

THE SERVER

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THE QUARTERLY MAGAZINE OF THE
GUILD OF SERVANTS OF THE SANCTUARY



Volume 16 Number 11
AUTUMN 1994

GUILD OF SERVANTS OF THE SANCTUARY

affiliated with the Scottish Guild of Servers and the Order of St Vincent, America

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To raise the spiritual tone of altar servers

To promote a conscientious performance
of the duties of altar servers

To encourage more frequent attendance
at the holy eucharist, in addition to times
of duty.

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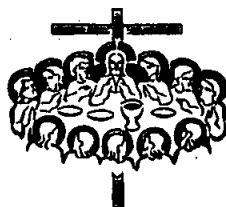
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EDITORIAL

ONE MAN'S VIEW

As this is the holiday season I decided to give you all a holiday from current Church problems this issue & to tell you about my holiday; if you are not interested you skip to the end of the Editorial.



Last month my wife and I visited Russia. We flew to St Petersburg and joined the boat which was to serve as our hotel throughout the trip. This, for us, had the great advantage that we could unpack and pack our cases only once. We also avoided the singularities of Russian hotel life.

We spent three night in St Petersburg and were able to see many of the city's monuments, palaces and churches. We also went to the Kirov Ballet. After leaving St Petersburg we sailed even further North to visit Varlaam island and see some of the former monastic settlements there. There is certainly restoration work going on at the principal monastery, which prevented us from seeing round it. However, the area is virtually in Finland and so there must be problems about the border and it will probably take some years to quieten the nervous dispositions of government. We steadily travelled along the rivers, lakes, reservoirs and canals, stopping at various settlements and towns on the way until we finally arrived in Moscow where we spent another three nights.

Whilst in Moscow we again went to the Ballet and also to a performance of the Moscow State Circus. Circus is certainly a big thing in Russia. Every town seems to have its own permanent one and Moscow, apart from having two separate permanent Circus Theatres, also has at least three touring companies travelling all over the world.

Apart from two guide/interpreters who travelled with us all the way, we were also adequately provided with local, English speaking, guides at all our stopping places. There was also a plentiful supply of English speakers on the Reception and Entertainment staff. Once the boat was moving there were offered Aerobics, Russian language and Russian dance classes, together with an English lecturer on Russian History, particularly related to the places we were visiting, provided by the English Cruise company (Noble Caledonia) and an Economics Professor from Moscow State University, provided by the Russo-American Cruise company (OdessAmerica). Most of the English speakers were school teachers or university lecturers, taking on this job, once term was over, in order to help make ends meet. In many cases this meant leaving their young children at home to be looked after by husband and parents - a possible advantage of the cramped living conditions which apply - the newly-married do not expect to have a home of their own for years. They expect, and are expected, to live with one set of in-laws or the other.

It was interesting that the State has spent vast sums of money on maintaining and refurbishing churches and palaces in St Petersburg, and elsewhere, (millions of pounds in regular renewal of gold leaf on the 'onion' domes alone) yet the roads are full of pot-holes. When we arrived and were being taken to the boat by bus, it was difficult to determine on which side of the road we were supposed to be driving since the driver was trying to avoid bumping us around. It was also interesting to learn that St Petersburg is built on so many islands that the city contains something like 600 bridges.

When we visited Petrozavodsk we took the opportunity of looking round the city's Department Store. There were a number of departments - food stuffs, liquor, cosmetics, floor coverings, fabrics, lingerie, dresses, ladies coats, gents suits etc but the choice seemed to be very limited.

It wasn't until we arrived in Moscow, where it was obvious that the St Petersburg/Moscow rivalry had ensured that much more money had been spent on Moscow's roads, that we saw any western style window dressing and I suspect this was all in western shops. Most of the shops elsewhere seemed to make do with a vague picture covering most of the window and perhaps the name of what was sold there. There was, however, an improvement in the Department Store. There were one or two articles on display in the windows.

There are lots of wonderful churches, icons and palaces to see as well as the beauty and vastness of the country. The country seems, as yet, to be barely ready for the tourist but this is perhaps a good time to go. The people are, on the whole, very friendly but many of the children are, because of the poverty of the country, rapidly learning that tourists can be easy game for \$ rip-offs.

I hope that, by the time this reaches you, you will all have enjoyed your holiday as much as we enjoyed ours.

Raymund JM Waker

FROM THE SECRETARY GENERAL

To Chapter Secretaries

The completion of the storing of Chapter Members' Records on the computer is being *seriously delayed* by some Secretaries who have not returned the STAGE 2 CHAPTER ROLL FORM. This should have been forwarded to the Membership Secretary by 30th April 1994.

If you fail to return this form, your members will not be recorded on the National Guild Membership Roll. Please co-operate by returning these forms immediately.

PLEASE NOTE - Owing to the delay in some Chapters not returning the STAGE 2 CHAPTER ROLL FORM, *all* correspondence should still be sent to the Secretary-General until further notice.

ONLY STAGE 2 FORMS should be sent to the Membership Secretary.

Some Notes for the Guidance of Chapter Secretaries & Treasurers

Secretary

To arrange Meetings regularly.

To record the proceedings and attendances of all members in a suitable Minute Book.

To arrange the Annual General Meeting for the Election of Chapter Officers. Probationers and Full Members can only be admitted by application to the Secretary-General. Admission Forms 3 & 4 should be returned immediately after Admission.

Treasurer

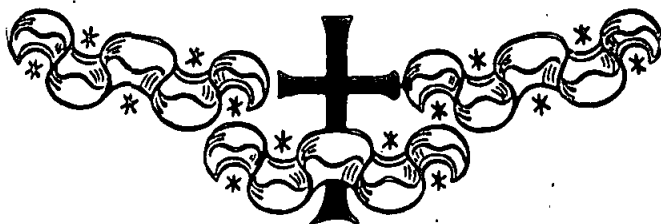
To collect all Subscriptions and issue receipts and forward to the Secretary-General. They are due in advance by 1st January each year. The expenses of the Chapter should be met by Collections at Meetings. A Statement of Accounts should be presented at the Annual General Meeting.

The Membership Secretary and Secretary-General should be notified of any change of Chapter Secretary.

Form 10 - Notes for the Guidance of Chapter Officers can be obtained from the Secretary-General on receipt of a S.A.E.

The following Councillors have been elected:

LG4	London, City & Westminster	Colin Doe
LG5/6	London, South & East	Michael Young
PG1	West Kent	Paul Smith
PG2	East Kent	Frederick Palmer
PG5	Devonshire	Michael Bennett
PG7	Dorset, W Hamps & E Soms.	Henry Frier
PG17/23	Dioceses Lichfield, Worcs. Hereford & Birmingham	Roy Cresswell
PG21	Chesh. Lancs., Cumbria	Andrew Mays
PG22	Cornwall	Geoffrey Wippell



CHANTRY BOOK

NOVEMBER

Derek Wallis

APRIL

Wilfrid Abel

Grenville Hosking

MAY

Harold Bridges

Ernest Frederick Leonard

Brown, priest

Michael Buxton

Peter Edwin Potter

Colin John Prebble

JUNE

Alan Thomas Reid



R.I.P.

Wilfrid Abel 1901-1994

Bro Wilfrid passed away on 15th April. He had been the senior server at S Mary the Virgin, Willington for over thirty years and was responsible for training many young servers with great care and patience. Of recent years he had to give up active serving due to infirmity but still attended chapter meetings whenever possible. Earlier in the year he and his wife, Hilda, moved to a Nursing Home at Bridport near where their son lives.

Harold Bridges

Harold passed to his eternal rest on Trinity Sunday after a long and debilitating illness. He was a keen and enthusiastic member of the Chapter of the Good Shepherd, Derby.

He had been a server at S Andrew, Derby since returning home from the war in 1945, joining the Guild in the early fifties.

He held many posts in the parish including P C C Secretary, chorister and Church Warden for many years.

However, it was serving at the Altar that was very dear to him and as Head Server he trained many a youngster (and oldster) in the way of serving the Lord in the sanctuary.

At his funeral and requiem mass the Church of S Osmund with S Andrew was full of his many friends and loving family. The Guild was well represented. Fr Donald Maconald, his parish priest and Guild chaplain, paid a warm and moving tribute to a man who had over many years given so much to the church and his Lord.

Ernest Frederick Leonard Brown, priest

It was with regret that we learned of the death of Father Ernest Brown aged 78 on 2nd May 1994. Father Ernest was a priest associate of the Grimsby chapter and assistant priest at S Mary, Barton on Humber.

Trained at Edinburgh Theological College. Ordained in the Episcopal Church of Scotland, he served his title at Inverness Cathedral. Fr Ernest served the rest of his full time ministry in the Diocese of Chelmsford, until retiring to Barton. He had strong ties with the Shrine of Our Lady of Walshingham and was a strong supporter of Forward in Faith. Rarely absent from guild meetings he was always willing to step in at short notice to officiate or preach. He had a wonderful sense of humour and was dedicated to his vocation. We send our condolences to his wife Evelyn. His funeral took place at S Mary, Barton on Humber on 6th May 1994, preceded by a Requiem Mass.

Michael Buxton

Michael, who died on 21st May, was a keen life member of the Guild and had attended a chapter meeting at Loughborough only three days earlier. He was a server at S Aidan, New Parks, Leicester, and will be sadly missed.

Grenville Hosking

Brother Gren was a founder member of S Mark chapter and, as its secretary for many years, worked hard to ensure that the chapter had one of the largest active memberships in the Truro Diocese. His late wife, Barbara, supported him and raised much financial help for chapter funds through coffee evenings etc.

Gren always had a ready smile and welcome for all members and friends of the Guild from far and wide. He served for many years at All Saints, Tucking Mill.

GSS members and friends formed a guard of honour at his funeral in that church, at which the chapter secretary spoke of his devotion to the GSS and his outstanding service to the faith.

Peter Edwin Potter

Peter was called to higher service on Monday, May 30th, 1994, aged 79 years. His funeral took place on Wednesday, 8th June, at S Anne, Chingford Hatch, in the presence of his wife, family, many friends and members of the chapter of King Charles the Martyr.

Peter had been organist at St Andrew, North Weald for over 21 years. He was also our chapter organist.

Alan Thomas Reid

Brother Alan, a true and loyal member, passed away on June 11th 1994 after suffering from ill health for 18 months.

He was born in Coventry in December 1915, he went to live in Alfreton, Derbyshire where he started serving.

When he returned to Coventry in 1934, he was told he should join the serving team at S Peter, Hillfields, Coventry which he did. He has been a faithful member ever since. He last served at S Peter in September, 1993.

He joined the G S S in September 1933 - Roll No. 21447 - making him the second longest serving member in the chapter of S Chad, Coventry. He was an efficient chapter Secretary from 1948 to 1958 and again from 1973 to 1985, and held other positions in between including MC, PRO and Cantor.

He regularly wrote the "News from the Chapters" items for The Server Magazine, and had a prodigious memory on where the chapter had visited, and why, and significant dates.

At S Peter he served on the PCC many years as secretary, and he was Church secretary for ACS. His interests included Church Music, Steam Railway Engines and recording the weather.

Chapter members were at his funeral which was taken by Fr Andrew Willson at S Peter on June 20th 1994. Fr Peter Hayward from North Cave in East Yorkshire, a great friend of the family gave the eulogy and a Requiem Mass was held on June 24th.

He will be greatly missed.

Derek Wallis

A gentle, kind man whose one ambition in life was to love and serve the Lord. In that he was fully supported by his wife, Natalie.

He was born and educated and he worked all his life in Lincoln; he regretted that he had not broadened his horizons. However, those of us who were privileged to know him are glad he stayed. He was a Sunday School teacher and server at his local church and, when he started to train to become a Diocesan Reader, he gave up his full-time job and took a part-time one so that he could give of his best in the service of Christ. He joined the team who staff the information desk in Lincoln Cathedral and this led him to become a Cathedral Guide. As a reader he took his turn as duty chaplain in the Cathedral. He also served frequently.

As a journalist he was a regular contributor to the pages of the Lincolnshire Echo and the North Hykeham Grapevine and was largely responsible for the introduction of the North Hykeham Town Council's own newspaper. He was a faithful member of the Guild of Servants of the Sanctuary who loyally attended meetings of the chapter of Our Lady of Lincoln.

May they rest in peace and rise in glory

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

1994

SEPTEMBER

10 Lichfield Diocesan & Midlands Area Festival
Lichfield Cathedral, Noon - Solemn Eucharist
Celebrant: The Bishop of Stafford (The Rt Revd M Scott-Joynt)
Preacher: The Warden of the Guild
3.00pm - Guild Office & Procession



24 North Western Chapters Festival

S Andrew, West Kirby, 11.30am - High Mass

3.00pm - Guild Office, Procession and Benediction

Clergy & servers are invited to robe for the Mass and Guild Office

29 Chapter of SS Osmund & Swithun, Bournemouth

Autumn Festival, S Stephen, Bournemouth

Pontifical High Mass - 7.30pm

Celebrant - The Rt Revd Timothy Bavin, Bishop of Portsmouth

Preacher - Canon Anthony Caesar, formerly Sub-Dean of the Chapels Royal

OCTOBER

15 AUTUMN FESTIVAL

Llandaff Cathedral, Noon - Solemn Eucharist

Celebrant & Preacher: The Bishop of Llandaff

(The Rt Revd Roy T Davies)

3.00pm - Guild Office, Procession & Benediction

1995

JANUARY

7 Southwark Diocesan Servers Festival

Southwark Cathedral, Noon - Concelebrated Eucharist

3pm - Guild Office, Sermon & Procession

ABOUT GOD-(22)-"(HE) DESCENDED INTO HELL"

The Revd Canon W H Barnard

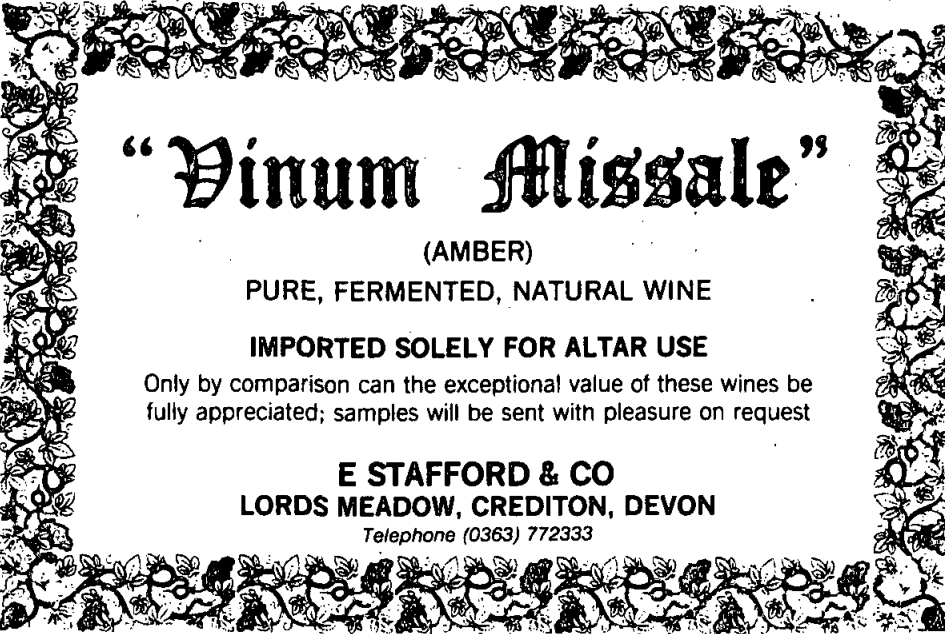
First, we must point out this phrase is a *misleading translation* of the Latin, "Descendit ad infernos", which really means "He descended to *the people down below*" and not "ad infernum", that is, "the place of everlasting punishment, with which we usually associate our English word "hell".

Clearly our Lord's Spirit, during the three days it was separated from His body, which remained in the Tomb, did not "preach to the spirits in prison" (1 Peter, ch.3, vv.10-20) meaning hell, where there was no hope of repentance, but in 'Sheol', a Hebrew word meaning "a waiting place to which dead people go". It was a kind of intermediate or borderline state for which we often use the word *Limbo*, an Italian word made famous to us by the poet Dante. 'Limbus' is an edge or border (eg. of your handkerchief). It was thought the holy prophets and patriarchs of old went to Limbo at death. We might describe it as 'a lumber room' where we keep things not needed at the



moment but certainly not to be thrown away. God, so to speak, wanted these spirits in His 'drawing room' later on; meanwhile, until the way thereto had been opened by His Son, our Lord, they remained in God's 'lumber room' and were not thrown on the rubbish heap, Gehenna, as the Jews described it, or as we would say, hell. So *the first thing our Lord's Spirit did* after Good Friday was to "explore the Father's lumber room" and explain to the holy men and women of old what had happened. "Now it is time for you to come home with me".

The passage from 1 Peter mentioned above is not easy to interpret, but it would appear *a further idea* is suggested by it. S Peter tells us our Lord brought the good news of salvation which His Cross had given to the world to all who were not wicked enough to go to hell, *hand't enough faith* like the holy ones of old to go to Limbo, and yet were destined for heaven. *Where were they?*; apparently in a place, or state, of *waiting* which we call *Paradise* (a garden), or of purification (Purgatory). This was also visited by our Lord as He made his royal progress on Good Friday and Holy Saturday. With *His* coming there, *a new hope* came to all souls in this place of waiting, which hope has remained ever since. It is not a place or state of despair or doubt but a state into which all of us who claim to be Christ's disciples will one day enter at death. Jesus Christ has been to this 'prison house' and made a door in it through which we can follow. So we say "He descended into hell, or Hades," with the firm conviction and sure hope that we too will follow Him there and so pass on to heaven itself, where *He lives* and reigns in glory.



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GLASTONBURY PILGRIMAGE MASS SERMON

Geoffrey, Bishop of Basingstoke 25.6.94

The Spirit Who Orders All Things

"You gave them your good Spirit to make them wise, you did not withhold your manna from their mouths, you gave them water for their thirst." (Nehemiah 9.20)



We come here, blown by the Holy Spirit, to breathe the life of the Holy Spirit, and to be set in order by the same Spirit. The Spirit of God, we confess, is 'the Lord and Giver of life'. The Spirit is a mighty wind; the Spirit is the breath of life and the bond of love, the love-knot of God the Holy Trinity. The Spirit is God's gift to us of nothing less than his own life. In the coming of the Spirit the glowing love of the Father and the Son has descended into our hearts.

The Spirit is life, the Spirit is power. The first allusive reference to the Spirit is at the very beginning of Genesis - a 'mighty wind' sweeps over the waters of chaos and brings order. In our fallen world order and life, form and vitality can be all too easily opposed to each other. The letter is set against the Spirit, charismatic experience against the order of the church. But in the Trinitarian life of God there is perfect order and fullness of life. The Word, the Reason, the Order of God, and the Spirit, the breath and life and power of God are in full and perfect communion. The mysterious figure of the Wisdom of God foreshadows Christian language about Christ, the Word of God, and about the Holy Spirit. Wisdom 'is a breath of the power of God and a pure emanation of the glory of the Almighty ... in every generation she passes into holy souls and makes them friends of God and prophets ... She reaches mightily from 'one end of the earth to the other and orders all things well.' (Wisdom 7.25, 27; 8.1)

The Spirit, who is the Lord and Giver of life, orders all things in love. And how may we understand that ordering?

(1) The Spirit who is the Lord, the Life-giver, is the orderer of creation. In Genesis order is brought out of chaos, God shapes the world in his love, and in that love gives it freedom, holds it in being, and draws it to his end and goal. The complex network of the universe in all its vastness and in all its minute particularity is energised by the Spirit who is the Lord and giver of life. And the Spirit within us gives us the skill of the scientist of understanding the pattern and mystery of the world and of our own being. And the Spirit no less gives the artist eyes to see and skill to evoke the divine beauty; and the musician talent to draw from strings and brass and woodwind melodies which move us to tears and lift us to heaven.

(2) The Spirit was the life and power of God who empowered and ordered the ministry of Jesus. Mary, who was called to be the mother of the Lord, was 'overshadowed by the Holy Spirit', as the cloud of the Divine Glory overshadowed the tabernacle in the wilderness of the Exodus. And at his Baptism the Spirit descended on Jesus with the gentleness of a dove. In the synagogue at Nazareth Jesus proclaimed that the words of Isaiah applied to him. "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me. He has sent me to bring the good news to the poor, to proclaim liberty to captives, and to the blind new sight, to set the downtrodden free, to proclaim the Lord's year of favour." (Luke 4.18-19).

It is that same life that he gives to us. He is the Christ, the Anointed One of God; we are Christians, those anointed by his Spirit, living by his power, and ordered according to his life and pattern. We are Easter people, because the Spirit has been breathed upon us by the Risen Christ, giving us the gift of his life. The Spirit is the one who makes us Christ-like.

(3) The Spirit is the power of love who both enables and orders our loving. S Augustine saw that from our disordered and misdirected loving there flowed many destructive things - all kinds of idolatry, false gods and goals, possessiveness, greed, unrelenting pursuit of pleasure and power, the passion of an unbridled quest for sexual pleasure. Don't cease to love 'If you do not love anything, you will be dolts, dead men, despicable creatures. Love by all means, but take care what it is you love.' We are to 'set love in order.' And it is the Spirit, the very love-knot of the Trinity, who does so set our love in order, enlarging our hearts that we may love after the pattern of Christ, and, as S Paul tells us, 'grow up in all things into him.'

(4) The Spirit inspires and shapes our praying. We know only too well, as S Paul writes to the Church at Rome, that we do not know how to pray as we should. It is the Spirit who orders our praying, who is the light enabling us to see the light. It is the Spirit who forms us after the pattern of Christ by whom we cry, 'Abba, Father.' It is the Spirit who transfigures us in the likeness of Christ 'from one degree of glory to another.'

(5) It is the Spirit no less who catches us up into the mission of God in Christ, that mission which is good news for the poor, and liberty to captives, and sight to the blind, and freedom for the downtrodden. The colour of the Spirit is red. But red has also been the colour of Lake Victoria, red with blood from the bodies of massacred Rwandans. That passion red of the suffering world, of which Rwanda is a terrible reminder, is a yearning and a groaning for the healing, cleansing, and purifying fire of the Spirit; and the gift of the Spirit to us is that we may meet that need.

(6) And the Spirit calls the Church into being, ordering its life, its sacraments and its ministry. The one Spirit is the source of all our gifts, and all these gifts are complementary. In his book, *Holy Spirit*, Archbishop Michael Ramsey reminded us that the mission of the Spirit in history is through the church, and through a church which has a particular shape - sacraments, apostolic ministry, and a tradition of teaching - all these give the church a visible shape, and "this shape is in itself a witness to the history of salvation." Charismatic experience and sacramental order belong together, because the Spirit is the source of both. In the creed we confess our belief in the 'one, holy, catholic and apostolic church', in 'the communion of saints', and 'the forgiveness of sins', and hope of resurrection and eternal life. All these are part of the work of the Spirit. Without the Spirit, no church; without the Spirit, no unity; without the Spirit, no holiness; without the Spirit, no catholicity; without the Spirit, no apostolic faith and no apostolic mission; without the Spirit, no saints of God.

And the church of which we speak is not just the Church of England, nor even the Anglican Communion, the church is the one church, holy, catholic and apostolic called into being by God in Christ, called to be a sign of unity in a divided world; a sign of holiness in a sinful world; a sign of catholicity and universality in a nationalist and sectarian world; and a sign of faith in a lost and faithless world. That the church is divided is a sin; that the church fails to be catholic, and holy, and apostolic is a sin. We need not to affirm our Anglican

identity so much as to affirm and live out our catholic identity; and to give the highest priority to the quest for unity; and to pray more deeply; and to study, know and proclaim our faith more fully. Jesus prayed for his disciples that they "might be one that the world may believe." (John 17.21); and he prayed that they might be consecrated (made holy) in his truth.

To come to this place, one of the most ancient Christian sites in our land, is to be reminded of how the Spirit has shaped and guided and guarded the church through countless generations: We come to be renewed; to be ordered in love by Love; we come to celebrate a divine life we share, "the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship, communion, belonging - togetherness of the Holy Spirit" - to be 'rooted and grounded in that love'. We come to give thanks for that wonderful and marvellous gift, the gift of no less than his own life. We come to ask for that same Spirit of life to be poured out anew on us and on the Church.

'On the day of Pentecost', an ancient Eastern hymn runs, 'the disciples were poured out like gold in the furnace of the Spirit, and their splendour shone out to the four quarters of the world, and they preached the name of Jesus throughout the world.' That is our mission and that is our calling, and that is the life of the church, and no less the life of heaven. Come Holy Spirit, kindle our hearts with your fire of love; Come Holy Spirit and make us holy, fashion us anew in the likeness of Christ. Come, Holy Spirit, make us saints of God and blow us with your breath of life, to the heart of love, and the glory of heaven.

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Subscription £5 p.a.

Secretary: Miss I. Reynolds, 338 Holly Lodge Mansions,
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NEWS FROM THE CHAPTERS

S BARNABAS, Cardiff

During Eastertide the chapter met at the Resurrection, Glanely for its Easter Festival. The vicar preached at a solemn concelebrated mass in the splendid basilican styled church modelled to some extent on the community church at Mirfield.

In May we joined other South Wales chapters for the May Devotion and area festival hosted by the S Cenydd chapter at S Luke in Swansea. Despite the inevitable clash with sporting fixtures a goodly number turned out to hear Fr David Thomas, a former Principal of S Stephen's House preach at the Mass and to sing the Office at which the vicar of S Luke, (and chaplain of the Swansea chapter) preached. Benediction followed given by the vicar of S Alban, Treboeth.



In June the chapter visited the chaplain's parish, Sully, to sing the Office, whilst in July a joint meeting was held with the Margam chapter at Llansanffraid. Here Fr Mark Preece preached at the concelebrated Mass on 'silence in liturgy and in our prayer life'. The Mass was followed by a barbecue in the rectory grounds. This proved once again to be a popular venue even tho' it is some twenty miles from Cardiff, the nave being full for the mass which was concelebrated by the chaplains of the two chapters, the preacher and Fr DeRoy Jones.

Music was provided by the Cardiff chapter Organist, Brian Williams (Cardiff: S. German) and by Stephen Adams, trumpet and his brother Christopher, a treble who sang the responsorial psalm and an unaccompanied motet during the Communion.

In August we met to sing the Office at S Mary Penmark, in the Vale of Glamorgan when Fr Terry Doherty was the preacher.

Further details are available, and visitors always welcome, phone James on Cardiff 563248.

S BARNABAS, Lancashire & Furness area

Our chapter Patronal Mass was celebrated on 11th June at the parish church of The Holy Cross, Blackpool. The parish priest, Fr Stuart Edwards, celebrated and gave an appropriate homily. The Mass was followed by a procession of the Blessed Sacrament in which all members joined, concluding with Benediction. We were very pleased that our councillor, Andrew Mays had travelled all the way from Cheshire to be with us and share in our devotions.

On 30th January, 1954 five probationers from S Peter, Chorley were admitted to the Guild. Two of these were later to become priests. One of them, Kenneth Robinson, in due course became chapter chaplain. He has now been created Archdeacon in Europe and lives in Lisbon.

S BIRINUS, Oxford

Our Guild Office for April was held in Pusey House, Oxford (named after Dr Pusey who was one of the leaders of the Oxford Movement). There are two beautiful chapels and a

library mainly used for the University. The Office, followed by Benediction, was sung by Fr Alan Gordon, priest associate. The address was on Dr Pusey and his work.

In May, on a sunny evening, we met in the small parish church of Hampton Poyle, situated in the middle of farmland. The Office and Benediction were sung by our chaplain, Fr Dennis Mason, and the address was given by the vicar. There was a good attendance, which was increased by wives, friends and members of the congregation. The wives and members of the congregation of S Mary, Kidlington, provided refreshments and the churchwarden gave a talk on the history of the church. Our June meeting was held in the 13th Century church of S Leonard, Sunningwell, which has an unusual, unique to English architecture, seven-sided porch, built in 1551 by John Jewel who became Bishop of Salisbury. The Office was sung by our chaplain and the address, on John Baptist, was given by the vicar, Fr Keith Kinnard, priest associate, Benediction followed.

S CHAD, Coventry

In April we visited S Peter, Hillfields, Coventry for the Guild Office and Procession at which Fr Fred Lancaster, assistant chaplain, officiated and preached. Two servers were made members of the Guild.

On Tuesday 17th May the chapter visited the church of S Oswald, New Bilton, Rugby. Our chaplain, Fr Graeme Hands officiated and also admitted two new members to the guild as probationers. The vicar, Canon John Randall gave us a warm welcome on a lovely sunny evening and also spoke of his long association with the guild and Fr Graeme over the years.

The chapters 80th Anniversary Festival was held at S John Baptist, Leamington Spa on Saturday 4th June. The chaplain officiated for the Guild Office. The Bishop of Warwick, The Rt Revd Clive Handford preached and also carried the Blessed Sacrament in procession and officiated at Benediction.

Brother Alan Reid a member of the guild for over sixty years died on 11th June 1994 at the age of 79 years. A tribute to Alan is to be found elsewhere.

S HUGH & BLESSED EDWARD KING, Great Grimsby

Our February meeting took place at S Hugh Grimsby. This was a Guild Office for which the Officiant was Father Malcolm Jones our chaplain and the address was given by Brother Alan Pearson, a Lay Reader. In March we visited S Mary, Barton on Humber, for a Eucharist. In April we visited S Mark, Grimsby, the first time for many years. The Officiant for the Guild Office was Father Malcolm Jones and the address was given by Father Simon Pothan the vicar. In May we had Guild Office and Benediction at S Michael, Louth. This was a joint meeting with the Boston and Lincoln chapters. We were pleased to welcome our Group Councillor, Brother Fred Whelbourne. Father Malcolm Jones officiated for the Guild Office and Father Ron Letall gave the address and Benediction. In June we visited S Peter & S Mary, Waddington, for Guild Office. Before the office Dean Tomlinson was admitted as a probationer and Samuel Jones, Edward Moore and Andrew Gosling were admitted to full membership by Father Jones who officiated for the office. Father Malcolm King O G S gave the address.

We were sad to learn of the death, after a short illness, of Father Ernest Brown a priest associate and regular attender at our meetings. Father Ernest was always willing to step

in at short notice to officiate or preach. His wonderful sense of humour and friendship will be sadly missed. We congratulate Brother Ken Richardson on his recent admission as a lay reader. Ken is a founder member of our chapter.

S JOHN BAPTIST, Torbay

In May we sang the Guild Office in the Roman Catholic church of Our Lady Help of Christians and S Denis at St Marychurch, Torquay. After the sermon by the chapter chaplain the service closed with Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament at which the RC parish priest officiated supported by his servers.

For our June meeting we had a Sung Eucharist at S Saviour, Dartmouth followed by a procession of the Blessed Sacrament and Benediction.

Our July meeting was held in the ruined Abbey church of Torre Abbey, situated just off Torquay sea-front.. As we sang the Guild Office and Benediction it seemed likely that, for the first time in 400 years, the church was echoing to the strains of Plainsong. Our chaplain officiated and preached and reminded us that this was not the first time since the Reformation that a service had taken place in these ruins. A few years ago, some skeletons, unearthed during excavations, had been interred there. However, it was almost certainly the first time since the Reformation that a formal liturgical service had been held there.

The preacher pointed out that the Abbey ruins were located within the parish of Tor, whose first church was a little chapel dedicated to S Petroc which tended to be somewhat isolated from the mainstream universal church. When the Premonstratensian monks established Torre Abbey they brought with them a deeper sense of, and emphasis on, membership of the whole Catholic church, something which is still relevant today.

S JOHN the DIVINE, Leicester

Our April meeting, which was a first visit to All Saints, Scaptoft, saw our best attendance for a long time. Before the Mass, which was celebrated by our chaplain, we initiated a probationer and admitted a member.

Many members of the chapter, 3 of whom helped to carry the statue of Our Lady in procession around the streets of the parish, attended the May Festival of Our Lady of Walsingham at S Andrew, Jarrom Street.

Our May meeting was held at All Saints, Loughborough - we have not been there for over 30 years. Two were initiated as probationers before the Guild Office. The new rector of All Saints preached on the importance of the Sanctuary and our role as servers in the Sanctuary.

Our summer festival was held in June at S Egelwin, Scalford, Melton Mowbray.

S LAURENCE the DEACON, Reading

The July meeting for the Guild Office was at a very modern church, S Mary, Winnersh, at which the Lay Chairman officiated. One of the brethren gave a most moving exhortation based on the Gospel for S Thomas' day. Approximately 15 members & friends attended. In our intercessions we remembered two very small children who had been the subject of much media publicity, one in Nottingham, the other in Hartlepool.

Our next meeting, an extra one, with lunch was at Christchurch, Reading, at the end of July for the Guild Office. We shall not meet again until September when we shall sing the Guild Office in All Saints, Downshire Square, Reading.

S MARK, West Cornwall

The chapter went to Holy Trinity, Penponds for Stations of the Cross in February, S John the Baptist, Mount Hawke, was the venue in March for Sung Mass and Procession.

In April the chapter Festival was held in S Agnes parish church. One of our longest serving members, Bro Leonard Pascoe, was honoured in Truro Cathedral when HM Queen Elizabeth II presented him with a Maundy gift on account of his outstanding work in the Diocese.

S MARY MAGDALENE, Wednesbury

After 31 years as Chapter Secretary, Bro Roy Cresswell has resigned. He has been succeeded by Str Pearl Phipps of All Saints, West Bromwich.

The Chapter has continued to meet monthly for the Guild Office or Eucharist at the many churches in the area. It is with regret that we record the resignation of 4 members due to the Ordination of Women.

SS MICHAEL & PETROC, Cornwall

The secretary has available for purchase the following items:

2 Hymns Ancient & Modern, New Standard, Large Words	£7.00 each
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For enquiries please contact:

Marc Quigley, 27 Chatsworth Way, Carlyon Bay, ST. AUSTELL, Cornwall PL25 3SL, 0726 813788 or FAX enquiries on 0726 74705, marking FAX, fao Mr M Quigley.

THE RESURRECTION, Weston-super-Mare & District

How pleasing it is to see such a goodly number of the folks from the chapter, members, their partners and friends turn out in all winds and weathers (the rare balmy, summer evening coming as a blessing) month after month to the regular chapter services at churches from Burham-on-Sea to Clevedon. The chapter is grateful to the clergy and PCCs at these churches who welcome us so warmly and provide such inspirational settings for a diversity of worship and meditation, as well as a congenial place to hold a business meeting afterwards which is normally accompanied by most acceptable refreshments.

This year thus far the chapter has visited S Mary, Berrow for the Guild Office; 'All Saints', Weston-super-Mare for a magisterial Eucharist; All Saints', Kingston Seymour for a contemplative Compline and All Saints', Clevedon. The Eucharist in July took place at the Holy Cross, Mark in a most restful, rural setting where Fr Pavey gave the chapter food for much thought in his back-to-basics sermon on the full meaning of "koinonia", where the meal of Christ was a shared experience of fellowship and should remain so.

Services planned for after the summer break are S Mary, East Brent in September; the Guild Office in S Andrew, Banwell in October; S Mary, Berrow where a Requiem will be said in November and December will see an Office of Admission held at S Mary, Walton. After the Christmas break the chapter will make a welcome return to S Peter and S Paul, Bleadon, the weather for which it is hoped will be a little less brisk and marrow-chilling than it was on the last visit.

S WILFRED, Eastbourne

The chapter is enjoying a full programme of travelling to many churches for serves in and around East Sussex.

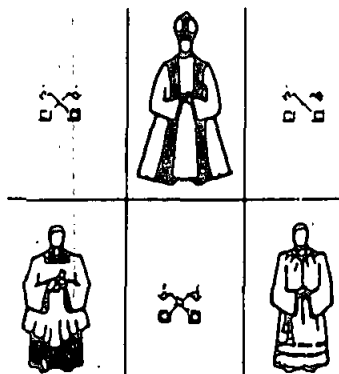
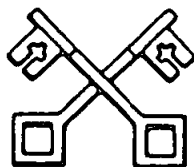
Our A G M was held on 17th March 1994 at Christ Church, Eastbourne and it was attended by 24 Members. Fr Derek Mottershead, our chapter chaplain, led the Stations of the Cross followed by prayers. At the A G M Fr Mottershead agreed to continue as our chaplain for a further year and he was thanked for all his help and guidance.

Last month Jane Pinching was admitted as a Probationer and we therefore welcome her to the chapter.

If any chapters are planning an outing to Eastbourne, their Members are more than welcome to say the Office in S Saviour & S Peter's Church. Please contact Fr Derek Mottershead the Parish Priest on 0323 722317 to make the necessary arrangements.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

2 Balmoral Road
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1st July 1994

Dear Editor,

..... I can recall, vividly to this day, when a chain broke on the thurible when the officiant was censuring the altar at Solemn Evensong, tipping all the charcoal out on the altar. I've never seen an altar stripped so fast in all my life. When Frontal and linen had been rolled up and stamped on (after a bucket of water had been thrown at it!) the altar ornaments were replaced and the service continued, the thurible having been repaired by then! (This took place in S Augustine's chapel, Kasr-el-Nil Barracks in Cairo in 1946).

Have you never seen (*No, I haven't, Ed*) the candles being lit on the High Altar at S Bartholomew, Brighton? They stand on top of what is virtually a brick wall which serves as a reredos. There is a steel rung ladder up which the server has to climb (taper in hand!) and then walk *between* the candlesticks. This is all some 12ft up. Not a job for anyone suffering from giddyness!

Another 'sighting' - in the RC Cathedral in Port Said (same era) seeing all the fluorescent 'candles' flicker on, followed by the haloes on the statues!!

Whether or not you make mention of my experiences, I wonder if any readers have recollections of S Augustine, K.E.N. Barracks (it was the special chapel for Anglo-Catholics and was attended by Catholics both civilian and forces) and also of the Guild chapter which was based at S Paul's Co-Cathedral in Malta? It was in Malta that I was introduced to the Guild, the priest there in the summer of 1948 being on a locum holiday. He turned out to be the chaplain of the chapter to which I was admitted on my return to the UK later in the year.

I have a recollection there too. Alongside the Cathedral was a Franciscan convent and whenever the Guild Office was being sung the brothers would line up at the windows from where they could see down into the Nave and wait to be censed. The thurifer used to go down to the middle of the Nave to do just that. All *our* brothers would turn and bow to them as they bowed to us.

Regards

Michael Goulding

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The Rt Revd Dr Eric Kemp, Bishop of Chichester

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