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# THE SERVER

THE QUARTERLY MAGAZINE OF  
THE GUILD OF SERVERS OF THE SANCTUARY

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Volume 14 Number 4  
WINTER 1986

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# GUILD OF SERVANTS OF THE SANCTUARY

affiliated with the Scottish Guild of Servants and the Order of St Vincent, America

## Patrons

The Archbishop of Canterbury  
The Archbishop of York  
The Archbishop of Wales

## Objects of the Guild

To raise the spiritual tone of altar servers  
To promote a conscientious performance of the duties of altar servers  
To encourage more frequent attendance at the holy eucharist, in addition to times of duty.

## OFFICERS

### Warden

The Reverend J D MOORE  
The Vicarage  
St Ives, Huntingdon  
Cambridgeshire PE17 4DH  
*Saint Ives 0480 63254*

### Chaplain-General

The Reverend A F TREADWELL  
11 Misborne Court  
High Street  
Langley, Slough  
Berkshire SL3 3LG  
*0753 671672*

### Secretary-General

Mr H S GADD  
8 Dale Fields  
Roebuck Lane, Ruckhurst Hill  
Essex IG9 5QT  
*01 504 7216*

### Treasurer-General

Mr L A LEWIS  
185 Tottenham Road  
Hornsey N8  
*01 341 0709*

### Chaplain of Ordination Fund

The Reverend E C FORD  
St Edmund's Vicarage  
Larkwood Road, Chingford E4  
*01 529 5226*

### Secretary to Ordination Fund

Mr S M WILCOX  
28 Beanfield Avenue  
Coventry CV3 6NU  
*0203 419002*

### Hon Organist & Master of Guild Choir

The Reverend A F TREADWELL

### Secretary of the Guild Choir

Mr B CHILTON  
High Noon  
12 Longlands Avenue, Coulsdon  
Surrey CR3 2QJ



# THE CHURCH UNION

## PRESIDENT

The Rt Revd Dr Eric Kemp, Bishop of Chichester

## GENERAL SECRETARY

The Revd Peter Geldard

The CHURCH UNION was founded in 1859 as a result of the great renewal which began in Oxford in 1833, to recall the Church of England to her true Catholic identity, and to ensure that the great truths of the faith are defended and shared with others.

In the 1890's we must not only defend our heritage but make sure that we take the initiative to go forward and bring the faith to others. The Church Union is fully committed to the Catholic Renewal movement, and the aims of both bodies can only be achieved if we have one single united and representative voice speaking on behalf of as many parishes and individuals as possible. The CHURCH UNION *is the only organisation* with the staff, the premises, and the experience that, with your support, can do this.

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*Write or telephone for membership details:*

## THE CHURCH UNION

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**May the Peace of Christ  
and  
the prayers of Mary  
bring you joy  
now and always**

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## EDITORIAL

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During the years of the first and second generation Christians, when the church was still very young, pagans used to look at these Christians, and observing their way of life, remarked, "See how these Christians love one another". Sadly this cannot be said as readily of Christians today. But it was true then, and the young church flourished and grew rapidly. What was it that made Christians love one another and caused the church to grow? It was, of course, because Christ was alive and active in their midst. They gathered together frequently to celebrate the eucharist and to give each other mutual support. Christ was allowed to grow in their lives and inevitably this little band of faithful grew and influenced the world in which they lived.

We are told today that the latest research has shown that 80% of the British nation still believes in God - but many of them are often put off by 'card carrying' Christians. How sad that the situation has reversed so far from the first generation Christians. Perhaps the time has come for us to really take stock of ourselves and see what we can do about the present situation. It becomes very tedious listening to people bemoaning the fact that numbers are declining in our parishes and in the priesthood and in the religious orders - and that the numbers of those worshipping at the mosque are increasing. The fact is that Christ has risen from the dead and He is alive in our midst today no less than He was in the year 100 A.D. It is we who have died spiritually to His presence. Too often our obsession with all sorts of trivia blind us to the real secret of Christian growth. Members of the G.S.S. are in a privileged position to help create an atmosphere of renewal. In the sanctuary at the eucharist they are at the very heart of Christ's nourishing presence. This lays a particular responsibility on their shoulders to make that presence visible outside the sanctuary too. My first encounter with the G.S.S. was impressive because I observed that they were always there as penitents before major festivals and the head server generally at the head of the queue.

May the Christ who was born into our world at that first Christmas come into our world today so that we can become as responsive as those first Christians. And may all members of G.S.S. realise their vocation to be worthy ministers of Christ's mission in our world today.

This is my last contribution as editor of the Server, and indeed the last edition to be printed for the G.S.S. by the Additional Curates Society. The only reason I am having to resign and the A.C.S. is no longer able to print The Server is because A.C.S. is entering its 150th anniversary year in January 1987. This is going to occupy all our energies and printing resources. I bid you farewell, but will continue to watch your activities with affection.

May the peace of Christ and the prayers of Mary be with you now and always.

*Stephen Bond, Editor.*



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## NEWS FROM THE CHAPTERS

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### **S BIRINUS, Oxford**

Our summer meetings are usually held in country parish churches. In July we visited S Margaret, Binsey, N Oxford, set in a field close to the River Thames. The Guild Office and Benediction, by candlelight, was sung by our Chaplain, Fr P Hunt. The sermon was preached by Fr R Sweeney.

August took us to S Mary, Kidlington. The church dates from 1220 and the Chancel is inclined to the South, some 16 inches off centre, representing the leaning head of Christ on the cross. The Guild Office was sung, followed by Benediction, by Frs Hunt and Copin.

In September we visited the church of All Saints, Sutton Courtney for the Guild Office and Benediction. The sermon was preached by the Vicar, Fr J Walker.

### **S CEDD, East Essex**

This is a very active Chapter which has met on a regular basis, monthly throughout the year. It has issued a diary for 1987 with a monthly meeting in different churches spread over the Eastern area of Essex. The highlight of the coming year will be when this Chapter plays host for the Eastern Area Annual Festival, at S James, Colchester on Monday May 4th, which it is hoped many brethren and their families, not only from this area but also from those who may be visiting or touring the area will be able to attend. There will be High Mass at noon, Guild Office and Benediction at 3 p.m. in S James the Great, East Hill. The parish hall will be open for lunch (bring your own sandwiches) tea and coffee will be available. Robe in the hall for the Office. Light refreshments will be served after the Office.

### **S CENNYDD, Swansea**

The Chapter has continued its regular monthly meetings during the year and we are most grateful to all the local clergy who have made us so welcome in their churches. In July we visited S Iltyd's church in Llanrhidian on the Gower peninsula. Sung Mass was celebrated by the Vicar, who is also our Chaplain. In his address he spoke of the importance of the place where we were received into membership of Christ's Body, the Church. Solemn Guild Office was sung at S. Gabriel's church with an address from Brother Nathaniel, SSF.

### **S CHAD, Coventry**

The new programme started early in September, when on the feast of S Gregory we went to S Peter's, Hillfields, Coventry East. The parish was in an interregnum, but we received a warm welcome from the Assistant Priest, Fr John Stroyan, who also preached at the Sung Eucharist. The Chaplain, Fr David Bruce presided, assisted by Dss Jean Robinson and Bro Syd Harris. Bro D Hayes read the lesson, and Bro Alan Reid took the intercessions. The S Peter's organist and choir led the singing. Prior to the Service, two young S Peter's servers, Susan Sadler and Charles Wootton were admitted as probationers. Afterwards we enjoyed refreshments served at the back of the Church.

The Chapter was represented at the Lichfield Cathedral Festival.

Towards the end of the month, the Chapter Supper was held in the Retreat House, Offchurch, Leamington Spa, when the guest speaker was one of our Priest Associates, Fr Graeme Hands, Vicar of S Nicholas, Radford.

### **S GEORGE & KING CHARLES, MARTYR Chapters**

On Saturday September 27th, a combined pilgrimage was made to S Albans by coach. At 12.30, Mass was celebrated by Fr Hingley, Chaplain of S George, at the shrine of S Alban. After lunch we joined them for Evensong in the presence of the Bishop, Rt Revd John Taylor. It was a most delightful day with bright sunshine.

### **S MARK, Cornwall**

The Chapter AGM was held at S Andrew, Redruth in July with Officers being re-elected. The Office was previously sung in the church with Bro Nigel Spinks (Chapter Secretary) as Preacher, and Benediction being given by Fr Graeme Elmore (Rector). Also in July a first visit was paid to S Veryan-in-Roseland when the preacher at the Office was Fr Michael Geach (Vicar) and Benediction was given by Fr Denys Peek.

In August, Solemn Mass was held at S Peter, Mithian on the Eve of the Assumption. Fr Clifford Hankins (Chaplain) was Celebrant and Fr Bryan Caddy was the Preacher. In September another first visit was paid to S Allen near Truro when Solemn Mass was celebrated by Fr Alan Stephens (Vicar), who also preached, assisted by Frs Denys Peek and Michael Geach. On the Feast of Michaelmass we attended All Saints, Tuckingmill for Solemn Mass with Fr Malcolm Uren (Vicar) as Celebrant and preacher; the Mass was preceded by a torchlight procession outside the church.

### **S MARY MAGDALENE, Wednesbury, West Midlands**

The Chapter of S Mary Magdalene, which covers part of the 'Black Country' of the West Midlands in the Diocese of Lichfield and a small part of the Worcester Diocese, has continued to meet monthly to sing the Guild Office and hear an Address from a special preacher. The Chapter has also supported the Guild Festivals at Ely and London, together with the Walsingham and Glastonbury Festivals.

### **OUR LADY OF WALSINGHAM AND S ALBAN**

Although it is many years since a notice about our Chapter appeared in The Server, we are still in existence. Our area covers Harrow, Wembley, Greenford and environs. We have about fifty members, including the veteran Bro Harry Weston who joined the Guild in 1911, and we continue to meet monthly for Mass or the Office or a devotional service. There are many servers in our district who don't seem at all interested in our activities, but recently we have had a number of new probationers which we hope bodes well for the future.

The Chapter recently suffered the loss of its Chaplain on his appointment to his first living and also the Secretary who did not seek re-election owing to his forthcoming wedding. Their replacements are - Fr Clive Pearce, Vicar of S Anselm's, Hatch End; and Bro Peter Thorn who serves at S Mary's, Kenton. Please pray for the future of the Chapter as it approaches its Diamond Jubilee.

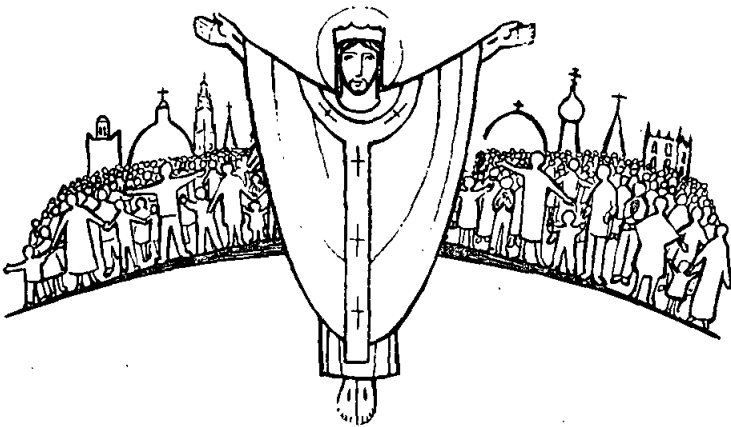
## **S WERBURGH, Stockport**

1986 has seen a varied Chapter programme. We visited S Augustine, Cheadle Heath in January for a Solemn Mass on the Feast of S Hilary and S Stephen, Hyde, for Mass in April, our first visit. The Guild Office was sung at S Anne, Sale in February, and in the delightful and diminutive country church of S James, Taxal (near Whaley Bridge) in June. In March we spent a quiet afternoon at S James, Gatley and we visited S Peter, Stockport for May Devotions.

In July we were joined by members of the S Denys Chapter for a Solemn Mass at S Bartholomew, Wilmslow, when we welcomed for the first time the Archdeacon of Macclesfield, Fr John Gainsford, who gave us an address. We returned to Gatley in September to sing the Office, and certificates of honorary life membership were presented to Bros Bill Skillern and Noel Swinfin, who between them have put in 103 years' service to the Chapter and have both held office as Secretary or Treasurer.

### **PG 13**

All the Chapters in this group have met regularly and there has been a steady increase in numbers. It is most pleasing to note that the activities of the Chaplains and Officers have ensured that the members have been well looked after. Each Chapter has issued a diary of the meetings for the year ahead which is most helpful in aiding members to arrange for other commitments.



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## **DIRECTORY**

Cllr D R Tilley

Change of address:

8 Preston Malthouse,  
St John's Road,  
FAVERSHAM, Kent.  
ME13 8EZ

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## FROM THE SECRETARY GENERAL

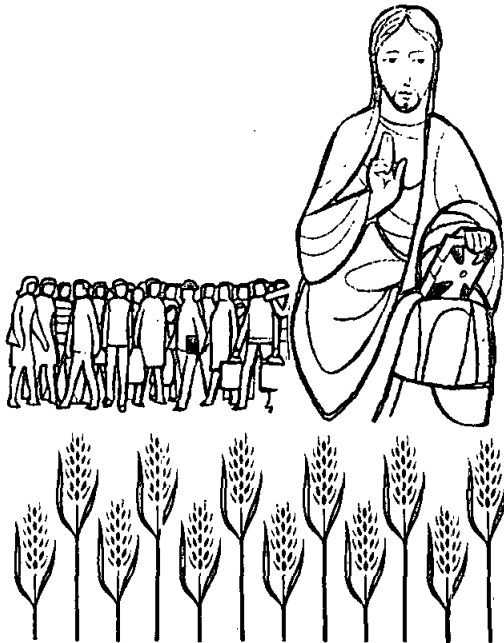
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Our sincere congratulations and best wishes to Bro Harry Weston, Roll No 3072, who joined the Guild in 1911.

His 75th anniversary as a member of the Guild was celebrated on Tuesday, October 21st at S Martin's Church, High Street, Ruislip when the Chapter and friends met to record this event in the life of one who has been an example and inspiration to generations of Servers.

### 'Can you help?'

We have a Chapter at Gerehu, Papua who are involved in the building of a new Church on a "do it yourself" basis, and are trying to find a hanging pyx with a light and a large Christus Rex type crucifix for the altar. As this is a poor parish and they have to cart the gear they have to the bush building they use for the big Sunday Mass, they hope to include a site vestry. Any offers of help will I am sure be greatly appreciated. Replies to - Fr M Titterington, S Mary's Church, Gerehu N.C.D. Papua New Guinea or to the Secretary General.



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## CHANTRY BOOK

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L J Hill, Priest  
Malcolm L Playfoot, Priest

### MARCH

A Pryce  
Alex W McDowall, Priest  
(entered in error as McDonald in Autumn issue)

### APRIL

A Sheen

### JULY

W A Dinsdale  
William Montague  
Arthur Small

### AUGUST

Howard Barnett, late Cllr PG7  
W H Spracking, Priest  
F C Tilley  
Cecil H Scutts

### SEPTEMBER

Bernard Thomas Dale  
Harvey Geoffrey  
Geoffrey Pollard, Priest



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## R.I.P.

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### Howard Barnett

It is with regret that we report the passing of Bro Howard Barnett of Swanage. He has given valuable service to the Guild. He was area councillor for some 26 years, retiring a few years ago on account of ill health. Having no relatives, he left a generous legacy to the Guild. Several members represented the Guild at his funeral.

May he rest in peace and rise in glory.

### Thomas Eldridge

Tom was a faithful server and staunch member of S Cennydd's Chapter for many years. On moving from London he became a server at S Gabriel's, where he will be greatly missed. The large congregation at his funeral attested to his popularity. Tom's friendship and helpfulness will be missed by all.

### Cecil Chas G Scutts

Another faithful member is mourned at this time. Bro Cecil was in his 82nd year and had long been a valued member of S Cennydd's Chapter. He was a devoted and enthusiastic member who will be sadly missed.

## Arthur G W Small

The Chapter of the Epiphany sadly reports that Arthur Small, who had recently celebrated his 80th birthday, died in July.

He joined the Chapter as a probationer in April 1945 at S Andrew's, Croydon, and was made a full member at Croydon Parish Church in June 1946 in the presence of the Bishop of Croydon. (At least 70 members attended on each occasion in those days). He served on the Chapter Committee for 9 years from 1965-1980. He was one of the loyal members and regularly served at the office until three years ago.

Arthur served for a number of years as an acolyte at the British Legion Service of Remembrance in the Albert Hall.

He was very interested in sport and an excellent badminton and tennis player. He was also a great reader.

In his professional capacity as a leading Dental Surgeon and Consultant he set aside time to visit the elderly and patients who were housebound. He would go out of his way to help anyone who was suffering or in pain no matter when he learnt that his services were needed, be it after Sunday Service or on Christmass Eve. He was truly a very christian man who went about the day performing numerous quiet services, freely giving to all who needed counsel, help and guidance. In so many ways he accepted the invitation "Follow me".



The Lord is my salvation,  
whom shall I fear?

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### FORM OF BEQUEST

I bequeath to the Guild of Servants of the Sanctuary the sum of..... free of legacy duty, and declare that the receipt of the Treasurer-General for the time being shall be a sufficient discharge to my executors for the said sum.

Signed.....this.....day of.....19.....

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## CYCLE OF PRAYER

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After several discussions the General Council decided that the Guild should have a Cycle of Prayer and that it should be published in each issue of The Server Magazine, that is three months in advance, with each copy. It is sincerely to be hoped that all members of our Guild will use this with their daily intercessions and recite the Guild Collect each time. In this way we shall all be enabled to realise just how widespread our Guild is and will be reminded that it is made up of members who are all praying and remembering each other day by day. Especially it is asked that each Chapter, at its meetings, will use this, and also that members will try to ensure its use in their parish intercessions beside the Anglican and Diocesan Cycles of Prayer.

The compiler would ask all to remember that this is the first year and, as it is hoped to repeat this every year, will everyone please check the details and forward to the address at the foot of the cycle any errors noted, together with any suggestions for its improvement so that, with your help, it can be just what you, the member, would like it to be.



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## THE GUILD OF SERVANTS OF THE SANCTUARY

### CYCLE OF PRAYER 1987

for daily use with your intercessions and for the  
INCREASE OF SERVERS AND SERVING

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### JANUARY

- 1 Circumcision. All members of the Guild.
- 2 Archbishop of Canterbury & Church of England
- 3 The Warden. Fr J D Moore
- 4 Christmass 2. Forward into the New Year
- 5 The Chaplain-General. Fr A F Treadwell
- 6 Epiphany. The Orthodox Churches
- 7 Candidates Ordination Fund. Fr E C Ford
- 8 Secretary-General. Howard S Gadd
- 9 Treasurer-General. L A Lewis
- 10 The Server. Editors, Writers & Distributor
- 11 Epiphany 1. Our Prayer Life
- 12 Councillors, Grand & Honorary
- 13 Diocese of London. Bp Leonard Graham
- 14 London Group 1 North. Cllr A J Ward
- 15 No 25. The Blessed Sacrament, Enfield
- 16 No 83. S Hugh of Lincoln, Hackney
- 17 No 142. Our Lady of S Pancras, Camden
- 18 Epiphany 2. Week of Prayer for Unity
- 19 No 147. Our Lady of Victory. W Barnet/Brent
- 20 London Group 2 West. Cllr J Cairns
- 21



- 22 No 77. The Holy Rood
- 23 No 112. Our Lady of Willesden & S Mellitus
- 24 No 148. Our Lady of Walsingham & S Alban
- 25 Epiphany 3. Conversion of S Paul
- 26 No 173. S Stephen
- 27 London Group 3. Lone & Service Members
- 28 Area Bps. Willesden, Edmonton, Stepney
- 29 Area Bps. Kensington, Fulham & Asst Bps
- 30 London Group 4 City. Cllr H Gadd
- 31 No 56. S George the Martyr

## FEBRUARY

- 1 Epiphany 4. Give us true humility
- 2 Candlemass. May we be lights
- 3 No 64. The Holy Angels
- 4 No 67. The Holy Fellowship
- 5 No 90. S John of Jerusalem
- 6 The Queen & The Royal Family
- 7 No 98. King Charles the Martyr
- 8 Epiphany 5. All serving the church abroad
- 9
- 10 London Group 5/6. Cllr J Davies
- 11 No 75. The Holy Redeemer
- 12 No 3. S Alban
- 13
- 14 No 48. The Epiphany
- 15 Septuagesima. Our Nation & Government
- 16 No 221. SS Boniface & Willibrord
- 17 Diocese of Southwark. Bp Ronald Bowlby
- 18 Bps of Croydon, Kingston, Woolwich & Asst Bps
- 19 Prov Group 1. W Kent. Cllr D Tilley
- 20 No 6. All Saints
- 21 No 14. S Augustine of Canterbury
- 22 Sexagesima. For the needs of our world
- 23 No 35. S Cyprian
- 24 S Matthias. Strengthen our wills to serve
- 25 No 56. S Justin
- 26 No 105. S Martin of Tours
- 27 No 120. S Mildred
- 28 No 174. S Stephen

## MARCH

- 1 Quinquagesima. For a right preparation
- 2 No 233. S Sexburgha
- 3 Diocese of Rochester. Bp David Say
- 4 Ash Wednesday. For true penitence
- 5 Bp of Tonbridge
- 6 Australian District Council

- 7 No 252. All Saints, Victoria
- 8 Lent 1. S David & the Church in Wales
- 9 Prov Group 2. E Kent. Cllr F C Palmer
- 10 No 7. All Souls
- 11 No 116. S Michael Archangel
- 12 No 215. Our Lady & the Holy Angels
- 13 No 121. S Mildred in Thanet
- 14 Diocese of Canterbury. Abp Robert Runcie
- 15 Lent 2. Spiritual Life of our nation
- 16 Bps of Dover & Maidstone
- 17 Prov Group 3. Sussex. Cllr P Paine
- 18 No 60. SS Richard & Hilary +
- 19 No 76. Holy Resurrection, E Sussex
- 20 No 107. S Mary & S James +
- 21 No 163. SS Philip & Richard, W Sussex
- 22 No 92. S Joseph of Arimathea, Portsmouth
- 23 No 183. S Wilfred, E Sussex
- 24 Diocese of Guildford. Bp Michael Adie
- 25 Annunciation of the Lord
- 26 Bps of Dorking & Tewkesbury
- 27 Prov Group 4. Hampshire. Cllr M H Perkins
- 28 No 66. The Holy Family, Southampton
- 29 Lent 4. Mothering Sunday. For our parents
- 30 No 94. S Joseph, foster-father, I.O.W.
- 31 No 124. S Nicholas, Basingstoke

+ denotes chapter in abeyance, pray that it may become full and active again.

Corrections, omissions and suggestions to S Don Perry, Cllr PG13, Cleavelands Farm, 159, Rowhedge Road, Old Heath, COLCHESTER, Essex CO2 8EJ.  
Tel: 0206 866612

THROUGH HIM,  
WITH HIM,  
IN HIM,  
IN THE UNITY OF THE  
HOLY SPIRIT,  
ALL HONOUR AND GLORY  
IS YOURS  
ALMIGHTY FATHER  
FOR EVER AND EVER



A  
M  
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Our Father  
 who art in heaven,  
 hallowed be  
 thy name.  
 Thy kingdom come.  
 thy will be done,  
 on earth  
 as it is in heaven./  
 Give us this day  
 our daily bread;  
 and forgive us  
 our trespasses,  
 as we forgive those  
 who trespass  
 against us;  
 and lead us not  
 into temptation,  
 but deliver us  
 from evil.  
 Amen.

Hail, Mary,  
 full of grace;  
 the Lord is with you;  
 blessed are you  
 among women,  
 and blessed is the fruit  
 of your womb,  
 Jesus./  
 Holy Mary,  
 Mother of God,  
 pray for us sinners,  
 now and at the hour  
 of our death.  
 Amen.

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## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

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### NOVEMBER

- 13 Annual Solemn Requiem of the Catholic Societies  
7 p.m. S Alban's Church, Holborn

1987

### JANUARY

- 10 EPIPHANY FESTIVAL  
Southwark Cathedral, 12 noon Sung Eucharist  
3 p.m. Guild Office  
Preacher: Fr D Hutt,  
Vicar of All Saints, Margaret Street

### MAY

- 2 EASTER FESTIVAL and AGM  
2 Augustine's Church, Queen's Gate  
11.30 High Mass, 14.30 AGM,  
16.15 Guild Office, Procession and  
Benediction
- 4 EASTERN AREA FESTIVAL  
S James, Colchester  
Noon, High Mass  
3 p.m. Guild Office & Benediction  
Preacher: The Warden  
Bring lunch, drink provided & Tea
- 16 Group 11 Festival  
All Saints, Weston-super-Mare  
Noon, Procession and Sung Mass  
Preacher: Rt Revd Neil McCulluch  
Lord Bishop of Taunton  
3.30 p.m. Guild Office,  
Procession & Benediction  
Preacher: Fr G Cooke,  
Vicar of Holy Trinity, Yeovil



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## FESTIVALS

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### LICHFIELD SERVERS' FESTIVAL

The Lichfield Servers' Festival, including the Midlands Groups 17 and 23 of the Guild, was held in Lichfield Cathedral on Saturday, 13th September.

At 12 noon, the robed servers and clergy processed to their places where they were given a warm welcome from the Precentor, Canon John Turner. He reminded the gathering that the 1st Diocesan Servers' Festival was held in the Cathedral 30 years ago this month.

At the Solemn Eucharist, the Celebrant was the Bishop of Wolverhampton, the Rt Rev Christopher Mayfield, assisted by Guild Chaplains, Fr Colin Lantsbery and Fr Michael Brain. The preacher was Fr Peter Geldard, General Secretary of the Church Union.

The Cathedral was again full for the Guild Office and Procession when the preacher was the Bishop of Wolverhampton. The Festival concluded with a Procession outside the Cathedral where the Bishop gave the final Blessing.

Councillors present included Gadd, Knight, Dixon, Canterbury & Waker. The Organist was Bro Allway of the Wednesbury Chapter and the Festival was organised by Area Councillor Roy Cresswell.

### AUTUMN FESTIVAL,

**Cathedral Church of All Saints, Wakefield - October 11th 1986.**

There was quite a heavy mist for the first hour of the journey from Cheltenham. However, by the time I was due to change trains at Sheffield, for the last leg of the journey by Metrotrain, the sun was shining brilliantly and so it continued. I found it even easier to find the Cathedral, a mere five minutes walk from the station, than I had anticipated. I was helped by a server pointing it out to his son on the train!

The Cathedral was comfortably filled for the Mass with a congregation of about 600. There were more communicants - 356 - than were expected, and The Warden had to re-consecrate. A very helpful sermon was preached by the Provost, the Very Revd John Allen, which it is hoped will be included in a subsequent issue.

It has been suggested that a sermon at a noontide Mass makes it difficult for people to get lunch in comfort before they need to robe for the Guild Office, and that a sermon at the Office might be more convenient. It might also be heard by more servers. However, it should be remembered that the Mass is the only service at which a sermon is demanded. The Cathedral was again full for the Guild Office, Procession and Benediction. Something like 300 servers robed for the Office, again exceeding the anticipated numbers; the stewards were just pushing them in where they could. The Procession encircled the Cathedral, and the head caught up with the tail. Apart from the more local servers, the Festival was attended by servers from, at least, London, Tyneside, the Midlands and the South West. British Rail, unfortunately, spoiled the day with some unexplained delay at Birmingham, which meant that I was 15 minutes late returning to Cheltenham.

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**FROM THE SECRETARY GENERAL**  
**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**  
**Saturday, May 2nd 1987 at Baden Powell House,**  
**Queens Gate, London at 2.30 p.m.**

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**Agenda**

Opening prayers	To confirm the General Council's Elections
Apologies	a. The Warden
Minutes of previous AGM, April 5th 1986 (to be taken as read having been circulated in "The Server")	b. Chaplain-General
Matters arising	c. COF Chaplain
Annual General Report	d. Secretary-General
Financial Statement - General & COF	e. Treasurer-General
Report of Candidates Ordination Fund	Group Elections
"The Server" Report	Resolutions (if any)
The Warden's Address	Any other business
	Festivals 1987
	The Blessing

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**THE GENERAL COUNCIL**

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The General Council met on Saturday, October 25th and was attended by the Warden (delayed by British Rail), the Chaplain-General, Secretary-General, Treasurer-General, Chaplain COF, Co-Editor of The Server, Editor-Emeritus and 25 Councillors.

The success of the Autumn Festival at Wakefield Cathedral was remarked upon. The Provost had been very pleased at the numbers who had attended.

It was agreed to hold the Autumn Festival 1988 in Canterbury Cathedral on October 8th - Mass at noon, Guild Office at 5 p.m. This would be to celebrate the 90th anniversary of the Guild.

It was hoped that it might be possible to arrange a celebration at S Peter's, Vauxhall, where it all started, at some other time in the year.

The Treasurer-General reported that the Guild finances were sound.

The Chaplain COF, for Stanley Wilcox who is not well, reported that we were, at present, supporting 15 candidates, 14 in the UK and one in South Africa.

The Co-Editor of The Server reported that ACS and Fr Bond had had to withdraw their services, and that a short list of printers had been drawn up. He was also looking for a replacement for Fr Bond, since he did not feel that he had the abilities to take on the full editorial task.

The Council agreed that the 1987 Easter Festival should be on May 2nd at Queen's Gate - Baden Powell House is not available the previous weekend - and the Autumn Festival on October 10th in Coventry Cathedral - Mass at noon, Guild Office at 5 p.m.

Councillor Perkins reported on the Annual Festival and AGM of the Scottish Guild of Servers on September 13th at S Ninian's Cathedral, Perth.

It was determined that the Council should meet on March 21st and October 24th 1987.

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## DOES IT MATTER - (8) - IF I HAVE DONE WRONG?

The Reverend Canon W H Barnard

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Obviously it does, because I am failing to be what God wants me to be, injuring others and spoiling my own happiness. God gave us minds to know Him, hearts to love Him and wills that we might freely choose His service. We can never have real and lasting happiness apart from Him.

**SIN**, doing wrong, is the refusal to work with God, our Father. It *is personal opposition to the known will of God*, an injury done to *HIM*. Further, to try and find selfish satisfaction for ourselves rather than work with God for the good of all, means we are hurting others and being foolish to ourselves. The *consequences* of doing wrong (whether we realise them or not) are to separate us from God, kill our true happiness and injure our neighbour. "Treat others as you would wish them to treat you".

How shall we put sin right? -

"'Tis not enough to say, we're sorry and repent;  
yet still go on from day to day just as we always went;  
repentance is to leave the sins we loved before;  
and show that we in earnest grieve by doing them no more".

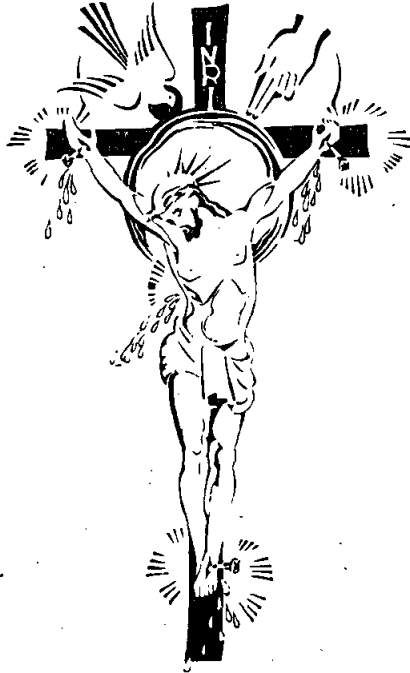
Human evil cannot be conquered by human effort, no matter how strong willed we are, as S Paul discovered long ago. Fortunately, there is something we call '**GRACE**'. This is not a soothing syrup, but a dynamic power - it is *God's help* - the medicine of character and food of the soul, which alone can conquer human evil. That is why our Lord's first call to mankind was '**REPENT**'.

Picture repentance as 3 steps leading to the gate of pardon. The *first* step - white Marble - highly polished - which, when we step on it, shows us as we really are, and the ugliness of sin, giving us a distaste for our old standards of life and conduct. (**CONTRITION**). The *second* step - hard Granite - painful to tread on and showing us that remorse is not enough. (Judas showed remorse and hanged himself), but that we need "a heart that has broken away from sin" rather than a "heart broken because of sin". We must own up. (**CONFESSION**). The *third* step - Porphyry (an Egyptian rock) - costly and red as blood - the colour of sacrifice - if we are truly sorry we shall be prepared to "stoop to conquer". (**AMENDMENT**). To receive God's grace then to put us right, we must change our mind, own up and try to do better. God's help will do the rest for us. We receive it by prayer and by using the Sacraments of God's Church.

**FORGIVENESS** can be received if we are truly sorry for having done wrong in thought, word or deed, by confessing our sins in private, *but* remember, "Our Lord Jesus Christ hath left power to His Church to absolve all sinners who truly repent and believe in Him." Yes, our Lord has left power, grace, to *His Church*. The priest, or bishop, represents the Church. Forgiveness comes from God through the priest to the penitent. In this way we can *make sure* that our sins are forgiven (see

S Matthew 18, v.18 and S John, 20, v.23). God can forgive in any way that pleases Him, of course, but it seems wiser to accept His offer of the Means of Grace for certain through priestly absolution, in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. God can do wonders with those who truly repent. The first step is to realise it does matter to ourselves, to others and above all to God, if we have done wrong.

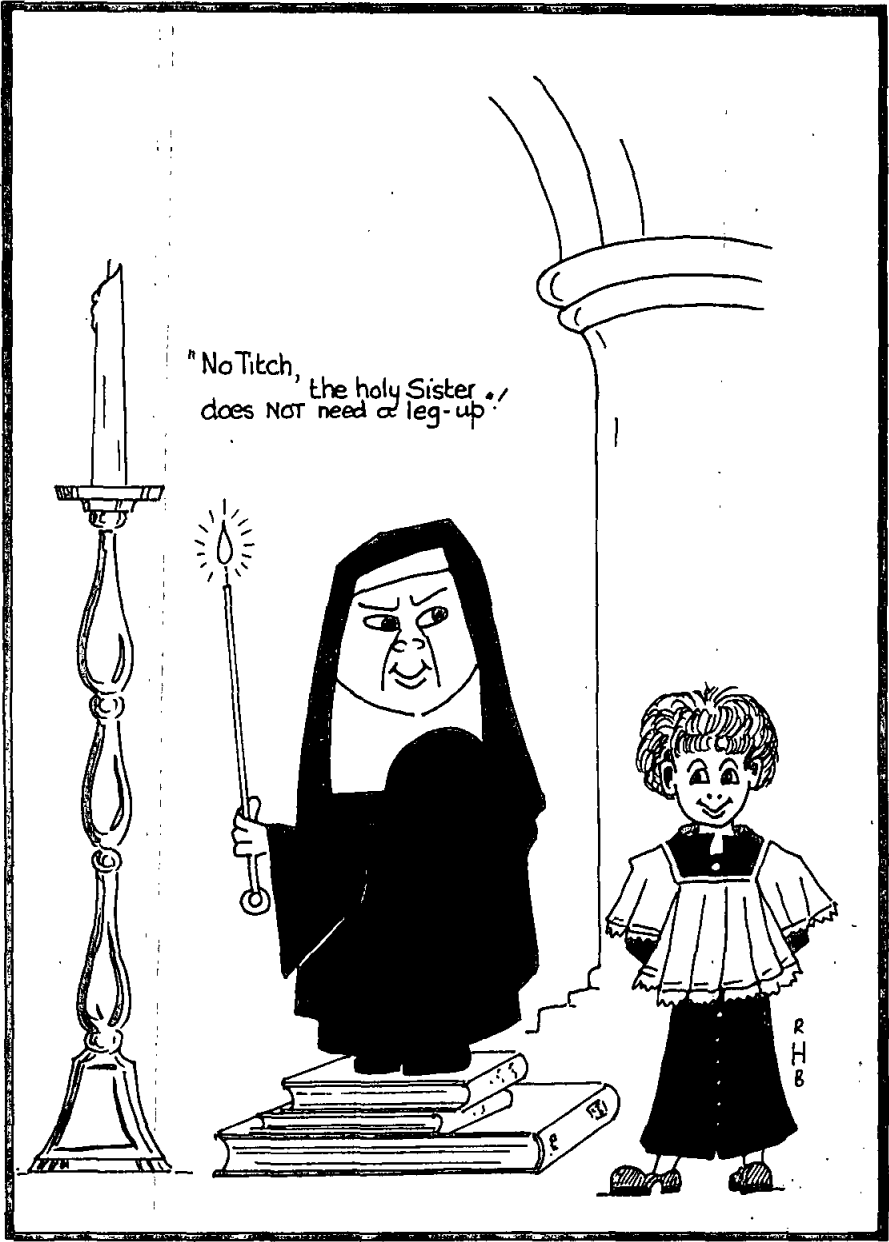
**PRAYER  
BEFORE THE CRUCIFIX**



Good and gentle Jesus,  
I kneel before you,  
I see and I ponder your five wounds.  
My eyes behold what David prophesied  
about you:  
"They have pierced my hands and feet;  
they have counted all my bones."

Engrave on me this image of yourself.  
Fulfil the yearnings of my heart:  
give me faith, hope, and love,  
repentance for my sins,  
and true conversion of life.

**AMEN**



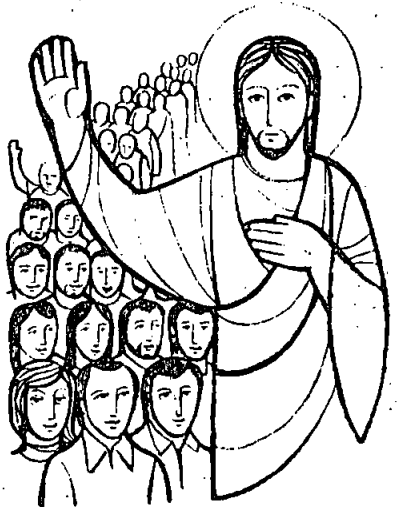
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## THE PILGRIM CHURCH

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Where shall we go next summer for our holidays? The corresponding question a medieval Christian would pose to himself was: Where shall I go next year on pilgrimage? There was no dearth of choices.

The custom of travelling in groups to some venerable shrine is found in all religions and every land. The Israelites, a nomad people, used to 'go up to Jerusalem' at the great festivals, walking in long files and chanting psalms. Christianity took over this custom, and from the second century onwards pious folk journeyed at considerable risk to pray at the tombs of St Peter and St Paul in Rome.



In the fourth century many travelled to the Holy Land, among whom was Silvia Etheria, an enterprising Spanish nun, who has left a fascinating account of her journey. Even during the period of barbarism and Islamic invasions, thousands of Christians were prepared to face hardships and danger in order to kneel at the Holy Sepulchre.

Almost on the same footing as the pilgrimage to Jerusalem and Rome was, perhaps surprisingly, that to St James of Compostella in the extreme north-west of Spain. Some half a million persons made their journey there every year from almost every land of Western Europe.

England was in no way less devoted to pilgrimage than any other country in Europe. The Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham dates back to the time of Edward the Confessor and there is a reference to the Shrine dating back as far as 1169. So many pilgrims trod the path to Walsingham from all over Europe that it was popularly said that the 'Milky Way' pointed thither. Pilgrims rich and poor, noble and common, visited this Shrine of Our Lady and the Holy House there. Even King Henry VIII walked from the Slipper Chapel to the Shrine in his stockinged feet. Another popular shrine in England was, of course, Canterbury where the martyr archbishop Thomas was venerated.

A peregrination to one of these centres of devotion was the life-time ambition and dream of almost every Christian. And for those who were unable to make the long journey to a famous but faraway shrine, local shrines were at the reach of every person and purse and were popular in all countries.

Today no less than in the past Christians feel the need to make pilgrimage to some place of devotion. It is perhaps part of our nature to want some physical assurance to our faith just as much as it is necessary for us to do something concrete by word or deed to express our faith. The great advantage today is that the means of travel has made it possible for more people to find their way to a pilgrim site. Nor do we have to travel to medieval shrines for many modern places of devotion have emerged. In the immediate past Our Lady has been appearing at Medjugorje. Then, of course, there is Lourdes dating back to the last century.

Lourdes is a very special place. God initiated a series of events here through ordinary people who responded with enthusiasm. That enthusiasm has continued and millions of Christians pour into Lourdes every year to this holy place. We live in a busy, materialistic world where we are called to remember constantly our Christian vocation. Lourdes reflects this tension physically by the clear and definite division between the village (which is like an ecclesiastical Blackpool) and the shrine which in its quiet simplicity is like heaven on earth.



The spiritual benefits derived from a pilgrimage cannot be numbered and each pilgrim will always be able to recount individual blessings. But there are two particular experiences worth stressing, especially when the pilgrimage is to an international shrine. The first is the discovery that language and culture are no barrier to those who follow Christ. It is a great joy to take part in the international Mass on Sundays and Wednesdays at Lourdes, for example, when there is often a congregation of 50,000. To hear such a vast congregation joining in this sacrament of unity, each group in their own language, is an experience of a lifetime. The second discovery, particularly for we Anglicans, is finding that we are part of an universal church. Anglicans are prone to turn their own parish into a little shrine cut off from the rest of the church. But at the international Mass at Lourdes it may come as a surprise to discover that there is little difference between the shape of the Mass celebrated in a village church in, say Norfolk (especially if it is Rite A), and the Mass at Lourdes. It makes petty squabbles over liturgy fall immediately into perspective. In an increasingly alien and often anti-Christian world these blessings alone come as a healing balm as we return to England and face the divisions that the devil is always so happy to stir up within our parishes and within our church.

The Additional Curates Society is organising a pilgrimage to Lourdes in August 1987 to celebrate 150 years service to the Church and to pray for the parishes of England and Wales. We shall also be praying for more vocations to the priesthood. Why not join us? Do come to Lourdes. Observe its simplicity. Be uplifted by belonging for a few days to a multinational Christian family. Write for details to:

The Reverend The Pilgrimage Secretary, Additional Curates Society,  
264a Washwood Heath Road, Birmingham B8 2XS.

*God Bless you*

*- Stephen Bond*



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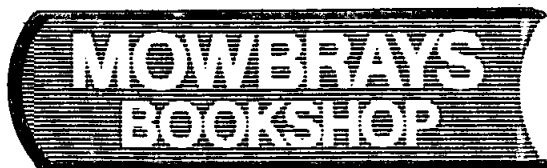
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