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The Server

The Quarterly Magazine of the
Guild of Servants of the Sanctuary

Volume 18 Number 6
SUMMER 1999

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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

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

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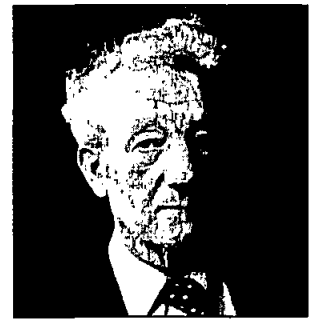
EDITORIAL
ONE MAN'S VIEW



Raymund JM Waker

I am writing this in Holy Week in order not to delay the summer issue. I am going off for 10 days holiday after the Easter Festival & AGM and, therefore, the more I can get done beforehand the better. Next year, with Easter not until April 23, there is every prospect that the summer issue will be late, unless I hold over things like the Warden's address until the autumn issue. What ideas have you?

I have just received a letter complaining, quite justifiably, that I had not published an obituary. I have only been able to apologise and advise the complainant that I had not received the obituary, until I received her letter, nor any of the subsequent letters which had apparently been sent. I cannot explain why these letters should have not reached me when I am not aware of any others missing but, perhaps, some of you are.

An organist friend of mine has been clearing out the effects of a mutual server friend and passed to me, for disposal, some of the ecclesiastical bits and pieces. In going through the pockets of his cassocks I came across the following:-
a). A Redemptorist Mass Leaflet for 4th July 1976 - 14th Sunday of the Year.
b). A torn up envelope postmarked 6 March 1962.
c). A scrap of paper with a list of 3 hymns.
d). A wrapper from a MAC.
e). Remnants of the Organist's list of Hymns, Settings etc for Broadmoor Hospital Chapel for Easter 2, 16th April, 1972.

All these items came out of a black cassock's pockets but he always appeared at chapter meetings as a server in a red cassock - perhaps he only wore his black cassock when on duty as an organist. I wonder, was 4th July, 1976, the last of his official duties as an organist?
How come he was playing the organ at Broadmoor Hospital? When and why did he feel the need to suck only one MAC whilst playing the organ? Or what happened to the other wrappers?

What would you find in my cassock pockets? Some rubber bands, removed from bundles of palms (you never know when they might come in useful); some empty wafer packets (they are convenient for storing my medal, with a white cord, keep it clean); my ex-army knife (for clearing out thurible bowls and trimming candles); my Guild medal (in packet); my Guild Office Book (in packet); a box of matches; a Lucifer container (old-fashioned metal match box - "When you've a Lucifer to light your Fag"); a length of string (can be used to shorten a cassock when there is no girdle available) and a clean handkerchief which, in emergencies, can also serve as a Corporal or Purificator.

What interesting objects would you find in your pockets and how do you justify them?

Raymund JM WAKER

FROM THE SECRETARY GENERAL

CENTENARY SOUVENIRS
THESE ARE STILL AVAILABLE AND CHAPTERS ARE EXPECTED TO ORDER THEM, WE DO NOT WANT ANY LEFT ON OUR HANDS.

Bonded Leather Key Fobs	.50p each
Bonded Leather Coasters	.50p each
Retractable Pens	.50p each
Bookmarks	.50p each
Car Stickers	.50p each

Roy Cresswell

ALSO AVAILABLE:-

Guild Office Plainchant	£1.00 (inc p&p)
Guild Office and Manual, words only	.85p (inc p&p)
Guild Lapel Badge, pin type	£1.50 (inc p&p)
Guild Office Organ Music	£1.20 (inc p&p)
75 Years of the Guild's History	.75p (inc p&p)
Prayer Card, Before & After Serving	.50p (inc p&p)
Card with Guild Collect for display in Porch or Vestry	.50p (inc p&p)
Guild Ties (Maroon, Green or Navy Blue)	£5.00 (inc p&p)
Ladies Navy Blue Headsquares with Guild Badge printed in one corner	£6.50 (inc p&p)

ORDERS TO:- NIGEL MAKEPEACE, 37 DILLOTFORD AVENUE, STYVECHALE, COVENTRY CV3 5DR

CONGRATULATIONS - to Roland Hudson who has just completed 60 years membership of the Guild. Roland is a member of the chapter of Our Lady & S Eadburgh and has represented Group 16 (Nottinghamshire, Derbyshire and Staffordshire) for many years.

GRAND COUNCILLORS - At the meeting of the General Council on 20th March the Council decided that, in appreciation of the time the Secretary-General and the Treasurer-General give to the Guild, they be honoured by being made Grand Councillors. They were installed by the Warden at the Easter Festival at S Augustine, Queens Gate, London on 10th April.

NEW COUNCILLORS - We welcome:
CLIVE TILLIN who will represent Group 9
(Berkshire, Oxfordshire & South Bucks)
TERRY DOUGHTY who will represent Group 15
(Warwickshire, Northamptonshire & Leics)
DAVID THOMAS who will represent Group 22
(Cornwall)

We thank the outgoing Councillors - Paul Wharam PG9
Jim Harris PG15
Geoffrey Wippell PG22
for their sterling work for the Guild.

CHAPTER SUPPORTER MEMBERS

After several requests, a Chapter Supporter Membership has been formed. They are NOT members of the Guild and have NO voting powers.Members pay an annual subscription of £1 and are entitled to wear the Guild Lapel Badge (£1.50).
Applications should be made to the Secretary-General on Form No. 15.

TO CHAPTER SECRETARIES

Some chapters have been initiating and admitting members to Full Membership without authority from Headquarters.

THE CORRECT PROCEDURE IS AS FOLLOWS

Form 1 - 'Application for Initiation' is completed and sent to Headquarters with £1 Entrance Fee.

Form 3 'Authority to Initiate' and Guild Manual is then sent to the Chapter Secretary. After initiation this should be completed and returned to Headquarters.After 1 year's probation has been completed, application should be made to the Secretary-General to issue Form 4 - 'Authority to Admit to Full Membership'. £1.50 medal fee should be included.

Form 4 'Authority to Admit to Full Membership', together with Guild Medal is then sent to the Chapter Secretary.
After admission Form 4 should be completed and returned to Headquarters.

No deviations from these rules are allowed.

BANK ACCOUNTS

Chapter Funds should not be kept in Personal Accounts and cheques should be endorsed with 2 signatures.

CHANTRY BOOK

JANUARY
Frederick GD Price
Cyril E Smith

FEBRUARY
Leonard Farrow
Robert Mays
Gordon Virgo

MARCH
John Alexander
John L Head, PA
Catherine Hebden
Derek Stanley

NOVEMBER
John E Callcutt

DECEMBER
R Glyn Brown, PA

?
Robert Boyce
Archibald Lipscombe
William K Perry

1999
Bro Appleby

R.I.P.

Robert Boyce

It came as a great shock to the Redditch S Wulstan chapter to hear that its former secretary, Robert, had died, and lain undiscovered for some days in a flat in Wolverhampton late last year. Robert had never had an easy life and the GSS was, effectively, his substitute family. He sought succour in our Guild meetings and, despite a literacy problem which dogged him all his life, he took on the roles of chapter Treasurer, then Secretary with all the enthusiasm he could muster. The chapter was represented at his funeral and, in November, held a Requiem Mass to celebrate his all too short life. The chapter had organised a collection towards a headstone and it had been hoped to dedicate this at the Requiem. However, a refusal by his widow to pay anything towards the funeral from Robert's will has left the chapter and Robert's surviving two relatives seeking alternative ways in which to lay Robert's memory to rest and raise the outstanding sum.One can only surmise that it was Robert's personal turmoil during his last days on earth that caused his untimely death. We can only be thankful that he is in a better place.

Herbert EA Dye

Brother Bert died on 14th November 1997, aged 80 years. He had been an invalid for two years, when his health suddenly deteriorated and he died of a stroke. He was a faithful member of the Guild for almost 60 years. He joined the chapter of Our Blessed Lady in Camberwell on 7/11/38 and moved to the chapter of S Stephen, Tunbridge Wells on 30/6/60 where he soon became Treasurer as well as head server at S Barnabas church. In 1987 he retired to the Bexhill area and joined the chapter of Christ the King.

He was a Churchwarden at S Jude, Peckham in the late 1940s and again at S Barnabas, Tunbridge Wells in the 1970s & 80s. He was a very active member of the Scout movement for 70 years and, after war service, became an active member of the Royal British Legion, serving as Standard Bearer for Tunbridge Wells for many years. He is sadly missed by his many friends and family.

Robert Hall Mays (13.7.30-24.2.99)

Brother Bob died in hospital after a short stay from what turned out to have been a slow decline, following the heart attack that he suffered whilst attending the Guild's Centenary Festival at Exeter Cathedral in June last year.

His decline in health had been noticed and noted upon but was, misguidedly, attributed to tiredness caused by concern about, and the nursing of, a terminally ill wife. Unfortunately none of us realised the truth, although even if his health problem had been discovered earlier it is unlikely that corrective surgery would have been successful, or even attempted. The usual pattern is for son to follow father, but in Bro Bob's case it was the reverse, as it was upon the election of his son Andrew as Group Councillor for PG21 that Bro Bob took over his son's role as carrier of the S Werburgh chapter banner at Guild Autumn Festivals. Many may recall him carrying the oldest banner in the procession - a privilege he last enjoyed at Wakefield Cathedral in October of last year. He will also be remembered by members of the chapters in Provincial Group 21 as the companion and, following early

retirement, the frequent driver of the Group Councillor to many chapter meetings. As said Group Councillor I was never able fully to express my thanks for the opportunity to have a quick sleep in the car after a long day in the office prior to attending a chapter meeting. Bro Bob's Requiem took place on Tuesday March 2nd, the feast of S Chad. The celebrant was Fr Alan Cook, a priest associate of the Guild and one time chapter chaplain, assisted by our rector, Fr Ken Kenrick, also a priest associate. The attendance was surprisingly large, with many friends, members of the chapter of S Werburgh, some of the congregation of S Peter's and others from the church of S Mark, Bredbury, where Bro Bob served at the altar for many years and was, for a time, Churchwarden.

In his address Fr Alan made mention of Bro Bob's service, not only to the Guild as chapter treasurer for a five year spell, but to the many other organisations, such as the Scouting Movement with which he was involved for many years, and also to the time he spent, following his early retirement, as a "minder" and "walker out" of the mentally handicapped, where he took, on a weekly, one to one basis, the less fortunate of our community on trips out. Showing, as Fr Alan said, the love of a true and caring Christian.

Leslie Moore BEM (1922-1998)

Les, as he was usually known, was a long time member of GSS. He had served at the altar at the church of S Michael and All Angels, Windmill Hill, Bristol, for over 60 years. In addition, variously, he had shared in the ministry of the parish church as Churchwarden, PCC member, Sacristan and, perhaps most importantly, as Captain of the 21st Bristol Company of the Boys Brigade, part of S Michael's for over 30 years, having originally joined the company as a Boy in 1934. Many Boys in the Windmill Hill area have reason to be grateful to Les for giving to them a vision of life in Christ. His BB service was recognised by the award of the BEM in 1992. Although Les had a number of personal family tragedies and was never happy with some of the developments in the Church with regard to changes in liturgy and the ordained ministry, he continued to serve with humility and joy, sustained by regular sharing in the sacrifice of the Mass.

Derek Stanley (15.6.24-1.3.99)

Derek spent his early life in Birmingham. He went to Oundle Public School where he became interested in organs and where he first played the organ. From there he went to the Birmingham and Midlands School of Music - now the Birmingham Conservatoire - where he indulged his passions of music, reading, architecture and liturgy. Although he spent a while in his father's business as an accountant he soon left to join Nicholsons as an organ builder, and a love of organs, organ music and organ playing remained with him to the end of his life. Derek, like many of us, was not over keen on modern liturgy, but that did not prevent him from serving at Mass, and although he might not always be where he was expected to be, there was always a reverence and ingrained sincerity in all that he did for Our Lord. He only joined the Guild in 1990 - I suspect he suddenly became aware of its existence. Derek was very much a loner and preferred to sing in the choir or as a cantor rather than to serve at a sung Mass or Guild Office. He was a lover of God, of Church Organs and of Electric Trams, an eccentric and we shall miss him.

May they rest in peace and rise in glory.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

1999

JUNE

7 CENTENARY OF THE GUILD OFFICE
S Edmund, Dudley, West Midlands
8.00pm Solemn Guild Office, Procession & Benediction
Preacher: Revd JD Moore (Warden of the Guild)
(Leave M5 at Jtn 2 & join A4123 sp Dudley, for 3 miles. At Dudley, take sp Town Centre, pass Zoo on rt. Church car park is on left at top of hill, before tfc lts)

7 PG 3 FESTIVAL
S Bartholomew, Brighton
7.30pm Guild Office, Procession & Benediction
Commemoration of the Centenary of the First singing of the Guild Office

JULY

3 GLASTONBURY ABBEY NATIONAL PILGRIMAGE
Noon - Solemn High Mass
Celebrant & Preacher: The Bishop of Gibraltar in Europe
3.30pm - Procession, Solemn Evensong & Benediction
Preacher: Fr David Houlding SSC

10 Good Shepherd Chapter, Derby
90th Anniversary Festival
S Andrew with S Osmund, Derby
Noon - Sung Mass
3.00pm - Guild Office

15 Chapter of OurLady & S Swithun
S Augustine North Town, Aldershot
7.00pm - Solemn Pontifical Mass
President: The Rt Revd Michael Houghton (Bishop of Ebbsfleet)

24 Chapter of Our Lady of Walsingham & S Alban
Platinum (70 years) Anniversary of the Chapter
S Mary, Kenton, Harrow
11.30am - Mass
Principal Celebrant the Rt Revd John Broadhurst
(Bishop of Fulham)
3.00pm - Guild Office, Procession, Sermon & Benediction
for further details contact Mark Wilson 0181 427 6079 or Frank Tillier 0181 903 5471

SEPTEMBER

4 GROUP 11 FESTIVAL
Lord Mayor's Chapel, College Green, Bristol
Noon - Solemn Mass
3.00pm - Guild Office and Benediction

11 LICHFIELD DIOCESAN & MIDLANDS AREA FESTIVAL
Lichfield Cathedral
Noon - Solemn Eucharist
Celebrant: The Rt Revd Geoffrey Rowell
Bishop of Basingstoke
3.00pm - Guild Office & Procession
Preacher: The Bishop of Basingstoke

18 North Western Chapters FESTIVAL
S Andrew, West Kirby, Wirral
Noon - Mass (Preacher & Celebrant to be confirmed)
3.30pm - Guild Office, Procession & Benediction
The Bishop of Beverley (the Rt Revd John Gaisford) will be in attendance, subject to other engagements

OCTOBER
9 AUTUMN FESTIVAL
Derby Cathedral
Noon - Solemn Eucharist
3.00pm - Guild Office & Procession
Preacher: The Very Revd Michael Perham (Provost of Derby)

NOVEMBER
13 S Wulstan Chapter Festival
S Stephen, Redditch
3.00pm Solemn Mass & Procession
There is an half hourly Saturday, train service from Birmingham to Redditch. The church is only a 10 minute walk from the station and is adjacent to a large covered shopping centre. We invite all Midland area chapters to attend.

2000
JANUARY
8 SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN SERVERS FESTIVAL
Southwark Cathedral
Noon - Solemn Eucharist
3.00pm - Solemn Guild Office
Preacher: Fr Timothy Bugby, Superior-General of The Confraternity of the Blessed Sacrament

APRIL
29 EASTER FESTIVAL & AGM

JUNE
10 LONDON ARENA
Christ Our Future
Mass - Noon Celebrant: The Archbishop of York
Preacher: The Bishop of London

OCTOBER
14 AUTUMN FESTIVAL
Tewkesbury Abbey

ABOUT GOD-(41) - "THE HOLY CATHOLIC CHURCH" - (e) - "Its MINISTRY"

Revd Canon Wm H Barnard

In our last article, we tried to see that APOSTOLICITY is "a mark of the Church which links it with the Church of primitive times, through an essential identity of doctrine, a continuity of order and a fellowship in missionary duty". Differences among Christians arise chiefly from the interpretation each puts on a "Continuity of Order" ie The Ministry of the Church.

The Prayer Book states, "It is evident....that from the Apostles' time there have been these orders of Ministers in Christ's Church, Bishops, Priests and Deacons", and it goes on to point out that no one can be regarded as a lawful minister in the Church of England who has not received Episcopal Ordination in the Sacrament of Holy Orders. Anglican Catholics believe this sacrament was divinely instituted by Christ and handed on to the Apostles and passed down by them in successive ages so that the ministerial authority of bishop, priest or deacon comes from aboveand NOT from one's equals, as Nonconformists maintain. The Sacred Ministry is not a convenient practical arrangement for organisation within the Christian congregation. It is not a profession or even a vocation in the sense in which the words can be used eg of the law or medicine. All good honest work to which men and women are called is a vocation from God, but Holy Order sets a man apart for a specific work. It conveys to his soul an "indelible character for eternity". A priest is a priest for ever, 'another Christ', so a male and not a female. His work is threefold:
(-a)Liturgical; this is the function he performs in the direct service of God in liturgy and prayer, chiefly in celebrating the Holy Mysteries and absolving penitent sinners:
(b) Pastoral; ie he tries to carry the love and care of the Good Shepherd, whose agent he is, to those committed to him in the cure, or care, of souls:
(c) Prophetic; ie he proclaims the Christian Gospel and shows its relevance for today, and teaches groups of all ages to build up his flock in the faith. His authority to do this is derived from the Bishop, the 'Father in God' of the diocese, who has, in turn, received his authority from other bishops. This Catholic doctrine of Apostolic Succession affirms two things; "that earthly ministerial authority, originally given by Christ to the Apostles, being given in terms of perpetuity, requires uninterrupted transmission; and that the only agency for its valid transmission is the episcopal order" (Dr Hall). There is no New Testament support for Congregationalism. The early Church was not democratic. The authority of the Apostles was paramount. "An independent congregation without supervision from outside never existed" (Dr L Clarke). Authority to minister was given by Christ to the Apostles and transmitted down the centuries through episcopal ordination, ie by the bishops, the successors of the Apostles. The Church is then "a supernatural and divinely organised institution, transmitted in constitutional identity down the ages, and the bishops in their unbroken succession from the Apostles are the security of this identity". (Bp Barkway).

Louis Lewis

GUILD OF SERVANTS OF THE SANTUARY
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

Year ended 31st December 1998

	1998		1997	
	General	COF	General	COF
INCOME				
Legacy	-	-	-	511
Donations and gifts	683	6,029	433	5,415
Subscriptions	3,802	-	3,664	-
Investment income	11,385	6,436	9,811	5,806
Sales of: The Server	4,515	-	4,325	-
Medals, manuals, badges	-	-	-	-
Publications and	-	-	-	-
Centenary Souvenirs	3,139	-	381	-
	£23,524	£12,465	£18,614	£11,732
EXPENDITURE (page 2)				
Grants	760	2,000	250	4,000
Support costs	12,649	104	7,007	135
Administration	3,698	687	4,765	758
	£17,107	£2,791	£12,022	£4,893
NET INCOME FOR THE YEAR	6,417	9,674	6,592	6,839
GAINS AND LOSSES ON INVESTMENTS				
Loss on redemption in year	-	-	(37)	-
Increase/(Decrease) in market value	1,718	574	1,619	920
NET SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR	8,135	10,248	8,174	7,759
Balance at 1 January 1998	156,908	91,338	148,734	83,579
Balance at 31 December 1998	£165,043	£101,586	£156,908	£91,338

GUILD OF SERVANTS OF THE SANTUARY EXPENDITURE

	1998		1997	
	General	COF	General	COF
GRANTS				
Donations -general	760	-	-	-
Gifts to Ordinands	-	2,000	-	4,000
Reverend D Moore	-	-	250	-
	£760	£2,000	£250	£4,000
Total		£2,760		£4,250
SUPPORT COSTS				
Travel expenses	1,551	-	1,291	-
Expenses of meeting	208	-	216	-
Festival expenses	1,457	-	919	-
Medals & Badges	306	-	81	-
Warden's expenses	340	-	134	-
Choir expenses	-	-	75	-
The Server - expenditure	4,891	-	4,291	-
Centenary costs	3,371	-	-	-
Ties - paid into general fund and transferred to COF cost of sales	525	104	-	135
	£12,649	£104	£7,007	£135
Total		£12,753		£7,142
ADMINISTRATION				
Council of Catholic Societies	-	-	60	-
Light and Heat	300	-	300	-
Printing & Stationery	611	-	615	-
Postage and Telephone	412	40	396	40
Insurance	656	-	776	-
Sundries	29	-	93	-
Bank charges	35	30	30	33
Depreciation	322	-	1,024	-
Audit and accountancy	1,233	617	1,371	685
Donation	-	-	25	-
Data protection	100	-	75	-
	£3,698	£687	£4,765	£758
		£4,385		£5,523

CANDIDATES FOR ORDINATION FUND
Annual Report for year 1998

Fr Ford, COF Chaplain

I am now into my third year as Acting Secretary of the Fund. Nevertheless it is very rewarding work dealing with ordinands.
The last year has thrown up a number of problems regarding ordinands making application for COF grants and, in some cases, there is a misunderstanding regarding the three year rule, which I hasten to add has not been implemented by me, recently, but by the Council many years ago and confirmed by them at their meeting on 14th November 1998.

It has to be realised that the grant now is a considerable sum to any ordinand, ie £1,000 a year, but the reason that we have these rules is to make sure that individual ordinands really intend to continue supporting the Guild. I hope you will agree that the three year rule, one year as probationer, two years as a full member does, in some way, help towards seeing how serious individuals are about their membership.

At present being supported by COF:

Deacon	Name	College	Present Parish
June 2000	John William Franks	Sarum College, Salisbury	Holy Trinity, Fareham

During the year the following candidates we supported have been made deacon to serve their Title in the parishes as shown:

Made Deacon	Name	College	Parish where now Assistant Curate
June 1998	Clive Wesley Jones	S Stephen's House	S Mary, Swanley
June 1998	Charles Leonard Card-Reynolds	S Stephen's House	Holy Trinity, Reading

Again, Father Ford and I have maintained our policy of £1,000 per annum, which is distributed half yearly in May and October of each training year.

During the past year we have continued to support the following: one candidate. We wish there were more. We cannot stress too strongly that if any member is going for full time training for the sacred ministry at a recognised Theological College and qualifies for a grant, they should be encouraged to apply. That is the sole purpose of the fund.

All this could not have been achieved without the support of all the chapters and individuals, past and present, who have and continue to support the Fund. Our grateful thanks to them all.

Fr Eric Ford, Chaplain, COF Louis A Lewis, Acting Secretary, COF

YOUNG SERVERS GROUPS/YOUTHLINK

Fr Geoff Squire

Several people have asked 'What is the difference between a Young Servers Group and a Youthlink Group?' The answer is 'very little'. Young Servers Groups are organised primarily for those who are young servers and Youthlink Groups are open to all, otherwise they are the same.

I believe that it is good to have groups especially organised for young servers where there are sufficient numbers in a region but, at present, there are no groups in this category. There are, however, several young servers involved with Youthlink groups, and this mixing of servers and non-servers and those who go to church and those who have had no contact with any church is bringing some very pleasing results. Those first contacts established with the church and its worship during group events often results in churchgoing youngsters bringing their friends along with them to their local church after returning home and several go on to become servers and members of the Guild.The whole of the administration for the groups was recently up-dated to ensure that our child-protection policy was of the highest possible standard and to prepare the groups for considerable expansion. This expansion must be by way of semi-independent groups, affiliated to Youthlink but operating under their own leaders appointed by the local churches. Shortage of funds is the major problem as we constantly need cash to cover the cost of printing, postage, and subsidising the cost of participation in group events for youngsters of limited means. If we could overcome our financial problems Youthlink could develop to become a major feature of the life of churches of our integrity.

Youngsters do not seem to read magazines like 'The Server', so we rely on chapter secretaries and other adults to communicate information about the groups to the youngsters, so, please ask any youngsters in your area (age 11-17, servers and others) if they would like to join with others of their own age to visit one of the big Pilgrimages, or a 'National' Servers Festival, or Iona and the Scottish Highlands and Islands or London or France or many other places at a very low cost to themselves. If they show interest, send me their names, addresses, dates of birth, and 'phone numbers, and I will contact them direct and inform them of what is, or could be, available to those from their areas.

EASTER FESTIVAL & AGM

We had another successful Easter Festival and AGM at Queens Gate this year with reasonably spring like weather, but the numbers were somewhat reduced at about 165 rather than the 200 we have grown used to expecting. Frs Moore, Brain and Squire were the sacred ministers for the High Mass (Fr Ford, unhappily, was not well enough to be with us). Fr Brain sang the Office and the Warden officiated at Benediction. Following the General Council's decision, the procession after the Guild Office only went round the church and did not venture outside.

The AGM, with the aid of Roland Hudson's Public Address System, was once again held in the church and the business was dealt with expeditiously. The Warden invested the Secretary-General and the Treasurer-General with their medals of office as Grand Councillors as well as investing the newly elected Councillors present. Light relief was provided by the SG's tape recorder which insisted that every tape he inserted was full - Roland, later, suggested that it needed a good clean. I gather he inherited it from Howard Gadd so perhaps we should buy him a new one.

THE WARDEN'S ADDRESS

'Cease to dwell on days gone by and to brood on past history' (Is.43,v.18)

That verse comes from a marvellous passage which you may have heard read at Mass on Easter Day. Who wrote the few chapters in which this verse falls is uncertain. They belong to a much later period than the chapters before we reach chapter 40 of the book, the whole of which bears the name of Isaiah. Jerusalem has been laid waste: many of its people have gone into exile. The aim of this prophecy is to console and hearten those in exile in Babylon and also the dejected who had not been deported from Judah. It is in this section of Isaiah that we find what we know as 'The Servant Songs'. The OT reaches no greater height than in those verses, which have been long interpreted as referring in some way to Our Lord, as being about His suffering on our behalf and on behalf of the whole world.

When I heard the passage, with which we have begun our thinking this afternoon, read at the early Mass on Easter Day, the verses made a fresh impression on me. 'Cease to dwell on days gone by and to brood over past history. Here and now I will do a new thing.' These words were spoken to those who were by the waters of Babylon and wept so much that they hung their harps on the trees there. They lived in depressing times, in alien surroundings. Yet God remembered them, and in the end they returned to their homeland...'Cease to dwell on days gone by and to brood over past history.' These words took my mind back to our Centenary celebrations last year. It was a wonderful year and a great deal of planning and hard work went into the organisation of that year. I am sure many blessings were received by us all at the various festivals which were held throughout the land. Now we must go *forward.*

Unlike the exiles in Babylon we don't have to await release from exile and captivity before we can return to the promised land. We are there already. Our exile ended with the victory of Our Saviour on the Cross of Calvary and through the Empty Tomb of Easter Day. We have been deeply reminded of this truth as we went with Our Lord from Palm Sunday to the Easter Vigil. The truth of Our Lord's Death and Resurrection on our behalf remains even though Holy Week is increasingly almost ignored by many who ought to know better. (cf Canon Winter and the Northern Line). We go into the future, into a missionary situation, as the Church always has been, not forgetting that, at times, her commission to be such has been lost sight of.

I was reading a very thought provoking essay recently on the 'The Myth of Secularisation' by Jenny Taylor, in which she claims, with much evidence to hand,that British Governments have paid scant regard to Religion. This has now to change as Brussels is demanding a review and that religious belief must be recognised as being of importance and not merely a leisure activity, as we find it is so listed in those tedious surveys that come through the post weekly.

What is the reason for this? Why is it that there may well be a question about Religion in the next census? Not as a female PR girl at Whitbread's (the brewers)innocently said, 'Religion is a bit of a buzz word at the moment. It must be the Dome!' No, there are real

reasons. People are being more open about their religion, whatever form that may take. I find that people are increasingly questioning and wanting to know 'Why?' Why and What do we believe? There isn't time for us this afternoon to delve deeply into the present situation. But, briefly, this has been aided by the arrival of Religions, other than Christianity, in our land since the end of the Second World War, Muslims, Hindus and others. Also the arrival of Christians from the West Indies and elsewhere has brought about the setting up of their own places of worship, and their continued popularity amongst people of all races. All this has deeply influenced the religious culture of our land.

So Religion, Christianity included, has now to be reckoned with by our nation, whose leaders have, for decades, thought that Religion was for those who wear clerical collars and old ladies (Bless them!) and was to be kept for the odd Civic Service and national events to be observed in Westminster Abbey.

What about us...we of the Catholic Church of the land?

(1) I think we need to be more missionary minded, and to be such effectively we will need to be well informed.

(2) We need to be more joyous in the practice of our Faith. Not brooding over past history because God says 'Here and now I will do a new thing; this moment it will break from the bud.'

DIRECTORY

CHAPTER	SECRETARY	CHAPTER	SECRETARY
S Etheldreda PG14/49 Cambridge 01763 260072	Colin Limming 4 Chapman's Close MELBOURN Cambs SG8 6AH	S Justus PG1/96 Orpington 01689 828524	Keith Rowland 3a St John's Rd PETTS WOOD Orpington Kent BR5 1HS
SS Michael & Andrew PG15/118 North Staffs, Stafford, Crewe SE Cheshire	Mark Clowes 58 Heron Street Heron Cross STOKE-on-TRENT ST4 3AS	SS Osmund & Swithun PG7/126 Bournemouth, Poole, Ringwood,Christchurch 01425 479094	J Austin Prosser Flat 28, Androse Gardens Bickerley Road RINGWOOD Hants BH24 1EG
S Osyth PG9/129 Princes Risborough (Change of address)	Terence L Rhodes 61 Brook Road PRINCES RISBOROUGH Bucks HP27 9HJ	S Wilfred PG3/183 Eastbourne 01323 501100	John R Kittle Walnut Cottage 12 Walnut Tree Walk Ratton EASTBOURNE BN20 9BP

GSS QUIET HOUR - a Meditation on the psalms of the Office.
Derek Jay

I first sang the Guild Office when I was fifteen. I went regularly to meetings until other church duties prevented me. So, if we sang the office every other month, I must have sung it about 120 times. I know the words of the psalms almost off by heart. But I'm not sure I really understood what they were all about until quite recently.

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PS 18

The first psalm seems very bloodthirsty for an act of Christian worship. All about being 'girded for war', breaking bows, 'destroying mine enemies', smiting them so they're not able to stand, 'destroying them that hate me' and 'beating them as small as the dust before the wind'. The reason it's so bloodthirsty is that it was probably written by King David at the end of his life. He'd been in a lot of scrapes going back to his youth. When he was playing the harp for the mad king Saul, Saul suddenly hurled a spear at him. He looks back over a long reign and praises God for helping him fight all his wars against Israel's enemies.

So why do we sing this as part of our office? I suppose it's because the Guild was all men until fairly recently. A lot of Christianity seemed soft and feminine. Perhaps the compilers of the Office wanted to appeal to men.But we men are all supposed to be new men, gentle men, now. So how can we sing this psalm sincerely? By singing it as David did, looking back over our lives, whether we are just 15, as I was when I first encountered the Guild Office in a Dorset country church, or whether we're 80. And as we look back over our lives we will see how God has carried us through.

You probably know the story about the footsteps in the sand. A bloke looks back and sees two sets of footprints along the beach but in the difficult places there is only one set of prints. He says to God, "I thought you promised to walk alongside me through thick and thin so how is it that when I went through difficult places you deserted me?" "That", says God, "was when I carried you."

Most of us don't fight wars like David, but all of us live through difficult episodes in our lives. Let's use this psalm to thank God for the times when he has carried us through.

We live in a world where there is a lot of evil. You've only got to read the newspaper to see that. As David thanked God for delivering him from his military enemies we can thank God for delivering us from the sinfulness of the world.

'I will not turn again until I have destroyed them' sounds unchristian if you think of chasing someone down a dark alley and beating them up. So think of some of the evil regimes - like Hitler's, like some of the massacres in Rwanda, in Sarajevo or wherever. With God's help, we 'good people' will win, evil, suffering and death won't have the last word.

And it's not presumptuous to call ourselves the good people. We know we have our faults.

We confess them at the beginning of every Mass and when we go to confession. But we have been baptised, saved by Christ's cross so we have his goodness inside us.

'The strange children shall fail and be afraid out of their prisons.' Another version says that 'the strange children shall limp'. You can't fight in war if you can't walk and run properly. Evil is on the run but it is limping, all its strength is draining away. And it is in prison. Evil hems you in. Far from exercising our free will, our choice, when we do evil we limit our potential. We are imprisoned in addictive behaviour instead of enjoying the freedom God meant us to have, our God whose service is perfect freedom. God 'will bring down the high looks of the proud'. Our Lady echoed that sentiment in her song which we know as the Magnificat. 'He has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.' Evil will be trodden underfoot 'like clay in the streets'. Dust blows away. We shall be delivered 'from the strivings of the people.' That's a reference to civil war. For us, as for David, our enemies aren't just outside, they are within, perhaps in our churches, perhaps inside our very souls.

Meanwhile we have to live in the so-called 'real' world. 'With the clean thou shalt be clean and with the froward thou shalt learn frowardness'. That is to say, we need the fellowship of other 'clean', baptised Christians and we find ourselves having to make compromises in the world of work, the 'froward' are the evil people. We often find ourselves at cross-purposes with the morality of the world. It's difficult to live a Christian life in the world but God gives us the strength to do it if we let him.

'Thou also shalt light my candle'. It sounds like some magic acolyte's torch which lights itself. It might refer to the custom, in King David's day, where the housewife lit a candle and put it in the window at night as a prayer for her family's well-being, or it could be a reference to the lamp of David's dynasty, praying that it will never go out, as Christ, successor to David, will reign for ever.

I read about a 70 year old man who lifted a car to rescue someone trapped underneath it. It's a true story, apparently. We don't know our own strength until it's tested. The adrenaline rush in a tragedy gives us a buzz. If we let ourselves be open to God's strength, we can do amazing things. We won't grow old and weary as we grow old. Our souls become ever renewed. 'With the help of my God I shall leap over the wall'. That must have been a reference to a military combat unit going over the wall. We can do amazing things in God's strength. 'He makes my feet like hart's feet'. Harts run quickly. I can break 'even a bow of steel'. This is no human strength. It's what God can do in our lives. Yet this God is no warrior. 'Thy loving correction shall make me great', is a mistranslation. Better -'Thy gentleness shall make me great'. God's power is the power of love.

In a time of silence, let us look back over our lives, review the hard times, thank God for bringing us through to where we are now. Then let us ask for His strength to face what lies ahead. You might find it helpful to imagine a ray of light making you glow, starting at the top of your head and moving over your entire body until it reaches your toes.

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Ps 84

Now the music goes up a gear. We say that we love God's dwelling. God dwells everywhere so we love to find God's presence with us wherever we are, whatever we are doing.

This psalm may have been written for pilgrimage. Jews sang it before they set out for Jerusalem. Or maybe it was written when they were in exile and they expressed their longing to go back home and see the temple again. Maybe we can apply it to our journey through life. Our journey takes us through rough patches. 'Who going through the vale of *misery use it for a well*'. *The last bit of the journey to Jerusalem before the final steep* ascent, took the pilgrim through a patch of desert. If you were thirsty, you might imagine a mirage, see a pool of dust and imagine it filled with water. Well, we are promised that our pools will 'be filled with water'. The 'vale of misery' can also be translated 'vale of baca', a reference to trees which exude gum which resembles tears. One of the stages in the growth towards holiness is what the mystics called 'the gift of tears'. Tears of grief as they saw the pain and suffering in our world but also tears of joy in the knowledge that God will sort it out. Too many men still believe that 'big boys don't cry'. It is a curse of our culture that we stifle tears instead of letting them flow. If we would let ourselves cry, we would see the world as God sees it, as God cries over it.

'The pools are filled with water' can also be translated to mean that the rainy season will come early. My old geography teacher used to tell us of an experience when he was in the army through the Second World War, stationed in the Egyptian desert. Sometimes there would be a downpour of torrential rain. The violence of the rain activated seeds long buried under the sand. As the intense heat of the sun returned it made these watered seeds grow rapidly. For about half an hour the arid landscape would be transformed into a carpet of blossoms before the heat scorched and withered it back into sandy wasteland again. Would that the arid landscape which is part of our lives could be thus transformed.

A small matter I know, but there are days at work when I go round frustrated and anxious: too many tasks, not enough time. Standing over a photocopier on the blink, wanting to do a small job which is now going to take ages, I can either get angry and tighten up which is what I usually do, or I can shrug my shoulders. Usually there is a colleague in the queue. We can have a laugh and a gossip and I go on my way chuckling, with a spring in my step. Daily annoyances can be transformed into moments of grace.

'I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of the Lord'. Even a lowly role in God's kingdom is preferable to a life of outward success in the world outside. In the Middle Ages, the doorkeeper became one of the minor orders, below subdeacon, acolyte and so on. All tasks, however humble, can be means of serving God and can bring great rewards.

'One day in thy courts is better than a thousand'. A word rotted off the end of the parchment. Other copies make it plain: 'better than a thousand elsewhere'. The service of God is more rewarding than fame, honour and success in the world.

'The swallow has found her a nest'. Swallows were considered sacred birds in the East. The

whole of creation is welcome in God's kingdom. Christians should care that whole species are becoming extinct because of humanity's greed.

'My heart and my flesh rejoice in the living God'. Being a Christian doesn't just affect our lives on Sunday. It should affect the whole of us, our families, jobs, politics. And we should want our worship to reflect the whole of who we are. My flesh can be in church as I go out of a sense of duty, Sunday by Sunday, but my heart, my emotions, might be somewhere else. We can learn a lot from the founding fathers of the Oxford Movement who brought colour and movement back into worship so that people could enter in emotionally as well as intellectually.

'They will go from strength to strength'. Normally, as we go from day to day, we start with the strength of youth and get ever more feeble as we grow older. In the journey of life where we live by God's strength, we go not from the strength of youth to the weakness of old age, but from strength TO strength. Let us reflect on our journey through life, reflect on the daily frustrations and the bigger obstacles. Perhaps you could do what people in religious orders call an examen - mentally run through the events of today, from the moment you got up until now: see where God has given grace and joy and where you have tried to go on in your own strength and probably gotten bogged down. Thank God for His help, ask His Pardon for your wilfulness.

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Ps 122

Now the music changes gear again. For many years I was a cantor at Guild Offices. I always looked forward to getting to this psalm. When I was young and nervous, I was grateful to have got this far without making a mistake. Now I just like the tune. So it was with the pilgrims up to Jerusalem. This was the psalm they sang on their final stretch up hill. Grateful for having got thus far unharmed, now they breathe a sigh of relief and awe at the sight of the temple.

On the steep journey uphill they needed their companions. 'For my brethren and companions sakes'. Companions means, literally, one you share bread with. We need our fellow communicants. We can't be Christians on our own. We need help from others on the same journey; so we pray for peace.
The psalm has a word play in Hebrew: Jerushalayam, shalom, sha'al, yishlau. The English tries to bring that out too: pray, prosper, peace. We pray for a church which is at peace despite squabbles over liturgy, children's communion, women's ordination. 'Jerusalem is built as a city that is at unity within itself'.
Probably a reference to the little houses, all compact, all close together. We need to stay close together with fellow Christians, whatever our differences. When Nehemiah and the exiles returned from Babylon to Jerusalem they saw ruined houses, a wasteland of rubble, and they pledged to rebuild it. We see a church in ruins. We pray for its rebuilding, for harmonious relationships between Christians of whatever hue.

'Our feet shall stand in thy gates'. A pledge that we shall never desert, always be faithful. In the silence we pray for fellow Christians, we pray for peace and goodwill between church people and look back to our companions, those who taught us the faith when we were younger, those who nurtured us through dark times, those who inspire us today.

GENERAL COUNCIL, MARCH 20th, 1999

23 of us met in the crypt of Holy Cross, Cromer Street and we received 9 apologies.

We concluded that, for various reasons, S Peter, Vauxhall, was not a suitable venue for the Easter Festival in the year 2000 and that the Warden would see whether S Alban, Holborn would be available or S Augustine, Queens Gate. The Autumn Festival had been booked for October 14th, at Tewkesbury Abbey.

It was agreed that the outdoor procession at Queens Gate degenerated into a general chit-chat rather than a procession of witness and that we would dispense with it.

We learned that PG21/18 had decided, after all, not to split up but to try meeting more frequently for two years and then to reconsider.

All the reports and accounts were received and the auditors re-appointment approved. The re-Elections and Appointments were agreed unanimously.

The Secretary-General advised us that the following Group Councillors had been elected:-
PG9 Clive Tillin
PG15 Terry Doughty
PG22 David Thomas

Councillor Makepeace reported on the Centenary Souvenirs:
He had re-ordered Bookmarks and Coasters
He had sold out of Key Fobs
Ties were selling well and he was receiving favourable comments about the larger logo.
He was still working on the 'Centenary Book'.

The Warden remarked that in spite of the closer working relationships of the Catholic Societies there were still clashes of dates with other Societies arranging important events on days which we were well known to have been using for many years.

We were reminded of June 10th, 2000 - Christ Our Future - at the London Arena.
Eucharist begins at noon, doors open at 11am, Celebrant: The Archbishop of York, Preacher: The Bishop of London.
The Warden said we should all support this event.

This year there were again Deanery Synod elections. Those elected would be the electors of the General Synod next year. We should try to see that Catholics were elected.

It was agreed to appoint Roy Cresswell and Louis Lewis as Grand Councillors.

Councillor Hudson was congratulated on his 60 years membership of the Guild.

A HYMN FOR SERVERS

HO Brian O'Neil

Lord, as Samuel unswerving
In your house obeyed your call,
We today your temples serving
Ask you now to bless us all.

As we serve around your altars
Our great privilege we know;
Grant that no-one ever falters
In his love, who serves You so.

May our lips the rites repeating
By these mysteries so near
Speak for hearts with pure love beating
For your Heart we so revere,

May each action have its meaning,
Reverential every one,
And in purpose on You leaning
To Your glory all be done.

Every service here assisting
We would offer in Your praise,
And all thoughts of pride resisting
Humble gratitude would raise.

Love Supreme, may each poor lover
As within Your life he lives
Greater depths of love discover
With each service that he gives.

In Your liturgy still teaching
Help us, who our weakness own,
That at last Your heaven reaching
We may serve around Your throne.

NEWS FROM THE CHAPTERS

ALL SOULS, Canterbury

The chapter held its 85th AGM on 30th January in the church room of S Peter the Apostle, Canterbury. The evening began with the Guild Office said in church, the officiant was Fr David Hayes, rector of the parish. There was an attendance of 23. In his report the chairman expressed his gratitude to the chaplain, Fr Dudley Heryet, for his strong spiritual lead; he was always there when required and gave willingly of his time and gifts. The chaplain's Cheese and Wine party had been its usual great success. He urged members to take to heart the 3 Objects of the Guild and to make every effort to support the chapter during the coming year. The secretary reported that the chapter had met on 6 occasions to sing the Guild Office, once for a Requiem Mass and once to host the PG2 Festival at S Michael, Harbledown. The annual coffee morning had been well supported and had raised worthy sums for COF and chapter funds. The secretary thanked all the officers for their support and help throughout the year and challenged the members to attend one more event in 1999 than they had attended in 1998. Bro Leslie Dinnage thanked everyone for their generosity which had enabled the chapter to send £350 to COF in 1998. PG2 Councillor Fred Palmer was present and reported on Group and HQ matters. He also answered several questions from the floor. All Officers were re-elected unanimously but the chaplain gave notice that he would not be standing for election again at the end of this term. Fr David Hayes closed the meeting with the Blessing.

S BIRINUS, Oxford

November. A Requiem Mass at S John the Evangelist, was celebrated by the vicar, Fr John Davis, for the repose of the souls of departed members, Benefactors and friends of the chapter of S Bircmus, the celebrant was the vicar, Fr Davis, who also gave the address.The Patronal Mass was held in December at the church of S Barnabas. The celebrant was Fr Michael Wright, vicar of the parish and the address was by our chaplain, Fr Denis Mason. Our last meeting of the 1998/9 programme was at the Deaf Centre, Oxford, in the chapel of S John. The Office and Benediction were sung by our chaplain. The address was by Fr Roger Williams who also signed the service. It is always a joy to join and serve with our deaf brothers. The AGM of the chapter was held in the church of S Giles, preceded by a Low Mass. This was fairly well attended. The secretary, Bro Ben, had sent a letter to each member regarding the low attendance at meetings, which was a well-discussed item. Our Lent meeting was in the village church of Kidlington, dated 1220. The church is cruciform with an octagonal spire rising some 171ft above ground level - a familiar landmark in the Cherwell Valley, known locally as 'Our Lady's Needle'. The Office and Benediction were sung by our chaplain with the vicar, Fr Antony Ellis, giving the address.

S BRENDAN, Bristol

It is now over two years since our chapter was shocked by the sudden death of our chaplain, Fr Anthony Waker. Since then we have not been able to find a priest who is able to take on the job as chaplain. Nevertheless we have maintained a monthly meeting with the help of our two assistant chaplains, neither of whom is in the best of health, our very loyal priests associate and other priests who are our friends. We enjoy the big events each year - S Brendan's Day, the Glastonbury Pilgrimage, the joint Mass we had with the Guild of Vergers in the Lord Mayor's Chapel in Bristol. We have also ensured that the members have several occasions each year when they can recive quality teaching about the spiritual life. We continue to be saddened by the deaths of old friends. In November we lost Bro Leslie Moore who had been a server for over 60 years, and Mr David Foweraker who, although never a member of the Guild, had served as our chapter organist for over 10 years. David always carried out his duties in a very unassuming way. It was only just before he died that I learned he had helped design the engines of the Harrier Jump Jet aircraft. We were fortunate last year to be able to appoint Mr Alan Canterbury as assistant secretary. Alan is verger at the Lord Mayor's Chapel. He put on an evening talk about vestments with a display in the summer Through his good offices we shall hold our Group Festival there on 4th September - Mass at noon and Guild Office and Benediction at 3.00pm. If you fancy a day out in Bristol come and worship with us on this unique occasion.

S CHAD, Coventry

The Epiphany meeting was held at S Francis of Assisi, North Radford, Coventry, on Saturday 9th January. Our chaplain, Fr Graeme Hands officiated at the Guild Office and the vicar, Fr Tim Brookes preached and gave us a warm welcome to his church. Altar servers from the Diocese, together with their families and friends, joined us at a Sung Mass, with Candlemass ceremonies on Tuesday 2nd February at S Thomas, Longford. Fr Kit Dunkley was the celebrant and Fr Barry Keeton stood in as organist since the parish organist was unwell. Our 85th AGM and Patronal Festival was held at S Peter, Hillfields. There were 28 members present. End of year reports indicated that we are very sound financially and that the usual three figure cheques had been sent for COF. Fr Graeme Hands was presented with a cheque, life membership of the Guild and a sample of Centenary memorabilia, including a guild tie in his favourite colour, on his retirement as chaplain. He has been associated with our chapter since becoming vicar of S Nicholas, Radford, in 1980. We are pleased to welcome Fr Barry Keeton as chaplain and Fr Paul Martin-Smith as assistant. Brother Albert Clarke was presented with a certificate and a card signed by all members present to celebrate 70 years membership of the Guild. Albert, who

was born in Southsea 85 years ago, moved to Coventry as a child. He first began his service to Almighty God as an altar server at S Thomas, The Butts, Coventry, now demolished. He moved to the church of S John Baptist, Coventry, now inside the inner ring road. He was made a member of the Guild on 25th January 1929. His membership number is 18200. Also, at this meeting, we presented Fr Paul Martin-Smith with a purple stole to mark his ordination to the priesthood last Petertide. Fr Paul is working as NSM at S Oswald, Tile Hill, Coventry, and was supported during his theological course by COF. He took early retirement from his post as a Technician in the NHS. (See photo) We met for a second time during March, March 27th, for Stations of the Cross at S Nicholas, Radford. We appreciated the meditations led by Fr Keeton and Fr Martin-Smith. After we had completed the Stations we assembled around the Sanctuary for Benediction. Special prayers were offered for our Treasurer, Keith Sherwood, who was due to be admitted for major surgery on that afternoon at the Walsgrave Hospital, Coventry.

THE EPIPHANY, Croydon

The chapter continued to meet monthly throughout 1998 at various churches and chapels in the Croydon area. The Guild Office was sung on ten occasions, together with meetings for the annual Low Mass of Title and an Advent Quiet Evening. A highlight of the year was a conducted tour of the Old Palace (of the Archbishops of Canterbury) in Old Town, Croydon, followed by singing the Office in the Tudor chapel. The chapter was represented at the three Guild Centenary Festivals and at the Southwark Diocesan Servers Festival.

S ETHELDREDA, Cambridge

The winter 'season' of the chapter culminated in a well attended AGM at S Mary the Virgin, Swanston. The chaplain, Fr Geoffrey Smith, welcomed the involvement of more Priests Associate in the monthly meetings but was concerned that, whilst attendances were reasonably good, there was a tendency to see the 'faithful few' every time. The retiring secretary, Bro Stephen Round, reported that there was a total membership of 49, made up of 8 Priests Associate and 41 servers. The mixed programme had consisted of the Guild Office interspersed with Advent carols and readings, Benediction, the Mass and Stations of the Cross. The treasurer, Bro Peter Dicken, reported upon the healthy state of the finances which had resulted in £150.00 being sent to COF this year with the possibility of an increase next time. The election of officers resulted in the re-election of most officers en bloc but with Bro Colin Limming, a previous secretary, resuming that role after a break of several years. The annual question was asked about a new and more modern Guild Office.
Following the AGM the chaplain led Stations of the Cross and also admitted a full member.

THE HOLY CROSS, South Somerset

In October members visited S Mary, Axminster, for the first time. The Guild Office was sung and Fr Roger Shambrook officiated. The annual dinner took place on November 12th at the White Lion Carvery, Crewkerne. About 25 members attended and an excellent meal was enjoyed by them and our guests. Later in the month, on the 30th, we went to the delightful little village of Monkton Wylde for the patronal festival of S Andrew. Our chaplain was the celebrant and the rector of Lyme Regis gave the address. We sang the Guild Office at S Michael, Yeovil, in January and in February we sang the Guild Office followed by Stations of the Cross led by Fr Francis Sutcliffe, of Ilchester, our assistant chaplain elect. Fr Roger was the officiant at the Guild Office. The chapter AGM was held in March, following a Low

Mass, at S Swithun, Bridport, when the chaplain was the celebrant. At the meeting, which was attended by about 20 members, the chairman expressed thanks to the chapter organist, the secretary and the treasurer for their work during the year and the members for all their support. Fr Roger emphasised the need for faithful attendance at meetings by all members and said the chapter can only survive by continued loyalty and support. Fr Francis was proposed and seconded and unanimously voted to the office of assistant chaplain. A heartfelt vote of thanks was given to the chaplain, Fr Roger, for all his support, guidance and encouragement.

S HUGH AND BLESSED EDWARD KING, Great Grimsby

Our November meeting was a Requiem for departed members held at S Peter, Cleethorpes. At our AGM all Officers, except the chaplain, Fr Terry Atkinson, whose parochial duties inhibited him from standing again, were re-elected. We were fortunate to secure the services, as chaplain, of Fr George Senior. In December we sang the Guild Office in S Hugh, Grimsby. The address was given by Bro Allan Pearson, licensed Lay Reader. In January we visited the Flying Angel Mission to Seamen at Immingham Dock for a talk and short service conducted by Fr David Craig, Mission chaplain. February saw us at S Aidan, Cleethorpes, where Fr Henry Jansma officiated and gave the address. In March we sang the Guild Office at S Peter, Cleethorpes. Fr Senior officiated and gave the address. Two probationers were initiated.

S JOHN BAPTIST, Torbay

In January we met at Paignton parish church where the Guild Office was sung by Fr Gorran Chapman, chaplain, and the address was given by Preb Brian Tubbs, vicar. Fr Tubbs pointed out that January 13th was the Feast day of S Hilary, a fifth century Bishop of Poitiers, who was noted for his opposition to the heresy being propounded by an Irish monk named Arius. Arius taught that, whist Christ was the Son of God, he was not God himself but an ordinary human being. This heresy was quite widespread for some time but, eventually, the Church accepted Christ's divinity as orthodox belief. Fr Tubbs said that there were some today who held similar heretical views to Arius and he asked us to pray for them. In February we met at S Martin, Barton, for our AGM after singing the Guild Office and Benediction. Fr Roger McDowall, chaplain, who preached quoted from a report of the 1851 Census - the majority of people in this country were not interested in "religious worship"; churches would be built but very few people would be interested in what took place in them; the proclamation of the Church's faith lacked aggressiveness. He went on to say that there was a need today for the right kind of aggressiveness in the presentation of the faith. We were so concerned with 'being nice to people' that we were not aggressive. We were, of course, proclaiming a message that people did not want to hear.What was needed today was the forceful proclamation of the Gospel based on prayer and the Sacraments, together with the knowledge that there were people around us who might lose their chance of salvation.In March Fr McDowall, vicar, celebrated a Sung Mass at All Saints, Torre, and the address was by Fr Gorran Chapman.

S JOHN the DIVINE, Leicester

It was an historic occasion for the chapter when, on December 9th, we visited, for the first time, S Thomas, South Wigston. Not only was this our first visit but it was also the first time for many years, if at all, that there has been Benediction at S Thomas. Fr Peter Day, vicar, gave us a very warm welcome and in his address, after the Guild Office, put forward his views on why Benediction was an important part of our worship. There were 27 members present, supporters brought the total to 40+. On January 13th Fr Robin Whitehead, team rector, celebrated and preached at a Sung Mass at S Gabriel. Before Mass a probationer was initiated. On Saturday January 23rd two members of our chapter were married at the church of S James the Greater.This is the first occasion for our chapter of two of its members marrying and we wonder whether it might be a first nationally. On February 9th we met at S Mary, Anstey for the Guild Office at which the rector, Fr Simon Foster gave the address and led the intercessions. Before the office two were admitted to full membership. There were 26 members present and about 20 supporters. We visited All Saints, Wigston Magna on March 10th for Stations of the Cross and Benediction, led by Fr John Green, the vicar. There was a very good attendance of 32 members with about 15 supporters.

S JOSEPH OF ARIMATHAEA, Portsmouth

Our chapter grows ever more active, with increasing attendances at a wide variety of meetings. In December many of us attended the 50th Anniversary of the Ordination to the Priesthood of Fr Ronald Gwythers, our chaplain. Some 300 people packed into the church of S James, Milton. The preacher, Fr William Franklin regaled us with exploits and experiences through Fr Ronald's life. A warm and uplifting service was followed by a superb buffet luncheon with many more tributes and stories of encounters with Fr Ronald.December found us again at Fareham for our annual Carols and Compline and it was back to the pretty little chapel at S Mary's Hospital, Portsmouth in January for a Mass for the Sick. In February, after Guild Office, we held our AGM at S Faith, Lee on the Solent. This proved to be a lively affair with a large attendance. For our March meeting we visited HMS Dryad at Southwick for Stations of the Cross and Benediction in the chapel. We also had the opportunity of seeing the famous D Day map in the War Room. Everything has been preserved as at Zero hour on D Day with clocks stopped and weather maps showing the conditions at that time. During the past six months we have initiated four Probationers, made three Full members and enrolled Fr Nicholas Pneumaticos as a Priest Associate.

THE RESURRECTION, Weston-super-Mare

The chapter has only met sporadically over the last three years, until in November 1998 a meeting of all the members was convened to discuss future arrangements. After Mass celebrated by the vicar of All Saints, Weston-super-Mare, Fr Peter Clarke, the chapter retired to the crypt for the meeting. There was a very positive atmosphere and it was soon agreed that Barbara Hartree would become secretary in place of Bro Andrew Lazenbury; that Bro Gordon Chenhall would move from being assistant secretary to be chairman; that Fr Peter would be the new chaplain and that Steven Hartree, who is to be ordained NSM in the summer, would remain as Treasurer. It was planned to have a quarterly meeting and to join in other local celebrations such as the Glastonbury Pilgrimage. The chapter began its new pattern of meetings on 2nd January with Mass at S Paul, Bleadon, followed by home made soup in the parish room, which went down very well on this crisp winter Saturday.

OUR LADY AND S GEORGE, Plymouth
From our early records:

During the Winter Months the Office will be said in the Church of S Gabriel, Peverell, at 7.30pm, followed by Papers, read by the undermentioned Gentlemen, in the Vestry, by kind permission of the Vicar.

CHAIRMAN: THE REV C. H. WREFORD, CHAPLAIN

The Rev CWH SEWELL, on Wednesday, October 15th, 1919
Subject-"THE RESERVATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT" (37 present)

Mr CH BUTCHER, on Wednesday, November 12th, 1919
Subject-"ANGLICAN ORDERS" (25 present very wet)

Mr WL MUNDAY, on Wednesday, December 10th, 1919
Subject-"THE OFFICE OF HOLY COMMUNION"(18 present very wet)

Mr JWS GODDING, on Wednesday, January 21st, 1920
Subject-"RE-UNION OF CHRISTENDOM"

The Rev WH SHARP, on Wednesday, February 11th, 1920
Subject-"THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY UNCTION"

Mr SC DAVIS, on Wednesday, March 10th, 1920
Subject-"THE CHURCH IN THE MIDDLE AGES"(11 present)

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