

THE SERVER

THE QUARTERLY MAGAZINE OF
THE GUILD OF SERVANTS OF THE SANCTUARY



Volume 14 Number 10
SUMMER 1988

GUILD OF SERVANTS OF THE SANCTUARY

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

Patrons

The Archbishop of Canterbury
The Archbishop of York
The Archbishop of Wales



Objects of the Guild

To raise the spiritual tone of altar services

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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Matter for publication should be sent by the second Saturday of January, April, July & October

EDITORIAL

ONE MAN'S VIEW

What shall I write about this time? I always set out without any ideas! Why has nobody compiled a set of suitable editorials for magazines, after all you can buy sets of sermons for when your own ideas dry up?

Another Lambeth Conference is upon us. Will this one be responsible for one or more momentous decisions affecting the whole Anglican Communion or will it, as Canon Bennet suggested, disappear as if it had never been?

It seems inevitable that the most controversial item the Bishops will discuss will be the question of the Ordination of Women to the Priesthood. The dangers inherent in this question have already led upwards of 50 Bishops to sign the Declaration of Unity, Witness and Mission which states, inter alia, 'We believe "these Orders of Ministers in Christ's Church: Bishops, Priests and Deacons" to have come down to us from apostolic times; and we do not consider that the churches of the Anglican Communion have authority to change the historic tradition of the Church that the Christian ministerial priesthood is male.' However, the churches in, at least, Canada, New Zealand and the USA have already decided that they are able to change the historic tradition and have done so and, I believe, have been surprised by the effect on the unity of the Communion.

Elsewhere the Warden says 'that most lay people have little or no Theology'. I am inclined to agree with him. If it is true—to what extent is lay participation in the Synods of the Church responsible for the current disunity of the Anglican Communion and is there any easy remedy?

Please remember the Bishops in your prayers.

Raymund J M WAKER

FROM THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

Application Forms:

Please note a misprint in my Post Code, as given in the form at the back of the Winter 1987 issue, it should be IG9 5QT and not as printed.

CANDIDATES FOR ORDINATION FUND

Annual Report for year 1987

Now in our 84th year of foundation, we present our report for COF which once again has been the continuous effort of fund raising in order to support brothers of the Guild, currently in training for the work of the sacred ministry.

Thanks to the loyal support of chapters, the Fund is in good shape, indeed chapters have responded extremely well this past year. I am indeed very grateful to them and also the increased number of new chapters and PCCs making donations. May I give special thanks to the chapter of All Souls, Canterbury, for their very special effort, the highest figure they have raised for COF during my time as COF Secretary.

This gives me fresh encouragement to press forward the work of the Fund, and I have to report we have supported 18 brothers of GSS during the year 1987. However, we have only received 4 new applications during the past year and as we

enter year 1988, we have that figure reduced to 10 brothers only, following the ordinations at Petertide, Michaelmas and Advent 1987.

I recall some 6 years ago when seeking the advice from our chaplain, Fr Eric Ford, about our reduced number at that time, his words of encouragement were that we seek men of quality not quantity for the Church today, and this we have I'm sure from those bros who are offering themselves for the work of priesthood at this present time. Needless to say, I shall be in a strong position to increase our 1988 awards accordingly, so the present bros will receive the benefit.

As we celebrate this year, and give thanks for 90 years of Guild influence within our holy church, we also enter the 84th year of the work of the COF. In 1904 the Chaplain General of the day proposed the idea to the General Council to set up a Fund to support Guild members in training at Mirfield and Kelham, and indeed we have come a long way from those early years when fund raising proved difficult.

We are now well established to provide financial support to members of the Guild seeking holy orders to teach the catholic faith as we know it, to the future generations.

For the record the following 8 brothers were ordained Deacon, and are now serving their titles, and we convey to them our best wishes for the success for the work of their ministry, in their first parishes.

In my book, the training of men for the work of the sacred ministry is paramount especially in these days when more priests are needed for the parishes.

Petertide 1987

Martyn Davis
Steven Kirk

David Fletcher
Andrew Phillips

Michael Rowberry
David Hutton

Michaelmas 1987

Paul Christian

Advent 1987

David MakLanana (Republic of South Africa)

Further, I am pleased to report there has been a steady increase in the sale of Guild neckties and once again we are in profit. This means when existing stocks are sold, we shall produce a profit of £300.00 for the work of COF. Neckties are therefore available from the writer in shades of Royal Blue and Maroon Red priced at £3.50 each; cheque/cash with order.

Finally, may I convey on behalf of our chaplain, Fr Eric Ford, and myself, our sincere thanks to everyone concerned, who make great efforts to raise new money for the work of COF.

Eric Ford
Chaplain, COF

Stan Wilcox
Secretary COF

EASTER FESTIVAL AND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Queens Gate, 9th April 1988

What a day! We do not usually expect snow for our Easter Festival but this is how it started this year. Fortunately the weather had improved by mid morning and we were able to have our accustomed procession of witness in the afternoon.

The numbers seemed to be a little down this year — it wasn't because of the Rugby Championship, was it the Grand National? It was good to see a number of the younger brethren there, would there had been more. There seemed, on the other hand, to be a bigger attendance than usual at the AGM, perhaps attracted by the fireworks forecast by the Curch Times which turned out to be rather a damp squib.

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

About 250 attended the AGM which was, as usual chaired by the Warden. He was supported on the platform by the other officers — the General Council having decided that it would be more appropriate, on this and future occasions, to join the general membership in the body of the hall, rather than follow its traditional practice of sitting on the platform behind the officers.

The Chaplain-General opened the meeting with prayers.

Two objections were raised to the published Minutes of the 1987 AGM. The first was raised by Bro Litten, who said it was incorrectly stated in the item 'Female Servers' that he had read from a prepared letter when, in fact, he had spoken from notes. The required adjustment was made. The second objection was to the absence of any reference to an alleged agreement not to process further any female servers until a referendum. On this being put to the meeting it was agreed to accept the Minutes without further amendment.

Under matters arising the Warden read the statement on the Constitution which was printed on p3 of the Winter 1987 issue of The Server. Bro Litten then embarked upon a wide-ranging and hard hitting statement but no discussion followed since Next Business was accepted.

The Annual Report, prepared by the Secretary-General and printed in The Server, was adopted, with thanks to the Secretary-General.

The Treasurer-General presented the Financial Statement, copies of which were available at the meeting. He drew attention to the increased income and interest shown on both the General Fund and the COF accounts. In answer to a query on the size of our reserves he pointed out that, although they seemed to be large, our present Secretary-General was a very good bargain and the officers claimed minimal expenses. We must be prepared for a situation when we had to pay for secretarial services. For this he believed we needed to accumulate large reserves so that we would not need a sudden, large increase in subscriptions. The report was adopted with thanks to the Treasurer-General.

Bro Stanley Wilcox, COF Secretary, then presented the COF report. He thanked members for their support and reminded them that the full report would appear in the Summer issue of The Server. The report was adopted with thanks to Bro Stan and to Fr Eric Ford, Chaplain COF. The Warden also expressed the views of the meeting that it was good that Stan was able to be with us again.

Bro Raymund Waker, Editor, spoke to The Server report which had been printed in The Server. He drew the attention of the meeting to the over 20 years contributions of Fr Barnard of Hinton Martel. Fr Barnard had just sent him an article in the 'Does it matter' series and advised him that this was the last in that series. He had, however, gone on to offer two alternative series as a choice to follow on. Fr Barnard's contribution was recognised with much applause. The report was adopted.

The Warden's address is printed elsewhere in this issue. Its chief point was a call to God-centred worship and living and that we treat serving, not as an end in itself, but as part of our commitment as baptised members of Christ's body and a call also to be fully Catholic and prepared to stand up for the Catholic Faith.

The Council's re-elections of Officers and re-appointments were approved. The Secretary-General reported that all retiring Councillors were re-elected.

The Warden looked forward to a good attendance, at least from the London brethren, at S Peter, Vauxhall on Saturday, July 2nd, celebrating the 90th Anniversary of the Guild—Mass at noon, Guild Office at 3.00 pm.

The Warden read out a list of forthcoming Festivals and the roll was called, indicating the presence of members from as far apart as Lancashire and Cornwall. There was a noted reluctance of the London chapters represented to identify themselves, until this was pointed out.

The Chaplain-General closed the meeting with the Grace at 3.35 pm.

GUILD OF SERVANTS OF THE SANCTAURY
General Fund Accounts as at 31st December 1987

1986	INCOME	1987	1986	EXPENDITURE	1987
£		£	£		£
2,099	Cash on Current A/c.BF.	2,436.13	175	Heating & Lighting	150.00
876	Cash on Deposit A/c.	936.73	327	Printing/Stationery	160.02
3,237	Subscriptions	3,573.58	328	Postage & Telephones	299.24
495	Legacies	-	820	Travel Expenses	874.93
541	Publications Sold	301.45	766	Exp. of Meetings	436.13
365	Life Members (New)	622.00	59	Advertisements	37.95
-	Donations	50.00	-	Donations	60.00
			342	Pubs. - Printing.	256.05
			-	Festival Expenses	74.50
3,020	The Server	3,325.80	1,472	The Server	2,322.81
193	COF	55.00	235	COF	219.34
4,849	Dividends & Interest	5,024.51	-	Warden's Expenses	88.60
			-	Choir Expenses	40.56
			21	Insurance	50.62
			-	Medals inc. new die	1,161.38
				Transfers - C.B.F.	
	Festival Collections-		7,500	Deposit A/c.	7,500.00
212	Easter & Autumn	493.84	580	Sundries	22.20
			937	Cash on Deposit A/c.	985.24
			2,436	Cash Current A/c.CF.	2,079.47
		<u>16,819.04</u>			<u>16,819.04</u>

**GUILD OF SERVANTS OF THE SANCTUARY
CANDIDATES FOR ORDINATION FUND**

Income & Expenditure Account as at 31st December 1987

1986	INCOME	1987	1986	EXPENDITURE	1987
£		£	£		£
	Cash on current		4,970	Gifts to Ordinands	6,050.00
1,164	A/c. B/Fwd.	1,847.47	-	The Server	57.60
	Cash on current		30	Life Members' Subs.	-
126	No.2 A/c. B/Fwd.	234.56	110	General Expenses	122.25
889	Deposit A/c.	1,662.45	510	Purchase of Ties	-
4,273	Donations/Gifts	6,245.48	15	Ties - Expenses	21.00
3,605	Dividends/Interest	3,397.37		Transfers C.B. of F	
320	Sales of Ties	224.05	2,500	No.1 A/c.	4,500.00
	Transfers from		1,662	Cash on Deposit A/c.	2,341.45
1,500	C.B. of F.	2,000.00	235	Cash on Current No.2 A/c.	187.61
				Cash Current A/c.	
			1,847	C/fwd.	2,331.47
		<u>15,611.38</u>			<u>15,611.38</u>

General Funds and Investments

Central Board of Finance - Deposit Account		45,750.00
10½% Exchequer Stock 1997	£ 552.95	Cost 500.00
12½% Treasury Stock 1995	3,664.39	" 4,000.00
9% Treasury Loan 1994	2,200.00	" 1,650.65
8½% Treasury Loan 1997	2,200.00	" 1,617.37
8% Treasury Loan 2002/6	2,200.00	" 1,431.28
Midland Bank Current Account		2,079.47
Midland Bank Deposit Account		985.24
		<u>£58,014.01</u>

Guild Property as at 31st December 1987

1 Guild Banner & Poles	4 Cantor's Copes
1 Warden's Cope	1 Brass Thurible & Boat
2 Silver Officer's Badges	1 Set White H.M. Vestments (kept by Fr Treadwell)
1 Duplicator	1 Steel Cabinet
	3 Wooden Cabinets
280 Guild Manuals	840 Guild Medals
300 Organ Copies	164 Lapel Badges
420 Guild Words	

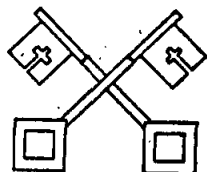
C.O.F. Investments

Walsall Loan Stock 13%		800.00
U.D. Trust Deposit 21Z287		2,000.00
U.D. Trust Deposit 22R541		600.00
U.D. Trust Deposit 3S460		600.00
Central Board of Finance – Deposit Accounts –		
General	18,060.52	
Sidney Russell Fund	1,000.00	
Cheaney Memorial Fund	1,213.66	
John Fox/Philip Stock Memorial Fund	2,740.93	
Bill Taplin Fund	500.00	
Ralph Stephenson Fund	500.00	
F. Streeter Fund	<u>2,750.00</u>	26,765.11
Lloyds Bank Deposit Account	2,341.45	
Lloyds Bank No.2 Account	187.61	
Lloyds Bank Current Account	<u>2,331.47</u>	<u>4,860.53</u>
		<u>£35,625.64</u>

General Fund and C.O.F. Accounts

I have examined the books, accounting records and vouchers of both Accounts and have obtained such information as needed. Documents and Certificates of Title have been duly inspected. In my view, the Accounts here presented, together with accompanying Schedules, present a true and fair view of the Guild's financial affairs as at December 1987.

Signed: F. T. Fortey, Auditor.



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WARDEN'S ADDRESS

We have begun today with our Easter Festival, the 90th Anniversary Celebrations of our Guild. For it was on December 3rd 1898 that a number of priests and laymen met in Church House, Westminster with the intention of forming an organisation of altar servers. Father Denny, vicar of S Peter's, Vauxhall was elected the first Warden and Father Deedes, vicar of S John the Divine, Kennington was elected the first Chaplain General. It was in the January that at a council meeting, the Warden was asked to compile the Guild Collect & the Guild Office. The Chaplain General was asked to design the Guild Medal. The next meeting saw the compilation of the Rules of the Guild which are about the same today and a plan was drawn up for local Chapters. The first Guild Office was sung at Saint Mary Magdalene, Munster Square on June 7th of that year, 1899. The Guild then began to grow and met with opposition from some bishops, particularly in regard to the Guild Office. But the Guild has grown to its present size.

It is tempting to say more about the Guild's history and to enlarge on the changes in the world and in society that have taken place since the closing years of the 19th century. One could build up a picture of how we have moved from tram cars to jumbo jets and from energy produced from coal to that produced from nuclear power. How great have been the changes in society around us. You have only to look at the great houses nigh to where we are meeting this afternoon and realize that 90 years ago they were the homes of the wealthy (they probably still are) with servants in the basement. A great social revolution has taken place since those days and the results are clearly to be seen in the life of society around us. This revolution, of course, has had its effect on the Church. Often we say 'It is all so different'. We know from the life of our own parishes how different it all is. It is different very often in regard to the rapidity with which people move. We have become a nation of nomads. I am sure there are still parishes which are static in regard to the population but I suspect they are becoming a rarity. 'It is all very different' in another respect. I often say to myself that when I was ordained it was a biddable age. We did what we were told—and not just junior clergy. A form of liberalism has swept through the land resulting in a 'laissez-faire' approach to so much including the practice of the Catholic Faith. We hear and see so much laxity that would have shocked the Oxford Movement Fathers and all this is often in the name of a more liberal and sensitive approach. I remain somewhat unconvinced and my fear is that very often the Church is being transformed to the thinking of the world and not to that of Our Redeemer whom we claim to honour, love and serve. So all is not well with the Church and there has been much in recent months that has made some of us more than a little uneasy. How saddened we were by the untimely death of Canon Bennett of Oxford. He died believing that our Church seems to be ruled by trend rather than Tradition as the preacher put it at the Requiem Mass. Only a few days ago many of us (and not a few of both sexes in Saint Ives' congregation) were all but outraged by an edition of 'Panorama' about the Church of England in the course of which the Archbishop of Canterbury was interviewed. There was the sight of two male homosexuals undergoing some sort of marriage ceremony in a parish church—with the agreement of the P.C.C. (that bears out my long held theory that most lay people have little or no Theology) . . . there was the sad sight of an honest priest about to leave the Sacred Ministry because he felt hounded and pursued . . . there was the sight of a so-called female deacon pirouetting in

clerical attire and worse to come, for she bordered on the coarse, whether to shock or inform, I know not. ... and there was the sight of a ranting preacher. How sad it all was. And I though not a little disrespectful to the Archbishop.

Yes, we were uneasy and concerned. But let us not be depressed or give up hope. We have a glorious heritage, not least in the 90 years of our Guild. The Guild stands for truths that are much needed in the life of the Church today, which has become immersed in, if not swamped by politics, bureaucracy and committees, and sadly is very often led by people who have one eye on promotion or preferment. We believe that worship is the main activity of man, created and redeemed by God for that end, and that his worship finds its highest expression in the Mass and not in hotch-potch hymn sandwiches or family services. From that worship there then flows out our activity in the world, for worship must not be an end in itself. I sometimes get the impression that some of us think that serving at the altar is an end in itself... a little more about that in a minute. We believe also that our worship demands of us sacrifice and discipline. I suspect two aspects of Christian discipleship that are unfashionable and lacking today.

So despite the great changes that have taken place our Guild still bears witness to eternal truths which I think could be summed up as being the reality of the supernatural in all that we do and that the sacred matters in all that we do.

So may I give you a call at the beginning of our 90th anniversary celebrations which I hope we shall all have in our hearts not least when we meet for worship in Canterbury Cathedral in the autumn.

The call is one to God-centred worship and living. A call also that we treat not serving as an end in itself but as part of our commitment as baptised members of Christ's Body and a call also to be fully Catholic and be prepared to stand up for the Catholic Faith.

THE GENERAL COUNCIL

The General Council met on Saturday, March 12th and was attended by the Warden, Chaplain COF, Secretary-General, Treasurer-General, Editor, Editor-Emeritus, Server Distributor and 24 Councillors. Apologies were received from the Chaplain-General, Secretary COF and 6 Councilors.

Further consideration was given to the question of members robing for Mass at Festivals and it was concluded that it would probably not be possible at the Easter Festival since there was unlikely to be a place available for robing. The halls were usually occupied in the morning. It was determined that the London 90th Anniversary Festival on July 2nd at St Peter's, Vauxhall should consist of a Mass at noon and Guild Office at 3 pm. The serving team would be drawn from the General Council. The Annual report, Financial Statement and report, COF report and The Server report were adopted. The Officers were re-elected unopposed.

The Secretary-General was unable to provide any information on elections to the General Council since the closing date for nominations had not yet been reached. It was agreed to attempt to hold the 1989 Autumn Festival in Chester and the 1990 Autumn Festival in Bristol.

Attention was drawn to a booklet 'Upon My Death', available, price 20p, from The Guild of All Souls, which can be used to advise your next-of-kin or executor of your funeral wishes etc.

THE CHURCH UNION

PRESIDENT

The Rt Revd Dr Eric Kemp, Bishop of Chichester

GENERAL SECRETARY

The Revd Ross Thompson

The CHURCH UNION was founded in 1859 as a result of the great renewal which began in Oxford in 1833, to recall the Church of England to her true Catholic identity, and to ensure that the great truths of the faith are defended and shared with others.

In the 1980's we must not only defend our heritage but make sure that we take the initiative to go forward and bring the faith to others. The Church Union is fully committed to the Catholic Renewal movement, and the aims of both bodies can only be achieved if we have one single united and representative voice speaking on behalf of as many parishes and individuals as possible. The CHURCH UNION *is the only organisation* with the staff, the premises, and the experience that, with your support, *can do this*.

Join the Church Union, as an individual or by parish membership, and you will be forwarding the work of Catholic Renewal, qualify for the advice and assistance that the Union can give, and assist the work of THE CHURCH LITERATURE ASSOCIATION the only independent publishing house committed to the Catholic movement.

Write or telephone for membership details:

THE CHURCH UNION

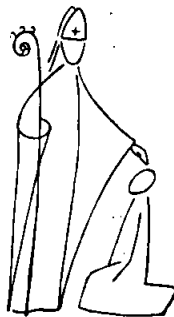
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DOES IT MATTER - (12) - WHETHER WE LIKE THE PARSON?

The Revd Canon W H Barnard

For the first time, our answer to this is NO. It does not matter. But we must *note the difference* between 'liking' and 'loving'. It does matter whether we *love* the Parson, or not, since our Lord's command is to love all men and women, even enemies. This does not mean having the same feeling towards all men. We cannot love to order, for 'falling in love' is more like an accident than an action. The command to love all men, which includes the Parson, means to wish them well and to be ready, as opportunity occurs, to do them good. This is part of our duty to our neighbour. Apart from this fact of duty, such conduct always brings the best out of people, who, like animals, respond to kindly treatment. Unkindness to anyone gets us nowhere. Sometimes we forget *the Parson is an ordinary human being*, with the same feelings as other mortals. To stick a pin in him hurts as much as one stuck into the churchwarden, or anyone else. An unhappy Parson is usually the result of the way his parishoners treat him. But the question is not about 'loving' but 'liking'. We cannot make ourselves like a person and there is no command to do so.



Why do we like this person and not that? Often we cannot tell. Some people we like from the moment of meeting them; to others we take in instant dislike. Some people are "all-right" when you know them and others until you know them! It doesn't really matter so long as our conduct towards people is not affected by whether we like them or not. To "spoil" them because we like them or to be nasty to them because we dislike them is to break the command to love *all* men.

In the case of the Parson, the important thing is to think of him, not as an individual, but as a Minister of the Word and Sacraments. Though we dislike him as an individual we must respect him as God's Minister. We should never, for example, go to Church because we like the Parson or stay away if we do not. Usually we should ask why it is we dislike him if such is the case. Often it is something he has said or done. But make sure he *did* say it or do it. That someone who heard it from someone else who heard it from someone else tells us he did is not a sufficient reason. If we find he did say it then ask *why* he did it. The truth can be unpleasant but it is the Parson's job to state it. If the cap fits, it is unreasonable to dislike the person who puts it on our head. Or maybe there is something in the Parson which nobody could like. There is something of that kind in all of us. Let us be blind to his faults as we usually are to our own and pray for him. In any case, never let our dislike keep us from attending Church Services. An old lady, after a difference of opinion with her Minister, appeared the next Sunday in Church as usual. When he, the Parson, rather foolishly, showed surprise at this, she replied, "My quarrel was with you; not the Lord". She was a wise old lady, wiser than many who, like her, don't like the Parson.

DIRECTORY

CHAPTER	SECRETARY	CHAPTER	SECRETARY
Corpus Christi 13/36	L G Grant 6 Dandies Close Eastwood Leigh on Sea SS9 5RQ	SS Michael & Andrew 16/118	Clifford Makings 133 Milton Road Sneyd Greend Hanley Stoke on Trent ST1 6HF
S George the Martyr L4/56	Colin Doe 179 West Green Woodford Green London IG8 7NW	Our Lady & S Hugh of Lincoln 10/205	R A Cowper 33 Cowper St Luton, Beds. LU1 3SQ
The Good Shepherd 16/58	W Ross 58 Browning Street Derby DE3 8AP	S Stephen 1/174	J Pearce 5 St Michael's Rd Tunbridge Well TN4 9JG
Holy Cross 7/78 (Bridport area)	P Runciman 37 Severalls Park Av Crewkerne TA18 8DR	Editor Emeritus	The Revd & Mrs W D Varney 65 Russet Grove Salter Avenue Norwich NR4 7ND

THE ANGLICAN SOCIETY

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Subscription £3 p.a.

Secretary: D. Thomson Esq., 12 Tanners Lane,
Barkingside, Ilford, Essex.

THE GUILD OF SERVANTS OF THE SANCTUARY CYCLE OF PRAYER 1988

for daily use with your intercessions and the Guild Collect
and for the INCREASE of SERVERS and SERVING

JULY

1. Diocese of Gloucester, Bp John Yates
2. The 90th Anniversary of our Guild
3. T5,P6. S Thomas the Apostle. May we never doubt
4. Provincial Group 11 (Glos, Wilts, Soms). Cllr R Waker
5. No.27. S Brendan, Bristol
6. No.69. Holy & Indivisible Trinity, Gloucester Diocese
7. No.95. S Julian, Midsomer Norton, nr Bath
8. No.224. SS Peter & Paul, Bath
9. No.239. SS Aldhelm & Laurence, Trowbridge area
10. T6,P7. Help us in our belief
11. No.243. The Resurrection, Weston super Mare
12. Diocese of Hereford. Bp John Eastaugh
13. Diocese of Bath & Wells. Bp George Carey
14. Diocese of Bristol. Bp Barry Rogerson
15. Diocese of S David's. Abp Geroge Noakes
16. Provincial Group 12 (Wales). Cllr R Bradley
17. T7,P8. The retired and aged
18. No.21. S Barnabas, Cardiff
19. No.42. S David of Wales, Milford Haven
20. No.180. Our Lady & S Tydfil, Merthyr Tydfil
21. No.226. S Cennydd, Swansea
22. S Mary Magdalene, Houses of Retreat
23. No.236. SS David & Gwynntiw, Monmouth
24. T8,P9. The hungry and underprivileged
25. S James Ap, May we follow our Blessed Lord
26. S Anne, Mother of the Blessed Virgin Mary
27. No.242. S Mary, Margam
28. No.245. SS Gwynno & Tyfodwg, Rhondda
29. Diocese of Bangor. Bp John Mears
30. Diocese of Llandaff. Bp R T Davies
31. T9P10. For all our Welsh brethren

AUGUST

1. Lammas. For a good harvest
2. Diocese of S Asaph. Bp A R Jones
3. Diocese of Monmouth. Bp Royston Wright
4. Diocese of Swansea & Brecon. Bp Benjamin Vaughan
5. No.215(PG2). Our Lady & The Holy Angels, Deal
6. Transfiguration. Transform us
7. T10,P11. For PCCs
8. Diocese of Chelmsford. Bp John Wayne
9. Provincial Group 13 (Chelmsford). Cllr D Perry
10. No.4. The Ascension, South Essex
11. No.13. S Andrew, West Essex
12. No.28. S Cedd, East Essex
13. No.36. Corpus Christi, SE Essex
14. T11,P12. For all the deaf
15. The Assumption of the BVM. For a good death

August contd.

16. No.72. Holy Cross & S Helena, NE Essex
17. No.78. The Holy Sacrifice, North Essex
18. No.154. S Peter the Apostle, mid-Essex
19. Diocese of S Edmundsbury & Ipswich. Bp John Dennis
20. Provincial Group 14 (E Anglia). Cllr G Scurrall
21. No.45. S Edmund KM, Ipswich & District
22. T12,P13. Deanery & Diocesan Synods
23. No.49. S Etheldreda, Cambridge
24. S Bartholomew Ap. The Church Union
25. No.131. S Ovin, March/Wisbech area
26. No.158. SS Peter & Paul, Peterborough
27. No.184. S William of Norwich, Norwich
28. T13,P14. Homes for the care of children
29. Beheading of S John Baptist. Prison Chaplains
30. No.202. SS Felix & Fursey, Bury S Edmunds
31. No.234. All Saints, Great Yarmouth

SEPTEMBER

1. Diocese of Ely. Bp Peter Walker
2. Diocese of Norwich. Bp Peter Nott
3. Diocese of Peterborough. Bp Bill Westwood
4. T14,P15. Thanksgiving for the harvest
5. Diocese of Coventry. Bp Simon Barrington-Ward
6. Provincial Group 15 (Warwickshire). Cllr J Harris
7. No.23. S Chad, Coventry
8. Birthday of the BVM. May we find grace and favour
9. No.43. S Dubritius, S Warks area
10. No.91. S John the Divine, Leicester area
11. T15,P16. The Church Army
12. No.102. S Luke, mid-Northants
13. No.138. Our Lady & S Peter, Higham Ferrers
14. Holy Cross. The Symbol of our Faith
15. No.146. Our Lady & S Thomas of Canterbury, Northampton
16. No.187. S Thomas à Beckett, Towcester
17. Diocese of Leicester. Bp Richard Rutt
18. T16,P17. May we benefit from our holidays
19. Provincial Group 16 (Notts & Northants). Cllr R Hudson
20. No.22. Bp Edward King, Lincs
21. S Matthew. The Coptic Churches
22. No.58. The Good Shepherd, Derby
23. No.70. The Holy Faith, Matlock
24. No.87. S Jerome, Mansfield area
25. T17,P18. Strengthen our commitment
26. No.118. SS Michael & Andrew, Stoke on Trent
27. No.134. Our Lady & S Eadburgh, Nottingham
28. No.150. Our Saviour, Chesterfield
29. S Michael & All Angels. Our Guardian Angels
30. No.187. S Wystan, Burton on Trent

OCTOBER

1. No.192(PG8). S Joseph the Worker, Weybridge
2. T18,P19. Dedication. Our Parish Church
3. Diocese of Lichfield. Bp Keith Sutton
4. S Francis of Assisi. "Nature is never spent"
5. Provincial Group 17 (West Midlands). Cllr R Creswell
6. No.109. S Mary Magdalene, Wednesbury
7. No.119. S Michael & All Angels, Ambercote
8. 90th Anniversary Autumn Festival at Canterbury
9. T19,P20. YMCA & YWCA
10. No.140. S Christopher, Cannock
11. No.162. The Purification, Telford
12. Diocese of Blackburn. Bp Stewart Cross
13. Diocese of Lincoln. Bp Robert Hardy
14. Diocese of York. Abp John Habgood
15. Provincial Group 18 (Yorks & Lincs). Cllr N Beckett
16. T20,P21. The Northern Province
17. No.54. Friends of S Francis, Rotherham
18. No.101. Lamb of God, Sheffield
19. S Luke. Our own GP & all doctors
20. No.117. S Michael, Doncaster
21. No.139. Our Lady of Lincoln, Lincoln
22. GSS General Council
23. T21,9bC. New Zealand District Council
24. No.164. The Resurrection, Hull
25. No.216. S George, Boston
26. No.225. S Hugh & Blessed Edward King, Grimsby
27. No.235. S Hugh, Scunthorpe
28. SS Simon & Jude App. Intercessions
29. Dio of Ripon. Bp David Young/Dio of Chester. Bp Michael Baughen
30. T22,8bC. Missions to Seamen
31. Dio of Derby. Bp Cyril Bowles/Dio of Sheffield. Bp David Lunn

NOVEMBER

1. All Saints. Glory to them
2. All Souls. May they rest in peace
3. Provincial Group 19 (W Yorkshire). Cllr G Crowther
4. No.63. SS Helen & Polycarp, Barnsley
5. No.123. S Ninian, Leeds
6. T23,7bC. Scottish GSS
7. No.153. S Paulinus, Halifax and Huddersfield
8. Dio of Southwell. Bp Michael Whinney/Dio of Durham. Bp David Jenkins
9. Dio of Newcastle. Bp Alec Graham/Dio of Wakefield. Bp David Hope
10. Provincial Group 20 (Northumbria/Durham). Cllr B Wellock
11. No.20. S Benet Biscop, Newcastle
12. No.57. S Godric of Finchale, mid-Durham
13. T23,6bC. For all who have died in war
14. No.128. S Oswin, Northumberland
15. No.181. S Francis of Assisi, Middlesbrough
16. Dio of Liverpool. Bp David Shepherd/Dio of Carlisle. Bp David Halsey

November contd.

17. Diocese of Manchester. Bp Stanley Booth-Clibborn
18. Provincial Group 21 (Cheshire and Lancs). Cllr R Ogier
19. No.18. S Barnabas, Cumbria
20. T25,5bC. American Guild of S Vincent
21. No.41. S Denys, Manchester district
22. No.137. Our Lady & S John, Wirral
23. No.152. Our Lady & S Nicholas, Liverpool area
24. No.182. S Werburgh, Stockport area
25. Provincial Group 22 (Cornwall). Cllr D Crisp
26. No.114. S Michael, Penzance
27. ADVENT. The Church's New Year
28. No.170. The Sacred Host, Falmouth
29. No.240. S Mark, Helston
30. S Andrew Ap. All Missionary Societies

DECEMBER

1. No.247. SS Uny, Ia & Anta, S Ives
2. No.248. SS Michael & Petroc, Newquay
3. No.250. S Elvan, Mullion
4. Advent 2. Ghana District Council
5. No.244. All Saints, Takoradi
6. Diocese of Worcester. Bp Philip Goodrich
7. Provincial Group 23 (Worcs). Cllr R Creswell
8. No.84. The Holy Grail, Birmingham
9. No.86. The Incarnate Word, Malvern Link†
10. No.106. SS Mary & Anne, Kidderminster
11. No.151. Our Lady & S Egwin, Evesham
12. Advent 3. Anglican Communion
13. No.159. S Peter ad Vincula, Dudley
14. No.186. S Wulfstan, Redditch
15. Diocese of Birmingham. Bp Mark Santer
16. Provincial Group 24 (N Wales). Cllr H Gadd
17. No.1. SS David & Asaph, Wrexham
18. Advent 4. Bible Reading Fellowship
19. Provincial Group 25 (N Yorkshire). Cllr D Lester
20. No.185. S William of York, York
21. No.307. S Hilda of Whitby, Malton
22. Diocese of Bradford. Bp Robert Williamson
23. Diocese of Sodor & Man. Bp Arthur Attwell
24. Christmass Eve. We await his coming
25. CHRISTMASS. Christ is born
26. S Stephen. For all Holy Martyrs
27. S John. For all Evangelists
28. The Holy Innocents. For all children
29. S Thomas of Canterbury. The RC Church. Pope John Paul II
30. The Holy Family. Our patrons the Archbishops
31. We await the coming year

† denotes chapter in abeyance, pray that it may become active again

Corrections, omissions and suggestions to S Don Perry, Cllr PG13,
Cleavelands Farm, 159 Rowledge Road, Old Heath, COLCHESTER,
ESSEX, CO2 8EJ. Tel: 0206 866612

CHANTRY BOOK

JANUARY

Cyril F Bull
Norman Stanley Colhoun
Cyril J Hunt
M Morris
Fred Semmens
Stanley Williams
Douglas Wiswell, priest

FEBRUARY

Graeme Richard King
William Rockett

MARCH

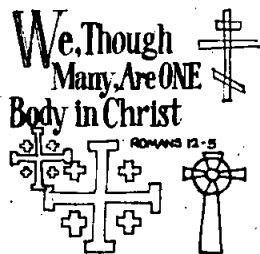
Edward Franklin
Leonard A Gally
Ronald Smeaton

JULY

Lionel Paskins

DECEMBER

William Eric Bell
Frederick R Child
Albert H Dickens
C G Jones
F C T Smith



R.I.P.

Norman Stanley Colhoun

Stanley, who died in September last year, had been a member of the Guild for a short while only but his association with the chapter of SS Michael & Petroc was of much longer standing. His wife frequently played the organ at chapter meetings and he always accompanied her. He was churchwarden of S Mawgan in Pydar as well as being principal server. He is greatly missed for his loyalty and dedication to the Guild.

William Rockett

Bill, for many years a member of the chapter of S Ninian, Leeds, died, aged 65 years, on 14th February. He had been a server at S Hilda, Cross Green, from the age of 11. He was also a member of the Parochial Church Council in which he was actively involved. Bill did a great deal of charitable work, including visiting the sick and elderly in the district. The Guild was represented at the Requiem conducted by Fr Andrew Nunn, assisted by the chapter chaplain, Fr John Payne, who gave the address. After cremation Bill's ashes were returned to S Hilda's where they now rest in the church he loved so much.

Ronald Smeaton

It is with great sorrow that we have to record that Ron died on Wednesday, 16th March, at the age of 55 years after a long illness courageously borne. Ron was a most valued member of the chapter of S Francis of Assisi, Cleveland, and a life member of the Guild. He will be very sadly missed by all the members of the chapter. A Requiem Mass was offered in his parish of S Cuthbert, Marton, on Saturday 18th March. May he rest in peace and rise in glory.

Douglas Wiswell, priest

Fr Douglas Wiswell was born a Canadian and spent his early life in Halifax, Nova Scotia. He graduated however, from Christ Church, Oxford with an MA degree and a Diploma in Theology. He was ordained in Ripon Cathedral and then served as curate for three years in Leeds parish church. He returned to Canada for five years 1925-30 and served as curate in Christ Church Cathedral, Montreal. After his return to England he became vicar of Morley near Leeds, remaining there for 15 years before coming to Pembury in 1946. He remained there as vicar until his retirement in 1964. Fr Wiswell was for many years chaplain of the S Stephen's chapter, Tunbridge Wells and up until his death at the age of 94 took a keen interest in the chapter. Fr Wiswell died on January 8th 1988 and Requiem Mass was offered at S Barnabas Church on January 20th. May he rest in peace and rise in glory.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

JUNE

- 4 CORPUS CHRISTI FESTIVAL
Bucks & Middx Chapters
S Giles, Chalfont S Giles
3.30 pm—Guild Office, Sermon, Procession of the Blessed Sacrament, Devotions
- 25 GLASTONBURY ABBEY PILGRIMAGE
Noon—Solemn Eucharist
Preacher & Principal Concelebrant: The Archbishop of Canterbury
3.30 pm—Procession followed by Evensong



JULY

- 2 90th ANNIVERSARY LONDON COMMEMORATION
S Peter, Vauxhall. Noon—Mass, 3.00 pm—Guild Office and Benediction
- 20 Chapter of SS Michael & Petroc Annual Festival
S Petroc, Bodmin. 5.30 pm—Procession, Solemn Mass
Preacher: Canon Ken Rogers, Rector of Bodmin

AUGUST

- 20 ASSUMPTION TIDE FESTIVAL
Bucks & Middx Chapters
S Matthew's, High St, Yiewsley
3.00 pm—Guild Office, Sermon, tea then travel to S Andrew's, High St, Uxbridge
5.30 pm—Devotions to Our Lady, Benediction

SEPTEMBER

- 10 DIOCESAN AND MIDLANDS AREA FESTIVAL
Lichfield Cathedral. Noon—Solemn Eucharist,
President: The Bishop of Shrewsbury
Preacher: Canon Brian Brindley of Holy Trinity, Reading
3.00 pm—Guild Office and Procession
Preacher: The Bishop of Shrewsbury
- 17 NORTH WESTERN CHAPTERS FESTIVAL
S Benedict, Ardwick, Manchester
Noon—High Mass, 3.00 pm—Guild Office, Sermon, Procession, Benediction
Preacher: Revd R H Marshall, vicar of Goldthorpe, Rotherham

OCTOBER

- 8 90th ANNIVERSARY AUTUMN FESTIVAL
Canterbury Cathedral. Noon—Eucharist, 5.00 pm—Guild Office and Procession
- 13 Chapter of SS Osmund and Swithun AUTUMN FESTIVAL
S Francis of Assisi, Bournemouth
8.00 pm—Procession, Sermon and Solemn Concelebrated Mass
Preacher: Fr R Stone, p in c of S Barnabas Weeke, Winchester

1989

JANUARY

- 7 SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN SERVERS FESTIVAL
Southwark Cathedral. Noon—Eucharist, 3.00 pm—Guild Office and sermon
Preacher: Canon Christopher Colven, vicar of S Stephen, Gloucester Rd
(formerly Guardian of the Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham)
All servers welcome, please bring picnic lunch

IN HIS PRESENCE

Candle flames flicker on the wall
Make our shadows seem so tall
Soft beeswax light on the altar
Sheds shades on the psalter
The white clad cadres genuflect
Their demeanour, holy, correct
Before the safe sealed Sacrament
Heads bent as they repent
Hearts and minds must be cleansed
Of all sinly taints and trends
For they, the servers, there and here
Prepare to wait upon with ceaseless care
The things of the Holy Mysteries Rite
Ever in His Precious Sight
Theirs no show for congregational delight
'tis by Royal Command of the Prince of Light
So all must be right as right
Yet not an exercise by numbers
Sleep walking in their slumbers
To serve the Lord, the King Emmanuel
Cannot be learned from well thumbed manual
In the attitudes of devout devotion
Must plain seen be love's emotion
For they serve not self nor self-acclaim
But the Blessed Name who won eternal fame
Rituals rigourism is not the master
To preen and prance but courts disaster
The servant of the sanctuary is a paradox
Deep pulsed passion past the orthodox
Humbleness is deed belies the pride
Piety without a sanctimonious side
Servant without servility so snide
Here the eternal and the temporal collide
Behold the celebrant preside
Easy to allow the mind to slide
As the timeless words proceed
And familiar deed follows deed
But stay, let imagination recede
To another time, another place
And see the face we hope to face
Our Lord Jesus Christ at the head of the table
As His followers follow as best they are able
Discern behind the everyday simplicity
Feel the sadness in Passover's felicity
Wonder at their own complicity
Their Lord, Master, Leader, King
Had just done the strangest thing
Like a servant of the lowest cast
Despite what Peter has asked
Washed their feet
'Twasn't meet.
He, the Ruler Servant is our guide
It was for us He lived and died
It is He who is served at the Altar of Life
Not Bishop, nor Priest, nor ambition's wife
So remember, recollect, recall
You who are servers all
Be sensitive to soul sense
You are in His Presence.



Fr Peter Rhys Thomas
September 1st, 1987

NEWS FROM THE CHAPTERS

S BARNABAS, Diocese of Blackburn

On 6th February S James, Churchkirk, Accrington, was the venue for our Guild Office and AGM when upwards of 100 servers, together with family and friends comfortably filled the centre nave of the church. The service commenced with 20 admissions to full membership and 8 probationers. The chaplain, Fr P Price sang the Guild Office and preached on the subject of true Lenten observance, drawing attention to the value of spiritual discipline in our lives.

Fr Ian Finn, vicar of Christ Church, Lancaster was elected chaplain in place of Fr Price who has served for the agreed term. The treasurer reported a satisfactory financial position and donations approved included £100 each to COF and ACS.

The Easter meeting of the chapter was held on 16th April at S George, Barrow-in-Furness (Carlisle Diocese) and subsequent meetings will be on 11th June at S Nicholas, Fleetwood, 24th September at Christ Church, Wesham and 4th February 1989 at S Paul, Adlington for the AGM. It is also hoped to arrange to sing the Guild Office in Blackburn Cathedral towards the end of November.

S BIRINUS, Oxford

The chapter AGM was held in January in the parish hall of S Giles, following Mass. In February our chaplain, Fr P Hunt presided over the Guild Office and Benediction at S Mary Magdalene, Oxford. Since the church was undergoing extensive redecoration we used the Blessed Sacrament chapel. The address was given by Fr King who entertained us afterwards in the vicarage.

In March we returned once more to the church of S Mary the Virgin, Iffley for Guild Office and Benediction and to say farewell to Fr and Mrs Coles who are leaving Oxford for a parish in S Devon where he is to continue his ministry. We wish them well in their new commitments.

S CHAD, Coventry

The Epiphany Visitation was at S Peter, Coventry East, where we received a warm welcome from the rector, Fr Giles Harris-Evans. The chaplain, Fr Gordon Elliott officiated for the Office and the Lord Bishop, The Rt Revd Simon Barrington-Ward presided and preached. Sister Sue Archer and Bro Charles Wootton were made full members. Afterwards over tea we were able to enjoy a chat with the Bishop and much encouraged when his Lordship accepted an invitation to join the Guild as a Bishop Associate, the first local Diocesan ever to do this. It was a happy reminder of old times to be joined by Bro Fred Soden and friends from the Leamington Spa chapter.

The February Meeting took place in S John Baptist, Fleet Street. The chaplain presided for Sung Eucharist assisted by the priest-in-charge, Fr Trevor Southgate, who also preached. S John's choir added much to the beauty of the Service.

The 74th AGM at S Chadside was held at S Mary, Walsgrave. Officers' reports indicated that the chapter was very sound financially and, once again, a three figure sum had been collected for COF. In the elections Bro Paul Durrant became Vice Chairman and Sister Gwen Smith Assistant Secretary succeeding the veteran Bro Alan Reid standing down after 43 years continuous committee service. Sister Gwen

becomes the first lady member to hold Office. It was decided to organise a Midlands Servers Festival in 1989 to commemorate the 75th Anniversary of the chapter's foundation. Following tea we had Evening Prayer taken by the vicar, Fr Andrew Tuck, then the Office at which the chaplain officiated and gave his annual address.

S ETHELDREDA, Cambridge

The Annual General Meeting in March was well attended and members heard of another excellent year in the life of the chapter. Membership was again on the increase, nearly half of the members subscribed to THE SERVER magazine, a thurible had been purchased and there were plans being submitted to the General Council for the chapter to have its own Banner.

A full programme for 1988/89 had been planned which included joint meetings with neighbouring chapters, a successful feature of previous programmes. The chapter Committee had booked and were planning a Retreat at S Francis' House in Hemingford Grey for October 1989 and numbers for this event were already very satisfactory.

The new programme included singing the Guild Office at several churches not visited before thus proving the Chapter's theory that so many churches simply needed to be asked!

S JOHN BAPTIST, Torbay

The chapter AGM, preceded by the singing of the Guild Office and Benediction in the parish church, was held in Ellacombe church hall, Torquay, in January.

Fr Alastair Sandeman, who lives in retirement in Preston and who, as a boat-boy at All Saints, Babbacombe, was a founder member of the chapter in 1926, was elected chaplain.

The treasurer reported a balance in hand of £88.

Our February meeting started with a celebration of Holy Communion at S' John Baptist church, Shiphay, Torquay. Afterwards we had an address from the Torbay Hospital chaplain, Fr Edward Hetherington. He reminded members that, when visiting patients in hospital, they should talk to the person they had come to visit and not across them to their other visitors. A great deal of a hospital chaplain's ministry, he said, is spent in listening to what a patient says, or does not say.

SS MICHAEL & PETROC, Cornwall

The first meeting of the year was held at S Michael, Newquay. It was intended, after the Guild Office, to hold our AGM but, since this turned out to be the night the county experienced the worst storm of the winter, the AGM had to be postponed for only the Newquay brethren were able to be present.

In March the chapter met at S Peter, Treverbyn, when Sung Mass was celebrated by Fr B Saunders, the parish priest. After Mass we followed the Stations of the Cross as our Lenten devotion.

At the AGM which then took place we received encouraging reports of all aspects of the chapter's life and we look forward to another fruitful year. All the officers were re-elected.

SS OSMUND & SWITHUN, Bournemouth

The Easter meeting of the chapter took place on Easter Monday when we visited Alton Abbey for Mass and a picnic lunch, followed by a visit to the church of S Barnabas, Southampton for the Guild Office and Benediction.

A warm welcome awaits any member of the Guild should they be on holiday in the Bournemouth area; please write to the chapter secretary Bro R White, 26 Huntfield Road, Bournemouth, for a copy of our programme giving details of services and meetings for the current year. The Autumn Festival of the chapter will be held in the church of S Francis, Charminster Hill, Bournemouth, on Thursday October 13th at 8pm.

The chapter continues to support COF and the work of Helen House, Oxford, some £250 having been donated during 1987. The special project this year is to raise money to purchase equipment for the disabled at S Joseph's wing at Walsingham.

S OSYTH, mid-Bucks

Our AGM was held on the 30th January preceded by a Solemn Mass for the Feast of King Charles the Martyr in S Mary's church, Princes Risborough. The preacher was Fr C H J Cavell Northam, vicar of Stony Stratford. We were ably supported on this occasion by other chapters including priests and servers from Bath and from Alton, Hants. A Book of Remembrance given to the chapter in memory of our late secretary, Don Pennycott, was first used during the Intercessions. At the subsequent refreshments after Mass, Group Councillor Len Canterbury presented Certificates of Honorary Life Membership for Long Service to Bro Jack Redrup of our chapter, and also to Bro Jim Daniels of the chapter of S Hugh and All Saints. Prior to the Mass, two probationers, James Williams and Miranda Cornford, were admitted to full membership.

OUR LADY OF WALSINGHAM & S ALBAN, Middlesex

1987 saw a very welcome revival in the fortunes of the chapter with many new members being admitted and record attendances at meetings. Much credit must go to the chaplain, Fr Clive Pearce, whose friendliness and interest in the members is much appreciated and whose erudite addresses are looked forward to by all.

In November the Annual Requiem for departed members was celebrated at S Augustine, Wembley Park, where the chapter held its first meeting in 1929. For the feast of the Immaculate Conception the chapter attended Mass at S Laurence, Whitchurch, Little Stanmore; the celebrant was the rector, Fr David Knight, and the chaplain preached on the origins and significance of the feast. S Laurence was rebuilt in the reign of Queen Anne by John, Duke of Chandos and is unique for its magnificent murals, which have recently been fully restored.

10 members, 2 of whom are in the Guild Choir, attended the Epiphany Festival at Southwark Cathedral. Our January meeting was at the chaplain's church, S Anselm, Hatch End—a veritable masterpiece of 'arts and crafts' design; the secretary, Bro Peter Thorn gave a talk on ceremonial for the Guild Office and Benediction.

EPIPHANY FESTIVAL SERMON, Saturday 9th January 1988

by

Fr Eric Ford, Chaplain COF

Words from S Paul's Letter to Christians at Ephesus—"*Walk worthy of the Vocation wherewith ye are called.*"

Everybody loves Christmastide which by tradition ends after Evening Prayer tomorrow. Everybody loves the awe and wonder of the Midnight Mass at Christmass with the singing of the traditional carols in a Cathedral or church beautified by flowers and decorated Christmass trees. Everybody loves looking at the Crib, firstly on Christmass Day, when the Babe in the Manger is surrounded by shepherds and sheep, and secondly, on the Feast of the Epiphany when S Joseph, the Blessed Virgin, and the Babe receive a visit from the Magi, more commonly called THE THREE WISE MEN.

What can be learnt from the Crib of the Epiphany. Let us *firstly* think about the Wise Men. Because of the prophecies of Balaam (Numbers 24v17) and of Daniel (Dan.9v24-27) many people have been led to a special study of the stars, for the stars would indicate the manner and the time of Christ's appearing. The Magi saw the star, they recognised it, and prepared immediately to obey its call. The Star called them to leave their country and undertake the long journey to seek for the CHRIST CHILD. They found Him with His Holy Mother and S Joseph, after many an adventure, in BETHLEHEM. They presented gifts of Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh. *Gold*—the symbol of sovereignty—showing that they acknowledged Him as their King. *Frankincense*—the symbol of the offering of sacrifice; their recognition of His Priesthood. *Myrrh*—the symbol of bitterness and mortification, setting forth His Office as a Prophet; the Founder of a new School, the School of the Cross.

Secondly, we should ask ourselves—how does the Epiphany Crib, help us today—after all the event portrayed here happened nearly 2,000 years ago. The hymn "As with gladness men of old did the guiding star behold..." can be used as a bridge between then and now, for it refers to our Vocation in life, as well as that of the Magi. The Magi saw the star, and it called them to leave their country, to undertake a long journey to seek Christ in Bethlehem. Like the Apostle Paul, when we have heard the voice of Jesus, we must ask, "Lord, what wilt thou have us do?" We must remember that is God calls, He will make the opportunity. Consider some results of this—

1. All Vocations lead us to Bethlehem to Christ.
2. Obedience to Vocation often brings involuntary suffering on others. How much those who loved the Magi may have felt the parting from them. And again, their obedience to Vocation caused the death of the Holy Innocents. But it brings blessings, even on those who suffer unwillingly, giving them a share in the sacrifice. The relations of the Magi, perhaps; learnt from them the Gospel of Christ; and the Holy Innocents became the first who died for Christ.
3. We must walk worthy of our Vocation, for we shall be judged by it. The judgement will be a revelation of God's purpose for us, and the capabilities of our souls — what we might have been.

We are here today as altar servers, members of the Guild of Servants of the Sanctuary, a Guild which was formed in 1898 to deepen the spiritual life of servers, so helping them become more worthy of their high office as a brotherhood. Let me remind you of the objects of the Guild — to promote a disinterested and conscientious performance of the duties of altar servers; to encourage more frequent attendance at the Holy Eucharist, in addition to times of duty; and to promote friendship and brotherhood. These objects are still the focal points of our membership. We are reminded constantly in The Server that the GSS has been a tremendous force of strength in the church, both men and boys carrying out their duties and practising the Faith in its entirety. We live now in a very slack and permissive age which means we must proclaim what we believe by our works in the church from Sunday to Sunday. It is essential that we never miss our offering of the Holy Mass; that we receive the Most Holy Sacrament with love and reverence; that we use the confessional to gain absolution from our sins; that we serve with deep devotion and humility; never seeking aggrandisement; that we raise up ourselves to God; that we never cheapen our reverence for Jesus Christ, the Son of God.... Our duty together in love is to show forth the Godhead of Jesus, Redeemer, Saviour, King and Lover of Mankind. Many years have passed since 1898 but with head held high look to the future, make the church glorious in the sight of men. Hold fast to that which is good; keep right on to the end of your days, never falter, never desert but be Christ's faithful soldier and servant unto your lives end.

"Walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called," as did the Magi.

As the Guild moves towards its 90th Year let each chapter within the Guild discuss the conversion and sanctification of individuals; the transformation of society, the recalling of the Church of England to its Catholic Heritage; and the Reunion of the whole Church.

Then too, each chapter should consider its duty to the junior servers, for the GSS has probably one of the largest number of young boys attached to it of any comparable Catholic organisation; and now with the admission of young girls attention should be given to the timing of Chapter meetings. How many meetings are held when the young can attend, or is there something sacred about the hour of 8 or 8.15pm?

"Walk worthy of the Vocation wherewith ye are called" — the result of the Magi finding Christ was:—

1. that they worshipped Him, and presented their gifts;
2. all calls, all journeys here, must lead us NOW to Christ with gifts—ourselves, our souls, our bodies; all we are, all we have.

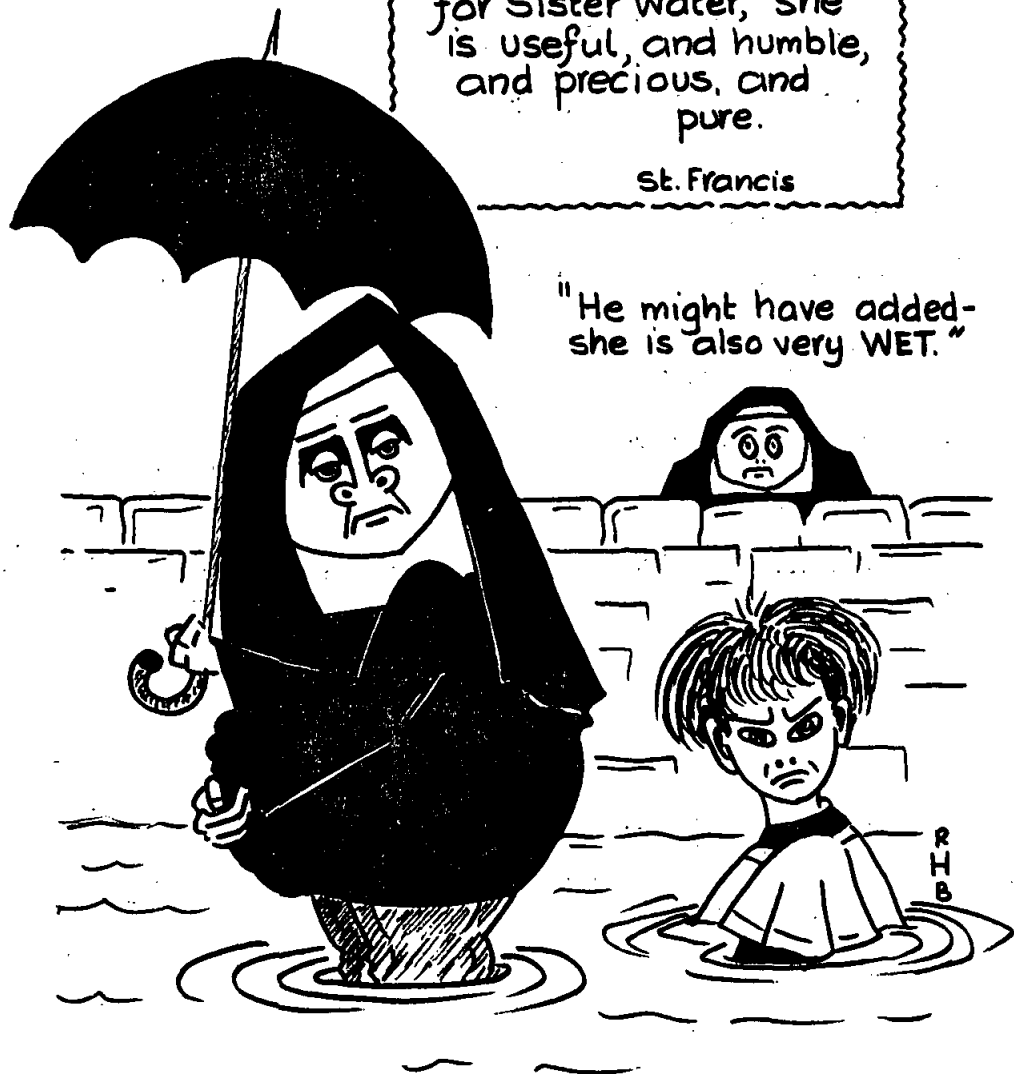
Let us today at this Festival make acts of love, honour, and self-oblation to Jesus, our King; pray to Him to take away our sins, and to fill us with all spiritual benediction and grace; resolving to follow His teachings more earnestly, especially in patiently bearing our Crosses. Let each and everyone of us, *"Walk worthy of the Vocation wherewith ye are called."*

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St. Francis

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

103 Portfield Road
Christchurch
Dorset

January 7th, 1988

Dear Sir,

The "Ordination of Women to the Priesthood"

I read with great interest the above article that appeared in the Winter 1987 issue of The Server.

I note however that it was suggested in the second paragraph that the debate should be returned "within a theological framework". If this is to be the area of debate I should like to recommend to my fellow members of the Guild a book by John Macquarrie entitled "Principles of Christian Theology" revised edition. John Macquarrie is, or was, Lady Margaret Professor of Divinity in the University of Oxford.

I could not begin to debate the many issues raised in the article, but I would like to quote from the book, page 434, lines 5-8:

"I can find no valid theological objections to the ordination of women, and even the tradition of the Church in this matter is probably just a continuation of Old Testament attitudes, in so far as the Christian ministry may have been originally modelled on offices in Judaism."

I hope that I may read more regarding this apparent opposite view than that held by this article, and I pray that we all may be enlightened over this divisive issue.

Yours faithfully,
M H Gerrard

January 2nd, 1988

Dear Sir,

I have been a member of the GSS for some twenty-two years, since I was a teenager and I have regularly taken 'The Server' and have benefited considerably from its contents, furthering my understanding of and love for the Catholic faith. In the past couple of years, the magazine has become even better, both in terms of its content and its layout. Thank you for your work!

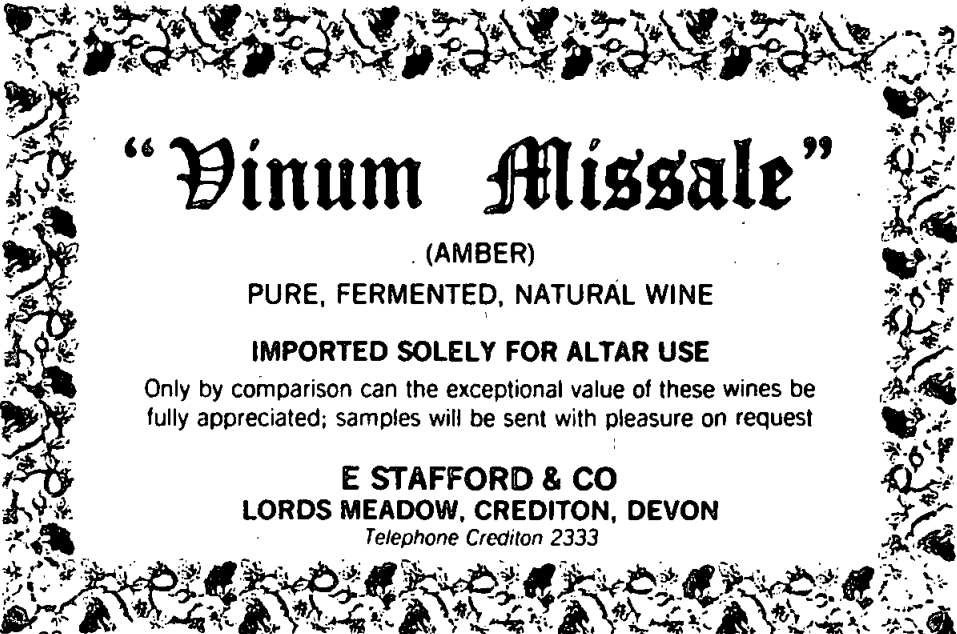
My main purpose in writing is to reflect upon the article about the priestly ordination of women. To put my own cards on the table, as it were, I am in favour of the ordination of women but I take seriously, I hope, the objections to it from Catholics. I found the article in the Winter 1987 very well argued and of a much higher quality than much that comes from the pens of Catholics concerning this issue — so my thanks to the anonymous author. I especially welcomed the section on the Motherhood of God — I think this imaging of God is a vitally important growth in our understanding of the 'faith' — though it has been there in the writings of some

mystics of previous ages it has come to the fore as a useful corrective and it is good to see it in this article, particularly since many Catholics e.g. William Oddie, fear and oppose it.

May I make a request? Could we have an article in a future edition of 'The Server' from a Catholic who is 'for' women's ordination? This would balance the aforementioned article and it would be good if GSS members could realise that there are many in Catholic circles — Roman as well as Anglican — who argue it on grounds other than 'equality' and who do not confuse ministerial priesthood with the sort of ministry believed in by most protestants. The sort of issues to which such an article might address itself might be: if our Trinitarian God contains diversity within unity, might not the ministerial priesthood contain both sexes and so mirror the risen Christ who transcends gender?; did Christ actually 'ordain' anyone? — many reputable RC scholars would have it otherwise and suggest that women, especially Mary Magdalen, were apostolic in their functions, e.g. as witnesses to the risen Lord but that very early on the freedom Jesus inaugurated threatened males who reverted to a more nearly Jewish presbyterial structure and played down Our Lord's relationships with women — e.g. the gospel accounts have Mary Magdalen at the tomb first but almost always stress the primacy of Peter; if the Anglican communion cannot change the 'matter' of ordination, why do we accept married priests — if marriage is the sacrament we claim it to be, then there is something materially different between a single and a married male yet we broke with tradition and ordained married men (albeit returning to an older tradition)? is ecumenism really so fragile that this issue will hold back and, if so, do we want unity which papers over cracks rather than one in which the churches are led together into a greater truth rather than a hanging on to as much as they can salvage?

Yours sincerely,

Derek Jay



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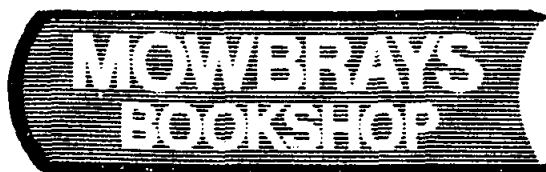
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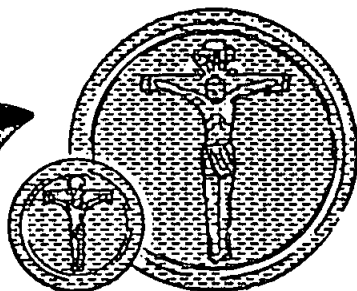


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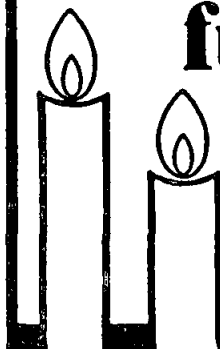
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