



The Server



Volume 27

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Winter 2010

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From the Editor's Desk.

Firstly, I am pleased to announce that the Warden and the Secretary General and the General Council, have appointed Fr. Darren Smith (the General Secretary Additional Curates Society) as the new Chaplain of the Candidates Ordination Fund and Bro. Colin Squires (the Brighton Chapter Secretary) as the COF Fund Administrator. The whole Guild is very grateful to them for offering themselves for these roles and at the same time we wish to thank Fr. Michael Brain and Grand Councillor Louis Lewis both of whom are standing down, for all their hard work for the Fund over the years. There are brief pen portraits of both Fr. Smith and Bro. Squires on pages 25 and 26 of this magazine.

Secondly, I have to report the death of Honorary Councillor Malcolm Perkins in Portsmouth in early July. Malcolm was the first Chapter Secretary I met back in 1963 and he had been a friend and brother ever since; please see the entry in the Chantry Book.

For the past few years it has been my delight to attend the AGM of the Scottish Guild of Servers as the GSS representative but this year was tinged with a little sadness as one of their leading lights, the Chaplain General, Fr. Donald Strachan, stood down after many years due to ill health. Fr Donald has been a Priest Associate of the Guild for 47 years but he assures me that he will still be keeping a fatherly eye on the business of the Guild.

As we approach a new year can I remind members that their Annual Subscriptions are now due. You will have noticed that the Secretary General distributed new Standing Order Mandates with the last edition of The Server. So this may be a good time to ask you to consider taking out a life membership, if you do not already have one. It really does make things so much easier.

Finally, may I on behalf of the Officers and General Council of the Guild wish you all a Blessed and Peaceful Christmas.

Yours

Peter

Welcome to New Members

Full Members: James Farmer, Carlene Franzen, Richard Hume, Kimberly Sherbrooke-Hardy, Neil Turner, Adam Wilson, Annie Wilson, Janet Wilson, Kevin Yetman,

Probationers: Jane Allen, Michael Finney, Keith Lloyd, Helen Mackin, Darren Neill, Dave Parker, Elizabeth Walker-Smith, Charles Williams,

Priest Associates: David Beresford, Philip Corbett, Anthony Mary Hirst, Trevor Parkerson,

Faithful Departed: Alan Batten, Elizabeth Choi, Robert Cockburn, Olwen Collinson, David Moulding, Betty Payne, Norman Shadlock, Alan Towner, Reginald Webb, Geoffrey Wood,

The Chantry Book



Honorary Councillor RHM (Malcolm) Perkins died in July after a short period in hospital. His funeral was in S. James's, Milton.. He was born on All Souls Day 1922 and lived most of his life in the family home in Portsmouth. He had worked in several spheres and during the war served in the Auxiliary Fire Service. Malcolm was made a Probationer in July 1943 so at the time of his death he had completed 67 years. For many years Malcolm was the Portsmouth Chapter Secretary and two Chapter Secretaries, past and present were there to bid farewell to this loyal and devoted member. Even the Scottish Guild of Servers sent a message of sympathy. Malcolm, too was involved with many things a Server and a Lay Reader, an Odd Fellow and was passionate about Dickens. He also loved railways and model cars. We all have very special memories of Malcolm a true and devoted Guild member

Michael (Mike)Reginald Barrs was born in Kettering in 1939 and served for many years in the Parish Church of SS. Peter and Paul. He was a Guild member for over 30 years and an active member of the Chapter of S. Luke. Most of his working life was spent in men's clothing. He commenced work in a well-known firm of Kettering clothiers before becoming a representative for a clothing firm. In later years, during a protracted illness, he still managed to get to Meetings and

his infectious humour and jokes will be sadly missed. Our condolences go to his widow, June, and all his family at this time.

Church Windows are usually reserved for saints and Bible stories, but a congregation loved Terry Bunn so much that a stained glass window has been created in his memory. Terry's pets, his favourite places and a patron saint all feature in the window at Christ Church, Blakenall. Terry died at just days before his 65th birthday last year and the window depicts images of his Jack Russell 'Eddie' and black cat 'Thelma'. He was a member of the Order of S. Francis and an image of the saint forms the centrepiece of the window, which is in three sections. Included in the window is an image of the shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham, a bishops' mitre can also be seen in the window that is a reference to his nickname "the Bishop of Walsall" given to him by a former Bishop of Lichfield the Rt. Rev. Keith Sutton. The window was a gift to the church from the Bunn family who commissioned artists Noel, Aiden and Ben Sinclair to design and install it. Terry Bunn continued his church work despite being born without the full use of one arm and suffering illness, including skin cancer. In 2007 he became the first person to be honoured by the Bishop of Lichfield, with a lifetime award for his work in the Diocese. Terry was a Guild member for many years and was always in the welcoming party at the Lichfield Festivals.



Olwen Collinson 1931-2010 was as Fr. Andrew, vicar of S. Matthew's Redhill said in his Address, a server so committed and diligent, it was her pride and joy to be at the altar. Her faith was founded upon a genuine love and concern for other people and a desire to make God's Kingdom known to all the world. Olwen became a member some years ago and became secretary of the Christ the King Chapter, Redhill. Despite her limited eyesight Olwen was dedicated in her duties as a server at S. Matthew's and in earlier years at S. Peter's, Dovers Green, where she was also organist. Her other gift was as a soprano singer with an amazing voice and she sang solo for many a wedding. She was proud to receive a letter from Isobel Bailey, the well known soprano, congratulating her on her singing. Despite her failing health Olwen continued to serve, her last time was the Wednesday before she died. When Chapter members met in September at Christ the King Church, Salfords, Fr.Campbell Snow, the Assistant Chaplain, paid tribute to her saying she loved her Lord, her husband and, blest with a magnificent voice, she loved to sing His praise.

GUILD SHOP

Spiral Bound Laminated Guild Office (can be personalised)		
A4 size	- Plainchant	£4.00
A5 size	- Plainchant	£3.00
Words Only	Guild Manual	£0.90
Organ Copy		£1.25
Guild Badge		£2.00
Prayer cards -Before and After Serving, Guild Collect, Key		
Fobs individual costs		£0.60
Pens		£1.00
Additional Copies of the Server		£1.50
Guild Ties Royal Blue		£8.50

All the above figures include postage and packaging and are available from Grand Councillor Nigel Makepeace, address inside front cover of the Server.



Key Rings (left) can be personalised with Guild Badge on one side and contact number on other side or with Guild Badge on both sides. Only £1 inc p&p. Please state when ordering 'standard' or quote your contact number. Available from Terry Doughty.

New Year Traditions Around The World

Swaziland New Year. In Swaziland the harvest festival called Newala is at the end of the year. It is a celebration of kingship as tradition says that the King, the Ngwenyama or "Lion", has mystical powers that are believed to embody the Swaziland prosperity and fertility and it is said that he must have many wives and father many children. The ceremony consists of many events that last for up to a month, these include the gathering of foam from the tops of waves.

Maharashtra New Year. Here the New Year is celebrated on the first day of the new moon and may fall between mid-March to mid-April. The New Year is known as *Gudhi Padwa*, meaning flag hoisting first day. On this day people fly saffron coloured flags from their houses. All families hold religious ceremony on New Year's morning, at which the first page of the Almanac, which contains the horoscope for the coming year, is read out. Offerings are made to the deities of garlands of flowers and vermilion. People visit their local temple and have a special meal when an important item on the menu is a bitter-sweet chutney.

Vietnamese New Year. The more popular name for this is Tef, and the formal name is *Nguyen-dan*. It is an important festival as it provides one of the few breaks in the agricultural year falling, as it does, between the harvest and the sowing of the new crops. The Vietnamese prepare in advance for the New Year by cleaning their houses, polishing their copper and silverware and paying off all debts. On the first day of the New Year they visit their closest friends, teachers and parents. The second day they visit their in-laws and other friends who are not as close. Third day they visit the family of their teacher and distant relatives. On the fourth day the spirits return to heaven and business returns to normal. They also visit their local temple and they bring back flowers or greenery as a gift from the celestial spirits. This gift will be kept in the house all year.

Russian New Year. Here Santa is replaced with Grandfather Frost, who looks like Santa but arrives on New Year's Eve with his bag of toys. He wears blue instead of red. Father Frost can punish any evildoer by freezing them. Often children dance around the tree, tell rhymes to Father Frost then receive their presents. The most formal New Year's celebration is a party at the Kremlin; as many as 50,000 attendance tickets are sold in the weeks before the event. The main Russian meal on New Year's Eve is primarily meat and potato.

From: A Collection of Christmas

oOo Sense of Mystery

Rev. John Moore, Chaplain of the S. John's Charity Almshouses, Winchester

I was confirmed in February 1951 and shortly afterwards became a server and continued as such for some 20 years. But now 58 years later the God and the Church of my youth have, like the original body of Jesus, been crucified - by

time, circumstances, culture and countless other forces. But the Christian Church itself is not dead. It is very much alive, bursting with life in many ways. However it is alive with the life of today, the life that we are actually living at the turn of the millennium and not the life of the 1950's. I can try to cling to the church of my youth. On the other hand, I can accept the paschal mystery as it applies to the God and Church of my youth. I can look at the church that gave me the faith, recognise that it (like my own youth) has died, mourn its passing, let it bless me, let it go and then receive the spirit of the church within which I am actually living. Like all things temporal, our understanding of God and the Church too must constantly die and be raised to new life. Our intentions may be sincere and noble, but so too were Mary Magdalene's on Easter morning when she tried to ignore the reality of Jesus so as to cling to what had previously been. Perhaps our greatest loss is the sense of mystery in the Eucharist and this we need to recapture. At the present time it only truly exists in the Orthodox Church. Peace and tranquillity to you all. *Right: The Chapel of St John.*



oOo

To Help You Pray

From the Methodist/Anglican chapel at Buckfast Abbey.

Let peace surround you as you sit quietly.

Let the hurry and worry of your life fall away from you. You are God's child. He loves you and cares for you. He is with you now - and always. Speak to Him slowly and thoughtfully, give yourself time for Him to bring things to mind.

Lord, thank you For your presence here, for the opportunity to pray. For the

promise of peace, For the beauty of the world, the kindness of people... For all those whom I love for and who love me. For your love towards me. For the Cross of Christ and the power of the Spirit. Help me to show my gratitude in deeds as well as words.

Lord, I am sorry For the times I have been hasty or unkind in thought or acted selfishly, failed to forgive or ask forgiveness, forgotten your presence, taken your love for granted. I thank you for your promise to forgive all those who turn back to you in penitence.

Lord, I am troubled ... I am anxious and distressed for myself... For others ...

Especially about ... Help me to trust your love, for you carry our sorrows. Teach me to act and speak in the way you want. Give me the wisdom to know when not to interfere. Calm my fears, for all things are in your hands. Lord. I pray for ...My family ... and friends. My neighbours at home, at work, the ones I like ... and dislike ... For those who are troubled or who mourn. For the oppressed. For those involved in disaster or war. Bless them. Father in their various troubles and show me how I may help. O heavenly Father, your will for me (and for all people) is my eternal happiness. I thank you for the blessings you have given me and ask for strength to walk in the way where you lead me. Help me to remember the love of Jesus shown on the Cross and to accept the new life and love and freedom, which he offers me. Amen

oOo

News from the Chapters.

St John the Divine, Leicester: We held our June meeting at S. Aidan's on June 11th when we joined other Catholic Societies for a Sung Mass of The Sacred Heart. Fr. Reg Stretton, Area Dean of Forward in Faith gave the address. There were 20 members present. The people of S. Aidan provided the refreshments and warm welcome. As is our custom we joined the Coventry Chapter for our July meeting. This was Guild Office, Address, Procession & Benediction at S. Catherine, Burbage. Fr Norman Stevens, Chaplain of the Coventry Chapter sang the Office and Fr Bob Stephen gave the Address and Benediction. 23 members of our chapter were



present. Roger Marvin, our Chapter Organist and National Guild Organist, played for the Service and after the meeting he was presented with a card signed by Chapter members and also a cheque in thanks for his 25 years as Chapter Organist. He is moving very soon. It was a joy to have with us Fr. Victor Joe from Ghana. Fr. Victor is a member of GSS in Ghana and is hoping to re-form the chapter there. Our thanks to the Coventry Chapter for inviting us to join them and to the people of St Catherine, Burbage for their kind welcome to us.

Our Lady and St. Richard, Chichester and Bognor Regis: In August, most members are on holiday so we decided to have a fun quiz evening followed by prayer. As it turned out it rained but it did not stop some members and their

wives and partners from attending and having a great time answering all sorts of questions from religious to trivia. Our September meeting was held on Holy Cross day in the Bishop of Chichester's Chapel, where the Guild Office was sung. The Chapel was built around the same time as the Cathedral when the See was moved from Selsey to Chichester by decree of the Council of London in 1075. This Chapel is a building of the early thirteenth century and was still new at the time of S. Richard (Bishop from 1244–1253) to which period should also be dated the famous Chichester Roundel on the south wall. A relic of S. Richard is held in this Chapel. The Homily was given by Canon Ian Gibson, Bishop John's Chaplain who explained why and how Holy Cross day came about. Should Guild members find themselves in Chichester, the Bishops Chapel and the Tudor room are open upon request and entry is free. This is not part of the Cathedral, please be patient as the Bishop and Clergy pray there every morning.

S Chad, Coventry: We visited S. Catherine's, Burbage in July for Guild Office, Address, Procession and Benediction. Fr. Norman Stevens led the Office and Fr. Bob Stephen gave the Address and Benediction. This was a well attended with servers and friends from our own Chapter and from the Chapter of S. John the Divine, Leicester. We gave a warm welcome to Fr. Victor Joe from Ghana. Fr Victor was visiting relatives in Coventry and has attached himself to S. John Baptist parish church, Coventry. Nigel Makepeace has taken him under his wing and has introduced him to as many GSS members as he can meet during his stay. Fr. Victor is a member of the GSS in Ghana and is hoping to re-form a chapter there in the near future. Special thanks were offered to Mary Attenborough and the ladies of S. Catherine's for providing the superb refreshments. The Assumption of Our Lady was marked by a Mass at the Abbey Church of S. Mary, Nuneaton. The parish priest, Fr. Mark Liddell was the Celebrant assisted by Fr. Brian Regan and Fr. Matthew Pittam. Members of the Coventry Cell of Our Lady of Walsingham joined. After the service we gathered for refreshments and fellowship. A number of our servers attended the Midlands Area Servers Festival in Leicester in September. We thanked our councillor, Terry Doughty for organising this festival and for bringing it back to our area once again.

St. Joseph of Arimathea, Portsmouth. The Chapter does not meet in August so the next meeting was our Patronal Festival on Holy Cross Day and was at S. Mary, Rowner but could have been better attended. A shortened Guild Office after which we held a very successful skittles match in a local pub followed this, in October.

The Epiphany, Croydon. The Chapter met 11 times in 2009 including those of the Christ the King area whose members have been joined with us. The year started with the Mass of Title at S. John the Divine followed by Guild Offices at S. Lukes, Woodside, S. Olaves, Mitcham, S. John the Evangelist, Shirley, All Saints, Warlingham, All Saints, Sydenham, Christ the King, Salfords, and S. Michael's, West Croydon . The Chapter met at S. Matthews, Redhill, and arranged for Christ the King brothers for a said Eucharist in June and July. December was a Day Retreat at the Emmaus Centre, West Wickham, led by Fr. Ian. The Chapter was represented at the Epiphany Festival at Holy Trinity, Hoxton in January; followed by the Guild Easter Festival at S. Albans, Holborn in April. In October some members attended the Guild Autumn Festival at S. Nicholas, Guildford.

S. John the Divine, Leicester: Our August meeting was at S. Mary, Anstey when Dave Parker was admitted as a Probationer before the Guild Office. S. Mary's is in Interregnum, so John Patrick, their Licensed Reader, gave the Address. 22 members were present, together with friends and some of S. Mary's congregation. We welcomed Baden Favill as our new organist who coped well with the Guild Office for the first time. Later we adjourned to the hall for fellowship and a lovely spread of refreshments. S. Mary de Castro celebrated their Patronal Festival on September 8th and the Chapter had been invited to join with them. Our Chaplain, Fr. Colin Southall, was the Celebrant at the Sung Mass and the preacher was Fr. Bob Stephen. The twenty eight members were robed and joined in the Procession with a Station at the statue of the Our Lady.

S. Etheldreda, Cambridge The July meeting was at S. Mary's, Haverhill. This was our annual joint meeting with the chapters of SS. Felix and Fursey and the Sacred Heart. The Service was a Sung Mass, with Fr. Geoffrey Smith as the celebrant; the parish priest, Fr. Ian Finn, gave a homily on S. Swithun. Thanks go to Fr. Ian and to members of his congregation who provided refreshments afterwards. Congratulations to David Miller, our youngest server, who became a full member of the Guild at the beginning of the Service. In August, we went to S. Mary the Virgin, Sawston. The Guild Office was sung, followed by Benediction. Fr. Alan Partridge gave the address. Once again refreshments were provided after the Service. The September meeting saw our return to S. Andrew's, Cherry Hinton for the Guild Office. Fr. Barry Linney preached about the Holy Cross and Fr. Brian Macdonald-Milne, our Chaplain, described his visit to Melanesia.

S. Andrew, Romford. We decided not to meet during August, but otherwise we have kept up our monthly programme, albeit with variable attendances. Our April meeting was at S. Margaret's, Leytonstone, for Mass. In May we sang the Office, followed by Benediction, at S. Augustine's, Rush Green. June saw our annual joint meeting with the chapter of S. Hugh of Lincoln. This year for a Mass at S. Benet's Welsh Church in the City of London, where we were made very welcome and one of the Readings was given in Welsh! Our July meeting was at S. Barnabas, Woodford, for Guild Office and Benediction, and in September we visited S.Thomas, Brentwood, again for Guild Office and Benediction. We have also welcomed three new probationers. On a sadder note, one of our longest-standing members, Ron Smith died in April. Our Chaplain and Treasurer represented the Chapter at his funeral.

S. Mary of Margam: We had no meeting in May as our normal date was Ascension Day. June's meeting was held at S. Illtud's, Neath and was a Mass for Corpus Christi, which included the Angelus, Procession of the Blessed Sacrament and Benediction. July's meeting was in Margam Abbey and was a Mass of Pilgrimage. We had a summer break in August, then met at S. Teilo's Church, Tonmawr for a Mass for Our Lady, Dr. Charles Clarke deputised for our chaplain, assisted by Canon Stephen Ryan.

Scottish Guild of Servers. On the 4th September I was privileged to represent the GSS at the Festival and AGM of the Scottish Guild of Servers. This years festival was held in S. Andrew's, Banff, one of the churches within the charge of the Scottish Guild Warden the Revd. Can. Jeremy Paisey. The day started with Mass celebrated by the retiring Chaplain-General, the Revd Fr Donald Strachan, the sermon being preached by the Warden. Mass was followed by lunch and the AGM in Banff Castle, a splendid building nearby. During the Annual Meeting Fr Donald was thanked for his 27 years service and the Secretary-General presented him with a gift of a railway book on behalf of the Scottish Guild. The Council has yet to appoint Fr Donald's successor. After the AGM, we moved back to the church to sing the Scottish Guild Office. It was a thoroughly enjoyable day but looking back I think that the officers were somewhat disappointed at the low attendance and I believe that a note was made not to hold a Festival so far north in future.



Cycle of Prayer

January 2011

- 1 The Naming and Circumcism of Jesus. Peace on Earth.
- 2 **2nd Sunday of Christmas. Remembering all who work away from home.**
- 3 All Guild members and Priest Associates.
- 4 The Warden, Fr. J. David Moore.
- 5 The Chaplain-General, Fr. Michael Brain.
- 6 The Epiphany. The Orthodox Church.
- 7 The Secretary-General, Grand Councillor Terry Doughty
- 8 The Treasurer-General, Grand Councillor Louis A. Lewis.
- 9 **1st of Epiphany. The Baptism of Christ.**
- 10 The Server, Editor, writers and distributors.
- 11 Grand, Honorary, Ex Officio and Group Councillors.
- 12 The General Council and all members.
- 13 For all Bishops, Priests, Deacons and Lay Workers.
- 14 Thanksgiving for Members who have given over 50 years' service.
- 15 Candidates for Ordination.
- 16 **2nd of Epiphany. For those alone.**
- 17 Diocese of London.
- 18 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity- until 25th January.
- 19 London Group 1/2 (West) Cllr. John Donovan.
- 20 1/83 S. Hugh of Lincoln.
- 21 2/77 The Holy Rood.
- 22 2/112 Our Lady of Willesden & S. Mellitus, NW.6.
- 23 **3rd of Epiphany. Christian Unity.**
- 24 2/148 Our Lady of Walsingham & S. Alban, Wembley.
- 25 Conversion of S. Paul. Are we converted?
- 26 Timothy and Titus. Companions of Paul.
- 27 London Group 3. H.M.. Forces and Lone Members. Secretay General.
- 28 Thomas Aquinas, Priest, Philosopher, Teacher. 1274
- 29 London Group 4. City of London and Westminster & Parts of Essex.
- 30 **4th of Epiphany. For those who preach.**
- 31 S. John Bosco, Founder of the Salesian Teaching Order, 1888

February 2011

- 1 LG4/98 King Charles the Martyr, Walthamstowe/Leyton.
- 2 Candlemas. Presentation of Christ in the Temple.
- 3 London Group 5/6 South London & East Surrey. Cllr. Michael Rogerson.
- 4 5/75 The Holy Redeemer. SE. London.
- 5 5/85 The Incarnate Word. S. Alban & S. Edward, SW London & E. Surrey.
- 6 **5th of Epiphany. The Accession of Queen Elizabeth II, 1952.**
- 7 6/48 Epiphany, Croydon Area.
- 8 Diocese of Southwark.
- 9 Diocese of Guildford.
- 10 S. Scholastica, Sister of S. Benedict. For our brothers and sisters.
- 11 Provincial Group 1. West Kent. Cllr. Barry Kinnersley.
- 12 1/14 S. Augustine of Canterbury, Sittingbourne, Isle of Sheppey.
- 13 **6th of Epiphany For our families, friends and neighbours.**
- 14 S. Valentine. Martyr at Rome c.269.
- 15 Thomas Bray, Priest, Founder of SPCK and SPG c.1730.
- 16 1/139 S. Cyprian, Rochester, Chatham, Stroud, Gravesend.
- 17 1/96 S. Justin, Orpington.
- 18 1/174 S. Stephen, Tunbridge Wells, Groombridge, Pembury.
- 19 Diocese of Rochester.
- 20 **3rd before Lent. Septuagesima. That we may see the sights of your glory.**
- 21 Provincial Group 2 East Kent. Cllr. Barry Kinnersley.
- 22 2/7 All Souls, Whitstable, Canterbury, Herne Bay.
- 23 2/116 S. Michael the Archangel, East Kent.
- 24 2/121 S. Mildred of Kent, Margate.
- 25 Diocese of Canterbury.
- 26 Provincial Group 3. Sussex. Cllr. Roger Emery.
- 27 **2nd before Lent. Sexagesima. Our Catholic Heritage.**
- 28 3/76 The Holy Resurrection, Brighton.

MARCH 2011

- 1 S. David. The Church of Wales.
- 2 S. Chad. Give us grace to follow his peaceful nature, humble spirit and prayerful life.

- 3 3/163 S. Philip & S. Richard, Worthing.
- 4 Diocese of Chichester.
- 5 3/183 S. Wilfred, Eastbourne.
- 6 **Next before Lent. Quinquagesima Grant us the light of your glory.**
- 7 Provincial Group 4 Hampshire, E. Wiltshire, W. Sussex. Cllr Peter Keat.
- 8 Edward King. Bishop of Lincoln. 1910.
- 9 Ash Wednesday. Repentance for our sins and failings.
- 10 Diocese of Portsmouth.
- 11 4/92 S. Joseph of Arimathea, Portsmouth.
- 12 4/92 S. Joseph the Foster Father, Isle of Wight.
- 13 **Lent 1. For the deliverance from temptation.**
- 14 4/144 Our Lady and S. Richard, Bognor Area.
- 15 Diocese of Winchester.
- 16 4/175 S. Swithun, Winchester.
- 17 S. Patrick. Apostle to the Irish. c.460.
- 18 Provincial Group 5. Devonshire.
- 19 S. Joseph of Nazareth. For our Fathers.
- 20 **Lent 2. For faithfulness in following where Christ has led.**
- 21 Thomas Cranmer, Archbishop of Canterbury, Reformation Martyr. 1556.
- 22 5/24 Brannock, Ilfracombe, Barnstaple.
- 23 5/73 The Holy Trinity. Teignmouth, Newton Abbot.
- 24 5/88 S. John the Baptist, Torbay, Dartmouth & E. Devon.
- 25 Annunciation of Our Lord to the Blessed Virgin Mary. Pray for us. O Holy Mother of God.
- 26 Diocese of Exeter.
- 27 **Lent 3. Grant us the wisdom to all in authority.**
- 28 5/136 Our Lady and S. George, Plymouth.
- 29 Provincial Group 6. Channel Islands.
- 30 6/65 The Holy Apostle, Guernsey.
- 31 Provincial Group 7. Dorset, W. Hampshire, E. Somerset.

Corrections, omissions and suggestions to:

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The Guild Diary

Saturday 8th January 2010 Epiphany Festival, Holy Trinity Hoxton

12 Noon - Solemn Concelebrated Mass

3.45pm - Solemn Guild Office, Procession to the Crib and Benediction

Saturday 30th April 2011, Guild Easter Festival and Annual General Meeting. S. Alban's, Holborn.

Noon: Concelebrated Mass

3.00pm Guild AGM followed by Guild Office, Procession and Benediction



Letter re Candidates For Ordination Fund from Nick Debney:

Dear Mr Lewis

Thank you very much for your letter that I received this morning containing a very generous cheque from the GSS. I cannot express my gratitude to the CoF highly enough for this very kind and generous gift. As you will be aware, there are a number of books required for my ministerial education and priestly formation, a number of which are very expensive; the financial support from the GSS will allow me to purchase these books for continuing use throughout my ministry. In addition, I hope to be able to use some of the grant to be able to undertake extended parish placements to gain as much ministerial experience in a diversity of parishes to form me and mould me into a more rounded priest. The prayers and support of the chaplains and members within the Torbay Chapter have humbled me. Their ongoing prayers, words of support and good wishes, along with the pastoral support from the chaplains during my ministerial selection and formation provide a tangible, very real source of succour as I continue on this Journey of servitude to our Lord. I will keep you updated as to my progress during my studies but overall, I would like to say a very sincere thank you to the CoF for this affirming support of my vocation. I will continue to hold the Guild and all altar servers in my thoughts and daily prayers. With kind regards and very best wishes

Church Towers



Often the tower is the oldest structural part of the church building. The Saxons built a tall tower at the west end of the church during the 9th & 10th centuries. Its main use was to carry bells, rather like the Italian campanile. At the same time it was a defensive refuge in times of danger, built without a staircase at the base (a ladder was used) and with minor openings in the lower stages. Some towers had porches for priests to live in, with a window overlooking the nave from which they were able to say their night Offices without going down stairs.



There were always exceptions to the position of the tower: a few parishes had twin towers, some have them on the transepts and yet in some cases the tower is detached. Towers at the west end preclude any effective design for the west front and many believe they are not as pleasing aesthetically as central towers. However there is no doubt that during the late medieval time the tower became one of the supreme achievements of the masons. The roof of the early towers was one of two types: the saddleback or gabled and the pyramid. Saddleback towers usually indicate the tower was not finished and were originally built of wood and were the forerunner of the Gothic spire. From the 13th century they were made of stone, heightened and topped by an octagonal spire. During the 15th century, was the prime period for building, towers and they were mainly square although some were octagonal, especially central towers. In Norfolk and Suffolk over 150 circular towers can be found. possibly this avoided the expense of dressing the quoins for the angles. All are in defensive positions near a river or the sea, and all are Saxon. Many have an upper storey added during the 13th - 15th century as Milverton pictured right. Towers can be judged according to many criteria: the arrangement and width of the buttresses, the size of the west window, the proportions, style and number of belfry windows on each face, the style of the parapet, the arrangement and number of pinnacles and the number of stages. With some towers the building of an additional stage resulted in the use of a different material. Tudor brick was common. Some towers have a spirelet on a stair turret. The construction of towers did not always enhance the proportions of church design; some are too lofty or too squat. The 60+ Perpendicular towers in Somerset are unrivalled for composition and detail and Winscombe has twelve pinnacles. In Gloucestershire eight pinnacles are found at Longborough and Winchcome and

four at several other churches, and of course the tallest tower is the 137ft Boston Stump, in Lincolnshire. Tewkesbury Abbey has the largest centrally positioned Norman tower in the country. The tower at Gloucester Cathedral dates from 1455 and is 225ft high. Several churches with central towers are dotted throughout the county. Often an enlarged central tower collapsed and was usually rebuilt at the western end. Separate Bellcotes are found on the smaller church where there is no tower. Much variety is found in these structures, especially in the West Country.

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A Christmas Story: The Sad Old Cow

From the 2005 Christingle Guidance Notes

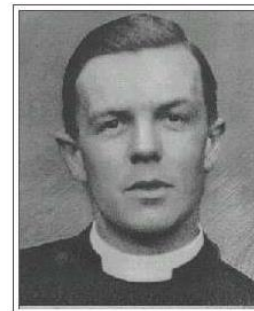
There was a sad old cow she was sad because she lived alone in a stable behind a hotel and old because she just was. Sometimes the cat would come in to the stable, but cats don't have very much to say. They are either busy having a wash or chasing a mouse or curled up asleep. Sometimes one of the visitors to the hotel would come on a horse or a donkey that they would tie up in the stable. But horses are impatient creatures and never get into conversations because they are always worrying whether it is time to go; and, if you've ever tried talking to a donkey, you'll know that all they can talk about is work, which makes them a little dull. So the sad old cow had got used to minding her own business, slowly chewing the hay from her manger and remembering the good old days, watching for the visitors who came into her stable and wishing that they would go away so that she could have a nice quiet doze; and, I am sorry to say, when she didn't doze she would get quite bad tempered.

One winter's night the hotel was busy, all day there had been activity. She must have fallen asleep because suddenly she was woken by the banging of the door as someone brought an animal into the stable. Some people just can't do anything quietly! She must have fallen asleep again because the next thing she was woken up by the sound of a strange donkey chomping away at the hay in her manger. Some animals just had no manners! She must have fallen asleep again because the next thing she was woken up by the cat who had brought some friends in for a mouse hunt. Some animals just have no respect! The sad old cow had tried to settle herself down in the straw and must have fallen asleep because the next thing she was woken by some particularly important and impatient looking horse

snorting and fidgeting. It is very difficult to get to sleep when someone next to you keeps moving about. Some animals just can't stand still! Again she must have fallen asleep because the next thing she was woken up by people talking. The hotel man had brought a man and a woman into the stable and was helping them to make a bed in the straw so that the woman could lie down. Some people just didn't understand that a stable is for animals! She must have fallen asleep again because suddenly she was woken up by a noise that she did not know. It wasn't the sound of a cat hunting, a door banging, a donkey chomping, a horse fidgeting or people talking. It wasn't until she looked into the hay in her manger that she saw who it was that was making the noise. Some people who come to stay make you wish they would stay forever...

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The Reverend Christopher Champain Tanner AM. MA. RNVR



At the start of WW2 'Kit' Tanner volunteered for service as a Naval Chaplain and was posted to the Cruiser Fiji. Some clergymen found the transition from vicarage life to the Service hard but he took the Navy in his stride. He was aboard Fiji in 1941 when she joined the Mediterranean Fleet preventing a German landing on Crete. The whole Fleet was under constant air attack, the destroyer Juno was hit and sank in two minutes. Six dive-bombers that swooped like vultures sank the destroyer Greyhound. The cruiser Gloucester ablaze from end to end, went down with her guns still firing. Then it was the Fiji's turn for the fury of the air. Midshipman Blockley, the Captain's secretary, was on the bridge during the bombing. He had a statistical turn of mind and he kept a record of the number of bombs aimed at the ship. He counted in the course of the day 370. The duties of a Ship's Chaplain during a naval action are not easily defined and the ships captain, Captain Powlett, gave no orders to Kit Tanner. He entrusted the Padre with a roving commission to make himself useful wherever possible; wherever danger was acute, Tanner was there. His cheerful influence infected the bridge and 'By God, I needed cheering up,' said the Captain so did the cooks toiling to provide hot cocoa and bully beef sandwiches. His influence reached the engine room where stokers laboured in a foul atmosphere that could at any moment become an area of death. Also the crews of

the anti aircraft guns knew that Kit Tanner would be along with the sweets, cigarettes, cups of cocoa and the type of odd humour often to be found in some music halls.

There was no let-up in the bombing. Great holes were torn in the decks and anti-aircraft ammunition was all but exhausted. It was said that the Fiji 'Threw everything except her anchor at the dive bombers.' But it could only have one end. A bomb wiped out the engine room with the exception of Stoker Tubby Strange. Other bombs destroyed all guns except one pom-pom. Then three bombs hit amidships and astern. Now the ship was listing at 30 degrees and her speed dropped. It was only be a matter of time. A single Me 109 dealt the final blow; the aircraft dropped one bomb, Fiji turned onto her side her pom-pom still firing. There was only one order left to give: 'Abandon ship.' Kit Tanner knew he had one duty that took precedence above all others. In the sick bay were 60 wounded men. Tanner personally supervised their removal to the one whaler left in service. 'He was untiring in his ministrations,' said Captain Powlett, 'And forgot nobody.' When the time came for him to jump into the sea he found that some of Fiji's men had already taken to the sea.

A handful of strong swimmers, led by the water polo team, made for the destroyers Kandahar and Kingston but when the men in the sea saw the two destroyers withdraw into the gathering night, some lost heart and drowned. There were boys who saw no hope of rescue, men who could barely swim and men who could not swim at all. It was these less resilient souls who became Kit Tanner's special concern. Fiji's life-saving equipment had been reduced to one whaler and two floats. Now the survivors were in a desperate plight. The whaler was crammed with wounded and the floats were designed to take only 20 men each. In the water, Kit Tanner was a tower of strength; he helped men too far gone to help themselves. He administered the lifesaver's shock treatment - a shrewdly delivered right hook to a young seaman in the grip of terrible panic. He assisted a seaman who had his arm blown off and who subsequently survived. He led men in singing and soon the strains of 'Roll out the barrel' rose into the night. There were other songs, too, those he had heard sung in the Rugby Football Club bar. After four hours in the water, mostly in darkness, only the more determined singers, Kit amongst them, were still in full voice. Shortly after midnight, a dark shape loomed out of the blackness, closely followed by another the Kandahar and Kingston had come back. Aboard the ships there were

blankets, hot drinks and cigarettes for the survivors. Kit was brought aboard but for him, rescue did not mean comfort; there were still men in the sea; men too exhausted to grab the ropes. Kit made these men his responsibility; 34 officers and 500 men were saved out of 700. Nearly 30 of these owed their lives to the Revd. Tanner. No count was possible of the number of times he dived in to bring in yet another man. At length, only one man remained to be saved. Despite his exhaustion and warnings not to go Kit Tanner made a last effort and saw him safely on board. When Kit was hauled up himself he died within a few minutes from exhaustion. For these acts he was posthumously awarded the Albert Medal. That would, in most circumstances, would have concluded this article, save to say that he is commemorated on the Portsmouth Naval Memorial, also near the chapel of Cheltenham College and that he was the only England Rugby player to win the Albert Medal during World War Two and the Royal Naval Chaplain with the highest bravery award, and this still holds good today.

The Albert Medal was instituted in 1866 by Queen Victoria for saving life at sea and was one of the rarer rewards of the war. It is worn by officers and men of the Royal and Merchant Navies; by lifeboat men and policemen and one Minister of Religion, Christopher Tanner.

There is a curious sequel to the story. Some years later a medal dealer was offered an Albert Medal with Kit's name on it; it had been stolen in a burglary and was being touted round the dealers. Happily, it was recovered and restored to its rightful owner, the Reverend Tanner's family.

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Rules for Daily Life

Think nothing that you would be ashamed to tell to God.
Say nothing you would not like God to hear.
Do nothing you would not like God to see.
If tempted, get away from danger at once, and keep away.
If an evil thought comes to you, throw it out.
Pray for help. Say: "Lord, help me." "God, help me."
"O Holy Spirit, strengthen me."

The Christmas Turkey



On the first day of Christmas, my true love said to me
I've bought a fresh turkey and a proper Christmas Tree.

On the second day of Christmas, much laughter could be heard,
As we tucked into our turkey, a most delicious bird

On the third day of Christmas, came the people from next door,
The turkey tasted just as good as it had the day before.

On the fourth day of Christmas, some wine and cheese we had,
We were bright and happy, though the turkey a little sad.

On the fifth day of Christmas, outside the snowflakes scurried,
but we were nice and warm inside, we had the turkey curried.

On the sixth day of Christmas the Christmas spirit died
The children fought and bickered, we had the turkey fried.

On the seventh day of Christmas, my true love he did wince
When sitting at the table he was offered turkey mince.

On the eighth day of Christmas, by lunchtime dad was blotto,
He knew the bird was back again, this time as rice risotto.

On the ninth day of Christmas the dog had run for shelter,
He'd seen the turkey pancakes and glass of Alka-Sheltzer.

On the tenth day of Christmas, we were drinking home-made brew,
As if that wasn't enough we were eating turkey stew.

On the eleventh day of Christmas, the Christmas tree was moulting,
With chilli, soy and caper sauce the turkey was revolting.

On the twelfth day of Christmas we had smiles upon our lips,
The guests had gone, the turkey too, we dined on fish and chips.

An Ethiopian Prayer

from the evening prayer in an Ethiopian Orthodox Church convent

Remember Lord the sick among your people: heal them in your compassion.
Remember Lord the fruits of the earth: bless them and keep them without loss.
Remember Lord the down-coming of the rains, and bless them.
Remember Lord the seeds and fruits of every year: bless them and make them abundant
Remember Lord the safety of humankind and beasts.
Remember Lord the afflicted and distressed.
Remember Lord the poor who are under oppression: have pity on them and make them the dwelling place of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

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The Reply

A group of students were asked to list what they thought were the present 'Seven Wonders of the World'. Though there were some disagreements the following received the most votes:-

1. Egypt's Great Pyramid.
2. Taj Mahal
3. Grand Canyon
4. Panama Canal
5. Empire State Building
6. St Peter's Basilica
7. China's Great Wall



While gathering the votes the teacher noted that one girl had not finished. So she asked the girl if she was having trouble with her list. She replied 'Yes, I couldn't make my mind up there were so many'. The teacher said 'well tell what you have and maybe we can help'. The girl hesitated and then read:-



I think the Seven Wonders of the World are:-

1. To see.
2. To hear.
3. To touch.
4. To taste.
5. To feel.
6. To laugh.
7. To love



The class room suddenly was so quiet that you could hear a pin drop. The things that we overlook as simple and ordinary and that we take for granted are truly wondrous! A gentle reminder that the most precious things in life cannot be built by hand or bought by man.

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Star of Wonder

The birth of Jesus is described in only two of the Gospels, Matthew and Luke and it is only Matthew who mentions the story of the "wise men" following a star. For most of the 2,000 years people have wondered about the star - what was it? Did astronomers record anything strange and could we try to pin down the year and date of Jesus' birth? Or was the whole thing invented as a poetic way of stressing how they believed Jesus was revealed for *all* people, not just one privileged race?



It is interesting to look at what historians and astronomers have suggested. It seems likely that the Roman monk who worked out our dating system in the sixth century got his sums wrong. Jesus was probably born between what we call 8 BC, the date of the great census that Luke mentions as Mary and Joseph's reason for going to Bethlehem, and what we call 4 BC, the year in which Herod died. This gives a range of four years to search records for eclipses, comets and odd astronomical occurrences. In the story; it was visible to the wise men, but not to Herod; it seems to have disappeared while the men were on their journey to Judea, and then re-appeared in time to guide them to Jesus. One contender to be the star has always been Halley's comet, which comes every 76 years and moves predictably, astronomers can certainly say that it would have been visible in 12 BC, four years too early.

In the seventeenth century the Czech astronomer Johannes Kepler formulated the basic means by which scientists understand how planets move. In 1603 he observed a "conjunction" of the planets Jupiter and Saturn taking place in the constellation of Pisces. This is what happens when two planets come into close alignment, so that from Earth they *seem* to be almost touching one another, and for Jupiter and Saturn this happens about every 20 years. But much more rarely an extraordinary thing occurs. This "conjunction" becomes visible on three separate occasions in the *same* year. Kepler's calculations, which modern astronomers have confirmed, show that this happened in the year we call 7 BC, which is within the "right" period of time.

Who were the "wise men"? Matthew calls them "Magi", from the Greek meaning magicians or astrologers. They were a religious group in the Middle East and looked to the stars for predictions. They would have accepted the fact that planets and the Zodiac influenced people in specific ways and they would know of the prophecies from the surrounding nations especially those which spoke of important changes that were to a nation or of the birth of a significant person, They would have accepted Jupiter as the planet associated with leaders and kings, Saturn as the "protecting" planet of the Jews, and Pisces as particularly influential on the area of Judea itself. They would have known about Jewish prophecies announcing the coming of a new king. Put it all together, and the "conjunctions" in 7 BC spelled out quite explicitly to them that the prophecies were about to be fulfilled. The new king of the Jews was about to be born in Judea. So far, so reasonable, even though most people would now rationally accept that astrology is largely superstition. But for the wise men of the Gospel, the event was something they had to respond to. Modern astronomers say they have calculated down to the day exactly when the three "conjunctions" of the planets would have been visible in 7 BC. The first was on May 27th, the second on October 6th and the last on December 1st. Accepting their theory, that allows the wise men to observe the "star", recognize its importance, and set off on their journey which could have taken three months. The second appearance of the "star" may well have been what they observed as they journeyed from Herod to find Jesus, who may therefore have been born sometime in September. All this is fascinating but for an Anglican, it would be a shame to lose all the midwinter trappings of the Christmas story; but for an honest Christian, it's a useful reminder that 25th December was settled on as the date to think of Jesus' birth centuries later, when it was found to be the best and most appropriate way of Christianising the old Roman winter festivals which

centred around that day. But most important - for a modern and realistic Christian, we know of course it makes no actual difference at all to our faith. It doesn't "prove" or "disprove" anything we know and respond to about Jesus, even though it may deepen our understanding of the Bible story. The fact that the "wise men" thought something extraordinary had happened, something they had to see, and that we still hear and appreciate the story of their journey, is annual proof that God can lead people from the weirdest beginnings to find their way to him in the end. And the "Journey of the Magi" has been a theme that artists and writers have returned to time after time as a metaphor for their own journey of a slowly-growing faith.

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Profiles of our new CoF Chaplain and Administrator

Fr Darren Smith writes:- I am honoured and thrilled to have been appointed Chaplain to Candidates for Ordination Fund. In 1904 the GSS started a separate Fund to assist members of the Guild in their training for Ordination at home and abroad, a Fund completely separate from the general accounts that has over the years helped and supported many ordinands in training and for some has been a vital lifeline. For example, I was interested to read the account by Fr Christopher Pearson (Superior-General of the Confraternity of the Blessed Sacrament) of the help he received from the Fund: "I can remember it quite vividly, it all lead up to one Thursday morning, I was desperately short of money and I did not know what to do. I could get a part-time job - that would interrupt my studies, and wouldn't go down well with the college staff. I seriously asked myself if I should delay, even give up theological college for a while, to get a better financial footing. My father always, said I should get a proper job! My intention at Mass that morning was what I should do. I went to my pigeonhole after breakfast and my prayer was answered by the Candidates for Ordination Fund. Sitting waiting, to my relief and delight, was a cheque. I didn't have to interrupt my studies and I didn't have to leave college."

The role as Chaplain to all of GSS's Candidates for Ordination seems to naturally dovetail with the work that I already undertake as General-Secretary of the Additional Curates Society. I will be able to offer full pastoral care for the Catholic ordinands who are supported by the GSS, many of whom will then go on to receive help from the ACS in their training posts. I will be delighted to

stand alongside these chosen vessels of God at their ordination as a true friend and a representative of the generous supporters of the GSS and ACS.

Amidst all the negativity of the moment it is indeed encouraging to see more tangible signs of greater co-operation with the Catholic Societies, as we are all partners in this important task of maintaining Catholic witness in the Church of England; indeed the GSS has for some considerable time with many other leading Catholic Societies been a partner in our vocations initiative under the umbrella of 'God Calling'. This co-operation will further enable us to steer our ordinands through the challenging and tricky path of selection, supporting them through training and then assisting them with their title parishes, enabling them to flourish and grow as Catholic priests in the Church of England.

The September conference 'Towards Priesthood' was full to overflowing, much I am sure to the surprise of many who would like to say that the Catholic voice is almost silent; and all the places were taken and there was a predominance of young prospective ordinands aged 19- 22, another trend that seems counter-cultural for the Church of England that has seen the age profile of its ordinands increase year on year. But, believe me, there is no place for complacency on our part. We continue to have an enormous battle to put priests in our parishes, but with this new coalition I believe we are even better prepared to work at resourcing our Church for ministry and mission in the coming years.

There is a Vocations Day arranged for the 11th December at Gordon Square. And never grow tired of praying with us for more priests.

Chris Squires writes:- "I have been a Guild member since 1972 always in the Holy Resurrection Chapter in Brighton. I have held the position of chairman on a twice and for the last 11 years have been the Chapter Secretary. As well as a server I am also a bell ringer, so often have to dash from tower to Sacristy, if I am on duty. My interests are travelling, gardening, walking and photography as well as the theatre. I have been an administrator in the construction manufacturing industry for the last 36 years and am taking early retirement at Christmas. I am very pleased to accept the role of Administrator of the Candidates for Ordination Fund."

The Christmas Truce 1914

A view from the other side

The German view of the truce Football Match by Leutnant Johannes Niemann, 133rd Royal Saxon Regiment.

"We came up to take over the trenches on the front between Frelinghien and Houplines, where our Regiment and the Scottish Seaforth Highlanders were face to face. It was a cold, starry night and the Scots were a hundred metres in front of us in their trenches where, like us, they were up to their knees in mud. My Company Commander and I, savouring the unaccustomed calm, sat with our orderlies round a Christmas tree we had put up in our dugout. Suddenly, for no reason, our enemies began to fire on our lines. Our soldiers had hung little Christmas trees covered with candles above the trenches and our enemies, seeing the lights, thought we were about to launch a surprise attack. But, by midnight it was calm once more.



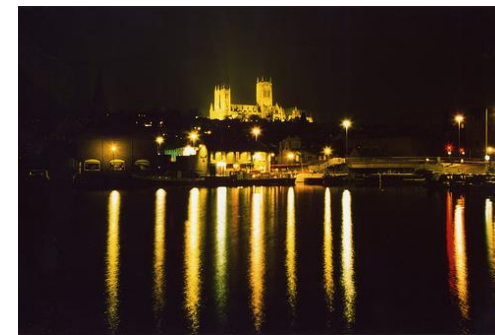
Next morning the mist was slow to clear and suddenly my orderly threw himself into my dugout to say that both the German and Scottish soldiers had come out of their trenches and were

fraternising along the front. I grabbed my binoculars and looked over the parapet and saw the incredible sight of our soldiers exchanging cigarettes, schnapps and chocolate with the enemy. Later a Scottish soldier appeared with a football and a few minutes later a real match got underway. The Scots marked their goalmouth with their strange caps and we did the same with ours. It was far from easy to play on the frozen ground, but we continued, keeping rigorously to the rules, this only lasted an hour and we had no referee. A great many passes went wide, but all the footballers, although they must have been very tired, played with huge enthusiasm. Us Germans really roared when a gust of wind revealed that the Scots wore no drawers under their kilts - and hooted and whistled every time they caught an impudent glimpse of one posterior belonging to one of "yesterday's enemies." But after an hour's play, when our Commanding Officer heard about it, he sent an order that we must put a stop to it. A little later we drifted back to our trenches and the fraternisation ended. The game finished with a score of three goals to two in favour of Fritz against Tommy."

A view from the other side!!!!!!

Lincoln and the Imp

The famous Imp is the emblem of the County of Lincolnshire. It is a stone carving in the Cathedral that must have the finest setting of any Cathedral, right at the top of a hill. At night it is floodlit and can be seen from 18 miles away in Nottinghamshire where I have relatives.



The "story" of how the Imp came to be in the Cathedral is that when the Cathedral was being rebuilt after the earthquake, which destroyed much of the Norman building, in the 12th century, three Imps saw the progress of the rebuilding work and decided to cause trouble for the builders. Two of the Imps were chased out but one was very defiant and despite all efforts to exclude him, he persistently remained and to stop him causing any more trouble, he was turned to stone. That's the story given to visitors but its anybody's guess why such an unpleasant looking creature (hairy with horns and cross-legged in defiant pose) was added to the carving. He can be found in the Angel Choir on the north side at the junction of the stonework from the eastern most arch leading down into the column. All the other arches have foliage in this area.



Several years ago the Cathedral authorities tried to push another carving "The Pilgrim" to make him famous but the Imp still dominates.

My maternal grandfather was born in Lincoln and that is the family tree in which I am most interested. I have two silver copies of the Imp. One I wear on a gold chain and the other, which is slightly larger, is now attached to my silver watch-chain inherited from the Sabey side of the family.

"Up-hill" Lincoln as it is known locally is a must for those who like old architecture. Opposite the Cathedral's Exchequer Gate is the Castle in which the first prison was situated. Its now a museum and its

interesting to see in the Chapel that each prisoner was divided from the next by tall partitioning so he could only look towards the preacher.

A short walk northwards brings you to the Newport Arch, which is the top part of a Roman gateway into the city. Over the centuries the ground has risen so what you see is the uppermost part of the arch. It was nearly demolished by an over-height lorry in the 1960's. The workmen were able to save the arch by removing the stones in the centre, getting the lorry out and then rebuilding that part. To have lost it would have been a disaster as it is the only Roman arch to exist over a roadway in this country. Just by it is an excavated area much lower down showing more of the structure of the gateway. Parts of the Roman wall still exist in that area and by the modern "Lincoln Hotel"

On Steep Hill itself, one can see the Jews House and Aarons House both Norman buildings. Steep Hill is literally "what it says on the tin". Its quite a climb from the top end of the High Street up to the Cathedral. Its cobbled and no traffic is allowed. There are a number of small shops and restaurants along there.

I have climbed it many times in the past when the County Archives were situated in the old Prison buildings but now the County Archives have their own purpose-built building in the lower part of the city. This is where a good many Parish Registers are deposited and can be viewed on microfilm.

Lincoln is well worth a visit and can be accessed by train from Kings Cross, changing at Newark Northgate. The railway station is in the middle of the modern city.

Alan Sabey

A message from the Secretary-General.

Many thanks to all of you who have returned their Bankers Order Forms. If you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact me, my address is on the inside cover of the magazine.

Terry Doughty

Do You Have Everything You Need?

There was a kiosk on the concourse of an undisclosed railway station. Now a station kiosk is really a product of our modern consumer society; it is a place where the kiosk owner tries his best to make a maxi-profit in a mini-space. A railway station, in the rush hour, is a place that is intensely alive. People come and people go in a great hurry. People of every colour class, creed and of all ages. Thousands and thousands of them every day and each one has his or her own different story to tell.

By its colourful signs, displays and paintwork the kiosk tries its best to attract the as many customers as possible; it is bright to the eye and has many varied products on sale. Products which are either essential or could be of great service to the people who are passing.

One evening there appears in the midst of the bustling crowd an old lady who holds out her change purse and says to the kiosk owner, "I cannot see too well these days. Would you please look into the purse yourself and sort out the money?" The owner, who was very busy, came very close to telling her she ought to put her glasses on and that everyone around her was in a great hurry and that she was holding things up and that he didn't really have the time. But no, his conscience gets the better of him, and he held out his hand and she shook out all her coins into the palm of his hand. He started counting out the money when suddenly, amid this mixture of coins, he sees, shining brightly, a little medal of the Christ Child.

He was taken aback.

What a surprise to see Our Lord lying there in the middle of all that money. Completely flabbergasted he stopped counting and looked at the old lady. She looked at him trustingly and said "Do you have what you need?" with a smile. That smile looking just like the smile of the Christ Child on the medal. The man looked at the two of them and I felt within him a great tenderness. "Yes, ma'am," he said "I have EVERYTHING I need!"



The First Parent

To those of us who have children in our lives, whether they are our own, grandchildren, nieces and nephews, or whatever, here is something to make you laugh. (Remember, this is a laugh!) Whenever your children are out of control, you can take comfort from the thought that even God's omnipotence did not extend to His own children. After creating heaven and earth, God created Adam and Eve. The first thing he said was, Don't!"

"Don't what?" Adam replied. "Don't eat the forbidden fruit," God said.

"Forbidden fruit? We have forbidden fruit? Hey, Eve. We have forbidden fruit!" "No way!" "Yes" "Do NOT eat the fruit!" said God. "Why?", "Because I am your Father and I said so!" God replied, .A few minutes later, God saw His children having an apple break .Didn't I tell you not to eat the fruit?" our first parent, God, asked."Uh huh," Adam replied. "Then why did you?" said the Father."I don't know," said Eve. "She started it!" Adam said, "Did not!" "Did too!" "DID NOT!"

Having had it with the two of them, God's punishment was that Adam and Eve should have children of their own. Thus, the pattern was set and it has never changed! But there is assurance in this story. If you have always lovingly tried to give children wisdom and they haven't taken it, don't be hard on yourself. If God had trouble raising children, what makes you think it would be a piece of cake for you?

Advice for the day:

If you have a lot of tension and you get a headache, do what it says on the aspirin bottle: "Take two Aspirin" and "Keep away from children." You spend the first 2 years of their life teaching them to walk and talk. Then you spend the next 16 years telling them to sit down and shut-up.

Grandchildren are God's reward to you for not killing your children. Mothers of teens know why some animals eat their young. Children seldom misquote you. In fact, they usually repeat word for word what you shouldn't have said. The main purpose of holding children's parties is to remind yourself that there are children more awful than your own. We child proofed our home and they're still getting in! But be nice to your kids someday, they'll choose your nursing home.

Fr Peter Vincent

And Finally:-

One clergy family decided to let their 3 year old record the message for their answering machine. The rehearsals went smoothly: "Mummy and Daddy can't come to the phone. If you'll leave your name, number, and a brief message, they'll get back to you as soon as possible." Then came the test. Father pressed the record button and their son said "Mummy and Daddy can't come to the phone. If you'll leave your name, number, and a brief message, they'll get back to you as soon as Jesus comes."

A curate was in the habit of reading his sermons, which were rather long and tedious. One of the congregation thought to cure him of this, and before the service slipped into the pulpit and removed one page at random. The curate began. After a while he reached the point where the page was gone, "And Adam said unto Eve" He paused. "And Adam, err, said unto Eve...There seems to be a leaf missing!"

Billy Graham's wife was asked if she'd ever thought about divorce. She replied, "No, never divorce - murder maybe, never divorce." Billy Graham himself tells of a time, in the early years of his ministry, when he was leading a crusade in a town in South Carolina, and he needed to post a letter. He asked a boy in the main street how he could get to the Post Office. After the boy had given him directions, Graham said, "If you come to the central Baptist church tonight, I'll tell you how to get to heaven." The boy replied, "No thanks, you don't even know how to get to the post office!"

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The Guild Collect

Grant, we beseech Thee, Almighty God, to us Thy servants, the spirit of holy fear: that we, following the example of Thy holy child Samuel, may faithfully minister before Thee in Thy Sanctuary; through Jesus Christ Thy Son our Lord, Who liveth and reigneth with Thee in the unity of the Holy Ghost, ever One God, world without end. Amen.

