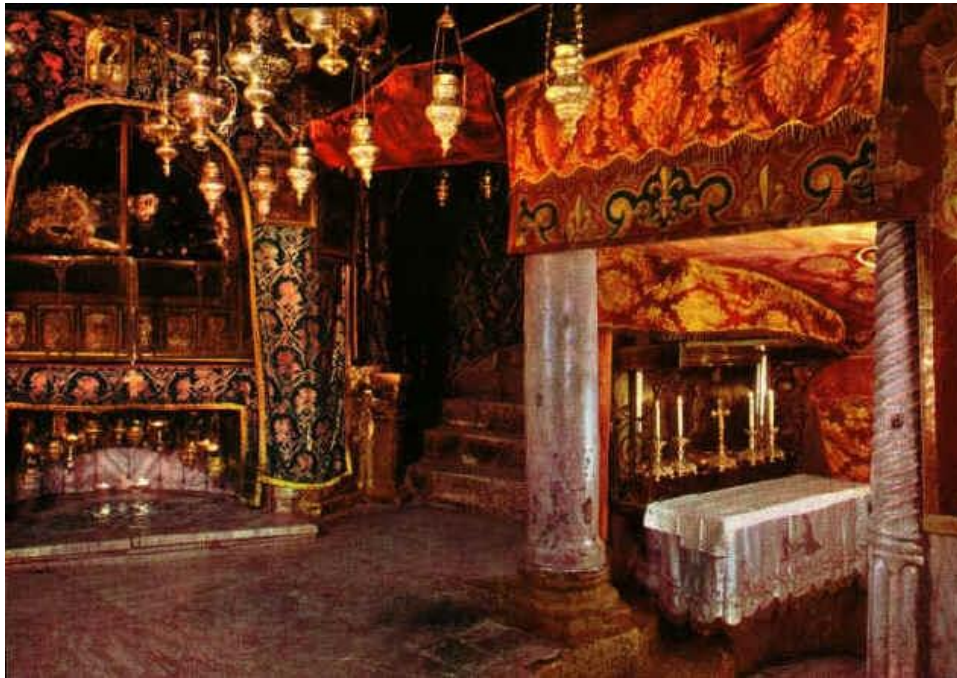




The Server

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The Bethlehem Grotto.

Volume 30

Issue 4

Winter 2013

Guild of Servants of the Sanctuary

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Charity number 251735



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Any items for publication should be sent or Emailed by the second Saturday of January, April, July and October
Printed by The Additional Curates Society.



From the Editor's Desk.

Firstly may I, on behalf of the Warden, the Officers and Councilors wish you all a very Blessed and Joyous Christmas and an exciting and rewarding New Year.

I am pleased to announce that we have, after a longish gap, managed to appoint a Councillor for Cornwall. Travel from Cornwall to Council meetings is not easy, as the previous Councillor had pointed out. This new Councillor is a first. She is the first female Councillor ever appointed by the Guild, so can I ask you all to pass on your congratulations and support to Sandra Bishop as she takes Office.

My position of Editor and Grand Councillor certainly has its benefits, I have managed to travel around the country to various meetings and Festivals which has been very enjoyable; the only pity was that my nearest Festival in Brighton I could not get to. But during the year I have managed to visit Bristol and Bournemouth, Canterbury and Guernsey and have represented the Guild at the Scottish Guild of Servers AGM. It really is good to get around and meet you all and to share your services and worship with you.

We have reached a New Year so it means that for those members who do not pay by Direct Debit, your memberships are due. To help the administration please send your cheques to Terry by the middle of January; also please do not forget the Guild's Candidates for Ordination Fund. They are always grateful for any donation. These donations should be sent directly to Colin Squires.

It is always sad to hear of a Chapter going into abeyance. See Chapter reports.

Always a rewarding experience to worship as one and to sing the Guild Office together.

God Bless,

Peter

The opinions expressed within this magazine are the opinions of the authors and not necessarily those of the Guild.

Welcome to New Members

Full Members: Ruth Patterson

Probationers: Simon Brown, Richard Butler, Kathryn Hodge, John Hutchinson, Lee Kent, Sunhee Kim, Michael Newman, Frederick Plant, David Sanders, Jennifer Wales, Gareth Watkins, Jenny Yeam,

Priest Associate: Martin Ennis,

Faithful Departed: , Eric Cook, Frank Gladwin, Reginald Hamblim, Ian Lammas, David Marshall, Jenny Prowse, Dennis Sneath (Priest), Royston Smith

oOo

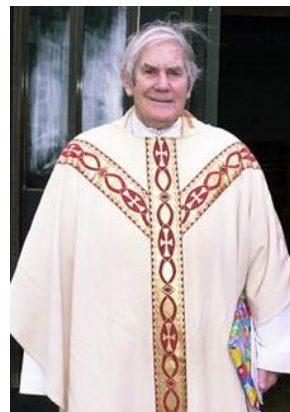
The Chantry Book

Canon Sidney Dennis Sneath 1923-2013

Fr. Dennis gained a BA from Leeds University and trained for the ministry at Bishop's College, Cheshunt. He was made Deacon in 1952 and ordained in 1953, serving his curacy at the Abbey Church of S. Mary the Virgin, Nuneaton from 1952-1959. He became 'curate in charge' at Galley Common, Nuneaton 1959-68, then became vicar of S. Mary and S. John, Camp Hill, Nuneaton in 1968 until his death at the age of 89. Fr. Dennis helped build the church in the heart of the community of Camp Hill; whilst building work was underway for the church hall he held Services in wooden hut on the site. Once the Church Hall was built he celebrated Mass there until the church was completed, the foundation stone being laid in 1967.



Left: Fr. Dennis and servers 1963



He was a life long member of the Guild and was a members of the Coventry Chapter and was also a Priest Associate all his ordained life, the Chapter visiting his church many times. He was made a Canon of Coventry Cathedral in 1980 and would have completed 60 years in the ordained ministry had he lived until December this year. At his death on 13th August it was commonly believed that he was the longest serving Incumbent in the Coventry Diocese. He will be greatly missed by all including his family and his wife of 44 years, Pauline.

Ian Lammas 1958-2013

Ian was given the Last Rites in the Abbey Park Nursing Home, Coventry on 19th October and he died peacefully aged 55 that evening. He was received into the church of S. John the Baptist on 5th September and his funeral Mass being held the following day. Fr. Paul Such, his parish priest, said "Ian was a gentle and humble man who had served the church faithfully for many years despite his major illness in the last year. Ian rarely missed a Service and was a loyal member of S. John's serving team. He always available to serve at the Chapter meetings of S. Chad, Coventry and he and his friend John Sheehan were always willing to carry the statue of Our Lady in Processions. Many of his friends and fellow servers joined with his family at his funeral. Ian will be sadly missed, "May he rest in peace and rise in glory".

Fr. Colin Galsworthy

Fr Colin passed away suddenly in hospital following a short illness, last January. He had served four parishes and he retired in 2010 and became the Chaplain of the Chapter of S. Mary of Margam. He and his late wife, Linda, were devotees to Our Lady of Walsingham so at this years Pilgrimage the Chapter held a Requiem in their memory. A Requiem Mass was also held in S Teilo's Church in Tonmawr. This was a church that Fr. Colin had overseen whilst it was being built. Unfortunately the Chapter of S. Mary of Margam has not been able to find another Chaplain.

GUILD SHOP

Spiral Bound Laminated Guild Office (can be personalised)

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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 p&p and are available from Grand Councillor Nigel Makepeace, address inside front cover.



Key Rings (above) 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.

Here is an interesting thought!

If you see someone without a smile, give them one of yours.

Prayers for Christmas

Amidst the giving of gifts, the excitement of children and the cooking of traditional dinners, it is easy to miss "the reason for the season". There are several ways of bring Jesus back into the family celebrations of Christmas, including church services. Here are a number of Christmas prayers for use at various stages of the day, these can be said by the family together or silently in a moment aside from the rush.



A Christmas Prayer by Robert Louis Stevenson

Loving Father, Help us remember the birth of Jesus, that we may share in the song of the angels, the gladness of the shepherds, and worship of the wise men. Close the door of hate and open the door of love all over the world. Let kindness come with every gift and good desires with every greeting. Deliver us from evil by the blessing which Christ brings and teach us to be merry with clear hearts. May the Christmas morning make us happy to be your children and Christmas evening bring us to our beds with grateful thoughts, forgiving and forgiven, for Jesus' sake. Amen.

For those who work on Christmas Day :

Lord, as I spend today going about my work, help me to put aside any bitterness that I'm not celebrating at home with loved ones. I ask you, Loving Father, to give me a special sense of your presence as I meet people, that I may shed on them the light of the Bethlehem Star and, the Spirit of Christmas. Amen.

A Reflective Christmas Prayer :

Father when your Son Jesus Christ became a tiny baby in a stable in Bethlehem in poverty and simplicity, you changed our world. As we imagine those surroundings, we join with the shepherds and the wise men in awe, wonder and praise. We thank you for our material lives, praise you for our spiritual lives, and trust in you for our eternal life. Amen.

At present opening time :

Lord Jesus, Wise Men travelled for miles to bring you the first Christmas presents. So may we, too, remember with thankful hearts the love that comes with each present that we open. We also thank you for the amazing love you have for each of us, and we thank you for the many gifts that you give us. Amen



At Christmas lunch : (other mealtime prayers)



We thank you, Father God, for the love that binds us, for the food that nourishes us, and for you giving your Son into our world to save us. Amen.

oOo

A Royal Marine Remembers

For many years whilst he was in the Royal Marines my Godmothers brother, Martin, wrote to his sister every week. Martin was a much decorated Acting RM Sergeant and both he and his sister, Jess, were single all their lives and they were the off spring of the local village squire and his wife in a small village in Essex. Martin was a mild and gentle man in the village and ended up being the village postman, reading the letters to those who could not read and penning their replies for them several days later. The letter, which follows, was written from the Far East on 30th December 1935 whilst he was aboard HMS Cornwall and gives a real insight into life below decks between the wars. It is as written so please excuse any grammatical errors.



Peter

To: Miss J Ward, Pond House, Great Totham, Essex

December 30th 1935 At Sea.

Dear Jess

We had an enjoyable Christmas. They gave us a quite good dinner, turkey, with sausages followed by Christmas pudding. The canteen on board is run by a Chinese (Kuong Wo), he gave us all a bottle of beer for dinner, we also had plenty of fruit, nuts etc.

I spent the afternoon lying in the sun on the Upper Deck reading the paper; it was a bit too warm to sleep. I intended to go ashore at night until we learnt that we were to have an Empire Broadcast to be relayed to us from Hong Kong so most of us stayed aboard.

They gave us a very good programme of music and at 9.55 Hong Kong switched over to Droitwich and for a few minutes the reception was beautifully clear. At 10.00 as the clock ashore started to strike Big Ben also started to chime but this was to chime 14.00 at home, it was as plain as if it was on board ship with us instead of 10,000 miles away.



The first item was not too bad but after that the reception went off and just before 10.30 Hong Kong announced it was impossible to get Droitwich because of the weather conditions, so until 11.59 we had a musical programme, when they again switched over but we could only hear a few words now and again although I could recognise the King's voice easily. Strangely enough the National Anthem was as clear as it would be at home. I thought of you at home having Christmas Dinner when I heard Big Ben strike 2.00pm. Here you do not realise the time difference until you hear one clock strike ten and another two at the same time. The beer they gave us was Lion Beer a ferocious name but the beer was weak.

Martin

News from the Chapters.



S. Mildred of Thanet. On the 16th July we celebrated our 100th year by singing the Guild Office, followed by Benediction in a church in Margate. We were blessed with a gloriously sunny evening and now look forward to a further one hundred years of service and witness.

Chapter of St. Luke, Wellingborough, Kettering. In July we met at S. Matthew's, Northampton 20 servers and guests being present. Following a short sung office Fr. Nicholas Setterfield, the incumbent, gave a homily on the ceremonies of the church. Fr. Alan, our Chaplain, then examined the Guild Office its music and ceremonies. Servers were invited to offer their observations and questions on serving matters. We learnt a little more about the refinements of singing antiphons and chants, handling candles, the role of the thurifer and crucifer and the role of the officiant. This was much valued and extravagant refreshments were served by the ladies of S. Matthew's. Our next meeting will be at S. Mary's, Kettering, in August for the Assumptiontide Mass, courtesy of the Churchwardens.

S. John the Divine, Leicester. Our June meeting was in All Saints, Scraftoft when 18 members sang the Guild Office with Fr Colin leading and Fr Court gave the address and Benediction. As has become our custom we met with the Coventry Chapter in July at S. Catherine's, Burbage for Guild Office, Address, Procession and Benediction Fr. Colin leading the Office and Fr. Bob Stephen giving the Address and Benediction. August saw us visiting S. Hugh's, Eyres Monsell where we joined with other Catholic Societies to celebrate the Feast of the Assumption of Our Lady. Our Chapter provided most of the servers and Statue Bearers. The outside procession was followed by a Concelebrated Sung Mass.

S. Mary of Margam. Unfortunately this Chapter has not met since the death of Fr. Colin, see Chantry Book, as a successor could not be found to become Chaplain.

Our Lady and S. Jerome, Mansfield and Nottingham. We paid our annual visit to Southwell Minister in June, and were made most welcome. We were joined by members from Lincolnshire. The officiant at the Guild Office and Benediction was Bishop Roger Judd, Vicar of S. Laurence, Long Eaton. An address was given by

the Dean of Southwell the Very Rev. John Guille, who recalled happy associations with the Guild from his time as a server in Guernsey in the 1960s and at various times throughout his ministry. The picture shows the Bishop (centre) and the Dean (fourth from the left).



S. Joseph of Arimathea, Portsmouth. We do not meet in August and the September meeting had to be cancelled but October saw us attend two meetings, a group of us took the ferry to the Isle of Wight, toured some interesting churches finishing off with a joint meeting with the Isle of Wight Chapter at S. Saviour on the Cliff, Shanklin. This is the second joint meeting and next year there will be a mainland joint meeting. Later in the month we met in S. Faith, Gosport to sing the Guild Office. This is the home church of the Chapter Secretary and the Chaplain Fr. Alan Ball who preached that evening.

S. Chad, Coventry. The Assumption Festival was held at S. Hugh's, Eyres Monsell in August. The outside procession was followed by a Sung Mass. See Leicester report. August was a sad month for us; Fr Dennis Neath died and Ian Lomas died (see the Chantry Book). Our September meeting was cancelled as many members were on holiday but we received an invitation from the Coventry Cell of Our Lady of Walsingham for a Mass at S. John the Baptist, Coventry.

Holy Redeemer, South East London. Sadly, the Chapter voted to go into abeyance, through lack of support, sad but necessary. People have busy lives, so much to do. The AGM was attended by our Chaplain Fr. Andrew Stevens, Fr. Peter Hudson and Fr Richard Norman, also three members of this Chapter and five guests from Chapters who have also loyally supported us and we thank them for it. Bro. Stephen Jahans tried his best to keep the Chapter going through the deaths of some members and the departure of other Officers.

SS. Julian, Midsomer Norton. We joined the congregation of Christchurch, Frome for Stations of the Cross and Compline led by Fr. Neil Maxstead our Chaplain. In April we held our Easter Mass at S. Peter's, Westfield where again Fr. Neil celebrated. S. Thomas, Wells was our venue in May where Fr. Tobias Osmond, the incumbent, celebrated. The Feast of S. John the Baptist in June with

a Chapter Mass at the church of S. John the Baptist, Frome, the vicar Fr. Colin Alsbury celebrating. The September meeting was at S. Giles, Leigh-on-Mendip where Fr. Anthony Dickson celebrated Mass.

Our Lady and S. Richard, Chichester. It has become the custom to have a tea



party in August at West Wittering where our hosts were from SS. Peter and Paul. The party ended with a short service in the church. We also held a special service in S. Paul's Chichester where we sang the Guild Office and Fr. Peter Vincent, our retired chaplain, was able to lead the Service as he is unable to join us during evenings. It was a great joy to see him once again at the helm. September was a bit of a disappointment as we were going to visit the Isle of Wight Chapter with Portsmouth chapter. but at the last minute all this changed due to unforeseen

circumstances. We are looking forward to seeing them next year in June. We rescheduled the meeting and met at S. Mary's, Littlehampton where we sang the Guild Office. In October we received a probationer. It is always a joy to see new members. This induction was at S. Thomas a Becket Church, Pagham. This church has connections with Canterbury Cathedral, hence the name. The first church on this site was built by the Saxons on land given to S. Wilfrid by a grateful King Caedulla after he had saved the people of the area from starvation.

oOo

Scottish Guild of Servers by Peter Keat

On 7th September I attended the Festival and AGM of the Scottish Guild of Servers representing the GSS. As usual I received a warm welcome from the Warden the Revd Can. J. Paisey and the members. The day started with Mass celebrated by their Warden to an unusual setting with a sermon preached by their Chaplain General, the Revd. Can. James Milne. After Mass four new members were admitted then lunch of homemade soup and a sweet, tea and homemade cakes were also available. After lunch the AGM was held and various proposals adopted. It was decided to hold meetings in the middle and southern areas of Scotland as members did not want to travel to the northern areas. The day ended with the saying of the Scottish Guild Office. About 60 members and priest associates attended. Next year's Festival is on 6th September at S. Serfs, Shettleston, Glasgow.

AUTUMN FESTIVAL 2013

The picture shows the Mass in Reading, note all the empty seats! **Were you there?** Is this a half full or half empty church?



Cycle of Prayer

JANUARY 2014

- 1 The Naming and Circumcision of Jesus. Peace on Earth.
- 2 All Guild members and Priest Associates.
- 3 The Warden, Fr.J.David Moore.
- 4 Epiphany Festival Holy Trinity Hoxton, London N.1
- 5 **The Epiphany The Orthodox Church**
- 6 Deputy Warden, Fr. Darren Smith.
- 7 The Chaplain-General Fr. Michael Brain.
- 8 The Secretary-General Grand Councillor Terry Doughty
- 9 The Treasurer-General Grand Councillor Louis A Lewis
- 10 The Server Editor, writers and distributors.
- 11 Grand, Honorary, Ex Officio and Group Councillors.
- 12 **1st of Epiphany. The Baptism of Christ. Strengthen Parents and Godparents to be faithful in their promises.**
- 13 The General Council and all members.
- 14 For all Bishops, Priests, Deacons and Lay Workers.
- 15 Thanksgiving for members who have given 50 years' service.
- 16 HM Forces and Lone members worldwide.
- 17 Diocese of London.
- 18 The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.
- 19 **2nd of Epiphany. Christian Unity.**
- 20 Candidates for Ordination.
- 21 COF Administrator Cllr Colin Squires and Chaplain Fr.Darren Smith.
- 22 London Group 1/2 North/East/West. Cllr John Donovan.
- 23 1/83 Hugh of Lincoln, Hackney.
- 24 2/77 The Holy Rood, Southall.
- 25 Conversion of Paul. Are we converted?
- 26 **3rd of Epiphany. For all who Preach.**
- 27 2/122 Our Lady of Willesden & S.Mellitus. N.W.6

- 28 S. Thomas Aquinas. A humble mind and pure of spirit.
 29 2/148 Our Lady of Walsingham & S.Alban, Wembley.
 30 Charles King & Martyr (1649)
 31 For all who find life difficult to cope with.

FEBRUARY 2014

- 1 London Group 3 Grand Cllr Terry Doughty Secretary-General HM Forces and Lone Members.
 2 **The Presentation of Christ in the Temple. Candlemas.**
 3 London Group 4 City of London, Westminster & parts of Essex.
 4 4/98 King Charles the Martyr. Walthamstow/Leyton.
 5 London Group 5/6 South London & East Surrey. Cllr Michael Rogerson.
 6 The Accession of Queen Elizabeth II 1952.
 7 5/75 The Holy Redeemer SE London.
 8 5/85 The Incarnate Word, S. Alban & S.Edward. SW London & E. Surrey.
 9 **5th of Epiphany. For those alone.**
 10 S. Scholastica, Sister of Benedict. For our brothers and sisters.
 11 6/48 Epiphany. Croydon Area.
 12 Diocese of Southwark.
 13 Diocese of Guildfprd.
 14 S. Valentine Martyr of Rome. c269
 15 Provincial Group 1/2 West & East Kent. Cllr Barry Kinnersley.
 16 **3rd before Lent. Septuagesima Our Catholic Heritage.**
 17 1/4 S. Augustine of Canterbury Sittingbourne & Isle of Sheppey.
 18 Diocese of Canterbury.
 19 1/39 S.Cyprian. Rochester, Chatham, Strood & Gravesend.
 20 1/96 S. Justus, Orpington.
 21 1/74 S.Stephen. Tumbidge Wells, Groombridge & Penbury.
 22 Thinking Day. All Youth Organisations.
 23 **2nd before Lent. Sexagesima That we may see the signs of your glory.**
 24 S. Matthias the Apostle.
 25 2/4 All Souls, Whitstable. Canterbury & Herne Bay.
 26 2/116 S. Michael the Archangel. East Kent.
 27 2/121S. Mildred in Thanet, Margate.
 28 Diocese of Rochester.

MARCH 2014

- 1 S. David . The Church in Wales.
 2 **Next before Lent Quinquagesima. Grant us the light of your glory.**
 3 Provincial Group 3/8 Sussex & Surrey. Cllr John Holden.
 4 3/76 The Holy Resurrection, Brighton.
 5 ASH WEDNESDAY Repentance for our sins and failings.
 6 3/163 S. Philip & S. Richard, Worthing.
 7 For all who live alone.
 8 Edward King. Bishop of Lincoln.1910
 9 **Lent 1 For deliverance from temptation.**
 10 3/183 S. Wilfred. Eastbourne.
 11 Diocese of Chichester.
 12 Provincial Group 4 Hampshire, E Wilts, Guernsey & W. Sussex. Grand Cllr Peter Keat.
 13 4/92 S. Joseph of Arimathea. Portsmouth.
 14 4/94 S. Joseph the Foster Father. Isle of Wight.
 15 Diocese of Portsmouth.
 16 **Lent 2 For the faithfulness in following where Christ has led.**
 17 S. Patrick. Apostle to the Irish. c460
 18 4/144 Our Lady and S.Richard.. Bognor Area.
 19 S. Joseph of Nazareth. For our Fathers.
 20 Diocese of Winchester.
 21 Thomas Crammer Archbishop of Canterbury. Reformation Martyr 1556
 22 4/175 S. Swithun Winchester.
 23 **Lent 3 Grant true wisdom to all in authority.**
 24 Diocese of Salisbury.
 25 Annunciation of Our Lord to the BVM Pray for us O Holy Mother.
 26 Provincial Group 5 Devonshire.
 27 5/24 S. Brannock, Ilfracombe. Barnstaple.
 28 5/73 The Holy Trinity Teighmouth Newton Abbot.
 29 5/88 S. John the Baptist Torbay, Dartmoor.
 30 **Lent 4 Mothering Sunday For our own Mothers.**
 31 5/136 Our Lady and S. George. Plymouth.
 Corrections, omissions and suggestions to:- Angela Mc Mullen, 46 Field House Road, Humberston, Grimsby, DN36 4UJ. Tel: (01472) 210596
angela.mcmullen.grimsby@gmail.com

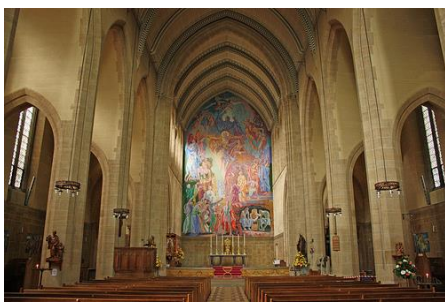
The Guild Diary

Saturday 4th January 2014 Epiphany Festival, Holy Trinity Hoxton, London.



12 Noon - Solemn Concelebrated Mass
3.45pm Guild Office, Procession to the Crib & Benediction
Soup and bread lunch available for a donation.

Saturday April 26th Guild Easter Festival and AGM S. Albans, Holborn



12 noon Solemn Concelebrated Mass
3.00pm AGM Guild Office, Procession and Benediction.

Saturday 6th September at S. Serfs, Shettleston, Glasgow Festival and AGM of Scottish Guild of Servers. Mass 1.00pm.

Saturday 4th October 2014 Autumn Festival, S. Wilfrid's Harrogate. Details to follow.

Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

Our hardworking Secretary-General maintains an excellent website for the Guild with regular updates of events and occasions. It's a pity that so many Chapters cannot help him by bringing their Chapter programmes up to date and having these published. A cursory glance shows how many are months if not years out of date. Surely even if a Chapter Secretary is not familiar with the computer a typewritten or even handwritten note would enable the Secretary-General to translate this into an entry in the appropriate place. Members on holiday or visiting a certain area would I am sure be happy to be able to see in advance if a local Chapter was meeting and be able to attend meeting. Potential members moving to an area would also be able to trackdown the appropriate Chapter with a view to joining.

Colin Limming

Chapter of St. Etheldreda, Cambridge.

oOo

The Devils Knell



The Devils Knell or Old Lad's Rassing Bell has tolled at Dewsbury Minster on Christmas Eve for over seven hundred years to celebrate the devil's departure from the Earth following the Birth of Christ. Counting is precise.

The tenor bell, known as Black Tom (above) is tolled the exact number of times as the number of the year. For example this year it will be tolled exactly 2013 times and another toll is added every year! The tolling finishes on the stroke of midnight so timing has to be precise.

Hanukkah or Chanukah is the Jewish Festival of Lights.

This festival dates back to two centuries before the beginning of Christianity and in the western calendar is celebrated in November or December. This year it is the 28th November. The word Hanukkah means rededication and celebrates one of the greatest miracles in Jewish history.

The festival reminds Jewish people of a time over 2500 years ago when Antiochus, a Syrian king, tried to make them worship Greek gods. A statue of Antiochus was erected in the Jewish temple and the Jews were ordered to bow down before him. The Ten Commandments forbid Jews to worship statues, idols or graven images and so they refused. A small group of Jews called Maccabees rebelled, and after a three-year war they recaptured Jerusalem from the Syrians. However the hostilities meant that the temple was all but destroyed.



The Jews moved back in and set to and started to clean and repair the desecrated Temple and when they were finished it was once again dedicated to God. This was done by the lighting the lamp (Menorah) that was a symbol of God's presence. Only one small jar of oil was found within the temple precincts, just enough to last one day, but miraculously the Menorah lamp stayed alight for eight days.

How is Hanukkah celebrated today?

Hanukkah is celebrated by lighting one candle on the Hanukiah (an eight-stemmed candelabrum) each day. The Hanukiah symbolises how God looked after the Jewish people at this difficult time. Games are often played at Hanukkah. The most common game uses a dreidel (a spinning top shown on the left) and is a popular way of helping children to remember the great miracle. Children and adults play with a dreidel. This cube-shaped dice has a Hebrew letter on each side. To begin the game, each player has 10-20 objects, often raisins or sweets. Each person puts one object in the middle. Then each person takes a turn at spinning the dreidel. The letter that the dreidel shows when it has finished spinning determines whether they win or lose the stake. Hanukkah is also a great time for food. Some dishes have special significance, such as latkes (a kind of potato fritter), pancakes and doughnuts. This is because they are fried in oil so Jewish people remember the miracle of the oil lasting eight days in the temple.



At Christmas

Edgar Albert Guest (1881-1959)

A man is at his finest towards the finish of the year;
He is almost what he should be when the Christmas season is here;
Then he's thinking more of others than he's thought the months before,
And the laughter of his children is a joy worth toiling for.
He is less a selfish creature than at any other time;
When the Christmas spirit rules him he comes close to the sublime.

When it's Christmas man is bigger and is better in his part;
He is keener for the service that is prompted by the heart.
All the petty thoughts and narrow seem to vanish for awhile
And the true reward he's seeking is the glory of a smile.
Then for others he is toiling and somehow it seems to me
That at Christmas he is almost what God wanted him to be.

If I had to paint a picture of a man I think I'd wait
Till he'd fought his selfish battles and had put aside his hate.
I'd not catch him at his labours when his thoughts are all of self,
On the long days and the dreary when he's striving for himself.
I'd not take him when he's sneering, when he's scornful or depressed,
But I'd look for him at Christmas when he's shining at his best.

Man is ever in a struggle and he's oft misunderstood;
There are days the worst that's in him is the master of the good,
But at Christmas kindness rules him and he puts himself aside
And his petty hates are vanquished and his heart is opened wide.
Oh, I don't know how to say it, but somehow it seems to me
That at Christmas man is almost what God sent him here to be.

Quotable Quotes

Hope means expectancy when things are otherwise hopeless. **GK Chesterton**

God looks at the clean hands, not the full ones. **Pubilius Syrus**

Do not pray for easy lives. Pray to be stronger men. **John F Kennedy**

Wealth is not only what we have, but what we are. **Anon**

Many come to wear their new clothes to church rather than themselves. **Anon**

Churches in cities are most wonderful solitudes. - **Thomas Merton**

Nothing is really work unless you would rather be doing something else. - **James M. Barrie**

oOo

Safeguarding.

Safeguarding is the new name for Child protection and the protection of 'vulnerable adults'.

May I, as the guild's Child-protection / Safeguarding Advisor, remind you of the need for good practice in relation to juvenile servers in your churches and at your chapter events.

A leaflet is published in relation to this and it is reviewed annually. All Guild chapter officers and priest-associates should be aware of its content and it is a good idea to put one on the notice board where servers robe. If you do not have copies, please send me a stamped- addressed envelope and I will send you a copy from which you can photocopy as many as you wish.

The Rev. Geoffrey Squire. Little Cross, Goodeligh, Barnstaple, Devon. EX32 7NR.

Christmas Is Coming!

Christmas is an amazing time of the year. As we remember Christ's birth. Why He came. What he did. It has an effect on all of us. Christmas mostly seems to bring out the best in people. They have different attitudes, are more considerate, more caring, more concerned. There really is a Christmas spirit.

I heard a story about a lady waiting in a store to pay for her purchases. There in the line were two young children waiting to pay for their purchase. The boy was about eight and with him was a younger girl. The boy wore a ragged coat that looked two sizes too small and a pair of tattered trainers two sizes too big for him. His jeans came to the top of his socks and in his hands were a few coins.

The girl's clothing wasn't any better than her brother's. Her hair was a blonde mass of curls. Her beautiful blue eyes were fixed on her older brother. She carried a beautiful pair of shiny, gold slippers clutched to her chest. As the Christmas music played through the store, the little girl swayed to the tunes.

When they finally reached the checkout, the little girl raised up on her tip-toes and very carefully placed the shoes on the counter. You would have thought they were real gold and fragile enough to break. Those shoes were her treasure. The clerk rang up the bill and the boy laid his money on the counter and began to search his pockets. He finally came up with only half the cost of the slippers.

"We will have to put them back," he bravely said. "We'll come back some other time, maybe tomorrow." The little girl moved her head back and forth; the woman could see the tears filling her eyes. A sob broke from the little girl lips. "But.. but.. Jesus would have loved these shoes," she cried. "We'll go home and I'll collect some more money somehow, don't cry. Please, don't cry. We'll come back tomorrow," he said.

The woman's heart was touched. She handed some money to the cashier. These children had waited in line for a long time and, after all, it was Christmas. Suddenly a pair of arms came around her legs and the little girl said in a small voice, "Thank you lady." The woman had to know. She looked down into the little round face and asked, "What did you mean when you said Jesus would like the shoes?" The boy answered, "Our Mummy is sick and she is going to heaven. Daddy said she might go before Christmas. She is going to be with Jesus." The



girl spoke up, "My Sunday school teacher said the streets in Heaven are shiny gold, just like these shoes. Won't Mummy be beautiful walking on those streets in these shoes?" The woman's eyes flooded with tears, as she looked into her wide-eyed, tear-streaked face. "Yes," she answered, "I am sure she will." Silently she thanked



God for using these children who reminded her of the true spirit of giving.

Christmas isn't about presents. Christmas is about reaching out and touching lives with love. It is a hand made gift pressed into the Father's hands. It is a card carefully constructed by a six year old that says, "Merry Christmas, Mum." It is a family sitting down together. Christmas is the ultimate expression

of love and caring.

LORD. HELP US TO REMEMBER THE REAL MEANING OF CHRISTMAS.

oOo

Odd Christmas Tradition in Hornchurch

The odd tradition was the annual Christmas Day wrestling match for a roasted boar's head. It happened on Mill Field by the Hornchurch Windmill (left) and near



S. Andrew's Church and opposite Hornchurch Hall on Christmas afternoon each year. The tenants of Hornchurch Hall supplied a roasted boar's head "dressed, and garnished with bay leaves etc." and "carried in procession into the Mill Field, adjoining the churchyard, where it is wrestled for; and was afterwards feasted upon, in one of the public houses, by the rustic conqueror and his friends, with all the merriment peculiar to the season". This is how

it was reported in the Essex Standard newspaper in 1880 which went on to say that

it was "the most noteworthy of the distinguished local folk customs previously existing in various parts of this county"

As stated in the quote the boar's head wrestling was recorded elsewhere in England in the Middle Ages and appears to have been a quite widespread tradition. Classically a roasted and decorated boar's head was the first dish brought to the table of the nobility on Christmas Day in Medieval England and, as a king among beasts, was symbolically associated with Christ who was a sovereign among men. In the early 16th century a scholar noted that a contemporary Christmas carol containing the following words: "This boar's head we bring with song, in worship of him thus sprung, of a virgin to redress all wrong."



I think we will stick to turkey in our house. Ed.

oOo

Where does your time go?

Have you ever got to the end of the day and wondered where the time has gone? Days, weeks, months even years can fly past. Before we know where we are there is another birthday or anniversary. Maybe it's time to pause and reflect on the day or year, notice what is around you, discover that God is in the middle of it all. Here are some ideas you may like to try.



Listen

Try simply listening. Listen to whatever sounds are around with complete attention for a few minutes. How many sounds can you hear? Is there anything you have not noticed before?



Feel

Hold a smooth pebble. Take some time to feel the smoothness of the stone. Look at its colour and texture. Feel its weight in your hand. Great forces have gone into the making of your stone. Now it is small and still. Hold it as you talk to God about what is in your mind.



Look

Let a candle, a cross, a picture or icon become a focus for your attentiveness. Or sit in the garden and let a tree, leaf etc. be that focus. Sit and look at it. Allow yourself to look at it rather than think about it. When you are ready, talk to God about what you see.



Breathe

Choose a short prayer or a few words from the Bible. Repeat it in time with your breathing. The Jesus Prayer can be used in this way: "Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, be merciful to me, a sinner". Try to breath naturally, without over breathing.



oOo

A Hard Time at Christmas

For most of us Christmas is the happiest, most family-filled day of the year but for most of the 84,000 people who will spend it in prison, Christmas will be a painful,



lonely twenty four hours in which imprisonment was never more keenly felt. Fr Brian Gowans, Chaplaincy adviser to the Scottish Prison Service, has spent 16 years working in prisons and he knows that it's a tough time for many of the prisoners who try to make it bearable by trying to make it as 'normal a day' as possible. Some prisoners try to just do exactly what they always do, without making any

concessions at to the fact that it's 25th December.

One of the most traumatic prisons to be in at Christmas is Holloway. More than half of all the women in British jails are mothers and a third of them have children under five. It's difficult for them to be apart from their children on Christmas Day and the prison Chaplains are very conscious that it's a time when women prisoners might be more likely to self-harm than any other time of the year. Like all prison staff, prison Chaplains are well aware that there are people on the outside who take the view that people who've committed offences are in no position to complain but what's less well understood is how deep and difficult the wounds go at Christmas.

The staff are very conscious of the need to strike a balance between marking Christmas without ramming it down their throats. They want prisoners to have the chance to worship and to feel part of the Church's Feast, but they don't want to make their lives more difficult than they already are. To that end there are Carol concerts and other Services in all UK prisons and some even have services to which prisoners' families can be invited. At Holloway there is a family day a few days beforehand, when children can come to visit their mothers for longer than usual, and enjoy special activities including a bouncy castle and games and trips to Santa in his grotto. The Roman Catholic Chaplain Sr. Kathleen Diamond goes to great pains to point out that 'It's not the children who are being punished, but it's very tough on them to have Christmas without Mum. The family day gives them a focus that's fun and brings them together and the Holloway Carol Service always attracts the women from the mother and baby unit.



One of the most depressing aspects of Christmas for many prisoners is that there's never any visiting time and getting to use the telephones can be difficult on a day when so many are trying to call loved ones.

Another thing prisoners, especially those who are parents miss, is the chance to give presents to those they love. In many prisons special arrangements are made a few days before Christmas so presents can be exchanged. Naturally there are security concerns but a system has been devised so that the Dads can wrap presents that the Chalaincy provide from a selection brought in. All the presents come from local parishes where the congregation are asked to buy just one extra present when they do their own shopping and they have always been enormously generous.

At Holloway the Angel Tree project, a scheme to enable mothers in prison to send their children something on 25th December, is run. In October or November forms are distributed around the prison and the women write down what they'd like for their particular child, the presents are then bought and wrapped up by volunteers and sent to the children whilst the mothers write the gift tags, so as far as the children are concerned, they are actually getting a present from Mum. It makes a real difference to the bond between the mothers and their children.' As

for the prisoners there's a lot of sensitivity about what privileges inmates should be allowed. In some prisons, small gifts that used to come from the Governor have been stopped for fear of adverse publicity. But, in most prisons, the Chaplaincies are still able to give small presents of chocolates or toiletries to each inmate.

Parties, also have been scaled down in the wake of outraged press stories, but most prisons give inmates the chance to play games and maybe watch more television than usual. Then there's Christmas lunch, which doesn't always stretch to turkey but often involves chicken and all the trimmings. 'There's a lot of sadness in a prison on Christmas Day,' says Fr. Gowans. 'You're always cut off when you're in jail, but you never feel more cut off than on 25th December. It's a day when you're in no doubt at all about what it means to be in prison.'

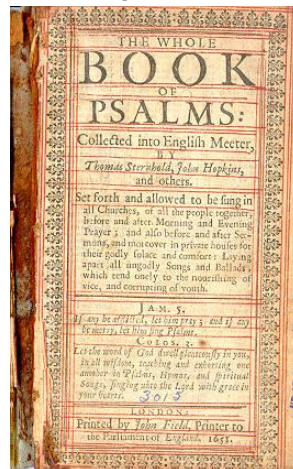
With thanks to "Alive Publishing."

oOo

Psalm 103 v.1 Praise the Lord O my soul and forget not all his benefits.

One of the great losses for the congregations of the Church of England is the use of the Psalms. They are a wonderful source of guidance, encouragement for and thankfulness in our daily lives. Thank goodness for the Daily Office which keeps the Psalms alive, if only for obedient clergy!

I wonder how many of you have sung – or at least heard quoted – that old Salvation Army song “Count your blessings, count them one by one, and it will surprise you what the Lord has done.” When you stop to think about this, the list can go on and on. There are so many things – little things – in life for which to praise the Lord – maybe you have praised the Lord for our brief summer or for the rain to refresh the earth and all that grows in it. I wonder whether you have praised the Lord when something has gone wrong and He leads you out of the mire and clay.



I remember coming in a few years ago now and my wife said “Darling praise the Lord”. My reply was “O crumbs, what has gone wrong now?” I can't remember

now what had gone wrong, but we praised the Lord for His presence with us in the crisis. Praising the Lord is our response to His love and care for us and should be part of our daily routine when we realise how much He provides for us and how much He loves us. Praise the Lord O my soul, and forget not His benefits, said the Psalmist. Let us not forget to do it.

Fr. Peter Vincent

Ed: See Chapter report for Our Lady & S. Richard, Chichester

oOo

The Presentation of Christ in the Temple/ Candlemas

In the bygone centuries, Christians said their last farewells to the Christmas season on the Feast of Candlemas on 2nd February. The timing was important as this was exactly 40 days after Christmas Day itself.

In New Testament times 40 days old was an important age for a baby boy: it was when they made their first public appearance. We read that Mary, like all good Jewish mothers, went to the Temple with Jesus, her first male child, to present him to the Lord. At the same time, she, as a new mother, was herself purified. Thus we have the Festival of the Presentation of Christ in the Temple.



Above: *Bellini's Presentation in the Temple*

So where does the Candlemas bit actually come in? We know that Jesus is described in the New Testament as the Light of the World and that the early Christians developed the tradition of lighting many candles in their churches in celebration of this very special day. The Church establishment, as a whole, also fell in with this custom and instigated the blessing of the whole year's supply of candles for the church on this day – hence the name, Candlemas.

The story of how Candlemas began can easily be found in Luke Chapter 2: verses 22-40. Simeon's great declaration of faith and recognition of who Jesus was is, of course, found in the Nunc Dimittis, which is embedded deep in the Office of Compline and has been such for many centuries; however in medieval times. It is during this that the distribution of candles was made just before the Holy Eucharist. Only very gradually did the Nunc Dimittis win a place in the daily prayer life of the Church.

Anon

oOo

Cold Christmas



Cold Christmas Church is situated in Thundridge in Hertfordshire and appropriately is in Cold Christmas Lane. Naturally this is not the official name of the church, it's official designation was Little S. Mary's Church, but due to the lack of services because of the lack of worshipers and being situated near Cold Christmas Lane, it, not unsurprisingly, got given the nickname Cold Christmas Church.

Most of the church was demolished in 1853 when a new Parish church was built nearer the centre of the village at that time, but even today the church stone tower still remains standing as can be seen from the picture on above. The original church dates back to 1086 and was part of Hugh De Desmaisnil's estate. It was built for the private family use only, which is why the lack of services and parishioners caused its closure. There are many rumours of the church being built on a North/South alignment instead of east/west, many medieval churches were built this way and is said to be the sign of the devil, which is why it was later demolished.

Even though the church was demolished the graveyard still remains along with the church tower. The gravestones have fallen into disrepair, headstones fallen down and some are even broken. There are reports of a Mausoleum in the graveyard and that mass burial graves lie under where the old church once stood. Many graves belong to young children and is said to be due to extreme cold weather during Christmas time, which lead to their deaths.

There is some reported paranormal activity from in or around the church tower, a figure in black has also been seen on several occasions around the graveyard. In 1978 a woman walking up to the church tower found herself walking towards a marching army coming from the church door and through her.

oOo

UK Oil & Gas Chaplaincy Christmas Carol Service.

The UK Oil & Gas Chaplaincy holds its annual Christmas Carol Service in December, bringing together those with a connection to the oil and gas industry and features carols sung by children from Aberdeen's Charleston Primary School.



The UK Oil & Gas Chaplain Revd Gordon Craig led the service with the Revds. Taylor (Kirk of St Nicholas Uniting, Aberdeen), Rev Canon Taylor (St Mary's Episcopal Church, Aberdeen), Deacon Kilkerr KCHS (Apostleship of the Sea, Aberdeen) and Rev Dr McLean, all taking part.

The annual Oil and Gas Christmas carol service is always an uplifting event and a chance to note the real spirit of Christmas and is open to all. It is held in the Oil Chapel and Drum's Aisle, Kirk of S. Nicholas Uniting, Union Street, Aberdeen. The UK Oil & Gas Industry Chaplaincy operates through the support of the Aberdeen Oil Industry Chaplaincy Trust, which is generously funded by Oil & Gas UK and this Aberdeen Oil Industry Chaplaincy Trust exists to administer the annual costs of supporting the Chaplains and the work of the Chaplaincy service.

But what of the Chaplaincy history?

In April 1986, a Church of Scotland Minister, the Revd. Andrew Wylie, came to Aberdeen to conduct a pilot scheme that would examine the pastoral needs of the vast onshore and offshore community in the oil and gas industry. In the aftermath of the Chinook helicopter tragedy in Shetland in November 1986, the need for a Chaplain dedicated to the industry was highlighted. The Revd. Andrew Wylie's appointment was well advanced by the time of the Piper Alpha tragedy when 167 offshore workers lost their lives. Many people gave unstintingly of their expertise and of their assets to help and the contribution made by Andrew Wylie's expertise was both enormous and evident.

By January 1989, the industry had its own interdenominational Chaplaincy funded by Oil and Gas UK. An Administrator was appointed to provide support to a rapidly-developing service. The Revd. Wylie retired in August 1991 and was succeeded by the Revd. Angus Smith, then the Revd. Andrew Jolly who later received an MBE in recognition of his ministry to the industry and the support he offered in the wake of the Super Puma crash in April 2009. The present Chaplain is the Revd. Gordon Craig who was appointed in August 2012 and joined the industry following 24 years as a RAF Chaplain.

The Oil Chapel



As the Chaplaincy grew and the demand for its services expanded, the industry recognised its importance and marked its 25th by creating S. John's, the Oil Chapel in the historic Kirk of S. Nicholas, in Aberdeen. It was dedicated at a service in June 1990 that was attended by HRH The Princess Royal. This very special chapel is

an oasis of calm in the busy city centre. Apart from its beautifully designed furniture, a special focal point of the chapel is the magnificent stained glass window designed by a local artist, Shona MacInnes, and depicts the traditional life, work and culture of North East Scotland and especially of Aberdeen. The chapel's unique wooden screen and furniture were designed and fashioned beautifully by one of Scotland's best designers and craftsmen, the late Tim Stead.

Christmas Prayer by Daphne Kitching

Dear Lord: What's it really all about, this "season of celebration"? People rushing everywhere, overspending, double-booking diaries in frantic attempts to meet the demands of a 21st century Christmas. What about those who find Christmas anything but joyful, those who have lost loved ones, those who are old and lonely, tired and longing for it all to be over? What's it really all about? Lord, in the middle of the business and bustle, help us to remember that this is nothing new. Jesus came into a world of rush and frenetic activity. He came to a busy town that there was no room for his family. Help us to remember that you know what it's like to have a loved one, your dear Son, away from home at Christmas. Still our hearts, and open them to recognise and receive your great gift. May we make room for Jesus and know the peace and security of his presence this Christmas. Help us to know that this is what it's really all about. Amen.

oOo

Light at the End of the Tunnel

Life today can be a handful to deal with. It doesn't matter what angle you look at it there are pressures. Therefore self assertion to opt out for a welcome break is essential. I just love the post, all aspects; the Utilities asking for yet again another £5 a month; car insurance offering up to £180 off when your current is £165; exceptional furniture offers, so good you can change it every two years; charities, insurances, questionnaires, pizzas just to mention a few. Is no news good news? I ask myself. Then Bingo, that inevitable envelope is on the mat with the logo of the Guild on it. My heart starts on once to run at a normal pace. I accept it with open arms, the World outside is at once lost, hassle-free. The front picture of some possible way-out country church brings flooding ideas of how someone else may be living their life. Somewhere there is solace and prayers of consolation, points of interest seeing how others are contributing to strengthen our faith. It is on the one hand a light hearted yet on the other a serious read as a glossary of our Christian life and what a breath of fresh air it gives me sitting in a corner or the garden from the many otherwise unwanted pressures of today.

Barry Kinnersley

The Canterbury Cap.

The Canterbury cap is a square cloth hat with sharp corners found within the Anglican Communion. It differs from a biretta in being soft and foldable, not set and rigid. The Canterbury cap is descended from the ancient pileus headcovering. It is sometimes called the "catercap."



In the Anglican Church, clergy are entitled to wear the cap and possibly the Canterbury Cap "is the only headgear officially sanctioned for Anglican clergy to wear in church."

Canterbury caps are made in several colours:

Above: Thomas Cranmer

- Black: for Priests and Deacons;
- Blue: for choristers;
- Red: for chaplains in the Queen's Ecclesiastical Household;
- Purple: for Bishops.

The cap has gone through several modifications since the cap that we see in the portraits of Bishops and others in the seventeenth century into the form sometimes called the Canterbury cap and then into the college-cap.

A similar cap called the Oxford soft cap is worn today as part of academic dress by some women undergraduates at Oxford University instead of the mortarboard.. It has a flap at the back which is held up with buttons unlike the Canterbury cap.



And Finally:-

One Sunday morning, the Vicar noticed little Johnnie was staring at the large memorial plaque that hung inside the church, It was covered with names, and regimental flags were mounted on either side of it. As he'd had been staring at the plaque for some time, the vicar walked up and said quietly, "Good morning Johnnie." "Good morning Father," Johnnie said, not taking his eyes off the plaque. "What is this?" he asked. "Well, Johnnie, it's a memorial to all the young men and women who died in the service." Solemnly, they stood together and stared at the large plaque. Little Johnnie's voice was barely audible when he asked, "Which one, Father? The morning or evening service?"

oOo

People want the front of the bus, the back of the church, and the centre of attention.

oOo

A Sunday School teacher began her lessons one day with a question, "Now boys and girls, what do we really know about God?" A hand shot up into the air. "Please Miss he is an artist!" said one of the kindergarten boys. "That's very interesting she said, just how do you know?" the teacher asked. "You know the first line in the Lords Prayers says so. - Our Father, who does art in Heaven... "

oOo

A notice outside Chichester Cathedral advertising lunchtime concerts said: "SANDWICHES MAY BE EATEN." Someone had scrawled underneath: "SO IF YOU ARE A SANDWICH, DON'T COME."

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.

Could this be YOU?



Are you considering training for the Priesthood? Have you been a full member for over two years?

The Candidates for Ordination Fund could assist you financially with an annual grant. Apply in the first instance to the Administrator of the Fund Bro. Colin Squires whose address is in the front of this magazine



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