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The Server

The Quarterly Magazine of the
Guild of Servants of the Sanctuary



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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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CONTENTS

EDITORIAL	2
FROM THE SECRETARY-GENERAL	3
ELECTION RESULTS	3
MINUTES OF 2001 AGM	4
ANNUAL REPORT 2001	6
THE SERVER REPORT	7
CHANTRY BOOK & RIP	8
FESTIVALS	9
FORTHCOMING EVENTS	10
DIRECTORY	12
STRAIGHT QUESTIONS WITH STRAIGHT ANSWERS (4)	
Did Jesus Rise Again?	
Revd Canon Wm H Barnard	13
GENERAL COUNCIL, OCTOBER 27th, 2001	14
FIRST OF THE TWELVE	
H O Brian O'Neil	15
AUTUMN FESTIVAL SERMON	
The Dean of Lincoln	16
STARKLING NEWS!	
Roy Cresswell	17
MY COMPUTER'S NOT CATHOLIC	
Colin Limming	18
THE PHARISEE'S PRAYER	
Arthur Day	19
THE GUILD ON THE INTERNET	
Terry Doughty	20
NEWS FROM THE CHAPTERS	21
LETTERS TO THE EDITOR	24

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EDITORIAL

ONE MAN'S VIEW

A New Year has started but, more than usually, it is still overshadowed by the events of the last year - September 11th and the belated realisation that all is not well in the West. Most of us live in comfortable homes and find it difficult to empathise with the homeless and 'Big Issue' sellers - we are convinced that they themselves are to blame for their problems. Most of those we see around are 'white' and appear to be passive but, undoubtedly, they are only the tip of the iceberg. There are, unfortunately, many more 'non-whites' who are suffering unemployment, homelessness etc, often only because they are 'non-whites'. Then there are the 'angry young men' who feel that the world is not on their side and that if only those members of the ethnic minorities were not available to take on the jobs, they could be doing them. This, it seems to me, is the thinking which leads to race riots and, coupled with religious intolerance, to the emergence of organisations such as Al-Quaeda. Is there a part, perhaps, which the Guild and its members can and should be playing in all this? I cannot, myself, see that there is a Guild related task here, only a place for us to demonstrate the outpouring of Christian love and care.



Raymund JM WAKER

I would draw your attention to the Annual Report below which, inter alia, says 'The Easter Festival....and the Autumn Festival...were not very well supported'. Such a statement does not look good when you put next to it 'Recommendation 6' of the Guild Manual - 'To endeavour to take part in the Annual Festival....'. What is the matter? Why are less of you coming to the Festival?

I think I need to point out that my Email facility is really only suitable for passing messages and not articles etc for "The Server", it has no printer attachment so I would have to copy your text *once from the EMailer and then once more to put it into "The Server"*.

All the Officers and members of the General Council wish you all the blessings of Holy Week and Easter.

Raymund JM WAKER



FROM THE SECRETARY GENERAL

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Saturday, 6th April 2002 at S Augustine, Queens Gate,
London at 3.15pm



Roy Cresswell

AGENDA

Apologies

Minutes of 2001 AGM

(to be taken as read having
been printed in The Server)

Matters Arising

Annual Report for 2001

Financial Statements - General & COF

Appointment of Auditors

Candidates for Ordination Report

'The Server' Magazine Report

Young Servers Report

The Warden's address

Elections & Appointments

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

Guild Organist

Secretary to Guild Choir

Group Elections statement

2002 Festivals

AOB

2002 COUNCIL ELECTION RESULTS

GROUP	AREA	COUNCILLOR
LG 1 & 2	London, N & W, Willesden Wembley, Hounslow, Southall	John Cairns Unopposed
PG 1	West Kent	No Candidate
PG 4	Hampshire, W Sussex, E Wilts	Peter Keat Unopposed
PG 9	Berks, S Bucks, Oxfordshire	Clive Tillin Unopposed
PG 12	Wales	Michael J Andrew New
PG 13	Essex	Ken Jennings Unopposed
PG 14	Suffolk, Norfolk, Cambs	John F Sims New
PG 15	Warks, Northants, Leics	Terry Doughty Unopposed
PG 16	Notts, Derbyshire	Roland Hudson Unopposed
PG 20 & 25	Cleveland, Durham Northumberland, Tyneside	Stanley B Entwistle New
PG 22	Cornwall	David Thomas Unopposed

MINUTES OF 2001 AGM

The Annual General Meeting held at 3.15pm on Saturday, 21st April 2001 at S Augustine church, Queens Gate, London.

There were approximately 150 members present.

1. The Chaplain-General (Fr Michael Brain) opened the Meeting with Prayers.
2. Apologies were received from 12 members.
3. **The Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting** held on 29th April 2000, having been printed in "The Server" Magazine, were taken as read and signed as a true record.
4. **Matters Arising:** *There were no matters arising.*
5. **Secretary-General's Report for 2000:** As this had been printed in "The Server" Magazine, it was agreed that it be taken as read. The Warden (Fr David Moore) thanked Roy Cresswell for this report.
6. **Financial Statement from the Treasurer-General (Counc Louis A Lewis).** Louis Lewis said that we had a surplus of £9135 in the General Fund and £7089 in the COF. He said that before members get excited and tell us what to do with the surplus, he would remind them what he had said for a number of years. That Roy Cresswell provides an office at his house, which we don't pay for, neither do we pay for his duties as Secretary-General. He finds that people are not willing to do their duties on a voluntary basis and this is why we build up a substantial sum for the time when we may have to pay. He urged Secretaries and Treasurers to ensure Annual Subscriptions are collected because if they don't pay, they will no longer be members of the Guild.

With regards to COF, he had taken quite 'a lot of stick' on application for Grants. However, at the last Council Meeting, it was agreed that £1000 per year be given to Ordinands training at a Theological College for Fulltime Ministry and, in future, those training for NSM and OLM will get £200 per year. Enquiries had been made from various Diocesan Directors of Ordinands before coming to this decision. The Warden thanked Louis and Roy for the tremendous hard work they do for the Guild.
7. **Appointment of Auditors:** Harper Broom Roberts were re-appointed.
8. **Candidates for Ordination Report:** Copies of this report had been distributed and accepted with thanks to Louis.
9. **"The Server" Magazine Report:** This had been printed in "The Server" Magazine and the Editor (Raymund Waker) was thanked for all his work. Thanks were also offered to Nigel Makepeace (Distributor) and Roland Hudson who assisted with the transport.
10. **Young Servers Report:** This Report had also been printed in "The Server" Magazine and Fr Geoffrey Squire was thanked for all his work with young servers.
11. **The Warden's Address:** The Warden gave an interesting address which would be printed in "The Server" Magazine. He was thanked for his devoted service to the Guild.

12. To confirm General Council Elections:

Officers:	Warden:	Revd J David Moore
	Chaplain-General:	Revd Michael C Brain
	COF Chaplain:	
	Secretary-General:	Roy S T Cresswell
	Treasurer-General:	Louis a Lewis JP

Appointments:	Secretary COF:	Louis A Lewis JP
	Membership Secretary:	Paul Durrant
	Editor of "The Server" Magazine:	Raymund J M Waker
	Distributor of "The Server" Magazine:	Nigel Makepeace
	Guild Organist & Master of the Guild Choir:	Philip K Jarvis
	Secretary to the Guild Choir:	Bryan Chilton

Owing to ill-health, Fr Ford has been unable to attend Meetings and Festivals. The Council, in the most sensitive way, has decided not to re-elect him as COF Chaplain. A Book Token for £100 will be sent to him with our thanks for all the work he has done for COF.

13. Group Council Election Results:

The following members have been elected Councillor:-

PG 3	Sussex	Raymond C G Packham
PG 11	Avon, Gloucs, Soms & Wilts	Peter Graham
PG 12	Wales	No Nomination
PG 18	Lincs N & S Humberside	Malcolm C Williams
PG 19	West Yorks	J Trevor Theaker
PG 20/25	Cleveland, Durham, Northumberland, N Yorks & Tyneside	G Brewis Wellock

14. 2002 Guild Festivals: Notice was given of various Festivals around the country.

15. Roll Call: As requested last year, a book was placed at the back of the church for members to sign where they come from.
Abertillery, Aldershot, Ashford, Barnstaple, Bristol, Bushy Heath, Canterbury, Chelmsford, Cheltenham, Chichester, Clacton, Croydon, Derby, Eastbourne, Epsom, Farnham, Grimsby, High Wycombe, Ilkley, Ipswich, Isle of Wight, Kenton, Kettering, Kingston, Leavesden, Leicester, Norwood, Nottingham, Portsmouth, Reading, Rhondda, Romford, Scarborough, Shoreham, Sidcup, Walton on Thames, Watford, Winchester, W Yorks.

16. AOB:

Counc Terry Doughty was thanked for all the work he does for the Guild on the Website.

Fr Charles Sargent, the Parish Priest at S Augustine, Queens Gate, was thanked for his assistance at the Festival and the Rehearsal - he had been most helpful - it was very much appreciated.

This concluded the business of the Meeting and members adjourned for the Guild Office, Procession and Benediction.

THE ANNUAL REPORT 2001

Roy S T Cresswell

The Guild continues to be a vital, living part of the Catholic Faith represented throughout the Anglican Church, here and abroad. As such, members are privileged to serve God's Holy Church at the Altar.

The success of any Society is entirely in the hands of its members and they are asked to be loyal and faithful to the promises they made on joining and for their faithful support at their respective Meetings and Festivals.

I am pleased to report that, during the year, we have received into the Guild 176 new members and 14 Priest-Associates. Several of our members have become Life Members; this is good but we do impress on such members that Chapters do very much rely on them to continue their active support by attendances. Several Chapters are experiencing great difficulty in finding a Chaplain. I do appeal to Priests to consider filling these vacancies.

A new Chapter has recently been formed in Queensland, Australia, with the title of the Assumption of Our Lady - we wish them well.

The Easter Festival at S Augustine, Queens Gate, London, and the Autumn Festival at Lincoln Cathedral were not very well supported. At both venues, we were made very welcome. A great deal of time and expense is involved in arranging these Festivals and members are asked to support them.

Lichfield Cathedral was once again full for both services in September on the occasion of the Midlands Area Festival of the Guild. The Bishop of Ebbfleet presided at the Eucharist and preached at the Guild Office and Procession.

The Annual Subscriptions have been slow in being remitted and 4 Chapters have not paid any Subscriptions for 2001 - even after several reminders.

It causes concern that 28 Chapters had not nominated anyone to represent them on the General Council by the closing date of 31st December 2001.

The Warden and Counc John Cairns have represented the Guild on the Council of Catholic Societies at Meetings during the year.

I wish to thank the Chapters in my Area PG17/23 (Diocese of Birmingham, Lichfields & Worcester) for the cheque presented to me at the Lichfield Festival to celebrate a special birthday and in appreciation of organising the Lichfield Servers' Festival for the past 45 years. Also to the Officers, Councillors and members of the Guild for the radio and cheque presented to me at the October Meeting of the General Council in London.

We record our thanks to the Officers and Members of the Council. We also appreciate the work of Paul Durrant, the Membership Secretary, Raymond Waker, the Editor of "The Server" Magazine, Nigel Makepeace, the Distributor of "The Server" Magazine and Publications, to our Organists, Philip Jarvis and Keith Hearnshaw, to Roland Hudson who assists with the transport of "The Server", to Trevor Theaker for producing the Cycle of Prayer, to Terry Doughty for his work on the Website, to Bryan Chilton and the Guild Choir and finally to all Chapter Officers and members for their dedication.

Our sympathy is offered to the relatives and friends of our members who have passed on during the year:- Raymond Baish; John Bickel; Sid Blackman; Hubert Bundy; Roy Clough; Janet Collins; Maurice Darbey; Dorothy Davies; Ernest Dorman; John Embleton; Tom Field; Michael Finn; David Gillman; Tony Harrison; Leo Hill; Ernest Lamb; James Lofthouse; Horace Lovett; Marion Mackintosh; Edgar Mardon-Mowbray; Lance Marsden; Fred Moss; Kevin Paul; Joseph Phelps; Frank Ravenhill; Graham Roberts; Eric Shelton; John Talbot-priest; Brewis Wellock-counc; Gerard Williams-priest.

May they rest in peace and rise in glory.



THE SERVER REPORT

I must apologise to Brian Jenkinson, whom I credited with a poem he had not written, and to H O Brian O'Neil whom I failed to credit with the poem he had written.

The keen-eyed amongst you will have noticed that we now have a new printer, or rather a bought-out printer. The University of Nottingham decided to dispose of its responsibilities, machinery and staff to All Print Management Ltd which should ensure that our publication dates are met and will not be set awry by University business. It would have been courteous if we had had a direct communication about this from the University. We look forward to a successful collaboration.



CHANTRY BOOK

OCTOBER

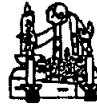
Horace Lovett
Edgar Mardon-Mowbray

NOVEMBER

Roy Clough

DECEMBER

Tony Harrison
Kevin Paul



R.I.P.

Tony Harrison 1911-2001

Tony, who was born in 1911, became a choirboy both at school and at church. He was enrolled into the Chapter of the Incarnate Word (South London) in 1935.

His working life was in Electrical Power Generation in London and Warrington. His final posting was to the Bankside Power Station (now the New Tate) from its start up and commissioning. He was the Senior Shift Engineer there when he retired in 1974 and was proud to have shown Prince Charles around during a visit he made. Tony was a quiet man who was a very faithful servant of the church and, for some twenty seven years of retirement at Ilminster, served both at the altar and choir. His lay ministry involved taking the reserved Sacrament to and weekly services at retirement homes. During interregna he was a capable leader of Lent Groups, where his faith and scriptural knowledge shone through. A much loved husband, father and grandfather he supported a godson to become a priest. A popular man with his local bowling club, he also enjoyed boating holidays. He attended the Chapter of the Holy Cross up to the final years of his full and busy life.

May they rest in peace and rise in glory



FESTIVALS

Autumn Festival 2001

Malcolm Williams, Group Councillor



The Autumn Festival for the year 2001 was held at Lincoln Cathedral. The last time the Festival was held here was 1984. The date was October 13th and, if this was reckoned to be unlucky for the superstitious, it certainly was not as far as the weather was concerned; it turned out to be warm and sunny right through the day. The Secretary-General agreed to have both services held in the cosy atmosphere of S Hugh's chapel, where all main services in the Cathedral are held, with the exception of extra special occasions such as the Presentation of the Maundy Money in the year 2000 and the farewell service for the retiring Bishop of Lincoln the week before.

Solemn Eucharist was celebrated at noon and, before it commenced, the Guild was given a very warm welcome by the Dean (The Very Revd Alec Knight). He apologised for being unable to remain, having another engagement but said that he was looking forward to being present at the Office in the afternoon where he would be the preacher. The Warden, the Revd David Moore celebrated, and was assisted by the Chaplain-General, the Revd Michael Brain. Lincoln Chapter provided the servers at the eucharist and performed all their duties very efficiently, as they do every Sunday in the Cathedral. At the Guild Office in the afternoon the Grimsby Chapter carried out the serving duties. Seven servers were required and just seven servers volunteered. Everybody performed their duties to the very best of their ability. Serving in the Cathedral is second nature to Lincoln Chapter, as they showed us; but, to the servers from Grimsby, it was a new experience and a challenge. They all thoroughly enjoyed it and considered it a great honour. One of them told me what a great deal it meant to be able to serve in "his local Cathedral", and could not thank me enough for selecting him. He said it was a day he would remember for the rest of his life. An hour before that Guild Office began I was told by the MC that four extra servers were required. Just at that moment some members of the Boston Chapter arrived and were only too delighted to be asked to perform the necessary duties. I was pleased about this because it meant that all three of my Chapters served in the Festival. The Dean of Lincoln preached the sermon and an excellent sermon it was: outlining the words Guild of Servants of the Sanctuary. He talked about the meaning of such words as Guild, Servant and Sanctuary, pointing out the need always to do our very best in the way we perform our duties, taking care of our appearance and dress. Not easy for some of us but, doing the best we can, is the important thing. He concluded by reminding us that we are all Servants to God and must never become too carried away and think too highly about ourselves. Afterwards a number of people thanked me, saying how much they enjoyed the day; one lady asked when we would be holding the Autumn Festival at Lincoln again.



FORTHCOMING EVENTS



2002

APRIL

- 6 **EASTER FESTIVAL & AGM**
S Augustine, Queens Gate, London
Noon - Solemn Eucharist
3.15pm - AGM in the Nave of the church
4.15pm - Guild Office, Procession & Benediction

- 20 **Eastern Area Festival**
S John, Felixstowe
Noon - High Mass
3.00pm - Guild Office, Procession & Benediction
Preacher: The Warden (Revd David Moore)
For directions and further information contact:-
Bro John Sims Tel 01394 285054

MAY

- 14 **Annual Area Festival**
S Laurence, Long Eaton
7.30pm Guild Office, Procession of Our Lady & Benediction
Preacher: Fr Peter Clarke
(Vicar: All Saints w S Saviour, Weston-super-Mare
Chairman: Bath & Wells Forward in Faith
Area Dean & Episcopal Vicar: Bath & Wells)
This service is organised in collaboration with the local
Cell of Our Lady of Walsingham. All welcome.

- 25 **Group 11 Festival**
S John the Evangelist, Highbridge
Noon - High Mass
Preacher: The Bishop of Taunton
(The Rt Revd Andrew Radford)
3.00pm - Guild Office, Procession & Benediction

JUNE

- 3 **Walsingham National Pilgrimage**
8 **North Western Chapters Festival**
S George, Lune Street, Preston, Lancs
Noon - Solemn Mass
3.00pm - Guild Office & Benediction
(For further details contact Cllr Andrew Mays phone & fax 0161 351 1851)

JULY

- 13 **Glastonbury National Pilgrimage**
Noon - Concelebrated Holy Eucharist
Principal Celebrant & Preacher: The Rt Revd Andrew Burnham
(Bishop of Ebbsfleet)

3.30pm Procession, Evensong & Benediction
 Preacher: The Rt Revd Edwin Barnes
 (recently retired Bishop of Rishborough)

SEPTEMBER

14 LICHFIELD DIOCESAN & MIDLANDS AREA FESTIVAL
 Lichfield Cathedral
 Noon - Solemn Eucharist
 Celebrant: The Rt Revd David Thomas
 (Provincial Assistant Bishop, Church in Wales)
 3.00pm - Guild office & Procession
 Preacher: The Rt Revd David Thomas

OCTOBER

12 AUTUMN FESTIVAL
 Bristol Cathedral
 Noon - Solemn Eucharist
 3.30pm - Guild Office & Procession



DIRECTORY

CHAPTER	SECRETARY	CHAPTER	SECRETARY
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S Godric of Finchale PG20/57			
Durham 01207 542124			
S Lawrence PG14/230	Henry A Greef Hampden Cottage Thornham Hunstanton Norfolk	S Michael & AA PG19/117 Doncaster 01302 784584	Michael Corner 22 Raymond Road Scawthorpe DONCASTER DN5 9PP
North West Norfolk 01485 512381			
S Oswin PG20/128	Roland Robbins 25 Links Avenue Whitley Bay	Our Lady & S Edmund in abeyance PG14/131	
Northumberland			

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Whitley
Tyne & Wear

Downham Market

Our Lady of Walsingham & S Alban
LG2/148
Greenford, Harrow,
Hayes, Pinner,
Ruislip, Stanmore,
Sudbury, Wembley

Mark Wilson
61 Dorchester Ave
North Harrow
HARROW
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01603 867739

S William of Norwich
Change of Title to
Our Lady of Walsingham & Julian of Norwich PG14/184
Norwich

Pamela Garrett (Miss)
Manor Croft
School Road
Drayton
NORWICH
NR8 6EF

STRAIGHT QUESTIONS with STRAIGHT ANSWERS - (4) - DID JESUS RISE AGAIN?

Revd Canon Wm H Barnard

Unless He did, then Christianity is deceitful and the last article in "The Server" a lie. It would mean Jesus is not God and Christian witness down the ages has "taken us for a ride", ie it is bogus. Holy week and Easter in the Church's Kalendar bring us once more to the heart of our religion, and show us why Christianity is not a sham. What you believe about Jesus Christ depends on the truth of His Resurrection.

This event happened nearly 2,000 years ago and people ask "what difference does it make for me today?" First, remember the biography of Jesus does not end with the Cross. The experience of millions says He is alive today. We may not see Him as the apostles did but we can meet Him just as surely in the life of our fellow men and women, in the world and, above all, in the Church, His mystical body which continues His saving work among all peoples. The Christian thinks of Jesus Christ not as a moral leader whose career was cut short before its prime. Rather, we would say, Christ lived in order that He might die; "for this cause came I unto this hour". Good Friday for the Christian is not Bad Friday but GOOD FRIDAY. Christ's death was a victory not a defeat. It is sad in so far that sinful men and women should have done this to such as He, but their hate was returned with love, and sin was defeated.

No one knew this on that first Good Friday. It looked like defeat. Christ's body was in the tomb and Church and State stood guard over it. But on Easter Day that tomb was empty, a fact which is called "the best attested fact in history". It was the Father's answer to Christ's death. By that life and death of perfect obedience to the Father's will, Christ, the Son of God, had put things right between the human race and God. The Resurrection was proof of this. Death and Resurrection go together. Without the Resurrection the inner meaning of the death cannot be perceived; but without the Death there can be no new life. If we accept this, then Jesus is seen not only as a good and holy man who lived long ago, but as God Himself active in the world today. The Christian life becomes not just a question of morals but the building up of a relationship through prayer, discipleship and loving obedience to Christ who is alive, real and active in our world today.



IN
QUIETNESS
AND IN
TRUST
SHALL BE
YOUR
STRENGTH
ISAIAH 30

GENERAL COUNCIL, OCTOBER 2001

In considering the Autumn Festival, the Warden commented on the wonderful atmosphere in the Cathedral, that the Dean had made us very welcome and preached an excellent sermon.

We, once again, considered a proposal to increase the Annual Subscription to include the subscription for "The Server" but, after hearing from the Secretary-General of his difficulties in collecting the present £1, we agreed to leave the national subscription alone. Chapters, of course, are at liberty to make their own arrangements. Some, apparently, are already successfully collecting sums which include "The Server" subscription and a local levy.

The Norwich Chapter had asked for permission to change their title from S William of Norwich whose only justification seems to have been based on anti-semitism. It was agreed to change it to Our Lady of Walsingham and Julian of Norwich.

The Easter Festival 2002 would be at S Augustine, Queens Gate on 6th April.

The Autumn Festival 2002 would be at Bristol Cathedral on 12th October.

The Council would meet again on 16th March and 5th October.

Counc Malcolm Perkins read a report on the AGM of the Scottish Guild of Servers.

There had been a well attended Guild Service at Hampton Court with a BCP Communion service which had collected £90 for COF.

We had been congratulated on the display which the Warden and Mrs Moore had produced for the meeting of the Catholic Societies at Thaxted.

It had come to light that, during the year, Roy Cresswell had celebrated his eightieth birthday and the Warden had great pleasure in presenting Roy with a Portable Radio and cheque from the General Council and the Guild.

In thanking all for the generous gifts Roy said that it was supposed to be a secret!!



FIRST OF THE TWELVE
(sung to "Little Comard")

Chosen the first of all,
Blessed Saint Andrew bold,
Who when you heard His call
Your willing answer told,
You left your nets His life to live
And all your days to Jesus give.

Only the Master knew
What stirred within your heart,
And in your brother's too,
Thus from your work to part,
To leave the shore of Galilee
And fishers now of men to be.

Oh wise exchange! To leave,
However loved, your trade,
Nor question, doubt, nor grieve,
Nor think of what was paid,
But rise responsive to His call
And give your trust, your life, your all.

Eager to do His will
By His side you would go,
His truth your mind did fill,
His love your heart did know,
You daily went from grace to grace
Who looked on the Redeemer's face.

Faithfully you did bear
Through happiness and loss,
New dangers still to dare
Though they led to a Cross;
Though humble, felt a martyr's pride
Like Jesus to be crucified.

Weak between right and wrong,
Apt in the ways of sin,
Oh help us to be strong,
New life in His begin;
Though love be cold and faith be dim,
Saint Andrew, lead us on to Him!

H O Brian O'Neil.

AUTUMN FESTIVAL SERMON

The Very Revd Alec Knight, Dean of Lincoln

I want to reflect on the three key words in the title of your organisation - the words 'Guild', 'Servant' and 'Sanctuary'.

A definition of a Guild is that it is a 'company or fellowship formed for the mutual aid and protection of its members. or for the furtherance of a common purpose'. A medieval Guild had strict rules about membership and standards of service and behaviour. Training via apprenticeship was almost universal and quality of workmanship made membership of the Guild a guarantee to any customer availing themselves of the Guild's merchandise or service. As a Christian Guild, your dealings with one another must be informed by the standards and qualities demanded by none other than Jesus Christ himself. Each member must be afforded the opportunity for development and encouragement to become the person that he or she has it in them to be, which is to be the person that God wants them to be, a true and faithful child of God. Therefore your dealings with one another must be informed by the love of Christ, a love which is not soft or sentimental but which is hard-nosed. You remember when the rich young man came to Jesus and asked him how he could inherit eternal life, Jesus pointed him to the Law, to which the young man replied, "I have done all that since my youth up". In other words, "I feel that there is more to it than that".

Jesus looked at him and loved him. Realising that as he was very rich his loyalties were divided, so Jesus told him to sell all that he had, give it to the poor and to come and follow Him. The young man couldn't. He was too tied to his wealth. Notice that Jesus lets him go. He does not try to soften the hard decision that had to be taken by offering terms, easy stages or some other compromise. Lovingly He lets him go, no doubt hoping that one day the young man will recognise his divided loyalties and have a change of heart. A hard-nosed loving! In your Guild, your fellowship, your dealings with one another should be equally loving. Clear sighted, deeply empathetic and firm about boundaries.

The second word in your title is 'Servant'. The antiphon to the Magnificat in this Office focuses on Samuel ministering in the Sanctuary. In the New Testament a servant would be pretty well always a slave, someone who was almost not human, part of the owner's goods and chattels. What a slave did was to minister to the needs of the master and his household. The verb 'to minister' is made up of two other words, 'mini' - minus, small or smaller and 'sto, stare, stasis' - to stand. So a minister is a "small stander", as opposed to the magister, who is a "great stander". In modern politics this proper meaning of the word 'minister' has been debased. Politicians now talk of becoming a 'Minister of State' as coming into power rather than into responsibility to give service.

A Server in the Sanctuary must be a 'small stander', somebody who waits patiently in the background, unnoticed but always ready to provide what the President needs. It is a failure when the Server becomes obtrusive, those are part of the standards that your Guild exists to uphold. But if the notion of service ends at the altar rail, this too is a failure. I was once asked by a bishop to look at a parish which he described in the following way: 'All is well in the Sanctuary, the trouble is it doesn't spill out into the nave or from there out into the world'. The worship of the church was beautifully conducted, it looked and sounded good, but the congregation was a clique, inward-looking and tight in all senses of the word. It had forgotten the second commandment and there was not a lot of love shown for their

neighbours out in the world. Our service in the Sanctuary must feed and inspire our service out in the world otherwise all that we do in the Sanctuary is hollow and essentially unfaithful to our calling as Christians. We are called to be "small standers" wherever we are - called to serve our neighbour in need wherever we encounter them - in sanctuary, nave or world.

Finally, the word 'Sanctuary'. It has its origins in the Temple in Jerusalem. It was an area of the Temple that was regarded as the holiest place. Only the priests were allowed into it. One church of which I was parish priest kept the key to the belfry above the panelling that surrounded the altar. The keeper of the bells would never go into the Sanctuary to collect the key - that was a "priest's place" not his! Only the priests were allowed into the holy place in the Temple and then only after proper rights of purification and cleansing had been undertaken. The physical and practical details of those rituals all had an inward meaning and pressure, recognising that a person can only approach God if they are growing in holiness, personal interior holiness. That must be true of all Servants of the Sanctuary in your Guild.

The supreme standard and pattern of holiness is Jesus Christ, the Holy One of God. God intends each one of us to grow into the image and likeness of His son, Jesus. Whilst this cannot be fully achieved within the limits of our present life, nor is it something we can achieve of ourselves because it is the work of God's grace brought about by the Holy Spirit in us. Nevertheless, we do have the responsibility to keep our feet on the path of holiness. We do this by preparing carefully for our worship outwardly, so that we may come into the Sanctuary with clean hands (and shoes!) We do it inwardly in our life of prayer. Our prayer life and our life of study should not be focused solely on the Sanctuary, but on that to which it points - God. It must be a constant seeking after God in every moment of our lives.

God bless you in your service to one another in your fellowship, and to the world as Christian disciples, and may you so seek after God that you may find Him in every moment of your life and at its ending. Amen



STARKLING NEWS FOR THE SERVER

Roy Cresswell

AN EPIPHANY BENEDICTION TO REMEMBER!

You may have read in the press about the attempted armed robbery at S Edmund, Dudley, where the vicar is our Chaplain-General, Fr Michael Brain. Evensong and Benediction was over and Fr Brain was talking in the Chancel to 3 members of the congregation, when three thugs rushed into the church. All three had their faces covered, one waving a metal/iron rod, another swinging a chain and, the most horrifying of all, the third waving a gun! They then tried to force Fr Brain and the others back into the vestry, threatening them all the time. But they hadn't counted on the fact that, in the vestry, were churchwardens Jon Harcourt and Jesse Clarke (both active Guild members), who, seeing the commotion, picked up brooms and set into the armed and dangerous robbers. After a short, almost hand to hand fight, the bandit with a gun pointed it at Jon Harcourt, pulled the trigger and, thank God, it was only a toy gun!

I am reliably informed that Jon pulled himself up to his full height, a towering 5 feet 3 inches and bashed the gunman in the face with his trusty broom. The robbers turned tail and fled, chased down the aisle by our 2 brave Guild members. At the door, one of the assailants turned and lashed out with the bar and caught Jon a glancing blow on the side of his head. He was not seriously injured, so our Lord was watching and caring for him. When I spoke to Jon a couple of days later, he told me that both he and Jesse were shaken by the incident, and perhaps all guild members and churchwardens should not only rehearse ceremonial, but also include karate in the training! It could also add a new dimension to Guild meetings. This was a very disturbing incident and we must thank God that no one was seriously hurt. On a lighter note, Jon was asked to appear on the Richard and Judy Show but declined graciously because he had to open his menswear shop!

Jesse and Jon showed great courage in frightening circumstances and we commend them for their bravery.



MY COMPUTER'S NOT CATHOLIC!

Colin Limming

In a moment of idleness (and they don't come often do they? I fed the following 'server terms' into the spell checker in my computer to see what came up?

Monstrance - surprisingly no query.

Thurifer - therefor or therefore.

Thurible - no spelling suggestion.

M.C.- fragment (no suggestions)

Humeral - numeral.

I have a computer, as I am sure do many of our readers, but I don't pretend to understand it. Any problems are referred to my 14 year old grandson, who shoulders me aside (he's a big lad) and seating himself at the controls performs some mind boggling finger actions over the keyboard. Once the problem is solved he turns to me with a pitying smile with the words 'any other problems Grandpa?' The other day I had done something silly whilst trying to 'close down' and the screen snarled at me 'you have performed an illegal operation'. I gazed with horror at the words, expecting at any moment to hear the wail of sirens and the sight of flashing blue lights in the Close. I still don't know how I managed to close the infernal machine down but it remained to mock me at every turn. When the 'help' button was pressed the screen informed me that the problem lay in a certain area and then proceeded to display a series of coded figures which I defy all the staff at 'Station X' at Bletchley Park, even with the aid of an Enigma machine, to solve.

I don't know if you have the same problem but, during the time that the machine 'warms up', the words 'pipelined burst' appear amidst the jumble of coded symbols issuing forth. In my innocence I expect water to spout from the edges of the screen (who is to say it won't one day?) and squirt me in the eye.

I see only one solution for simple souls like myself. There needs to be a patron saint for computer users. We have one for nearly every other trade or profession. Who do you fancy? In my case I nominate S Jude, that well known helper of lost causes. If anyone was more of a lost cause where computers are concerned, I have yet to meet him!



THE PHARISEE'S PRAYER

Arthur Day

"The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, 'God, I thank thee that I am not as other men are, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican'." - S Luke 18.11

How right he was! how right he was!
More right than some by far,
When he gave thanks to God that he
Was not as others are.

He just ignored that publican
When he came there to pray;
He wouldn't stoop to give to such
A man the time of day.

A pillar of society,
A stalwart churchman he,
His obligations he observed
Most conscientiously

He had no time for publicans,
Or people so perverse,
Yes - he was not as others are,
Quite true - he was far worse!

THE GUILD ON THE INTERNET - www.GSSonline.org.uk

Most readers will be aware by now that the Guild has its own website. Since January 2000 there have been over 7,000 visits to the site with interest being shown all over the world.

There is information on Officers, Events, Chapters' details, photos of past events and much more. It is important that the information on the web site is up to date and, for that reason, chapters should ensure that we have details of their current officers (at least the Secretary) and programme.

It is hoped that members who are able to receive Emails will join the Email list whereby members on the list can be informed of any news or requests for prayers. There is also the forum where members can exchange views, comment on various matters and request advice. The Guild Cycle of Prayer can be found on site as well as Intercession Requests.

If anyone has any comments on the site or would like more information, please contact:-
Terry Doughty, 7 Church Avenue, Leicester, LE3 6AJ. Tel. 0116 2620308
Email: GSS@tdoughty.surfaid.org

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS

Annual Subscriptions were due on 1st January. Will Chapters please respond punctually in order that time and expense in chasing defaulters can be eliminated.

NEWS FROM THE CHAPTERS

S BRENDAN, Bristol

Another year has past us and what a year! After the events of September 11th everything else that has happened seems to have faded into insignificance. As Christians we pray for a Peaceful and Joyous New Year and we are fortunate in that we have more than one New Year. We have Advent - the Church's New Year; Christmass - the start of Christ's life on earth; January 1st - the secular New Year and then there is Easter - with its New Life in Resurrection.



During the last year the Chapter has had a varied programme of events and services, some were well attended and others not so well supported. It is not always possible to get to all of the meetings and indeed your secretary finds it difficult some times!! but thank you to all who support the Guild whenever they can. There is one sad note to report and that is the death of Maurice Darbey, blinded by a parcel bomb in the 1950s, a long standing member of the Chapter.

S CHAD, Coventry

The final meeting of the summer programme was a sung eucharist held at S Luke, Holbrooks, Coventry, on Saturday 20th October. Fr Kit Dunkley was the principal concelebrant, and preacher, assisted by Frs John Chapman and Graham Marcer. It was very disappointing that only 8 robed members and 3 were in the congregation ie only 11 members managed to attend this meeting. This number, with 11 supporters, makes this one of the most poorly attended meetings so far this year. It was, even so, good to welcome our Councillor, Terry Doughty.

The annual Requiem Mass was held at S John the Baptist, Fleet Street, Coventry, on Saturday 3rd November. The celebrant was our deputy chaplain, Fr John Chapman, assisted by our chaplain elect, Fr Graham Marcer. We are grateful to Bro Nigel Makepeace and the people of S John (they are in an interregnum, Fr Barry Keeton retired at the end of September) for inviting us again, to the organist for giving us his time and to those who provided the refreshments.

Our Advent meeting was at S John the Divine, Willenhall, on Saturday 4th December. Fr Marcer officiated for the Guild Office and Fr Terry Colling, who warmly welcomed us to his church, gave the address. We were sorry to learn, from Bro John Sheehan, that his church, which we attend at least once every two years, S Barnabas, Cromwell Street, Coventry, is due to close at the end of the year.

S ETHELDREDA, Cambridge

Although we try to make all our Chapter meetings memorable, there occasionally occurs an evening which stands out in the memory. Such a one was our October meeting at Corpus Christi College in Cambridge where we sang the Guild Office. The College Chapel was lit, almost entirely by candles, and there was an excellent attendance, not only by members but also the College students and we were particularly glad to welcome Roger Hall, the head server of the University Church of Great S Mary. The Dean of College, Fr Mark Pryce preached and, afterwards, entertained us in the Parker Room of the College where a former Master, Matthew Parker, Elizabeth the First's Archbishop of Canterbury, had once held sway.

The Catholic Societies of Cambridge held their annual requiem in Little S Mary church in Cambridge when former members of the Chapter, the Guild of All Souls, the Society of Mary and the Community of the Resurrection were remembered by name. Fr Andrew Greany preached at the Solemn Mass, assisted by our chaplain, Fr Brian Macdonald-Milne. After the Mass the chaplain admitted a full member of the Guild.

We returned to S Vigor in Fulbourn, after many years absence, for our December Advent carols and readings. Fr Brian Kerley made us welcome and preached on the true meaning of Advent amongst all the commercial world of Christmass. Before the service our chaplain admitted Fr James Pullen, who has taken over the parish of St Ives, as a Priest Associate. We welcome him to our ranks as well as Fr David Prout, who has succeeded Fr Geoffrey Smith as rector of S Mary, Newmarket.

THE EPIPHANY, Croydon

The year 2001 opened with the annual mass of title celebrated at the church of S Michael & All Angels, West Croydon. There followed a programme of ten monthly meetings to sing the Guild Office at churches around the Croydon area. Our thanks are due to the clergy who gave helpful addresses at the services and to our chaplain, Fr Brothwood, who has continued to travel in from Reigate to officiate. A notable visit was a summer evening at the small 12th century church of S Mary the Virgin, Farleigh, out in the country, predominantly lit by candles. We were warmly welcomed by the Revd Hugh Grear, deacon in the Warlingham Team Ministry, who gave an interesting homily and also organised refreshments in the adjacent fine new hall. We concluded the year back at S Michael for an Advent meditation given by the vicar, Fr Donald Minchew.

The Chapter has been greatly encouraged by the initiation of five probationers during the year and we look forward to welcoming them into full membership in 2002.

HOLY GRAIL, Watford

The AGM of the Chapter was held at S Mary, Apsley. Guild members and supporters attended a Mass of Epiphany tide, celebrated by the vicar, Fr David Lawson, before the meeting. The main officers of the Chapter were re-elected, with Fr James Cope as chaplain, Robert Snelling as secretary and Colin Robinson as treasurer. There were 27 members present and two potential probationers. The provisional programme for the coming year was agreed and includes new churches in Harpenden and Potters Bar. A number of joint meetings have been held with adjacent Chapters in London and Berkshire.

The Chapter agreed to maintain its donation to COF at £140 and to continue its practice of seeking donations at each meeting. David Froud (Group 10 Councillor) spoke about the distribution of COF money to potential ordinands. He pointed out that the figure given for the Fund in the national accounts reflects the Capital but the donations can only be made from the

interest raised from this capital.

This was one of our best-attended AGMs in many years. It reflects the Chapter's feeling that the Guild is in good heart and serving the needs of the southern part of S Alban's Diocese. The meeting closed with prayers led by the Chapter chaplain, Fr Cope, SSC.

S HUGH & BLESSED EDWARD KING, Great Grimsby

In November we held our AGM at S Augustine of Hippo. The officiant at the Office, who also gave the homily, was Fr Stephen Jones. This was followed by Solemn Benediction, conducted by Fr David Rowett, vicar of S Matthew, Fairfield, Grimsby, whilst Fr Jones accompanied on the organ. 25 members were present. Fr George Senior was re-elected Chaplain, Bro David Goldberg - Secretary and Sr Angela McMullen - Treasurer

In December we visited S Hugh, Grimsby. Fr Senior officiated at the Office and Bro Alan Pearson gave the address.

S JOHN BAPTIST, Torbay

On November 13 we met at All Saints, Torre, for a sung Requiem Mass celebrated by Fr Roger Shambrook, vicar of Tor, assisted by our chaplain, Fr Gorran Chapman, vicar of S Martin, Barton.

Fr Roger, in his sermon, pointed out that the bereaved might gain more from going out to help other people rather than shutting themselves away. He outlined how the Church, through its ministrations, particularly in the Sacraments, helped Christians live the real life, which was union with Christ, a union which death - which was not the end, but change - could not break. "In life we walk on one side of the road", he said, "but when death comes we simply move over to the other side, but we keep on walking - we keep on going. So death is not the end, it is just another step on the way."

Fr John Potter, vicar of S Luke, Milber, officiated at the Guild Office at Marldon Parish church, on December 11th. In his sermon he suggested that Christians at this time of the year were rather like S John Baptist, in a sort of wilderness, because, despite all the Christmass preparations in the shops, there was no mention of God since HE has no commercial value. Fr Potter recalled how, when S John's mother Elizabeth was visited by Christ's mother the Blessed Virgin Mary, the foetus of John leapt in his mother's womb as he recognised, in Mary's body, the Son of God; something we should remember in our abortion-ridden world; When asked to baptise Christ his whole body rose in revolt, but he did so, thus showing us an example of obedience; he was not afraid to "have a go" at King Herod who was living in an immoral relationship with his brother Philip's wife, and was prepared to be imprisoned and beheaded for upholding the marriage law; and like most of us he had doubts but held on to his faith. On January 8th we met at S John, Torquay, where the Guild Office was sung by Fr Potter, joint chaplain, and the sermon was preached by the vicar, Fr Richard King.

S JOHN the DIVINE, Leicester

We met at Leicester Cathedral on October 10th for Guild Office followed by the AGM. The attendance was disappointing, considering it was the AGM and also that we were at the Cathedral where small numbers seem lost. 23 members were present (less than half the membership). The Office was sung by Fr Colin Southall as Fr Howard was on holiday. We were made very welcome by the Cathedral Vergers and in the Cathedral Centre where we held the AGM. All the officers were re-elected.

There was an improved attendance of 29 members for the annual Requiem Mass for departed members which, this year, was held at S Mary de Castro. At the beginning of Mass our chaplain admitted a member and initiated a probationer. Fr David Cawley, vicar, celebrated Mass and Fr Howard, chaplain, read the Gospel and the names of departed members of the Chapter.

S LAURENCE, North Norfolk

Our final winter 2001 meeting took place on Monday 5th November at the Priory of Our Lady, Walsingham, by kind permission of Mother Teresa SSM. 16 members attended. Fr V Scott was the celebrant and Mother Teresa preached. Fr Hands was the intercessor. The Treasurer collected £30 which was donated to the Priory.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

From The Warden: Fr David Moore
27th November 2001

Dear Raymund:

As I write this letter I have in front of me a photograph of the beginning of Mass on August 11th last, at the Oratory Church, Edgbaston. It is a High Mass ie Celebrant (the Bishop of Stockholm) with Deacon and Sub-deacon who are vested in Dalmatic (with crossed stole) and Tunicle respectively. I give these details as a response to the letter from Fr Potter in the Autumn 2001 issue of "The Server". It is not true to state that the Church of Rome does not 'permit priests to dress as deacons'. I understand that what I have described above is to be seen at the main Mass every Sunday and at other times at the London Oratory in Brompton. I was at the Solemn Requiem on All Souls' Day in Saint Alban, Holborn. There too were Celebrant, Deacon and Sub-deacon and, again, this order is followed every Sunday at the Solemn Mass. So our Guild is in good company at our two national festivals.

As a Guild, when we are guests in a cathedral or parish church for those festivals, we have to remember that we are such, and cannot dictate to Deans (and Chapters) and Incumbents about what we can do or not do. We did have a Concelebration in Derby Cathedral in 1999 at the suggestion of the very helpful Provost (now the Dean). There were something like six priests concelebrating. At this year's Autumn Festival, we had to wear copes as that is the custom of Lincoln Cathedral. I was asked beforehand as to whether I had a problem with that custom. I hadn't. By wearing a cope I was not in any way denying the Real Presence of Our Blessed Lord in the Eucharist. Incidentally, I was present, with my wife and one of our daughters, at the main Sunday Mass the next day and we all came away from the Cathedral spiritually refreshed by having taken part in a reverent and well ordered act of worship, copes and all!! We Catholics must not shut ourselves up within the walls of our parish churches, where everything is just as we like it and so on. Where is our spirit of mission? The Church has lost a lot of ground in the past decade or more in the area of converting our nation and we must, in the words of an ancient prayer, be 'active in His service and joyful in His praise' in mission.

Fr Potter mentions, in his letter, that, at one Easter Festival there was a 'real deacon' present at the Mass. How on earth are we to know beforehand that such is planning to be present? When we had a Concelebration some years ago at an Easter Festival in S Augustine's Church, Kilburn, despite an advert in the 'Church Times' inviting priests to Concelebrate and to let the Warden know of their intentions, there was a miserable response.

Regarding the Guild Office, we are moving slowly towards an alternative Office and may well be able to produce one which makes use, due permission having been given us, of the relevant contents of Common Worship, which sadly and wrongly is despised amongst some Catholics.

There is much more that I could write but my letter is long already.

Yours sincerely,
David Moore

423 Minster Road
Minster-on-Sea
SHEERNESS
Kent ME12 3NS
November 11th, 2001

Dear Mr Waker,

I am an ordinand being assisted financially by the GSS of which I have been a member for something like 25 years. Earlier this year I sent a photograph to the treasurer of the Ordination Fund, Mr Louis Lewis, showing him how I had been spending some of the generous grant I have received from the Guild.

It occurred to me - and Mr Lewis has no objection - that it might be usable in The Server. I am now in my third and final year of training on the part-time course run by the South East Institute for Theological Education and I would hope to be ordained NSM deacon next Michaelmass. (Photograph enclosed showing me, plus books and computer software and new cotta, all thanks to the GSS grant!)

Also enclosed is a photograph taken in the late summer of Bishop Robert Ladds of Whitby in the church at Crockenhill, near Swanley in Kent. Bp Robert grew up in the village and was visiting relatives who still live in the area and worship at the church. Bp Robert and I have known each other for as long as I have been a member of the Guild: he and I served together as fellow members of the S Augustine of Canterbury Chapter, based in the Sittingbourne Deanery in North Kent.

He went to train at the Canterbury School of Ministry and, I believe, he is the first bishop in the Church of England to have trained - like me - on a part time course. He served his title in Kent before moving to the North West, where he was incumbent and archdeacon before being appointed Bishop of Whitby - one of the suffragan sees of York - two years ago. When we met there was much reminiscing about the old days...pre Common Worship, pre ASB etc!

It has occurred to me that the Guild may wish to contact Bp Robert with a view to him, perhaps, renewing his links with the Guild.

I hope these photographs are OK and that you can use them. If there are any problems please do not hesitate to call me on the home telephone number above.

Yours sincerely,
Colin Johnson



Colin Johnson with COF Grant purchases.



C. Johnson with Bp Ladds

23 Glemsford Close
FELIXSTOWE
Suffolk IP11 2UG
01394 285054

9th Nov 2001

Dear Bro Raymund,

EASTERN AREA FESTIVAL 2002

I wrote to you a few weeks ago to have the Eastern Area Festival put in the 'Forthcoming Events' in the Winter edition of 'The Server'. I now have the final details.

The Eastern Area Festival has suffered a great drop in attendance over the last few years so I am having a 'big push' for this one. Perhaps the attached could be included in the Spring edition of 'The Server' which I hope will be published and distributed before April next year.

If there are any problems with length, content etc please give me a ring.

Yours sincerely,
John F Sims (Sec Ch of S Edmund K & M)

The Eastern Area Festival will be held in S John, Felixstowe, on Saturday 20th April.

How to find us:-

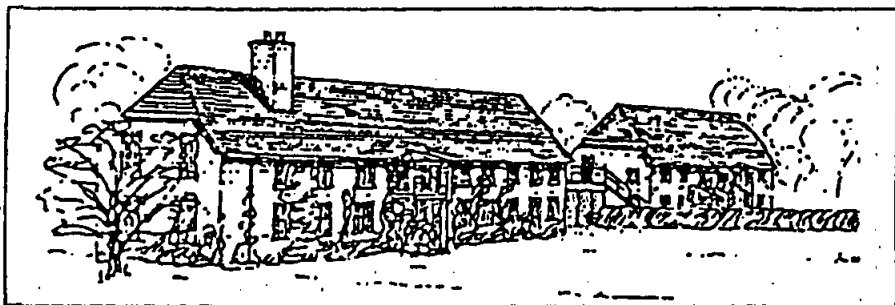
- 1). From the Midlands. Felixstowe is 2hrs (128 miles) from J19 of the M1 on the A14. (It is dual carriageway all the way and there are only two Roundabouts and one slip road to the left).
- 2). From London. 70 miles (just over 1 hr) via the A12 from J28 of the M25. This joins with the A14 (see above) at Ipswich. (It is dual carriageway the whole way with only one Roundabout).
- 3). On arrival at Felixstowe you will find a roundabout with a large Water Tower to the right - go straight over. Half a mile further on there is another roundabout - turn right (Garrison Lane). Cross 2 sets of traffic lights and take the next turning left (Orwell Road). The church is some 300 yards up the road on the right hand side. There is plenty of parking (free) both outside the church and in nearby sideroads.

Hot drinks will be available for those who bring a packed lunch. Otherwise there are plenty of cafes, restaurants and hotels in the vicinity.

Why not come and have a day at the seaside? Or maybe, for those who would like to have a longer break - make a weekend of it - there are plenty of B & Bs or hotels here.

For factsheet or further information contact Bro John Sims Tel. 01394 285054.

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