

Crunch time for the Church

- **JOIN Forward in Faith (see p12)**
- **Affiliate your parish with FiF**
- **Get your PCC to pass Resolution C**

plus

FiF
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Hail and farewell!

North for the North

WE OFFER our congratulations and best wishes to **FR PHILIP NORTH CMP**, Rector of the Old St Pancras Team Ministry and former Administrator of the Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham, who is to be the next Bishop of Whitby. He is no stranger to the Northern Province, having been at York University and served in churches in Sunderland and Hartlepool after his ordination in 1992. He said "I have very much enjoyed the four years I have spent in the Diocese of London. The energy and vision of the Church in North London, and Camden Town in particular, has been a daily inspiration. I leave with regret, but look forward to sharing in God's mission in the Diocese of York."

Chairman of Forward in Faith, Bishop Jonathan added: "Fr North is well known for his energy, passion for the Gospel and heart for Mission. This appointment brings hope and encouragement to catholic Anglicans in the Northern Province and throughout the Church of England." We predict that York Minster will be packed to the doors on Friday 1st March at 11 am for the Consecration.

A titular trip up the Thames

SHORTLY AFTER Fr North's appointment came the announcement from 10 Downing Street that the Chairman of Forward in Faith, Bishop Jonathan Baker, is to be translated from Ebbsfleet to Fulham, a move suggesting a



pleasant boat trip up the Thames from the estuary into the heart of the Capital, though in reality meaning a move in the opposite direction from Oxford.

Bishop Jonathan said, "I am delighted to be taking up this new post, though of course very sorry to be leaving the priests and people of the Ebbsfleet parishes after such a relatively short time as their bishop. I am looking forward enormously to leading the Fulham parishes and to playing my part in the mission of the church in London across the Diocese."

I am assured that the process of appointing a new Bishop of Ebbsfleet is already underway, and so in due course I am



confident that my move will lead to a strengthening of the team of catholic bishops in the Church of England at this critical time. I will, of course, continue to serve as Chairman of Forward in Faith."

Fr Ross Northing, Vice-Chairman of the Ebbsfleet Council of Priests, and FiF Secretary added: "Whilst we are naturally sad to be losing Bishop Jonathan from our area, we nevertheless rejoice that he has been given this wonderful opportunity to minister to our brothers and sisters in the Fulham area. He will leave Oxford with our prayers and very best wishes."



Away to Walsingham

IT WAS, said the Chairman at the National Assembly, "almost unthinkable" that Stephen Parkinson will no longer be our Director after the end of this year. On behalf of us all he wished Stephen a beautiful, long and happy retirement with great thanksgiving and not a little sadness.

As bishops and others have come and gone since 1993, Stephen has *been* Forward in Faith. From the Director's chair he has presided over the growth of FiF from little more than an idea to the national body with thousands of members that it is today.

He has overseen most importantly our political and campaigning activities, but also our publishing, our youth work, and everything else that we undertake with an ability to contribute to it all, securing the unique position that the organisation occupies not just in the Church of England but internationally.

He has done it with his unique style, able to cajole, urge, bully, encourage, email, text, telephone, type; to put up with bishops and members of the Council and Executive whilst remaining cheerful, ready to tell a joke, and above all, faithful.

We have so much to be grateful for to him and, of course to Jo, for putting up with him and for being such a cheerful and positive presence for us all. Bishop Jonathan presented Jo with a bouquet of flowers and Stephen with a token of our thanks and appreciation for his being so long at the heart of our life, and the Assembly rose to give him a standing ovation that signified by both its length and warmth our agreement with the Chairman's sentiments.

We shall miss you, Stephen; but we shall look out for you whenever we visit Stiffkey's fair vale and perhaps share an ale as well as an Ave!

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@ St Mary's Kenton

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Encounters with God
- experiences at the Walsingham Youth Pilgrimage

W-W-Worship!!!

St Mary's Kenton leads the way ... www.stmaryskenton.org

LOCAL CHURCH, St Mary's Kenton, may be 76 years old next month but is bang up to date with modern technology. From the beginning of November people have been able to watch all their services on the web.

All you need to do is go to the church website - www.stmaryskenton.org - and you can follow each of the 25 services held in the church every week.

Fr Edward Lewis, Vicar of St Mary's, said, "I think we are the first Church of England Parish to broadcast on line. It means that people who genuinely cannot get to Church will be able to join us in worship. Also people who might be exploring our Faith can have a taster."

Nothing beats being physically present at Mass or another service but this facility does give the next best thing. Importantly it keeps people in touch and reminds them they are not forgotten.

Those who cannot get to church are all ready enjoying being able to tune into services and worship with us. People can leave prayer requests and of course donate to the mission of the church.

Pictured right is Churchwarden Emeritus Fred Windridge who can be seen joining in the Mass at St Mary's from his hospital bed.



Saint Catherine's opens its doors

A thriving hub of community life serving local people

OVER TEN years ago Saint Catherine's, Burnley, opened the doors of its Parish Hall to the local community. The Hall was renamed Saint Catherine's Community Centre and it became a thriving hub of community life serving local people from surrounding districts of Burnley.

Appropriately Saint Catherine's christened this initiative the 'Open Doors' Project. However, it is now Saint Catherine's Church building itself that has literally had to open its doors.

Following fund-raising efforts, generous grants from the Diocese of Blackburn and the SSJE Trust, the demolition and construction of a new Saint Catherine's Community Centre is now under way on Mary Street, Burnley.

While building work is in progress, the community work which normally takes place in the Centre, including a weekly Drop-In and Homeless Advice at which meals are provided, Luncheon Club, Over Fifties and other activities, continues in the church.

The new Centre is due to be completed by mid-February 2013; in the meantime, sandwiched around the daily Masses and Services, the church will open its doors to the community activities. Fundraising efforts also continue in order to provide equipment for the new Centre and all donations will be gratefully received.

Those wishing to contribute should send donations to the Treasurer, Saint Catherine's, Todmorden Road, Burnley BB10 4AB. Kindly make cheques payable to Saint Catherine's PCC marked Community Appeal. Saint Catherine's thanks all those who have supported the project and who continue to send contributions.

The photograph shows some of the attendees at the Drop-In together with Volunteer Cook, Kath, and Fr Roger Parker, Parish Priest.

Sunny Southport's splendour

Elisabeth Bamber reports

The Saturday of St Luke's Festival dawned bright and sunny; a perfect autumn day, the weather having been good all week as it always is at this time of year - St Luke's 'little summer'. It was good to see many friends from across the diocese and beyond in church that sunny morning. The church looked resplendent and bedecked with flowers for the occasion. The nave was full and the choir stalls bursting at the seams, singers imported from various sources, confidently singing Haydn's *Nelson Mass* (appropriately, as the following day was the anniversary of Trafalgar) and leading the congregation in all the old favourites. In the beauty of the Mass in this fabulous setting, one is transported to a higher plain.

Fr Lawrence Featham (Accrington) was celebrant and the newly ordained Fr Grant Naylor (St Helen Auckland) preached on 'Faith, Hope and Charity'.

Following the service, a splendid buffet with drinks was the ideal setting to catch up on news and enjoy fellowship together.

It is seven years this November since Fr Ian Shack-



leton retired, five of these having been in interregnum. Yet St Luke's continues in the Faith for which it will always be known in this part of Lancashire and Merseyside. Long may it continue. *Deo Gratias.*

St Agatha's & the Olympics

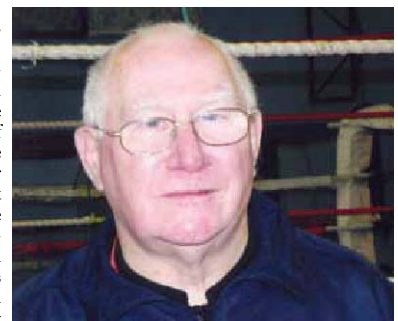
ST AGATHA'S

(Sparkbrook) Parish is 80% British Asian Muslim. Half of these are under the age of 20, and there are few facilities for them. So about 10 years ago, the Church Hall complex was turned into St Agatha's Boxing Club, and the team running it is headed by Frank O'Sullivan, a very experienced Manager/Trainer in the Amateur Boxing world.

The club is now immensely popular, with a long waiting list. It is inclusive, "all-age" (men and women, boys and girls), and ethnically diverse. It was the only club in Britain to have two boxers in the podium squad for the London Olympics.

In recognition of his efforts, Frank was awarded an MBE at the beginning of this year for his services to Amateur Boxing.

Well done **Frank O'Sullivan MBE.**



Fresh inspiration for the journey

Amateur footballer Kevin Street, (extreme left on the front row) writes about his experience at the last Vocations Conference at Saint Stephen's House and his desire to serve in a new team.

After having several weeks to reflect on my weekend away at St Stephens House, I am still enthusiastic about the Church of England and one day becoming ordained and being ordained in the service of God.

ship between humanity and God will certainly be cloudy, or broken even, if we have poor relationships with each other. It is at night when we really got to interact socially and realise that even though we were all different we had very

clearly what is important in life helps to develop an understanding of direction where God is leading you.

Dining was a very good opportunity to chat to different people. I found that there was a range of people from different backgrounds all presenting different skills and talents. Some people were certain of their calling, some were hesitant, others just looking to take small steps forward; some had miraculous stories of faith and some were very young but still experienced.

Mass was an opportunity to



The most interesting line on the whole itinerary was "Bar Opens 9:30pm". At first I was shocked that this was included but later found it to be a very important part of the weekend as this is when we were all at our most relaxed, could discuss the events of the day and generally get to know each other. It is very important to have strong relationships in an age of technology when people interact more by text than by talk, with emoticons rather than face to face emotions. The relation-

much in common; mainly that we love Jesus.

With the noise, responsibilities and stress of modern society created by work, family (also a blessing!) finance and perpetual bad news coverage; taking time to enjoy the serenity of the cloisters at St Stephen's was a rejuvenating and replenishing experience. This was a chance to defragment a cluttered mind and find focus and clarity of thought. Being able to see



Living Priesthood

**Saturday 1st December
10.30am – 4.00pm**

**S Mary's Church, Somers Town
Eversholt Street,
London NW1 1BN**

www.additionalcurates.co.uk

worship Christ without the distraction of children or familiar faces asking for help with something. A chance to go to a place where I was free to worship God without distractions; an opportunity to focus my mind and spirit on Jesus like I did years ago. We are called to be "in the world" but not "of the world". We are called to bring God's light into our everyday existence, but we DO need time to withdraw and be with God or else we are running on empty.

The main thing that I will be taking away from this weekend is firstly a renewed spirit; a chance to replenish my devotion with God without distraction of modern life. This week has given me an anchor which I can use to connect closer with God and strength-

en my own faith. Secondly it has given me direction; I know what I need to do. My priest has written a letter to the Bishop and I will be meeting the director of ordinands soon. Thirdly I have made some great relationships which I will never forget and it have given me a fresh inspiration and insight in my journey with God.

Thanks ACS

Kevin Street

Are you called? The next Vocations Residential Conference is 30th August to 1st September 2013 at Saint Stephens House, Oxford, entitled "Called 2 Serve". Further details from The Additional Curates Society, Gordon Browning House, 8 Spitfire Road, Birmingham B24 9PB or visit our website at www.additionalcurates.co.uk

Walsingham Festival at Tonge Moor

AT THE annual Walsingham Festival Mass at St Augustine's Tonge Moor the homily was given by Fr David Sutton, SSC, Chaplain and Spiritual Care Co-ordinator, Greater Manchester West Mental Health NHS Foundation Trust. After an outdoor procession, and refreshments in the church crypt, the festival concluded with Benediction.



Margaret Pridmore recently celebrated 50 years as a Flower lady at Worktop Priory

With a song in his heart



John Gant, the Cantor at Christ Our Future, London Arena 10th June 2000

JOHAN GANT, whose beautiful voice enhanced every occasion when he was called upon to sing, died suddenly whilst on holiday in the Isle of Wight.

John was far more than a singer. He played the organ in many churches in South London and elsewhere; he trained choirs and conducted them; his gentle, but determined search for perfection ensured that those with whom he worked always gave of their very best.

He will be greatly missed by Forward in Faith for his direction of the singing at Christ the King, Gordon Square. For several years he has been a regular member of St Stephen's, Lewisham. He seemed to have an inexhaustible supply of trumpeters to enhance festive occasions there. But above all, John was a faithful Christian, who cared deeply about his faith. He took a full part in the life of the church, being on the PCC and the Deanery Synod, of which he was the Lay Chair.

In everything that he did, whether playing the organ, singing, training choirs, or seeking to play his part in safeguarding the Faith once delivered to the Saints, John was a dedicated activist. Though towards the end of his life he suffered from serious health problems, his unmistakable laugh and unfailing sense of humour, as well as his singing, will be sorely missed by the many friends whom he has left behind.

Pray for all FiF members and parishes

St Mary and St Giles Stony Stratford with All Saints, Calverton

Christmas Eve

4.30pm Christingle Service & Carols
9pm First (Vigil) Mass of Christmas
(at All Saints Church, Calverton)
11.30pm Midnight Mass
(at St Mary & St Giles)

Christmas Day

9.30am Sung Eucharist with Carols
Fr Ross Northing SSC 01908 562148

The Ascension Lavender Hill SW11

Christingle Sunday 16th December

5pm Christingle, Readings
from the King James Bible

Christmas Eve

11pm Solemn High Mass
of Midnight

Christmas Day

10.30am Solemn High Mass
of the Day

Sunday 30th Holy Family

11am High Mass

Tuesday 1st January Mary, Mother of God

12 noon Mass

Epiphany Sunday 6th January

11am High Mass

Parish Priest:

Fr Ian Young
020 7228 5340

St Andrew's Kingsbury NW9

(Nearest tube - Wembley Park)

Mass every Sunday at 10am

Christmas Eve

Midnight Mass at 11pm

Christmas Day

Sung Mass at 10am

January 1st 2013

Sung Mass at 10am

Fr John T Smith

020 8205 7447

SAINT CYPRIAN OF CARTHAGE

Lancaster Road, Sneinton NG3 7AH
(off Carlton Road/Hill)

Dec 16 9.15am Sung Mass
4pm Christingle

Dec 23 9.15am Solemn Mass

Dec 24 11.30pm Midnight Mass

Dec 25 10am Solemn Mass

Dec 27 10am Said Mass

Tues 28 Dec 10am Said Mass

Dec 30 9.15am Solemn Mass

6pm Vespers and Benediction

Fr Andrew Waude SSC

The Vicarage, 19 Marston Road,
Nottingham

St Mary the Virgin, Kenton

All our services are broadcast on the Web

Please see our website

Mass is offered daily throughout the year
You are welcome to join us this Christmas tide for

Christmas Eve

4pm Devotions at the Crib

11.30 Midnight Mass

and Blessing of the Crib

Christmas Day

10.30am Parish Mass

January 6th 2012 Epiphany

10.30am Pontifical Mass

Bishop Jonathan Baker

Fr Edward J Lewis

Chaplain to Her Majesty The Queen, Vicar

www.stmaryskenton.org

020 8907 2914

St. Mary the Virgin, Kenton HA3 8EJ

All Saints with St Michael Shrewsbury

Advent IV

10.30am Parish Mass 3pm 9 Lessons & Carols

with Shrewsbury Abbey Choir

Christmas Eve

4pm Crib Service 11.30pm Midnight Mass

Christmas Day

10.30am Parish Mass

S. Stephen 12.30pm Low Mass

S. John 9.30am Low Mass

Holy Innocents 6.30pm Low Mass

S. Thomas Becket 10am Low Mass

Holy Family

10.30am Parish Mass

S. Sylvester 10am Low Mass

Mary, Mother of God 10am Low Mass

Enquiries: Fr Michael Fish SSC

01743 244879

St Agnes and St Pancras Toxteth Park Liverpool L17 3BA

Advent Four

6.30pm Carol Service with Benediction

Christmas Eve

11.30pm Midnight Mass

Christmas Day

10am Parish Mass

Contact Canon Christopher Cook SSC

0151 733 1742

Website: www.stagnes.org.uk

Parish Church of St Cuthbert w St Matthias Philbeach Gardens Earls Court SW5

Wednesday 12th December

7.30pm Nine Lessons and Carols

Christmas Eve

11.30pm Midnight Mass

and Blessing of the Crib

Christmas Day

10.30am Sung Mass

Sunday 6th January, Epiphany

11am Sung Mass

All enquiries to the

Administrator 020 7603 6483

St Augustine Aldershot

Christmas Eve

5.30pm Children's Service

11.30pm Solemn Mass

with Blessing of the Crib

Christmas Day

10am Family Mass

Enquiries, Confessions etc

Fr Keith Hodges 01252 320840

www.staugustine-aldershot.org.uk

St Mary the Virgin St Marychurch, Torquay

Christmas Eve

3.30pm Family Carol Service

7pm Traditional Nine Lessons

and Carols

11.30pm Midnight Mass

Christmas Day

10am A Family Christmas Mass

All are welcome

For information contact:

Curate on 01803 326203 or

Churchwarden on 01803 690950

The Parish of Swinton & Pendlebury

Christmas Eve

4pm Christingle Vigil Mass

at Saint Peter's (M27 0WA)

7.30pm Sung Mass of the Vigil and Blessing

of the Crib at Saint Augustine's (M27 8UX)

11.30pm Midnight Mass and Blessing of the

Crib at All Saints' (M27 9UG) and at Saint Peter's

Christmas Day

8am Mass of the Dawn at Saint Peter's

Sung Mass of Christmas Day with Carols

at All Saints' at 9.30am

at Saint Augustine's at 10am

and Saint Peter's at 10.30am

December 26th

11am Solemn Mass for Saint Stephen's Day

at Saint Peter's, followed by refreshments

For details of carol services, other services, etc.

Fr Jeremy Sheehy 0161 794 1578 or

paroffsandp@btconnect.com

St George's Church Bickley Park Road, Bromley

Christmas Eve

4pm Crib Service

11.30pm Midnight Mass and

Blessing of the Crib

Christmas Day

8am Holy Communion (BCP)

10.30am Sung Mass

Confessions by appointment

Enquiries to

Fr Owen Higgs 020 8467 3809

www.stgeorgebickley.co.uk

St Agatha, Sparkbrook & St Barnabas, Balsall Heath Birmingham

Christmas Eve

6.30pm Youth Mass (St Agatha's)

11.30pm Midnight Mass (St Agatha's)

Christmas Day

9am Sung Mass (St Barnabas)

11.15am Sung Mass (St Agatha's)

Contact: Canon John Herve SSC

0121 440 4605

S. Paul's Hasland Chesterfield

Christmas Eve

6.30pm Carol Service

and Christmas Presentation

Christmas Day

9.45am Festival Mass

S. James Temple Normanton Chesterfield

Saturday 22nd December

4pm Carols around the tree

Christmas Eve

11.30pm Midnight Mass

Fr Malcolm Ainscough SSC

Tel: 01246 232486

Holy Trinity, Hoxton Shepherdess Walk, N1

Christmas Eve

11pm Midnight Mass

Christmas Day

10am Mass of the Day

Contact Fr Andrew Newcombe

020 7253 4796

St Andrew's Croydon

Christmas Eve

11.30pm Midnight Mass

Christmas Day

10am Feast of the Nativity

Fr Keith Sylvia

020 8667 1353

St John the Baptist Tatchbrook Street Leamington Spa

Sunday 23rd December - Advent Four

8am Low Mass

9.30am Solemn High Mass

3.30pm Family Carol Service

Christmas Eve

9pm Midnight Mass & Blessing of the Crib

Christmas Day

8am Low Mass

9.30am Solemn High Mass

9.30am Solemn High Mass

Sunday 30th December - Holy Family

Fr David Lawson SSC 01926 422208

www.fifparish.com/stjohnleamington

St Barnabas Bexhill on Sea

Saturday December 24th

5.45pm Crib Service,

11.30pm Midnight Mass

Sunday December 25th

10am Parish Mass

Fr Colin Pritchard 01424 212036

St Clement's Bridge Street Cambridge

(A, B & C / FiF)

Christmas Day

9am Sung Mass

Sunday 30th

Christmas 1

10am Sung Mass

Services are Traditional Rite

English Missal / BCP

Contact: 01638 780261

Email: cat@ast.cam.ac.uk

St Luke's Parliament Street, Derby

Christmas Eve

4pm Christingle and Blessing

of the Christmas Crib

11.30pm Midnight Mass

Christmas Day

8am Low Mass of the Dawn

10am Family Mass

Contact: Colin Lancaster

01 332 676567

Christ Church, Tunstall

Christmas Eve

4.30pm Christingle

5.15pm Vigil Mass

23.30 Midnight Mass

Christmas Day

8am Said Mass

10am Sung Mass

Sunday 30th Dec

7pm Christmas Carol Service with

mince pies & mulled wine

St John's Goldenhill

Christmas Eve

6.30pm Vigil Mass

Contact Fr John Stather

01782 838288

All Saints Benilton, Sutton

A Forward in Faith Parish under the

care of the Bishop of Fulham

Christmas Eve:

5pm Christingle and Crib Service

11pm Carols by candlelight

11.30pm Midnight Mass

Christmas Day

10am Sung Mass

Mass will be celebrated daily

during the Christmas Octave

for further details, please contact:

Fr Peter Harnden SSC

Who Ordained you?

Brother Steven CR reminds us of his worries and concerns about supposed priests and future bishops if women are ordained to the episcopate in the Church of England

TWENTY-THREE YEARS ago, Barbara Clementine Harris became the first female bishop in the Anglican Communion. How many of us remember the moment when she placed the mitre on her head with ECUSA Presiding Bishop Edmond Browning saying those infamous words: "Go for it Barbara!"

With the decision of The Episcopal Church to go ahead with this innovation the Anglican Communion had changed forever and so after twenty-three years of women bishops, albeit serving only in the USA, Canada, Australia, New Zealand and more recently in South Africa, they have purported to administer the sacraments of Confirmation and

effective unless you know that the male priest had been ordained by a male bishop in the apostolic succession.

If we have women bishops in the Church of England how will you know that the male priest who comes to minister to you had not been ordained by a woman? How will you know? And to add to this utter confusion to make life more difficult and complex, how will you know that a male bishop had not been ordained by a woman as the chief consecrator?

Since Mrs Schori took office as the Presiding Bishop in the Episcopal Church of the USA, she has purportedly ordained a dozen or more men to the episcopate who now serve as diocesan bishops.

be agreeable to all.

The question also needs to be asked about the ordaining bishop, especially if he is a male bishop. We can no longer assume or take for granted that a male bishop is really a bishop.

There will be no guarantee that the male bishop had not been 'consecrated' by a woman bishop. The aspirant priest that is ordained by a male bishop who in turn had been 'consecrated' by a woman would not be recognized as a priest. While he may have a religious vocation, some of us could not acknowledge or recognize his priesthood and would not receive or attend mass that he purports to celebrate, whilst having no problem welcoming him as

What next?

What happens next? If the legislation goes through and women are elevated to the episcopate, how will we know who is ordained and who isn't? With the marvels of the Internet, it should be a fairly simple task to organise a Register of those who are 'ordained' by women bishops. Once the Register is in hand, bishops will eventually need to be identified as well who had been 'consecrated' by women bishops.

We need the assurance of male

bishops consecrated by male bishops that follow in line of apostolic succession. Parishes need to consider seriously who their next vicar will be because there will come a time when there is a vacancy and you are calling a priest to be your next vicar.

Make sure that you enquire about his orders, but also his bishop's orders, otherwise you risk being ministered by a priest who is actually a layman.

Never be afraid to ask the question, 'Who ordained you?'



Ordination to thousands of people, but for those of us who doubt the validity of their actions, the people they purport to have laid hands on are neither confirmed nor ordained.

Confusion ahead

The on-going debate and the legislation before us in the Church of England should make us all the more aware of the situation. With the advent of women bishops (at some point in time) there will be serious decisions to face up to. For the moment we know that men ordained in the Church of England are priests. No one in the Church of England doubts that Mister X or Father Y is a priest. However that will change one day and the question must be asked: Who ordained you? There will be the need to list the ordaining bishop when women are admitted to that Office.

In response to the problem with women priests, Forward in Faith came up with a solution to issue Identity cards if one needed a priest: **In case of emergency please call a MALE PRIEST.** This gave sacramental assurance to the person needing a priest who they knew was not only male but there was no doubt about his ordination. Yet the real problem that laity will find is that such an Identity card will no longer be ef-

fective unless you know that the male priest had been ordained by a male bishop in the apostolic succession.

Religious Communities

The Laity will not be the only ones affected by this confusion. Within Religious Communities the problem will surely arise when a 'priest' who had been ordained by a woman bishop feels called to test his vocation to the Religious Life. How is the Community to respond to such a request? Within our own Community, and I suspect in some others, there will be brethren who would have no problem in receiving this man as a priest-novice. However there would be others in our Community (such as myself) who in conscience could not receive him.

The Eucharist is at the heart of our life. The minute one has doubts about who presides at the altar and the community as a whole is not able to receive as 'one body in Christ' together then that unity and communion is broken. What would happen if the Episcopal Visitor to a community is not fully recognized by its members? Surely there would need to be a common mind on the choice of a Visitor that would

a fellow lay-brother.

If faced with this possibility are we to become a community where we simply share the same charisma and recite the daily Offices but go our separate way where brethren are no longer able to receive the Sacrament together? What does this say about our Sacramental Unity as brothers? What kind of message are we giving the wider Church struggling with the same issues? Can we remain together as a Community?

Obedience to whom?

Another question to ponder is about Canonical Obedience. Priest-brethren in Community swear canonical obedience to their diocesan bishop. The difficulty will be if the diocesan is a woman. While all Religious are under obedience to their Superior, priests if they function liturgically obtain a license from the bishop in which diocese he resides.

If a priest Religious does not recognize or doubts a woman being a bishop, how can he swear to obey her when she's not really a bishop? If that is the case, then to what bishop does he swear canonical obedience? Does he then swear canonical obedience to the Visitor of his community, presuming the bishop is male and had not been ordained by a woman bishop.

The FiF College of Deans

Anglia Regional Dean (*Chelmsford & St Edmundsbury and Ipswich*)

Fr Alan Cross SSC, 11 Grayling Drive, Bromley Road, Colchester CO4 3EN 01206 790984

Chichester Regional Dean (*Chichester & Europe*)

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Derby Regional Dean (*Derby*)

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East Wessex Regional Dean (*Guildford, Portsmouth & Winchester*)

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Mercia Acting Regional Dean (*Birmingham, Coventry*)

Fr Darren Smith, ACS, Gordon Browning House, Spitfire Lane, Birmingham B24 9PB 0121 382 5533 - frsmith@additionalcurates.co.uk

Northern Yorkshire Regional Dean (*Bradford, Ripon, York*)

Fr Gareth Jones, 36 Whitcliffe Lane, Ripon, North Yorkshire HG4 2JL 01765 601745 - gjones390@btinternet.com

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North Wales Regional Dean (*Bangor, St Asaph*)

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Oxford Regional Dean (*Oxford*)

Fr Ross Northing SSC, SS Mary and Giles Vicarage, 14 Willow Lane, Stoney Stratford, Buckinghamshire MK11 1FG - 01908 562148 - rnorthing@btinternet.com

Scotland Acting Regional Dean (*Aberdeen & Orkney, Argyll & the Isles, Brechin, Edinburgh, Glasgow & Galloway, Moray, Ross & Caithness and St Andrews, Dunkeld & Dunblane*)

Fr Beau Brandie SSC, 48 A Becket Gardens, Worthing BN13 2BN 01903 264471 - beaumont.brandie@btinternet.com

South Wales Regional Dean (*Llandaff, Monmouth*)

Fr Hadyn England-Simon SSC, S. Peter's Vicarage, Llewellyn Street, Pentre, Rhondda-Cynon-Taff CF41 7BY - 01443 433651

South Yorkshire & Notts Regional Dean (*Sheffield, Southwell, Wakefield*)

Fr Tony Delves SSC, 4 Balmoral Street, Hebden Bridge, West Yorkshire, HX7 8BJ 01422 843948 - ajd@delwood.plus.com

Southwark Regional Dean (*Southwark*)

Fr Andrew Stevens SSC, S. Nicholas Vicarage, 64 Purrett Road, Plumstead, London SE18 1JP 020 8854 0461 - 07958 600049 - frandrew@dircon.co.uk

Tamar Regional Dean (*Exeter, Truro*)

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The Marches Acting Regional Dean (*Gloucester, Hereford, Worcester*)

Fr Mike Bartlett, St Peter's Ho, Littlewoods, Crabbs Cross, Redditch, Worcestershire B97 01527 545709 - frbartstpetercross@sky.com

The North West Regional Dean (*Blackburn, Chester, Liverpool, Manchester, Sodor & Man*)

Fr Alan Cooke, The Vicarage, Milne Street, Chaderton, Oldham OL9 0HR - 0161 624 2005

The Ouse Regional Dean (*Peterborough, St Albans*)

Fr Geoffrey Neal, 63 The Moor, Carlton, Bedfordshire MK43 7JS 01234 720938 - gmneal@btinternet.com

Trent Regional Dean (*Leicester, Lincoln*)

Fr Reginald Stretton, 19 Paddock Close, Quorn, Loughborough LE12 8BJ 01509 412935 - reginaldstretton@btinternet.com

Sub Dean Fr Paul Noble SSC, The Rectory, Fishoft Road, Skirbeck, Boston PE21 0DJ 01205 362734 - frpnoble@skirbeckrectory.freeserve.co.uk

West Wales Regional Dean (*Swansea and Brecon, St David's*)

Fr Philip Wyn Davies SSC, Y Ficerdy, Tregaron, Ceredigion SY25 6HL - 01974 299010

West Wessex Acting Regional Dean (*Bath and Wells, Bristol, Salisbury*)

Fr Julian Laurence, Holy Trinity Vicarage, 18 Holway Avenue, Taunton, Somerset TA1 3AR 01823 337890 - jlaurence@htrivcarage.fsnet.co.uk

St Margaret, Hollinwood & St Chad, Limeside
 Chapel Road, Hollinwood OL8 4QQ
Christmas Eve
 Midnight Mass and Blessing of the Crib at Midnight
Christmas Day
The Nativity of the Lord
 11am Parish Mass
Sunday 30th Holy Family
 10.30am Parish Mass
 6pm Community Carols at the Crib with Benediction
 Contact: Fr David Hawthorn
 0161 681 4541

SS Mary & Chad Longton
Christmas Eve
 4pm Family Crib Service
 11.30pm Midnight Mass of the Nativity
Christmas Day
 10am The Parish Mass
Confessions after any of the above or by appointment
 Parish Office
 01782 313142

ALL SAINTS' CHURCH
 Durham Road, East Finchley, London N2 9DP
Sunday 23rd December
 6.30pm Christmas Carol Service followed by mulled wine and mince pies
Monday 24th December Christmas Eve
 3pm Children's Christmas Service with carols
 11.30pm Sung Midnight Mass with Blessing of the Crib followed by wine and mince pies
Tuesday 25th December Christmas Day
 8am Mass of the Dawn
 10am Sung Mass of Christmas Day
 Vicar: Fr Christopher Hardy SSC
 020 8883 9315
www.allsaints-eastfinchley.org.uk

St George in the Meadows
 St Georges Drive
 Nottingham NG2 1NX
 (1/4 mile south of railway station)
Dec 23
 11am Family Mass
Dec 24
 7.30pm Vigil Mass of Christmas
Dec 25
 10am Family Mass
St Stephen, Sneinton
Dec 23
 9.30am Sung Mass
Dec 24
 6am Crib Service
Dec 26 - St Stephen
 10.30am Said Mass
 Fr Colin Rushforth
 0115 952 3378

All Saints, Eastchurch Isle of Sheppey
Christmas Eve
 4.30pm Crib Service with Carols
 11.30pm Midnight Mass
Christmas Day
 10am Festival Mass
 Contact Churchwardens:
 Anthony Padman 01795 880650
 or Mike Coles 01795 880467 during Interregnum

The Church of St Paul the Apostle
 Middle Way, , Liverpool
A Forward in Faith parish in the pastoral care of the Bishop of Beverley
Principal Advent and Christmas-tide Services
SUNDAYS
 11am Sung Mass with Sunday School
CHRISTMASS EVE
 12 midnight Sung Mass of the Nativity with Blessing of the Crib
CHRISTMASS DAY
 10am Sung Mass
Weekdays the Octave: Mass with hymns daily at 12 noon
Sunday 30th - The Holy Family
 9.30am Holy Scommunion (BCP)
 11am Sung Mass
 3.30pm Carols by candlelight (refreshments afterwards)
For details of other services, times of confession etc., contact:
 Fr Ian Brooks SSC (Vicar)
 Telephone/facsimile: 0151 548 9009
 e-mail: FrIGB@blueyonder.co.uk

All Saints
 Small Heath, Birmingham B10
Sunday 23rd December
 6pm Carols by Candlelight
Christmas Eve
 3pm Christingle
 11.30pm Midnight Mass
Christmas Day
 10.30am Family Mass
 Fr Oliver Coss 0121 772 0621
www.allsaintsonline.co.uk

All Saints South Kirkby
Sunday 23rd December
 4.30pm Christingle Service
Christmas Eve
 6pm Christmas Family Mass
Christmas Day
 10am Parish Mass
Sunday 30th December
 6pm Carol Service
 Parish Priest: Fr Timothy Kaye
 01977 642795

St Mary, Horden Co. Durham
Christmas Eve
 4pm Christingle Service
 11.30pm Midnight Mass
Christmas Day
 8.30am Mass of the Dawn
 10am Mass of the Day
Sunday 30th December
 4pm Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols
 Fr Kevin Smith 0191 586 7110

St Anselm's Parish Church, Hatch End
Sunday 18th December
 10am Parish Mass and Nativity Play
 4pm Carol Service
Christmas Eve
 5pm Children's Christmas Service
 12 midnight Midnight Mass
Christmas Day
 8am Mass of the Dawn
 10am Parish Mass of the Day
Wednesday 26th Dec - St Stephen
 8am Mass
Sunday 30th - Holy Family
 8am Mass, 10am Parish Mass
 Fr Clive Pearce:
 020 8428 4111 - 07710 900545

The Church of St Columba Middlesbrough
Christmas Eve
 11.30pm Midnight Mass of the Nativity and Blessing of the Crib
Christmas Day
 10am Sung Mass with Carols
Sunday 30th December
 6pm Carols at the Crib
Mass each day during the Christmas Octave
St John the Evangelist Middlesbrough
Christmas Eve
 5.30pm Crib Service
 11.30pm Midnight Mass of the Nativity and Blessing of the Crib
Christmas Day
 10am Sung Mass with Carols
 For further information contact
 Fr Stephen Cooper on 01642 824779

CHRISTMASTIDE at St Mary Magdalene Millfield, Sunderland 2012
23rd December - Advent 4
 10.30 Solemn Mass
 18.00 Carols & Lessons - Mary and Joseph arrive at The Stable in Bethlehem
24th December - Christmas Eve
 12 midnight Procession & Solemn Midnight Mass of Christmas with Blessing of the Crib
25th December - Christmas Day
 10.30am Mass of the day with Carols round the Crib
 18.30 Rosary at the Crib and Candlelight Benediction
26th December - St Stephen
 10.30 Mass followed by coffee and mince pies
30th December - Feast of the Holy Family
 10.30 Solemn Mass 18.30 Benediction 19.00 Low Mass
Sunday 6th January The Feast of the Epiphany
 10.30 Solemn Mass with Procession of the Kings
 18.30 Benediction 19.00 Low Mass
 Parish Priest: Fr Beresford Skelton
 0191 565 6318

St Barnabas Parish Church Morecambe
24th December
 4pm Crib Service
 11.30pm Solemn Midnight Mass and Blessing of the Crib
Christmas Day
 8.30am Mass
 10am Solemn Mass
 4pm Carols at the Crib
Wednesday to Saturday - 10.00am Mass
Holy Family
 8.30am Mass
 10am Solemn Mass
 4pm Compline
 Father Tom Davis SSC - Parish Priest
 01524 415216

St Catherine of Siena Richmond Road, Sheffield
Christmas Eve 5pm Vigil Mass
 9pm Solemn Mass of the Nativity
Christmas Day 10am Parish Mass
Sunday 30th, Holy Family
 10am Parish Mass
New Year's Day, Mary Mother of God
 12 noon Solemn Mass
Sunday 6th January, Epiphany
 10am Parish Mass 6pm Nine Lessons and Carols, Benediction and Parish Party.
 Fr Loxley 0114 239 9598
 email :father.loxley@sky.com - for all other details see: www.stcathsienna.co.uk

Holy Trinity Winchmore Hill, N21
Christmas Eve
 4pm Traditional Nativity Play and Children's Liturgy
 11.30pm Midnight Mass
Christmas Day
 9am and 10.30am Sung Mass
Mass 12 noon each day in the Octave
1st January
 12 noon Solemnity of Mary the Mother of God
 For Confessions and further information contact
 Fr Richard Bolton rdeb2010@btinternet.com 0208 364 1583

St Lukes Laburnum Road Milber, Newton Abbott
Christmas Eve
 4pm Crib Service for Children
 11.30pm Midnight Mass
Christmas Day
 10am Parish Mass of the Day
 Fr J E Potter 01626 365837

St Dunstan with Holy Angels Cranford
The nearest F in F Parish to Heathrow Airport
Christmas Eve
 4pm Nine Lessons and Carols (Holy Angels)
 11.30pm First Mass of Christmass (Holy Angels)
Christmas Day
 10.30am Solemn Mass of the Day (Holy Angels)
Sunday 30th - Holy Family
 9.30am Solemn Mass (Holy Angels)
 11.15am Solemn Mass (St Dunstan's)
 Rector: Fr Michael Gill SSC
 020 8897 8836

All Saints South Wimbledon
Christmas Eve
 3pm Crib Service
 11.45 Midnight Solemn Mass
Christmas Day
 11am Solemn Mass
 Contact: Fr Michael Blackman
 020 8542 2787

The Parish of St Peter and the Holy Apostles Plymouth
Christmas Eve
 7pm Blessing of the Crib and First Mass of Christmas at St Thomas, Keyham and St James, Ham
 11.30pm Blessing of the Crib and Midnight Mass of Christmas at St Peter's, Wyndham Square
Christmas Day
 10am Sung Mass and Carols at St Peter's
OCTAVE (including Feasts)
 10am Sung Mass DAILY in St Peters
 Fr Sam Philpott
 01752 298502

All Saints Team Ministry South Shields
Christmas Eve
 11.30pm Midnight Mass; also 11.30pm at St Mary & St Martin, Whitelease
Christmas Day 8am Mass, 10am Sung Eucharist
 Contact Fr Mervyn Thompson
 0191 456 1851 or Fr Graeme Pollock 0191 455 3072

St Helen Abbottsham
Christmas Eve
 11.30pm Midnight Mass
Christmas Day
 11am Sung Eucharist
 Fr Francis Otto
 01237 473445

St Mary the Virgin Littlehampton
Christmas Eve
 5pm Children's Crib Service
 11.30pm Midnight Mass
Christmas Day
 8am Low Mass
 10am Parish Mass
 Contact Fr Roger Caswell
 on 01903 724410

All Saints North Street, York
Christmas Eve
 7.30pm Mass of the Night, Procession, Blessing of the Crib and Sung Mass
Christmas Day
 10.30am Said Mass of the Day with Carols
 Fr Andrew Horsman 01904 706047

St Mary's, Knox Road, Wellingborough
Christmas Services
Christmas Eve
 11.30pm Sung Mass by Candlelight
Christmas Day
 10.30am Sung Mass
Further details from
 Fr Robert Farmer
 01933 225626

St Augustine's Tongue Moor, Bolton
Wednesday 19th December
 7.30pm Carol Service (St Aidan's)
Christmas Eve 11.30pm Midnight Mass
Christmas Day 8am Said Mass
 9.15am Sung Mass (St Aidan's)
 10.30am Solemn Christmas Mass
Sunday 30th December
 3pm Service of Nine Lessons and Carols
 Fr Tony Davies 01204 523899
 ALL WELCOME

S Chad Toller Lane, Bradford
Christmas Eve
 11.45pm
 Blessing of the Crib and First Mass
Christmas Day
 8.30am Mass of the Dawn
 10.45am Mass of the Day
 Parish Priest
 Canon Ralph Crowe SSC
 Tel: 01274 543957

int

In his own write...



From the Editor's desk

Guarding what is entrusted.

Will they have the courage to do this? Many are members of the Society of the Holy Cross whose founders (1855) were relentlessly persecuted for defending the catholic Faith. A few weeks ago, Bishop Roger Jupp in his sermon at St Alban's, Holborn, for the glorious Festival Mass to mark the 150th Anniversary of the founding of the Confraternity of the Blessed Sacrament, recalled the motto of Chichester Theological College, "Guard what has been entrusted to you." (1Tim.6, 20).

We had robbed before the Mass in the Mackonochie Chapel, a memorial to that great and devout priest, first vicar of St Alban's, who had been driven to an early grave after years of being mercilessly pursued through the Courts for celebrating the Mass with reverence and dignified ceremonial as he brought the gospel to the poor and neglected population of one of the poorest slum-districts of London.

Other priests were imprisoned for contempt of Court for refusing to accept the authority of the secular courts over the conduct of worship. Arthur Tooth (Vicar of St James, Hatcham) was imprisoned in 1877; Sidney Faithorn Green (Rector of St John's, Miles Platting), T. Pelham Dale (Rector of St Vedast, London) and Richard William Enraght (Rector of Holy Trinity, Bordesley), were all imprisoned 1880 and James Bell Cox (Vicar of St Margaret's, Liverpool), in 1887.

Will Bishops of The Society under the patronage of St Wilfrid and St Hilda be as bold and forthright in seeking to guard what has been entrusted to them?

Will the priests recapture the spirit of determination and resolve so wonderfully displayed in Canon Lacey's stirring hymn "O Faith of England" to raise the glorious standard of the Cross and contend for the right "through pain of doubt and bitterness, through pain of treason and distress"?

Will our people remain faithful and fearless, confident that in this "darkened day of fear" with Christ for Chief "nor force nor craft can overthrow the Church that he has founded" – even if that force and craft be from within.

Do not be afraid.

Whatever the Synod has done, whatever difficulties and dangers lie before us as a result of its decisions, our duty is to remain faithful to the Incarnate Lord who came not to conform to the fashions of the world but to call the world to conform to the Will of His Father. As we resolve anew to guard what has been entrusted to us, we celebrate again with assurance at His Altar the Real Presence of the Word made flesh; we share the joy of the shepherds as we bring the good news of that wondrous Birth to the world around us; we hear ringing in our ears the song of the angels. We shall not be afraid.

find that disaster has, for the time being, been averted, we shall indeed be thankful. Joy and relief that we can continue to serve the Lord in the Church into which he has called us must not lead us to be uncharitable towards those who despise us and would be pleased to be rid of us. But our commitment to maintain the traditional faith and Order will need to be even stronger when the legislative process begins again.

To whom shall we go?

If, however, when this paper reaches the parishes, the Synod has passed the legislation as presented, we shall have a different fight on our hands. How do we remain faithful in a Church whose Synod has abandoned the Apostolic succession that survived the upheavals of both the Reformation and Cromwell's puritanical rule?

Do we throw in our lot with those who have decided that it is impossible and left for Rome? Dean Plumptre's well-known hymn poses the question: "And we, shall we be faithless? Shall hearts fail, hands hang down? Shall we evade the conflict and cast away our crown?" Then, of course, comes the answer: "Not so! In God's deep counsels some better thing is stored. We will maintain unflinching One Church, One Faith, One Lord."

Elsewhere in these pages, Brother Steven of the Community of the Resurrection, explains the difficulties that will arise when a woman becomes a bishop. If we doubt her Orders (and it is both charitable and wise to profess doubt rather than denial) then it follows that we must doubt the Orders of those whom she purports to ordain whether female or male.

If a man she has ordained as priest later is consecrated as a bishop, his Orders and the Orders of those whom he ordains must be held doubtful. The origin of his Ordination as much as his gender is the determining factor for sacramental assurance.

Our continued existence, therefore, as traditional members of the Church of England, and the sacramental assurance necessary for succeeding generations, depend on the willingness and ability of our present Bishops to act together as a College.

They must maintain unflinching One Church, One Faith, One Lord in defiance of the General Synod's abandonment of our heritage, and if necessary in defiance of any limitations to the exercise of their episcopacy imposed by unjust laws, canonical or secular.

AS I write this, we are offering a Novena of Prayer in preparation for the General Synod. As you read this, it will all be over and the decision made one way or the other. Before beginning to write I used the November Novena intention for the day, "for joy, that our joy may be infectious."

The text given for reflection was the angelic message of good news to the bewildered shepherds of Bethlehem with the exhortation "Do not be afraid." Whether the news we shall have received on Tuesday 20th November proves to be good or bad, we must not be afraid.

Like those lowly and unlikely witnesses of the miracle of the incarnation, we must kneel with wonder and trust before the Lord, then go on our way rejoicing and glorifying God and making his message known to all around.

Is there still a place for us?

Suppose that the Synod, through the good sense of the laity, has rightly concluded that the legislation set before it is so unsatisfactory that it must be rejected. Then undoubtedly those who have longed to see the episcopate opened to women, as the logical conclusion of the process of innovation approved on the 11th of November 1992, will be bitterly disappointed.

The strident extremists who have substituted the prejudices of feminism for the revealed doctrines of Holy Scripture (which, as one enlightened lady in a nearby parish told me at a meeting to debate the subject of women's ordination, cannot be trusted "because it was written by men") will be outraged and calling for recriminations.

Demands for the rescinding of the 1993 Act of Synod and the ending of the ministry of our Provincial Episcopal Visitors will be advanced at every opportunity, and we will be pilloried, as usual, as misogynist reactionaries who ought to have fled to the Ordinatee to spend our days enjoying the Latin Mass with settings by Byrd, or Solemn Evensong from the Book of Common Prayer with servers in Olde English surplices.

The more moderate among the proponents of women's ordination might, however, reflect that had there been rather more charity and understanding from the extremists towards traditional believers, who still number about a third of the Church of England, legislation that met our needs as well as allowing flexibility for novelty might well have been framed and judged satisfactory.

If, when this is published, we

was the ministry of each of these that will lead us to York in January to greet the next in that distinguished line: the presently non-plussed Glynn.

And it was the ministry of each of these, and others too numerous to list (amongst whom we must not forget the other +John!), which ensured that the so-called liberals viciously slammed the door on every possible accommodation until, at last, twenty years (and nine days) on, another debate took place in Church House, Westminster...

And, in the immortal words of Alistair Cooke, the rest you know.

director's diary



AND SO, after a small tease in this spot last time around, the news is out: after more than 19 years at this particular helm, I am tottering off to "tend" the remains of my hedge, build some more bookshelves and indulge myself in the odd trip to – well, anywhere, really!

A day (or two) out will be such a treat! You see, for these past 19 years (or, to put it another way, 7,001 days) the pattern has been simple, if debilitating. Any "days out" have had to be squeezed into jam-packed weekends, or have had to be arranged in advance and taken as annual leave – so what I am really looking forward to is the possibility of waking up one morning and deciding to... well, to do anything, actually!

Drive to a nice pub thirty miles away for lunch; catch a train or two to end up in Paris, or Marseilles, or Cologne, or wherever, with a view to a bit more than just lunch; surf the internet for blogs of which I disapprove, in order to post disabbling comments under a series of unlikely *noms de plume* – the possibilities are endless and the Dowager Director's Diary is empty! Bliss beckons!

But before that, there is work to be done. Next week, the General Synod meets and you can guess how much I'm looking forward to going to Church House to listen to that debate. And don't forget that you know the result – I don't! In the light of which, I think I'll change the subject...

Obviously, after 7,001 days, I will take away a lot of memories – some 'highs', some 'lows'. For example: HIGHS – *Christ our Future*, *Forward in Hope*, a number of National Assemblies; LOWS – all sessions of the General Synod, one particular and persistent correspondent, a number of National Assemblies.

Then, there was the time I asked the Editor of *New Directions* if I might employ a *slightly* rude word in a piece I was writing (the one that can mean 'urinate!'); he agreed; and it generated a letter of complaint from a priest young enough to be my son!

If I hadn't known it would be a sin, I'd have been quite proud of

that achievement! Although that pales into insignificance when considered alongside trips to Australia and the States.

Each time work took me overseas, I tried to award myself just a short burst of R & R and, if I'm honest, I remember much more about eating and drinking in the Barossa Valley in South Australia, or an architectural boat trip along the Chicago River, than I do about the meetings of FiF Oz or FiF North America that I'd flown out for! Except I have to admit that I have all too vivid memories of one particular FiFNA National Assembly at the Shrine of our Lady of the Snows, in Belleville, Illinois, where there was the most extraordinary tat shop!

Think along the lines of the Walsingham Shrine Shop expanded into your average branch of Tesco and imagine the sort of, er, interesting devotional items they might then have room to stock... a pink gown for your Infant of Prague statue, anyone? A snip at just \$18.95!

Then there was the LOW of the commute: 4 hours a day, 5 days a week, for almost ten years – over a year of my life spent on trains in the interests of earning a crust! And then the HIGH of being able to rent a flat in London not a stone's throw from the office and have my wife join me here, once *les deux enfants* had packed their bags for University! And that memory forces me to reflect that, when I started here, my two kids were still at Primary School; now, they both work just down the road in proper, grown-up jobs, and that makes me feel even older than today's birthday made me feel when I woke up this morning!

Looking back, I see that the very first Director's Diary was written on during the summer of 1996 – which means that, over the ensuing years I've turned out approaching 50,000 words of these random thoughts.

So, if you're not bored with this column by now, I guess you never will be – which is rather nice, actually, so many thanks!

And, if you are bored, you'll be glad that this is:

THE END.

The very first Christmas cards were sent by an Englishman called Sir Henry Cole. He was a businessman who had an interest in Art. In 1843 he realised that he did not have time to write his usual Christmas

of these were sold at one shilling each, quite expensive at that time. The idea did not immediately take off but as colour printing improved and the halfpenny stamp was introduced the idea became popular.

The Post Office encouraged this innovation and made quite a lot of money out of Christmas cards. Nowadays special stamps are commissioned each year although the cost of the postage is now more than the cost of the card!

Many people make their own cards, as I do. I don't suppose it is much cheaper, but can be good fun.

Don't forget to recycle your cards after Epiphany.

letter to all his friends so he decided to have a set of cards printed.

John Calcott Horsley was the artist who drew the design, a central panel showing a happy family group with side panels showing acts of Charity. One thousand



Christmas Greetings

Merry Christmas in many languages

Match the greeting to the country of origin.

- | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------|
| 1 - Joyeux Noel | Norway |
| 2 - Froeliche Weihnachten | Finland |
| 3 - Buon Natale | Germany |
| 4 - Selamat Natal | Korea |
| 5 - Houska Joulua | Iceland |
| 6 - Priecigus Ziemassvetkus | Portugal |
| 7 - Boze Naradzenie | Denmark |
| 8 - Gëzuar Krishtlindja | Turkey |
| 9 - Nadolig Llawen | Japan |
| 10 - Nollaig Shona | Italy |
| 11 - God Jul | Spain |
| 12 - Boas Festas | France |
| 13 - Feliz Navidad | Ireland |
| 14 - Meri Kurisumasu | Poland |
| 15 - Nollaig chridheil | Albania |
| 16 - Glaedelig Jul | Italy |
| 17 - Noeliniz kultu olsun | Scotland |
| 18 - Feliz Natal | Latvia |
| 19 - Seun-tan chu-ka-hae-yo | Indonesia |
| 20 - Gleðileg Jól | Wales |

Answers on page 10 ... dont cheat!

Christmas Wordsearch

MARY JOSEPH ANGEL SHEPHERD MANGER
INN STAR NAZARETH GOLD FRANKINCENSE
MYRRH BETHLEHEM JOURNEY CAROL TREE
DECORATION LIGHTS CANDLES PRESENTS
GABRIEL HEROD WISEMEN FOLLOW

Wordsearch Solution on page 10 ... but don't cheat!



Encounters with God

Young people from St Luke's, Prittlewell, shared their experiences at the Walsingham Youth Pilgrimage in a moving presentation at the FiF National Assembly. Here is a shortened version of their stories

LAUREN: THIS year, we took to the Walsingham pilgrimage youths who had never experienced any sort of religion or attended church. We were greeted by the welcoming ministry team, a group of fire eaters, the CJM band, Fr Stephen and Bishop Lindsay. The theme this year was "more than gold and silver – running for righteousness" which linked with the London 2012 Olympic Games. The first service was followed by a BBQ and disco we met new people and caught up with old friends.

The second day we woke to a typically cloudy British day. A bible study was followed by a Mass led by St Martin's Brighton accompanied by CJM who sang our favourite song "Dancing generation". We then visited the shrine itself. For four of the group it was their first time in this completely calm and spiritually uplifting place. We prayed at the feet of our Lady for our loved ones who we had left at home and for our futures. Later we went to the Slipper Chapel to begin the barefoot holy mile walk back to Walsingham for the service of Benediction. It was so quiet and comforting in the shrine grounds as the wind breezed through the trees and we were touched by the powers of the Holy Spirit.

Ben:

I have been attending St Luke's Church for four years, two of those as a youth leader. I had decided to go to Walsingham with the youth Group for a number of reasons. But to do this I had to take unpaid time off work, as I am self employed and own a small business. This decision was a good one. I had a wonderful experience during Benediction in the Shrine grounds.

I realised that I was not alone.

We were all in one place on our knees. That's when the Holy Spirit touched me. Time stood still my senses enhanced. A flood of emotions I had never experienced before. God's presence. That one moment in time that stood still will live with me for ever. It's important that we bring home those experiences to share in our parish. As a leader, I get to see the best brought out in our youth at this pilgrimage and the transformation into faith. It's a truly wonderful thing.

Lani:

On Wednesday we attended Mass as normal. We had a free afternoon so we decided to go to the beautiful Holkham beach and relaxed in the neighbouring forest and sand dunes. Jodie led a session on the beach to show the younger ones how to pray the rosary.

On returning to camp we got ready for an evening service with laying of hands, sprinkling and confessions followed by an all-night prayer vigil. It was a very emotional service where everyone prayed openly late into the night.

Jessica:

The all-night prayer vigil touched my heart in more ways than I can describe. I was soon brought to tears, as hundreds of youths came together to pray. It really was heart-warming.

Bonnie:

Walsingham was something I had never experienced before. It was my first year and I know I definitely want to go back. Even though I was sleep deprived and felt a little bit homesick, something held me there. Mass every day was eye opening and inspiring. CJM, a Christian band, really lifted your spirits. You felt positive for the rest of the day.

Lauren:

We were woken the next day at 6:30 to pray for an hour in the big top with other pilgrims who had been praying throughout the night.

Jodie:

My experience was a whole lot different from the past two years I have attended. The Walsingham 2012 youth pilgrimage brought alive my faith as well as my personality. It highlighted my role in the church and my friendships really blossomed. My first two years there I was a very timid person. This year I really let my personality show and made lots of friendships from other parishes. My confidence has built up and I also had the courage to take leadership and teach our fellow pilgrims in our parish how to pray the rosary. I also then went on to lead rosary prayers for the early morning vigil. I not only developed my skills in prayers for rosary, I also learnt and gained confidence in praying aloud for people. This year's pilgrimage has definitely been the highlight of my year and the best of them yet and I cannot wait to go next year to see what it brings for me as a person and my faith.

Ellie's story:

One of the main questions that leads us teenagers to the youth pilgrimage is 'Why Walsingham? What's so special about a little village on the outskirts of Norfolk?'

Walsingham is saturated with a sense of welcome, peace and Christian love. This little village is so historically and spiritually important. We have learned that not only would Little Walsingham develop our faith and love for God, but change us as individuals by personally experiencing him, too.

Walsingham surrounded us with an array of positive, young teenag-



ers who all bring a fresh presence of God; worshipping and learning with our own age group gave us the opportunity to experience a younger, energetic and modern aspect of Christianity. It bridged what seemed to us as a gap between church and youth. It has a profound effect on everyone that attends creating new, Christian friends and enabled spiritual and Christian growth. We can grasp knowledge about our faith in our own language, and flourish within it with the help of each other. This tiny village changes what you are. It renews old faith and encourages new faith, it allows God-given personality to blossom and it provides a pure and loving environment to know God and to know yourself.

This year, Lani and I travelled to Southern Tanzania in Africa to stay for three weeks. Whilst out there, we helped with construction and redecorating at a primary school in Iringa and trekked up Mount Rungwe, camping at the top of a waterfall and experiencing the culture Africa had to offer. From these events it was when I felt closest to God, despite being miles from home. The children we worked with lived off the very basic needs of life, which from our Westernised view seemed incredibly little. But to them, they continued without a complaint, were enthusiastic to learn and were utterly grateful for the smallest of things. Amongst this poverty, it may be easy to question 'where is God helping in this?' Yet through their smiles, laughs and absolute zest for life it was evident that He was present through the happiness of these children. They showed us that God works through everyone, especially

those who struggle, helping them to continue through his love and strength.

Walsingham had taught us how to pray, and that we can talk to God anywhere at any time, about anything. God is more personal and closer than we imagined. Half way up Mount Rungwe, the second tallest mountain in Tanzania, early in the morning, we were already struggling with lack of sleep and food and had uncomfortable 70litre rucksacks to carry, so the general mood of the group was low. I was feeling homesick and drained of every ounce of energy and enthusiasm. Before setting off for what was going to be one of the hardest hikes so far – four solid hours of steep climbing – I said a short prayer, remembering how close I felt to God at Walsingham. Even though I was thousands of miles from home, I still had my Father to give me strength and motivate me, always knowing he would keep me safe along my journey.

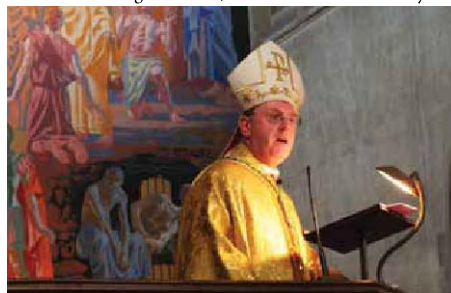
My spirits were suddenly lifted and I felt the happiest and most motivated out of the entire trip; singing and laughing as we climbed to the summit, filled with God's glory.

Without the experience of Walsingham, I believe that Lani and I would not have been inspired to take on such a journey, nor would we have been able to cope with the challenges we faced. Walsingham has such an overwhelming and memorable impact that it can completely alter how you perceive life and God. Through our encounters with God at Walsingham, we felt ready to conquer anything with Him by our side, and indeed we did.

Blessed and praised!

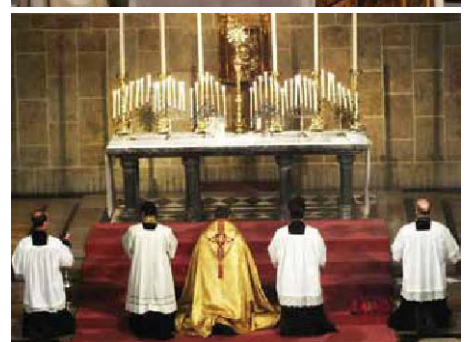
IN THE magnificent church of St Alban the Martyr, Holborn, on 10th November, a large number of Associates of the CBS with the Superior and Trustees, gathered to celebrate in splendid style the 150th anniversary of the society's foundation.

It was in 1862 that Canon Carter, Rector of Clewer, and a group of friends resolved, as he later recorded, "with a view of establishing a settled doctrine, and a basis of teaching as to main principles, according to what we believed to be Church of England truth, to form the Confraternity of



the Blessed Sacrament. There met for this purpose, besides Upton Richards [All Saints, Margaret Street] and myself, Chambers [St Mary's, Soho], Perry [St Michael's, Brighton], Cosby White [St Barnabas, Pimlico], Charles Lowder [St George's Mission, Wapping], Lyall [St Dionis, Backchurch, City of London] Mackonochie [St Alban's, Holborn], and Robert Brett [surgeon, of Stoke Newington; founder of many London churches]. We met in the common room of the Clergy House [Margaret Street]. The Manual shows what our principles were." Canon Carter was elected Superior and remained in office until 1897.

The Festival Mass, concelebrated by Superior General Bishop Roger Jupp with Bishops Robert Ladds and Jonathan Baker, and several priests-associate, was enhanced by the glorious music under the direction of Fr Simon Lumby. Stirring hymns, Mozart's Coronation Mass, a Tallis Motet, and Vierni voluntaries before and after the service, raised hearts as well as voices to heaven. Bishop Jupp's homily gave words of encouragement in these difficult times and urged us to guard what has been entrusted to us – Church of England truth – in the spirit of our founders. After lunch and the Annual Meeting, a procession of the Blessed Sacrament and Benediction brought a joyful and inspiring festival to a fitting close.



Winter Kitchen



flammable as the brandy will ignite and flare up). Remove Fillet and allow to cool. Retain the juices in the pan and use later for gravy. When cooled remove thread, if used.

Preheat oven to Mk 6, 210C, 190C Fan. Roll out the Puff Pastry on a lightly floured surface to ¼ inch thick and large enough, when trimmed to a rectangle, to wrap around the Fillet with an overlap of a good 1 inch. Moisten the Pastry between the overlapping edges with a light brush of water to ensure a seal. Place on a baking tray. Then use the Pastry trimmings to decorate the top with leaves and flowers. Fix them with a spot of water. Next lightly brush the Pastry with the beaten Egg Yolk.

Bake for about ½ an hour until the Pastry is a light golden brown. The Fillet will be medium rare. For it to be well done, continue baking for another 10 mins. at a lower temp. and with greaseproof paper covering the Pastry. Gas Mk 4, 180C, 160C Fan.

Carve at the table while the pastry is crisp and serve with your choicest of potato and vegetables.

are, please send it to Sandra Fowles
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Merry Christmas - answers

1	Joyeux Noel	France
2	Freiliche Weihnachten	Germany
3	Buon Natale	Italy
4	Selamat Natal	Indonesia
5	Muska Joulua	Finland
6	Priekgus Ziemassvētkus	Latvia
7	Baie Nardazme	Poland
8	Gesun Kristsindja	Albania
9	Nadolig Llawen	Wales
10	Nollag Shona	Ireland
11	God Jul	Norway
12	Boas Festas	Portugal
13	Feliz Navidad	Spain
14	Meri Joulunau	Sweden
15	Nollag dinnheil	Scotland
16	Glaedlig Jul	Denmark
17	Moeiniz kutlu olsun	Turkey
18	Feliz Natal	Portugal
19	Seun-tan chu-ka-nae-yo	Korea
20	Gleðileg Jól	Iceland

THERE WERE GIANTS IN THE LAND

A series of portraits of great Anglo-Catholics

WITHIN SIX years of Henry VIII's Act of Supremacy, eight hundred monastic houses in England had been closed. A way of life which had been part of the life of the English Church and nation since the appearance of the first missionaries, had been completely swept away. Many desired and prayed for the restoration of the Religious Life, of men and women living in communities, devoted to the worship of God and service to his people. A few isolated attempts at revival in the 17th and 18th centuries had no lasting results.

From the beginning of the Oxford Movement, serious consideration was given to the possibility of allowing women and men to hear and answer the call to serve God in this way. Pusey and Newman longed to see monastic life restored. The call came first to Marian Rebecca Hughes, daughter of a Gloucestershire Rector. After reading in 1840 of Newman's desire for a sisterhood in the Church of England, she was guided by Pusey and at St Mary's, the University Church at Oxford, on Trinity Sunday 1841, with the consent of Bishop Wilberforce, dedicated herself to live as a Religious under vows. She did so, however, alone for the following eight years, caring for her parents.

The first Sisterhood

In 1844, following the death of the Poet Laureate Robert Southey, a group of aristocratic laymen summoned by Lord John Manners (later Duke of Rutland) launched an appeal for a memorial project, the "Fund for Sisters of Mercy." The future Prime Minister W.E. Gladstone, composed and circulated the appeal for subscriptions. The letter contrasted the luxury and comfort enjoyed by the wealthy with the wretched poverty of the urban masses. This, it continued, was frightful "in a Christian nation, where the poor are more especially committed to our care, as members and representatives of Him 'who, being rich, for our sakes became poor.'" Southey had been deeply impressed by the work of communities he had seen abroad, and concluded that England was "grievously in need of Sisters of Charity." Prayers for restoration had at last been answered by the emergence of vocations. The time now seemed ripe "to take preliminary steps for facilitating the establishment and permanent maintenance of a Sisterhood living under a religious Rule, and engaged in relieving distress wherever it may be found. The works of mercy proposed included visiting the poor and sick in their homes, hospitals, workhouses and prisons; feeding, clothing, and educating the destitute; giving shelter to distressed women of good character; assisting in the burial of the dead.

A detached house, 17 Park Village, in the parish of Christ

Church, Albany Street, had been rented for three years, Rules for the community, to be called the Sisterhood of the Holy Cross, with daily Offices, had been drawn up, and three Sisters had already begun work with Dr Pusey as their Spiritual Superintendent. Six hours a day were to be given to active duties under the supervision of the incumbent Mr Dodsworth. The revival of the religious life had begun. Soon the Sisters received a visit from a young woman up from the West Country who came to see "what a sisterhood was like." This visitor, Miss Priscilla Lydia Sellon, daughter of Commander William Sellon R.N., would soon find the course of her life changed. That change would influence profoundly the development of women's work in England – in parochial activities, in nursing, in social service and in the mission field.

Religious vows

A few months after her visit to Park Village, Miss Sellon was suffering from the effects of a severe winter. In 1848, about to set sail for Madeira, the favourite resort of English invalids, she read an appeal from the Bishop of Exeter, Dr Henry Phillpotts, "to the Christian charity of England" for assistance with work in the poor and populous area of Devonport. To the daughter of a seaman this challenge came with particular force. Here was an opportunity for Christian service among the hundreds of sailors' families in the town. After consultation with her father, whose approval was readily given, and with further advice from Dr Pusey, she took rooms in the worst part of the town and began attacking the problems with the energy and determination that would be characteristic of her life's work.

"There was no school for the poor", she wrote. "Wild and neglected children swarmed in the streets where almost every third house was a beer-shop." By the summer she had established three schools, but her health had suffered further and she was forced to take a rest from her labours. Undaunted, she resolved to form a Sisterhood to carry on the work and gained the support of Bishop Phillpotts for her plans. Her father visited and was so impressed with what he saw that he gave her the share of his estate that would come to her on his death and negotiated the purchase of a Mission Chapel capable of holding seven hundred people. At Dr Pusey's request she stayed for an extended visit with the Park Village Sisters.

It is likely that he had wished her to join the Community and continue her Devonport work as a daughter house; but she was ap-



palled by the severity of the Rule and insisted that hers would be a new Community and she the Superior. Within two years she established an orphanage, a home for delinquent boys, a refuge for training girls for domestic service, a home for old sailors, a needlework school for seventy girls, five ragged schools, six model lodging-houses for poor families with a school attached, and a soup kitchen serving eighty meals a day. Despite these works of mercy the Community was subjected for many years to complaints and attacks from hostile low-church clergy and mobs that they and the popular press encouraged.

Opposition and persecution

It is hard for us, living in our largely secularised society, to realise how important religion was in the national consciousness of England in the nineteenth century. From the time of the Reformation, Roman Catholics had been viewed, at best with suspicion, as potentially disloyal subjects of a Protestant Monarch.

When Anglican Sisters appeared, looking and behaving like their Roman counterparts, they often faced hostility with physical as well as verbal abuse. The foundation of a new Abbey, designed without fee by Butterfield on ground bought by Sellon herself, was laid with ceremony in 1850. The Sisters put on a great feast for a thousand people. A Protestant mob invaded and wrecked everything, pelting the Sisters and their guests with potatoes and plates until a large force of police arrived to restore order and escort the Sisters to safety.

In the summer of 1849 there was an outbreak of cholera that started on a ship in Plymouth harbour

and spread rapidly. Within three days of its discovery there were hundreds of cases. Mother Lydia immediately deployed the Sisters, moving into Fr Prynne's neighbouring parish of St Peter, and calling on the London community for assistance. They established a temporary hospital and worked heroically for six months until the disease was eradicated. Sister Octavia, a novice in charge of the orphans, was the only Sister to die of cholera. She was nineteen years old. A further outbreak of cholera in 1853 was dealt with in the same dedicated manner. Again, one Sister died.

The reputation of the Sisters had reached the ears of Florence Nightingale who was forming a band of nurses to set sail for Constantinople. Mother Lydia was asked to supply eight Sisters to join the professional nurses and volunteers from RC Convents at Bermondsey and Norwood. The Sisters, who travelled in steerage class on a dilapidated boat, sleeping in cockroach-infested cabins with wet floors, barely survived the nightmarish journey that lasted a fortnight; but in dreadful conditions they distinguished themselves in their ministrations to the wounded from the Charge of the Light Brigade, the patients of Scutari hospital and Balacava. On their return they found that the London Sisters of the Holy Cross were to be merged with the Devonport Sisters of Mercy to become The Congregation of Religious of the Society of the Holy Trinity on 28th October 1856.

In 1866 an outbreak of cholera in the East End found the Sisters once again nursing the victims. Mother Lydia, despite her chronic invalidity and a paralytic stroke five years previously, had taken over an empty factory in Commercial Road and set it up as a hospital. Joined by Dr Pusey, Fr Lowder and his assistants, and the Haggerston Sisters led by Mother

Kate, they worked tirelessly, sending convalescent patients to the Priory at Ascot which had opened in 1863, funded largely by Pusey. Charles Wood (later Lord Halifax) was also a volunteer. Like many Anglo-Catholics, including Fr Stanton and Fr Tooth, he had reservations about Mother Lydia and her Society, mainly because the work was not overseen by parochial clergy. After working alongside her in the hospital he wrote, "Miss Sellon is quite wonderful. She was a woman against whom I have always had a sort of prejudice. She may have her faults... but her energy and power of organisation are marvellous, and the work that she is doing is thoroughly good." Pusey had never had any reservations. On the contrary, he had entertained a notion of her as Superior General of the fast-growing number of English communities. But, as Owen Chadwick puts it in his magisterial history of the Victorian Church, "Pusey knew too little of the world... and bowed too low before the forcible judgement of Miss Sellon, who paced her bridge like an admiral, forgetful of money and prudence."

Final expansion

Limited numbers in the Society necessitated the closure of some of the work in various places and the handing over to others of premises and activities; but Mother Lydia was always ready to consider new appeals. Her final and most extraordinary venture was the founding of a mission centre in Hawaii in 1864 at the request of the Bishop of Honolulu. She herself visited in 1867 and supervised the building of a girls' school.

In 1876, worn by her constant illness and her labours, she died while visiting West Malvern. She is buried in the grounds of Ascot Priory. The Society of the Holy Trinity came to an end in 2004 with the death of the last member, Mother Cecilia. Though the Society is no more, Lydia Sellon's achievements as its Foundress and Superior in those early years have given her a place in the Anglican Calendar where, on the anniversary of her death, 20th November, she is honoured as a Restorer of the Religious Life in the Church of England.

Forms of words for making a bequest to Forward in Faith in your Will



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FiF INTERCESSIONS

December 2012

- 1 FiF in Scotland (St Andrew's Day yesterday)
- 2 Entering more deeply into the spirituality of Advent
- 3 St Luke, Jersey, Fr David Jones (Winchester)
- 4 St Barnabas, Southampton, Canon Barry Fry (Winchester)
- 5 Holy Trinity, Winchester, Fr Malcolm Jones (Winchester)
- 6 St Peter's Anglican Church, Houston, Texas, Fr John Needham (USA)
- 7 St Chad, Leicester, Fr Martin Court, Deacon Clare King (Leicester)
- 8 Church's work with children and young people
- 9 Traditionalist Biblical scholars and theologians (Bible Sunday)
- 10 St Gabriel, Peverell Park, Plymouth, Fr Keith Haydon (Exeter)
- 11 St James the Great, Lower Gornal, Fr Julian Mott (Worcester)
- 12 All Saints with St Katherine and St Peter, Northampton, Fr David McConkey (Peterborough)
- 13 St Columba, Middlesbrough, Fr Stephen Cooper (York)
- 14 St John the Evangelist, Middlesbrough, Fr Stephen Cooper (York)
- 15 Lay Ministers and Pastoral Assistants of the traditional integrity
- 16 Guidance of Holy Spirit in discernment of vocations to the priesthood
- 17 St Wilfrid, Cantley (Sheffield)
- 18 St Mary, Handsworth, Fr Keith Johnson (Sheffield)
- 19 Holy Trinity, Doncaster, Fr Jeff Stokoe (Sheffield)
- 20 SS. Leonard & Jude, Doncaster, Fr Norman Pay (Sheffield)
- 21 St Nicholas, Plumstead, Fr Andrew Stevens (Southwark)
- 22 A spirit of penitence as we approach the feast of our Saviour's birth
- 23 Greater devotion to Jesus in the Scriptures, the Sacraments and the coming feast of the Incarnation
- 24 St Michael w St. James, Croydon (Southwark)
- 25 All traditionalist Christians as they rejoice in the Incarnation of our Lord Jesus Christ
- 26 St Luke, Kingston upon Thames, Fr Martin Hislop (Southwark)
- 27 St Stephen & St Mark, Lewisham, Fr Peter Hudson (Southwark)
- 28 St Olave, Mitcham, Fr Paul Ensor (Southwark)
- 29 English Parish Clergy and your own Parish Clergy in particular
- 30 Christian Family Life and our own families
- 31 St Martin, Fenny Stratford, Fr Victor Bullock (Oxford)

January 2013

- 1 World Peace
- 2 St Luke, Swindon (Bristol)
- 3 St Saviour, Swindon (Bristol)
- 4 St Mark, Swindon (Bristol)
- 5 The Society under the patronage of St Wilfrid and St Hilda
- 6 Missionary work
- 7 St John the Evangelist, Balby, Fr Alun Price (Sheffield)
- 8 St Catherine of Siena, Richmond Road, Sheffield, Fr Harold Loxley (Sheffield)
- 9 St John the Baptist, Mexborough, Fr David Wise (Sheffield)
- 10 Holy Trinity, Sneyd (Burslem), Fr Brian Williams (Lichfield)
- 11 St Peter, Rickerscote, Fr Graham Paul Bott (Lichfield)
- 12 International Commission for Anglican-Orthodox Theological Dialogue (ICAOTD)
- 13 International Anglican-Roman Catholic Commission for Unity and Mission (IARCCUM)
- 14 St Margaret & St Chad, Hollinwood & Limeside, Oldham, Fr David Hawthorn, Fr Simon Sayer (Manchester)
- 15 St Paul, Royton, Fr Peter McEvitt (Manchester)
- 16 All Saints with St Saviour, Weston-super-Mare, Fr Andrew Hughes (Bath & Wells)
- 17 St Bede, Birmingham, Alabama, Fr Buford Braswell (USA)
- 18 All Saints, East St Kilda, Fr James Bishop, Fr Neil Fryer, Fr Ian Hunter (Australia)
- 19 The unity of all Christian people in the Truth Which is Christ
- 20 Ecumenical partners of Forward in Faith
- 21 Emmanuel, Wylde Green (Birmingham)
- 22 St Agatha, Sparkbrook, Fr John Herve (Birmingham)
- 23 St Mark, Washwood Heath, Fr Alan Thompson (Birmingham)
- 24 Most Holy Saviour, Saltley, Fr Alan Thompson (Birmingham)
- 25 St Mary the Virgin, Cottingham, Fr Paul Smith (York)

- 26 Church Schools, their teachers and children (Education Sunday)
- 27 Editorial Board of Forward Teaching, FiF Sunday School Course
- 28 St Mary, Mendlesham, Fr Philip Gray (St Edmundsbury & Ipswich)
- 29 St Mary at the Elms, Ipswich, Fr Stephen Raine (St Edmundsbury & Ipswich)
- 30 All Saints, St Ives, Fr Mark Amey (Ely)
- 31 St Edmund, Downham Market, Fr James Mather (Ely)

February 2013

- 1 St Peter, West Lynn, Fr Andrew Davey (Ely)
- 2 Those publishing Traditionalist Christian Web sites & those who log on to them
- 3 Glyn Webster as he begins his new ministry as Bishop of Beverley
- 4 The Ascension, Chelmsford, Fr Thomas Page (Chelmsford)
- 5 St Alban, Romford, Fr Roderick Hingley (Chelmsford)
- 6 St Francis of Assisi, Bournemouth (Winchester)
- 7 St Augustine, Bexhill-on-Sea, Fr Robert Coates (Chichester)
- 8 St Saviour, Portsea, Fr Roger Calder (Portsmouth)
- 9 Worthy preparation for Lent
- 10 Renewal of the Church in spirit of penitence
- 11 St Andrew, Birchills, Walsall, Fr Ian Templeton (Lichfield)
- 12 St John the Evangelist, Tipton (Lichfield)
- 13 All Saints, Benilton, Fr Peter Harnden (Southwark)
- 14 All Saints, South Wimbledon, Fr Michael Blackman (Southwark)
- 15 St Agnes, Kennington Park, Fr Martin Eastwood (Southwark)
- 16 Greater eagerness for sacred study
- 17 The hungry of the world (Family Fast Day on Friday)
- 18 St Stephen on the Cliffs, Blackpool, Fr Andrew Sage (Blackburn)
- 19 St Bartholomew, Armley with St Mary of Bethany New Wortley, Fr Ian Wright (Ripon & Leeds)
- 20 St Barnabas, Crewe, Fr Ralph Powell (Chester)
- 21 St Peter, Stockport (Chester)
- 22 St Paul, Charlestown (Truro)
- 23 Fr Julian Laurence, Regional Dean of West Wessex, & FiF in Bath & Wells, Bristol & Salisbury
- 24 Fr Mike Bartlett, Regional Dean of the Marches, & FiF in Gloucester, Hereford & Worcester
- 25 St Jude, Hexthorpe, Fr Stephen Edmonds (Sheffield)
- 26 St Wilfrid, Hickleton, Fr Carl Schaefer (Sheffield)
- 27 St John & St Mary Magdalene, Goldthorpe, Fr Carl Schaefer (Sheffield)
- 28 St Saviour, Raynes Park, Fr Michael Blackman (Southwark)

March 2012

- 1 All Saints, Sydenham, Fr Philip Smith (Southwark)
- 2 Credo Cymru, Forward in Faith in Wales (St David's Day last Thursday)
- 3 Fr Beaumont Brandie, Regional Dean of Scotland & FiF in Scottish Dioceses
- 4 St Crispin, Manchester, Fr Patrick Davies (Manchester)
- 5 The Ascension, Lower Broughton, Fr David Wyatt (Manchester)
- 6 The Most Holy Trinity, Blackley, Fr Philip Stamp (Manchester)
- 7 St Luke, Dukinfield (Chester)
- 8 St Michael & All Angels, Penwerris, Fr Mark Mesley (Truro)
- 9 Renewal of Christian Family Life
- 10 Our mothers (living and departed)
- 11 St John the Evangelist, Chopwell, Fr Paul Murray (Durham)
- 12 St James the Apostle, Owton Manor, Hartlepool, Fr Stephen Locke (Durham)
- 13 St Oswald, Hartlepool, Fr Graeme Buttery (Durham)
- 14 St Ignatius the Martyr, Hendon, Fr Andrew Jones (Durham)
- 15 St Mary, Horden, Fr Kevin Smith, Fr David Carr (Durham)
- 16 Fr Ross Northing, Regional Dean of Oxford, & FiF in Diocese of Oxford
- 17 Traditionalist Christians in Ireland (St Patrick's Tide)
- 18 St Helen, Auckland, Fr Robert McTeer, Fr Grant Naylor (Durham)
- 19 St Mary Magdalene, Millfield, Sunderland, Fr Beresford Skelton, Fr David Raine (Durham)
- 20 St James the Great, Darlington (Durham)
- 21 St Silas, with All Saints & St James, Pentonville, Fr Rayner Wakeling (London)
- 22 St Anselm, Hatch End, Prebendary Clive Pearce (London)
- 23 Penitents
- 24 Devout keeping of Holy Week

Parish of Godshill

All Saints:

Carol Service: Advent 4 at 7pm
Midnight Mass: 12pm
Christmas Day: 11am

St Alban's, Ventnor

Carol Service: Advent 1 at 3pm
St Nicholas Children's service
5pm December 6th
Midnight Mass: 11pm
Christmas Day: 9.30am
Fr John Ryder 01983 840895

Parish of Tivdale Oldbury, West Midlands

(PP: Fr Martin Ennis - 01384 257888)

Parish Church of St Michael's, Tivdale Road and Holy Cross Mission Church Ashleigh Road

Christmas Season

SM - Christmas Eve
11.30pm Midnight Mass
SM - Christmas Day
9.30am Mass of the Day
HC - Christmas Eve
6pm Crib Mass

Ss James and John Wednesbury

Advent Sundays

9am Said Mass
9.45am Sung Mass

Christmas Eve

5.30pm Crib Service
11.30pm Midnight Mass

Christmas Day

10am Said Mass

For other Services or enquiries ring

Fr Kevin Palmer on
021 505 1568

St Barnabas West Street, Crewe A,B&C

For Confessions and Daily Mass times:

01270 212418

Christmas Eve

5pm Crib Service for Families
and Children

11pm Midnight Mass and
Blessing of the Crib

Christmas Day

10am Solemn Mass
and Procession to the Crib
Sunday 30th December
10am Solemn Mass
5.30pm Low Mass
6pm Carol Service and Benediction

Vicar: Fr Ralph Powell SSC

ST MARY MAGDALENE

The Parish of Winton
Westbourne Road, Eccles, Manchester
A Forward in Faith Parish

24th December - Christmas Eve

5pm Crib Service
11.30pm Midnight Mass

25th December - Christmas Day

10am Sung Family Mass

30th December - Feast of the Holy Family

10am Sung Mass

1st January - Mary, Mother of God

10am Sung Mass

6th January - The Epiphany of the Lord

10am Sung Mass

For more information please see
the church noticeboards or ring
Fr Ian Hall ssc on 0161 788 8991

Pray for all FiF members and parishes

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Forward! plus **EVENTS**

Got a parish mission coming up? A quiet day? A fundraising drive? A patronal celebration?

We invite you to send details of your upcoming events and we will list them **FREE OF CHARGE!**

Please send details to: Colin Niblett, FiF Office, 2A The Cloisters, Gordon Square, London WC1H 0AG.

Telephone 020 7388 3588

Email FiF.UK@forwardinfaith.com

Date	Where	Time	What	Contact	Telephone
FOR ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS SERVICES SEE PARISH ADVERTS					
1 Dec	St Mary's Church Somers Town, Eversholt Street, London. NW1 1BN	10.30am - 4pm	God Calling! Annual Vocations Day Conference "Living Priesthood" The Conference goes interactive this year. Come and spend a day in a busy London parish and learn more about the priesthood today. Major input from Fr Philip North CMP. This day is open to those all men exploring a call to the priesthood whether or not you have been on one of our conferences before. www.godcallingvocations.org.uk/	Fr Darren Smith	0121 382 5533 info@additionalcurates.co.uk
13-16	S. Andrew, Barrow Hill, Chesterfield	10am - 4pm 13th - 15th. 3pm - 16th	3rd Annual Festival of Christmas Trees. A magical display of trees decorated by local community groups. To be opened by the Mayor of Chesterfield. Choir, Carols & Cocoa with Staveley District United Churches Choir	Fr David Teasdel	01246 472270
19	S. Mary the Virgin, Rotherhithe	7pm	Ordination to the Priesthood of Richard Norman by the Bishop of Edmonston. First Mass: 7 pm 20th December also at S. Mary's		
21	S. Agnes, Toxteth Park, Liverpool	7.30pm	Patronal Festival: Concelebrated Mass. Preacher: Fr Alan Cooke	Fr Christopher Cook	0151 733 1742
1 Feb	S. Paul the Apostle, Croxteth, Liverpool	7.30pm	Patrol (transferred from 25th Jan due to Consecration at York Minster) Concelebrated Mass. Preacher: Fr Grant Naylor	Fr Ian Brooks	0151 548 9009
25 May	Cumber Park Chapel, Workop	12 noon	The 2013 Requiem for Henry, 7th Duke of Newcastle. Followed by the Clumber Lecture in the Chapel by Fr Philip Corbett of Pusey House, entitled: "I will go to the house of the Lord: The Seventh Duke of Newcastle and his parishes"	Fr Nicholas Spicer	01909 472180
8 Jun	Shrine of Our Lady of Boulogne	12.00 noon (CET)	London & Southwark FiF Annual Pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of Boulogne: Principal Celebrant: Bishop Robert Ladds. Preacher: Fr Rayner Wakeling	Fr Malcolm Gray Fr Andrew Stevens	020 8950 7860 020 8854 0461
18-19 Oct	Emmanuel Centre London SW1	TBC	Forward in Faith National Assembly	Forward in Faith www.forwardinfaith.com/na	020 7388 3588
19	Christ the King, Gordon Square WC1	TBC	Forward in Faith National Assembly Mass	Forward in Faith	020 7388 3588

The Parish of Hawley
www.hawleygreen.org
Surrey/Hants Border

Christmas Eve
6pm Children's Service at Holy Trinity
11.30pm Midnight Mass at Holy Trinity, Hawley Green

Christmas Day
9.15am Sung Mass at All Saints, Chapel Lane
11am Sung Mass at Holy Trinity, Hawley Green
Fr Martyn Neale
01276 35287

Christmas at S. Luke, Southport

Christmas Eve
11.30pm Procession, Blessing of the Crib & Solemn High Mass (Traditional English Missal Rite)
Christmas Day
10.30am Mass of the Day with Carols (The NEW 2011 English Missal Rite)
Wednesday 26th, Thursday 27th, Friday 28th December
11am Low Mass and Holy Communion
Sunday 30th December
10.30am Solemn Sung Mass
for more information see our website www.sluke.co.uk
or contact Brian Heaton (Warden)
Tel: 0770 345 6789

St Barnabas
127 Snakes Lane East
Woodford Green IG8 7HX

Christmas Eve
5pm Christingle
11.30pm Blessing of the Crib and Sung Mass
Christmas Day
9.30am Sung Mass
Octave of Christmas: 9.30 am
Fr W Obedoza 0203 659 4023
fathorbedoza@gmail.com

St Gabriel's
Fullbrook, Walsstead Road
Walsall WS5 4LZ

Sunday 9th December
4.30pm Parish Carol Service
Christmas Eve
4pm Christingle
11.30pm Midnight Mass
Christmas Day
8am Mass
10am Parish Mass
Fr Mark McIntyre 01922 622583

The Parish Church of S James the Great
Albert Hill
Darlington DL1 2LP

Tuesday 18 December
6pm Family Carol Service followed by wine and mince pies
Christmas Eve
11.30am Midnight Mass
Christmas Day
10am Parish Mass
Further information on the parish website: www.sjamesthegreatdarlington.weebly.com
or telephone 07770 616263
A Forward in Faith Parish

St Michael
Thorpe-le-Soken
Near Clacton-on-Sea

Christmass Eve
4.30pm Crib Service
11.30pm Solemn Midnight Mass and Blessing of the Crib
Christmass Day
10am Family Mass
Daily Mass
Fr Jeremy Dowding SSC
01255 861234

St Michael and All Angels
Tonbridge Road, Maidstone

Sunday 23rd December
10.30am Mass 2.30pm Christingle
Christmas Eve
11.30pm Midnight Mass & Blessing of the Crib
Christmas Day
10.30am Morning Prayer
Contact Jeanette Ardley 01 622 664678

All Saints with St Saviour
All Saints Road
Weston-super-Mare BS23 2NL
A Forward in Faith Parish, everyone welcome

CHRISTMAS SERVICES
Tuesday 19th December
7.30pm Carol Service for Cancer Research UK
December 24th - Christmas Eve
5pm Crib Service
11.30pm Midnight Mass and Blessing of the Crib
December 25th - Christmas Day
10am Said Mass with Carols
December 26th
10am St Stephen - Mass
December 27th
10am St John - Mass
Sunday 30th December
8am Mass
10am The Parish Mass
Contact: Fr Andrew Hughes
Tel: 01934 204217
[email: allsaintsoffice@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:allsaintsoffice@tiscali.co.uk)
Visit our website www.allsaintswsm.org.uk

St Peter
Bushey Heath - ABC

Christmas Eve
6.30pm Carols by Candlelight
11.30pm First Mass of the Nativity
Christmas Day
8am Low Mass
9.30am Family Mass with carols
Contact Fr Andrew Burton SSC
020 8950 1424
www.stpeterbusheyheath.org.uk

St Dunstan with Holy Angels
Cranford

The nearest F in F Parish to Heathrow Airport
Christmas Eve
4pm Nine Lessons and Carols (Holy Angels)
11.30pm First Mass of Christmass (Holy Angels)
Christmas Day
10.30am Solemn Mass of the Day (Holy Angels)
Sunday 30th - Holy Family
9.30am Solemn Mass (Holy Angels)
11.15am Solemn Mass (St Dunstan's)
Rector: Fr Michael Gill SSC
020 8897 8836

St Luke's
Holbrooks, Coventry

Sunday 16th December
4pm Family Carol Service (with Coventry Festival Band)
Christmas Eve
11pm Midnight Mass by Candlelight
Christmas Day
8am & 10am Mass
Contact Fr Kit Dunkley for information and times of Confessions: 024 7668 8604

WINCHESTER
Holy Trinity, Upper Brook Street

Friday 21st December
7pm Carols and mince pies
Sunday 23rd December
10.30am Parish Mass
Christmas Eve
8pm First Mass of Christmas
Christmas Day
10.30am Parish Mass
Wednesday 26th December
12 noon Said Mass
Thursday 27th December
12 noon Low Mass
Sunday 30th December - Holy Family
10.30am Parish Mass
Sunday 6th January - Epiphany
10.30am Parish Mass 6pm Benediction
For details of other Services contact Fr Malcom Jones SSC
01962 810223 (Parish Office)
or Churchwarden, Barbara Smith 01264 720887
[email: enquiries@holymidwaywinchester.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@holymidwaywinchester.co.uk)
Website: www.holytrinitywinchester.co.uk

St Michael
Coppenhall, Crewe

Christmas Eve
6pm Crib Service & Christingle
11pm Midnight Mass of Christmas
Christmas Day
8am Mass
10am Sung Mass with Carols
ABC Parish under the care of the Bishop of Beverley
Contact: Fr Charles Razzall SSC
01270 215151

All Saints
Twickenham

Christmas Eve
10pm Mass of the Nativity of the Lord
Christmas Day
11am Parish Mass
Fr Alex Lane 0208 894 3580
Website: allsaintstwickenham.co.uk

ALL SAINTS' CHURCH
Durham Road, East Finchley, London N2 9DP

Sunday 23rd December
6.30pm Christmas Carol Service followed by mulled wine and mince pies
Monday 24th December Christmas Eve
3pm Children's Christmas Service with carols
11.30pm Sung Midnight Mass with Blessing of the Crib followed by wine and mince pies
Tuesday 25th December Christmas Day
8am Mass of the Dawn
10am Sung Mass of Christmas Day
Vicar: Fr Christopher Hardy SSC
020 8883 9315
www.allsaints-eastfinchley.org.uk

St Agatha, Sparkbrook & St Barnabas, Balsall Heath
Birmingham

Christmas Eve
6.30pm Youth Mass (St Agatha's)
11.30pm Midnight Mass (St Agatha's)
Christmas Day
9am Sung Mass (St Barnabas)
11.15am Sung Mass (St Agatha's)
Contact: Canon John Herve SSC
0121 440 4605

Saint Silas, Pentonville

Penton St N1 (nr Angel tube)
Sunday 23rd December
6pm Christmas Carols & Readings
Christmas Eve
4pm Blessing of the Christmas Crib
Christmas Day
11.30pm Midnight Mass
Christmas Day - 25 Dec
11am Festival Mass
Wishing you a Blessed and Happy Christmas
Father Wakeling 020 7837 4228
www.saint-silas.org.uk

**The Good Shepherd
Furnham, Chard**
Christmas Eve
11.30pm Midnight Mass
Christmas Day
9.45am Sung Mass
Contact Heather McCann
on 01460 64531

**St Helen's Parish Church
West Auckland Bishop Auckland**
Sunday 23rd Dec (Advent 4)
10am Parish Mass
6pm The Parish Carol Service
Christmas Eve
4pm Christingle Service
11.30pm Midnight Mass by Candlelight
Christmas Day
9.30am Family Mass of Christmas Day
Sunday 6th January 2013
The Epiphany of the Lord
10am Parish Mass - followed by the
Epiphany Lunch in the Parish Centre
4pm Solemn Evensong and Benediction
Daily Mass
during the Christmas Octave
Canon Robert McTeer SSC 01388 604152
www.sthelenschurch.co.uk

**The Parish Church
of St Saviour
Smallthorne, Stoke on Trent**
www.smallthorne.org
Christmas Eve
3pm Christingle
11.30pm Midnight Mass &
Blessing of the Crib
Christmas Day
10am Family Mass
**The Parish Church
of St Anne
Brown Edge**
Christmas Eve
11.30pm Midnight Mass &
Blessing of the Crib
Christmas Day
10am Family Mass
For more information contact
Fr Richard Grigson: 01782 835941
Email:
richard.grigson@smallthorne.org
[twitter@SSaviours](https://twitter.com/SSaviours)

**St Gabriel
Pimlico, London, SW1**
Thursday 20th December
Nine Lessons and Carols 7pm
Christmas Eve
"Come to the Manger"
children's service 3:30pm
Carols 11:30pm
Midnight Mass (midnight!)
Christmas Day
Mass 8am Parish Mass 10:30am
contact: frluke@st-gabriels.com
website: www.st-gabriels.com

**St Agnes
Kennington Park
St Agnes Place, SE11**
*ABC FiF (nearest tube Oval or
Kennington on the Northern Line)*
Sunday 16th December
6pm Carol Service
Sunday 23rd December
10am Parish Mass, 4pm Nativity
Service and Children's Party
Christmas Eve
11.30pm Midnight Mass
Christmas Day
10am Parish Mass
Contact: Keith Potter 0207
582 0032 or 07961 869201

**S. Stephen on the Cliffs
Blackpool**
Sunday 23rd December
18.00 Candlelit Carol Service
24th December
16.30 Children's Crib Service
Christmas Day
23.45 Solemn Midnight Mass,
with procession of the Bambino
and Blessing of the Crib
09.00 Said Mass of Dawn
10.30 Solemn Mass
Wednesday 26th - S. Stephen
Patron Saint of the parish
10.30 Procession and Solemn Mass
Canon Andrew Sage
andrewsage@aol.com 01253 351484

**CHRISTMAS SERVICES
AT ST PETER'S, FOLKESTONE**
CHRISTMAS EVE - SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24th
11.30pm Christmas Midnight Mass
CHRISTMAS DAY - SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25th
10.30am SOLEMN MASS

**St Peter's
Crabbs Cross, Redditch**
Christmas Eve
11.30pm Solemn Midnight Mass
Christmas Day
10am Mass of the Day
St Stephen
9am Mass
Sunday 30th, Holy Family
8am Mass 10am Sung Mass
9am Mass during the Octave
Fr Mike Bartlett SSC
01527 545709

**SS Stephen and Mark
Lewisham**
(opposite Lewisham Station and DLR
12 mins from Charing Cross)
Christmas Eve
11.30pm Midnight Mass
Christmas Day
10am Parish Mass
St Stephen
11am Parish Mass
Fr Peter Hudson
Priest Administrator
0208 318 0483

**St Martin
Lewes Road, Brighton**
Sunday 23rd December
6pm Carols for Everyone
Christmas Eve
5pm Children's Crib Service
11.30pm Midnight Mass
Christmas Day
10am Mass of the Day
Canon Trevor Buxton
01273 604687

**Holy Family
Lord Lane
Failsworth, Manchester**
Christmas Eve
4pm Christingle
10pm First Mass of Christmas
Christmas Day
10am Parish Mass
Holy Family
9.15am Patronal Festival Mass
Contact - Fr Tony Mills
0161 681 3644

**St John the Evangelist
Queen's Road, Clevedon, BS21 7TH**
Sunday 16th December
5pm Service of Lessons & Carols
Christmas Eve
5.30pm Christingle Service
11.30pm Midnight Mass of the Holy
Nativity
Christmas Day
8am Said Mass
10.30am Family Mass
For full details of all services please see
www.achurchnearyou.com/clevedon-st-john
or contact the Parish Priest
Parish Priest: Fr Roger Jackson SSC
01275 341830

**St Michael
Coppenhall, Crewe**
Christmas Eve
6pm Crib Service & Christingle
11pm Midnight Mass of Christmas
Christmas Day
8am Mass
10am Sung Mass with Carols
ABC Parish under the care
of the Bishop of Beverley
Contact: Fr Charles Razzall SSC
01270 215151

**St Paul's Church
Royton &
Holy Trinity Shaw**
Christmass Eve
8pm (at Holy Trinity)
First Mass of Christmass and
Blessing of the Crib
11.30pm (at St Paul's)
First Mass of Christmass and
Blessing of the Crib
Christmass Day
9.30am Parish Mass (St Paul's)
11am Parish Mass (Holy Trinity)
For further information
contact the Parish Priest:
Fr Peter McEvitt
01706 843485
frpetermcevit@googlemail.com

**St Magnus the Martyr
London Bridge**
Christmas Eve: December 24th
6pm HIGH MASS OF THE NATIVITY
*Kempter: Pastoralmesse
Poulenc: Hodie Christus natus est
Schnabel: Transseamus usque Bethlehem*
Christmas Day: December 25th
11am Low Mass
Holy Family Sunday: December 30th
11am HIGH MASS
*Faure: Messe Basse
Warlock: Balulalow*
Epiphany: January 6th
11am HIGH MASS
*Tallis: Mass for 4 voices
Byrd: Vidimus stellam*
Sunday January 13th
11am HIGH MASS
and Blessing of the Thames
*Turner: Mass of St John the Baptist
Palestrina: Tribus miraculis*
www.stmagnusmartyr.org.uk
Fr Philip Warner 020 7626 4481

**SACRED HEART
MISSION COMMUNITY
PLYMOUTH**
ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST, SUTTON-ON-PLYM
ST GABRIEL THE ARCHANGEL, PEVERELL PARK
ST SIMON THE APOSTLE, MOUNT GOULD
AND ST MARY THE VIRGIN, LAIRA
*Parishes under the Extended Episcopal Care
of the Bishop of Plymouth*
Christmas Eve
St Gabriel's PL3 4JJ
3pm Crib Service
5pm Vigil Mass of Christmass
St Mary's PL3 6BR
7pm Vigil Mass of Christmass
St Simon's PL4 8TA
11.30pm Midnight Mass
Christmas Day
St John's PL4 0NG
11am Mass of the Day
St John's Feast of Title
Noon Solemn Mass
Parish Priest: Fr Keith Haydon 01752 220644

**St Mary the Virgin
Kettering (Fuller Street)**
Christmas Eve
4pm "Come to the Manger"
Carol Service
10.30pm Midnight Mass and
Blessing of the Crib
Christmas Day
10.15am Family Mass with
Blessing of Toys
Fr Ben Archibald SSC
www.stmk.org.uk

**St Oswald's
Hartlepool**
Christmas Eve
9.30am Mass
5pm Carol Service and Nativity
11.30pm Midnight Mass
Christmas Day
9.30am Sung Mass
Parish Priest: Fr Graeme Buttery SSC
01429 273201

**St Lawrence
Long Eaton
Nottingham (diocese of Derby)**
Christmas Eve
4pm Crib Service
11.30pm Midnight Mass
Christmas Day
9.30am Sung Mass
Parish Office: 07570 597873
Holy Trinity
Ilkeston
Nottingham (diocese of Derby)
Sunday 23rd December:
6pm Carol Service
Christmas Eve
11.30pm Midnight Mass
Christmas Day
11am Sung Mass
Parish Office: 0115 916 0606
Bishop Roger Jupp SSC

**St Matthew
Willesden NW10 2QS**
Christmas Eve
11.30pm Midnight Mass
and Blessing of the Crib
Christmas Day
10am Mass
Parish Priest: Fr Colin Patterson SSC
020 8459 2670

**LONDON SW20
St Saviour
Grand Drive, Raynes Park**
Christmas Eve
5pm Crib Service
11.30pm Midnight Mass
Christmas Day
9.30am Sung Eucharist,
Contact: Fr Michael Blackman 020 8542 2787

**The Holy Cross
Marsh Farm, Luton**
Christmass 2012
24 December
20.00 Solemn Mass During the Night
with Blessing of the Crib
Celebrant and Preacher:
Father Alisdair Coles
25 December
10.00 Solemn Mass During the Day
Celebrant: The Right Reverend
Norman Banks SSC
Preacher: Father John Belither SSC
Enquiries during the Interregnum,
please telephone: 01582 598442
A very Happy Christmass and
Peaceful New Year

**St Luke
Kingston-upon-Thames**
Sunday 16th
5pm Family Carol Concert with
Canbury Singers
Christmas Eve
4.30pm Crib Service 11pm Midnight Mass
Christmas Day
8am Mass 10.30am Sung Mass
Sunday 27th: Feast of St Stephen
(Boxing Day)
8am 8am Mass of the Nativity
10.30am Sung Mass
Contact: Fr Martin Hislop
(Parish Office) Tel: 020 8549 4551
www.stlukeskingston.org.uk

**St Saviour & St Peter
Eastbourne**
Christmas Eve
4.30pm Service of
Lessons and Carols
11.30pm Midnight Mass
Christmas Day
8am Mass of the Dawn
10.30am Solemn Mass
of the Day
Fr Jeffery Gunn
01323 722317

St Giles-in-Reading
Christmas Eve
4pm Family Crib Service
12am Midnight Mass
Christmas Day
9.15am Low Mass
10.30am Sung Mass
Parish Priest: Fr David Harris
01189 572831
Website: www.stgilesinreading.org.uk

**St Peter's
Bath Road, Devizes**
Sunday 23rd December
6pm Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols
Christmas Eve
4.30pm Christingle and Crib Service
11.15pm Midnight Mass with
Procession and Blessing of the Crib
Christmas Day
10am Low Mass with Carols
and Visit to the Crib
26th, 27th and 28th December
10am Low Mass
Fr Peter Moss SSC 01380 724785



Fr Crotchet's Corner

Dear Perfect Wagnerites (and others)

WRITE to you from the heart of a brave new world. Gastin Exxonby has just been bought in from the oil industry as the next Archbishop of Canterbury for a transfer fee of \$20M (his baptism is scheduled for Christmas), the BBC has collapsed into an orgy of self-recrimination, and generally speaking, it has been a good week to bury bad news. 'Bury' is not really the word. Actually, it's more a question of 'digging up'. As you may remember, the dog Filioque has dug up and mauled the sacred remains of St Aram of Finchlievostok and Jean-Louis and I have managed to remove the evidence (or, rather, the left-overs) and put our heads together as to what to do. In brief, we took the old Orthodox priest's hat that had been one of Filioque's most treasured toys since he captured it from a trespasser, put it near the open grave and phoned the police. The theft of the sacred relics of St Aram did not make the national news, thank goodness, and the event was only marked by the sorrowful visit of an Orthodox delegation to whom we graciously granted access to the corpse at the bottom of the vicarage gardens. Their own representatives had already been interviewed by the police, who had presented them with the evidence of the orthodox tifter – a sure sign that one or other Orthodox denomination had made off with this part of the eternal universal patrimony of the entire Orthodox church. As the police inspector remarked to them, 'it's a game of copse and robbers, Reverend'. This the Orthodox believed, and their final liturgy of mutual excommunication at the empty shrine was most affecting.

THREATENED you with more talk of Wagner's *Die Meistersinger* in my last article. Since then I have spent approximately a hundred hours listening to the good folk of Nuremberg going about their business and most of it has been a very great pleasure. I still remain profoundly unconvinced by the much-lauded Kubelik performance on Arts Archives 43020-2 (which claims it is a studio recording from 1967) and Myto 4 MCD 925.69 (which claims it is live). I have seen this described on the net as being a 'state-

of-the-art' recording of a performance with a fine cast which includes Thomas Stewart as Sachs, Sándor Kónya as Stolzing, and Gundula Janowitz as Eva. The great maestro Rafael Kubelik conducts his Bavarian Radio Symphony forces. Well, the recording is dreadful: up-front, two-dimensional, with the voices and even orchestral sections inhabiting discrete partitions in the sound picture. The Arts Archives is the better of the two, but that is not saying much. The sound quite simply sabotages the performance. I cannot believe that Kubelik, who I heard live and for whom I have the highest admiration, turned in this metrical, four-square, lyrically insensitive performance. I could only bear to listen to it on the car radio while driving on motorways in the rain at 70 m.p.h. It sounds like the work of the U.S. Marine Corps Operatic Society. I hope that this performance can one day be rescued from its sonics so that we can judge the fine singing more sympathetically, but this is not Kubelik's finest hour, and Kónya does sound very Hungarian sometimes.

ALOT of the hype around the Kubelik set was generated by disappointment in some quarters that it had been passed over in favour of the Deutschen Oper Berlin performance conducted by Eugen Jochum, with Fischer-Dieskau as Sachs, Plácido Domingo as Walther, and among other worthies, Christa Ludwig as a luxury-cast Magdalene. This is indeed a disappointment. The orchestra is mediocre. The beginning of Act Two is a messy approximation of the music, which is extraordinary in a studio recording. Domingo can sing the notes, which is a plus, but sounds wrong. He certainly sounds as if he has come from somewhere considerably further south than Franconia. Fischer-Dieskau sings Sachs with all his usual lieder-singer's skill and attention to detail, and that's the problem. The long lines of Wagner's *unendliche Melodie* seem to be of no interest to him. I can always listen to this odd recording with pleasure, but it's a real curate's egg, and should be set aside if you are looking for an *ur-Meistersinger*. Some suggest that Jochum's live performance of 1949 with Hotter is the Holy Grail as far as this piece is concerned, but that recording is not currently available.

So, what are we looking for? Well, a real sensitivity to the particular style of

this very specific Wagner opera, for a start. We need a conductor, singers and orchestral and choral forces that can not only command the notes, but also the long, subtle, interweaving lines of the music. We need voices that sound right in their parts (which Domingo and Fischer-Dieskau do not). We need electricity and passion tempered with a firm grip of the emotional and dramatic structure of a piece that lasts about four and a half hours. Live performances have a great advantage, but not always. The DVD of the Metropolitan Opera production conducted by Levine enshrines one of the duller and most soporific performances imaginable. The magnificent girth of the conductor and the Walther (Ben Heppner) make it look like a Tellytubbies' convention. This has none of the thrill of a live event. The Deutsche Oper Berlin performance conducted by Rafael Frühbeck de Burgos with Wolfgang Brendel as Sachs is more like the real thing, despite some slightly coy acting from some members of the cast. This is still available on Arthaus Musik 100152 and is available from amazon.co.uk at the expensive price of £31.72. There is a Barenboim DVD from Bayreuth of a modern-style production upon which I shall report after Father Christmas has delivered it.

STYLE – well, that is something that Norman Bailey has in spades. He sings Sachs on the first *Meistersinger* that Solti recorded in the Sofiensaal with the Vienna Philharmonic in 1975. This performance was received very coolly upon its first release, despite widespread appreciation of Bailey's performance. Solti later admitted that he thought everyone was having an off day or two. I think that the set is grossly underestimated, despite its several faults. The VPO play the preludes to the three acts beautifully and Bailey sings Wagner's lines with a breathtaking sensitivity and understanding that probably has something to do with his long collaboration with Sir Reginald Goodall, that master of the Wagnerian *unendliche Melodie*. Solti loses his head from time to time and, in Act 3, sounds as if he would rather be conducting *Rigoletto*. The Eva is not great, and Kollo has some moments of brutal singing, as does the David in Act 1, but this is a set that I shall treasure for the things that are right with it.

It is available cheaply on 475 6680 (£21.47 on Amazon). Solti's later, Chicago, recording is highly regarded by some, particularly for the singing and playing, and for the thoughtful interpretation of Sachs by José van Dam. It does not begin to penetrate the work's Germanic soul, but is the sort of tour-de-force which is much appreciated by some.

KARAJAN can wait in the wings no more. At the first Bayreuth Festival after the war, in 1951, he electrified audiences with a *Meistersinger* which grasped the knock-about comedy of the piece as none other. All the cast members do a good job, and there is no real disappointment, even if Otto Edelmann's portrayal of Sachs is not the most reflective and commanding in the archives. In it we hear the youngish Elizabeth Schwarzkopf bring her feline sensibilities to the role of Eva, an assumption that would keep this set in the catalogue even if the rest of it was not so splendid. The disadvantage is the abundance of clunky stage noise, but this set really gives you a feeling for the advantages of a 'live' performance. I have the EMI transfer which is currently only available in a huge box set, but the Naxos version is available on 811087275 at only £14.50 from europadisc.co.uk.

Knappertsbusch conducted much of the same cast in the following year at Bayreuth, and that performance remains probably the best of the four from him currently available. You do not get the wonderful Sachs of Paul Schöffler which is preserved in the Decca VPO recording of 1951 (a performance I cannot live without – Naxos 811112831 at only £14.80 from Europadisc.co.uk), but you get much of the 1951 cast, with Schwarzkopf being replaced by Lisa della Casa. Knappertsbusch's conducting was always a unique example of Wagnerian story-telling, and he threads the narrative like none other. The sound is not bad at all, although the stage noises are a distraction and the choir has a tendency to cackle. This has unfortunately just been deleted, but used copies are still available from Amazon (Archipel ARPCD01114). If you are unlucky, invest in the Naxos set.

MY final choice is a performance that was treated with ecstatic ovations upon its first appearance, and then somewhat derided by revisionist critics for

supposed vocal inadequacies and because of the identity of its presiding genius. As far as *Meistersinger* is concerned, lightning did indeed strike twice in the same spot, and that spot was Herbert von Karajan. Having given a definitive, theatrical performance in the early fifties, the maestro, for reasons too complicated to relate here, crossed into East Germany to record the opera with the Staatskapelle Dresden. It seems to have been a case of love at first sight. Karajan, astonished, said that the orchestra's playing 'shines like old gold' and so it does, lighting the music up from within at every moment. The maestro himself brings a 'live' excitement to an excellent studio recording and displays his usual cunning grasp of the work's structure. The conducting and playing is flawless and remains one of the miracles of recorded music. The singing? Well, René Kollo, on his first attempt at Walther, sings with a fresher tone than at any time subsequently and is partnered by Helen Donath, the best Eva on disc from the point of view of the portrayal of the character. Peter Schreier's David and Karl Ridderbusch's Pogner are the stuff of dreams. Geraint Evans is a fine Beckmesser, although a tad on the vituperative side. Much ink has been spilled on the Sachs of Theo Adam, who is regarded as too light by some, and as having an ungratifying sound by others. I find him to be a marvellously musical singer, with a lovely, accurate, voice, which is a great blessing. True, his is not a heavy, 'woofy' Wagnerian voice, but I am not troubled by that at all. He does not stand out from the ensemble of Masters as some do, but that is a small price to pay for such musicality. The whole set is a constant delight and is now available at the extraordinary price of £14.00 from amazon.co.uk. If I were to be limited to one modern set of *Die Meistersinger*, this would certainly be the one.

WELL, all that remains is for me to wish the Master (Wagner, that is) a happy two-hundredth birthday and to wish all you, in anticipation, a very happy Christmas. It should be quite a day. Apparently the O² Stadium has been booked for the Baptism/Confirmation/Ordination/Consecration of Archbishop-to-be Exxonby. It should be quite a Wagnerian occasion.

Fr Amictus Crotchet
Parish Priest
St Bibulus of Saragossa
East Finchley
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The story so far:
<http://bibulus.site.voila.fr>