



The Server

Autumn 2017

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GUILD OF SERVANTS OF THE SANCTUARY

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Front Cover: S. Mary, Lavant. Bro. David Brooker

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Items for publication should be sent or emailed to the Editor
by the second Saturday of January, April, July and October

The opinions expressed within this magazine are the opinions of the
authors not necessarily those of the Guild.

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From the Editors Desk

Turning out a cupboard recently I came across a picture of S. Veronicas' handkerchief that I inherited from my father. S. Veronica, it is believed, wiped the face of Christ when He fell on the way to Calvary. The story is that it left an image of His face on the cloth. It is a striking picture and by the ingenious use of colours the illusion is generated of the eyes slowly opening. The picture now resides in my local church and is used as an aid to meditation, I am sure my father, a past Guild member, would be delighted.



Some of you will know that just before the Easter Festival Fr. Michael Brain had a car accident. Fr. Michael, as I noted in the last edition, has stood down as Chaplain General after many years' service. Unfortunately, his accident prevented him from attending the Easter Festival and AGM and so we were not able to thank him publicly and wish him well. We hope that this can be achieved sometime in the very near future. I understand that he is now well on the way to recovery.

It was refreshing to be approached by an incumbent after a Guild Office of my own Chapter and asked if we were recruiting. The answer was most certainly yes, in fact it did not end there. The Saxon church we were in has few facilities, electricity, a single manual organ and little else except some splendid ancient wall paintings. This meant that the social part of the evening had to be held in the local inn. Whilst we were there one of the churchwardens who had attended our Office came over to find out about the Guild. The parish, after many years had resumed using incense and she was not only church warden but a server also and she wanted to talk to other servers. So far, she has not asked for an application form but the fact remains that she felt comfortable talking to us about her serving life and the apprehensions she had being thurifer. Even if she does not join it is gratifying to know that just by talking to us we could reassure and help her.

Peter

Directory

Full Members: Stephen Popple, Kyle Spoor,
Probationers: Andrew Bailey, Daniel Ranson,
Faithful Departed: Peter Biles, Hannah Bladon, Derick Campbell, John Cartwright, Frank Jellis, Gerald Langdon, Dennis Pillinger, Jean Proctor, Beryl Richardson, Colin Ryan,

The Chantry Book

Hannah Bladon. Hannah (20) from the Chapter of S. Wistan, Burton-on-Trent, was an exchange student working in Jerusalem. She was stabbed whilst on a tram on Good Friday by a Palestinian man with a history of mental health issues. Despite emergency first aid she died at Hadassah hospital on Mount Scopus. Her mother said“ Hannah was the most caring, sensitive and compassionate daughter you could ever wish for.” She was studying for a degree in religion, theology and archaeology at Birmingham University, at the time of her death she was studying at the Rothberg International School at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.



From the Secretary-General

Area Councillor. Could this be you? There are a few areas where there is no councillor representing the local members. These are -

PG 5	Devon	PG6	Guernsey
PG10	Hertfordshire/Buckinghamshire	PG19	Yorkshire

Do you live in one of these areas? Could you become an Area Councillor?

What is involved? A Councillor is a link between the local members and the General Council. A Councillor is expected to regularly visit the chapters in their area and to attend the twice-yearly council meetings in London (Travel expenses paid and lunch provided). Topics from local chapters are discussed and the decisions made conveyed to local chapters. It is important that each area is represented on the council, so please consider this vital role in the Guild. Further information contact me.

New Subscriptions 2018

All members should have received notification of the new subscription rates and a Bakers Order form, if not please let me know. At the February Council meeting it was decided to increase the subscription because without income from investments we would be set to make a substantial. When HSBC closed our account in February and despite phone calls and letters this meant standing orders that were to be processed in January 2017 would not be processed. This was an opportunity to send new Bankers Orders and the new subscription rates. The subscription will increase from £8 to £10 per annum. To encourage younger members the annual fee for under 21's will be free.

1. Single Annual Member (over 21) £10 (Overseas £20) Under 21 No fee
2. Priest Associate Annual Member £10 (Overseas £20)
3. Supporter £10 (Overseas £20)
4. Supporter if no magazine required £3
5. Life Member – Honorary (over 50 years membership) No Fee
(contributions towards *The Server* magazine appreciated)
6. Family members at one household £10 (first named) + £3 each additional
7. Overseas £20
8. New members joining Fee £20 under 21 £10

Procedures: A reminder to Chapter Secretaries that members should not be admitted as probationers until I have sent the Authorisation form and manual, none should be made full members until I have sent the Authorisation form and medal; please quote Chapter Reference and or Roll number.

New and Overseas Members: At the end of June we had received 63 membership applications, 23 from the UK and 40 from the Diocese of Ho, Ghana. Bishop Mathias visited the Council Meeting in February and spoke of his intention to form a Chapter, we look forward to hearing of developments there. We also received a request from the Diocese of Kumasi, Ghana for medals for their GSS members the Guild is quite active in Ghana with mainly young servers being members.

Autumn Festival: Please make every effort to attend the Autumn Festival at Chelmsford Cathedral. The Principal Celebrant and Preacher is the Bishop of Richborough. A lot of preparation goes into organising festivals please support them wherever possible. They are an opportunity to show that we are a lively Guild with much to offer and a chance to meet up with other servers.

I Cannot Say

I cannot say **OUR**, if my religion has no room for others and their needs.

I cannot say **FATHER**, if I do not demonstrate this relationship in my daily living.

I cannot say **WHO ART IN HEAVEN**, if all my interest and pursuits are in earthly things.

I cannot say **HALLOWED BE THY NAME**, if I, who am called by His name, am not holy.

I cannot say, **THY KINGDOM COME**, if I am unwilling to give up my own sovereignty and accept the righteous reign of God.

I cannot say **THY WILL BE DONE**, if I am unwilling or resentful of having it in my life.

I cannot say **ON EARTH AS IT IS IN HEAVEN**, unless I am truly ready to give myself to His service here and now.

I cannot say **GIVE US THIS DAY OUR DAILY BREAD**, without expending honest effort for it or by ignoring the genuine needs of my fellow man.

I cannot say **FORGIVE US OUR TRESPASSES AS WE FORGIVE THOSE WHO TRESPASS AGAINST US**, if I continue to harbour a grudge against anyone.

I cannot say **LEAD US NOT INTO TEMPTATION**, if I deliberately choose to remain in a situation where I am likely to be tempted.

I cannot say **DELIVER US FROM EVIL**, if I am not prepared to fight in the spiritual realm with the weapon of Word and prayer.

I cannot say **THINE IS THE KINGDOM**, if I do not give the King the disciplined obedience of a loyal subject.

I cannot say **THINE IS THE POWER**, if I fear what my neighbours or friends may say or do.

I cannot say **THINE IS THE GLORY**, if I am seeking my own glory and recognition first.

I cannot say **FOREVER**, if I am too anxious about each day's affairs.

I cannot say **AMEN**, unless I honestly say, "Cost what it may, this is my prayer."

The Warden's Words

I have been asked by Peter to share with you all the essence of my 'Warden's Remarks' at the last Easter Festival when I was reflecting on the many changes that have taken place since I became Warden. There is that old joke that Oscar Wilde made in the wonderful play "The Importance of Being Earnest". "To lose one parent", said Lady Bracknell to Algernon, "is unfortunate to lose two strikes me as being rather careless". Sadly, we have lost a number of key people, not least the Treasurer General through death and the Chaplain General through retirement. Added to this of course there was Fr. Moore's resignation. None of these I hasten to add are through carelessness, and we not only care about them all, we are indebted to them for their generous service, commitment and loyalty over the years. I also reflected on the fact that of course many other members have sadly departed this life and the reality of GSS, as with every organisation, is it is a fluid membership because of the fact that it is supported by living beings. There is a saying that reminds us "There is more certainty from the moment of conception, of death than there is of birth".



I wanted to say yet again how grateful we are to these office holders as well as to the entire membership of GSS. Although change inevitably is unsettling it could, should and hopefully will lead to new life and new ideas in our Guild. As Warden, I realise that I am but a wheel in a cog and there are far more significant wheels in that cog than mine and in my report, I first of all paid tribute to Terry who in spite of serious illness has maintained his role with the usual frightening efficiency. I thanked Nigel who not only had the challenge of the previous Treasurer's unexpected death to contend with, but also the HSBC bank who without notice decided under the guise of money laundering to simply close our account. I paid tribute to Peter who never keeps his eye off the ball and manages to deliver an amazing read in this magazine, always on time in spite of the frustrations that he experiences with the printers. To Roger our immensely talented and always adaptable organist, and finally to dear Colin who in a very gentle and thoughtful way always makes an enormous contribution to both the Council Meetings and the Trustees and manages the affairs of the Guild in regard to the Ordination Candidates Accounts.

These office holders with me, at the end of the day, are here for the benefit of you, the membership. Together we are all here for the benefit of the Church. It may well be that as you all faithfully fulfil your ministry of service at the Altar week in week out, you might feel somewhat neglected and forgotten about. Clergy are not always the best at saying thank you! But on behalf of all the clergy I want to thank you for your faithfulness.

There are many challenges ahead for us as an organisation and for the Church, not least the challenge of encouraging and sustaining growth, and the whole attitude of the Guild towards those who may differ theologically on some fundamental issues in terms of Catholic faith and discipline, but more about that later. I feel humbled and immensely grateful to be in this position and would ask you brothers and sisters to please pray for me in my role and be assured that I will be praying for you.

Best wishes



[An Extract from a letter to Fr. Darren from Bro. Martin Frayne.](#)

Many thanks for your well-written words on 'Holy Fear'. I fully agree with your comments. I have served at the Altar for 30 years, & I still experience a measure of Holy Fear whenever I put on my robes and prepare to serve. If we have a visiting Priest, that feeling is intensified, maybe because we never know if our familiar liturgy will be followed in exactly the same manner. Holy Fear of the unknown, perhaps. I believe the opposite of 'Holy Fear' is complacency and there is no question of being complacent when serving at the Altar. Complacency leads to loss of concentration, mistakes, sloppiness; definitely not the qualities that God expects from those who have the privilege of being called to be part of a serving team. So, yes - let us celebrate the existence of Holy Fear!

News from the Chapters

S. John the Divine, Leicester. In March we met at S. Nicholas, Fleckney when Fr. Simon Matthews, our Chaplain, led us in the Stations of the Cross. It was good to see an improved attendance with 20 members present and several supporters. Later in the church hall during refreshments, thanks, were given to Fr. Philip, Fr. Simon and members of S. Nicholas for their welcome. The April meeting was cancelled as the Chapter had been invited to provide

the Servers for the Chrism Mass at S. Hugh's the following evening. 24 members (including 6 Priest Associates) attended the Chrism Mass at which Bishop Norman Banks presided and preached. Our May meeting was in S. Andrew's, Prestwold. At the beginning of the Office Stephen Pople was admitted as a full member (Left). The Office was led by Fr. Simon Matthews who also gave the address. There was an attendance of 18 members. We met in June at S. Aidan's, New Parks for the annual Catholic Societies Corpus Christi Festival and we provided the serving team. The Principal Celebrant and preacher was the Bishop of Wakefield. The weather was kind for the outdoor procession. After Mass, Procession and Benediction we enjoyed the refreshments. A truly joyful occasion.



S. Joseph of Arimathea, Portsmouth. We met for our Easter Mass in Holy Trinity, Gosport. We were joined by some welcome visitors as our numbers were rather low. Fr. Alan Ball, our Chaplain, preached and celebrated, Fr John Franks, our Assistant Chaplain led the intercessions, our organist Kathy Ford really made the restored Handel organ sing. In June we sang the Guild Office in S. Hubert's Idsworth. This is a 9th century church in the middle of a field. During the evening we held a one minutes silence to remember the victims of the tower block disaster in London.



S. Michael the Archangel, Ashford: Change is afoot as Dennis Garland, our Secretary/Treasurer for the last seven years has moved away. In June we also bid farewell to our Chaplin as he retires. Records show that Fr. Paul Christian agreed to become Chaplin "for the time being" in February 1990, a statement he renewed each year at our AGM. Our Chapter records show he originally joined us in March 1974. He still regularly mentions how much he benefitted



from the Candidates for Ordination Fund. We wish them both well in their pastures new.

Our Lady and S. Richard, Bognor/Chichester: In January at S. Wilfrid's in Chichester following Guild Office and Renewal of Promises we held our AGM. At a Mass in February in East Wittering we admitted a probationer. In our Chaplains church in Sidlesham Fr. Stephen led us through the Stations of the Cross. In April we held a Requiem for our past Chaplain, Fr. Peter Vincent and in May we sang the Guild Office at S. Wilfrid's, Bognor and in June we visited S. Mary's Littlehampton.

SS Osmund & Swithun, Bournemouth: In April we sang the Guild Office at S. Martin's, the oldest worship site in Salisbury. Fr Mayo led and Benediction was given by Fr. Fisher. In May we attended the Catholic Societies Mass at S. Ambrose, Bournemouth. The Celebrant was the Rt. Rev. Roger Jupp and the concelebrants included The Warden Fr. Darren. The day ended with Benediction given by Bishop Roger. There was some amusement when, at the railway station Bishop Rogers' case was confused with one containing female apparel, all was sorted and the Bishop was able to robe for the celebration. In June, we held a Quiet Evening in S. Nicholas, Hengistbury Head. We began with Mass then refreshments, Fr. Kevin then spoke on the differing ways that Christians have formed their image of Jesus. This was followed by silent prayer and we ended with Compline.

S. Chad, Coventry: Some of us attended the Easter Festival in London and in the following month our team served at the 89th Pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of Egmont. The Celebrant and preacher was the Bishop of Ebbsfleet. We were privileged to carry the statue of Our Lady in the outside procession around the parish of S. Andrew, Leicester in the Annual May Festival; this included the De Montford University area. We joined the Leicester Chapter in June for the Corpus Christi at S Aidan's, New Parks where the Principal Celebrant and preacher was the Bishop of Wakefield,. In June we joined the Confraternity of the Blessed Sacraments Festival at S. John the Baptist, Coventry where Bishop Jupp celebrated. We took part with the Exposition and the outside Procession of the Blessed Sacrament, then Benediction. We visited S. Catherine's, Burbage in July for Guild Office with members from the neighbouring Chapter of S. John the Divine we were lucky enough to muster an attendance of 40 plus 5 priests.



Bro. Joseph Croton was admitted to be a full member by The Warden at the Easter Festival this year. Joseph, who is 13, was presented for enrollment by the Secretary General. Joseph has been a boat boy since the age of four. He worships at the church of S Mary the Virgin, Henley, where he is also a chorister. Many will have seen Joseph as he has been a regular attendee at Festivals for many years.

A Medal with a History

This Guild Medal belonged to Pilot Officer Frederick Harrold, who was killed in the Battle of Britain. Harrold, of Cambridge, was killed on 28th September over Deal, having only just been posted to 501 Squadron two days previously. He was shot down by a MeBf109 and was later interred in S. Andrews Churchyard Cemetery, Cherry Hinton. When his surviving sister died, the uniform, personal effects, including a battered cigarette case, bent door key, damaged identity disc, pilots flying log book, medals, documents and photographs were bequeathed to the Imperial War Museum. The Guild medal was amongst his effects.



The Stalingrad Madonna

One of the fiercest battles of World War Two was over the city of Stalingrad. On Christmas Eve 1942 Kurt Reuber, a German pastor, surgeon and artist sheltered in a bunker. As he sheltered he sketched and prayed for the Russian people who were being mercilessly bombarded. While he was sheltering and praying he doodled and his ‘doodle’ of “enfolding and protecting” showed by Our Lady with his words of trusting in “hope, life, light, love” and of the

faith that he knew will eventually emerge. The Germans were driven back, but Kurt Reuber was captured and died in a prison camp. Luckily, later, someone found his doodle (pictured right) drawn on the back of his army issue map. Copies of this doodle are now displayed in Volgograd (Stalingrad), in Berlin and in Coventry Cathedral where it is part of the healing and reconciling the wounds of war, conflict and discrimination area. So, as he would have wanted, Kurt Reuber's work continues, encouraging us to enfold the confused factions of all conflicts in God's love with no discriminations on the grounds of poverty, wealth, gender, mental health, physical ability, race or nationality. We are agents in carrying hope, life, light and love on in our world.

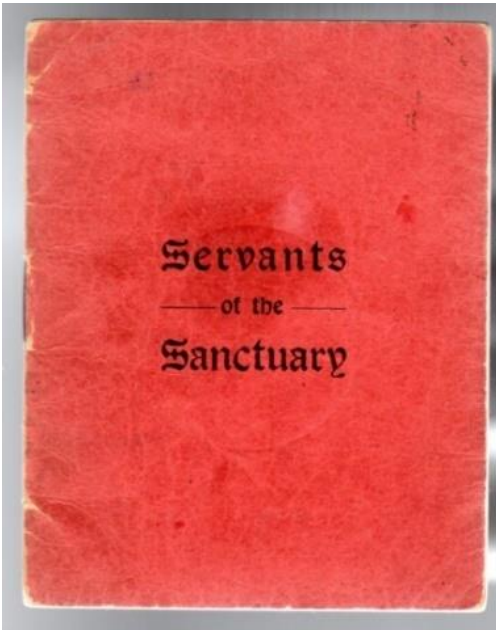


Pocket Book

I spotted this book on the right for sale on Ebay by a Farnborough Book Company. The asking price was £8.00 plus p&p. The description was as follows:-

Soft Cover, Pocket-sized 32 page booklet. Containing:- The Objects of the Guild; Rules; Recommendations; the Organisation; Government; Office of Admission; Offices before and after Serving; Guild Office and Memorials.

I have never seen one of these before and I have been a Guild member since the early 1960s. Does any other member remember this booklet? I could not resist I bought it, I will report back in the next edition.



October Cycle of Prayer

- 1 **Trinity 16. For all chapters in abeyance.**
- 2 Provincial Group 19 Yorkshire.
- 3 Chapter 19/54. Friends of S. Francis, Rotherham.
- 4 Chapter 19/153.S. Paulinus, Mirfield.
- 5 The Diocese of York.
- 6 The Diocese of Leeds.
- 7 The Diocese of Sheffield.
- 8 **Trinity 17. For those marriages that are broken down or under strain.**
- 9 Provincial Group 20, Northumberland, Durham, Tyneside, Cleveland. Cllr Roland Robbins.
- 10 Chapter 20/20.S..Benet Biscop, Newcastle, Gatehead and the NE areas.
- 11 Chapter 20/57 S. Godric of Finchdale, Durham.
- 12 Chapter 20/128. S. Oswin, Northumberland, North Tyneside.
- 13 Chapter 20/307 S. Hilda of Whitby, Scarborough, Whitby.
- 14 The Triumph of the Cross. For worldwide justice and peace.
- 15 **Trinity 18. Give us the grace of the Holy Sacraments.**
- 16 Diocese of Newcastle.
- 17 Diocese of Durham.
- 18 S. Luke the Evangelist, For our GP, Doctors and all medical staff.
- 19 Provincial Group 21. Cheshire, Lancashire, Cumbria. Cllr Jeremy Wood.
- 20 Chapter 21/18 Our Lady of S. Barnabas, Lancashire & Furness area.
- 21 **AUTUMN FESTIVAL CHELMSFORD CATHEDRAL.**
- 22 **Trinity 19 Draw us into the peace that is beyond understanding.**
- 23 Chapter 21/21 S. Francis and S. Chad. South and Mid Cheshire.
- 24 Chapter 21/137 Our Lady and S. John. The Wirral.
- 25 Chapter 21/182 S. Werburgh, Stockport and district.
- 26 Diocese of Chester.
- 27 Diocese of Liverpool.
- 28 Diocese of Manchester.
- 29 **Trinity 20 Bible Sunday. Openness to the Word of God.**
- 30 Diocese of Blackburn.
- 31 Diocese of Carlisle.

November Cycle of Prayer

- 1 All Saints Day. May we follow them.
- 2 All Souls Day. For all the Faithful Departed.
- 3 Diocese of Sodor and Man.
- 4 The General Council meeting. All our officers and councillors.
- 5 4th before Advent. We give thanks for our faith.
- 6 Provincial Group 22 Cornwall. Cllr Sandra Bennett.
- 7 Chapter 22/114 Mounts Bay, Penzance.
- 8 Chapter 22/170 The Sacred Host. Falmouth, Penryn.
- 9 Chapter 22/240 S. Mark. Camborne, Redruth.
- 10 Chapter 22/250 Holy Cross, Liskeard.
- 11 Diocese of Truro.
- 12 3rd before Advent. Remembrance Sunday. All the victims of war especially those members of the Guild who lost their lives in conflict.
- 13 For all chapters held in abeyance and for those chapters which are struggling to survive.
- 14 Diocese of Europe.
- 15 For all who live alone.
- 16 For the bereaved.
- 17 S. Hugh Bishop of Lincoln 1200.
- 18 For all coping with mental or physical trauma.
- 19 2nd before Advent. All past members of the Guild.
- 20 Edmund King of East Angles. Martyr 870.
- 21 For all preparing for the Holy Sacrament and Holy Mysteries.
- 22 S.Cecilia Martyr of Rome c230. Patron Saint of musicians.
Our organists, cantors and choirs.
- 23 For Deanery and Deanery Synods.
- 24 For all involved with the production of The Server magazine.
- 25 Isaac Watts. Hymn writer 1748.
- 26 Last before Advent. Christ the King. For all young people.
- 27 For all cathedrals and their staff.
- 28 For those looking for work.
- 29 Day of Prayer and Thanksgiving for all missionary work.
- 30 S. Andrew the Apostle. Patron Saint of Scotland.

December Cycle of Prayer

- 1 Give thanks for when we are surprised by the generosity of others.
- 2 For all catholic societies.
- 3 **First Sunday of Advent. The Church's New Year.**
- 4 PEV Beverley. Rt. Revd Glyn Webster.
- 5 PEV Ebbsfleet. Rt. Revd. Jonathan Goodall.
- 6 PEV Richborough. Rt. Revd. Norman Banks.
- 7 S. Ambrose, May we benefit from his teachings.
- 8 The Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary.
- 9 Scottish Guild of Servers, its Council, Warden and Officers.
- 10 **Second Sunday of Advent. Make us ready.**
- 11 Give thanks for all bell ringers.
- 12 The Anglican Church in Australia. All servers and supporters.
- 13 Episcopal church in the USA presiding Bishops, Clergy and People.
- 14 For all chapters in Africa.
- 15 For the work of the Salvation Army.
- 16 Anglican Church in Canada, servers and supporters.
- 17 **Third Sunday in Advent. For the low in spirit.**
- 18 EV/G9 Bernard of Clairvaux, Gibraltar.
- 19 The Church of Ireland and its people.
- 20 All retired Priests and Pastoral Visitors.
- 21 For all Lay and Eucharistic.
- 22 Strengthen our faith to receive Him.
- 23 For all patients in hospitals, nursing homes and hospices.
- 24 **Fourth Sunday in Advent. CHRISTMAS EVE. The Most Holy Night.**
- 25 **NATIVITY OF OUR LORD. 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 all friends and relations.
- 30 For the Church throughout the world, we give thanks and blessings.
- 31 **1st Sunday of Christmas. Your Church be a place of welcome for all.**

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Guild Diary

Saturday 21st October 2017

Guild Autumn Festival Chelmsford Cathedral

12 Noon Solemn Con-celebrated Sung

Mass. Principal Celebrant & Preacher

Rt. Revd. Norman Banks, The Bishop
of Richborough.

2.30pm Guild Office, Procession and Benediction.

A sandwich lunch is available at £7 each- apply to Grand Councillor
Terry Doughty by 14th October.

Guild Easter Festival and AGM

Saturday 7th April 2018

S. Stephens, Gloucester Road, London.

12 noon solemn Concelebrated Mass followed by a hot lunch
(donations for this will be appreciated)

2.30 pm Guild AGM followed by Guild Office, Procession and
Benediction.

Guild Autumn Festival

Saturday 20th October 2018

S. George's Cullercoats, Northumberland .

12 noon solemn Concelebrated Mass

2.30 pm Guild Office, Procession and Benediction.



GUILD SHOP

Clothing and Accessories Price Lists

Clothing

Please add £5 for Postage

Shirts	Long sleeve £28.00	Short sleeve £25.00
Holdall £25.00		Canvas Tote bag £7.50
Polo Shirts £15.00		Drawstring bag £7.50
Fleece £30.00		Hooded Jacket £25.00
Sweatshirt	V-neck £20.00	Round neck £20.00

Other Accessories

Guild Office & Ceremonial A5 Laminated £3.00	A4 Laminated £4.
Key Rings 50p	Pen 50p
Organ Music £1.50	Lapel Pin £2.00
Prayer cards £0.50	Embroidered Patch £5.00
Tie with Emblem £8.50	Cufflinks £22.50



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The King's Evil (Scrofula)

One of the lesser known diseases of The Middle Ages was scrofula, a form of tuberculosis of the neck, which could also affect the eye, it was known as the King's Evil. Both physicians and the public believed a cure was only possible if the sufferer was touched by the Monarch it was believed that the reigning monarch's healing powers came from the holy oil with which he was anointed during his Coronation.

At first, the touch of the Monarch's hand on the diseased neck was considered sufficient, but by the late 15th Century a gold coin called an angel, (depicting S. Michael slaying a dragon which represented evil) was introduced. The coin was pierced at the top and suspended from a white ribbon and placed around the neck of the sufferer. This had to be worn at all times. By the reign of Henry VII the ceremony had been turned into a religious service with the court chaplain saying prayers for the person receiving the healing touch. The Tudors and Stuarts placed great importance upon the ceremony. Henry was a reluctant toucher because of his great fear of disease and pestilence. Mary however was devoted to this act of mercy even going to the extent of kissing the affected part, much to the consternation of her ladies in waiting. During Charles I's captivity in Carisbrooke Castle, the Governor, Col. Hammond allowed sufferers to see the King for his healing touch. The most prolific toucher was Charles II who between 1660 and 1664 bestowed the Royal touch upon almost 90,000 people. A comment can even be found in Pepys's diary. The last monarch to touch was Queen Anne, the recipient being Master Samuel Johnson who was showing definite signs of scrofula. His mother took him down to Whitehall to meet the Queen but the precocious child was sceptical and when no result was forthcoming he upbraided his mother for wasting their time. For the rest of his life Johnson bore signs of the scrofula which did nothing to improve his forbidding appearance. By now the amount of angel coins had run out and there was no desire to continue with this religious ceremony. The Hanoverian monarchs were too sceptical to revive these charitable acts and in future years the gold angel coin would become a memento to cherish.



An Angel Quiz (answers on page 23)

1. What book in the Bible speaks of ‘entertaining angels unawares’?
2. Who said, “My Lords, I am on the side of the angels”?
3. Who said, “I’m no angel”?
4. Where is the town of Archangel?
5. “Angels and ministers of grace, defend us.” Where does this come from?
6. Who said, “Not Angles but angels”?
7. What is the Angelus?
8. Who saw an angel with six wings?
9. What society has, on its badge, a flying angel?
10. What is an ‘angel on horseback’?
11. Who paid an angel a penny a day as guide on a long journey?
12. What coin was known as an Angel?
13. Who saw a vision of angels ascending and descending on a ladder set up between heaven and earth?
14. Who was the angelic doctor?
15. “For fools rush in where angels fear to tread.” Who wrote this?
16. – and this: “And in the morn those angel-faces smile” -?

Cremation and Crematoria

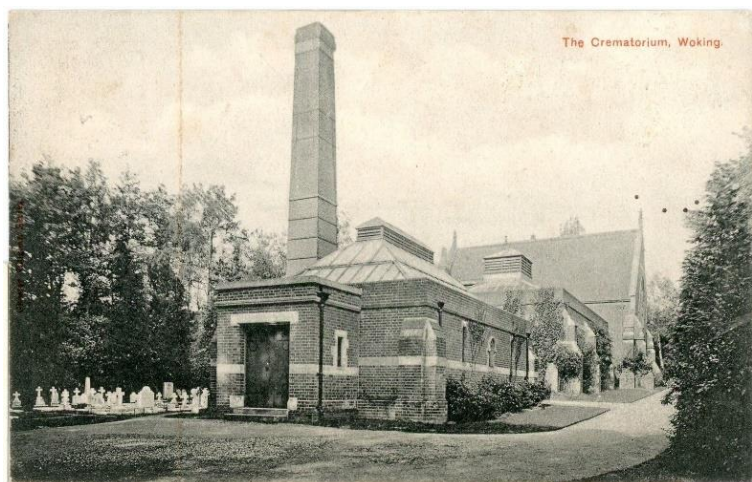
Cremation is something we all know about but, I suspect that few of us know of its history in the UK and the fact that it was not legal in Great Britain until 1888 when it was proposed to follow the method used in Italy. In 1869 the idea was presented to the Medical International Congress of Florence by Professors Coletti and Castiglioni "in the name of public health and civilization". In 1873 reports were published on the practical side of cremation and a model of Professor Brunetti's cremating apparatus, together with the resulting ashes, was exhibited at the Vienna Exposition in 1873 and attracted great attention, including that of Sir Henry Thompson, a surgeon and Physician to Queen Victoria, who on returning home became the first and the chief promoter of cremation in

England. His main reason for supporting cremation was that " it was becoming a necessary sanitary precaution against the spread of disease among a population daily growing larger in the area it occupied". He also believed, that cremation would prevent premature burial, reduce the expense of funerals, spare mourners from standing exposed to the weather during the interment and that urns would be safe from vandalism.

On 13th January 1874, a meeting was held in Sir Henry's house and the "Cremation Society of Great Britain" was formed, "to obtain and process information on cremation and investigate the best method provided that the act of cremation was not contrary to Law". The first duty of the Society was to find out if cremation could be legally performed and if so to construct the first crematorium. In 1878 land in Woking was bought by Sir Henry with the aid of subscriptions from the London Necropolis Co., here the crematorium was built and Italian experts supervised the erection of the cremation apparatus. It was first tested on 17th March 1879, when the body of a horse was cremated. The inhabitants of Woking showed strong antipathy and appealed to the Home Secretary, to prohibit its use.

Only after cremation had been declared legal in February 1884 could the Woking facility could begin to operate. On 26th March 1885, the first official cremation in the UK took place. The deceased was Mrs Jeannette C. Pickersgill, a well-known figure in literary and scientific circles. By the end of the year, the Cremation Society had overseen two more cremations, a total of 3 out of 597,357 deaths in the UK that year. In 1886 ten cremations were held at Woking two years later 28. The Cremation Society now planned to provide a chapel, waiting rooms and other amenities. In 1892, 104 cremations were carried out at Woking and in the same year, the first provincial crematorium was opened in Manchester and four years later similar action was taken in Liverpool. 1900 saw the opening of the first municipal crematorium at Hull and in 1902 the Golders Green Crematorium became the first crematorium in London. Since November 1902 more than 300,000 cremations have taken place at Golders Green, far more than any other British crematorium.. In 1905 Sir Henry Irving was cremated and his ashes buried in Westminster Abbey, becoming the first person to be cremated prior to interment at the Abbey. Until the beginning of WW1, the number of cremations in Britain grew steadily. In 1911, the annual figures reached 1,000 and of this number 542 were all cremated at Golders Green. By the end of 1914 the

national figure was 1,279 and cremation began to receive public attention when it was used for the funerals of a number of celebrities and in 1917 Princess Louise, Duchess of Connaught became the first member of the British Royal Family to be cremated. The procedure of burying ashes in an urn was still unfamiliar at the time and her urn was transported in an ordinary coffin during the funeral ceremonies. Other important public figures cremated were Admiral of the Fleet John Fisher, 1st Baron Fisher in 1920 and Field Marshal John French, 1st Earl of Ypres in 1925. The first Welsh crematorium (Glyn Taff) was built at Pontypridd in 1923. During the inter-war years others notables were cremated, including Prime Ministers Bonar Law, Ramsay MacDonald and Neville Chamberlain. In 1932 the Cremation Society ceased to be a cremation authority when ownership of Woking Crematorium was transferred to the London Cremation Company, it also controlled the Crematorium at Golders Green. Until 1933 there had been 16,312 cremations in the UK, and in 1934 there were 8,337. As it became a common practice to bury the ashes of national figures it had an immense effect on public opinion. Between 1936 and 1939, 25 new crematoria opened and in 1944 the body of Archbishop William Temple was cremated at Charing Crematorium in Kent. He was the first Archbishop to be cremated, was followed by Cosmo Gordon Lang in 1945. These funerals marked how this practice had become accepted in the Church of England. Until 1946 there had been 50,000 cremations in the UK, and 58 crematoria were in operation. Between 1951 and 1954 14 new crematoria were opened. In January 1957, the 100th crematorium was opened at Agecroft, Salford and in 1968 the 200th in the country was opened at Worthing. By the end of the 20th century, over 240 crematoria were in use in the United Kingdom. In 2000, over 70% of the deceased were cremated (437,609 out of 611,960 deaths), this is one of the highest percentages of cremations in the Europe.



Right: Woking Crematorium

Angel Quiz Answers

1. Hebrews (13:2)
2. Disraeli (in a speech 25/11/1864)
3. Mae West
4. North Russia
5. Hamlet (Shakespeare Play)
6. Gregory the Great (Pope 590-604 AD)
7. A church bell calling people to prayer (memorial of the Annunciation)
8. Isaiah (Ch.6)
9. Missions to Seafarers
10. A savoury- sardines, bacon etc. on toast
11. Tobit (Apocryphal Book of Tobit 5:14)
12. English gold coin of the Middle Ages
13. Jacob (Genesis 28:12)
14. S. Thomas Aquinas
15. Alexander Pope ('Essay on Criticism')
16. Cardinal Newman ('Lead Kindly Light')

The Police Memorial Trust

It is often forgotten that the Police Memorial Trust was formed in, 1984 by the film producer Michael Winner and its formation was almost accidental. He was deeply moved by the death of the WPC Yvonne Fletcher in St. James's Square, he wrote a letter to *The Times* suggesting a memorial should be erected. 'It would serve to indicate that not everyone in this country takes pleasure in attacking the Police in the execution of their duties, but that most of us regard their conduct and bravery, under a series of varied provocations, as demonstrably noble and worthy of our thanks'. When the letter was printed he received many donations from the public together with many letters approving of his sentiments. A few days later, he wrote an article in the Daily Mail on the day of her funeral; it finished with the words: "I can see a day in the future when human

memory, being what it is, has discarded the events that now seem so important, and the shadows from the trees above sway slowly on the pavement of St James's Square, the sunlight catching a small Memorial. Maybe two people passing by will stop and say "Yvonne Fletcher? Who was she?" "To which there is a simple and noble answer: She was a member of the British Police Force."



Mr Winner received more donations and he reached the point where he had to do something more than writing about what should be done. It was now that the Police Memorial Trust was formed to erect Memorials to Police Officers killed in the course of their duty, usually on the spot where they met their death. This idea attracted much attention with donations pouring in from ordinary people, members of the Cabinet, MPs, members of the House of Lords, film stars, institutions and big businesses. The Trust's first memorial, which was to Yvonne Fletcher, was unveiled in St. James's Square on 1st February 1985. In a display of solidarity the leaders of all the main political parties attended the unveiling by the Prime Minister, Mrs Margaret Thatcher. The Westminster Council adapted St. James's Square to take the Memorial, placing an area of pavement in front of it making an architectural feature, the centre of which being the Memorial. The public showed their appreciation of this recognition of Police bravery by attending the Ceremony in their hundreds and still do by placing flowers at the Memorial every day since it was unveiled. From the mid-1990s the Trust also raised funds for a single, larger scale memorial to commemorate all police officers who had died in the course of their duties. Michael Winner stated that "Memorials to soldiers, sailors and airmen are commonplace, but the police fight a war with no beginning and no end". He donated £500,000 of his own money and the remainder of the total cost of £2.3 million was met by a public collection.

Despite concerns over the potential cost construction of the Memorial which was unveiled near Horse Guards, by Her Majesty The Queen on 26th April, 2005 eventually came in at £400,000 under budget, in part because a number of the contractors concerned carried out their work free of charge

When God Says ‘This is Your Life’.

Do you remember the well-known television programme where someone was interrupted by Eammon Andrews clutching a bright red book and addressing the speaker saying “This is your Life“. Then subsequently we see and hear a story of that life.



Have you ever thought what would be in your story if Eammon Andrews should approach you one day? For myself I know that there are parts of my life that I would not mind others knowing about but then I wonder, what about the rest? What if God called out to me and said “My faithful server, this is your life “

I would suggest that the words of The Confession would suddenly loom very large in your mind, “Almighty God to whom all hearts are open, all desires known and from whom no secrets are hidden I might think back to my early childhood when one Sunday morning I joined a group of friends and went out to play and in so doing missing going to Sunday School. Playing happily all morning I suddenly realised that my best trousers were covered in marks and dust and what made it worse was trying to brush it off with my hands. Also my best shoes were badly scuffed. I then remembered a text from Sunday School several weeks earlier “Be sure your sins will find you out.” It was a case of admitting what I had done to my parents and accepting the consequences.

As for all my other failings, well although God already knows them all I hope that during my lifetime I have asked His forgiveness for them and therefore I await His judgement. For ourselves do we want a glowing book that will look good on the shelf for all to see or would the cover of our book be marked with the stains of rust from the nails and the tears and blood of Jesus who died and took our sins on the cross so they do not appear on the pages within? Many years ago a farmer was asked how he managed to plan years ahead, the cycle of changes of use within the many fields he owned. His answer was:- “Well it’s easy, just plan your life like you will live forever, and live your life as though you may die tomorrow.”

Jesus - One Solitary Life

Here is a man who was born in an obscure village, the child of a peasant woman.

He grew up in another village.

He worked in a carpenter shop until He was thirty.

Then for three years He was an itinerant preacher.

He never owned a home.

He never wrote a book.

He never held an office.

He never had a family.

He never went to college.

He never put His foot inside a big city.

He never travelled more than 200 miles from the place He was born.

He never did one of the things that usually accompany greatness.

He had no credentials but Himself.

While still a young man, the tide of popular opinion turned against him.

His friends ran away. One of them even denied Him.

He was turned over to His enemies.

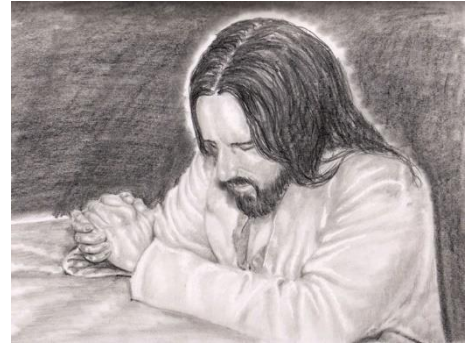
He went through the mockery of a trial.

He was nailed upon a cross between two thieves. While He was dying His executioners gambled for the only piece of property He had on earth – His coat.

When He was dead, He was laid in a borrowed grave through the pity of a friend.

Centuries have come and gone, and today He is a centrepiece of the human race and leader of the column of progress.

I am sure that I am far within the mark when I say that all the armies that ever marched, all the navies that were ever built and sailed; all the parliaments that ever sat and all the kings that ever reigned, put together, have not affected the life of man upon this earth as powerfully as has that one solitary life.



S. Richard of Chichester

He began life as Richard de Wych of Droitwich, the son of a yeoman farmer. But Richard was a studious boy, and after helping his father on the farm for several years, refused an advantageous offer of marriage and instead made his way to Oxford and later to Paris and Bologna to study Canon Law. In 1235 he returned to Oxford and was soon appointed Chancellor, where he supported Edmund, Archbishop of Canterbury, in his struggles against King Henry III's misuse of Church funds.

After further study to become a priest, Richard was in due course made a bishop himself. He was greatly loved. He was charitable and accessible, both stern and merciful to sinners, extraordinarily generous to those stricken by famine, and a brilliant legislator of his diocese. He decreed that the sacraments were to be administered without payment, Mass celebrated in dignified conditions, the clergy to be chaste, to practise residence, and to wear clerical dress. The laity were obliged to attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Days, and to know by heart the Hail Mary as well as the Lord's Prayer and the Creed. Richard was also prominent in preaching the Crusade, which he saw as a call to reopen the Holy Land to pilgrims, not as a political expedition. He died in Dover on 3rd April 1253. In art, Richard of Chichester is represented with a chalice at his feet, in memory of his having once dropped the chalice at Mass! One ancient English church is dedicated to him. He is also associated with the church



of SS Peter & Paul in West Wittering where he served as priest. It is a church that the Bognor/ Chichester Chapter regularly visit.

Of course, he is author of that famous prayer, now set to popular music, which runs in full: 'Thanks be to thee, my Lord Jesus Christ for all the benefits thou hast given me, for all the pains and insults which thou hast borne for me. O most merciful redeemer, friend and brother, may I know thee more clearly, love thee more dearly and follow thee more nearly, day by day. **Left:** 'Statue of S. Richard by Phillip Jackson outside Chichester Cathedral

Mary Tudor, the first Queen of England

Mary Tudor, is the first un-disputed Queen of England to reign in her own right. She was born in February 1516 and was the daughter of Henry VIII and Catharine of Aragon, their only child to survive into adulthood. Her younger half-brother Edward VI (the son of Henry and Jane Seymour) succeeded their father in 1547. When Edward became mortally ill in 1553, he attempted to remove Mary from the line of succession because of their religious differences. On his death, their first cousin once removed, Lady Jane Grey, was proclaimed Queen. Mary assembled a force in East Anglia and deposed Jane, who was ultimately beheaded. Mary reigned for five years and posthumously known as ‘Bloody Mary’, because of her execution of hundreds of Protestants in a bid to turn England back to Catholicism.



The first of these martyrs was the printer of the “Matthews-Tyndale Bible”; the former Archbishop of Canterbury, Thomas Cranmer, who was primarily responsible for the printing of the Great Bible, as well as bishops Ridley and Latimer. During her reign from 1553, Mary thwarted a bid to put Lady Jane Grey on the throne and then crushed a rebellion led by Sir Thomas Wyatt. To help her restore Roman Catholicism in England, she married Philip of Spain. This marriage was not a success, however, and she was childless – after several false pregnancies she died of what is believed to be uterine or ovarian cancer. Her husband showed little long-term interest in her or in England, except to drag it into a conflict with France that cost it the area around Calais, its last toehold in France. The country had become disillusioned with her and was ready for a return to Protestantism when she was succeeded by her half-sister Elizabeth I, daughter of Henry and Anne Boleyn. Mary’s body was interred in Westminster Abbey, and when Elizabeth died, in 1603, she was buried next to her. With Elizabeth’s backing, the radical Protestant John Foxe tracked down the stories of those killed under Mary and published them in his Book of Martyrs, which was enthusiastically received and widely read.

Life, What is it to you?

To the preacher life's a sermon...
to the joker it's a jest;
To the miser life is money...
to the loafer life is rest.
To the lawyer life's a trial...
to the poet life's a song;
To the doctor life's a patient
who needs treatment right along.

To the soldier life's a battle...
to the teacher life's a school;
Life's a "good thing" to the grafter...
It's a failure to the fool.
To the man upon the engine
Life's a long and weary grade;
It's a chancy to the gambler...
to the merchant life's a trade.

Life's a picture to the artist...
to the rascal life's a fraud;
Life may be perhaps a burden
to a man beneath the hod;
Life is lively to the lover...
to the player life's a play;
Life may be a load of trouble
to the man upon the dray.

Life's but a long vacation
to the man who loves his work;
Life's an everlasting effort
to the dodger or the shirk;
To the heaven-blest romancer
life's a story, ever new;
Life is what we try to make it...
Now, WHAT IS LIFE TO YOU?

What Ten Things can we Learn from Noah

1 Plan ahead after all it wasn't raining when Noah started to build the ark! He had faith in God.

2 Stay fit. When you're 600 years old, someone might ask you to do something REALLY big.

3 Don't listen to critics - do what has to be done.

4 Always build on high ground.

5 For safety's sake, always travel together in pairs.

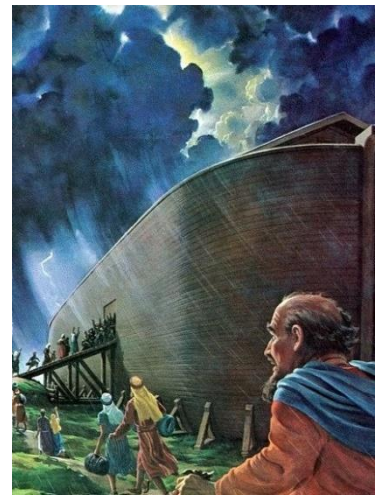
6 Speed isn't always an advantage. The cheetahs were on board, but so were the snails.

7 Don't forget that we are all in the same boat.

8 Stay below deck during the storm where it is safe.

9 Also please remember that the woodpeckers inside are often a far bigger threat than the storm raging outside.

10 However no matter how bleak everything looks, there's always, always a rainbow on the other side.



The writer of the Book of Hebrews could easily have added just one more thing to the list above - the importance of having a faith in God that is as strong enough to lead us to obey his commands. For having that trait and that strength of faith, Noah was most certainly included into God's own "Hall of Faith".



It was because of his remarkably strong faith and trust in God that Noah, when warned about things he had not yet seen, really believed in the power and love of God and in holy fear and faith. He followed God's directions built an Ark to save his family and the wildlife of the world. The question is what is your own faith leading you to do in response to the call of God?

Another Ode to GSS from the Anonymous Acolyte

<p>Its AGM time once again For our local GSS, Time for money and elections And other busy-ness.</p> <p>And time too for a programme To be arranged for all, To make sure Father James will be happy to have us all.</p> <p>It can be the same as last year, with Stations at S. Nick's To get us started once again, and then our yearly fix;</p> <p>Devotions to Our Lady In the Catholic Church near-by with Ave's and the Rosary Some servers will say why?</p> <p>It's just we're ecumenical And try to heal the rift, Created by that Henry When he was sorely miffed.</p>	<p>We are all Catholics after all and share the Nicene Creed In many of our churches The Roman Rite is all they need.</p> <p>April's Mass is at St. George's To keep their Patron Saint Then off with everybody else and continue with the feast!</p> <p>We're off to a new church now our Chaplain has moved on, We'll show them what it's all about, how liturgy is done.</p> <p>June's a chapel in a garden with procession all around, then Office, Benediction, and tea and cake abound!</p> <p>One would think we're always eating And in a way that's true, But worship always comes first Then geniality..... that's our excuse!</p>
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The Meditations of Mother Teresa



Mother Teresa was probably one of the most inspirational figures of the last century – a woman respected by those of different faiths and none. She was someone who really put her faith into action and never just talked about religion; she actually lived it. She lived grace. Her view was very simple, it was – God loves us, and it is our duty to show that love to others, however undeserving and undesirable that may be. She never turned anyone away; her response was

always, “Send them to me, I’ll take them in.” She brought dignity to the dying and desperate, she gave love to those who were unloved or deemed to be untouchable. This didn’t always win her friends – she said some uncomfortable things to people in power and she wasn’t afraid to challenge received wisdom when it went against God’s grace, love and acceptance to all. The following is one of her meditations from 2001.

If you’re kind, people may accuse you of being selfish with ulterior motives; be kind anyway.

If you’re successful, you’ll win some false friends and some true enemies; succeed anyway.

If you’re honest and frank, people may cheat you; be honest and frank anyway.

What you spend years building, someone may destroy overnight; build anyway.

Give the world the best you have and it may never be enough; but give the world the best you’ve got anyway.

You see, in the final analysis, it’s between you and God; it was never between you and them anyway.”

Mrs. Cecil Frances Alexander, 1823-

Cecil Frances Alexander was born at Redcross, County Wicklow, the second daughter of a British Army Major. She was a devout Christian who came under the influence of the Oxford Movement. From an early age she showed a great aptitude for writing. When she was just 25 she published her *Hymns for Little Children* [1848] with an introductory note by the celebrated Revd. John Keble. Dedicated to her ‘little godsons’ the book was written to illustrate and explain the Church Credo Statements. ‘Creator of Heaven and Earth’ and ‘Born of the Virgin Mary. Two years after the publication she married the Revd. William Alexander. He was six years her junior and the marriage caused quite a stir within her own family. It is said that her father arranged, for the sake of propriety, for her birth date to be altered in the registers. [In some old

hymn books her year of birth is given as 1823]. The two enjoyed a blissfully happy marriage and her husband later became Bishop of Derry and Archbishop of Armagh. Her poetical works came to the attention of Alfred Lord Tennyson. The composer Charles Gounod once remarked that *There is a green hill* was ‘the most perfect hymn in the English language because of its charming simplicity; the lyrics seemed to set themselves to music.’ She is rightly regarded as one of the greatest of British women hymn writers. *There is a green hill* was written to illustrate the words of the creed, ‘Suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried.’ She begins the first verse by painting a picture. As a teacher she knew that her first task was to capture a child’s imagination. In the second line she originally wrote ‘without’ a city wall, but changed it to ‘outside’ to remove any ambiguity. The second verse celebrates the mystery of the cross, ‘We may not know, we cannot tell..’ The passion of Jesus, though difficult to comprehend, is something he endured for us and for our salvation. This is celebrated in the next two verses, ‘He died that we might be forgiven, he died to make us good.. There was no other good enough to pay the price of sin.’ The scholar, Professor Hunter, once wrote, ‘It was given to an Irish woman, in a hymn she wrote for little children, to express better than many a learned tome the purpose, the necessity and the challenge of that sacrifice which has in principle redeemed our prodigal race.’ The hymn ends with a call for us to ‘love as he has loved us.’



Though written for children this is a classic hymn for young and old. It sets the scene of our Lord’s passion and celebrates the mystery, the purpose, the necessity and the challenge of the cross. It is usually sung to the tune *Horsley*, written by William Horsley [1774-1858]. Mrs. Alexander devoted her life to Christian education, to the care of the young and the poor. All the profits from the sale of her writings were donated to a home for deaf children. She was widely respected as a writer and many of her poems were published posthumously by her husband who survived her by sixteen years. She was buried in her beloved Derry, outside the walls.

And Finally:-

A concert was about to start in a prison. The Governor was talking to a titled lady guest, explaining that the orchestra was made up of murderers, embezzlers and other criminals. The lady pointed to the man holding a trombone. 'He looks a tough customer,' she said "Whatever has HE done?' The Governor paused and said. 'Actually, he is the chaplain.'

Some Thoughts on being a Christian

You can give without loving, but you cannot love without giving.

Life has many choices, Eternity has two. What's yours?

Worry is interest paid on trouble before it is due.

Your character is just like a fence. It cannot be strengthened by whitewash.

Atheist: "Do you honestly believe that Jonah spent three days and three nights in the belly of a huge fish?"

Christian. " I don't know but when I get to heaven I will ask him."

Atheist. "But suppose he isn't in heaven"

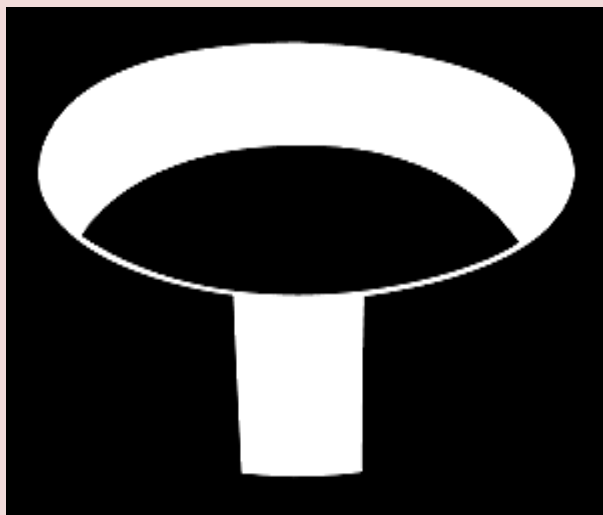
Christian. "Then you ask him".

Two boys were walking home from church after hearing a strong sermon on the devil. One said to the other, "What do you think about all this Satan stuff?" The other boy replied, "Well, you know how Santa Claus turned out to be your father. It's probably just your dad."

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



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