



THE SERVER

Volume 42 Issue 2; Summer 2025

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Guild Officers

Warden & Trustee:	The Reverend Canon Darren Smith
Email: gsswarden@gmail.com	tel: 0121 382 5533
Chaplain General:	The Reverend Jonathan Roberts
Email: fr.jonathanroberts@gmail.com	tel: 07598 670816
Guild Precentor:	The Reverend Benjamin Weitzmann
Email: fatherweitzmann@gmail.com	tel: 02392 439711
Secretary General & Trustee:	Grand Councillor Michael Andrew
Email: gss.secretarygeneral@gmail.com	tel: 07498 201137
Treasurer General & Trustee:	Councillor James Farmer
Email: gss.treasurergeneral@gmail.com	tel: 07979 747814
Administrator for COF & Trustee	Grand Councillor Colin Squires
Email: gsscofsecretary@gmail.com	tel: 01444 244737
The Server Editor:	Councillor Joan Joyce
Email: joan.joyce3@gmail.com	tel: 07812 819738
Guild Sales & Publications:	Councillor Chris Barnett
Email: gss.salesandpublications@gmail.com	

All postal correspondence to be addressed to Name and Title,
Guild of Servants of the Sanctuary, c/o Additional Curates Society,
16 Commercial Street, Birmingham, B1 1RS

Guild Website: <https://guildofservantsofthesanctuary.co.uk>

Guild Facebook Page: Guild of Servants of the Sanctuary

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Items for publication should be received by the third Saturday of October, February and June. Opinions expressed within this magazine are those of the authors and not necessarily those of the Guild.

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Cover Picture: S Stephen's, Gloucester Road; taken at the Easter Festival.



Editorial

As this edition goes to press, I will be on holiday with a friend, visiting Germany / Austria / Switzerland. Travelling mostly by train, I hope to be putting my feet up and relaxing with a glass or two of something local. All a dream as I write this, but as you read it, reality should have hit...

There are times in life when reality hits us quite hard. The recent death of a younger friend left me wondering what God was saving him from, and how much worse his life could have become. That's a question I won't be able to answer in this world!

That set me to pondering on God's communication with us. I was recently in a tower block in the metropolis, and found myself watching the traffic during the rush hour from one of the higher floors. There was one particular car – it was bright orange – dodging from lane to lane, trying to avoid the worst of the jams. I could see quite a distance ahead, and saw it move to the inner lane. What the driver didn't know was that there had been an incident in that lane just round the corner, that was bringing two lanes to a standstill. Even if I shouted my loudest, I had no way of telling him to move over. Sure enough, he ended up in the jam.

Does God have that problem, I wonder? How often must God shout instructions at us? There must be many times when we are doing something that we shouldn't do, or at least, not like that, and He tells us to change our ways. How often do we simply fail to hear Him? Or even worse, ignore what He says?

We all need to take time to listen to God... or even, ask Him to help us pay attention to what we are hearing! There is more to 'hearing disabilities' than being physically unable to hear others. Maybe we should pray for God to enable us to hear, in the fullest sense? And more, to listen. **Actively listen.** How often do we pay real attention to what someone is actually saying? So rarely, yet it really matters.

I hope you are enjoying a holiday of some sort this summer, or at least a time of rest and recuperation. We all need a break sometime.

My prayers for you all as you continue to demonstrate your faith at the altar.

Yours in Christ,

Brother Joan

The Directory

We welcome the following new members to the GSS:

Full Members:

Beryl Smith, Luke Ironside, Hamish David Goodwin, Patrick Thomas Brehaut, Adam Edward Metcalfe, Leslie Tulloch, Callum Shepherd, Phillip Cannon, Alison Mary Cross, Justin Pugh, Christine Brown, Hannah Rachel Campleman, John Kittmer, Hazel Wray, Amir Yates, Angus Mark Henderson, Jiya Jiju, Andrea Smith, John Degg.

Priest Associate:

Fr Julian Laurence

We hope they will all enjoy participating locally with their chapters and have a long and satisfying association with us.

Faithful Departed:

Michael Watson, David Nash, priest; Michael Chatfield; Ernest Shaw; Lesley Lewin; Pauline Osborne; David Jones; Bill Baker, priest; Melvyn Jepson; Paul Mabboth; Ven Michael John Brotherton, priest; Carlos Holloway; David Nash, priest; Rosemary Suddaby.

May they Rest in Peace and Rise in Glory!

Important Notices

Chapter Treasurers!

Please check that the signatories on any bank accounts are still relevant, and update as necessary. Once you have done this, please send details of the account and names of the signatories, to the Secretary General, who maintains central records. Recently, he was given old records from a chapter now in abeyance, with a substantial amount of money in the bank. All the signatories are either deceased or no longer members, and it is proving extremely difficult to persuade the bank to release the funds.

If you no longer have a bank account, please advise the General Secretary & General Treasurer by whom and how funds are held.

Chapter Secretaries!

Please ensure you have sent AGM records to the Secretary General – minutes, and treasurers accounts, and also current post holders of the offices of secretary, treasurer and Chaplain.

Please also advise the Secretary General of changes to members personal details, especially addresses.

It is so important we keep these records up-to-date!!



The Warden's Words

Didn't we have a lovely time the day we went to Bangor....

I always smile whenever I hear this song – not that I have got anything against Bangor, in fact I don't think I have ever been there, but it puts me in the frame of mind of holidays and days out, which I am sure you are all considering as you read this; some of you may even be lucky enough to be away.

Personally, I haven't been away for over a year now, but when I was going on holiday the thing that always challenged me was what I needed to take. Why is it you usually find the things you need are the things you left behind. The temptation of course is to take everything, including the kitchen sink, only to find you are charged excess baggage or you can't fit it into your suitcase.

It never ceases to amaze me in my life as parish priest, and even in my time now at GSS, how often committed Christians are prepared to leave God behind when they pack and go on holiday. One of the things I have always found very beautiful is hunting out the local Christian community wherever I am, and worshipping with them. Sometimes that experience is challenging, sometimes it is disappointing. I can remember visiting Egypt and finding a Roman Catholic church with a Sunday Mass and having to go through strict security (akin to an airport) in order to get into church. It certainly made me humble, and I thought – if I had that underlying risk

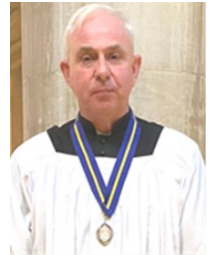
associated with an armed guard protecting the church, would I be brave enough to come every week?

Brothers and Sisters at GSS please, as you enjoy this summer, at home or abroad, don't be tempted to leave God out of your plans! If you find yourself in a church where they do things differently to you, (possibly not as well!), take a leaf out of my book: close your eyes and pray, don't be distracted by minute details but concentrate on being with the Lord's family in the Lord's House on the Lord's Day.

Happy Holiday!

Best wishes, *Fr Darren Smith*

From the Secretary General



As I write this article on a glorious warm summer's day, I can't believe that we are already halfway through the year. Many of you will be thinking of your summer holidays or even going on a short break. Please do remember that if you are travelling in this country, do check the Guild website to see if there is a Chapter meeting near where you are going and if so, why not join them and introduce yourself? I'm sure that you will receive a warm welcome.

I'm pleased to say that so far this year we have admitted 26 new members to the Guild, we rejoice that they have joined us. If you have a fellow server who isn't a member then why not invite them along to a chapter meeting and encourage them to join?

Our Easter Festival at S Stephen's was a joyous occasion and enjoyed by all. If you haven't been to an Easter Festival before, why not join us next year? At the Annual General Meeting we were pleased to welcome three new councillors: LG1/2 London Area – Victor Kelly, PG10 Hertfordshire – Mark Wilson, PG13 Essex – Henry Williams. *(Their photos are included in this magazine and are also now on the website for information.)* We wish them all the very best in their new roles and look forward to their contributions at council meetings.

May I urge any member who hasn't yet paid their annual subscription to do so as soon as possible.

Please continue to send me your chapter programmes, and if possible, a group phone of your chapter for inclusion on our website. It's good to know when chapter meetings are being held, and hopefully I will be able to visit some more chapters later this year.

The Glastonbury Pilgrimage this year will be held on Saturday 6th September. The Guild is always well represented at the Pilgrimage. Why not organise a group from your chapter to come to the festival? If you are coming, please bring your chapter banner along, it's a wonderful day of celebration and witness.

Looking forward to our Autumn Festival, which this year will be held on Saturday 11th October, at S Barnabas in Crewe; please put this date in your diaries and try to attend. Again, you could maybe organise a group from your Chapter too, with your chapter banner.

Finally, just a reminder that if you are moving house, could you please let me know your new contact details! Following the publication of the Spring edition several copies were returned marked 'addressee gone away'. While I always do some detective work to find your new address, sadly I have been unable to locate some members whose copies were returned.

May God bless you in your ministry of serving at the altar.

Michael

Chapter News

PG21/21 SS Francis & Chad serving mid-Cheshire.

On 21st September 2024 the Chapter met at S Barnabas church in Crewe. During the Mass, Beryl Smith was admitted as a member of the GSS.

Beryl writes: This was a very special day for me as I have served in my church in Birkenhead for 7 years and I have been a Supporter for 2 years but I have always wanted to join the GSS as a full member. On the advice of a local chapter secretary, I completed an application form. Following the Mass, we had lunch in the vicarage and the Guild Office took place.

After lunch I joined the Procession as an Acolyte and we processed around the outside of the church. The day concluded with Benediction.



This was a wonderful service at S Barnabas!

This article was sent to the original gsseditor email address, which is no longer accessible; hence the delay in publishing. If anyone else has not seen a piece they have submitted to the old address, please resend to the Editor at the email address on page 2. Thanks.

PG2/116 S Michael the Archangel, serving the Ashford area.

Wednesday 12th March brought out again the solid barrels of Christian Soldiers to take part in a Mass at Christchurch, Ashford, led by Fr Geoff, inviting us to take on our duties towards and acknowledging our responsibilities for Lent. Notwithstanding our age group, it was not beyond Tony, now 88, to do the duties of 'boat boy'; did these servers not start a ripe and early stage with dad before entering into the GSS as a member? I think Tony missed out on his earlier years as a boy. Is he the oldest on the block to be doing this – but it reaffirms, it's never too late.

Following a good sermon from Fr Geoff, we took refreshments in the hall to plough through the AGM. Oh, how wonderful if they all ran so smoothly! More important, we have some fixed dates for future meetings.

PG19/101 The Lamb of God serving the Sheffield area.



Chapter members met for Mass at 11am at S Matthew's Church, Carver Street, on the 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time, following which we continued to a local hostelry for lunch, enjoyed by all.

The meeting continued, returning to church for Evensong and Benediction when our new member, Jason, of S Paul's Hasland, was admitted to the Guild by our Priest Associate, Fr Grant Naylor.

PG14/49 S Etheldreda, serving Cambridge, Ely and surrounds.

On 11th March 2025 we met at Little S Mary's, Cambridge for the Guild Office and Benediction, led by Fr Robert Mackley, followed by refreshments and the AGM.





The programme of events for the year was agreed and this can be found at <https://guildofservantsofthesanctuary.co.uk/gss/the-chapter-of-st-etheldreda-pg14-49/>.

PG7/78 Holy Cross serving Somerset.



Our chapter has gained in number considerably since moving our meetings to weekends or evenings. Our membership covers a large area from Taunton in the West to Yeovil in the East and Weymouth in the south. We manage to get together

for Mass and Guild Office approximately every six weeks but also have some members who are now unable to join us but maintain contact from home. Fr Chris, our chaplain, tries to maintain physical contact with them, whenever possible. Contact for meetings: Bridget 01460 25098.

PG14/230 S Lawrence serving N Norfolk.

The Chapter met on 10th March, our Chaplain's birthday. We celebrated the Stations of the Cross, using the outdoor stations at the Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham. We all took it in turns to lead readings and prayers at each station. 11 members turned out on a bright but chilly day and were glad to take refuge in Norton's afterwards for hot drinks, with a gorgeous lemon drizzle birthday cake – with candles – provided! Yes, we did sing to him, along with the whole cafe!

In April we met at S Andrew's Church, Holt, for Mass celebrated by the Vicar, Fr Howard Stoker, and assisted by the Chaplain. This was followed by refreshments and our AGM. A number of officers were re-elected but our Chaplain resigned, so temporarily we are without an official Chaplain. In May we went to All Saints Church, Kings Lynn, for Guild Office (and Benediction). Bro Robin Edwards travelled from Suffolk to cantor, and with our new trainees, Bro Ravi Kandamath and Supporter Sylvia Cooper, led us in worship. Unfortunately, not currently having a chaplain, with none of our Associate clergy present and no local clergy available, we were unable to have any ceremonial, or indeed Benediction. The stupendous refreshments compensated!

Mass in June at S Edmund's Church in Downham Market, was led by our Associate Priest, Fr Paul Bennett, with Fr Neil Bryson preaching. 17 members and friends attended, and enjoyed home-made lemon drizzle and chocolate cakes afterwards.

Our July meeting will be held at S John's, Timberhill, Norwich, on Saturday 12th at 2.30pm. Mass will be led by Fr Richard, the Parish Priest, at noon, which members are invited to attend without robing, then we break for lunch (plenty of options in the city centre), and reconvene at 2.30pm for Guild Office and Benediction, also led by Fr Richard. This promises to be an uplifting day!

PG3/183 S Wilfred, serving East Sussex.

The Chapter of S Wilfred commemorated the 80th Anniversary of VE Day by celebrating a Sung Eucharist in Pevensey, East Sussex, at the beautiful 13th Century church of S Nicholas.



AU100/01 All Saints, serving East S Kilda, Australia

Servers supported all of the well-attended Holy Week Services at All Saints' Church, East S Kilda.

The solemn Maundy Thursday Mass at 7.30pm saw the procession of the Blessed Sacrament to the Altar of Repose, evoking the Garden of Gethsemane where Jesus spent His last night in prayer. On Good Friday, parishioners attended the Ecumenical Stations of the Cross at 10am, starting at S Mary's Church in East S Kilda



and concluding at All Saints' Church. Then at 3pm all attended the Solemn Commemoration of the Passion. At 7.30pm, Tenebrae was held in the darkened church. On Holy Saturday everyone gathered at 7.30pm for the Easter Vigil. Then at 10am on Easter Day the church celebrated Christ's saving victory over sin and death. Members of the Serving team and of the Choir on Easter Day are shown in the accompanying photograph.

We thank our Parish Priest and Chapter Chaplain, Fr Rene Knaap, who held a training session for the Holy Week Servers, which assured the smooth running of each Holy Week Service.

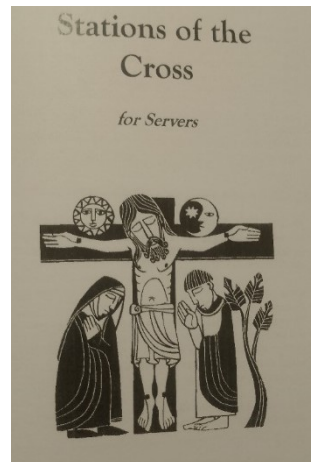
On 11th May Patrick Brehaut and Hamish Goodwin were inducted into the Guild at the 10am High Mass. We thank them for their service and wish them well in their time with us.

PG20/57 S Godric of Finchale, serving the Durham area.



On Saturday 5th April the chapter of S Godric met for Stations of the Cross and to sing the Guild Office at the church of S Hilda, South Shields. This was to be a joint meeting with the Chapter of S Benet Biscop and S Oswin. However, due to an event taking place in the diocese of Newcastle, members of that chapter were unable to attend. Although we were small in numbers (8 in total) we still managed to have a successful chapter meeting. As

we were in Lent, we started our meeting by walking the Way of the Cross. We were led in this devotion by our Chapter Chaplain, Fr Christopher Collins, who wrote us a special Stations of the Cross for servers. Following this we all gathered in the sanctuary to sing the Guild Office, once again led and cantored by our Chapter Chaplain, Fr Chris. This was followed by the usual tea and light refreshments. Although small in numbers, the chapter of S Godric is a very active chapter and hold meetings on a monthly basis where possible.



Fr Chris has given us permission to publish this service of Stations of the Cross. It can be found on the GSS website, under the 'Other' tab, as a document ready for printing as a booklet, and is available for any other chapters to use.

On Saturday 17th May members met for their annual Patronal festival at Finchale Priory. The chapter always tries to meet on the Saturday nearest to S Godric's day on 21st May. There were a good few of us and three priests. We were very fortunate with the weather which was absolutely glorious.

We started at noon by singing "The Regina Caeli". We then had a wonderful Mass with Holy Communion within the ruins of the church, with a lovely homily about S Godric and his life. After a brief break following the Mass, we sang the Guild Office, followed by refreshments from the on-site cafe, before returning home. An enjoyable time was had by all.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank English Heritage for allowing us once again to use the Priory for our annual celebration of our Patronal festival, to Fr Chris our chapter Chaplain for celebrating, and Fr Richard for the lovely homily and to Fr Beresford Skelton for cantoring for our Guild Office.





If other Chapters have orders of service they are willing to share, please send them to the Secretary General.

PG5/136 S George and S Anne, serving the Plymouth area.



On Saturday 31st May Fr David Bailey, our Guild Chaplain for more than 15 years, held his last Mass before retirement at St Francis of Assisi Church in Plymouth under the Mission Community of our Lady of Glastonbury. Fr David came to us on his return from South Africa; in his time there he was a Chaplain of the Server's Guild. He has given us many words of wisdom, much advice and valued spiritual encouragement over the years.

Some of us attend from outside of Plymouth, where we have Mass once a month, we still come in to attend the monthly Guild meetings.

As a farewell gift Father David gave the Parish a book of Gospels. Father David is on his way to the Norfolk area and will keep his eyes open for a local Guild meeting.

Father, you are most welcome to join the Chapter of S Lawrence in North Norfolk!!

PG15/91 S John the Divine, Leicester, serving the Leicester area

The Guild Office, led by Fr Walter Burleigh, was sung after the admission of a new member on 12th June 2025. We then proceeded to Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament, led by Fr Philip O'Reilly, Vicar of the Wistow Benefice.



Ten members present at the AGM unanimously voted for Bro Callum Shepherd as the new Chapter Secretary, and likewise for Fr Walter as Chaplain of the Chapter, Bro Stephen Popple as Master of Ceremonies, and Bro Charles Burlough as Treasurer.

Stepping down from the role of Chapter Secretary ahead of his ordination to the Diaconate, Bro Michal Kmet thanked everyone for their support and prayers. Fr Walter concluded the AGM with an address to those present, expressing thanks to Bro Michal for his service and ending the meeting with a prayer.

We wish the new Chapter Secretary every blessing in his new role, for the good of the Anglo-Catholic Church in Leicestershire.

Glastonbury

**Glastonbury 2025 takes place
on Saturday 6th September 2025**

12 noon Mass

3pm Procession of the Blessed Sacrament

Autumn Festival

Our GSS Autumn Festival will be held on

Saturday 10th October

at S Barnabas' Church, Crewe.

Mass at noon.

**Lunch will be provided. Please BOOK through the Editor
(*email as on P2*) before the end of September.**

Donations requested, please ≈ £8/person.

Guild Office and Benediction at 3pm.

Drinks reception to follow.

Taxi from Crewe station 10 Mins; 15 mins off the M6.

Parking: Hall car park; Frank Webb Ave; West Street.

Shop nearby; 5min walk to Morrisons, McDonalds & KFC.

Cycle of Prayer

September 2025

1		People & government of Ashmore & Cartier Islands.
2		The people and government of Australia.
3	S Gregory the Great PD.	Musicians, singers, students, and teachers.
4		The people and government of Austria.
5		The people and government of Azerbaijan.
6		The people and government of the Bahamas.
7	23rd Sunday Ordinary Time.	Bishop Lindsay Urwin
8	Nativity of the BVM.	Chefs, restaurateurs, distillers, drapers, potters.
9		The people and government of Bahrain.
10		The people and government of Bangladesh
11		The people and government of Barbados.
12		The people and government of Belarus.
13		The people and government of Belgium.
14	Exaltation of the Holy Cross	Bishop Glyn Webster.
15	Our Lady of Sorrows	Slovakia.
16	SS Cornelius PM & Cyprian BM	Cattle and domestic animals. Algeria. North Africa.
17		The people and government of Belize.
18		The people and government of Benin.
18		The people and government of Bermuda.
20	SS Andrew Kim Tae-gön, Pr & companions, M	Korea.
21	25th Sunday Ordinary Time	Bp Peter Wheatley.
22		The people and government of Bhutan.
23	S Pio of Pietrelcina.	Civil defence volunteers, adolescents, Pietrelcina.
24	Our Lady of Walsingham.	The Shrine & Parish Church.
25		The people and government of Bolivia.
26		The people & government of Bosnia-Herzegovina.
27	S Vincent de Paul, Pr.	All works of charity.
28	26th Sunday Ordinary Time.	Fr Darren Smith, Warden.
29	SS Michael, Gabriel, Raphael, Arch-Angels.	Grocers, soldiers, doctors, mariners, paratroopers, police, and sickness.
30	S Jerome PrD	Archaeologists, archivists, librarians, students.

October 2025

1	S Thérèse of Lisieux VD.	Missionaries, florists, pilots, priests.
2	Holy Guardian Angels.	That we may listen.
3		The people and government of Botswana.
4	S Francis of Assisi.	Animals and the environment.
5	27th Sunday Ordinary Time.	Fr Jonathan Roberts, Chaplain General
6		The people and government of Bouvet Island.
7	Our Lady of the Rosary.	Diocese of Málaga.
8		The people and government of Brazil.
9	S John Henry Newman.	Personal Ordinariate of Our Lady of Walsingham.
10		People & government of British Indian Ocean Territory.
11		The people and government of Brunei Darussalam.
12	28th Sunday Ordinary Time.	Fr Benjamin Weitzmann, Precentor
13		The people and government of Bulgaria.
14		The people and government of Burkina Faso.
15	S Teresa of Avila, VD.	Spain, sick people, people in religious orders, chess.
16		The people and government of Burundi.
17	S Ignatius of Antioch, BM.	Church in Eastern Mediterranean & North Africa.
18	S Luke E.	Artists, notaries, bachelors, physicians, brewers.
19	29th Sunday Ordinary Time.	Michael Andrew, Secretary General
20		The people and government of Cambodia.
21		The people and government of Cameroon.
22		The people and government of Canada.
23		The people and government of Cape Verde.
24		The people and government of Cayman Islands.
25		People & government of Central African Republic.
26	30th Sunday Ordinary Time.	James Farmer, Treasurer General
27		The people and government of Chad.
28	SS Simon & Jude, A	Curriers, woodcutters, tanners; (Simon); hopeless causes and hospital workers (Jude).
29		The people and government of Chile.
30		The people and government of China.
31		The people and government of Christmas Island.



November 2025

1		The people and government of Cocos Islands.
2	All Saints.	The Possessed; the works of the Devil.
3	All Souls.	The deceased.
4	S Charles Borromeo, B.	Ulcers, apple orchards, bishops, catechumens, colic.
5		The people and government of Colombia.
6		The people and government of Comoros.
7		The people and government of Congo DR
8		The people & government of Congo, Republic.
9	Dedication of Lateran Basilica.	Those preparing for baptism.
10	S Leo the Great, PD	Peacemakers.
11	S Martin of Tours, B	Beggars, weavers, tailors, quartermasters.
12	S Josaphat, BM	Eradication of heresy.
13		The people and government of Cook Islands.
14		The people and government of Costa Rica.
15		The people and government of Cote d'Ivoire.
16	33 rd Sunday Ordinary Time	Those preparing for confirmation.
17	S Elizabeth of Hungary, R; S Hilda, A; S Hugh of Lincoln, B.	Hospitals, nurses, the falsely accused. The Society, learning, culture. The sick, especially children; cobblers, swans.
18		The people and government of Croatia.
18		The people and government of Cuba.
20		The people and government of Cyprus.
21	Presentation of the BVM.	Newborns, new mothers.
22	S Cecilia, VM.	Sacred music; organ builders; luthiers; singers.
23	Our Lord, Jesus Christ, King of the Universe	World issues.
24	SS Andrew Dũng-Lạc, Pr & Companions, M	Vietnam.
25		The people and government of Czech Republic.
26		The people and government of Denmark.
27		The people and government of Djibouti.
28		The people and government of Dominica.
29		People & government of Dominican Republic.
30	Advent 1	Hope.



December 2025

1		The people and government of East Timor.
2		The people and government of Ecuador.
3	S Francis Xavier, Pr.	Navarre, foreign missions, missionaries.
4		The people and government of Egypt.
5		The people and government of El Salvador.
6		The people and government of Equatorial Guinea.
7	Advent 2	Faithfulness.
8	Immaculate Conception of the BVM.	America, Brazil.
9		The people and government of Eritrea.
10		The people and government of Estonia.
11		The people and government of Ethiopia.
12		The people and government of Falkland Islands.
13	S Lucy, VM.	The blind, martyrs, epidemics.
14	Advent 3	Joy.
15		The people and government of Faroe Islands.
16		The people and government of Fiji.
17		The people and government of Finland.
18		The people and government of France.
18		The people and government of French Guiana.
20		The people and government of French Polynesia.
21	Advent 4	Peace.
22		People & government of French Southern Territories.
23		The people and government of Gabon.
24		The people and government of Gambia.
25	Nativity of Our Lord, Jesus Christ.	Those who do not celebrate Christmass.
26	S Stephen, M	Deacons, altar servers, bricklayers, casket makers.
27	S John, AE.	Love, loyalty, friendships, authors, booksellers.
28	Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph.	Families, religious.
29	S Thomas Becket, BM	Oxford, Portsmouth, secular clergy.
30		The people and government of Georgia.
31		The people and government of Germany.



Glastonbury Abbey

Some say Glastonbury Abbey in Somerset is the location of the fabled Isle of Avalon, final resting place of King Arthur, others believe that Joseph of Arimathea came here from the Holy Land, bringing with him the Holy Grail and founding Britain's first church. Monks claimed they'd unearthed the remains of King Arthur and Guinevere back in the 12th century. Today the abbey is a romantic ruin of high gothic arches in beautiful parkland at the heart of Glastonbury.



Early historical evidence comes from the late 7th century, when grants of land were made by Saxon kings, which matches archaeological evidence of a church here. In the time of Abbot Dunstan, there was a belief that followers of Christ settled here in the 1st century CE, building a Church.

By the Norman Conquest, the abbey was the wealthiest in England.

Norman reforms were not welcomed by all of the monks; in battle, several monks were killed by Norman soldiers. The abbey continued to flourish, particularly under Abbot Henry of Blois. William of Malmesbury wrote his famous 'History of Glastonbury' that expanded the early origin legend.

In 1184 a fire destroyed most of the abbey but rebuilding began immediately, with King Henry II's support. The Lady Chapel commemorated and preserved the position of the Old Church. Sometime later, the monks announced the discovery of the bodies of King Arthur and Queen Guinevere. By the end of the 13th century the church was complete, and Arthur's bones were reburied in a lavish ceremony attended by King Edward I and Queen Eleanor.



By the 16th century, the abbey's wealth and power reached its zenith. The abbot lived in splendour, and entertained the rich and powerful in the great hall.

In 1534, the Act of Supremacy made Henry VIII head of the Church of England and he started the suppression of the monasteries. Glastonbury held out as long as possible, but eventually Abbot Richard Whiting was arrested on a fabricated charge of treason and executed in 1539. The abbey was stripped of its treasures and the land given to the Duke of Somerset. Materials were taken for use in new buildings and for roads. Only the Abbot's Kitchen escaped.

The site was acquired by John Fry Reeves in the 18th century and he built Abbey House with a view of the ruins. The last family to live in the house were the Austin family at the turn of the 20th century. It was then sold to the Church of England and opened to the public.

The abbey is now managed by a charity.

New Councillors



Medals awarded at the AGM by Fr Darren; Victor Kelly (London), Mark Wilson (Herts), & Henry Williams (Essex).

Easter Festival

The Easter Festival was held on Easter Saturday, 26th April, at S Stephen's Church, Gloucester Road, London.

Mass in the morning was led by the Warden, Fr Darren; then our Precentor, Fr Ben, led the Office and Benediction in the afternoon. Over 40 robed members were present. Thanks were expressed to Fr Philip Barnes, the Parish Priest, for inviting us once more to his beautiful church.



More pictures on our website [The Guild of Servants of the Sanctuary - GSS](http://www.gss.org.uk).

AGM ACCOUNTS

Financial Summary 2024	GSS		COF	
	31 st Dec 2024	31 st Dec 2023	31 st Dec 2024	31 st Dec 2023
INCOME	£	£	£	£
Subscriptions less refunds	10,092	10,263		
Donations	20	502	1,377	962
Gift Aid		1,479		
Bequest		614		
Sales of Guild Products	25	26		
Festival Collections	159	295		
Misc Income		116		
Chapter funds held by HQ	166	1,232		
Interest	1,950	1,513	527	301
Investment Income	16,057	15,812	9,704	9,556
	28,469	31,852	11,608	10,819
EXPENDITURE				
Cost of generating funds	10,681	9,990		
Charitable activities/Grants	2,483	1,405	12,100	18,100
Governance costs	6,066	5,961	152	1,038
Chapter funds returned by HQ	1,118			
Total resources expended	20,348	17,356	12,252	19,138
NET (Outgoings/Incoming)	8,121	14,496	(644)	(8,319)
Gains/(Losses) Investments	10,752	40,223	6,646	24,895
Net movement in funds	18,873	54,719	6,002	16,576
Transfer from General Funds				10,000
Transfer to COF Account		(10,000)		
Creditors		539		
Debtor		228		
Fund balance brought forward	571,879	526,393	338,293	311,717
Interest Adjusted from 2023	(450)		(97)	
Fund balances carried forward	590,302	571,879	344,198	338,293

Fund Balances made up as Follows:

Bank Balance	172	830	1,567	2,670
CCLA Deposit Account	43,946	35,389	9,873	9,739
CCLA Investment Accounts	546,159	535,407	332,758	326,112
Fixed assets	25	25		
Creditors		228		(228)
Debtors				
Fund balances as at 31st December	590,302	571,879	344,198	338,293

Children's Page

In what land was Jesus born?

If you answer each of the horizontal clues correctly, you will find the land where Jesus was born in the blue-shaded column!

Jesus shared loaves and...									
This OT book doesn't mention God									
Simon Peter's brother									
Where we will go when we die									
This season is just before Christmass									
They sang at Jesus's birth									

Can you find Jesus and His Disciples?

Can you find all the names listed in this grid? When you have crossed them all out, the unused letters will spell a quotation from Galatians 2!

Jesus, Simon Peter, Andrew, James, John, Philip, Bartholomew, Matthew, Thomas, Simon, James, Jude, Judas.

I	M	E	D	U	J	H	S	A	V	E	B
J	A	M	E	S	A	A	S	I	E	E	N
E	T	C	R	N	M	U	P	A	M	C	I
S	T	F	D	O	E	I	I	E	D	O	D
U	H	R	H	W	S	I	L	T	H	U	N
S	E	T	C	H	R	I	I	N	H	O	J
W	W	E	M	O	L	O	H	T	R	A	B
S	T	S	I	M	O	N	P	E	T	E	R

And one for the adults...

Find the animals listed below in the grid. They are all mentioned in the Bible. When you have eliminated them all, the remaining letters will spell out two more Biblical animals. If you get them, give yourself a bonus point!!

S	W	H	A	L	E	N	E	V	A	R	A	M
T	O	S	T	S	E	R	U	T	L	U	V	S
O	R	H	N	S	P	I	D	E	R	N	W	O
R	R	E	E	R	E	G	D	A	B	I	C	S
K	A	E	P	E	L	I	C	A	N	C	W	T
W	P	P	R	P	O	N	C	E	A	O	O	R
A	S	T	E	I	O	A	C	L	L	R	L	I
H	E	E	S	G	M	H	F	F	T	N	L	C
K	V	N	A	E	O	D	S	O	O	I	A	H
E	O	R	L	O	O	A	I	S	O	X	W	S
L	D	O	G	N	S	S	T	N	A	B	S	I
G	H	H	K	S	E	W	O	R	M	R	O	F
A	P	E	A	C	O	C	K	A	R	S	G	E
E	Y	L	I	A	U	Q	L	O	C	U	S	T

ASP
ASS
BADGER
CALF
CAMEL
DOG
DONKEY
DOVE
DRAGON
EAGLE

FISH
FOX
GOAT
GRASSHOPPER
HAWK
HORNET
LAMB
LION
LOCUST
OSTRICH

OX
PEACOCK
PELICAN
PIGEON
QUAIL
RAM
RAVEN
SERPENT
SHEEP
SPARROW

SPIDER
STORK
SWALLOW
SWINE
TORTOISE
UNICORN
VULTURE
WHALE
WOLF
WORM

Answers in the next issue!

General Council Report

Council met on 22nd March at Holy Trinity Hoxton, for Mass celebrated by Fr Aidan Bartlett, after which we began our meeting in the hall, with 14 Officers & Councillors in attendance.



Back row (L to R): Clive Tillin (PG9), Alan Scott (PG7), John Holden (PG3), John Kettle (PG21), Colin Squires (COF Administrator), James Farmer (Treasurer General), Nigel Makepeace (Trustee), Michael Andrew (PG12, Secretary General).

Front Row (L to R): Joan Joyce (PG14), Fr Ben Weitzmann (Precentor), Fr Darren Smith (Warden), Fr Jonathan Roberts (Chaplain General), Barry Kinnersley (PG1&2), Don Lewin (PG19).

Among the usual agenda items, we discussed public liability and visits by our Officers. Councillors were asked to remind Chapter Secretaries in their areas that our Officers do visit Chapters by invitation, and enjoy doing so. Councillors were also reminded to ask all their Chapters to send their annual programmes to the Secretary General, so that meetings can be uploaded onto the National event diary.

It is hoped that some chapters will be reopened as membership rises.

Storage of Guild items, owned by chapters now in abeyance, is an issue. The Secretary General has many items at home and in his garage. These will in future be listed for Chapters to borrow.

New publicity leaflets are to be circulated later in the year to Society parishes for information. We hope this will result in increased membership. Please do encourage new servers in your parish to join us. Forms can be printed from the GSS website.

Discussions were held on the Easter Festival and AGM, and on the Autumn Festival. Lunches are to be provided at the Autumn Festival, with donations requested, please book through the Server Editor to enable efficient catering.

The next Council meeting will be held on 30th August.

Candidates for Ordination Fund

The Guild of Servants of the Sanctuary was founded in 1898 and has a separate account named 'Candidates for Ordination Fund', which was set up in 1904. This fund receives donations from chapters or individuals and legacies, plus investments and interest, and it was set up to assist members of the Guild through training for the sacred priesthood.

Over the years hundreds of men have received grants to help them with the purchase of books etc. required for course work. Over the last 15 years, since Colin Squires took over as Administrator of the Fund, the Guild has helped 38 members with grants whilst in full time training, which are currently averaging over £1,000 per year.

We are currently supporting 16 members who are at various stages of their training; at the height we were supporting 21 candidates per year. Over the last 4 years we have given grants totalling over £57,000. Any server member of the GSS can apply for a grant for full-time training for ordination. If funds allow, requests are likely to be granted.

Further information is available from the Administrator, Colin Squires, on gsscofsecretary@gmail.com.

(See advertisement on p 39 of this magazine).

Trials of a Server...

The Sunday before Ash Wednesday we had a double baptism, 2yr old Star and Mum, Cherry. Star being restless, the Vicar gave her the run of the Church.

She took the anointing resentfully and when it came to the water kicked up a diggings of a stink! What a candidate: fully clad in white – shoes, socks, ankle bows, flared white party dress with matching top and white bows in her hair. We were raring to go.

As is the norm, I collect the plate at the Offertory with the cash on board and present to the Vicar for blessing. There standing at my feet and taking everything in was Star. I didn't think, just took her hand and said, "Coming up with me?" Good as gold, we walked up the Chancel ready for the baptismal vows, me explaining to her the reason we did all this with the collection, and then placed it on the Altar. We nearly bowed together, and walked back as though we had just been married. With that glee on her face, I deposited her back to Mum.

In sixty-five years of serving, never have I had that sort of experience before...

Barry Kinnersley.



Several years ago now, we had a Parish Confirmation. The Bishop was seated in his throne at the top of the steps and the Vicar, acting as Deacon, was setting the Nave Altar. As thurifer, I took the thurible and boat to the Bishop, and genuflected while he 'topped up'. As I stood up, I found myself on the edge of the step, and overbalanced. Desperately holding the boat tight, and the thurible high in the air, I rolled down the 3 steps and leapt to my feet at the bottom. The poor Bishop was horrified! 'Are you alright?' he asked! I was fine, and thankful not to have spilled a grain of incense or a crumb of charcoal. The incredible thing was that nobody else noticed!! I did discreetly ask a fellow server if they'd seen my faux pas, only to get in response, 'no, what did you do?' No-one in the congregation noticed either...

Amazing what you can get away with!!

Anon

Do you have a funny story to tell? It can be published anonymously, if you don't want anyone else to know about it! Go on, let the rest of us laugh too..... please?

Chapter Saints

S Gwynno, or Gwynnog ab Gildas, is a 6th-century Welsh saint. Gwynno may have been the son of Cau, called Euryn y Coed aur. He is regarded as a confessor; there may be a sacred well, Ffynnon Wyno, associated with Llanwonno, in Glamorganshire.

According to local tradition, he was a disciple of Illtud. During the Yellow Plague (547) the monks moved for safety to Brittany. Rather than return to Pembrokeshire, they settled at Llantwit Major (Llanilltud Fawr). The church at Llantwit Fardre, south of Pontypridd, is dedicated to Illtud, and the old church at Ystradyfodwg, in the Rhondda Fawr, is dedicated to Tyfodwg. Llanwynno, a chapel under Llantrisant, is dedicated to Gwynno. They are collectively known as the 'three saints' of Llantrisant, the old hilltop town west of Pontypridd.

Gwynno may have lived at Llanwynno, and may have owned the land around the farmhouse at Daearwynno, always known as Gwynno's land. It is not clear whether the land did belong to Gwynno, the saint, or was a later acquisition of the church.



There is no mention of Gwynno ever having performed miracles; no one knows of his work, or of the whereabouts of his grave, and not one of his writings has been preserved. Only Gwynno's name and his church remain as a definite indication that he did exist.

Llanwnnog in the county of Montgomeryshire claims him for its founder under the name of Gwynnog. *Wording underneath this image is an inscription in old English, "Sanctus Gwinocus, cujus animae propitietur Deus. Amen."*

Finally, do you know the link between Llanwynno and the 1964 film "Zulu"?

When the British soldiers break into their rousing rendition of "*Men of Harlech*", they were miming to a soundtrack

recorded in the car park of The Brynffynon Inn! The film's star, Stanley Baker (Lt. John Chard), was from Ferndale, just over the Rhondda side of the mountain, and he happened to be President of the Ferndale Imperial Singers. The choir were joined by Sir Stanley and Ivor Emmanuel, for the outdoor recording. There is a photograph of the late star having a pint in The Brynffynon, and his ashes were later (1976) scattered from the top of Llanwynno over his beloved Ferndale.

In a bizarre coincidence, a survivor of the defence of Rourke's Drift (on which the film was based) is buried in the graveyard at S Gwynno's. Private Thomas Chester survived being attacked by thousands of Zulus, only to be tragically killed 29 years later in an accident at Ferndale Colliery, where he worked after leaving the army.

More recently, an episode of Dr Who was partly filmed in the graveyard!

S Tyfodwg, or **Dyfodwg**, was a 6th-century Welsh saint. He is one of the three saints (with Illtyd and Gwynno) from whom the ancient parish of Llantrisant takes its name, and possibly the patron (believed to have been Tyfodwg, son of Gwilfwy) of the parish church of Llandyfodwg in Glynogwr, near Bridgend; he gave his name to the ancient parish of Ystradyfodwg.

Some records state Dyfodwg was a Breton monk, while others that he was born within the Glamorgan area. Iolo Morgannwg states that Dyfodwg founded a church at Ystradyfodwg (*The vale of Tyfodwg*) and was a disciple of Illtyd at Llantwit Major. However, there is no record of any church being dedicated to him in Ystradyfodwg itself (the parish church is dedicated to Saint John), leading some to suggest that the parish was named, not for a saint, but a local chieftain. One legend records that Tyfodwg was a chieftain promised sainthood by the monks at Penrhys.

According to Rice Rees, Tyfodwg was one of the associates of Cadfan (presumably S Cadfan), though the family line in the Cambrian Biography is inconsistent with known chronology.

PG12/245 is dedicated to S Gwynno & S Tyfodwg; the area covers Aberdare, Rhondda and Caerphilly Deaneries in Wales.

Gwynno's festival is 26th October and Tyfodwg's on 25th June.

Rings on their Fingers

and bells on their toes? All servers should be shouting 'NOOOOO!!!!'

There is nothing more dreadful than servers dressed inappropriately. I'm sure most of us have seen lurid jewellery, shoes all colours of the rainbow, full-on make-up, unshaven or dirty faces, unkempt robes, among other horrors.... We all cringe at some things, some of us more than others. In one church, I hear servers recently suffered a rant from the incumbent on shoes, and how a properly dressed server would only wear black shoes.... he dared not to mention socks, given his own quirk of humorous sock wearing! Of course, these should also be black, and trousers tucked into them if they are not black and likely to show beneath the cassock.

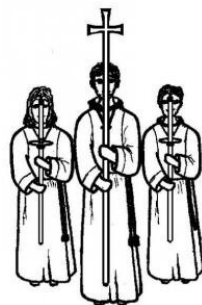
Being a server is about being effective, and efficient; on show but not being noticed. A good server will carry out their duties quietly and unobtrusively. Thanks will – *should* – come from the parish priest or the MC, because no-one else will have noticed what you do (*until you do it wrongly!*). You are not there to be seen; you are not on show.... Jesus is the 'main Man' at Mass; not the rector/vicar/celebrant, and definitely not the serving team.

How you present yourself therefore matters. Too much make-up, hair all over the place, scruffy or dirty face/hands/robes/shoes, highly polished nails, flashy jewellery, tattoos on show, white trainers – do not enhance your appearance in this scenario. Consider the type and number of earrings or other jewellery you wear. Does it enhance your service? Point to God? If you can't answer Yes to these questions, hide or lose it, at least while serving.

Do you have long hair? Please tie or pin it back. It's a distraction. Having recently watched a server chewing their ponytail during the sermon.... words fail me!

Please, dress smartly! Appropriately, even. Everything you do should be to honour Our Lord.

Isn't that why you are a server?



Know your Councillor

Barry Kinnersley

Councillor for PG1&2, Kent.

The Ascension was, of course, an Anglo-Catholic church in London. The Sunday School teacher asked my mother if I would be interested in joining Sunday School. I sang for a few weeks in the choir, and also became a cub-scout. Having been confirmed in 1959, I was asked by the senior server if I was interested in joining the serving team and I started serving on Palm Sunday. Over time I gained experience in all roles, torch bearer, acolyte, all the way up to MC. I'm too big to be boat-boy – but there again, why not?!

Later, I joined both GSS and CBS. Thanks to the GSS, I have served in many churches, in London, Kent, and even at the Shrine of Our Lady in Walsingham.

I'm a member of the PCC and the parish odd-job-man. I also get to do the fun things, like being Father Christmass at fetes – having first helped set up! I'm also a chalice assistant and have been a regular visitor to housebound folk in the parish.

My family includes my wife and children, and other relations; sadly, few go often to church, but they tolerate my needs. My daughter attends irregularly. We have 2 cats, Molly (13) and Billy (18 months): like us, all day fighting then best friends in the evening, when they wash each other thoroughly. Billy likes to spend more time on top of cupboards than on terra firma...

Outside church, I enjoy tackling the garden, keeping my wife happy. I also like to keep the car running smoothly where possible. I go walking with a boys' group on Wednesdays.

Life can be a roller-coaster, it brings many opportunities, which may be an advantage – or disadvantage! We are tried in many ways, and that is the test that can make or



break us. Times for laughter, and times for tears. Many things today are on a downward spiral, and I wonder what it holds for my children’s children, and theirs. Sadly, but in hope, I sincerely wish people would learn more about our Lord, Jesus Christ. Over my 75 years connected with the church since Sunday School, aware or unaware, it has been a memorable time which I am ever thankful for.

Children’s Page Answers

Jesus shared loaves and				F	I	S	H	E	S
This book doesn’t mention God				E	S	T	H	E	R
Simon Peter’s brother	A	N	D	R	E	W			
Where we will go when we die			H	E	A	V	E	N	
This season is just before Christmass			A	D	V	E	N	T	
They sang at Jesus’s birth	A	N	G	E	L	S			

So the correct answer is **Israel**.

I	M	E	D	U	J	H	S	A	V	E	B
J	A	M	E	S	A	A	S	T	E	E	N
E	T	C	R	N	M	U	P	A	M	C	I
S	T	F	D	O	E	I	I	E	D	O	D
U	H	R	H	W	S	I	L	T	H	U	N
S	E	T	C	H	R	I	I	N	H	O	J
W	W	E	M	O	L	O	H	T	R	A	B
S	T	S	I	M	O	N	P	E	T	E	R

Names crossed out; leftover letters in **bold** read ‘**I have been crucified with Christ.**’

Well done if you completed both puzzles correctly. Do let us know if you like them, and which type is your favourite!

Adults, you get your answers next issue!!



And Finally.....

The Pharisees believed in the resurrection of the dead, but the Sadducees didn't. That's why they're sad, you see.

#####

How many of each animal did Moses bring onto the ark?

2?

None! Moses wasn't even on the ark!

Come on, didn't you Noah that?

✂ ✂ ✂ ✂ ✂ ✂ ✂

A family with young children sat down on Easter Day to talk about the Easter story. The father took out some Resurrection eggs, plastic eggs containing props representing parts of the Easter story. Unfortunately, last year, the family had used the eggs for an Easter egg hunt, and not all of the pieces were retrieved. As the father talked about Pontius Pilate, he held up a blue egg and said, "Now, what did they do to Jesus on Good Friday?"

All the children said, "They put him on the cross."

"That's right," he said, opening the egg. Everyone stared into the empty blue egg. Empty except for dirt and two broken pine needles.

One of the older children offered help: "Shouldn't they be nails?"

✂ ✂ ✂ ✂ ✂ ✂ ✂

I needed some supplies from a Sunday School cupboard that was seldom used and was secured with a lock. I didn't know the combination, but our priest offered to give it a try. Faer placed his fingers on the lock's dial and raised his eyes heavenward for a moment. Then he confidently spun the dial and opened the lock. Seeing how impressed I was with this demonstration of faith, he smiled, and confided, "The numbers are written on the ceiling."





Thinking of joining the Priesthood?

Member of GSS?

Maybe the Candidates for Ordination Fund can help you!

If both answers are yes, then the Candidates for Ordination Fund could assist you financially with an annual grant.

Apply to Grand Councillor Colin Squires
Southdene,
Slimbridge Road,
Burgess Hill,
West Sussex. RH15 8QE

If you're not already a member, why not join?

Email: squires603@btinternet.com

Tel: 01444 244 737



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