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# The Server

The Quarterly Magazine of the  
Guild of Servants of the Sanctuary



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SPRING 1998

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# GUILD OF THE SERVANTS OF THE SANCTUARY

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

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## 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.

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# THE SERVER

## THE QUARTERLY MAGAZINE OF THE GUILD OF SERVANTS OF THE SANCTUARY

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*Matter for publication should be sent by the second Saturday of January, April, July & October*

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## EDITORIAL

### ONE MAN'S VIEW



*Raymund JM Waker*

Whilst browsing through a volume of Occasional Papers looking for some report I knew was there, I came across one or two items which I thought might be interesting. I reproduce them below:-

'The Editor GSS Occasional Paper,

Dear Brother - May I be allowed through the columns of the GSS Occasional Paper to ventilate a somewhat personal matter affecting many servers.

In the March (1928) issue the 29th Anniversary Festival was described, with the Warden's appeal that our Guild "should raise the tone of Altar Servers". There is to my mind one point outside the spiritual aspect of the Warden's appeal where servers might with advantage add to the dignity of their Office by observing more closely the sense of the "fitness of things" in their personal attire. It is lamentable to observe that Church men and women are fast losing that sense of being reverently clothed when attending worship, and our brethren of the Roman faith have made a bold stand for a standard of decency and fitness in the attire of its adherents when attending Church. All honour to them.

It is quite a common thing to-day to find men attending Church in "plus fours" and women in the scantiest of abbreviated clothing, reminiscent only of a dance hall. But all this is no excuse for servers degenerating into the modern soft and coloured collar of varying hues and boots or shoes in every shade of brown: it is hideous, undignified and a bad practice far too common.

The stiff white collar, with black boots or shoes and a sober looking hose, are undoubtedly the correct thing, and I do hope Servers generally will adhere to this mode of attire when vested, and thus show their sense of the fitness of things, and to be a reverent example to the less thoughtful members of the congregation and a credit to the office they are privileged to enjoy.

Yours faithfully,  
Sacristan"

How things have changed! But, in some ways, the thoughts are still valid. I wonder what was 'the scantiest of abbreviated clothing' in 1928.

And how about this, from March 1929:-

'Meanwhile our readers must be reminded that, as long ago as 1921, the Council made a definite ruling with regard to the attendance at Chapter Meetings: 'That in the event of any Member attached to a Chapter of this Guild failing to attend three consecutive meetings, after receiving due notice, without informing the Secretary of the Chapter why he is or was unable to attend, the Chapter Secretary, after consulting with the Chaplain, may write to such member, asking him to be good enough to explain his

absence, and such explanation may be forwarded to the Council for their consideration." As non-attending members are a great source of weakness to the Chapter and Guild, Chapter Officers have been urged to carry out this ruling very strictly. But it is understood that members can only be admitted and removed from the roll by the express directions of the Council through the Secretary-General. This principle has been endorsed at all general gatherings of the Guild as an essential one."

The Officers & Council wish you all a Blessed Easter and Centenary year.

Raymund JM Waker

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## **FROM THE SECRETARY GENERAL**

### **ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION**

All members, both lay and clergy, are reminded that Annual Subscriptions are due on 1st January every year. Your kind co-operation and observance of this rule will greatly aid chapter officers and lead to a more economic administration of the Guild.



*Roy Cresswell*

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### **NATIONAL FESTIVALS**

Chapters are requested NOT to arrange Meetings or Festivals on the same dates as National Festivals.

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### **CENTENARY EASTER FESTIVAL & AGM - Saturday, 18th April 1998 at S ALBAN, HOLBORN, LONDON**

The Church Hall (adjoining the church) will be available for robing and for visitors bringing their own food.

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Saturday, 18th April 1998 at S Alban, Holborn, London at 3.00 pm in the Church Hall.

### AGENDA

Opening Prayer  
Apologies  
Minutes of the last AGM  
(to be taken as read having been printed in 'The Server')  
Matters Arising  
Annual Report for 1997  
Financial Statements - General & COF  
Appointment of Auditors  
Candidates for Ordination Report  
"The Server" Magazine Report  
Young Servers Report  
The Warden's Address

### ELECTIONS

a The Warden  
b Chaplain-General  
c COF Chaplain  
d Secretary-General  
e Treasurer-General  
*Appointments*  
Membership Secretary  
COF Secretary  
"The Server" Editor  
"The Server" Distributor  
Secretary to the Guild Choir  
Group Elections Statement  
1998 Festivals (not in "The Server")

AOB  
The Blessing

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## MINUTES OF THE 1997 AGM

The Annual General Meeting held at 3pm on Saturday, 5th April 1997 at S Augustine Church, Queens Gate, London.

There were approximately 180 members present.

- 1 Opening Prayers by the Chaplain-General (Fr MC Brian)
- 2 Apologies were received from 20 members.
- 3 The Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting held on 13th April 1996, having been printed in "The Server" magazine, were taken as read and signed as a true record.
- 4 Matters Arising: In answer to a question from the floor, it was stated that it would be inadvisable to dispose of any of our Funds as these were required to finance the Guild due to many members not paying their Annual Subscription.
- 5 Secretary-General's Report for 1996: As this report has been printed in "The Server" Magazine, it was agreed that it could be taken as read. Fr Moore said that it was an important record of the life of the Guild and we were once again indebted to Roy Cresswell for putting it together and letting us know what was going on.
- 6 Financial Statement from the Treasurer-General (Louis Lewis): Counc. Lewis said that he had produced the Accounts in a more simplified form as members found

last year's accounts rather baffling. He said that we had to rely on our investments and repeated that if we had to pay for a Secretary-General together with an office, we could be in a very bad state. He reminded the Meeting that our Funds are restricted as to what is done with them, ie COF money can only be spent on Ordination Candidates of the Guild - money in the general fund is restricted to the general working of the Guild. However, the Guild would always be ready to listen to any suggestions that members may have. The Candidates for Ordination Fund was quite healthy but we did need some more candidates. The Warden thanked Louis for his expertise in investing our Funds.

Appointment of Auditors: Fr Moore said that we had discussed this at the last Council Meeting and considered the high charges. However, it was essential that we had proper accredited auditors and it was agreed that Harper Broom Roberts to re-appointed.

7 Candidates for Ordination Report: Counc. Lewis said that we were supporting 7 candidates - 4 of these will be made Deacon at Peteride - we desperately needed more catholic candidates to apply for the Funds. They have to be a member of the Guild for at least 3 years and must also give an undertaking to support the local chapter whilst in training. They no longer receive Life Membership automatically. At present, they receive £1,000 each year during their training. £500 had been donated to St Stephen's House for a Vocations Conference for Ordinands - it had been a very successful conference. Louis and Fr Ford were thanked for their work for COF.

8 "The Server" Magazine Report: This has been printed in "The Server" Magazine. Counc. Waker said that Canon Barnard had been providing us with Articles since 1951 and, in appreciation, the Council had decided to make him an Honorary Life Member of the Guild. Raymund Waker (Editor), Nigel Makepeace (Distributor) and Roland Hudson (Transporter) were all thanked for their services.

9 The Warden's Address: Fr Moore's address will be printed in "The Server" Magazine. Fr Moore said that he hoped that everyone was looking forward to our Centenary in 1998 - he hoped that all would support the Easter Festival at S Alban, Holborn, Exeter Cathedral in June and Wakefield Cathedral in October.

10 Confirmation of General Council Elections:

Officers

Warden: Revd JD Moore  
 Chaplain-General Revd MC Brain  
 COF Chaplain Revd E Ford  
 Secretary-General Roy ST Cresswell  
 Treasurer-General Louis A Lewis

Appointments

Secretary COF L A Lewis  
 Membership Secretary P Durrant  
 "The Server" Editor RJM Walker  
 "The Server" Distributor NK Makepeace  
 Secretary to Guild Choir B Chilton

11 Group Council Election Results:

The following Councillors have been elected:

LG4	City of London		PG7	Dorset, Hants	
	Westminster and			& E Somerset	Henry Frier
	parts of Essex	Mark Brett	PG10	Herts & Beds	David Froud

LG5&6	London South & East	Maurice Dunman	PG17&23	Diocs Lichfield
PG1	West Kent	Vacant		Worcs, Hereford
PG2	East Kent	Fred Palmer		& Birmingham Roy Cresswell
PG5	Devon	Michael Bennett	PG21	Cheshire, Lancs
PG6	Channel Isles	Albert Croucher		& Cumbria Andrew Mayes

An appeal was made for someone to come forward to represent PG1

- 12 1997 Guild Festivals: Notice was given of various Festivals around the country..
- 13 Roll Call: The Roll Call Indicated that there were in attendance members from: Barnstaple, Bath, Brighton, Bristol, Cambridge, Canterbury, Chelmsford, Chester, Chichester, Chingford, Coventry, Dudley, Gloucester, Grimsby, High Wycombe, Ipswich, Kettering, Leicester, Lincoln, Oxford, Portsmouth, Rugby, Telford, Tipton, Wales etc.
- 14 AOB
- (a) The Publishers, Christopher Mayhew, has asked if anyone in the Guild could write a Server's Handbook. Counc. Lewis said that we should only be interested if the right person came along, and subject to the Council's approval. We ought to be interested in producing our own Server's Handbook.
- (b) The following chapters had been restored to the active Roll:-  
 PG23/83 (Birmingham) Sacred Heart PG13/4 (South Essex) The Ascension  
 PG4/94 (Isle of Wight) S Joseph the Foster Father
- (c) Counc. Roland Hudson was thanked for providing the sound equipment today.
- (d) A member said that he had not heard anything about the Nomination of a Councillor from his chapter and also thought there was great apathy in the Guild when so many Councillors were elected unopposed. The Secretary-General said that all chapter secretaries were notified when a Group Council Election was to take place.
- (e) Peter Graham (Bristol) appealed to members to support the Glastonbury Pilgrimage on Saturday 28th June 1997. There was a great need for stewards, both robed and unrobed. The Secretary-General was on the Glastonbury Council and would be pleased to know of any volunteers.

This concluded the business of the Meeting and members adjourned to sing the Guild Office.





# ANNUAL REPORT 1997

Roy ST Cresswell

I have pleasure in presenting the Annual Report of the Guild for the year 1997 - this being the 99th year of our foundation.

We continue to fulfil a very necessary position in the life of the Church, not only at the altar but also by our support as members in the life of our particular parishes and to the wider community.

The Guild is very much 'alive and kicking', having received 213 new members into the Guild during the year. Mr. Philip Jarvis, from the Worcester Diocese, was appointed Guild Organist and Master of the Guild Choir in succession to the late Fr. Treadwell.

All chapters have now received the new form 'C' (Collection of Annual Subscriptions) which now records all members of the chapter, together with their state of subs - showing both paid and unpaid members. Annual subscriptions received from chapters during 1997 do not cover the 'Running Expenses' of the Guild - those in arrears please note !!!

It was nice once again to return to S Augustine, Queens Gate, London, for the Easter Festival which was fairly well attended. We do understand that the high cost of travel inhibits many members from attending.

The Autumn Festival at Romsey Abbey was a great success and was very well supported. We were privileged to have the Bishop of Basingstoke (Rt Revd Geoffrey Rowell) with us for the day and thank him for his excellent sermon.

We now look forward to our Centenary Celebrations 1898-1998 and hope everyone will support the 3 Festivals arranged for the year. The Easter Festival at S ALBAN, Holborn, London; the Summer Festival at Exeter Cathedral and the Autumn Festival at Wakefield Cathedral. You will note from FORTHCOMING EVENTS that we are privileged to have a Bishop with us for the day at each Festival. Centenary Pens, Bookmarks etc. will be on sale from "The Server" Distributor (Nigel Makepeace) who will be pleased to receive your orders.

The Guild is represented on the Council of Catholic Societies by the Warden and Council. John Cairns. The Secretary-General represents the Guild on the Council of the Glastonbury Pilgrimage Association.

We record our sincere thanks to all Guild Officers, members of the General Council and to all chapter officers and members for their services during the year. We very much appreciate the work of the Editor of "The Server" Magazine (Raymund Waker) and its Distributor (Nigel Makepeace) - their work entails considerable time and effort - Thank you.

Our sympathy is offered to the relatives and friends of all members who have passed on to higher service, namely:- Priests Associate - Harold R BARNARD, Anthony EAGLES, Douglas C FREEMAN, Alan Frederick JAMES, Louis CG MUNRO, Alfred E PEARCE, William Trevor TOBIAS, Michael WILLIAMS.

Members - William BELL, Ted BRIDEN, Douglas BRITTON, Norman J BULLOCK, George C CARTWRIGHT, Clarice CHATFIELD, Jan CRANE, P CRICK, Bertram DANBY, Jim DANIELS, Michael DENNER, Glyn EVANS, Thomas G FISHER, Albert A FOX, Andrew GOSLING, John Michael DENNER, Glyn EVANS, Thomas G FISHER, Albert A FOX, Andrew GOSLING, John HAYMAN, Gerald HOBBS, John HOODLESS, WM. HOWARTH, Henry KAINES, Dallas KEAN, James KING, Victor LEIGHTON, Lewis MARSH, Anthony MAWER, John R RAMSDEN, Eric ROBINSON, Cecil ROWELL, Robert FA SARBUTT, Don SAWYER, John TAYLOR, Michael TREDWELL, Leonard VASUE, Peter WALTON, George WATSON, RF WICKEN, John WILLIAMS, Edward G WRIGHT, Eric YEO, Michael YOUNG, Council.

May they rest in peace and rise in glory.

# 1998 COUNCIL ELECTION RESULTS

PG3	Sussex	Raymond Packham	Unopposed
PG11	Avon, Glos, Som, E.Wilts.	Peter Graham (New)	Unopposed
PG12	Wales	Donald E Hoare	Unopposed
PG18	Lincs, N & E Humberside	Malcolm C Williams	Unopposed
PG19	West Yorkshire	J Trevor Theaker	Unopposed
PG20/25	Northumberland, Durham, Tyneside, Cleveland	G Brewis Wellock	Unopposed

Raymund Waker decided not to seek re-election as the Councillor for PG11 (Avon, Glos, Som & E Wilts). We thank him for his care of PG11 over many years.

Many chapters do not bother to return their Nomination Form. They are reminded that it is in their own interest that they nominate someone to represent them on the Council.

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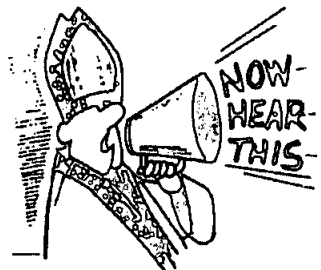
## GUILD PROPERTY AS AT 31ST DECEMBER 1997

1 Guild Banner	1 Warden's Cope
4 Cantors' Copes	4 Silver Officers' Badges
1 Brass Thurible & Boat	1 Photocopier
1 Computer	1 Duplicator
1 Small steel cabinet	

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## DIRECTORY

CHAPTER	SECRETARY
S Werburgh PG21/182	Jeremy Wood
	43 George Lane
Stockport & District	Bredbury
	STOCKPORT
TEL: 0161 494 1633	SK6 1AT



# YOUNG SERVERS GROUP REPORT FOR 1997

Fr Geoffrey Squire

1997 has been the first complete year during which the Young Servers Groups have been operating in association with 'Youthlink'.

'Youthlink' operates along similar lines to the Young Servers Groups of past years but individual groups may be 'for young servers'; 'for young servers and their friends'; or simply be open groups.

At present, the majority of groups are for 'young servers and their friends'. These friends of young servers may be Anglican Catholic traditionalists, liberals, Protestants, atheists, or anything else, but all will be involved in a group which is firmly rooted in the Anglican Catholic tradition with the Holy Mass at the centre.

The result of operating these new-style groups has been quite exciting. Some 35 different youngsters have experienced Catholic worship during the past year, most of them for the first time in their lives, and many have responded to it. One lapsed server is now serving again every Sunday, another churchgoing boy has become a server and has just been admitted a probationer member of the Guild. Two more, who had no previous contact with any church, have just become servers at a church which was 'North-end' evangelical, with a woman assistant priest until a year ago, but is now rapidly heading in our direction, and at least four other boys and girls are showing interest in the faith following their association with group events. 'Youthlink' now has five adults involved in leadership, all of them properly trained/experienced and 'vetted' in accordance with all the latest rules and recommendations of the child protection act. 'Youthlink' operates about 12 'Journey groups' (including Walsingham, Glastonbury, Scotland/Iona, West Wales and the Guild's Easter and Autumn Festivals), plus three youth clubs in Devon and Cornwall. The reason why little publicity about the groups has been given over the past 18 months is simply due to the fact that we already have as many youngsters as we can cope with. I hope that we can move forward in 1998 but this will only be possible if we can raise some funds to cover the ever-increasing costs of printing, postage, forms, stationery etc. and provide a little financial help to youngsters of limited means, and also obtain more group leaders (male and female) in some areas. Young people (servers/non-servers; boys/girls aged 11-17) who would like up-to-date information as to what groups may be available to those from their region should complete and post the form below. Adults (21+) who may be interested in group leadership should write to the same address or telephone 01271 344935.

.....  
PLEASE SEND ME FURTHER INFORMATION ABOUT YOUTHLINK/YOUNG SERVERS GROUPS

FULL NAME (Please print) ..... Date of Birth .....

FULL POSTAL ADDRESS .....

..... POSTCODE .....

TELEPHONE NUMBER (if any) ..... Are you a server ? YES/NO

PLEASE RETURN TO: The Revd GF Squire, Little Cross, Northleigh Hill,  
Goodleigh, Barnstaple, Devon EX32 7NR

PLEASE ENCLOSE A STAMPED, ADDRESSED ENVELOPE FOR REPLY.

## **THE SERVER REPORT 1997**

I must apologise for the late distribution of the Autumn issue. There was sickness at the printers. I must apologise even more about the Winter issue - I am already putting the Spring 1998 issue together and it has not yet appeared. I fondly imagined that when I changed to a 3-1/2" drive that the situation would be eased. Unfortunately this proved not to be the case. The printer's computers could not read my disc and, even more of a problem, the people they use to convert my 3" discs could not deal with 3-1/2" either. Then something went wrong with the reading of the 3" disc so everything was held up. I hope we have now got over this hiccup. I am pleased to report that I have received some more articles from an occasional contributor. I must thank all contributors, the Distributor, Transporter and all salesmen and women.

## **SCOTTISH GUILD OF SERVERS AGM**

Malcolm Perkins, Hon.Councillor

The 69th Festival and AGM which was held in Holy Trinity church, Stirling, on Saturday 13th September 1997, started with a eucharist at 2pm, presided over by the Chaplain General. The serving team was provided by the host church. Approximately sixty robed members were in attendance. A large buffet was then provided by the church congregation for the members. This was well received since some members had travelled long distances to be present and had had to leave very early in the morning.

The AGM then took place with the Warden in the chair. The Minutes of the 1996 AGM were approved and there were no matters arising from the Minutes. The Manual and Rule Booklet had now been printed in its final form and copies were on sale after the meeting. It included the Alternative Office, passed for use in 1994. It also includes a Preparation and Thanksgiving for serving together with the Rule and the War Memorial Fund Regulations. The election of the Almoner (Treasurer) took place - Bro Bruce Couper was re-elected for three years.

Thanks were given to the incumbent and congregation for their hospitality. It was announced that the 1998 AGM would be in Aberdeen.

The Guild Office was then sung in the church with all the robed servers present.

## **GENERAL COUNCIL, NOVEMBER 15TH**

We welcomed to the Council 2 returning members - David Tilley PG1 and Maurice Dunman LG5&6 and 2 new members - Mark Brett LG4 and David Froud PG10. It was agreed to donate £500 towards the St Stephen's House 1998 Vocations Conference.

We agreed with the Secretary-General that the Autumn issue of The Server, the first possible, would be too late to advertise Christmas cards but that Council. Nigel Makepeace and the Secretary-General should order centenary bios and bookmarks etc. The membership secretary had produced a new Form 'C' which would be introduced immediately. It included membership numbers, 2 previous years subscription record & listed all members of the chapter.

We confirmed the Secretary-General's action in instituting a Supporter's Membership Book, a Supporter Form '1D' and the issuing of Guild Lapel Badges.

It was agreed that the Guild Organist should be an ex-officio member of the Council.

The Secretary-General said that he issues instructions for all duties at National Guild Festivals and rehearsals should not take place on the day before the Mass.

## **SOME OF MY FAVOURITE THINGS**

### **The Book of Daniel Part III**

**Fr Howard Cocks**



In my last article, some months ago I regret to say, I discussed the first six chapters of the Book of Daniel; the well-known stories of Daniel in the lion's den; Belshazzar's Feast etc. The second half of the Book, chapters 7-12, is quite different and consists of four apocalypses. They all have a general theme throughout, but each one forms a distinct unit. They all have the aim of instilling confidence in the suffering People of God, giving the assurance that the pagan kingdoms so hostile to Israel shall be overthrown.....just like their pagan predecessors had been overthrown in the first half of the Book. Further, that the end of time would come when God's triumph and the eschatological reign of His Holy People would be established in the sight of all nations.

Chapters 7-12 of Daniel form part of the happy hunting ground of all religious cranks seeking to predict the future. They pore over every phrase, every comma, seeking to prove that what Daniel predicts is very shortly to happen!

One of the problems in interpreting apocalyptic literature is that we do not think in terms of allegory, analogy, myth etc. but accept literally the words and their meaning in what we are reading, and this is the fundamental cause of error(s). Apocalyptic literature is a recognised genre in both the Old and New Testaments. The Book of Daniel and the Revelation of S John would be the most notable examples. Perhaps a brief word about apocalyptic literature might be helpful.

Its most important characteristics are (1) it sees the universe as the stage on which good and evil battle it out for domination. This is often called 'dualism'. However, in Jewish/Christian terms, God is always in overall control and evil (Satan) rules at God's pleasure, and the conflict, though desperate, always results in Satan's ultimate defeat. (2) The second characteristic is that it is eschatological, which means "the end of time". In other words, apocalyptic literature deals with the end of the world as we know it.,

There are other characteristics of this sort of literature, eg visions - the message is conveyed through a series of visions; pseudonymous - a literary device for ascribing work to someone other than the actual author, usually a person of importance, animal symbolism - often bizarre in character. There are others, but all the above can be seen in the Book of Daniel.

In my first article on Daniel I wrote of the traumatic time the Jews were having at the hands of their Greek overlords. By using apocalyptic literature with its hidden meanings, national solidarity could be encouraged without their oppressors fully comprehending the significance of what was being written. In other words, apocalyptic

literature is a sort of code and one needs to have a key to understand it. The door can be unlocked by a good understanding of Old Testament literature and its various forms. Sadly, for most today, the key has been lost which leads to the bizarre interpretations that one hears about.

It seems strange that, in talking about Daniel, I have had to explain the explanation in order to discuss one book, but understanding these books is not easy. They were written a long time ago, using imagery and language utterly foreign to us, for a readership that was living in unique and difficult times. Little wonder that we get confused and also little wonder that I have had to resort to a lot of explanation before tackling the task itself. The wonder and excitement of the Book of Daniel is that, despite its background, it does, in fact, have something to say to us, and readily deserves its place in the canon. Perhaps some parts are more important than others (I think the first half has more to say to us than the second), nonetheless it does all speak to us of our religious inheritance and the over-arching sovereignty of God.

By explaining - albeit briefly - apocalyptic literature, I hope, at the very least, to have given you some ability to deal with those who use scripture to predict the end of the world and their own strange view of God, the world and our place in it.

In my next article I will deal with the last few chapters and draw conclusions. Meanwhile.....get reading.

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## CHANTRY BOOK

### SEPTEMBER

Raymond F Wicken

### OCTOBER

Andrew Gosling  
William T Tobias, priest

### NOVEMBER

William Bell  
John Hoodless

### DECEMBER

Michael Denner  
John Hayman  
Gerald Hobbs

### JANUARY

WM Howarth



*The souls  
of the just are in  
the hands of God*

WISDOM 3:1

## **R.I.P.**

### **Andrew Gosling**

It was with a deep sense of shock that we learned of the sudden death of Andrew from a heart attack on Sunday, 19th October, aged 34 years. He had been a member of the Grimsby chapter for four years and was a regular attendee at chapter meetings where he acted as Thurifer. His daughter, Claire, who is also a member of the Guild, acted as his boat bearer. A devoted church and family man, he worshipped at S Peter, Cleethorpes, where he was a server and church Treasurer. Andrew attended schools in Cleethorpes before reading Economics and Accountancy at Newcastle University. He was employed as an accountant with a local company. A requiem Mass was held for him at S Peter's church, conducted by our chaplain. Fr Terry Atkinson, and the rector, Fr Tom Robinson. Many of our Guild members attended. His funeral took place at S Peter, followed by cremation. We extend our sympathy to his widow and three children. Andrew was following in the family tradition as his late father was also a server and Guild member.

### **Gerald Hobbs**

Brother Gerald died suddenly on 20 December aged 92 years. He became a member of the Guild at the foundation of the chapter of the Holy Cross, South Somerset and had been a long-standing member of the congregation of S Batholomew., Crewkerne, filling the office of churchwarden for several years. He regularly served the 8am Mass on Sundays and always attended chapter meetings except when illness prevented him from doing so. He was partly responsible for the refurbishment of the church rooms. He spent several years in various parts of Africa before he returned to England. He will be sadly missed by his friends and fellow members.

### **William Trevor Tobias, priest.**

Fr Tobias died on 17 December at the age of 87. Prior to His retirement he was vicar of S Mark, Hanwell and, for several years afterwards, he assisted at S Stephen, West Ealing. He will be greatly missed by the chapter as will his assistance in the Ealing Deanery.

### **George Ambler Watson (1910-1997)**

George, of Leeds S Ninian chapter, died on 18 August when he would, according to his custom, have been attending the Assumptiontide Festival at S Hilda, Leeds. Everyone was asking "Where's George?". He had never missed in 21 years, despite the long journey. George was a life member of the Guild. He was involved with serving and with church music all his long life. Having a critical eye (and ear) he was always ready to give good advice at whatever church he was visiting. He was multi-talented; his paintings have been much admired. He was very proud of having trained a "Chorister of the Year" and of having met Pope John Paul II, when on pilgrimage to Rome with York Diocese. The large congregation which gathered in Pocklington parish church testified to the great esteem in which he was held. He was an interesting and knowledgeable man who will be much missed.

### **Raymond Frank Wicken (1908-1997)**

Bro Raymond, who passed to his rest on 1st September, was a life long worshipper at the church of S Mary the Virgin, Ashford, Kent, where he was a sidesman for 60 years, and served at its altars for many years. He joined the Guild in 1947 and was a regular and loyal supporter of the chapter of S Michael the Archangel until recently, when declining health prevented his active participation.

May they rest in peace and rise in glory

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

*For Your Diary*



1998

### APRIL

- 4 S Edmundsbury & Ipswich Diocesan Servers Festival  
S Edmundsbury Cathedral - 11am - Eucharist celebrated by the Bishop,  
preceded by a time of silence and prayer for the servers, followed by lunch
- 18 CENTENARY EASTER FESTIVAL & AGM  
S Alban, Holborn, London  
Noon - High Mass  
Preacher: The Rt Revd Edwin Barnes (Bp of Richborough)  
3.00pm - Annual General Meeting in Hall  
4.15pm - Guild Office, Procession and Benediction
- 25 Eastern Area Festival  
S John, Timberhill Norwich  
Noon - Mass  
3.00 pm - Guild Office with Benediction

### MAY

- 19 Joint Festival organised by PG16 of GSS &  
the Cell of our Lady of Walsingham & S Laurence  
S Laurence Church, Long Eaton  
7.30pm - Guild Office, Sermon, Procession of OLW, Benediction  
Preacher: Fr Martin Warner (Administrator of the Shrine, OLW)
- 25 Walsingham National Pilgrimage

### JUNE

- 6 CENTENARY SUMMER FESTIVAL  
Exeter Cathedral  
Noon - High Mass  
4.30 pm - Guild Office and Procession  
Preacher: The Rt Rvd. John Richards (Bp of Ebbsfleet)

### JULY

- 4 GLASTONBURY ABBEY PILGRIMAGE  
Noon - Concelebrated Holy Eucharist  
3.30pm - Procession for Solemn Evensong & Te Deum

### AUGUST

- 29 LLANTHONY NATIONAL PILGRIMAGE

### SEPTEMBER

- 12 LICHFIELD DIOCESAN & MIDLANDS AREA FESTIVAL  
Lichfield Cathedral  
Noon - Solemn Eucharist  
Celebrant: The Rt Revd Keith Sutton (Bp of Lichfield)  
3.00pm - Guild Office and Procession  
Preacher: The Bishop of Lichfield

### OCTOBER

- 3 CENTENARY AUTUMN FESTIVAL  
Wakefield Cathedral  
Noon - High Mass  
3.00pm - Guild Office and Procession  
Preacher: The Rt Revd John Gaisford (Bp of Beverley)

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## DONT'S FOR ALTAR SERVERS

*(From the S Swithun's, Lincoln Parish Magazine)*

*(Published in Occasional Paper, New Series No 20 November 1933)*

Don't fail in attendance at Mass on all Sundays. If you do it means your heart is in the wrong place and that a spiritual operation called the Sacrament of Penance is urgently needed.

Don't enter the church by the vestry door. Go in with the other people and say a prayer to start with. The best servers also make their exit in a similar manner.

Don't come in at the last minute. All servers should be fully vested at least five minutes before the hour of service.

Don't chatter in the sacristy. Always keep silence when the priest is vesting.

Don't leave your jobs to someone else. The thurifer should heat his own charcoal and the acolytes should prepare the sanctuary and light the candles.

Don't mind aching arms if a banner is rather heavy. Serving is a job for he-men - not for effeminate nincompoops.

Don't imagine that floating around in a red cassock will do as well as going to confession. It may be a reminder of the Precious Blood, but it is not a substitute for it.

Don't say the Kyrie and General Confession and other responses in a girlish whisper. Speak out and don't be ashamed of your mother tongue. You have got to lead the congregation.

Don't think you know all about serving and that there is nothing for you to learn. A stiff neck is worse than stiff knees.

Don't you think you should acknowledge your high privilege of serving at the Altar by some extra act of devotion, eg going to Mass each week on a week-day.

Don't forget to be very regular in your communion. Nothing must be allowed to interfere with this - not even taking your girl to the Pictures the night before.

Don't hesitate to go to confession when you fall below this standard. Always set yourself a high ideal! A church can do without servers, but it can't do with half-hearted ones.

Don't treat this as Magazine padding. It is meant to be acted on.



**ABOUT GOD - (36) "I believe in the HOLY SPIRIT" -(f)-  
A FRIEND IN NEED  
Revd Canon Wm H Barnard**



What was the 'EXTRA SOMETHING' the first disciples received on the day of Pentecost? For them, and those who followed them, they each discovered an EXTRA ON THE PHYSICAL LEVEL. Think of S Paul, eg stoned, flogged, shipwrecked, subject to bouts of severe illness, walking on foot great distances, almost assassinated many times, for sheer physical endurance; all in the power of the Spirit. On THE MENTAL LEVEL an extra something was also given.

The Gospels suggest the disciples were somewhat "slow on the uptake", not particularly 'bright boys' - now they are quite different. Peter, who blundered and blustered around and said the wrong things so often, became a wise and astute leader. John, a bad tempered 'son of thunder' developed into a profound thinker. While on the SPIRITUAL LEVEL they became 'infinitely surer of God, trusting in His power, accepting His guidance, gloriously certain of His presence with them in the person of their risen Lord".

HOW DOES ALL THIS AFFECT US TODAY? As Dr.Glover has said, "The first disciples went out in the power of the Spirit to out-think, out-live and out-die the pagan world". This outpouring of the spirit had indeed made a tremendous impact on them and on humanity at large as we can see when we follow the story of the early Church in the Book of ACTS. This makes it quite clear that the HOLY SPIRIT is not only personal but always a PERSON, never 'it' but always 'He'. The Spirit is the director of operations, commander-in-chief, and never a kind of diffused gas or some kind of oxygen supply for moon travellers. He is not just a 'Comforter' (perhaps an unfortunate translation of the New Testament word 'Paraclete', used for the Holy Spirit); not just an 'Advocate' who might defend us in a court of law and make suggestions as to what we should say when we are in any difficulty, but rather 'A FRIEND IN NEED', which is the real meaning of the word "Paraclete". "The Spirit", says S Paul, "helps our weakness.....makes petitions and groanings on our behalf.....which cannot be uttered". Such assistance is not that of the Scots minister who, asked to make an extempore speech, began, "When I'm called upon suddenly like this I just say what the Holy Spirit puts into my mind; but if you give me an hour or two for preparation, I can do much better"!! No, this help of the Holy Spirit is something we need always, especially each time we pray. In fact we can go further and say that every time we pray it is the Holy Spirit praying in us. We saw, last time, what this implies and how it happens.

## **THE CELEBRATION OF THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FORMATION OF THE GUILD CHOIR**

**Cllr. H Bryan Chilton**

That the choice of 14th June was unfortunate - is to say the least; that the failure of the combination of the traindrivers strike and the Trooping of the Colour to extinguish the occasion - was just short of a miracle.

The Choir Secretary in his laden car suddenly found himself driving away from the City of London eastwards and owes his timely arrival at the lovely church of S Mary-le-Bow (refers to its arches not its beauty) to the considerate Met 'Bill' who escorted him through the roadblocks to Cheapside. After the rehearsal in the neighbouring 'New' church of Aldermary, the absence of key persons proved the famous law, and the need to improvise at the last minute conspired to wreck the day and to derange the Secretary.

Despite all this, with only a token congregation and no representatives from the hierarchy, both the Rite A Votive Mass of the Blessed Sacrament, sung in its full liturgical text with the psalms and, later, the Solemn Guild Office and Benediction were enhanced by the choir, in fine fettle, encouraged to be heard, by the most sympathetic accompaniment in years, played by Bro John Hunt of S Luke, Kingston.

We are so grateful to Fr Brain, Chaplain-General, who celebrated in the Warden's absence and to Fr Stevens, Chaplain to Southwark servers, who assisted him as the Deacon in place of Fr Ford, Chaplain COF, engaged at the time in retiring from his parish. We wished him happiness and good health for the future with the warmest thoughts of his generosity in the past and his encouragement.

Congratulations to the sanctuary party of the chapter of the Epiphany who, without fuss and with only essential movements, unusual nowadays, brought added dignity and the true sense of "Introibo ad altare Dei".

When it was discovered that cafes and restaurants in the City are not open at midday at weekends Fr Stock came to the rescue in allowing us to have a sandwich lunch in the large room beneath the famous bell tower. Thanks to Bro David Jewell who transported tables, chairs and drinks h & c we enjoyed the rare pleasure of sharing our own company socially and meeting up with former members of the Choir no longer able to get around the country with us.

After lunch the Secretary revived the past, paying tribute to the former Clerical Officers who encouraged us in the early years to take our part in Catholic worship, especially Fr Treadwell (bless him) with whom he worked so closely when he was Chaplain-General in making arrangements for the General Festivals. Bro Ronald Pike, who felt the need last year to resign as Assistant Guild Organist, was warmly thanked for his service to the Choir, playing in the maestro's absence and for rehearsals, together with all the members for their loyalty and reliability over our fifty years.

Replying, Bro Jewell said how much they valued the Secretary's care, direction and helpful preparation beforehand, so essential when we do not sing together regularly.

## LICHFIELD SERVERS' FESTIVAL SERMON

Rt Revd Christopher Hill, Bp of Stafford

When thinking about this address I looked up some Old Testament passages about the Servants of the Sanctuary - the temple servants. However this proved to be less than promising.....Chapter 12 of 11 Kings tells us lamentably that it took King Joash over 23 years to get the temple servants paid properly - the money had been purloined by the priests. Well, Anglican servers have never been paid anyway.....But I can hear some of you saying, 'even in those days....'

I turned to the distinctive role of the temple server and his dress. Here the Guild Office came to mind with its antiphon about the boy Samuel ministering in the linen ephod. However, as the ephod turns out to be not an alb, surplice or cotta but a rather short loin cloth I rather hastily gave up the Old Testament. I'm glad you're not wearing ephods today!

So I begin this address properly (after a thoroughly improper beginning) where we began this festival today: I begin with the Eucharist. For the Eucharist is at the heart of the server's ministry and this has been so from the beginning. In the ancient church there were a number of what we would now call ministries - which, in the West, were eventually formalised into the so-called 'minor orders'. There were Door Keepers, (important in days of persecution and the imperial secret police), Readers, Exorcists and Acolytes. The Acolyte in the ancient church was not just somebody who carried a candle. He was much more than the modern server. He would be under the direct supervision of the Dean or even the Archdeacon in a see city. The Bishop would have personal Acolytes to do secretarial work. When I worked at Lambeth Palace I was, in effect, reverting to an Acolytes vocation.

Amongst the most important of their duties was the taking of Holy Communion to those in prison or those who were seriously ill or housebound. They exercised a pastoral as well as a liturgical ministry. Eventually some of their functions were taken over by the Sub-Deacon, and the giving of the minor orders became only a formality for those on the way to being ordained priest. At the Reformation in England the giving of minor orders and the sub-diaconate were abolished. But their functions to some extent continued in the Parish Clerk. The Book of Common Prayer makes occasional though vague references to the clerk or clerkes and it is clear that some sort of liturgical function was envisaged. In practice this usually amounted only to making the responses at the services; the three-decker pulpit is almost the only memento of the Parish Clerk; though there still exists the Guild of Parish Clerks in the City of London. In 1972, on the Feast of the Assumption, Pope Paul VI 'reformed' the minor orders and sub-diaconate by abolishing them. In their place two lay ministries were instituted; those of Lector and Acolyte - or reader and Server.

The Ministry of Readers had, of course, been revived in the Anglican Church for many years - but Servers have, I believe, been somewhat neglected. Lay servers had, of course, been revived with the Catholic movement in the Church of England and your

Guild goes back to that time. But there is nothing in the Canons or Law of the Church of England to give guidance as to what your ministry involves, nor any official form of installation. Rome, in reforming the Acolyte as a Lay ministry, specified that he (and now, of course, she) could be an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion. The server could help the priest administer Holy Communion at Mass and take the reserved sacrament to the sick and dying. He may even expose the Blessed Sacrament for veneration. Equally, under our own Canons, in the Church of England, with the official permission of a bishop a lay person may administer Holy Communion In church or at home but that's as far as we seem to go. Even the Roman Canon Law only gives Acolytes a couple of lines.

Of course it would be stupid for every server to be admitted to such a special ministry of the sacrament, especially in parishes where youngsters are the main body of servers. Pope Paul's letter proposes, in effect, that an official acolyte should be the person who instructs and leads other lay servers. Just as a Reader might have responsibility for organising those lay people who read and lead the intercessions. Both, of course, in conjunction with and under the clergy. There is wisdom here which we can adapt. It would be good if each parish had a senior server who really did have some liturgical and pastoral responsibility. Not just drawing up a monthly rota, but assisting the clergy in the sacramental ministry, even taking the sacrament to the sick. But this may require a change of attitude in many a senior server and MC - and among some clergy. One so often meets a running battle between priest and servers - the old MC wants things done in the old way, he likes the older more detailed ceremonial. Or the young zealot is anxious that the older priests do everything in the most correct modern way! The Church needs more than an attitude to ceremonial - ancient or modern. Pope Paul put it this way in the letter I have mentioned:

"Since an acolyte is especially destined for the service of the altar, he should familiarise himself with everything which pertains to divine worship and should endeavour to understand its spirit and its inner meaning".

This will involve the study of worship, just as a Reader must make a study of the Bible. At the very least he should have some idea of why we are using Rite A today and not the BCP or why Rome uses Missa Normativa (usually in English) rather than the Latin Tridentine rite. The Cathedral bookshop has all the senior server needs for the study of liturgy. The senior server also has a pastoral ministry among the congregation, that means putting himself and his time at the disposal of the priest for lay pastoral work. There must be no question of only a Sunday Mass, ceremonial Christianity. And what I have said applies in a general way to all servers. Let me give you another quotation from the letter I have been referring to which applies to everyone who assists as a server in the sanctuary. "The server will participate in the Eucharist with ever increasing fervour and be nourished by it and deepen his understanding of it". Every server should make the Eucharist central to his or her life. This will mean a weekday Mass as well as Sunday and it will mean happily being in the congregation occasionally rather than insisting on always being 'on' the sanctuary. It will mean using

the reserved sacrament for periods of private prayer and helping others to come to a sacramental devotion to Christ.

The server is really a waiter at God's board, a waiter at the table of the Feast of God's Kingdom. It is a proper sacramental theology that ministerial priesthood ceases at death. We see God face to face in the fullness of the kingdom; we no longer need sacraments in heaven for God mediates himself directly. At death a priest or a bishop reverts to his (or her) simple and royal baptismal status as a member of the People of God. I will, however, end on a speculation. The Kingdom will be a banquet, a feast: perhaps there is a sense in which we shall all serve one another at the Feast; and so the role of the server may outlast that of the priest!.

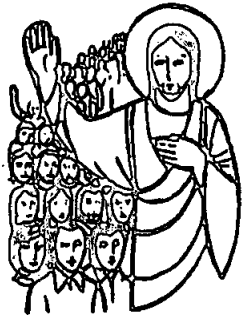
So let the Servants of the Sanctuary be the eucharistic servants of the sacraments now; in anticipation of the continuing mutual service of the people of God in the heavenly Banquet which is to come - at which all glory, power, dominion and praise be given to you Father, Son and Spirit: Blessed be God Forever. Amen.

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## NEWS FROM THE CHAPTERS

### **S ANDREW, West Essex**

1997 was our 85th anniversary year. In May we celebrated our birthday in true GSS style. We had a solemn Mass at noon followed by a slap-up lunch. In the afternoon we had a Procession and sang the Guild Office and Benediction. The day ended with tea. All who attended, including representatives from neighbouring chapters, enjoyed a day of worship and fellowship. Our current membership stands at 33. This is made up of 4 Priest Associate, 4 Life Members, 24 Annual Members, and 1 Probationer. We have monthly meetings which include Stations of the Cross shared with Roman Catholic servers from Hornchurch, and a mix of Masses and Guild Offices with Benediction, some of which are also shared with neighbouring chapters.



### **S CHAD, Coventry**

The final meeting of the summer programme was a sung eucharist at S Luke, Holbrooks on Saturday 18th October. Fr Kit Dunkly, the recently inducted parish priest, was the celebrant, assisted by Fr Barry Keeton. In our prayers we remembered our chaplain, Fr Graeme Hands, and requested that God will grant him a speedy recovery from his recent major surgery.

Nigel Makepeace reported that only three of our members attended the Autumn Festival at Romsey Abbey.

We were sad to learn that our chairman, David Hopkins, has been informed that he would not be re-elected as Chairman of the George Eliot NHS Trust. David had been the head of the management team since the Nuneaton Hospital was made a trust four years ago.

The annual Requiem Mass was held at S Leonard, Ryton-on-Dunsmore, on Tuesday 4th November. The celebrant was Fr John Chapman, assisted by Geof Howells, a reader in the Coventry Diocese.

The chapter was represented at the Bedworth Armistice Day Parade & Service which is, and always has been, at the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month at the Cenotaph in the Cemetery.

Our Advent meeting at the church of S Barnabas, Coventry on Saturday 13th December, was a Guild Office and Procession. The officiant was Fr Barry Keeton and the address was given by Fr Supriyo Mukkerjee who gave us a warm welcome to his church. We were pleased to welcome a group of young servers from S Oswald, Tile Hill, with their assistant priest, Fr Paul Martin who took away with him 14 application forms.

Fr Graeme Hands is recovering well from his operation and hopes to be well enough to attend our January meeting when the Rt Revd Anthony Priddis, Bishop of Warwick, will be the preacher.

### **THE HOLY CROSS, South Somerset**

In September we met at S Michael, Yeovil, for their patronal festival. Fr Nicholas Pnematicatos celebrated the Mass which was followed by a procession of the Blessed Sacrament and Benediction. Whilst, in October, we sang the Guild Office in S Batholomew, Crewkerne.

Our annual social gathering was a lunch enjoyed by 29 members and guests.

The year ended with the Guild Office sung at S Michael, Yeovil.

We were sorry to learn, at the end of December, that Gerald Hobbs, from Crewkerne, had died and send our condolences to his widow.

### **S JOHN BAPTIST, TORBAY**

For our November meeting we were present at the Sung Mass and Confirmation in S Martin, Barton, Torquay, which was celebrated by the Rt Revd Hewlett Thompson, Bishop of Exeter.

In December we visited All Saints, Babbacombe, where Fr Gorran Chapman, joint chaplain sang the Guild Office and Fr Simon Wakely, priest-in-charge preached on the ordinariness of the Blessed Virgin Mary. He said, inter alia, "If God chose Mary for such great work, if God knew Mary in the womb, then he surely knows and chooses us from the beginning.....Our calling, our vocation is essentially the same as Mary's; we are called to obedience, to love, and to make known His saving work in the world.

We, like Mary, have been chosen before the foundation of the world.

Mary was preserved from all sin from the moment of her conception so that she could become the sinless mother of God, when he became incarnate for our salvation. Mary had to be sinless to be a worthy mother of the Christ-Child, God incarnate. But the fact of her being sinless does not take Mary out of the midst of the trouble and difficulties which beset us all. In fact, quite the reverse is true; she is at the heart of the spiritual warfare and trials. She would have undergone great tests when she was pregnant with what people would have assumed was another man's child; she would have undergone great suffering as she stood at the foot of the Cross watching her Son die. She knew that He was the Son of God, God himself made flesh from her body; but He was more than that to her, He was her son.

In January we sang the Guild Office in S Andrew, Plymouth, followed by Benediction. The officiant and preacher was Fr Ralph Searle, curate-in-charge of S Boniface, Foxhole.

### **S WULFSTAN, Redditch**

The chapter said farewell this year to its long-standing secretary, Robert Boyce, who has moved to the Banbury area, sadly without a local chapter that close for somebody who is without transport. His place was filled by John Baxter, formerly secretary to the Trowbridge chapter of SS Aldhelm & Laurence, which is in difficulties at present. Our chapter is small in number and we have found that it makes sense periodically to combine with adjacent chapters for joint services. We met in July with the S Michael & All Angels chapter, Stourbridge, at their service in the lovely Worcestershire village of Clent (with spiritual refreshment of a different kind afterwards at the local hostelry!). We also join, once or twice a year, with the S Dubritius chapter that covers the Warwickshire area, at Wilmcote and Billesley.

The latter church is very special. It is a redundant church behind Billesley Manor Hotel, reputed to be where Shakespeare and Ann Hathaway were married.

Our service this year, on September 3rd, was particularly poignant, being a few days before Diana's funeral and, in the candlelit Mass (there is no electricity here), the atmosphere was wonderful, made all the more so by a splendid sermon from our chaplain, Fr Michael Bartlett, on how our worship would have been so like that in the early days of that church. Surprisingly, despite its Shakespearean connections, the church is rarely on any tourist's list of places to visit, but if you are ever up in the Stratford area, the church key can be obtained from the reception desk of the adjacent hotel. Well worth a visit, if only to view the hidden place where the Lord of the Manor's servant placed his lordship's commode in the gallery, away from prying eyes !





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Form for use by those who wish to covenant to the Guild*

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