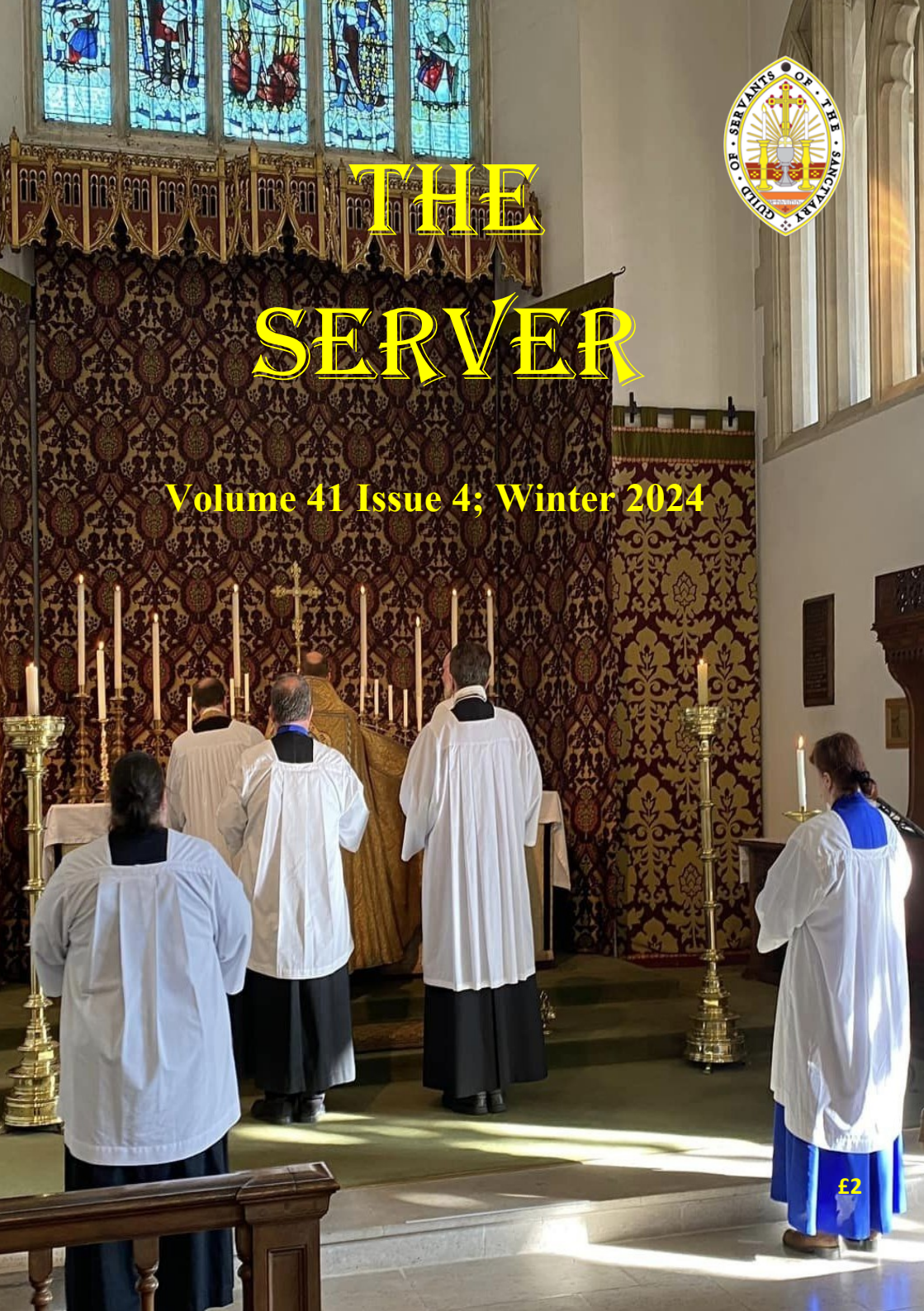




THE SERVER

Volume 41 Issue 4; Winter 2024



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<u>Index</u>	<u>Page</u>
Editorial	4
The Directory	5
The Chantry Book	5
Tributes to our late Grand Councillors, Peter & John	6
The Warden's Words	11
From the Secretary General	12
Chapter News	15
A Grain of Sand	18
The Sisters of Bethany	19
Cycle of Prayer	20
Guild Diary	24
Howard Gadd Memorial Fund	25
Children's Page	26
Altar Servers' Guide to Proper Serving	27
Chapter Saints – S Justus	28
Forecast	29
Mistletoe	30
The Christmass Goat	31
Christmass Trivia	32
Life is short, so enjoy it	33
Children's Page Answers	33
And Finally	34

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

Printed by The Additional Curates Society.

Cover Picture: Taken during Benediction at the Autumn Festival, 2024.

Editorial

Well, having picked up the editorial reins pro tem, I suppose I'd better begin by introducing myself!

I wasn't eligible to join GSS until 1987, and it was a great joy to be allowed to become a member. One of the information sheets I received back then stated, in the Rules, that "All members shall be known as Brother". I was very happy to be called Brother Joan, and that is what I answer to. Anyway, living close to a community of nuns, I can assure you I am really not suited to being called a sister!

I spent my working life in the NHS, as a radiographer and manager, and took early retirement in 2011. I have 1 husband (a priest), 3 sons, 2 daughters, 8 grandchildren and a cat. The family are scattered, so we regularly visit Birmingham, Dublin, Northumberland, Portsmouth and Newmarket. I became a Christian when I was 30, so 'a few' years ago, and am a member of the Guild of All Souls as well as GSS, and a Companion of the Oratory of the Good Shepherd (fall-out of the Caister retreats, for those who remember them!).



When I started serving at S Mary's, Newmarket, under the late Fr Geoffrey Smith, I was the only female in a team of 5. We were all on duty every Sunday, and took turns at all roles. However, come 1993, I was forced to move, with the family, for work. Finding it hard to sell our house, we changed addresses 5 times in the next 5 years, eventually settling in Carlisle – where it was still not acceptable for females to serve in most churches, even in the late 1990's! It wasn't till 2011 we returned to East Anglia, and settled in Norfolk.

I now serve regularly in S Mary's, Walsingham, and occasionally in 2 other churches in the Benefice. I am currently secretary to our local GSS chapter, PG14/230 S Lawrence; and Councillor for Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire. Now, I hope that's enough about me!

I attended the very successful Autumn Festival at Weston-super-Mare on 12th October, and, staying overnight, went back to the church for Sunday Mass. It was fascinating to hear the buzz of excitement in the congregation about the festival the previous day; there was also much enthusiasm about their forthcoming parish trip to Walsingham the next day! Fr Andrew preached without script, and talked about S Anthony of Egypt, who founded the Desert Fathers, and the value of silence in worship. He also pondered the importance of saying the Lord's Prayer, slowly and thoughtfully, and how powerful that can be.

He's right. Perhaps we should all try it sometime?

My contact details are on page 2 of the magazine, but please don't leave messages as the answering machine is unmonitored.

May God be with you all in your faithfulness in your work at the altar.

Yours in Christ,

Brother Joan

The Directory

We welcome the following new members to the GSS:

Full Members:

David Ballard, Ryan Thomas, Simon Cartlidge, Tina Calvert, Jean Keitch, Margaret Jordan, Poppy Sharman, Martin Ingram, Samuel Hibberd, Edith Hibberd, Jack Earney, Kevin Coaker, Derek Coaker, Mark Wisbey, Noelle Pincher, Freddie Sheppard, Philip Evans, Owen Wills, Jennifer Llewellyn, Samuel Marde-Mehdiabad, Jonathan Leigh.

It is good to be welcoming so many new young members under 18.

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

Faithful Departed:

Raymond Allen, Peter Keat, John Donovan, Roger Martin, Ken Reid, Sue Pritchard, Phillip Howlett, Cynthia Philips, Peter McGuire.

The Chantry Book

Colin Limming September 1932 – August 2024.

PG14/49 Chapter of S Etheldreda, Diocese of Ely.



Colin was born in North London and his early years were spent in Potters Bar. He passed his 11+ and went to Minchenden Grammar School in Southgate, where his favourite subjects were History, English language and literature. He had vivid memories of the Battle of Britain being played out in the skies above London. In 1940 he joined the Wolf Cubs, and 68 years later was still a County Fellowship member. Scouting became a passion and he became a Scout, Senior Scout, Rover, Rover Leader and later was Assistant Commissioner for Hertfordshire. He was the proud owner of the Silver Acorn for Distinguished Service to the Scout Movement.



He was called up for National Service in the RAF. He asked for a posting in the Home Counties so he could continue his Scouting activities, but he was posted to Iraq, where he spent his time in Habaniya, 60 miles west of Baghdad in the desert.

Colin met his future wife, Joan, through Scouts, and they married in 1961. They had 2 daughters, Sarah and Anne. Colin retired in 1992, but not for long, as he became clerk to his Parish Council for 6 years.

Colin was also fully involved with the Church of England. He began serving at the age of 5, and continued to the age of 75 – and then joined the choir! He was secretary to the Chapter of S Etheldreda in the Diocese of Ely for many years (*he enrolled me! Ed*) and committee meetings were held at his home, where, before the proceedings began, all were made welcome, as it was tradition to start with coffee and jam doughnuts!

As a member of the Guild, he was involved in training aspiring altar servers. Colin had learned a great deal about church etiquette and muttered darkly when things were not ‘done proper’.

Colin’s funeral took place on 23rd August 2024 at his parish church of All Saints, Melbourn, with a full congregation, including a good representation of Guild members. He is now with his Lord in the Heavenly Kingdom of joy and peace. He was an inspiration to all and will be sorely missed by the Guild.

May Colin rest in peace, and rise in glory.

Grand Councillor Peter Keat

1946 – 2024

A Tribute by Grand Councillor Nigel Makepiece.

It was with great sadness that we learnt of the death of Peter after a short illness on 30th August 2024.

Peter was born on 28th February 1946 in Newcastle upon Tyne and moved to the Portsmouth area shortly afterwards. It was at East Cosham that Peter sang in the choir and was confirmed, later to become an altar server. He followed his family’s tradition and, like his uncle and father before him, joined the Guild, in 1962. He was elected to represent Portsmouth, Isle of Wight, Winchester, Salisbury, Southampton and the Chichester and Bognor area as their local Councillor, and after the local councillor retired, became Councillor for Guernsey and Jersey, something he continued to do up to his death.

Peter also represented the Guild at the Annual Meetings of the Scottish Guild of Servers.



After leaving school, Peter became a chef and worked at the local hospital until it was closed. He then found a role as the local archivist to the Royal Navy Chaplaincy. Perhaps this is where he obtained so many interesting articles about naval life that appeared in The Server. He was also the editor of a local railway magazine, and again included occasional railway themed articles in The Server too.

Peter took on the role of the editor in unusual circumstances in 2004. At the Spring Council Meeting in 2004, Peter volunteered to work with the previous Editor, Raymund Waker, to help update and revitalise the magazine, utilising Raymund's wealth of knowledge and experience in the production of The Server. Little did he know that by the time he arrived home, the warden had telephoned Peter's wife to say that Raymund had died, and would he now temporarily take on the responsibility as the editor for The Server.

Peter was made a Grand Councillor of the Guild for his work as the local Councillor and Editor of The Server. He was also instrumental in introducing colour photographs to the magazine.

His funeral mass was on 1st October at Holy Trinity, Trinity Green, Gosport, where the Guild's Precentor, Fr Benjamin Weitzmann, officiated. Peter's coffin was led into Holy Trinity church by the servers and clergy, who after the Absolutions of the Dead led the coffin out to the hearse for a private cremation. The Guild was represented by members of the local chapter, who served, and three Councillors, Joan Joyce, James Farmer and Nigel Makepeace. The church was full, with relatives, friends, other clergy and GSS members. Fr Alan Ball, the Chaplain of the Chapter of St Joseph of Arimathea, gave the address.

After the service, mourners were invited to The Creek at Haslar Marina for refreshments, where the afternoon proved to be such that we were able to sit outside and take in the lovely atmosphere of the Solent.

Peter will be sadly missed by the Council and members of the GSS, and we extend our condolences to Pam, his wife, Michael and David, his sons and their families.

May he rest in peace.



Grand Councillor John Donovan

1937 – 2024



John was a true Londoner, born at the Royal Free Hospital in Islington, London, and living his whole life in the London Borough of Hackney. I was honoured to meet him at Holy Trinity Church, Hoxton about 7 years ago, and we remained good friends ever since.

He was a great family man and met the love of his life, Beryl, whom he married in 1961 at St Marks Church, Dalston. He had two wonderful daughters, Sharon and Pauline, and he could often be found on a Friday evening enjoying a pint of Guinness with his Grandson Louis, in the Old Shillelagh on Stoke Newington High Street, where he lived. Beryl was an honorary member of GSS and they could both be found greeting members on arrival and 'manning' those attendance sheets for the Easter and Autumn Festivals at the back of Church. They worked as a great team, and members were delighted to see them there.

In his role as Secretary, he was instrumental in the revival of the Chapters of St Hugh of Lincoln, Our Lady, and St Pancras, and regularly held Chapter meetings and events to which all were welcome. John was tireless in his promotion of the Guild of the Servants of the Sanctuary for over 50 years, and he carried this out with faithfulness, humility and professionalism. After Mass had concluded, John would always arrange for servers to retire to a local hostelry to have refreshments and convivial pint or two.

He was always immaculately dressed at the altar and whilst waiting for Father to robe, he would always comb his hair and make sure it wasn't out of place. His encouragement and instruction to any new members, including myself, was legendary, and conducted with due reverence and patience. He never raised his voice at the altar, nor did he move about, and his instruction at Mass came via raising his finger and pointing in the direction of whatever action was required.

John and Beryl rented a cottage each year, and took their annual holidays in Cromer so that they could be near the sea and the Shrine of Our Lady at Walsingham.

John worked in charge of the Stores in Brown Brothers, a Plumbing and Builders Merchants in Hackney. He was a keen DIY specialist and because of his patience and practical skills could often be seen restoring fabric and ornaments in various churches – St Marys, Stoke Newington, St Magnus the Martyr in the City, St Chad's in Haggerston where he was Church Warden, and of course The Most Holy Trinity Church, Hoxton.

He had other interests and hobbies too, being a keen Railway Modeller and having a wonderful layout in the downstairs back room of his house. He carefully made all his own models and decorated them. His favourite hobby was to buy an engine that had ceased to work and bring it back to working order. John's other great interest was his garden, where his plants and flowers were a blaze of colours and varieties each summer. He was a great cultivator, and shower of Dahlias and Begonias. A few years ago, he was privileged to have an original Dahlia flower recognised and named in the lists of the Royal Horticultural Society. He was a member of the National Dahlia Society, and frequently attended the Dahlia Show at the RHS Wisley Gardens.

John's wife, Beryl, of 63 years, passed away in 2023 and he was lost without her. His Requiem Mass was held on 10th October, at St Chad's, Haggerston, followed by Burial in the London Cemetery.

Requiescat in pace.

Victor Kelly, Hon Sec and Treasurer, St Hugh of Lincoln, Our Lady & St Pancras Chapters.



The Warden's Words

Oh I do like to be beside the seaside!

Oh! I do like to be beside the sea!

A little-known fact that I only ever admit to my closest friends, (or after I have had a lot to drink), is that I actually originate from the well-known seaside resort of Cleethorpes in Lincolnshire. Believe it or not, T-shirts are available which read 'Cleethorpes, the last resort'. There is a strange irony that I should end up spending the majority of my time in Birmingham, the furthest place from the sea; that is why it is always a particular joy when my travels take me to other coastal resorts such as Weston-Super-Mare. For those of us in Birmingham, Weston is indeed one of the closest seaside resorts and it is a place very dear to my heart, not least because of the beautiful church of All Saints. I was particularly pleased that this was chosen as our venue, for one of the most successful Autumn Festivals we have had in a long time, and even though Weston was incredibly busy that weekend because of other events, it was such a joy to see so many GSS members making the effort to travel there and celebrate the work of our Guild.

After much deliberation, we decided it was important to celebrate a Mass of Requiem, given the loss we had sustained over the last few months of so many of our brethren, John Donovan, Peter Keat, Michael Rogerson and Father Geoffrey Squires; almost 200 years of combined service to the Guild. A beautiful Mass in the Autumn sun was said for these and all departed members of GSS, and as the rays shone through the stunning windows of All Saints, the words of the Eucharistic prayer echoed around the building, 'Lord, for your faithful, life is changed, not ended'. Tributes have been and are paid in this magazine for their outstanding work and membership of the Guild.

After the Guild Office, I did take the opportunity of visiting the restored Pier in Weston and it brought back such happy memories of Cleethorpes Pier and growing up there, looking forward to the summer spectacular shows and the Christmas Pantomimes, which were always so well supported and such great fun. From magical acts to slapstick comedy, pantomime dames and Principal Boys, the life of the business was never quite what it seemed. I suppose in many ways, put a costume on, and you can almost say or do what you like, as it is not you that speaks but the character that you play. Somebody once described the Church's liturgy as being something like a show, and indeed we have certain things in common; lights, music and costumes, some more elaborate than others, but that is where the similarity must end, for this is not a show that we put on, but a sincerely held belief. The 'costumes' that we wear are primarily to cover over our identity and help point to Him, the Lord that we serve. The temptation and the trap that some fall into, – and clergy are as prone, or more so than laity – is that the 'dressing up' becomes an end in itself, and points more to us than to Him. There should be no 'playing' at service, for we follow the example of our Lord himself, who was humble enough to wash his disciples' feet. Let us all keep firm hold of reality, for Christian discipleship should be about humility and self-abandonment, and not about an ego trip that is more concerned with what we wear than what we do.

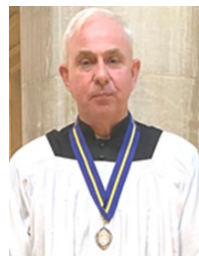
Doubtless, as you read this, the shops will be full of Christmas paraphernalia, the streets festooned with brightly coloured lights. I challenge you, once again, to look for Christ in any and all of these, and remember that our Saviour came quietly, gently, humbly in a stable, covered in swaddling clothes, and lying in a Manger.

May the Christ Child come to you in the same way and may He find room in your hearts, for He found no room in the inn.

Best wishes,

Fr Darren Smith

From the Secretary General



I begin on a sad note, reflecting on the passing of two members of the General Council since the last edition. Grand Councillor Peter Keat had been a member of the General Council for over 25 years. There is a tribute to Peter in this edition. I know how much the Guild meant to Peter and how much effort Peter put into his work as editor of *The Server*. I'm sure that you will all agree with me that we have much to thank Peter for, since he took on the role of 'Temporary Editor' over 20 years ago. Peter has certainly transformed *The Server* into what it is today.

Grand Councillor John Donovan had been a member of the General Council for many years. John was also Chapter Secretary of St. Hugh of Lincoln & Our Lady & St. Pancras in London. In addition, John was the head steward for the Easter Festival and could always be relied upon to ensure that everything was done to make the festival run smoothly. I shall miss my telephone calls with John. The whole Council will certainly miss both John and Peter.

Rest eternal grant unto John & Peter O Lord, and let light perpetual shine upon them.

The Autumn Festival:



On Saturday 12th October we gathered at All Saints Church, in Weston-Super-Mare, for our Annual Autumn Festival. We received a warm welcome from the Servers and Church Wardens at All Saints, and the sun even came out to welcome us as well. It was a lovely and prayerful day, and everyone seemed to enjoy it. During the festival we were pleased to admit two new members to the Guild, Ewan Gillings and Kevin Coaker. Thanks to all who served or helped in any way to make the day such a success. Next Year's Autumn Festival will be held at St. Barnabas Church in Crewe.



Our membership has continued to grow steadily throughout the year and to date we have admitted 91 new members, which is almost a 50% increase on last year. I'm looking forward to being in Manchester, to reestablish the Chapter there in November. I've again been able to join a few Chapters for their meetings and it's always good to meet Chapter members in different parts of the country.

May I again remind members that the Annual Subscription of £10 is **due in January** each year. Prompt payment in January helps greatly with our cashflow and saves the expense of having to write to members to request payment. We currently have 130 members who have not yet paid their subscription for this year and 47 that haven't paid for 2023. If you have not yet paid your subscription, can I urge you to do so as soon as possible. If you wish to pay by BACS or Standing Order, then please contact myself for details.

The Server Magazine: At the last meeting of the General Council, we discussed The Server Magazine and the frequency of its publication. I know that Peter had sometimes struggled to obtain news articles for some editions, also the cost of printing and postage has increased significantly. The Council took the decision that as from January 2025, The Server would be published three times yearly. This decision wasn't taken lightly, as the other option would have been to have increased the annual subscription to cover the rising costs associated with publishing The Server four times a year.

The sad death of Peter has meant that we have had to look for a new editor. I'm so grateful to Joan Joyce, the Councillor for PG14 Norfolk, Suffolk & Cambridge, who has volunteered to become our temporary magazine editor. Joan isn't new to The Server as she has been our proofreader for a while now. I wish Joan every success as she takes on this new role.

Please do continue to send in your Chapter Programmes for inclusion on the website and photos of your Chapter events. Our Facebook page has 994 members and regularly receives posts from Chapters. It's good to see what's going on in the guild in various parts of the country.

By the time you receive this edition we will be approaching the season of Advent and looking towards our Christmas celebrations. May I on behalf of the Guild wish you and your families a very Blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year.

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

Michael

Chapter News

PG7/126 SS Osmund & Swithun, serving Bournemouth/Poole/Christchurch/Ringwood area.

Members of the chapter were present at the centenary celebration of the Glastonbury Abbey Pilgrimage on Saturday, July 13th. Members of our sister chapter, PG7/232 S Aldhelm's Weymouth served at Mass and later at Benediction. Our chapter thurible and banner were carried in the afternoon procession of witness, which preceded Benediction.

On Tuesday, July 16th at 7pm, the chapter held its annual Summer Festival Mass at Wimborne S Giles. We were joined by members of S Aldhelm's chapter and a number of supporters from the Bournemouth area and its surroundings. The celebrant at Mass was Fr Gregory Lipovski who is chaplain of S Aldhelm's chapter and parish priest of S Paul's church, Weymouth.

Unfortunately, our September meeting which was to be held at S Ambrose, Westbourne, Bournemouth had to be cancelled due to unavoidable circumstances.

At our next meeting at S Francis, Charminster, Bournemouth on Tuesday, October 15th, we will sing the Guild Office followed by Benediction, where we shall admit two new members.

PG2/121 St Mildred's Chapter – Thanet took pleasure in celebrating after what must be the first engagement since Covid on Tuesday 8th October at All Saints, Westbrook next Margate. In total a dozen attended, of which 4 were members, to sing the Office unaccompanied shared between Secretary and Councillor. Fr Dennis presided, with Secretary Mark leading Compline.

Yes, refreshments were had after the service. I sincerely hope this will be the beginning of a new start for St Mildreds since that awful pandemic.

PG12/19 Chapter of St. Barnabas, Cardiff, serving South Wales.

On September 2nd we were pleased to return to St. Margaret's Church in Roath for a Mass. It's been a while since we last visited St. Margaret's Church. Canon Stewart Lisk celebrated for us and afterwards we enjoyed light refreshments.



Fifteen members of the Chapter travelled by coach to Weston-Super-Mare for the Autumn Festival, some of whom served in the afternoon. Everyone agreed that it was a wonderful occasion and are looking forward to a future festival.

On Monday 14th October we held a Mass at All Saints Church in Rhiwbina, the celebrant was our Chaplain, Fr. Chris Lee and Fr. Benedict Yates was the deacon. After the Mass we were treated to a delicious ploughman's supper, prepared for us by some of the ladies of our chapter. We held a short meeting after to consider some plans for next year.

PG14/230 S Lawrence, serving North Norfolk.

It has been a huge privilege to welcome to the Chapter the whole serving team from S John's, Timberhill, Norwich. We met on S Lawrence's Day (10th August) at Timberhill, where we enrolled 7 members, held a Patronal Mass and then sat down to a feast, laid on by the Parish catering team.



In September we enrolled a further two young members. With Life Members already in the congregation and other local churches, we hope, once they have settled into their membership, that the Norwich Chapter, currently in abeyance, can be reopened.

Watch this space!

Our formal September meeting was held in the Church of S Margaret of Antioch in Tatterford, where we sang the Guild Office and Benediction, led by our Chaplain, Fr Martin, and our valued cantors – who regularly travel 70 miles to join us – Brothers Laurence Kidman and Robin Edwards, who are now training new cantors for the Chapter.



After refreshments, Brother Ravi took us on a guided tour of the site. Tatterford was once a star in the Anglo-Catholic movement; the Parish Priest, Fr William Hand, started a school in Tatterford for boys seeking a vocation to the priesthood. Tatterford church was the focus for their liturgies, and from here boys went to Mirfield Theological College to train for holy orders. Hundreds of boys from Tatterford went on to become Priests, many of them local north Norfolk boys. Fr Hand's son, David, became the Bishop of Papua New Guinea.

In October we visited S Andrew's, Holt, for Guild Office and Benediction, with a small congregation of 12 servers and supporters. This was followed by refreshments and notices.

In November we held our Annual Requiem Mass in the Guild of All Souls Chapel in Walsingham, led by Bishop Robert. This is our last meeting of the year.

We start our new year in March, with Stations of the Cross in the Shrine. We welcome all comers, so if you are in Walsingham at 2.30pm on the 2nd Monday in March, do come and join us!

PG19/101 Lamb of God serving the Sheffield area.



On the feast of S Michael and all Angels, the Chapter of the Lamb of God met jointly with the Prayer Book Society to provide a serving team for Evensong and Benediction, held at S Matthew's church, Carver Street.

At this meeting, Rana Deer Chevrolu was formally admitted to the Guild by Fr Grant Naylor, Priest Associate.



A Grain of Sand at a Time

Do you sometimes feel overwhelmed with all the things that you need to get done?

Then think of your life as an hourglass.

There are thousands of grains of sand in the top of the hourglass;
and they all pass slowly and evenly through the narrow neck in the middle.

We are like that hourglass.

When we start in the morning, there are hundreds of tasks
which we feel that we must accomplish that day.

But if we do not take them one at a time
and let them pass through the day slowly and evenly,
as do the grains of sand passing through the narrow neck of the hourglass,
then we are bound to break our own fragile physical and mental structure.

Do not attempt more than God designed you to do.

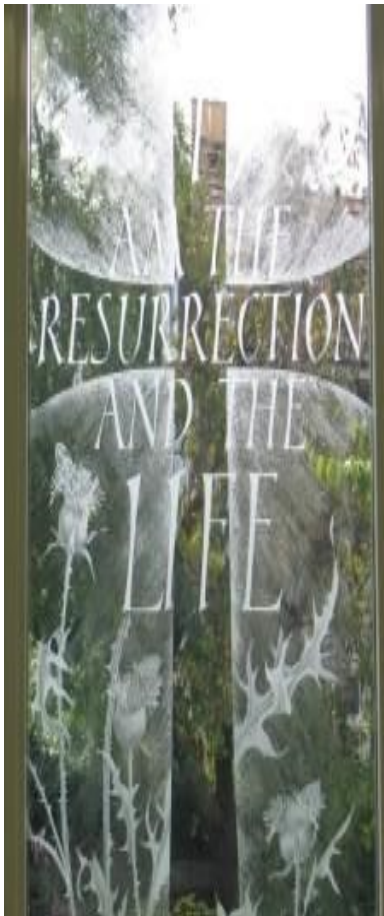
The Sisters of Bethany

In a large detached house with a peaceful garden, in a quiet part of Southsea, is one of the two houses which are run by the Society of the Sisters of Bethany, a religious Order for women within the Anglican Communion. The Order have recently opened a new house for a small community in Moulton S Mary, a small village in Norfolk.

The Society was founded in 1866 and was the first Order within the Anglican Communion to offer retreats for women. The Society follows the Rule of S Augustine in the form modified by S Francis de Sales and S Jane Frances de Chantal. The community is a group of women who feel called by God to live as a family in Christ, in the power of the Holy Spirit, under vows of poverty, chastity and obedience.

Through prayer and activity, they seek to share the work of reconciling the divided Churches of Christendom and the whole world to the glory of God the Father. By simplicity of lifestyle, they try to identify with those for whom they pray, sharing in Christ's work of intercession in the power of His Holy Spirit. Under the patronage of the household at Bethany they seek to live a life that is the expression of a shared concern to love and serve God and one another, after the example of Mary, Martha and Lazarus.

The House is within the area of the Portsmouth Chapter and has been visited several times for Chapter meetings. The Southsea house also runs quiet and study days, which are always open to all.



Left: Engraved window fitted in the chapel of the Southsea house.

This article was prepared by Grand Councillor Peter Keat, and was held over from the Autumn edition.

Cycle of Prayer

January 2025

- 1 Mary, Mother of God. Churches with this dedication.
- 2 S Basil & S Gregory BD. Churches with this dedication.
- 3 PG13/28 S Cedd.
- 4 PG13/28 Secretary Stella Baldry.
- 5 **2nd Sunday of Christmass. The King.**
- 6 **The Epiphany.** Churches with this dedication. LG 6/48.
- 7 PG13/28 Chaplain.
- 8 PG13/92 Sacred Heart.
- 9 PG13/92 Secretary Adrian Wright.
- 10 PG13/92 Chaplain.
- 11 PG13/154 S Peter the Apostle.
- 12 **Baptism of the Lord. Openness to the Word of God. PG 20/128.**
- 13 S Hilary BD. Churches with this dedication.
- 14 PG13/154 Secretary Brian Gilders.
- 15 PG13/154 Chaplain.
- 16 PG14 Councillor Joan Joyce.
- 17 S Anthony, Ab. Churches with this dedication.
- 18 PG14/22 Ss Felix & Fursey.
- 19 **2nd Sunday in OT. Peace in the world.**
- 20 S Fabian PM; S Sebastian M. Churches with these dedications.
- 21 S Agnes VM. Churches with this dedication.
- 22 S Vincent DcM. Churches with this dedication.
- 23 PG14/22 Secretary Paul Collard.
- 24 S Francis de Sales, BM. Churches with this dedication.
- 25 Conversion of S Paul. Churches with this dedication.
- 26 **3rd Sunday in OT. Christian Unity.**
- 27 Ss Timothy and Titus, B. Churches with this dedication.
- 28 S Thomas Aquinas M. Churches with this dedication.
- 29 PG14/22 Chaplain Fr Max Drinkwater.
- 30 S John Bosco Pr. Churches with this dedication.
- 31 PG14/34 S Edmund, King and Martyr.



February 2025

- 1 PG14/34 Secretary Ruth Longhurst.
2 **Presentation of the Lord. The lapsed.**
3 PG14/34 Chaplain.
4 PG14/49 S Etheldreda.
5 S Agatha VM. Churches with this dedication.
6 S Paul Miki, and Companions, M. Churches with this dedication.
7 PG14/49 Secretary Tim Adams.
8 PG14/49 Chaplain Fr Rob Mackley.
9 **5th Sunday in OT. The sick and those who care for them.**
10 PG14/230 S Lawrence.
11 Our Lady of Lourdes. Churches with this dedication. All who are unwell.
12 PG14/230 Secretary Joan Joyce.
13 PG14/230 Chaplain Fr Martin Joyce.
14 Ss Cyril and Methodius B. Churches with this dedication.
15 PG14/234 All Saints.
16 **6th Sunday in OT. Racial justice.**
17 PG14/234 Secretary James Bishop.
18 PG14/234 Chaplain.
19 PG15 Councillor vacancy, that someone will come forward.
20 PG15/29 S Chad & St Dubritius.
21 PG15/29 Secretary Nigel Makepiece.
22 The Chair of St Peter A. Churches with this dedication.
23 **7th Sunday in OT. Victims of trafficking and those who work to combat it.**
24 S Matthias A. Churches with this dedication.
25 PG15/29 Chaplain Fr Stephen Parker
26 PG15/91 S John the Divine.
27 PG15/91 Secretary.
28 PG15/91 Chaplain.



March 2025

- 1 S David B. Wales. Churches with this dedication.
2 **8th Sunday in OT. Those who are unemployed.**
3 PG15/91 Secretary Michael Kmet.
4 PG15/91 Chaplain Fr Walter Burleigh.
5 **Ash Wednesday. For all who are penitent.**
6 PG15/102 S Luke.
7 Ss Perpetua and Felicity M. Women's World Day of Prayer.
8 S John of God R. Churches with this dedication.
9 **1st Sunday of Lent. Survivors of Abuse.**
10 PG15/102 Secretary John Stapleton.
11 PG15/102 Chaplain.
12 PG16 Councillor Chris Barnett.
13 PG16/118 Ss Michael & Andrew.
14 PG16/118 Secretary Chris Barnett.
15 PG16/118 Chaplain.
16 **2nd Sunday of Lent. Candidates for the Sacraments**
17 S Patrick B. S Joseph of Arimathea. Ireland. Churches with these dedications. PG 4/92.
18 S Cyril of Jerusalem, B. Churches with this dedication.
19 S Joseph, husband of the BVM. Churches with this dedication. PG 4/94.
20 PG17 Councillor vacancy, that a volunteer will step up.
21 PG17/127 S Oswald.
22 PG17/127 Secretary Paul Lewis.
23 **3rd Sunday of Lent. Penitents and Wanderers**
24 PG17/127 Chaplain.
25 The Annunciation of the Lord. Churches with this dedication.
26 PG17/140 S Christopher.
27 PG17/140 Secretary Lynne Bott.
28 PG17/140 Chaplain.
29 PG17/159 S Peter ad Vincula.
30 **4th Sunday of Lent; Mothering Sunday. Our Mothers. Expectant women.**
31 PG17/159 Secretary Hugh Smith.



April 2025

- 1 PG17/159 Chaplain Fr Alan Roberts.
- 2 PG17/162 The Purification of the BVM.
- 3 PG17/162 Secretary.
- 4 PG17/162 Chaplain.
- 5 S Vincent Ferrer Pr. Churches with this dedication.
- 6 **5th Sunday of Lent. Passion Sunday. Persecuted Christians.**
- 7 PG18 Councillor David Boyd.
- 8 PG18/139 Our Lady of Lincoln.
- 9 PG18/139 Secretary Matthew Tarling.
- 10 PG18/139 Chaplain.
- 11 PG18/216 S George.
- 12 PG18/216 Secretary Sheila Mullenger.
- 13 **Palm Sunday. The right use of the media.**
- 14 Holy Monday. For all who suffer physically.
- 15 Holy Tuesday. Those struggling with mental health.
- 16 Holy Wednesday. All with a terminal diagnosis.
- 17 Maundy Thursday. God's people, those of the Jewish faith.
- 18 Good Friday. For all priests.
- 19 Holy Saturday. Those being baptised and/or confirmed.
- 20 **Easter Sunday. Vocations. PG11/24.**
- 21 Easter Monday. For unbelievers.
- 22 Easter Tuesday. That all may be saved by Our Lord.
- 23 Easter Wednesday. For joy in the world.
- 24 Easter Thursday. For all religious.
- 25 Easter Friday. For those whose faith is developing.
- 26 Easter Saturday. Give thanks.
- 27 **1st Sunday after Easter. New members of the church.**
- 28 S Mark E. S George M. England. Churches with these dedications. PG5/136.
- 29 S Catherine of Siena VD. Churches with this dedication.
- 30 S Pius V PM. Churches with this dedication.



Guild of Servants of the Sanctuary

LONDON AREA

EPIPHANY FESTIVAL

Saturday 11th January 2025

At the Parish Church of

The Most Holy Trinity with St. Mary, Hoxton

(Alford Place, off Shepherdess Walk, London, N1 7QG)

(by kind permission of the Priest in Charge and Churchwardens)

12 Noon

SOLEMN MASS OF THE EPIPHANY

With traditional ceremonies proper to the Feast.

*Priest Associates of the Guild who wish to concelebrate should notify Victor Kelly by 4th January
(ges.st.hugh.of.lincoln.chapter@gmail.com tel:07472 710007 and bring an alb and biretta with them.)*

*** * ***

Lunch will be provided in the church hall.

Tea and coffee available after Benediction in the church hall.

**3.00pm SOLEMN GUILD OFFICE, SERMON,
PROCESSION TO THE CRIB AND BENEDICTION**

Preacher: Father Aidan Barlett SSC

Priest in Charge

*All servers and clergy, whether members of the Guild or not, are invited to robe for the
afternoon service – robing will be in the Loveless Hall*

(Clergy please bring, cotta, white stole & biretta)

*** * ***

Nearest tube is Old Street (Northern Line – Bank branch)

The area is served by buses: 394 (Shepherdess Walk),

21, 76, 141, 271 (New North Road) & 43, 205, 214 (City Road)

Parking at the Church is limited.

EASTER FESTIVAL

26ND APRIL 2025

EASTER FESTIVAL AND AGM

St. Stephens, Gloucester Road, London

12 noon Solemn Mass

2.30pm Guild AGM

3.15 Guild Office and Benediction



Howard Gadd Memorial Fund

Does your church have limited means to provide servers with new cassocks, cottas or albs, and have Guild members? If so, the Howard Gadd Memorial Fund may be able to help.

Howard Gadd was Secretary-General to the Guild from 1971 to 1993, and after his death left funds where the interest might be used to help churches with Guild members, to provide new robes for servers.

The fund is administered by three experienced members of the General Council of The Guild, with grants of up to 50% of the cost of new robes, subject to a maximum £500.00. All items would belong to the church, although robes are often tailored for an individual.

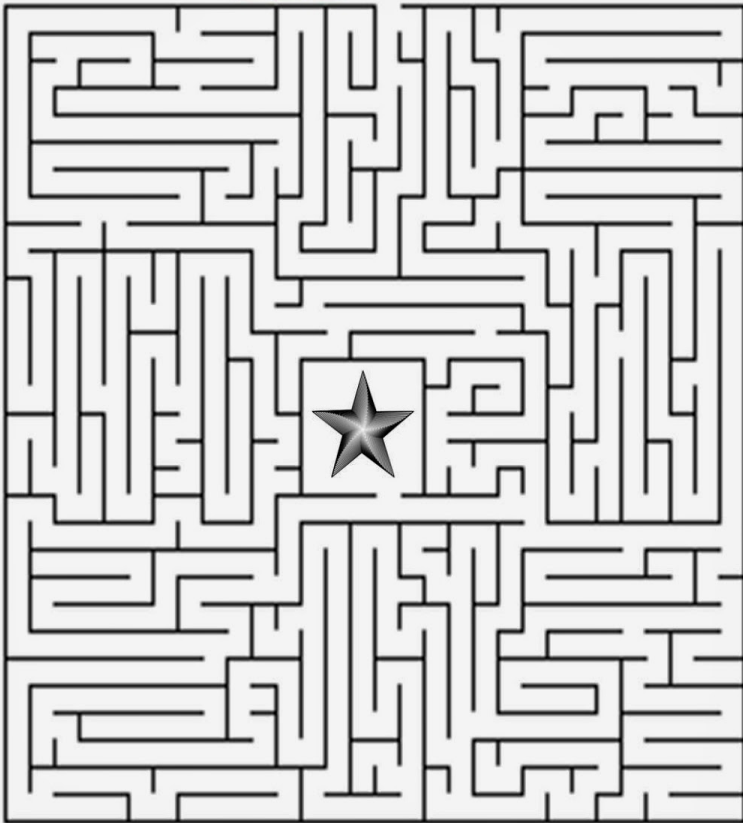
If any church, where there are Guild Members, wishes to have a little help with their purchase, an application form is available from Grand Councillor Nigel K Makepeace.

email: nigelmakepeace@btinternet.com

Children's Page

Christmas Maze

Can you help the wise men follow the star to find Jesus?



Do you know what the names of the Wise Men were, and what gifts they each brought?
If not, ask an adult server, and see if you can catch them out!

Answers on page 33.

Altar Servers' Guide to Proper Serving

"I will go to the altar of God, even unto the God of my joy and gladness". These words from Psalm 42, part of our Guild Office, encapsulate the attitude any server should have.

Serving Mass is a privilege and a joy. You are given the opportunity to enter a sacred space. Show reverence and respect for God's true presence.

Be aware of your footwear, for this is visible. Dress shoes, black, are preferred. Contain hair, so that there is no danger of it catching fire around candle flames. Scrub hands and nails clean. Any server who is not in proper attire may be asked politely not to serve.

The three primary positions during Mass are standing, sitting and kneeling. Maintain a straight, formal posture. In standing and kneeling positions, hands should be held folded, palms and fingers together at chest level, at 45°, left thumb over right. When sitting, the hands should be palm down on the lap. To make the Sign of the Cross from the folded hand position, keep left hand on chest, keep fingers of right hand together, touch the head (Father), stomach (Son), left shoulder (Holy), to right shoulder (Spirit), return to centre (Amen), and fold hands. Don't slouch; don't cross or swing legs when sitting, nor arms when walking. Keep shoulder back, head up, back straight, respectfully and prayerfully.

There are two kinds of bows. **A simple bow:** bow head fully and shoulders slightly. Use at the names of "Father, Son, and Holy Spirit", "Jesus", "Blessed Virgin Mary", and the name of the Saint in whose honour the mass is being celebrated. **A profound bow:** bow low at the waist. Use during the creed, for the words, "By the power of the Holy Spirit... and became man", or to replace genuflection, if incapacitated. You do not give a profound bow if you are holding or carrying something. Whenever Christ is present on the altar, after Consecration, during Eucharistic Adoration or reserved in the tabernacle, all should genuflect when crossing in front of the tabernacle, or entering and leaving Church. If you are unable to genuflect, use a profound bow, also used if no Tabernacle is present.

There are two prescribed methods of genuflection. When the tabernacle is closed and Jesus not present on the Altar after the consecration or exposed for Eucharistic Adoration, genuflect in this manner: Stop, turn and face the tabernacle, genuflect on the right knee on the floor and bow your head to Jesus. Rise, still facing the tabernacle. Turn and continue.

When the Body of Jesus is present on the Altar, or Jesus is exposed in the monstrance during Eucharistic Adoration, double genuflect in this manner: Stop and face Jesus. Double genuflect by placing both knees on the floor, right knee first. Pause with knees on the floor and bow your head to Jesus. Rise, left knee first, still facing the tabernacle. Turn and continue.

An exception is when you are carrying any liturgical object or book. Your job requires you to carry that in a dignified manner, not endanger yourself or the object by losing your balance.

Remember, every action by the server may affect a parishioners' faith.

When carrying, always hold a cross or crucifix straight and vertical, with the Corpus (Body of Christ) directly forward, and bottom of the pole at knee level. With candles, mirror each other and hold candles vertical at the same height, always turning inwards when required. A book should be held steady, and as high as directed by the priest.

When in the sacristy or church, show respect for where you are and those around you. Serve with reverence and understanding. Do not distract others by the way you behave. Never talk in the sanctuary, except to participate in Mass. Know what happens at the different parts of the Mass. Use the Mass booklet as required to follow what is going on. You should know the responses and join in appropriately. Don't fidget and do not slither around the sanctuary. When you are not holding something, hold your hands together in prayer. Take full part in the Mass, pay attention and remember to listen, sing and pray with other people who have gathered to worship God. Always work as a team. It is commendable that silence be observed in the church, the sacristy, and adjacent areas before Mass, so that all may dispose themselves to carry out the sacred action in a devout and fitting matter.

Arrive at least 20 minutes before the start of Mass. Spend a few moments of quiet and prayer once you have put your cassock on, to prepare yourself for Mass. Light the candles at least ten minutes before the start of Mass, taking care not to drip wax or oil from the taper or the candles on the altar cloth, the floor, or on vestments. Keep burning wicks short.

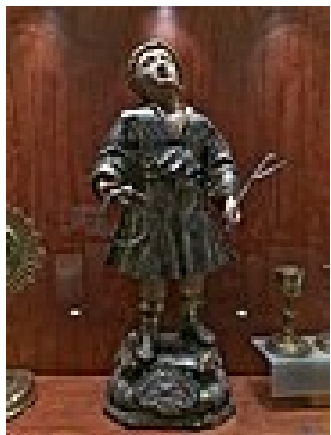
Remember that every item used at Mass has a home and should not be left for someone else to put away. No-one should leave until everything is cleared away. Hang vestments properly and keep the area in good order. Before leaving, spend a quiet moment of prayer to thank God for the service you have done. Be careful, thoughtful, and prayerful at all times.

Always remember the honour that you have been given in being chosen to serve. Strive to develop your skills and improve the quality of your serving. Remember the importance of what you do and that you do it not for yourself or your own gain, but for the Body of Christ, of which we are all members.

Chapter Saints

Justus was the 4th Archbishop of Canterbury. Pope Gregory the Great sent him to England to bring Christianity to the pagan Anglo-Saxons probably around 601. Augustine consecrated Justus as the 1st Bishop of Rochester in 604.

After the death of King Ethelbert of Kent in 616, Justus was forced to flee but was reinstated in his diocese the following year. Together with Mellitus, Bishop of London, Justus signed a



letter written by Archbishop Laurence of Canterbury to the Irish bishops urging the them to adopt the Roman method of calculating the date of Easter.

Justus succeeded Mellitus as Archbishop of Canterbury in 624. He oversaw despatch of missionaries to Northumbria. He consecrated Paulinus as the first Bishop of York. After his death on 10 November around 629, he was revered as a saint and had a shrine in St Augustine's Abbey, Canterbury, where his remains were translated to in the 1090s.

Most of what we know about Justus comes from the 8th century 'Historia ecclesiastica gentis Anglorum' of Bede.

St Justus is Patron of PG1/96, based in Orpington, Kent.

Forecast



There are berries this year on the Holly
It wasn't always so.
They may be simply a forecast –
forecast of snow.
There's frost on the sill. I've seen it glitter
with diamond light.
It's slippery, too, the traveller
must watch his step tonight.
There's a moon as big as a melon,
and far-off – O, how far –
flickering on the horizon...
a fresh, and different, star!
In the heart of man is a coldness.
Through a crack in the stable door
there glimmers a new dominion.
Even ice can thaw.

Mistletoe



At this time of year, you see all sorts of traditions being played out as part of Christmas decorations. Strict adherents still only use only holly, ivy and of course, mistletoe. While holly and ivy are to be found in gardens and hedgerows, mistletoe usually only appears in greengrocers' shops, or high up in a tree well out of reach.

Mistletoe feeds through its leaves and its roots also invade the host tree or shrub to extract water and other nutrients. Its favourite host trees are apple, lime, hawthorn, poplar or oak and it normally hangs as a large globe, tantalisingly high and totally visible once autumn arrives and it is the only green left on the tree. There are

some very spectacular examples, for instance, in Windsor Great Park, clearly visible from the path on the opposite side of the River Thames.

We all know about the almost translucent white berries, fleshy and sticky, which form in the forks of mistletoe's many branches. While they are toxic to humans, they are very attractive to birds. When birds have enjoyed the juicy flesh, they wipe the remaining sticky seeds off their beaks onto the nearest branch and with luck that seed remains stuck firmly to the bark and therefore solves the mistletoe's problem of reproduction and hopefully it germinates the following year.

In Greek mythology, mistletoe gave access to the Underworld; whilst the Romans thought it represented Peace, Love and Understanding – and perhaps that is how it has found its way into our Christmas celebrations.

The earliest documentary evidence for kissing under mistletoe dates from the sixteenth century. Some people think a berry should be removed after each kiss. Given the small size of the pieces that are generally available to the general public these days, perhaps that is a practice that should really no longer be pursued.





The Christmas Goat



Every year come Christmas time, our Swedish friends, who live in the outskirts of Stockholm, cannot understand why we in England do not have a Christmas Goat as they do in Sweden. So, I thought that I would take a look into the Swedish story and have discovered that the Christmas Goat story comes from a traditional Norse folk legend that we do not have in this country.

The legend of the julebukk predates Christianity and takes us back to the times of the Old Norse Gods called Odin, Thor, Freyja and all those living in the realm of Asgård, the traditional home of those Norse gods. It is believed that Thor would ride across the night sky in a chariot which was always drawn by two goats.

In Sweden the Christmas goat is thought to be an invisible and magical creature that would suddenly appear before Christmas, just to check that all the Swedish people have their Yuletide preparations in hand, and gifts are being done in the correct way.

Back in pagan times, the last sheaf of corn from the present year's harvest was considered to have magical powers. It was carefully bundled up, put away and saved for the forthcoming Yule celebrations, and called the julebocken. Then traditional straw models of Christmas Goats – julebukk – are made from that sheaf of straw. The julebukk is most often seen hanging on a Swedish tree at Christmas time and actually here at home on our own Christmas tree in the lounge, as can be seen in the picture.



These days there is still a mysterious tradition that takes place after Christmas around the julebukk. It's called julebukking. It's very much like what we know as "trick or treating" at Halloween but it takes place in "romjul", that is the period between Christmas and New Year. In the evening groups of people dress up and go from house to house knocking on the doors and singing Christmas songs in exchange for sweets or treats. After each stop someone from that household has to join the throng and carry on to the next house. Sometimes the neighbour who answers the door has to try and guess who the person in disguise in the group is and, on this



night, you might even encounter someone dressed as the julebukk! The goat himself. However, some Swedish towns construct giant straw goats on metal frames in the town centre where they sit over the Christmas period and then are burnt at a special ceremony on twelfth night. The picture here shows the Christmas Goat in the town square of Gävle a small university town just north west of Stockholm.

This article was written by Grand Councillor Peter Keat before his recent demise.

Christmas Trivia

A look at half a dozen Christmas facts, just for fun...

1. In 1583 Scottish Presbyterians decided there was no Biblical reason for celebrating Christmas and declared it a normal working day, a practise which persisted until 1958!

2. The Old English custom of Wassailing was to toast someone's good health in exchange for gifts at Christmastide and was the forerunner for the tradition of Christmas carolling.

It was in the 13th century that St. Francis of Assisi began the custom of singing carols in church.

3. Did you know that the first Christmas day was celebrated on 25th December AD 336 in Rome?

4. The 'X' in Xmas, as many may use today, comes from the Greek letter chi, which is the first letter of the Greek word Christós, which became Christ in English. There is well documented history of X (actually chi) as an abbreviation for 'Christ'. The suffix 'mas' is from the Latin-derived Old English word for Mass.



5. Father Christmas's reindeer were actually the invention of an American, Clement Clarke Moore, who came up with the idea in his poem "The Night Before Christmas" in 1823. He names eight reindeer.

Rudolph until did not appear until 1939 in a short story written by Robert L. May.

6. We know the colour of Rudolph's nose, but what about his eyes? In December they are blue to capture more light; in summer they are gold. Reindeer are the only animals whose eye colour changes with the seasons.

Life is Short, so Enjoy it!

The day barely starts, and suddenly it's evening. Monday turns into Friday, and before we know it the Year is almost over. Time flies, and we lose loved ones – parents, friends – until we realize it's too late to turn back. So, let's make the most of the time we have left. Find joy in the things we love, add colour to our grey days, and appreciate the small moments that fill our hearts with love.

Let's stop putting things off. Waiting for "later" means missing the best moments – family time, friendships, experiences. "Later" isn't guaranteed. Life moves fast: priorities shift, health fades, kids grow, parents age, promises are forgotten. One day, it's too late to do what we should have done or said.

The time is Now.

The day is Today.

Life is a short trip – so live it fully while you can, because there's no turning back time.

These words, used at John Donovan's funeral, bring home the realities of life and might be of use to dwell on.

The Warden and Officers of the Guild wish you all



Children's Page Answers

The Wise Men are traditionally known as Caspar (Gold), Balthazar (Frankincense) and Melchior (Myrrh).

And Finally...

The church was holding baptisms during the service, so they brought in a large tub. As the sermon continued, a boy near the front stared at the tub. He nudged his father. The father turned and the boy whispered, "Where did they get such a big bucket for the leaking roof?"

~~~~~

How do we know God likes coffee?

Because the Bible says, He brews.

~~~~~

The church had a kitchen in the back, where there was a wooden plaque with a button. There was a sign above the plaque: "When you are through using the kitchen, push button to summon a servant to clean up. If there is no response, refer to Matthew 20:25-28 for further instruction. Thank you."

Naturally, the button did not work....

~~~~~

It was Christmass, and the judge was in a merry mood as he asked the prisoner, "What are you charged with?"

"Doing my Christmass shopping early", replied the defendant.

"That's no offense", said the judge. "How early were you doing this shopping?"

"Before the store opened."

~~~~~

While a man had gone out in his car to do some Christmass shopping, his wife had been listening to the radio when she heard the announcer say, "be very careful and watch out while driving north on the M5 today, there is a motorist driving the wrong way. Police are trying to stop him". His wife rang him on his mobile to warn him.

His response?

"You're telling me, there are hundreds of them here!"





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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