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The Server

The Quarterly Magazine of the
Guild of Servants of the Sanctuary



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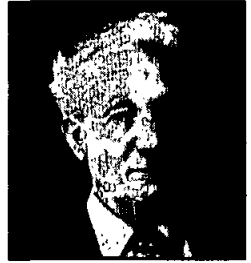
Matter for publication should be sent by the second Saturday of January, April,
July & October

EDITORIAL

ONE MAN'S VIEW

Please remember, in your prayers, Roy Crosswell who is slowly recovering from a serious operation.

'What a wonderful bird is the Pelican, Its beak can hold more than its belly can.'



Raymund JM WAKER

I expect you all know this little piece of doggerel, better than I do, I'm sure there is some more but I've forgotten it. What prompted this was a letter from a member from Leeds enquiring about the Pelican on the Guild medal. The original Chaplain-General, Fr Deedes, was responsible for the design of the Guild Medal but I have been unable to discover any explanation by him of how he decided what should be or not be on the medal. The chalice, cross and candlesticks are fairly obvious but the Pelican? I have copied this information from FL Cross's 'The Oxford Dictionary of the Christian Church'. "The image of the Pelican 'Vulning herself' with her beak to feed her young with her blood, has been widely used in Christian symbolism to typify the Lord's redeeming work, esp. as mediated through the Blessed Sacrament. Well-known instances are the first line of the 6th stanza of 'Adoro te devote', and the figure of the Pelican on the column in the quadrangle of Corpus Christi College, Oxford. At Durham the Blessed Sacrament used to be reserved in a silver Pelican suspended over the high altar.

"In which we serve"

I imagine many of you will have seen the film with this title in the cinema or on one or more of its showings on Television. I have no intention of writing about the film but it has been suggested to me that I could make good use of this title to write about servers, priests and their vestments because it is *in them that we serve*.

Why do we wear vestments? What are vestments? We wear them as a uniform, so that we can be seen to be on duty, part of a team, and also to de-personalise ourselves - it's not Raymund serving but a server, it's not Fr Michael celebrating but a priest of the Church of God.

You will remember that the film was about the Royal Navy. Like the members of the Navy we should endeavour to ensure that the vestments we wear are always neat and tidy, clean and starched, where appropriate, and worthy to be worn on parade before the King. We need to see that we don't regularly throw on, because we are late, a dirty, short, or tatty garment: We can get away with it once but we should see to it that its shortcomings are redressed before it next appears on parade.

The Officers and Council wish you all a profitable Lent and a Happy Easter.

Raymund JM WAKER

FROM THE SECRETARY GENERAL

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Saturday, 26th April 2003 at
S Augustine, Queens Gate,
London at 3.00pm

AGENDA

Apologies

Minutes of 2002 AGM

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

Annual Report for 2002

Financial Statements-General & COF

Appointment of Auditors

Candidates for Ordination Report

'The Server' Magazine Report

Young Servers Report

The Warden's Address

Group Elections Statement

2003 Festivals

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

The Guild Organist & Master

of the Guild Choir

Secretary to the Guild Choir



Roy Cresswell

AOB

ENTRANCE FEE INCREASE

From 1st January 2003, the Entrance Fee will be increased to £2. This will include the 1st year's Subscription and the Guild Manual.

MINUTES OF 2002 AGM

The Annual General Meeting held at 3pm on Saturday, 8th April 2002 at S Augustine church, Queens Gate, London.

There were approximately 120 members present.

2. Apologies were received from 14 members.

3. The Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting held on 21st April 2001, having been distributed, were taken as read and signed as a true copy. They would be printed in the Spring edition of "The Server" magazine.

4. Matters Arising: There were no matters arising

5. Secretary-General's Report for 2001: Copies having been distributed, it was agreed that it be taken as read, with thanks to Roy for producing this report.

6. Financial Statement from the Treasurer-General: Louis Lewis said there was a net surplus of £8613 in the General Fund and £11,207 in the COF. Our expenses had increased and we were now supporting more members. The accounts were accepted with thanks to Louis.

7. Appointment of Auditors: Harper Broom Roberts were re-appointed.

8. Candidates for Ordination Report: Copies had been distributed. Louis said there was one alteration - the one-off sum to NSM's and OLM's will be £600, not £300. Louis was thanked for this report.

9. "The Server" Magazine Report: The Editor explained that our printers, the University of Nottingham, had disposed of its responsibility, machinery and Staff to a new company - All Print Management Ltd. There had been a mix up with the delivery date of the Spring Edition and also a break down of machinery. He hoped that the Magazine would be out on time in future. Raymund was thanked for his editing of the Magazine.

10. Young Servers' Report: Fr Squire read out his report which would also be printed in the Spring Edition of "The Server" Magazine. He was thanked for his sterling work amongst young people.

11. The Warden's Address: The Warden gave an interesting Address which would be printed in "The Server" Magazine. The Address was received with acclamation.

12. To confirm General Council Elections:

Officers:	Warden:	Rev JD Moore
	Chaplain-General:	Revd MC Brain
	COF Chaplain:	Revd MC Brain
	Secretary-General:	Roy ST Cresswell
	Treasurer-General:	Louis A Lewis JP

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

13. Group Council Election Results:

The following have been elected Councillors:-

LG1 & 2	London N & W, Hounslow Southall, Wembley, Willesden	John Cairns	Unopposed
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PG1	West Kent		No Candidate
PG4	Hampshire, W Sussex E Wilts	Peter Keat	Unopposed
PG9	Berks, Oxfordshire, S Bucks	Clive Tillin	Unopposed
PG12	Wales	Michael Andrew	New
PG14	Cambridgeshire Norfolk, Suffolk	John Sims	New
PG15	Leics, Northants, Warks	Terry Doughty	Unopposed
PG16	Derbyshire, Notts.	Roland Hudson	Unopposed
PG20/25	Cleveland, Durham, Northumberland, Tyneside	Stanley Entwistle	New
PG22	Cornwall	David Thomas	Unopposed

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

15. Roll Call: A book is now placed at the back of the church for members to sign where they come from.

16. AOB: The Entrance Fee and First Year's Annual Subscription would be increased to £2 from 1st January 2003. The Annual Subscription remains at £1.

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

THE ANNUAL REPORT 2002

Roy ST Cresswell

I have pleasure in presenting the Annual Report of the Guild of Servants of the Sanctuary - this being the 104th year of our foundation.

We continue to fulfill a very necessary position in the life of the Church, not only at the altar but also by our support as members in the life of our particular Parish.

The Guild is very much alive, having enrolled 316 new members and 8 Priest-Associates into the Guild.

The attendance at the Easter Festival and AGM at S Augustine, Queens Gate, London, was only fair. This could be due to the high cost of travel today. The same applies to the Autumn Festival at Bristol Cathedral - at both we were made most welcome. A great deal of time and expense is necessary in organising these Festivals and, where possible, members are urged to support them.

Lichfield Cathedral was, once again, full for both services in September, on the occasion of the Diocesan Servers' Festival and Midlands Area Festival of the Guild. Regretfully, this Festival will no longer take place in Lichfield Cathedral but at a different venue. For 2003, it will be held at S Mary, Stafford.

The Annual Subscriptions have again been very slow in being remitted and cause much time and expense in chasing them. From 1st January 2003, the Entrance Fee, which includes the 1st Year's Subscription and Guild Manual, will be increased to £2.

We record our thanks to the Guild Officers and Members of the Council. To Paul Durrant, our Membership Secretary, Raymund Waker, the Editor of "The Server" Magazine, Nigel Makepeace "The Server" Distributor, Philip Jarvis the Guild Organist and Keith Hearnshaw our Assistant Organist; to Trevor Theaker for producing the Cycle of Prayer, to Bryan Chilton and the Guild Choir, to Terry Doughty, the Webmaster and, finally, we thank 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:- Priest-Associates: Brian Glover, Frederick Lancaster, David Prout. Members: John Bounds, James Bromley, Rose Butler, Len Canterbury (Coun), David Chivers, George Clarke, Kenneth Collins, Kenneth Cox, Michael Corless, Paul Davis, Brian Ellis, Ronald J Gardner, Frederick M Harrison, Basil Hawke, Ken Jennings, William Kelleway, Leonard Littler, Angela Locke, James Lord, Charles Murray, A Nicholl, Irene O'Conner, David Powell, G Pitman, David Prue, William Richardson, Dick Shepherd, Rita Smith, William Smith, Harold Stanhope, Barry Stanwell, Stanley Taylor, Laurence Weatherall, Donald Weeks, Donald Whitaker.

May they rest in peace and rise in glory.

THE SERVER REPORT

After last Spring's fiasco we seem now to have got "The Server" schedule working well. I am very grateful to all the contributors for their generous offerings and particularly to Colin Limming who has become a regular and usually produces a smile. He was also very particular to ensure I was aware that his copy would, inevitably, be late because he needed to include a report on a meeting which was only taking place on my closing date. I have managed to accommodate him.

CHANTRY BOOK

OCTOBER

Leonard Littler

DECEMBER

John Bounds
James Bromley
Ronald J Gardner
Frederick M Harrison
Basil Hawke
Charles Murray
David Powell
William Richardson
Harold Stanhope

JANUARY

Ron Stone



R.I.P.

John Bounds

John died suddenly at his home on Thursday, December 6th, 2002. He had served at S Barnabas church, Wellingborough/Kettering, attending most regularly. As a boy he was a member of the Church Sunday School, Bible Class and Church Lads Brigade, being a drummer in the band.

An excellent cricketer in his prime, he played for Wellingborough's leading team. In more recent years he enjoyed his bowls.

Our thoughts are with his wife Jean, his sons Christopher, Peter and their families.

Frederick Mountford Harrison

On Friday, 6th December, Fred died in hospital in Gateshead, at the age of 82. He had been an integral part of the life and worship at S John, Horninglow, Burton-on-Trent, for most of his life and had served the church, over the years, in almost every office. He had been an altar server since boyhood and Head Server for just over 30 years. He was never happier than when he was serving his Lord at the altar in the sacred ritual of the Mass. In 1959 Fred joined the GSS and was for many years Chapter secretary, as well as acting as cantor during the singing of the monthly Solemn Guild Office.

Fred worked for the old LMS Railway Company before moving, just after the war, to work for Bass, where he stayed up to his retirement.

Fred and his wife, Phyllis, moved, last summer, to live with their son, Bruce, at Gateshead, where Bruce is vicar of S Helen, Low Fell. It was there that Fred was taken ill, at the beginning of November, and died a few weeks later. Fred's funeral was at Gateshead. A Requiem Mass was also held in his old parish church of S John on Wednesday, 11 December.

Basil Hawke

Basil died suddenly and peacefully on 14th December 2002, less than two months short of his 90th birthday; having celebrated his diamond wedding anniversary in August 2002. He had been involved in church work in several parishes, becoming a boat-boy at an early age and remaining a server throughout the rest of his life.

He moved to this area 10 years ago and soon joined the serving team at S Peter, Raunds, and enrolling with the S Luke Chapter of the Guild. Since enrolling he was usually present at the monthly meetings as well as attending the Festivals at Lichfield and Chester.

The Chapter was well represented at his funeral. He will be sadly missed.

Leonard Whalley Littler (1922-2002)

Leonard died peacefully in his sleep on Thursday, 24th October, at the Countess of Chester Hospital. His body was brought into Christ Church, Tunstall, at 6pm on Sunday, 3 November and a Requiem Mass was sung on Monday, 4 November, at 11am.

Baptized, confirmed and married at Christ Church, Leonard had served as Deputy Churchwarden, Deanery Synod Representative and vergers as well as that, for which he will always be remembered, as Head Server.

He was invited to serve at the Children's Mass in 1929. This had been started by Fr Charles-Edwards and was always on Saturday mornings. Boys would learn a little about the Mass and then be invited to serve. During the second world war Leonard was appointed Head Server and Sacristan and every alternate Friday he would hold practices at which the servers would be taught all a fully trained server needs to know. He had a remarkable amount of patience but did not like to see mistakes. If a mistake was made, he would cough and servers would know that something had gone wrong.

In addition to his work as Head Server at Christ Church, Leonard was, for 25 years, secretary of the local Chapter of the Guild (SS Michael & Andrew) and he encouraged all servers from Christ Church to join the Guild. Failing eyesight, due to unchecked diabetes restricted Leonard's activities but he regularly served at the Parish Mass and at weekday Sung Masses. Visiting priests were amazed to find that the man who had just guided them through the Mass was, in fact, almost totally blind! A good memory, a lifetime of serving and several years as vergers at Christ Church enabled him to find his way around with few problems.

In July 1979, 1989 & 1999 Leonard celebrated his 50, 60 & 70 years as an altar server with a Solemn Mass and lunch for all who wished to stay. Then, in September 1999, having completed 60 years as Head Server, he retired and shortly afterwards moved with his wife Kathleen, to Chester to live with their daughter Ruth.

Leonard has trained dozens - perhaps hundreds - of servers and one of his proudest moments was in 1953 when a potential new incumbent said of Christ Church "the serving is near perfect".

Leonard was devoted to his family and to his church.

Ron Stone

Ron died, at the age of 90, on Friday, 3rd January. He had celebrated his 90th birthday last August but his health seemed to deteriorate from that time. However, he managed to continue serving until ill health forced his retirement last November. It was just before his birthday that Ron attended his last Chapter meeting, having been a GSS member for just over 40 years. Ron was involved in a wide range of duties at S Paul, Burton, including terms as churchwarden, as well as being Head Server for many years. In practical terms Ron's presence will continue to be evident in the many items throughout the church that will remain a permanent memorial to his carpentry skills.

Ron's working life was spent as a schoolteacher in Burton and it was at the old Clarence Street School that he met his wife Renee, a fellow teacher. As well as his church and school activities, Ron, over the years, was involved in many hobbies and sporting activities. He was, in his early days, a fine athlete, rugby player and oarsman. His hobbies included photography, calligraphy, travelling and wine making - the punch he supplied at the Chapter AGM always ensured that the meeting ran smoothly.

Ron's funeral was held in S Paul on 16th January.

May they rest in peace and rise in glory.

THE SCOTTISH GUILD OF SERVERS AGM

Malcolm Perkins

On Saturday, September 7th, 2002, I attended the meeting of the Scottish Guild on behalf of GSS. The meeting had to be reorganised because the people at St Andrews had changed. The Dean had moved to Carlisle, amongst other changes, so it had been moved to Perth Cathedral. I arrived early and was greeted with a cup of hot coffee and offered lunch which the people of the Cathedral had provided in aid of the funds.

The Eucharist started at 2pm, celebrated by the Chaplain-General (Revd Fr Donald Strachan) and the preacher was the Revd Fr David Campbell.

The Annual Meeting then took place with Fr Strachan in the chair. The Secretary-General was re-elected. After the Warden's surprise resignation during the year, due to illness, Canon Len Black was well enough to accept the post of Past Warden. His successor had not yet been appointed.

The next two meetings were given out as 2003 Inverness and 2004 as Glasgow. It was also stated that they would try to get up a trip to Arran in May 2003 to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the death of the Revd Fr Charles Wood and also the formation of the Guild in 1929.

I gave the good wishes of the English Guild which were gratefully accepted.

The Guild Office was sung and the gathering dispersed.

Overheard at a recent Chapter meeting or they're not all locked up yet!

Archdeacon to newly retired priest: Now Father, how are you enjoying retirement?

Priest: It's very nice but I do miss PCC meetings.

Voice from the back: Don't worry Father, I hear they have a good psychiatric unit at St Luke's Hospital for Clergy.



FORTHCOMING EVENTS

2003

APRIL

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

MAY

- 10 EBBSFLEET FESTIVAL of FAITH
Bristol Cathedral
Noon - Solemn Mass
3.30pm - Devotions
Parish Banners welcome - carried by a robed server please

- 17 EASTERN AREA FESTIVAL
Little S Mary, Cambridge
Noon - Solemn Eucharist
Preacher: The Rt Revd Simon Barrington-Ward
(former Bishop of Coventry)
3.15pm - Guild Office & Benediction.
(For further details contact 01763 260072)

- 20 PG16 Area Festival
S Laurence , Long Eaton
7.30pm Guild Office, Procession of Our Lady & Benediction
Preacher: The Rt Revd Keith Newton, Bishop of Richborough

SEPTEMBER

- 13 LICHFIELD DIOCESAN SERVERS' & MIDLANDS AREA GSS FESTIVAL
S Mary, STAFFORD (please note change of venue)
Noon - Solemn Eucharist Celebrant:- the Rt Revd Christopher Hill
Bishop of Stafford
3.00pm - Guild Office & Procession
Preacher:-The Bishop of Stafford

OCTOBER

- 11 AUTUMN FESTIVAL
Liverpool Cathedral
Noon - Solemn Eucharist
4.30pm - Guild Office & Procession



THEY DON'T MAKE THEM LIKE THAT ANY MORE!

Colin Limming

Although both priests have long ago gone to their rest it might be easier to refer to them as Fr Andrew and Fr Alan.

Both ruled their parishes with a benign but firm hand and their choirs, servers and congregations knew of their love for them and held them in the greatest respect.

Fr Andrew was a large man who was best described in the old term 'muscular Christianity'. He was President of the local Boxing Club and, it was rumoured, had once had a spell as an amateur with Fulham and Chelsea football clubs.

One year 'The Kensitites' distributed leaflets in the church denouncing 'popery' and threatening disorder. The campaign was waged by a single person who was lodging in a caravan in the middle of the village. He was still there on the night of the church Tennis Club's Fancy Dress Dance. Fr Andrew had gone in a costume with a flowing cloak and, at the end of the dance, said to the sacristan 'We'll have a bit of fun with this Kensitite fellow'. They made their way to the village centre and hammered on the caravan door. When the occupant stumbled to the door Fr Andrew threw his cloak around him and bellowed 'I've come for you'. The caravan and its occupant had left the village by the next morning.

Fr Alan also had the same trouble when they threatened to disrupt his traditional Good Friday Procession of Witness. The usual leaflets were distributed and the same threats issued. He did no more but went to the Salvation Army Citadel in the nearest big town and asked the Army Captain if they would like to play for his special occasion. The Salvation Army, bless them, were only too happy and quietly formed up at the head of the procession, just in front of thurifer, cross and lights, banners and the congregation. The Kensitites were assembled on the village green waiting to shout 'popery' but how do you shout that at the Salvation Army? As he went by Fr Alan raised his biretta in a jaunty salute.

As I say, they don't make them like that any more! Or do they? Let me know.



STRAIGHT QUESTIONS with STRAIGHT ANSWERS (8) WHY SHOULD I GO TO CHURCH or WHY DO CHRISTIANS PRAY TOGETHER?

Revd Canon Wm H Barnard

This question follows naturally from the last issue of "The Server" on our thoughts of so-called 'Private Prayer'. One cannot be a Christian on one's own. *Every Christian* has been made a member of a corporate body, 'the Body of Christ', 'the Family of God', the fellowship, or communion of Saints, ie *the Church*. Those who make sporadic fourwheel raids on the local church at weddings, christenings and funerals should know in their hearts that they have been made, at their own christening (Baptism), members of Christ, living parts of a living body and that the *first duty* and privilege of this body is *to give to God his worth*, His wor(th)ship, because "He Is good and His mercy endures for ever". We can never show too much gratitude to God for all He has done for us. He has saved us from what might have been and "translated us into the kingdom of His dear Son". We cannot worship on our own. We must follow the example of the first Christians who "spent their time in learning from the apostles, taking part in the fellowship, sharing in 'the breaking of bread' and the prayers". (Acts 2 v42).



IN
QUIETNESS
AND IN
TRUST
SHALL BE
YOUR
STRENGTH
ROMANS 12

A so-called Christian who opts out of this typical activity of the Church's life, the worship of God in public, is, as one writer recently described it, "like a 'cricketer' who refuses to join any cricket club or even play the game. Far from being 'in the fullest sense' a cricketer, one wonders whether he is in any meaningful sense a cricketer at all". (Canon I Dunlop). If you take each piece of coal from the fire in the grate and lay it separately *on its own* in the hearth, you have still got the coal but you have lost the fire. To withdraw ourselves from the living fire of the *corporate* life of the Church means we soon lose our Christian faith. As S Paul reminded his Gentile converts in Romans Ch 11, those grafted into Christ can only receive His life, the 'sap', by remaining attached to the 'stock'. S John ch 15 makes the same point; 'the branch must abide in the Vine' to remain alive. Which is why Our Lord gave us the command we looked at earlier, "Do this in remembrance of Me". To ignore this command deliberately by absenting ourselves from the Eucharist, means we forfeit the right to be described in the fullest sense as Christians. The world today is dividing more and more into 2 camps: those who deny and those who proclaim Jesus Christ as Son of God. To associate ourselves publicly with the cause of Christ by regular worship in Church shows plainly whose side we are on. As the Curé d'Ars once said, "Private prayer is like straw scattered here and there; if you set it on fire it makes a lot of little flames; gathered into a bundle and lit you get a mighty fire rising into the sky: public prayer is like that."



EPIPHANY FESTIVAL

Craig Aburn

The 2003 Epiphany Festival was held on Saturday, 11th January at the parish church of S Agnes, Kennington Park, by kind permission of the vicar, Fr Christopher Pearson SSC.



The Festival was the first of, God willing, many arranged as an Area Festival for the South London Chapters (LG5 & 6) and seemed to be well received by those who came.

The day began with the singing of the Angelus at 12 noon and a Solemn Concelebrated Mass of the Epiphany of Our Lord Jesus Christ. The principal concelebrant was Fr Andrew Stevens SSC, vicar of S Nicholas, Plumstead, chaplain to the Chapter of the Holy Redeemer (LG5/75) and Forward in Faith Sub-Dean for London and Southwark. He was joined by Fr Pearson and three other priests representing two of the other Chapters within LG5 & 6. Guild members from the Chapter of the Holy Redeemer served the Mass and members of the Guild Choir assisted with the musical accompaniment at both services.

After the Mass, a hot lunch had been arranged. Those who had opted to book for this in advance enjoyed a selection of hot main dishes followed by a choice of cold desserts. There seemed to be general agreement that this option for lunch was a good idea and my sincere thanks must go to my mother, wife, grandmother and mother-in-law for all their hard work. Something of a family affair! Any offers of assistance with the catering for next year would be gratefully received.

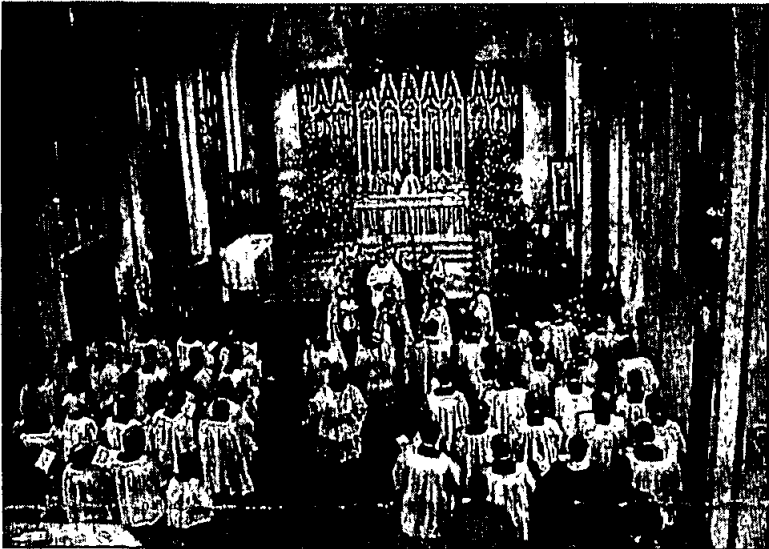
At around 3pm the brethren robed and reconvened in church for the Solemn Guild Office, Sermon, Procession and Benediction at which the officiant was Fr David Moore, Warden of the Guild, assisted by Fr Stevens and Reg Martin. The serving team was predominantly from the Chapter of the Incarnate Word. The preacher was the vicar. He preached on the theme of everyone having something to give and recalled some of his experiences, of what he had received from servers and the Guild. It was apt that we were holding our Festival in a church where, during his training, the vicar had been supported by COF, to which half the money received in the two collections at the Festival is being given. Fr Pearson also said that he had heard that the GSS had been to S Agnes in the days of the old church which had been destroyed in an air raid in 1940. He hoped we would not leave it so long until we went again!

It was a great joy to see the church almost full for both services. Our sincere and heartfelt thanks must go to Fr Pearson for his gracious hospitality. Thanks, too, must be given to Fr Andrew Stevens for his assistance with the preparations for the event. He kindly produced the "all-in-one" booklet, containing everything for both services. Thanks also to our Warden, Fr David Moore, for coming to support us and for leading the afternoon service. Last, but not least, thanks to all of you for your support.

A large number of photos of the day were kindly taken by the GSS Webmaster, Cllr Terry Doughty, and can be viewed on the Guild website at www.GSSonline.org.uk/Epiphany_1.htm.



Solemn Concelebrated Mass of the Epiphany



The Afternoon Procession

DIRECTORY

CHAPTER	SECRETARY	CHAPTER	SECRETARY
Abbey PG7/7 Shaftesbury	In Abeyance	S Cedd PG13/28 East Essex	Nicholas Pond "Goodrington" 4 Stoke Ash Close CLACTON-on-SEA Essex CO16 7LN
S Dubritius PG15/43	Betty Payne 3 Radford Cottages Leam Terrace	Good Sheherd PG16/58	Derek Limer 48 Arthur Street DERBY DE1 3EG
Leamington Spa 01926 316729	LEAMINGTON SPA CV31 1DS	Derby 01332 345548	
SS Michael & Andrew PG16/118 N Staffs, Stafford, SE Cheshire, Crewe	In Abeyance	Our Lady & S Barnabas PG21/18 Lancs & Furness 01772 467987	Norman Whittle 11 Sandown Court Avenham Lane PRESTON PR1 3RS
SS Peter & Wilfred PG19/19 North Yorks 01765 604825	Joan Wilkinson, Mrs 19 Cypress Gardens RIPON North Yorks HG4 2LT	S Wilfrid PG3/183 Eastbourne 01323 423544	Roger A Emery Watermans Cottage 2 Willingdon Road FRISTON Nr Eastbourne East Sussex BN20 0AS
Restored 1/10/02			

LONG SERVICE

Fr Eric Chappell, joined the Guild in 1920, Keble College, Oxford, BA 1930, MA 1934. Cuddesdon College 1930. Deacon 1931, Priest 1932.

He was ordained to the Priesthood on 18 December 1932 and, consequently, last December he celebrated the 70th anniversary of his ordination. The occasion was marked by a service at S Vincent, Littlebourne, Kent. The celebrant was the Rt Revd Keith Newton, Bishop of Richborough and the preacher was Fr Francis Capener. Along with members of his family were friends and colleagues from over the years who were able to attend the service and a buffet afterwards.

Fr Eric served his title at S Mark, Teddington, and in 1934 moved to S Andrew, Hillingdon, as curate, until 1943.

He served as Chaplain RAF VR from 1943 to 1947 and then as Chaplain RAF from 1947 - 1963. During his service in the RAF he was posted to various countries, including Sri Lanka (then Ceylon) and Germany - Wegberg.

In 1964 he left the RAF and moved to the Canterbury Diocese as vicar of Holy Cross, Goodnestone with Chillenden and Knowlton, to which was added Adisham in 1975. He had pastoral care of these four parishes until he retired in 1978. Whilst at Goodnestone he was also a guide at Canterbury Cathedral and involved with the Guild. Following his retirement he helped out at S Peter, Folkestone, until he suffered a stroke in 2001.

John Cairns

John celebrated his Golden Jubilee as a member of the Guild by having a concelebrated Mass of Thanksgiving at his parish church of S Augustine, Kilburn. The principal concelebrant was the parish priest, Fr A Yates, with Frs R Bushau, R Beal and P Vincent as concelebrants. The preacher was Fr Bushau.

The Warden of the Guild, Fr David Moore, and the Treasurer-General, Grand Councillor Louis Lewis also attended with Councillor N Makepeace representing the Secretary-General, Grand Councillor Roy Cresswell.

A fine reception was held in the Parish Rooms after the Mass and John enjoyed talking to members from his various Chapters.

John started serving in 1944 at S Anne, Brondesbury and, over the years, was Head Server, MC, Sacristan for 25 years, served on the PCC and Church Warden. He, sadly, left S Anne after 53 years as Catholic Faith and Practice was dismantled. However God does not let us down, for John is very happy at S Augustine, Kilburn.

John joined the Guild in 1952 and has been Chapter secretary of Our Lady of Willesden and S Mellitus for the last 31 years and Guild Councillor for the last 18.

The Chapter chaplain, Fr A Hill, and Chapter members kindly presented John with gifts to mark the occasion plus the secretary of the Chapter of Our Lady of Walsingham and S Alban also presented him with a gift from members.

John, now in his 73rd year, hopes to serve his Lord at the altar for some years yet.



FREE WILL (ANY PILGRIM SPEAKS)

I am not doomed to a rescindless ill,
Unless I choose to be;
Eternity before me still
Balances on the free
Will One has given me.

Yet in the choice I make of right or wrong
My failing still is such
I often know my wish is to be strong
But desperately clutch
My weakness over-much.

Yet that same One Who once upon the Tree
Died with such bitter pains
Still leaves His largesse of free will with me,
No selfish pride contains
But lets me hold the reins.

Can I in crass stupidity forego
The bliss which is the part
Of His true servant, purpose not to know
The richness He can start
Within my desert heart?

No! I must use the free will I am given
To face sin's every blast
And strive unswerving for the gate of heaven
Till, all my trials past,
I there can live at last.

H O Brian O'Neil.



THE GUILD ON THE INTERNET

Many of you will already know that the Guild has a web site (www.GSSonline.org.uk) which was set up in January 2000.

In 3 years the site has received over 11,000 visits (an average of 10 per day) from all over the world. There have been many enquiries about the Guild, some resulting in new members joining.

The site tries to provide up to date information about the Guild, especially Chapter Officer and programme details. It is important that every Chapter has their current Officer and programme details so that anyone interested will know what is happening and who to contact. If your Chapter details are not on the site, please inform me as soon as possible.

There is also an E mail membership list. Anyone can sign up to receive regular information about the Guild. This was particularly useful when our Secretary-General was admitted to hospital and we were able to inform those on the E mail list and request their prayers. It would be of great benefit if, at least, one member from each Chapter were on this E mail list - do join.

If you haven't visited the web site, do so when possible. Let me have your comments or suggestions. The site can be a useful method of promoting the Guild but only if you, the members, provide the information.

My thanks to all who have supported me in this project and for their encouragement, advice and suggestions.

Councillor Terry Doughty, GSS Webmaster,
7 Church Avenue,
LEICESTER
LE3 6AJ
(0116 2620308)
E mail: Webmaster@GSSonline.org.uk



NEWS FROM THE CHAPTERS

S ANDREW, Romford

It is good to be able to report that our membership has gone up. It now stands at 45. The amalgamation with an ailing Chapter, that of the Holy Fellowship, produced 8 new members and the present amalgamation, with the Chapter of S George the Martyr, has, so far, provided us with 6 new members. The invitation to join is still warmly extended to the remaining members of that Chapter. We feel very honoured that, upon his retirement from being an incumbent, our Warden, Fr David Moore, chose to join our Chapter.



We have been able to keep to our programme of monthly meetings at which, it is encouraging to report, attendance is on the increase. Also we have been able to visit churches to which we have not been before. We hope that this trend will continue throughout 2003 and we send warm greetings to all our fellow GSS members.

S CHAD, Coventry

On October 19th we met at S Peter, Hillfields, Coventry for Sung Mass and address. Our chaplain, Fr Graham Marcer was the celebrant and preacher and Fr John Chapman was the deacon. Since the vicar was indisposed, Sr Gwen Smith, his vergier and head server and a long term member of our Chapter welcomed us to her church. The original church has been closed for approximately twelve months but the old church hall has been completely redeveloped, and the building is used as a community centre during the week and transformed into a recognized church for the Sunday services and for our visit. The old building, which is now a listed building, looked forlorn with the stained glass windows and doors boarded up against vandalism. We have visited the old church many times over the years and many of our past Chapter officers have come from the serving team. We were pleased to welcome seven young people to the Mass, accompanied by their curate, Revd Alison Kimberley.

The annual Requiem Mass was held at S John the Baptist, Coventry, on Saturday 2nd November. The celebrant was the rector, Fr Paul Sutch, assisted by Fr Chapman and Fr Marcer. We are grateful to Fr Paul, Bro Nigel Makepeace (National Server Distributor) and the people of S John for inviting us again for our Requiem Mass this year. The Guild was well represented at the 83rd Anniversary of the Bedworth Armistice Parade and Service at the 'eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month'. The rector of All Saints, Bedworth, Fr Nick Denham, conducted the service and the address was given by Fr Andrew Wadsworth, vicar of S James, Bulkington.

A pre-Christmass lunch and three-hour boat trip was held on Saturday, 7th December, departing from the Coventry canal basin. This was an interesting change from our usual December meeting, viewing the Warwickshire countryside while having lunch. The twenty-five members and guests thoroughly enjoyed this trip; the only comment we received was 'could we do it again in the summer?'

THE EPIPHANY, Croydon

In 2002 the Chapter celebrated its Centenary year. It was formed at the first meeting on 2nd February, 1902, in the church of S John, Upper Norwood. It was fitting, therefore, that the annual Mass of Title was held at S John on 30th January, 2002.

The Guild Office was sung in succeeding months at S John, Shirley; S Augustine, South Croydon, followed by the AGM; S Olave, Mitcham; and S Michael and All Angels, West Croydon, followed by Benediction.

In June we went to the edge of our area to the small 11th century Norman church of S Lawrence, Caterham-on-the-Hill. A Saturday afternoon in July was spent at the Old Palace of the Archbishops of Canterbury in Old Town, Croydon: first a conducted tour of the buildings, now part of a girls' school in the Whitgift Foundation, followed by tea in the Norman Undercroft, and the Office sung in the Tudor Chapel.

August, again to the edge of the area, in All Saints, Warlingham, a mainly 13th century church, where the English Prayer Book was first read in 1549. Then, for September and October, we went again to S Olave, followed by All Saints, Carshalton. At the latter meeting we welcomed our Group Councillor, Craig Aburn, with a party of members from the neighbouring Chapter of The Incarnate Word.

In November the Centenary Dinner was enjoyed in a country hostelry, the White Bear, at Fickleshole near Warlingham. Later in the month a Requiem Mass for departed members was celebrated at S Andrew, Old Town, Croydon.

2002 closed with a very helpful Day Retreat at the Emmaus Centre, West Wickham, led by our chaplain, Fr Ian Brotherhood.

Sincere thanks are due to the Chapter secretary, Bro David Rumsby, for the great amount of hard work he undertook to arrange the Centenary services and events so successfully.

S ETHELDREDA, Cambridge

If there is such a thing as 'a magic number' then this Chapter's figure seems to be 18. Our average monthly attendance hovers around that quantity and usually consists of the 'old familiar faces'. Leaving aside those members who, for reasons of health or age cannot attend, we seem to have quite a few with the consistency of 'rare claret' - they don't travel well. If the secret of a Chapter's success is the monthly fellowship of the Guild Office or Mass then, sadly, they are missing out. It's a theme often expressed but sadly not taken to heart, but we persevere.

October saw us at S Agnes in Newmarket where Fr Geoffrey Smith, returning to his former parish, preached and we sang the Guild Office and held Benediction. S Agnes is not easily found and one or two distinguished guests were unable to locate the church even when they asked in the local Roman Catholic church. Enquiries made with local citizens also proved fruitless!

The Catholic Societies of Cambridge held their annual Requiem in Little S Mary's church in Cambridge. Fr Andrew Greany preached and the usual generous hospitality was enjoyed.

The Archdeacon of Ely, Jeff Watson, attended our service at All Saints, Cottenham, where we were welcomed by the new incumbent, Fr Michael Hore. The Archdeacon preached on the theme of Advent and a programme of Advent readings and hymns was held. It was our first time at Cottenham for over a dozen or so years but the welcome made us anxious to return.

John, Bishop of Huntingdon, has recently been appointed the Archbishop's representative to the Holy See and so we were delighted to welcome him to our Epiphany service at S Clement in Cambridge. Bishop John described his new post as Director of the Anglican College in Rome and of his hopes for closer co-operation with the Roman Catholic Church. He linked his theme with that of Epiphany and the welcoming of many people. The Guild Office was sung with an Epiphany Procession and Benediction. During refreshments after the service the Chapter secretary presented the Bishop with, probably, the first of many gifts he will receive - a pocket guide to the City of Rome!

THE HOLY GRAIL, Watford

The Chapter met for its AGM at S Barnabas, Addeyfield, Hemel Hempstead. The meeting was preceded by Mass, celebrated by the vicar, Fr David Middlebrook, who spoke of the need to bring Christ back into people's lives. This should be our aim since commercial forces have attempted to remove Our Lord from Christmas. January has now become a season of gloom and we, as part of the Church, should attempt to brighten the world with the message of the Light of Christ.

20 members and a number of our supporters attended the meeting. The officers were re-elected. During the year 2 probationers were initiated. The Chapter said goodbye to Eric Bolton who has been one of our cantors for 19 years. We sent our annual contribution to COF - £140. We watched a video presentation on Christian Vocation to the Priesthood. The meeting concluded with prayers for absent members and for the Secretary-General.

HOLY & INDIVISIBLE TRINITY, Gloucestershire

This last year has been a busy time for members of our Chapter. During the Spring we attended the AGM at Queens Gate and our younger members managed to squeeze in time to visit the Science Museum and a photo session outside the Natural History Museum. During the Guild Office we caused a commotion as the Chaplain General, on his way in to sing the Office, insisted on moving everybody around so that the young members, behind a pillar, could get a better view of the altar for the service. This was very much appreciated by the youngsters who commented on what a kind gesture this was at such an important occasion.

In addition to our regular monthly meetings, usually for the Guild Office, we also attended Festivals at Glastonbury, Bristol and Lichfield.

This year we have four Probationers and two new Members. We are very lucky in our Chapter to have a number of young members, 7 in total ranging from 7 years to 15 years of age and we would like to hear from other Chapters who also have a number of young servers. Please inform the Editor and he will pass the information on to us. During Advent Two, one of our members, Ian Williams, was made Boy Bishop of Mitcheldean, S Michael & All Angels, and will serve as Boy Bishop until Holy Innocents.

We have held training sessions in Serving at the Guild Office and, subsequently, have had one Office where the youngsters supplied the acolytes.

After our Advent meeting in S Peter, Cheltenham, where our chaplain, Fr Stephen Eldridge, celebrated Mass, we then adjourned to the home of one of our members to enjoy Fish and Chips and Apple Pie.

We would encourage any church that has young servers to invite them to join the Guild. We have done it and they do stay if they are made to feel welcome and appreciated.

S HUGH & BLESSED EDWARD KING, Great Grimsby

Our July, Guild Office was held at S Peter & S Paul, Caistor. The officiant was our chaplain Fr Ian Walker, who also gave the address. In August we visited Holy Trinity, Swallow, where, again, Fr Walker officiated and preached. September saw us at All Saints, Waltham, where we received our usual warm welcome from the rector, Fr Ian Shelton. In October we visited S Clement, Worlaby, for a Mass of S Francis, celebrated by the vicar Fr Gordon Plumb.

A coach load of servers and friends visited the Lichfield Festival, where our secretary read one of the lessons. November was our AGM at S Augustine of Hippo, Grimsby. We had Guild Office at which Fr Walker officiated and Benediction, at which the vicar, Fr Stephen Jones played the organ and Fr David Rowett officiated. December saw us at S Hugh, Grimsby, where Bro Alan Pearson gave the address. Our first meeting of 2003 was the Guild Office at S Peter, Cleethorpes. Unfortunately we lost three members through death in 2003 - Bros Bromley, Powell and Stanhope.

S JOHN BAPTIST, Torbay

In November we visited S Luke, Milber, for our annual Requiem. The Principal concelebrant and preacher was Fr John Potter, the vicar and joint chaplain. The other joint chaplain, Fr Gorran Chapman, vicar of S Martin, Barton, also concelebrated.

Fr Potter in his sermon told us that some of the earliest inscriptions in the catacombs contained prayers for the dead or expressions of hope that they would pray for those left on earth. He recalled that, in mediaeval times, when medical knowledge was extremely limited, plague was common, justice was brutal, the death penalty was prescribed for trifling offences and wars were frequent, death was a commonplace

feature in a way we could not imagine today. There were, nevertheless, situations not entirely dissimilar today - the atrocities committed by the Taleban and the major alerts in case of terrorist attacks.

The carnage of the two World Wars gave an impetus to the practice of prayer for the dead. Modern services are designed to celebrate the victory of Christ who has trampled death down. We believe that our departed friends and relatives are advancing in the love of God and that we, by our prayers, can help them.

In December we visited All Saints church, Babbacombe, where Fr Potter officiated and preached at the Guild Office and Fr Chapman conducted Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.

Fr Potter suggested to us that the traffic chaos we sometimes saw near "The Willows" shopping centre on the outskirts of Torquay was not unlike the chaos prevailing in Bethlehem when crowds of Jews were converging on the village for the census during which Jesus was born. But Jesus came to give us order and a new beginning. Hence the importance of making proper preparation for the Christmass Festival eg Sacramental Confession.

S JOHN the DIVINE, Leicester

In October we met at S Nicholas, Fleckney, for Sung Mass and AGM. Fr Philip O'Reilly was principal celebrant and gave the address. The attendance was very encouraging with 31 members present, supported by several friends and members of S Nicholas.

Our annual Requiem Mass was held at S Hugh, Eyres Monsell by kind invitation of Fr Derek Brown.

All Saints, Wigston Magna was the venue for our December meeting. A very good attendance of 33 members, together with friends and supporters. Fr Colin Southall sang the Office and Fr Richard Curtis gave an address, followed by Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.

S WILFRID, Eastbourne

The Chapter has had a very good and interesting year which culminated in over 50 members and guests sitting down to Christmass Dinner and entertainment on December 7th.

During the year the Chapter has met at various churches within our region, with thanks to their incumbents who have helped us. The Chapter has met as far afield as Hastings, Bexhill, Seaford and was represented at the Glastonbury Pilgrimage where the Chapter's newly restored banner was carried in the procession.

There have been many highlights but, perhaps, one of the more memorable was that held on Sunday, August 25th, at S Nicholas, Pevensey, where the Chapter joined with other churches (Roman Catholic) in the area for Solemn Evensong and Benediction,

with a reception afterwards at the rectory where over 80 persons partook of the buffet provided by some of the wives of members of the Chapter.

During the year the members of the Chapter also attended the Ordination to the Priesthood of Ian Benge, one of our members and at his First Mass. Fr Ian is not the only one of our members to proceed to Ordination as one of our younger members, Sam Flowers has entered the Benedictine Monastery at Elmore Abbey. We also have other members waiting in the wings for selection conferences!

The Chapter needs to thank the various clergy who have assisted with the smooth running of the Chapter and especially Fr Neville Brook who was our chaplain and is a mine of information and help throughout the year. We must also not forget our chaplain, Fr A Stone, and our deputy chaplain, Fr A Christian, both of whom are excellent at the Guild Office and Benediction, and without whom it would not be possible to have such a spiritual experience at these offices.

The Chapter is expanding and is looking forward to a progressive 2003.

S WYSTAN, Burton-on-Trent

Our final meeting each year is, traditionally, held at S Mark, Winshill, where we sing the Guild Office by candlelight in the choir stalls of this handsome church. Several volunteers from the congregation prepare a delightfully festive variety of snacks and hot drinks for us, which we consume with much pleasure after the service.

As this is our Advent meeting and the last before Christmass, it is always a joyous occasion. However, we had an extra special celebration for December 2002, namely the 90th birthday during the week of one of our members, Bro Harry Gregory, who has been a member of GSS since 1933 and still wears his medal with pride. He also brings with him his original Guild Office Service Book of the same date, now looking slightly ragged at the corners but still going strong! Harry is a regular server at the Chapel of S John without the Barrs in the city of Lichfield, together with four other colleagues who also support S Wystan's Chapter.

Needless to say, our evening at Winshill did not pass without suitably marking the grand occasion. After a few genial words from Fr Mulerjee, Bro Harry was presented with a card signed by the other sisters and brothers of the Chapter. The "refreshment ladies" very kindly provided a birthday cake, upon which a solitary candle (we couldn't fit in 90 candles) was duly blown out by Harry before we all shared the cake and congratulated him.

During the evening I asked Harry what his secret was, to still be so active at the grand age of 90. Apart from his strong faith, Harry replied, "I consume a tot of whisky every night before retiring!" Ah yes, I'll drink to that!

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

3 Light Lane
COVENTRY
CV1 4BQ
07946 775488
10th December 2002

re Cleaning Thuribles

Dear Sir,

There have been a number of letters in the recent issues of "The Server" about the removal of 'gunge'.

At my church we have a large silver thurible which is used every Sunday and at Sung Masses on Festivals. My method of cleaning is to BOIL the thurible in soapy water, using either washing powder or soda and then polishing with silver polish in the normal way.

I would stress that the use of any form of scraper be resisted as this could do much damage to the metal work. The inner bowl may be cleaned with an abrasive pad, such as is used in washing up.

I hope my fellow sacristans and servers may find this useful.

Yours sincerely,

Robert Tucker.

54 The Crescent
Mitcheldean
Glos
GL17 0SB

17th December 02

Dear Raymund and Margaret,

Thank you for opening your house to us last Saturday we all had a lovely time and thoroughly enjoyed ourselves.

One thing that you might be able to help us with through "The Server" is this. We are raising money for new robes for the Young Servers. A complete set in liturgical colours to re-robe our youngsters will cost over £700. Are you, or is anybody, aware of any

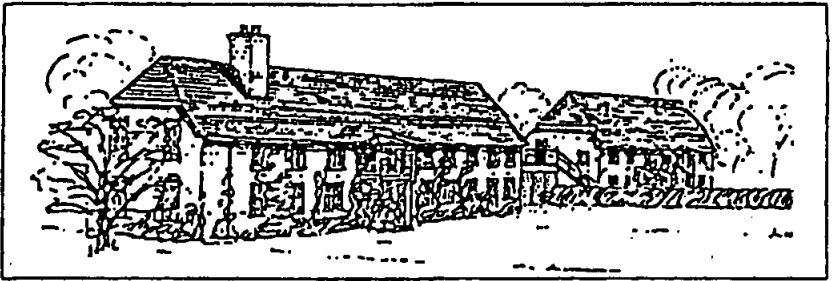
bodies that offer grants for such a thing? So far our youngsters have raised just over £300 so we are doing well, considering that Stuart as Boy Bishop with the Servers last year raised over £700 for the RSPCA.

Perhaps you could ask around?

Best wishes and kind regards

Dale M Parker & the Mitcheldean Servers.

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