

Guild of Servants of the Sanctuary

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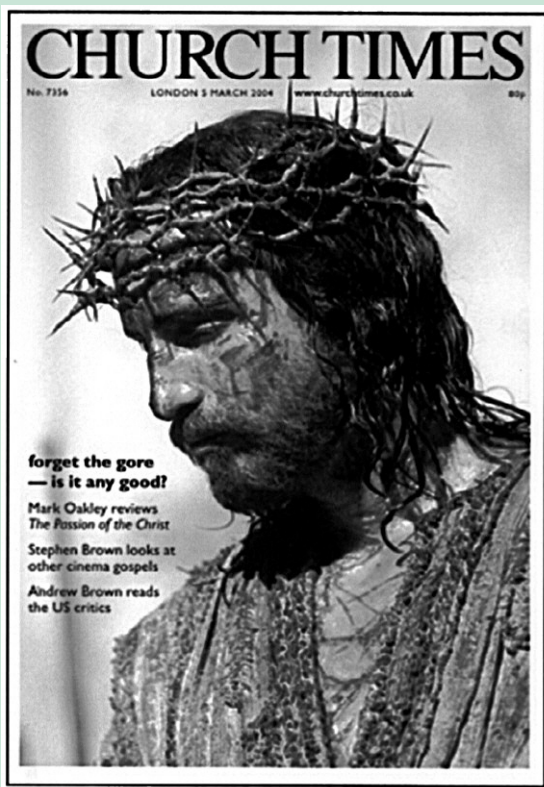
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SILVERWARE



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Volume 23

Number Four



Winter 2006

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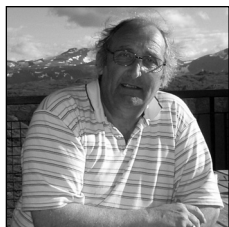
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Any items for publication should be sent or Emailed by the
second Saturday of January, April, July, and October.

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www.GSSonline.org.uk

From the Editor's Desk



At the beginning of September I had the pleasure of attending the Annual Festival and AGM of the Scottish Guild of Servers in Fort William. What a pleasure it was for my wife and I to be welcomed so warmly by the members gathered there.

The day began with High Mass with the principal celebrant being the Guild Chaplain General, the Revd Donald Strachan, from the Isle of North Usk. The preacher was the previous Chaplain General, the Revd Stanley Bennie from Stornaway who spoke of the role of Samuel. After the Mass we were all entertained to a lunch of delicious Scotch Broth, sandwiches, sausage rolls, shortbread and Cloutie Dumpling. The AGM was chaired by the Warden the Very Revd Randal MacAlister, and he introduced their new Service Book and Guild Eucharist Handbook, two publications of which they can be very proud. After the business of the day we moved back into the church where we said the Scottish Guild Office. Thanks to all involved with the Scottish Guild for making my wife and me so very welcome.

Everywhere we went we were greeted with great kindness and an earnest desire for the Guilds to maintain fraternal links across the Border. I know several GSS members from the Borders often attend Scottish meetings and it was good to see members from the Scottish Guild at our Autumn Festival in Newcastle. Guild links such as these are vitally important. No organisation can stand on its own and the support and fellowship of joint activities and appreciation all help us to love our fellow man and to encourage the fellowship between servers all over the world.

Finally may I on behalf of all the Officers and Council members wish each and every one of you a Blessed and Peaceful Christmas and may God bless each and everyone of you and your families.

Yours

Peter

Welcome to New Members

Full members:

John Davies, Edward Williams, Arthur Gay, Derek Williams, Alexandra Bone, Margaret Angrove, Janice Makinson, Philip Briant, Naomi Finch, Alan Huxley, Leslie Miles, Joan Holdaway, Anne Massey, Carol Woodhouse, Leona Woodhouse, Antoinettea Zaccaria, Amanda Fox, Dean Fox, Susan Loach, David Elliot, Shane Cooper, David Fisher, David Jones, Harold Punter, Mervyn Ashby, Edward Howells, Rex Lavelle, Sandra Bennett, David Rowe, Joyce Capello.

Priest associates:

Christopher Kinch, Derek Smith, Roger Pittard, Paul Jones.

Probationers:

Nicola Jervis, Judy Shaw, Alexander May, Hilary Shuter, Johannes Vuerhard, Daniel Storey, Michael Childs, James Budgen, Howard Marsh, David Vickers, Michelle Burke, Jon Slater, David Pennell, Andrew Cleaver, Magdalene Smith, Monnica Wilby, Robert Hollas, Peter Hollas, Geoffrey Harris, Christian Tyler, Christine Hewitt, Susan Carpenter.

oOo

The Faithful Departed

We pray for the souls of the faithful departed:

Michael Jones, Reginald Bryant, Tony Sharpe (priest), John Turner, Violet Fawcett, Jim Robinson, Geoffrey Pinnock (priest), Stanley Pipe, Frank Tillier, Alex Borrie, Alan Neil, Harry Barnard, Neville Kent (priest).

The Chantry Book



Michael Jones died in July after a long illness. He was a founder member of the Chapter of SS Peter and Paul, Bath, and its Cantor for 50 years and Chapter Secretary in the early years. The last time he was able to be with the Chapter was at the Mass to celebrate its Golden Jubilee in 2004 when he was thurifer. Chapter members attended his funeral in S John the Baptist, Bath where he had served for over 40 years. Later that month the Office was sung in his memory at Holy Trinity, Newton St. Loe. May he rest in peace and rise in glory.

Reginald John Bryant, was for many years a server at S Saviour's, Dartmouth but he had served in various churches for nearly 80 years. Born in Exeter in 1920, he was a server at S Sidwell's in that city and on moving to Kingswear, he became a server at Kingswear church. Later, he moved across the river serving for many years at S Saviour's. He worked at the Royal Naval College in Dartmouth. Since 1990 he had been a member of the Torbay Chapter. A Requiem Mass for him was offered at S Clement's, Townstal, at which the Vicar of Dartmouth, Fr. Wright, paid tribute to Reg's long and faithful service.

Violet Fawcett had been a server at S Barnabas, Addeyfield, for over 26 years. Vi had served in the Land Army during the war and this had encouraged her interest in animals. Her great interest was children and she helped in the Church and uniformed organisations. The funeral was held at S Barnabas and attended by representatives of the Holy Grail Chapter. She continued supporting the Guild even when infirmity prevented her from serving. May she rest in peace.

James Darrell Robinson was one of the longest serving members of the S Chad's Chapter, Coventry. Born in Attleborough, Nuneaton, he attended the local schools including the Grammar School. Then worked at Alvis and Massey Ferguson and was a Freeman of the City. He was our organist for several years, his interests included Steam Railways and he was a member of two local choirs. Norma, his wife of nearly 50 years died four years ago. His funeral was held at Holy Trinity, Attleborough. His son, Stephen, a Methodist Minister, conducted the service. We remember his family, in our prayers at this sad time.

The Autumn Festival 2006

Peter J Keat

Photographs: Mary Attenborough

The Cathedral Church of S Nicholas in Newcastle is often known as the mother church of Northumberland and it is one of the smallest cathedrals in the country, but this did not in any way detract from the wonderfully warm welcome we received there for the Guild Autumn Festival 2006. The oldest part of the building is 12th century but the majority of the cathedral is 15th century topped with a marvellous lantern spire that is a landmark for miles around.

The Festival, which also celebrated the centenary of the local Chapter of S Benet Biscop and the Northern Saints had a pleasing turnout of Servers not only from the North East of England but from Chapters as far south as Reading and Eastbourne and it was a real pleasure to welcome the Secretary General and other brothers and sisters from the Scottish Guild of Servers, who had crossed the Border to join us. It was a joy to have them with us.

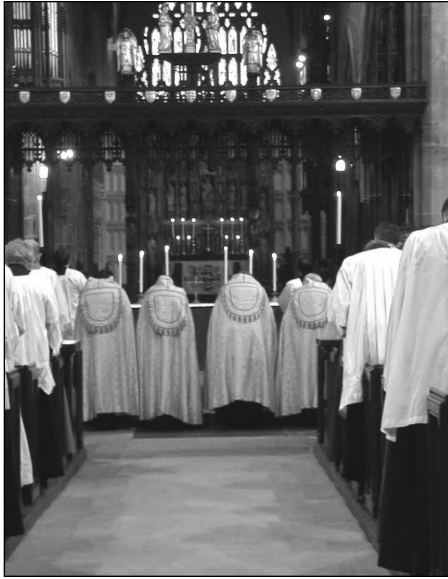
The Mass began at Noon, and as is the Cathedral practice the altar party processed to the back of the church and the service began from there. The Welcome and Introduction were said; the altar party did not move forward until the “Gloria in Excelsis Deo.” The Warden, Fr. Moore, celebrated the Mass and the local Councillor, Stan Entwistle, read the First Reading and lead the Responsorial Psalm and the Deacon, Fr. Strange, Canon Precentor of the



The Offertory during the Mass

Cathedral read the Gospel. After the Mass members dispersed to various places in and around the city centre for lunch but all were back in the Cathedral by 3.15pm ready for the singing of the Guild Office which was then followed by the Sermon and Procession. The Guild Office was sung by the Chaplain General. Revd Canon Peter Strange preached. His sermon enlarged on the use of

stories in education and instruction and went on to talk about the influences stories heard in childhood had upon us all. He then moved on to talk about other



The Cantors at the Guild Office

stories especially those from the Bible and how they formed the basis of our faith and belief during adult life. After the sermon the Guild formed up for the Procession and it was good to see so many banners from many parts of the country, especially one banner, the one from the Chapter of St Godric in Durham, which had not seen the light of day for several years and even though it was on borrowed poles, it was great to see it there. At the conclusion of the Procession the Precentor gave the Blessing and the servers processed out during the last hymn.

This was a very good festival with a marvellous prayerful atmosphere and I really must encourage more members to attend these national festivals. They are arranged for YOU and the Secretary General works extremely hard to ensure that over a period of time a festival is held within reasonably easy travelling distance of most places in England and Wales. Now hopefully I will see you all at the Easter Festival in the marvellous church of S Augustine's, Queens Gate in London which is just a short walk from South Kensington or Kensington High Street tube stations and also at next year's Autumn Festival, the details and venue of which are still to be finalised.

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The Midlands Area Servers Festival

The Midlands Area Servers Festival was held at Worksop Priory on September 9th, attended by over 100 servers. For those who would like to look there are photographs of the Festival on the Guild Web Site. Thanks to all who organised and supported this festival. It really has formed a very a good basis for the return of the Midlands Area Festival.

Margaret of Cortona

S Margaret was a convert after a youth of luxury and immorality, her penitence and charity were legendary.

S Margaret of Cortona's life might strike a familiar or painful chord with some who have come to the Christian Faith after trying different forms of life style. She was born around 1247 into a Tuscan peasant family, her mother died when she was seven. Two years later her father remarried, and his new wife was very unsympathetic to Margaret. By the age of eighteen she had grown into a beauty that loved the good life and she ran away to become the mistress of a young nobleman from Montepulciano. She lived with him for over nine years, living in high luxury and ostentation and she bore him one son.

In 1273 an unknown assailant murdered her lover. After the killing his faithful dog returned home and took Margaret to where his master's body lay. She is sometimes depicted with a dog pulling at her robe with a skull beneath her feet. The death of her lover shocked Margaret into penitence; she made a full, public confession of her sins in a church near Cortona and appealed to her father to allow her to return home but he would not let her come back in his house. Two ladies of the church, Marinana and Raneria took in her and her son and from then on her life was as self-denying as it had once been self-indulgent. After many entreaties with the Friars she was enrolled as a Franciscan tertiary and underwent a reclusive probation for three years during which time she was frequently urged to moderate the more extreme forms of self-chastisement to which she subjected herself. The chastisements included self-mutilation; sleep deprivation and the wearing of coarse haircloth.

Margaret devoted herself to works of charity and prayer and to counselling and she converted many but, faced much slanderous gossip concerning her relationship with some of the Friars. The rumours were later proved to be unfounded, but they were so serious that in 1289 Friar Giunta was transferred to Siena. Her somewhat extreme responses to various situations continued throughout her life. In the face of the contempt of others she spoke out against all forms of vice and wickedness and called upon all people to repent. She was also renowned for her supernatural experiences, including some visions of Christ as a peacemaker and for miraculous healings. Friar Giunta recorded

many of these visions in his work 'The Legend of Saint Margaret' which was supposedly dictated to him by the Saint herself. In 1286 Margaret set up a community of women with the aim of caring for and ministering to the poor, sick and needy. She established a hospital for the work of the Order and was also the founder of the Confraternity of Our Lady of Mercy. She died in 1297 at the age of fifty after twenty nine years of penitence and her allegedly incorrupt body still lies in the church at Cortona beneath a statue by Giovanni Pisano which shows her with the dog that led her to her lover's body. She was proclaimed a saint immediately after her death but she was not formally seen as such until 1728 when she was canonized. She is the Patron Saint of all female penitents and her Feast Day is held on 22nd February.

Peter Keat

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The Guild Shop

The following items are also available from *The Server* Distributor:

Guild Office Plainchant	£1.00
Guild Office and Manual, Words only	85p
Guidance Notes for the Ceremonial of the Guild Office	50p
Guild Lapel Badge, pin type	£1.95
Guild Office Organ Music	£1.20
Prayer Card. Before and After serving	50p
Card with the Guild Collect for display in Porch/Vestry	50p
Guild Ties: Maroon & Green £5.50 or Navy Blue	£6.25
Bonded Leather Coasters, Key Fobs	50p *

Please note that there is a minimum order of 2 items for those marked * (mixed if required) except if requested with other publications or ties/head squares. The prices include postage and packaging.

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So you think you Know Christmas 2

This quiz was submitted to me anonymously

Answers on page 11

1. Which of the following is not a name of one of the wise men?
a) Melchior b) Caspar c) Melchizedek d) Balthazar
2. What was the first instrument on which 'Silent Night' was played?
a) guitar b) church organ c) piano d) flute
3. Who was the King when Jesus was born?
a) David b) Pilot c) Herod d) Solomon
4. Who was the Roman Emperor when Jesus was born?
a) Julius Caesar b) Caesar Augustus c) Anthony d) Cleopatra
5. S Nicholas distributes gifts in the Netherlands accompanied by?
a) Red Matthew b) White Elf c) Blue Paul d) Black Peter
6. In what year did the English Parliament make Christmas illegal?
a) 1627 b) 1637 c) 1647 d) 1657
7. In 'A Christmas Carol' how many ghosts visited Ebenezer Scrooge?
a) 2 b) 3 c) 4 d) 5
8. How many birds are mentioned in 'The Twelve Days of Christmas'?
a) 154 b) 164 c) 174 d) 184
9. In what year was the first Christmas tree introduced to the UK?
a) 1820 b) 1830 c) 1840 d) 1850
10. From which country does the tree in Trafalgar Square come from?
a) Norway b) Sweden c) Finland d) Denmark
11. St Nicholas is **NOT** the patron saint of which of the following?
a) Children b) Greece c) Sailors d) Turkey
12. The first recorded Christmas celebration took place, 200 years after Christ's death, in Alexandria, Egypt; which month was this in?
a) January b) March c) May d) October
13. What does Bethlehem mean?
a) Broken promise b) House of the rising sun c) House of Bread d) City of David
14. What prophet declared, "For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given" in anticipation of the Messiah's birth, 700 years later?
a) Isaiah b) Jeremiah c) Amos d) Joshua
15. What is myrrh used for?
a) perfume b) pain killer c) embalming d) all of these

The Additional Curates Society

What do we know about the Society that prints *The Server*? Not much but, I have managed to distill some facts by looking at several different articles.

Joshua Watson, who lived through the Industrial Revolution, and was close to the Tractarian Movement founded the Society in 1837. The Revolution meant that many people moved from the country to the industrial towns where the living conditions were terrible. Here the church thrived and showed deep concern over the spiritual life and welfare of these people. Joshua Watson set to and founded three societies. One to build schools in the industrial estates, the second to build churches, and the third, the Additional Curates Society, which would pay for assistant priests to work in the parishes where these new churches had been built.

Nowadays the ACS is a missionary society that helps the people of this country by providing parishes with priests and by encouraging vocations. It does so by giving grants to hard-pressed parishes to pay for assistant priests, and by fostering vocations to the priesthood. Every penny donated to ACS is used to put a priest in a parish. Grants are made to parishes which have large populations and are socially deprived. The only conditions are that the assistant priest should be in full-time employment, licensed by the bishop and resident in the parish. The size of a grant is determined by the income of the parish and is used to offset the cost of the curate to the parish.

ACS also organises vocations conferences, and finances the employment of young men in parishes before they go to a Theological College, in order that they may gain an insight into priestly ministry by working with the parish priest.

Which parishes qualify for a grant? Any parish that has a large population and a small income. A grant is dictated by the income of the parish and is reviewed annually. The ACS does not give grants for projects not connected with the ordained parochial ministry.

Peter Keat

So You Think You Know Christmas 2

The correct answers are highlighted in italics

- Which of the following is not a name of one of the wise men?
a) Melchior b) Caspar **c) *Melchizedek*** d) Balthazar
- What was the first instrument on which 'Silent Night' was played?
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- In what year did the English Parliament make Christmas illegal?
a) 1627 b) 1637 **c) *1647*** d) 1657
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a) 2 **b) *3*** c) 4 d) 5
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a) 154 b) 164 c) 174 **d) *184***
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- St Nicholas is **NOT** the patron saint of which of the following?
a) children b) Greece c) sailors **d) *Turkey***
- The first recorded Christmas celebration took place, 200 years after Christ's death, in Alexandria, Egypt; which month was this in?
a) January b) March **c) *May*** d) October
- What does Bethlehem mean?
a) Broken promise b) House of the rising sun **c) *House of Bread*** d) City of David
- What prophet declared "For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given" in anticipation of the Messiah's birth, 700 years later?
a) *Isaiah* b) Jeremiah c) Amos d) Joshua
- What is myrrh used for?
a) perfume b) pain killer c) embalming **d) *all of these***

News from the Chapters

S Lawrence, Norfolk. The Administrator gave us permission to meet at the Walsingham Shrine. Our Chaplain celebrated Mass in the Holy House, afterwards Fr. Scott provided refreshments. Our AGM in April was at Holy Trinity, Hempton where we sang the Office. We met at S Mary's, Little Walsingham in May when Fr. Scott sang the Office and preached. In June, we were at S Margaret of Antioch, Tatterford for Fr. Childs 40th Anniversary of Ordination & S Mary's, South Creak was the July venue.

Corpus Christi, Essex. The Corpus Christi Mass at S James the Great, Leigh-on-Sea was not well attended because of members own church commitments but it was a good evening hosted by Fr. Bill and his congregation. Before the summer break, we met at Holy Trinity, Southchurch, for the Guild Office followed by Benediction. Here Fr. David Standen preached an interesting homily on the Anglican Divine Bishop, Brooke Foss Westcott.

S John Baptist, Torbay. There are similarities between a servers calling and those of a monk Fr. Richardson told the Torbay & Teignmouth Chapters in July at S Peter's, Shaldon. He went on to say that S Benedict founded an order that functioned in houses, not an order in caves. He emphasised the importance of persons who ministered in the sanctuary loving each other. In September we met in S Andrew's Paignton where Fr. Potter sang the Guild Office and Fr. Hastrop preached.

S Mark's, West Cornwall. Our AGM was in January and our February meeting was at Penponds Church. The Celebrant was Fr. Gough and Fr. Pascoe preached. In March we took part in the devotion of the Stations of the Cross at Treleigh. We visited S Andrews, Redruth in May. The celebrant was Fr. Gough and the preacher Fr. Cade. In June, Mass was celebrated at Chasewater Church, where our Chaplain is the parish priest

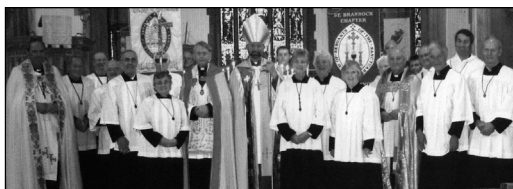
Chapter of the Incarnate Word with S Alban and S Edward. The June Meeting was the Glastonbury Pilgrimage. Cllr Aburn and five members attended. Cllr Aburn served, Bro Drawwater carried the National Guild Banner and we were able to provide two robed escorts.

Holy Cross, South Somerset. Our A.G.M. followed Stations of the Cross and Benediction at S Swithun's, Bridport in March. All the officers were re-elected and thanks were expressed to our Chaplain, Fr. Sutcliffe. In April we met at S Michael and All Angels, Yeovil for S George's Day; Fr. Francis celebrated and Fr. Ellis preached. In May we attended the Church of The Good Shepherd, Chard, for their Patronal Festival. In June we travelled to Mapperton for the Guild Office held in the Church of All Saints in the grounds of Mapperton Court. Fr. Sharpe officiated and gave a short address. Our thanks were expressed to Fr. Page-Turner for arranging the evening that was followed by a picnic. Thanks were also expressed to the owners of Mapperton Court, Lord and Lady Sandwich who were unable to be with us. S Swithun's Patronal Festival was celebrated in July at S Swithun's, Allington with Festal Evensong and Benediction and Fr. Guise officiated. In July we were sad to hear of the death of our assistant Chaplain Fr. Sharpe. Our prayers and thoughts go to his wife and his family.

SS Alban & Michael, Letchworth. A joint meeting for the Guild Office and Benediction was held in August at S Mary's, Ashwell with the S Etheldreda Chapter from Cambridge. The Services were sung by Fr. Simon Chambers, the Rector. It is hoped to make this a regular function.



75th Anniversary of the North Devon Chapter of S Brannock. The North Devon Chapter was founded in 1966 at the Church of S Mary Magdalene, Barnstable which no longer exists. Barnstable parish was merged with the town-centre parish of S Peter, and that is where the Anniversary Festival took place in July 2006. The Chief Celebrant was the Bishop of Plymouth, the Rt. Rev. John Ford, and the preacher was the Warden. The Guild Office was sung by the Chapter Chaplain and Vicar of S Peter's, Fr. Michael Pearson, and the cantor was Fr. Squire. The bishop presided at Benediction.



Later members gathered under the banana trees in Fr. Squire's garden for our annual barbecue. In 1966 S Peter's, was almost redundant, its vicar firmly against servers joining the Guild. It is now a 'Forward-in-Faith' church firmly in the Catholic Tradition.



Holy Grail. The Chapter enjoyed a joint meeting with S Oswyth Chapter on the Feast of S Mary Magdalene at S Dunstan, Monks Risborough. Members from several other chapters joined us for the High Mass, lunch and Guild Office and Benediction.

S. John the Divine, Leicester. In July we joined the Kettering Chapter for Guild Office, Address and Benediction at SS Peter & Paul, Uppingham. Fr. Reader-Moore sang the Office and Fr. Maudlin gave Benediction. The Address was given by Deaconess Diana Evans who reminded us it is not the altar party that is important but the Party on the altar. Our thanks to the people of S Peter and Paul and to the Kettering Chapter for the invitation. We held our August meeting at S John the Baptist, Cold Overton. Fr. Colin sang the Office and Fr. Broad gave the address.

Our Lady and S Barnabas, Lancashire. In August, our Patronal Festival honouring the Assumption was held at our Chaplain's Church of S Martin of Tours, Morecambe. The church is 15 years old and was built to serve the new part of the parish of Torrisholme. Our new Councillor Jeremy Wood was present for the first time. During the Mass instead of a homily, Jeremy explained his duties and his history. Mass concluded with a procession of the Blessed Sacrament and the giving of Benediction. Fr. Tom surpassed himself with a surfeit of food and wine. It was a beautiful sunny afternoon and the largest turn-out for some time.

S. Julian, Frome & Midsomer Norton. Our July meeting was a Mass in honour of S Benedict held at All Saints, Nunney, the Rector Fr. Hodden celebrated and preached. In August we visited S Lawrence, Warminster for an Assumption Mass and in September there was a Low Mass at S Cuthbert's in Wells.

S. Joseph of Arimathaea Portsmouth. September was our 105th Anniversary and we took this opportunity to lay up our original 103-year-old banner (the oldest in the Guild). The Chaplain of the Fleet was due to celebrate and preach that night but was called away that day to represent the Royal Navy at a repatriation of fallen servicemen from Afghanistan; he has promised to return at a later date. Instead our Chaplain Fr. Franks celebrated the Anniversary Mass. Our October meeting was held in the church of S Saviour, Stamshaw and was a Guild Office; the priest in charge Fr. Calder preached.

S Chad, Coventry. Our July meeting was to be at the 'Orthodox' Church of The Ascension, Rugby, but Fr. Kosmos, the parish priest, suffered a heart attack so the meeting was cancelled. We can visit this church sometime in the future when Fr. Kosmos recovers. We joined the Coventry Cell of Our Lady of Walsingham on a trip to a vineyard. Coffee was served, followed by a tour of the vineyard. We then sampled the wines and this was followed by an excellent lunch. On our return we visited SS James and John, Wednesbury for Evensong, Healing and Benediction. The Officiant was the parish priest, Fr. Palmer who told us of his concerns about the Church of England. Afternoon tea and cakes were then provided by the ladies of the congregation. The Assumption-tide Mass was held at S Oswald's, Tile Hill, Coventry. The parish priest, Fr. Brian Regan celebrated and preached. Our Annual Supper, attended by 20 members and friends, was a feast enjoyed by all; both food and service were excellent.

S Etheldreda, Cambridge. Our August meeting was at All Saints, Wickhambrook which is one of our remotest parishes; here one of our assistant Chaplains, Fr. Ian Finn led us in the Guild Office and Benediction and also preached. Our yearly programme would not be complete without going to the S Francis House at Hemingford Grey. We went in September for a Quiet Evening and Mass. It was not well attended as many members were on their annual holidays but the evening was memorable and our Chaplain, Fr. Brian Macdonald-Milne, celebrated and preached. Later in September we travelled to S John's in Stansted Mountfitchet. The parish is in interregnum but we were warmly welcomed by the Curate. Fr. Geoffrey Smith led the Guild Office and Benediction and we enjoyed generous hospitality after the service.

S Andrew, Romford. Following a long tradition our July meeting was in the Ilford Hospital Chapel. We sang the Office followed by Benediction with the

Chaplain presiding and Fr. Barnes preaching. In August we met in S Thomas, Brentwood and here the Warden led the intercessions. Our September meeting was in S Margaret's Leytonstone for the Guild Office and Benediction. In October we met at S Margaret's, Ilford.

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GSS Cycle Of Prayer

For use with the Guild Collect: Pray for the increase of Servers & Serving

January

- 1 The Circumcision, Peace on Earth
- 2 All Guild Members and Priest Associates
- 3 The Warden, Fr. J David Moore
- 4 The Chaplain General, Fr. Michael C Brain
- 5 The Secretary General, Cllr Terry Doughty
- 6 Epiphany, The Orthodox Church and all adherents
- 7 * Baptism of Christ, Strengthen parents and godparents to be faithful in their promises
- 8 The Treasurer General, Cllr Louis A Lewis
- 9 The Membership Secretary, Cllr Paul Durrant
- 10 'The Server', Editor, Writers and Distributor
- 11 Grand, Honorary, Ex Officio and Group Councillors
- 12 The General Council and all its members
- 13 HM Forces & Lone Members
- 14 * 2nd of Epiphany, The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
- 15 Candidates for Ordination
- 16 Diocese of London, Bp Richard Chartres
- 17 London Group 1/2 (West), Cllr John Donovan
- 18 No 77, The Holy Rood, Southall
- 19 No 83, S Hugh of Lincoln, Hackney
- 20 No 112, Our Lady of Willesden & S Mellitus, NW6
- 21 * 3rd of Epiphany, For Unity
- 22 No 148, Our Lady of Walsingham & S Alban, Wembley
- 23 London Group 4 (East & Essex)
- 24 Conversion of S Paul, Are we Converted?
- 25 No 25, The Blessed Sacrament, Enfield

- 26 No 98, King Charles the Martyr, Walthamstow and Leyton
- 27 S Thomas Aquinas, A humble mind and pure heart
- 28 * 4th of Epiphany, For those who feel unloved and unwanted
- 29 London Group 5 & 6 (South East), Cllr Craig Aburn
- 30 S Aidan, For those in the monastic life
- 31 S John Bosco, For all who proclaim your glory

February

- 1 No 3, S Alban, S W London
- 2 Candlemass, May we be lights to lighten the lives of others
- 3 No 48, The Epiphany, Croydon
- 4 * 3rd before Lent, Septuagesima, Our Catholic Heritage
- 5 No 75, The Holy Redeemer, Eltham/Falconwood
- 6 HM the Queen and the Royal Family
- 7 No 85, The Incarnate Word, E Surrey
- 8 Diocese of Southwark, Bp Tom Butler
- 9 Diocese of Guildford, Bp Christopher Hill
- 10 S Scholastica, sister of S Benedict, For our brothers and sisters
- 11 * 2nd before Lent, Sexagesima, That we may see the signs of your glory in our daily lives
- 12 Provincial Group 1 (W Kent), Cllr Robert Nunn
- 13 No 14, S Augustine of Canterbury, Sittingbourne
- 14 No 39, S Cyprian, Rochester/ Stroud/Chatham/Gravesend
- 15 No 96, St Justus, Orpington
- 16 No 174, S Stephen, Tunbridge Wells
- 17 Diocese of Rochester, Bp Michael Nazir-Ali
- 18 * Next before Lent, Quinquagesima, Grant to us the light of your glory
- 19 Provincial Group 2 (E Kent), Cllr Fred Palmer
- 20 No 7, All Souls, Canterbury
- 21 Ash Wednesday, Repentance for our sins and faults
- 22 Thinking Day, All youth organisations
- 23 No 116, S Michael the Archangel, Ashford
- 24 No 121, S Mildred in Thanet, Margate
- 25 * Lent 1, For the strength to resist temptation
- 26 Diocese of Canterbury, Abp Rowan Williams
- 27 Provincial Group 3 (Sussex), Cllr Roger Emery
- 28 S David, The Church in Wales

March

- 1 No 32, Christ the King, Redhill area
- 2 S Chad, Give us grace to follow in his peaceable nature, humble spirit and prayerful life
- 3 No 76, The Holy Resurrection, Brighton
- 4 * Lent 2, Keep us steadfast in faith
- 5 No 163, S Philip & S Richard, Worthing
- 6 No 183, S Wilfrid, Eastbourne
- 7 Provincial Group 4 (Hampshire/E Wilts/W Sussex) Cllr Peter Keat
- 8 Diocese of Chichester, Bp John Hind
- 9 No 92, S Joseph of Aramathea, Portsmouth area
- 10 No 94, S Joseph the Foster Father, Isle of Wight
- 11 * Lent 3, For true victims of disasters across the world
- 12 No 144 Our Lady & S Richard, Bognor
- 13 No 175, S Swithun, Winchester
- 14 Diocese of Portsmouth, Bp Kenneth Stevenson
- 15 Diocese of Winchester, Bp Michael Scott-Joynt
- 16 Provincial Group 5 (Devonshire), Cllr Michael Bennett
- 17 S Patrick, Apostle to the Irish
- 18 * Lent 4, Mothering Sunday, Our own mothers, Our Lady and Mother Church
- 19 S Joseph, Our fathers
- 20 S Cuthbert, For missionaries
- 21 No 24, S Brannock, Ilfracombe/Barnstaple
- 22 No 73, The Holy Nativity, Teignmouth/Newton Abbott
- 23 No 88, S John the Baptist, Dartmouth/Torbay
- 24 No 136, Our Lady and S George, Plymouth
- 25 * Lent 5, Passion Sunday, Help us to share his Passion
- 26 The Annunciation of the Lord, Pray for us O Holy Mother of God
- 27 Diocese of Exeter, Bp Michael Langrish
- 28 No 65, The Holy Apostles, Guernsey
- 29 Provincial Group 7 (Dorset/Somerset), Cllr Phillip Biles
- 30 No 78, The Holy Cross, Bridport/Chard/Crewkern
- 31 No 126, S Osmond & S Swithun, Bournemouth area

Corrections, omissions and suggestions:-

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The Guild Diary



Saturday 6th January 2007

London Area Epiphany Festival

Holy Trinity, Shepherdess Walk, Hoxton, London N1

12 Noon: Concelebrated Mass of the Epiphany of Our Lord

1.30pm: Hot Lunch £5 in advance (to be booked by 29/12/06)

3.30pm: Solemn Guild Office, Sermon, Procession to the Crib and
Benediction. Preacher: Fr. Iain Young

Saturday 21st April 2007

GUILD EASTER FESTIVAL AND AGM

S Alban, Brooke Street, Holborn, London

(Tube: Chancery Lane, Farringdon, Holborn)

12 Noon: Concelebrated Mass

3.00pm: AGM

4.15pm: Guild Office and Benediction

Saturday 19th May 2007

Eastern Area Festival

S John Timberhill, Norwich

12 Noon: Mass

3.00pm: Guild Office and Benediction

Saturday 22nd September 2007

North West Chapters Festival

S Andrew, West Kirby, Wirrall

12 Noon: Mass

3.00pm: Guild Office, Procession and Benediction

Take Time

Take time to THINK:
it is the source of power.

Take time to PLAY:
it is the secret of perpetual youth.

Take time to READ:
it is the fountain of wisdom,

Take time to PRAY:
it is the greatest power on earth.

Take time to LOVE and be LOVED;
it is a God given privilege.

Take time to be FRIENDLY:
it is the road to happiness.

Take time to LAUGH:
it is the music of the soul.

Take time to GIVE:
it is too short a day to be selfish.

Take time to WORK:
it is the price of success.

Take time to DO CHARITY:
it is the key to heaven.



The Assumption Festival at Bristol

This has become a regular event for all the Catholic Societies within the Bristol area and this year it was wonderful to see so many people in Bristol Cathedral on 19th August.

The Festival Service was originally started by Fr. Waker in the parish church of S James the Less in Iron Acton, a village which is situated to the North of Bristol. However when a new vicar was appointed to the living it was no longer possible to hold this Festival there and so after some decisions with the Canon Precentor of Bristol Cathedral (who was also the local GSS chaplain at the time), it was decided to hold the Sung Mass in the Quire of the Cathedral.

The intention was to use the Statue of Our Lady that had been given to Fr. Waker as this would keep a link with that Parish. We had some trouble locating the bier for the statue but after some hunting and questioning it was found and all was settled in time. On the appointed day we started in the Eastern Lady Chapel of the Cathedral with the Angelus and then followed the procession to the Nave Altar, here the Rev Aulwin Jones was the principal concelebrant at the Mass and Fr. Brendan Clover was the preacher.

The Lord Mayor's Chapel was the venue for Benediction in the afternoon. But due to emergency repairs that were being undertaken to the Chapel roof, the Nave of the Chapel was full of scaffolding and the South Aisle Chapel had to be used. Here Benediction was given by Fr. Clover. The Service was well supported and everyone who took part agreed that it went extremely well and was very intimate and meaningful in this smaller chapel.

The date of next year's Festival will be 18th August 2007, all are very welcome to attend.

Alan Canterbury

oOo

The Indispensable Man (or woman)

by Tom Burns

Sometime when you're feeling important,
Sometime when your ego's in bloom,
Sometime when you take it for granted
You're the best-qualified in the room;
Sometime when you think that you're going
Would leave an unfillable hole,
Just follow this simple instruction,
And see how it humbles your soul.
Take a bucket and fill it with water,
Put your hands in it up to your wrists;
Pull them out – and that hole that remains
Is the measure of how you'll be missed?
You may splash all you please when you enter,
You may stir up the water galore,
But stop, and you'll find in a minute
That it looks just the same as before.

oOo

Following a Sense of Logic

Across my desk at work, almost daily, pass many different denominational magazines, Roman Catholic, Jewish, Anglican, Church of Scotland and Free Church. I found the small piece, below, hidden within a cartoon in a copy of 'Reform', which is the publication of the United Reformed Church. I found the words below well worth thinking about.

If, as many people say, (and how many times have you heard this one?) that you really do not have to go to church to be a Christian, try carrying this thought on a stage further. Following this premise does it then follow that to be a pianist you do not really have to be able to play the piano?

Just a thought!

The Gifts of God

An Article for 'The Pelican', the Portsmouth Chapter Magazine,
written by the then Bishop of Portsmouth, The Rt Revd Timothy Bavin on
31st August 1995 with permission to use it as and when required.

Of all the many activities of the Church, the most important is surely her public worship. Synodical government, theological education, social concern, involvement in government and other institutions are important no doubt. But nothing is as vital for the well-being of the Church and the welfare of the community as the offering, day-by-day and week-by-week, of the Eucharist and the daily Office. In these there is offered to God the whole of human life, in thanksgiving and for His blessing. His worth-ship is proclaimed in praise and prayer and in Word and Sacrament. We acknowledge in this way that we are creatures, and that we depend upon God for everything. But we cannot give back anything that does not already belong to Him, as the words of King David remind us: 'All things come of thee, and of thine own do we give thee.'

Among the gifts of God to each one of us, as well as our bodies, are our minds, our emotions and our senses. If, therefore, our worship is to be the offering to God of every part of us ('ourselves, our souls and bodies'), we may not neglect any part of what makes us human. The use of the brain, the power of speech and the sound of music are the basic ingredients of church services and are usually taken for granted. Much less common is recognition of the place of smell, of which incense is the symbol, and the importance of movement, which appeals to the sense of sight – movement on the part of the priest and also of servers. In purely practical terms, serving is helpful but not strictly essential. The celebrant is perfectly capable of finding the way in and out of the sanctuary without crucifer, acolytes and thurifer; the gospel can be read without a procession; the bread and the wine can be prepared, and the lavabo done. Spectacle, I believe we should have it in at least the main Sunday Mass, servers are the primary people to provide it. A dignified procession of suitably vested people gets the service off to a promising start. Formal but sensible movement within the sanctuary, without fussiness by the servers during the different parts of the liturgy adds immeasurably to the sense of occasion. By their 'choreography' they help the congregation, whether they are conscious of it or not, to give to God the best of their worship.

What is perceived and transmitted by the eye of the individual lifts up (or else depresses) the heart in his or her offering to God.

In my observations, the two most common failings of servers relate to their feet and their hands. ‘Trainers’ of many hues, and high heels which cause their wearers to mince and teeter, are not the most appropriate of footwear and generally draw undue attention. Worse is the server whose hands either flail around or hang loosely at the sides whilst walking in and out or around the sanctuary. Oh, and the crossed legs whilst sitting, too... But I must not release any more bees from under my mitre in writing a piece to encourage and affirm servers in the significant contribution they have to make to the worship of the people of God. It is a contribution, which is unique and is in its own way no less important than the contributions made by musicians, readers, intercessors and clergy. It is contribution made with, for and on behalf of the whole congregation – of which servers remain a part, despite being dressed differently and ‘up front’. It is a role which seeks to help all present to be joined to that great company of heaven where, day and night angels and archangels proclaim God’s great and glorious name in the hymn of eternity, ‘Holy, Holy, Holy Lord’.

+ TIMOTHY PORTSMOUTH

oOo

All things new

It is the God of paradoxes and surprises that we Christians seek to worship in our churches and in our lives. The ministry of the churches needs to be both comforting and challenging. Our worship and buildings need to express this same healthy tension. The church needs to be faithful to its original calling, its first love and its wonder in God who makes all things new. And in work, worship, buildings, compassion, generosity, resources and personnel it has to relate to people today. Otherwise we will fail as a generation. Life is too short to carry around with us the baggage of our past mistakes and sometimes we need to lay our failures before God, and to know and experience that forgiveness which God readily offers. Laying our burdens before the cross has the ring of the old evangelistic campaigns of the middle of the 19th century, but they contain a truth which we must not lose, that is that repentance and

forgiveness is a central plank of our Christian living and to the message of the Gospel. This is why we begin each of our Church Services with a confession prayer. But repentance must be more than simply a formula of words at the beginning of a church service; it must also be a commitment to change our lives, to begin that slow process of change and to ask for forgiveness. And often we will find that we will be confessing the same failures over and over again.

Anon.

oOo

The Tablecloth

A true story by an unknown author



The new pastor and his wife were assigned to their first ministry, to reopen a church in Brooklyn. They arrived early one October excited about their opportunities. Then they saw the church which was very run down and needed much work. They set a goal to have everything done in time to have their first Service on Christmas Eve.

They worked hard repairing the pews, plastering the walls, painting etc. and on December 18th were ahead of schedule and almost finished. On December 19th a heavy rainstorm hit the area and lasted for two days. On December 21st the Pastor went into the church, his heart sank as he saw that the roof had leaked causing a large area of plaster to fall off the wall of the sanctuary just behind the pulpit, he cleaned up the mess and not knowing what else to do but to postpone the Christmas Eve service, headed home. On the way home he noticed that a local business was having a flea market type sale for charity so he stopped to look. One of the items was a beautiful handmade, ivory coloured, crocheted tablecloth with exquisite work, fine colours and a cross-embroidered right in the centre. Just the right size to cover up the hole in the front wall; he bought it and headed back to the church. By this time, it had started to snow. An older woman running from the opposite direction was trying to catch the bus but she missed it. The pastor invited her to wait in the warm church for the next bus 45 minutes later. She sat in a pew and paid no attention to the pastor while he got a ladder to put up the tablecloth as a wall tapestry. He could hardly believe how

beautiful it looked and it covered up the entire problem area. Then he noticed the woman walking down the centre aisle. Her face was white as a sheet. ‘Pastor.’ she asked, “where did you get that tablecloth” The pastor explained. The woman asked him to check the lower right corner to see if the initials EBG were crocheted there. They were. These were the initials of the woman and she had made this tablecloth 35 years before in Austria. The woman could hardly believe it as the pastor told how he had just bought the tablecloth. The woman explained that before the war she and her husband were well-to-do people in Austria. When the Nazis came, she was forced to leave. Her husband was going to follow her the next week. He was captured sent to prison and she never saw her husband or her home again. The pastor wanted to give her the tablecloth but she made him keep it for the church. He then insisted on driving her home, it was the least he could do. She lived on the other side of Staten Island and was only in Brooklyn for the day for a house-cleaning job.

What a wonderful and joyous Service they had on that Christmas Eve. To the pastor’s surprise the church was almost full and with so many people wanting to be there; the music and the spirit were marvellous. At the end of the Service, the pastor and his wife greeted everyone at the door and many said that they would most certainly return. One older man whom the pastor recognised as coming from within the neighbourhood continued to sit in one of the pews and stare. The pastor naturally wondered why he wasn’t leaving. The man got up and asked where the tablecloth came from because it was identical to one that his wife had made years ago when they lived in Austria before the war, and he questioned how could there be two such tablecloths so much alike? He told the pastor about the time when the Nazis went to their house and how he forced his wife to flee for her safety. He was supposed to follow her but he was arrested and put in prison. He never saw his wife or his home again. The pastor asked him if he would allow him to take him for a little ride. They drove to Staten Island and to the same house where the pastor had taken the woman three days earlier. He helped the man climb the three flights of stairs to the woman’s apartment, knocked on the door and he saw the greatest Christmas reunion he could ever have imagined.

oOo

Christmas Away from Home from Peter Keat

My godmother and her brother lived in a small village in Essex. I did not know him well. He died in the 1950's, but I do remember a tall, broad man with a ruddy red face, smiling eyes and a gentle manner. He was the local postman when the postman had time to be a friend to all. He delivered the letters but collected the pensions for the elderly, fed the pigs of the infirm and read the letters to those who could not read and in some cases wrote the replies for them as well. He was a pillar of the community and like his sister dedicated to the work of the parish. It was always strange to reconcile this gentle person with his career as a much-decorated Royal Marine. When my godmother died I inherited two exercise books and in them were copies of letters that he had written home between 1929-1937. They are an insight into life a generation ago; I reproduce the entry for Christmas 1935 written aboard HMS Cornwall somewhere in the Far East.

“We had an enjoyable Christmas. They gave us a good dinner, turkey, sausages and Christmas Pudding. The canteen is run by a Chinese (Kuong Wo) and he gave us all a bottle of Lion Beer for dinner. We also had plenty of fruit and nuts. I spent the afternoon lying in the sun on the upper deck reading the paper; it was a bit warm to sleep. I intended to go ashore at night until I heard we were going to have the Empire Broadcast. It was relayed from Hong Kong. They gave us a good programme of music, at 9.55pm Hong Kong switched over to Droitwich and for a few minutes it was beautifully clear. At 10.00pm as the clock ashore started to strike, Big Ben started to chime 2.00pm. It was as plain as if it was aboard instead of 10,000 miles away. The first item was not too bad but after that it went off, just before 10.30pm Hong Kong announced that it was impossible to get Droitwich owing to the weather conditions so until 10.55pm we had some music. They switched over again but we could only hear a few words now and again, although I did manage to recognise the King's voice; strangely enough the National Anthem was as loud and clear, as it would be at home. I thought of you at home having dinner when Big Ben strikes two. Out here you do not realise the difference in time until you hear one clock striking ten and another two at the same time. We all had a present from the Captain's wife on Christmas morning. Every member of the ships company had a silk handkerchief and a card. She wrote and addressed them all herself, every one by name, a big job as there are 600 of us.”

The entry for the following Christmas is headed Singapore. “On Christmas Eve we had a film ‘The Gay Divorcee’, followed by carol singing. Christmas Day passed off well; it was hot but later a breeze cooled the air. We had a Service in the morning and then had a very nice dinner, each man having a bottle of beer and plenty to eat. The turkey was tender and we had tinned sprouts and potatoes. The Mess Decks were decorated and we played records. We did not try to listen to the King’s speech after last year’s failure. It is a Naval custom to decorate the masts with evergreens on Christmas Day and we put pieces of Palm tree on ours. Later the choir from the cathedral came aboard and we had a very nice Carol Service.”

Life was so very different then! But I hope it has given you an insight into Christmas in His Majesty’s Royal Navy well over half a century ago.

oOo

Hymn for S Bartholomew’s Day

A re-write of a hymn for S Bartholomew’s Day: E.H. 239, New E.H. 179
Originally written by Althestan Riley (1858-1945). Re-write by Arthur Day.

Saints of God! Lo, Jesu’s people
Age to age your glory tell;
In his name for us ye laboured,
Now in bliss eternal dwell.

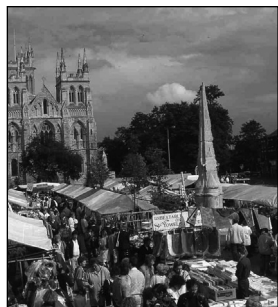
Twelve poor men, by Christ annointed,
Braved the rich, the wise, the great,
All the world counts dear rejecting,
Rapt in their apostolate.

Taught by Christ, they preached undaunted
How he died and rose again;
On their journeying led many
Life eternal to attain.

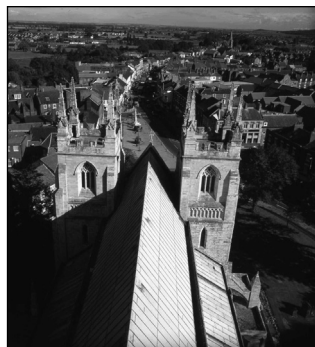
On this feast, almighty Father,
May we praise thee with the Son,
Evermore his love confessing,
Who from Both with Both is One. Amen.

Selby Abbey

Selby Abbey was the only Benedictine Abbey in Yorkshire. Initially it was a wattle and daub building, founded in 1066 by Benedict, a monk of Auxerre on a site now known as Church Hill. William the Conqueror encouraged the founding of the Abbey to equate with Battle and the foundation charter was granted in 1069. It is reputed that William's third son, later Henry I, was born within its precincts. The present building was begun by Hugh de Lacy, the second Abbot from Durham and the architecture of the Norman nave is very similar to that cathedral. The 12thC builders had trouble with the foundations and



the arches near to the tower are badly distorted. The present and larger Choir in the style of the 14thC replaced the Norman Choir. The importance of the Abbey is exemplified by the four-seated sedilia. The building is most imposing being over 100 yards long and broad and high and has a large number of Masons' marks. Amongst the privileges granted to the monastery was the right to hold a market each week. This is still in existence today. Due to wealth and prominence in 1076 the Abbot was granted the right to wear a Mitre, which entitled him to a seat in the House of Lords. Selby and S Mary's York were the only other two places in this country granted this honour. Following the Dissolution of the Monasteries the Abbey became the Parish Church of Selby. The monastic buildings have now disappeared, but the church remains intact. Time has been unkind to the building, in the Civil War Cromwell's soldiers damaged the glass and statuary. The Central Towner fell in 1690, destroying the South Transept; a poorly constructed edifice later replaced the tower. A fire in 1906 left just the stone shell. Within three years it was restored, the tower rebuilt and the South Transept reinstated. Of particular note is the Reredos carved by Peter Rendl of Oberamgau. Very little original glass remains, but in the south side of the choir is a window with the original heraldic device bearing the stars and stripes, upon which the flag of the USA is based. The window is known as the Washington Window. It is known that a John de



Washington, a Prior of Durham spent time nearby and was involved in the reconstruction of the Choir and his family crest marks this contribution. Today the Abbey, as the Town's Parish Church, is open to visitors all year round, with a regular pattern of Services and it is used as a centre for music and drama, and the local schools and college use it for major events, prize givings, etc.

Words: David Simpson –Photos: Fred Spencer

oOo

Noah's Ark

Everything I need to know, I learned from Noah's Ark.

From David Froud

ONE: Don't miss the boat.

TWO: Remember that we are all in the same boat.

THREE: Plan ahead. It wasn't raining when Noah built the Ark.

FOUR: Stay fit. When you're 60 someone may ask you to do something big.

FIVE: Don't listen to critics; get on with the job that needs doing.

SIX: Build your future on high ground.

SEVEN: For safety's sake, travel in pairs.

EIGHT: Speed isn't always an advantage; snails were on board as well.

NINE: When you're stressed, float awhile.

TEN: No matter the storm, when you are with God, there's always a rainbow waiting around the corner.

David's instructions were to send this to people that he wanted God to bless and he picked you. Please pass this to people you want to be blessed. Most people walk in and out of your life...but FRIENDS leave footprints in your heart.

oOo

History Of The Catacombs

In the first century Rome's Christians did not have burial places of their own. If a citizen owned land, he very often buried his relatives on his estates. Otherwise families of the deceased had to arrange to use the public cemeteries, where pagans were also buried. This is how S Peter came to be

buried with others in the great public “necropolis” on Vatican Hill, a site that was available to everybody. The same happened to S Paul, but here he was buried in a public necropolis along the Via Ostiense. In the first half of the second century, as a result of donations the early Christians started burying their dead in newly built catacombs. Many of these were around existing family tombs, and often these owners were newly converted to Christianity. These new burial places were not reserved solely for the members of the owner’s family, they were opened to include their brethren in the faith. With the passage of time, these burial areas grew larger by the acquisition of new lands sometimes this being on the initiative of the Church itself. Typical is the Catacomb of S Callixtus: here the Church organised the cemetery and the administration.

With the edict of Milan, promulgated by the Emperors Constantine and Licinius in February 313, the Christians were no longer persecuted. They were free to profess their faith, to have places of worship and to build churches inside and outside the city walls, and also to buy land, without fear of confiscation. Nevertheless, the catacombs continued to function as cemeteries until the fifth century, when the Church resumed burying exclusively above ground or in the important basilicas. When the Barbarians invaded Italy and arrived at Rome, they destroyed a lot of ancient monuments and sacked many places, including some of the catacombs. Powerless in the face of such repeated pillages, the Popes ordered the removal of the holy relics of the martyrs and saints that were held in the catacombs to the city churches for security. When the transfer was completed, the catacombs were no longer visited; and they were totally abandoned, with the exception of S Sebastian, S Lawrence and S Pancratius. In the course of time, landslides, neglect and vegetation gradually hid the entrances to many of the catacombs, so that eventually all traces of their existence were lost. During the late Middle Ages many people didn’t even know they existed let alone know of their locations. But investigation was at hand and the exploration of the catacombs started with Antonio Bosio (1575-1629), who was to become nicknamed the “Columbus of subterranean Rome”. Exploration then began systematically, and over the years the exploration of the catacombs, and in particular of those of S Callixtus, was carried out by Giovanni Battista de Rossi (1822-1894), considered by many to be the founder of Christian Archaeology.

And finally :-

Life explained! By Craig:-

On the first day, God created the dog and said: “Sit all day by the door and bark at anyone who walks past. For this, I will give you a life span of twenty years.” The dog said: “That’s a long time to be barking. How about only ten years and I’ll give you back the other ten?” So God agreed.

On the second day, God created the monkey and said: “Entertain people, do tricks make them laugh and I’ll give you a twenty-year life span.” The monkey said: “Monkey tricks for twenty years? That’s a long time to perform, I’ll give you back ten like the dog did?” And God agreed.

On the third day, God created the cow and said: “You must go into the field all day, suffer under the sun, have calves and give milk to support the farmer’s family. For this, I will give you a life span of sixty years.” The cow said: “That’s a tough life you want me to live for sixty years. How about twenty and I’ll give back the other forty?” And God agreed again.

On the fourth day, God created man and said: “Eat, sleep, play, marry and enjoy your life. For this, I’ll give you twenty years.” But man said: “Only twenty years?” “Could you give me my twenty, the cows’ forty, the monkeys’ ten and the ten the dog gave back making eighty?” “Okay,” said God, “You asked for it.” That is why the first twenty years we eat, sleep, play and enjoy ourselves. For the next forty years we slave in the sun to support our family. For the next ten years we do monkey tricks to entertain the grandchildren. And for the last ten years we sit on the front porch and bark at everyone. **Life has now been explained to you.**

The Guild Collect

Grant, we beseech Thee, Almighty God, to us Thy servants, the spirit of holy fear: that we, following the example of Thy holy child Samuel, may faithfully minister before Thee in Thy Sanctuary; through Jesus Christ Thy Son our Lord, Who liveth and reigneth with Thee in the unity of the Holy Ghost, ever One God, world without end. Amen.