain. We all stood silently. No one came or left in the next few minutes. Mum paused and thought for a moment about what she would say. Some would laugh it off and scold her for being silly. Some might ignore what was said. But this was a moment of affirmation in a young child's life when innocent trust can be nurtured so that it will bloom into faith. You are absolutely right. Let's run through the rain. If GOD let's us get wet, well maybe we just needed washing,' MUM said. Then off they ran. We all stood watching, smiling and laughing as they darted past the cars and yes, through the puddles. They held their shopping bags over their heads just in case. They got soaked. But they were followed by a few who screamed and laughed like children all the way to their cars. And yes, I did. I ran. I got wet. I needed washing. Circumstances or people can take away your material possessions, they can take away your money and they can take away your health. But no one can ever take away your precious memories. So, don't forget to make time and take the opportunities to make memories everyday. To everything there is a season and a time to every purpose. I HOPE YOU STILL TAKE THE TIME TO RUN THROUGH THE RAIN.



### And Finally:-

An elderly Christian lady lived next door to an atheist. Every morning the lady comes out her front porch and shouted "Praise the Lord!" The atheist always yelled back, "There is no God." As time goes by the lady runs into financial difficulties and has trouble buying food. She goes out onto her porch and asks God for help with the groceries, then says "Praise the Lord." The next morning she goes out onto the porch and there's the groceries she's asked for, of course she shouts "Praise the Lord." The atheist looks across and says, "Ha, I bought those groceries - there is no God." The lady looks at him and smiles, she shouts "Praise the Lord, not only did you provide for me Lord, you made Satan pay for the groceries as well!!"

A little boy was overheard praying: "Lord, if you can't make me a better boy, don't worry about it. I'm having a really good time the way I am."

A little girl was sitting on her grandfather's lap as he read her a bedtime story. From time to time, the little girl would take her eyes off the book and reach up to touch her grandfather's wrinkled cheek. She would then alternately stroke her own cheek, then his again. Finally she looked up and said to him, "Grandpa, did God make you?" "Yes, sweetheart he did," the grandfather answered, "God made me a long time ago." "Oh," she paused, "And grandpa, did God make me too?" "Yes, indeed, " replied the grandfather, "God made you just a little while ago." Feeling their respective faces yet again, the little girl quietly said, "God's getting better at it, isn't he?"

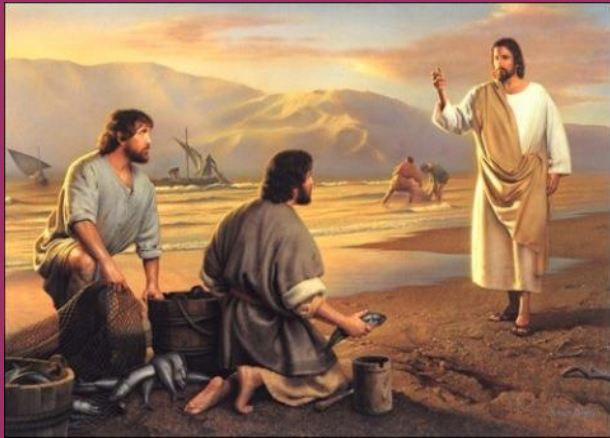
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### The Guild Collect

Grant, we beseech Thee, Almighty God, to us Thy servants, the spirit of holy fear: that we, following the example of Thy holy child Samuel, may faithfully minister before Thee in Thy Sanctuary; through Jesus Christ Thy Son our Lord, Who liveth and reigneth with Thee in the unity of the Holy Ghost, ever One God, world without end. Amen.



# Candidates for Ordination Fund



**Are you considering training for the Priesthood?**

**Have you been a full member for over two years?**

**The Candidates for Ordination Fund could assist you financially with an annual grant.**

**Apply in the first instance to the Administrator of the Fund Bro. Colin Squires whose address is in the front of this magazine**

