Forward

Crunch time for the Church

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

plus



A Hard Act To Follow

PAYING TRIBUTE to the retiring Secretary of Forward in Faith at the National Assembly, Bishop John Broadhurst spoke of the extraordinary contribution that Fr Geoffrey Kirk has made to our movement. "He is an intellectual giant with an ability to analyse, and to amaze people with the depth of his knowledge."

Recalling his wonderfully witty articles in New Directions about Canon Armitage Shanks and other satirical pieces, he praised Geoffrey's enormous sense of fun and humour, whilst noting the times when his forthright opinions had nearly got them killed on their travels in America. There was the time when they were eating not in the Oyster Bar on Grand Central Station, but in a rather shoddy

breakfast diner on 10th Street. "A very blousy over-dressed middle-aged waitress waddled over with a great jug and said, 'More coffee?' 'Oh!' exclaimed Geoffrey. 'That's what it was!"

Then there was the time when they were travelling on a bus to Scranton, Pennsylvania. "A very nice young American lady was talking to us when Geoffrey said, 'You have done the strangest things to our language."

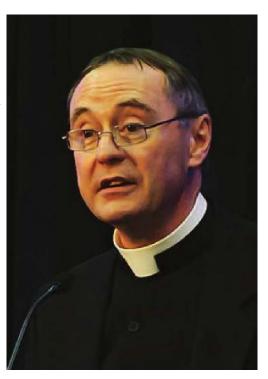
Over the years Bishop John had

Over the years Bishop John had valued Geoffrey's friendship and regarded his great sense of fun as one of the treasures of life. In addition to being a cerebral Oxford intellectual, Fr Kirk was also a fantastic parish priest who loved his people and was loved by them.

Finally, Bishop John expressed the

thanks of the whole membership of FiF for his enormous amount of work for the cause. He hoped that he would continue to write for *New Directions*, fearing that a 3-page magazine with 2 pages of adverts would not be satisfactory.

Stephen Parkinson, whose introduction to Fr Kirk had been at "Walking in the Way" in 1993, then made a presentation. He had enquired of the FiF Council, "What gift can we find for the man who has everything?" he said, but was met with deafening silence. Then he had remembered the story about the coffee. So he presented to Fr Kirk, amid tumultuous applause, a state-of-the-art coffee machine and a CD (the Coffee Cantata) that he can listen to while enjoying the brew.



You can listen to the valedictory speeches and Fr Kirk's reply on the FiF website

A Worthy Successor

Faith is Fr Jonathan Baker SSC, who has been Principal of Pusey House, Oxford since 2003. After reading English at St John's College, Oxford, he completed two years of graduate work in early modern poetry before moving to St Stephen's House to read Theology in preparation for ordination. Ordained Deacon in 1993 and Priest in 1994, he served his title at Ascot Heath, before moving in 1996 to be Incumbent of Holy Trinity, Reading and St Mark's, Reading.

He was the Editor of Consecrated Women?, published by Forward in Faith, in association with Canterbury Press, in 2004 and was co-editor of the SSC sesquicentennial volume of essays theological and ascetical, Who is This Man?.

He is a Guardian of the Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham, and a member of the Councils of the Additional Curates' Society and the Society for the Maintenance of the Faith. He represents the Diocese of Oxford on the General Synod, is a member of the Liturgical Commission and of the Faith and Order Commission. In 2009, Nashotah House – the premier Anglo-Catholic Seminary in the USA – conferred upon him the honorary degree of Doctor of Divinity.

He and his wife Jacqueline, a Senior Editor at Oxford University Press, have three children – Dominic, William and Caris.



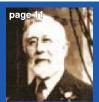
in this <u>issue</u>



Where is God in all this?



All Saints ... in Bournemouth



Giants: Sir Ninian Comper



Angel Ale
... goes down well in Inverness

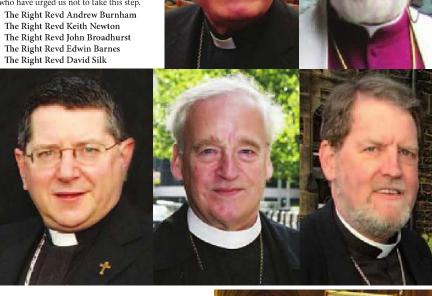
Farewell to the CofE

IKE MANY in the catholic tradition of Anglicanism, we have followed the dialogue between Anglicans and Catholics, the ARCIC process, with prayer and longing. We have been dismayed, over the last thirty years, to see Anglicans and Catholics move further apart on some of the issues of the day, and particularly we have been distressed by developments in Faith and Order in Anglicanism which we believe to be incompatible with the historic vocation of Anglicanism and the tradition of the Church for nearly two thousand years.

The Apostolic Constitution, Anglicanorum cœtibus, given in Rome on 4th November 2009, was a response to Anglicans seeking unity with the Holy See. With the Ordinariales, canonical structures are being established through which we will bring our own experience of Christian discipleship into full communion with the Catholic Church throughout the world and throughout the ages. This is both a generous response to various approaches to the Holy See for help and a bold, new ecumenical instrument in the search for the unity of Christians, the unity for which Christ himself prayed before his Passion and Death. It is a unity, we believe, which is possible only in eucharistic communion with the successor of St Peter.

As bishops, we have even-handedly cared for those who have shared our understanding and those who have taken a different view. We have now reached the point, however, where we must formally declare our position and invite others who share it to join us on our journey. We shall be ceasing, therefore, from public episcopal ministry forthwith, resigning from our pastoral responsibilities in the Church of England with effect from 31st December 2010, and seeking to join an Ordinariate once one is created.

We remain very grateful for all that the Church of England has meant for us and given to us all these years and we hope to maintain close and warm relationships, praying and working together for the coming of God's Kingdom. We are deeply appreciative of the support we have received at this difficult time from a whole variety of people: archbishops and bishops, clergy and laity, Anglican and Catholics, those who agree with our views and those who passionately disagree, those who have encouraged us in this step and those who have urged us not to take this step.



Be of good courage

Bishop Martyn of Beverley also looks to the future

NCE AGAIN the Bishop of Beverley's Provincial festival filled York Minster on Saturday 13th November. "Be of good courage" was the theme. "We journey onwards," he said, "not because we are stubborn or because we are deluded. You and I go forward, forward in faith, to coin a phrase, because we know we are part of Christ's Church." The full text of the sermon can be found on: www.bishopofbeverley.co.uk

THE FIGHT MUST CONTINUE

We LIVE in what for many of us are uncertain days. Some of our dearest friends and much-respected colleagues have decided to embrace the generous offer made by Pope Benedict and enter the Ordinariate when it is established.

I respect them for the decision they have made. It is quite clear that some of us within the Church of England no longer believe sufficiently in her Catholic inheritance to remain any longer as members. Whatever the Church of England were to decide about admitting women to the episcopate or about making generous provision for those opposed to such an innovation, for some, Anglo-Catholicism now lacks sufficient theological coherence. They must depart.

The Pope's offer of an Ordinariate, in response to Anglican Catholic requests for an authentic way in which they might be once again in communion with the See of Peter, is rightly seen as something over which there could or should not be any horse-trading. The offer has been made and it should be accepted.

Nothing has changed

Others of us see the situation differently. We carefully weighed the arguments for remaining members of the Church of England following the decision of the General Synod in 1992 to enact legislation for women to be admitted to the priesthood. For all the difficulties we decided that, following the passing of the Act of Synod, we could in good conscience remain. For those of us who take such a view nothing has yet changed.

No final decision has yet been made to admit women to the episcopate. No final decision has yet been made as to what will be the provision for those who in conscience could not accept the innovation, were it to take place. Yes, there are women bishops elsewhere within the Anglican Communion but that was the already the case in 1992. Yes, there is now on the table the very generous offer from Pope Benedict for Anglicans seeking to be in communion with the See of Peter, enabling them to be organised within an Ordinariate and so to retain much of their former Anglican patrimony. At the same time, such provision still requires Anglicans making such a move to be reconciled with the Roman Catholic Church in exactly the same format as was the case in 1992.

The question arises as to what, if anything, those of us who are not immediately seeking to join the Ordinariate should be doing. The fight to convince the Church of England that it is mistaken in unilaterally ordaining women to both the episcopate and the priesthood must continue; so, too, must the struggle to gain for ourselves proper provision, were women eventually to be admitted to episcopal orders. To help in this task a group from our number has been busy exploring the possibility of establishing a society. We envisage a society being formed under the patronage of St Wilfrid and St Hilda.

Wilfrid and Hilda

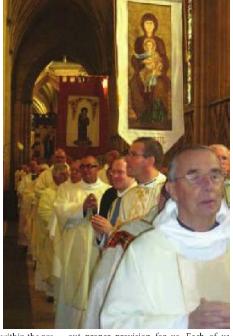
St Wilfrid served as a bishop within both provinces of the English Church. St Hilda is the great exemplar of how a woman can exercise an authoritative ministry in the Church, including having jurisdiction over men, without herself ever being consecrated a bishop. Such a society would not be just another Catholic society among the many we already have. It would be, rather, the way in which traditional Anglicans might express themselves as being the Church. The Society would have a bishop or bishops at its heart, exercising appropriate jurisdiction over its clerical and lay members.

Its parishes would be found within the present dioceses of the Church of England.

The fight must continue

The archbishops' sadly defeated amendment at the July General Synod offers a legal way forward by which what they call cojurisdiction might be shared between the two relevant bishops. All this, of course, needs fleshing out. The chances of persuading the Church of England to go down this pathway, after all the rejections of the past, must not be overstated. We feel duty bound to try. I hope that many thousands of our people will sign up as potential members of the society. A great number has done so already and we will keep such folk abreast of any developments.

It goes without saying that, at the end of the day, our church might still decide to admit women to the episcopate and with-



out proper provision for us. Each of us would then have to take time to pray and assess whether the Church of England were still sufficiently bearing the marks of the Church Catholic for us to remain as her It might be that some of us would then have to conclude that we were mistaken in our former understanding of her Catholic nature and seek discernment as to where God was calling us to be in the future. Meanwhile we seek to be faithful in the present. For those of us who remain, at least for the time being, within the Church of England it must be a case of business as usual. Whatever might happen tomorrow there are people who need to encounter Jesus today. There is no case for neglecting the ministry that God has entrusted to us.

This is a shortened version of an article first published in the Blue Scarf magazine for Readers

Where is God in this mess?

Fr John Pitchford looks again at what has happened, and considers some of the ways forward

REMINDING OURSELVES of how we came into this mess.

General Synod decided that there were "no theological objections" to women's ordination. (That was 1975 - and what a mistake it was!) Women were 'ordained priests' in 1993. Synod decided to create women bishops in 2008. The legal process to do this was started in July 2010. The strength of Liberalism is growing strongly in the Church of England. No doubt many more liberal changes will follow.

No arrangements for traditionalists

In a brutal synod, it was decided there should be no special arrangements for traditionalists. The Catholic Group in General Synod fought valiantly on our behalf. Sadly, all their efforts were rejected. Then the Archbishops of Canterbury and York tried to intervene on our behalf and rescue us. They were taking a great risk on our behalf, and unfortunately they received a humiliating slap on the face from Synod!! We are now in one of those significant times in history which will have far reaching consequences. We won the theological battle, but lost the political war in General Synod.

What we need to stay in the Church of England

We need a bishop who comes from the unbroken line of male bishops, going right back to Christ and the Apostles. We need an area - a Diocese where a bishop can function as a traditional bishop. We need a guarantee that the Sacraments are valid. Is the bread and wine changed when the celebrant is a woman priest? Each attempt to secure what we need has been rejected by Synod.

The Flying Bishops will be redundant

Not only will there be no provisions for us; but what we were given in 1993 (The Act of Synod) will soon be taken away from us. When the legal process to create women bishops is completed, Resolutions A,B and C will be abolished. The legal rights of every PCC concerning these matters will be abolished. At present, these rights include (a) Not to have a woman to celebrate Holy Communion; (b) Not to have a

woman vicar; (c) To be under the care of a Flying Bishop (PEV). The Flying Bishops will be made redundant, and the present areas of Ebbsfleet, Richborough and Beverley, and the Fulham jurisdiction will be abolished. We have been working hard to establish these areas, and further the work of the Kingdom of God. Are they being abolished because we have been far too successful in our efforts in these areas?

When will this happen?

Each of the 44 Dioceses are being asked for their views about having women bishops. In some cases, their Deanery Synods will be involved. Diocesan Synods cannot alter the wording. They can only say - Yes, or No. But they can add other resolutions. For example, they could discuss and vote upon a resolution such -"This Diocesan Synod requests that proper legal provisions should be made for traditionalists." But don't hold your breath! The results from the Dioceses will probably come back by 2012, and with each diocese supporting the creation of women bishops.

Reports in the Press

Some bishops and priests have already decided there is no future in the Church of England. So, there is a question in the minds of many: What about the Flying Bishops who resign - will they be replaced at this stage? Rumour has it that they will be replaced while the legal process continues in Diocesan Synods. But how long will they be able to exercise their

God & Broken Promises

Traditionalists were assured there would be an "honoured place" in the Church of England (and in the Anglican Communion). Synod has made it clear that we are no longer wanted in the Church of England. A retired priest in the Marches Region said to me recently - "No one wants me in this diocese. There is nowhere I can exercise my ministry." That seemed very sad indeed. It says a great deal about the Church of England. Many other priests may well discover in the near future that they are in the same situation. I wonder what God makes of broken promises? Fortunately, God is faithful, and he does not

go back on his word. We need the loving kindness of God in our present situation.

How have traditionalists reacted?

Sadly, we seem to be divided. Some have decided that the Pope's offer of an Ordinariate is the only way forward. This will provide a Bishop (ex-Anglican) who will be in communion with the

Holy Father. Others will simply become Ro-man Catholics or a member of the Orthodox Church. Some are hoping there will be a solution similar to ACNA (Anglican Church of America). This would

be an Evangelical solution, and probably sup-ported by African Archbishops, to maintain the integrity of the

Apostolic Succession.

Many will probably remain, hoping that things will not change too much in their lifetime. Sadly, it looks as though the Christian faith in the Church of England will be watered down in the future. This includes the 'catholic' element of the faith.

Two Sacred Synods.

(Not to be confused with General Synod) About 600 priests and bishops (from the Province of York) met on 23rd September at Belle Isle, Leeds. The next day, about the same number (from the Canterbury Province) met at the Emmanuel Centre in Westminster. The Ordinariate and The Society of St Wilfrid and St Hilda were the main items under discussion.

The National Assembly

There was a good attendance this year at the Assembly. The atmosphere seemed to be more subdued than usual, but this is not surprising under the circumstances. The worship at Christ the King, Gordon Square was very good, as usual. However, some were no doubt affected by the emotions of the situation.

How many of us will gather for next year's Assembly? Then we came out singing that powerful hymn: "Faith of our Fathers." There were tears in my eyes, and I also noticed that the priest coming out next to me in the procession was not singing some of the verses.

Forward in Faith is going to support those who leave the Church of England, and those who decide to remain.

The Missionary Society of St Wilfrid and St Hilda

This was launched at the first Sacred Synod. Quoted: "Open to Anglican laity, clergy and religions (i.e. monks and nuns) who are committed to the full visible unity of the Church for its mission in the world, and also to holding central the gift of the threefold order of ministry shared with others, received from the first millennium and held in trust for an ecumenical future." These words come from the paper inviting people to join.

It is good that people are joining. This will show the numbers and strength of those who are opposed to women bishops. Obviously, the more who register, the more effect it will have. (See below).

> A word of caution We have yet to hear the full details about this

> > new Society. Some feel it is perhaps not wise to raise hopes too high. The

'Society' solution was rejected by the Revision Committee. General Synod seems to be grimly determined to get rid of all traditionalists. Our problems are enormous. How can this Society guarantee the integrity of the Apostolic Succession? Would the Bishops involved be prepared to act illegally and ordain more traditional bishops? (This, of course would be seen as schism). Some ask - will it be able to meet our needs, and the needs of our children's children? This is not intended to throw a wet blanket over the whole idea, but the odds against it do seem to be so enormous.

The end of the road?

Anglo-Catholics (and others) are clearly divided about the future. Some think it is all over: that it is no longer possible to live as a 'catholic' in the Church of England. From an Evangelical point of view, women bishops go against the Bible teaching about male 'headship.'

The Ordinariate

Pope Benedict XVI's offer will provide us with a Bishop and a Diocese. It will be there for our children's children. This will provide the very things which General Synod has decided not to give İt will provide a Christian faith for our days and years on earth, and it will bring us safely to God's heavenly kingdom.

Some will fight on in the Church of England

The Catholic Group in Synod will continue to fight for justice for those who remain in the Church of England.

General Synod Election Results

Lay members and clergy are elected to General Synod every five years. The results of the recent September election are good from a traditionalist point of view. In due course, the women bishops legislation will require a two-thirds majority in each of the three 'Houses' of Synod - Bish-

ops, Priests and Lay members. It seems that it might not get the required majority in the new House of Laity. There are also doubts about whether it will succeed in the House of Clergy.

It may be wise not to have high hopes about General Synod. If the legislation fails at the final stage, it will come back again, as sure as night follows day. There is a strong desire in the Church of England to have women bishops. It would only prolong the agony. Some people will stay, hoping that something will come out of this. Others feel the end of the road has come. They want to leave all the unholy wrangling of Church politics behind, and be free to life the Christian life elsewhere.

How do you decide?

We are being forced to make a decision about the future. Some may decide to stay in the Church of England, simply because they do not know where else to go. Others may want to remain loyal to the bricks and mortar of the parish church. Many will realise the Church has changed, and that they are no longer able to stay. It is interesting to observe what is happening in America. The Anglican Church (called the Episcopal Church in the USA) has lost many members, and the new ACNA (Anglican Church of North America) has 100,000 new

What can we do about the situation?

One answer is this: Give serious thought to the nature of the Church and its clergy. Ask yourself about these changes about the nature of the Church, and about the nature of the Priesthood (and other items on the Liberal agenda). Are they right or wrong?

The Parting of Friends? (Words of Cardinal Newman)

The C of E has a strong emotional hold over many of us. Leaving this Church will involve a powerful wrench from our roots. Some have been supported spiritually for a long time by the C of E, and not many want to leave the safe haven which they know and love so well. Now, all this is changing. Some will no longer be able to remain, and it will require courage and faith to go into the unknown. It will be a testing time about where each person stands in this matter. But, whether you stay or go, remember your friendship with God. Remember Our Lord's words: "I am with you always, to the end of time.

To Join the Missionary Society of St Wilfrid and St Hilda

To register, go to the website www.sswsh.com or write to SSWSH, 2A The Cloisters, Gordon Square, London WCIH OAG 0207 388 3588 Email: admin@sswsh.com

To join the Ordinariate

Go to the website:

www.friendsoftheordinariate.com up-to-date information contact one of the bishops who have announced their intention to join: Keith Newton, Andrew Burnham, John Edwin Barnes or David Silk.

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

I GIVE to FORWARD IN FAITH of 2A The Cloisters Gordon Square London WC1H 0AG the sum of) and I DIRECT that the receipt of the Treasurer or other proper officer of Forward in Faith shall be good and sufficient discharge to my Executor

I GIVE the residue of my estate to FORWARD IN FAITH of 2A The Cloisters Gordon Square London WC1H 0AG and I DIRECT that the receipt of the Treasurer or other proper officer of Forward in Faith shall be good and sufficient discharge to my Executor

Pray for all FiF members and parishes

St Mary the Virgin St Marychurch, Torquay

Christmas Eve 3.30pm Christingle and Blessing of the Crib 7pm Carols by Candlelight 11.30pm Midnight Mass

Christmas Day 10am Parish Mass with Carols

All are welcome Fr David Lashbrooke SSC 01803 329054

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 Salvador's Church Dundee

Christmas Eve

1.45pm Midnight Mass

Christmas Day

9am Low Mass 11am High Mass

Fr Clive Clapson SSC 01382 221785

St John the Evangelist Brandon, Durham

CHRISTMAS EVE 11.30pm Midnight Mass

CHRISTMAS DAY

10am Parish Mass and Carols

Confessions by arrangement 0191 378 0845

Fr Peter and Fr Brian

Parish Mass each Sunday at 10am

St Peter's Crabbs Cross Redditch

Christmas Eve 11.30pm Solemn Midnight Mass

> Christmas Day 10am Mass of the Day **Holy Family** 10am Mass

9am Mass during the Octave

Fr Mike Bartlett SSC 01527 545709

All Saints South Kirkby

Sunday 19th December 6pm Carol Service followed

by mince pies & wine

Christmas Eve

6pm Christmas Family Mass **Christmas Day**

9am Parish Mass Parish Priest:

Fr Timothy Kave 01977 642795

St Gabriel Pimlico, London, SW1

Thursday 16th 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

All Saints Eastchurch Isle of Sheppey

Christmas Eve 4.30pm Crib Service with Carols

11.30pm Midnight Mass

Christmas Day 10am Festival Mass

Contact: Fr Barry Birch SSC 01795 880205

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

The Good Shepherd Furnham Chard

Christmas Eve 11.30pm Midnight Mass

Christmas Day

9.45am Sung Mass

Contact Fr Roger Pittard 01460 61012

The Ascension

Lavender Hill SW11

Sunday 19th December

5pm Christingle

Christmas Eve 11pm Solemn High Mass of Midnight

Christmas Dav

10.30am Solemn High Mass of the Day

Sunday 26th December Holy Family

11am Solemn High Mass of the Day

> **Parish Priest:** Fr lan Young 020 7228 5340

St Clement's **Bridge Street** Cambridge

(A, B&C/FiF)

Christmas Day 9am Sung Mass

Sunday 26th St Stephen

10am Sung Mass

Services are Traditional Rite English Missal/BCP

Contact: 01638 780261 Email: cat@ast.cam.ac.uk

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

Wednesday 29th December 6pm Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols

Fr Kevin Smith 0191 586 7110 or Curate, Fr David Carr 0191 378 1696

St Mary the Virgin Kenton

Christmas Eve

4pm Christingle 11.30pm Midnight Mass and Blessing of the Crib

Christmas Day 10.30am Parish Mass

Enquiries: 020 8907 2914 www.stmaryskenton.org

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

Holy Trinity Winchmore Hill, N21

Christmas Eve

4pm Crib Service and First Mass of Chrismas for Children 11.30pm Midnight Mass

> **Christmas Day** 9am and 10.30am Mass Mass 12 noon

each day in the Octave **Holy Family**

9am and 10.30am Mass **1st January** 12 noon Solemnity of Mary the Mother of God

For Confessions contact Fr Antony Homer: 020 8360 2947 email: frantony@hotmail.com

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

St Peter Bushey Heath - ABC

Christmas Eve 6.30pm Carols by Candlelight 11.30pm First Mass of the Nativity

Christmas Day 8am Holy Communion 9.30am Holy Communion with Carols

Contact Fr Andrew Burton SSC 020 8950 1424 www.stpeterbusheyheath.org.uk

St Mary the Virgin Littlehampton

Christmas Eve 11.30pm Midnight Mass Christmas Day

8am Low Mass 10am Parish Mass Contact Fr Roger Caswell on 01903 724410

The Parish Church of St Saviour

Smallthorne, Stoke on Trent

www.smallthorne.org Christmas Eve

11.30pm Midnight Mass & Blessing of the Crib Christmas Day

10am Family Mass Sunday 26th December 3pm Christingle round the Christmas Crib

The Parish Church of St Anne

Brown Edge

Sunday 20th December 3pm Christingle and Carols

Christmas Eve 11.30pm Midnight Mass & Blessing of the Crib

Christmas Day 10am Family Mass

For more information contact Fr Richard Grigson Phone: 01782 835941 Email: richard.grigson@smallthorne.org

St Mary the Virgin Kettering (Fuller Street)

Christmas Eve 4pm Carol Service

10.30pm Midnight Mass **Christmas Day**

10.15am Sung Mass Enquiries: Patrick Cooper 01536420336

All Saints South Shields

Christmas Eve 12 o'clock Midnight Mass Christmas Day 8am Mass, 10am Sung Eucharist Contact: Fr Graeme Pollock 0191 455 3072

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

St Mary the Virgin **South Benfleet**

Christmas Services 2010

Fourth Sunday of Advent Sunday 19th December

4pm Christingle Service and Nativity Play A short service with carols for children and families

6pm Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols A traditional service of Bible readings and carols

Christmas Eve - Friday 24th December

4pm Crib Service with Carols The Christmas story for children and families 11.45pm Midnight Mass with Blessing of the Crib & Carols

Christmas Day - Saturday 25th December

8am Mass of the Dawn 10am Mass of Christmas Day with Carols

Parish Priest: Fr Lee Bennett SSC 01268 792294

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 Monday 27th December 6pm Carols at the Crib

St John the Evangelist Middlesbrough

Christmas Eve 5.30pm Crib Service 11.30pm Midnight Mass of the Nativity

and Blessing of the Crib **Christmas Dav**

10am Sung Mass with Carols Mass each day

during the Christmas Octave For further information contact Fr Stephen Cooper on 01642 824779

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

Holy Family

9am Mass with Hymns at St Thomas 10am Solemn Mass at St Peter's 10.30am Mass with Hymns at St James

> Fr Sam Philpott 01752 222007

No Room at the conference

A report on the Vocations Conference "Towards Priesthood" held at St Stephen's House, Oxford

THE CATHOLIC societies of the Church of England under the banner of "God Calling" had their annual vocations conference at St Stephen's House, Oxford under the title "Towards Priesthood." Amidst all the negativity surrounding the Catholic witness in the Church of England there was considerable pressure to cancel this conference from within the constituency. After much discussion it was decided to proceed with this event, taking very much the pragmatic position of waiting to see what take up there would be, and indeed much to the delight and dismay of many, far from meeting with little or no interest the event was fuller than ever. In fact every place was taken, with a reserve list.

The age range was interesting, the majority under 30 together with some more mature candidates. There was an equal spread of aspirants from the North and South. Keynote Speakers included the Principal of Pusey House Fr Jonathan, St Stephen's House Canon Robin Ward, the Master of SSC Canon Kit Dunkley and the resident God Calling team, chaired by Fr Brownsell.

Fr Darren Smith General Secretary of the Additional Curates Society said: "We really are delighted, challenged and surprised that even in these difficult times so many could consider ordination to the sacred priesthood. A powerful reminder that God continues to stir up in the hearts of traditional Catholics the calling to ordination. Our three day conference was a huge success and we look forward to supporting and working together with these prospective ordinands in the hope that their vocation will come to fruition within the Church".

Next conference

A further meeting has been arranged for 11th December at Christ the King, Gordon Square entitled "A Certain Calling in Uncertain Times." This is open to all prospective male ordinands and wives/fiancées and our keynote speaker will be Bishop Lindsay Urwin. The day formally begins with Mass at 12 noon and will fin-

ish with Evening Prayer at 3.30pm. Father Darren writes, "This is part of our ongoing nurture and



Further details can be gained from the Additional Curates Society, Gordon Browning House, 8 Spitfire Road, Birmingham B24 9PB - 0121 382 5533

are available from the Additional

Curates Society upon applica-

www.additionalcurates.co.uk fr.smith@additionalcurates.co.uk



The FiF College of Deans

Anglia Regional Dean (Chelmsford & St Edmundsbury and Ipswich)
Fr Alan Cross SSC, 11 Grayling Drive, Bromley Road, Colchester CO43EN 01206 790984

Chichester Regional Dean Fr Beau Brandie SSC, S. Martin's Rectory, Upper Wellington Road, Brighton BN2 3AN 01273 604687 - beaumont.brandie@btinternet.com

Derby Regional Dean Fr William Butt, The Rectory, Stavely, Chesterfield S43 3TN - 01246 472270

East Wessex Regional Dean (Guildford, Portsmouth & Winchester)
Fr Martyn Neal, 63 The Moor, Carlton, Bedford MK43 7JS - 01234 720938

Kent Regional Dean (Canterbury & Rochester) Fr David Herbert ssc, Flat 2, 52 High Street, Chislehurst BR7 5AQ 0208 467 5230 - 0745 564 5316 - fatherdavidherbert@btinternet.com

Lichfield Regional Dean (Lichfield)

London Regional Dean (London)

Fr Malcolm Gray ssc, 16 Alpine Walk, Stanmore, Middlesex HA7 3HU 020 8950 7860 - 0721 664178 - frcmg.stanmore@btinternet.com

Mercia Regional Dean

Fr Ronald Crane SSC, The Vicarage, 17 Greenhill Road, Wylde Green, Sutton Coldfield B72 1DS 0121 373 8348 - 07754 770802 - fathercrane@btinternet.com

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Northumbria Regional Dean (Carlisle, Durham, Newcastle Fr Beresford Skelton SSC, S. Mary Magdalene's Vicarage, Millfield, Sunderland SR4 6HJ 0191 565 6318 - frskelsmm@btinternet.com

Norwich Regional Dean (Ely, Norwich) Fr Peter Keeling ssc, 23 Cleaves Drive, Walsingham, Norfolk NR22 6EQ - 01328 820310 North Wales Regional Dean

Fr Robert Rowland ssc, The Vicarage, Dyserth, Rhyl LL18 6DB - 01745 570750

Oxford Regional Dean
Fr Ross Northing ssc, SS Mary and Giles Vicarage, 14 Willow Lane, Stoney Stratford,
Buckinghamshire MK11 1FG - 01908 562148 - r.northing@btintemet.com

Scotland Regional Dean (Aberdeen & Orkney, Argyll & the Isls, Brechin, Edinburgh, Glasgow & Galloway, Moray, Ross & Caithness and St Andrews, Dunkeld & Dunblane) Fr Len Black SSC, S. Michael's Rectory, 28 Abban Street, Inverness IV3 6HH 01463 233797 - 07836 365719 - fr.len@angelforce.co.uk

South Wales Regional Dean

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

Tamar Regional Dean Fr Sam Philpott ssc, S. Peter's Vicarage, 23 Wyndham Square, Plymouth PL1 5EG 01752 222007 - 07770 504415 - FrPhilpott@aol.com

The Marches Regional Dean (Gloucester, Hereford, Worcester) Fr John Pitchford ssc, Woodlands, Eaton Road, Malvern Wells, Worcestershire WR14 4PE 01684 575893 - FrJPitchford@aol.com

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

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01509 412935 - reginaldstretton@btinternet.com **Sub Dean** Fr Paul Noble ssc, The Rectory, Fishtoft Road, Skirbeck, Boston PE21 0DJ $01205\ 362734\ -\ frpnoble@skirbeckrectory.freeserve.co.uk$

West Wales Regional Dean (Swansea and Brecon, St Da Fr Philip Wyn Davies ssc, Y Ficerdy, Tregaron, Ceredigion SY25 6HL - 01974 299010 **vessex Regional Dean (Bath and Wells, Bristol, Salisbury)
Fr Peter Clarke ssc, 6 West Camel Farm, West Camel, Yeovil, Somerset BA22 7HH
01935 850408 - prebpeter@tiscali.co.uk

The Lady's not for burning

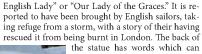
by Pat Richardson, whose father, the Revd Vivian Crowther-Alwyn, was priest in charge of St Mary at the Elms for 16 years

SINCE THE fire in July at St Mary at the Elms, Ipswich, the tower and Walsingham chapel have been boarded-up, but the walls and ceiling throughout the nave, choir and sanctuary are yet to

be cleaned. This will not happen until it has been established what repair work needs to be done, after which scaffolding will be erected.

Regular readers of Forward Plus will know that the church also houses the Statue of Our Lady of Grace of Ipswich. Back in September 1538 the original statue of Our Lady of Grace, which had stood in her own chapel in Lady Lane, within the parish of St Mary at the Elms, was sent to Chelsea to be burnt. But did she ever reach Chelsea?

In the Italian seaside town of Nettuno, the local church displays above the high altar a very old wooden statue of the Madonna and Child, known locally as "The



the statue has words which can only be translated as Old English for "Thou art gracious." A number of other similarities to the description of the original statue make it probable that the Nettuno statue is indeed the one from the Ipswich shrine. A replica of the Nettuno statue, carved in English oak by Robert Mellamphy, was dedicated in September 2002, and placed in a niche in St Mary at the Elms.

In the fire there this July, Our Lady of Grace escaped being burnt a second time. After the smoke film was washed off, and the statue polished, she shines and looks as good as new. So, Our Lady of Grace has escaped the fire for a second time!



All Saints *in* Bournemouth

"HE CHILDREN (and Bishop Edwin Barnes) pushed Halloween aside at St Francis' Bournemouth as they celebrated

Some of the children represented certain of the Company of Heaven, including St Francis with a collection of furry animals, St Vitus (in tutu) as Patron of Dance, a very regal St Adelaide and St Sebastian with a tennis racquet, who Bishop Edwin assumed must also be the patron saint of Sportmen!



S. Paul's Hasland Chesterfield

Sunday 19th Dec - 9.45am Family Mass and Christmas Presentation

Christmas Eve - 6.30pm Carol Service and Christmas Presentation

Christmas Day - 9.45am Festival Mass

S. James **Temple Normanton** Chesterfield

Thursday 23rd Dec - 4pm Carols around the tree

Christmas Eve - 11.30pm Midnight Mass

Fr Malcolm Ainscough SSC Tel: 01246 232486

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

Prebendary Paul Lockett SSC 01782 313142

S. Stephen on the Cliffs Blackpool

Sunday 19th December 18.00 Candlelit Carol Service 24th December 16.30 Candlelit 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 Sunday 26th - S. Stephen's Day

Patron Saint of the parish 10.30 Procession and Solemn Mass

Canon Andrew Sage andrewsage@aol.com 01253 351484

THE SACRED HEART MISSION COMMUNITY **PLYMOUTH**

Parishes under the Extended Episcopal Care of The Bishop of Plymouth

Christmas Day

1630 Children's Crib Service at St Gabriel's 1830 Sung Mass of the Vigil at St Gabriel's 2000 Sung Mass of the Vigil at St Mary's 2200 Sung Mass of Midnight at St Simon' 0000 High Mass of Midnight at St John's

Christmas Day

0800 Low Mass of the Dawn at St John's 0915 Low Mass of the Day at St Mary's 1030 Low Mass of the Day at St Gabriel's 1115 Sung Mass of the Day at St John's

Holy Family

0915 Sung Mass of the Day at St Mary's 1030 Sung Mass of the Day at St Gabriel's 1115 Sung Mass of the Day at St John's 1830 Carols & Benediction at St John's

Further details from the Parish Priest: Fr Patrick Allen 01752 664191

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

For times of Confessions 'phone Fr Sillis - 01332 345720

St Matthew Willesden NW10

Christmas Eve

4pm Nativity Play and Carols 11.30pm Solemn Mass of Midnight with Blessing of the Crib

Christmas Day

10am Solemn Mass of the Day Sunday 26 December: The Holy Family 11am Solemn Mass of the Day Saturday 1 January 2011:

Mary, Mother of God 10am Solemn Mass of the Day

Further details: Fr Humphreys 020 8965 3748 www.stmatthews-willesden.org.uk

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

St George in the Meadows St Georges Drive Nottingham

(1/4 mile south of railway station)

Wed 22 Dec 10am Said Mass Fri 24 Dec 12.15pm Said Mass 6nm Crih Service 8pm First Mass of Christmas

Sat 25 Dec 10am Solemn Mass Sun 26 Dec 10am Solemn Mass

Wed 29 Dec 10am Said Mass Sat 1 Jan 12 noon Said Mass

> Fr Andrew Waude SSC 0115 940 2868

Holy Trinity, Hoxton Shepherdess Walk, N1

Friday - December 24th

Midnight Mass Celebrant Prebendary Bill Scott Saturday - December 25th Mass of the Day @ 10:00 Celebrant — Father Jim Westcott, Vicar of St Chad's Haggerston Sunday – December 26th Feast of the Holy Family @ 10:00

SAINT CYPRIAN OF CARTHAGE Lancaster Road, Sneinton

Contact David Fordham 07885 064161

(off Carlton Road/Hill)

Sun 19 Dec 9.15am Sung Mass 4pm Christingle

Mon 20 Dec 6.30pm The Rosary 7pm Said Mass

Tues 21 Dec 12 noon Said Mass Thurs 23 Dec 10am Said Mass

Fri 24 Dec 11.30pm Midnight Mass Sat 25 Dec 10am Solemn Mass

Sun 26 Dec Mass at S. Stephen's, Speinton

Mon 27 Dec 12 noon Said Mass Tues 28 Dec 12 noon Said Mass Thurs 30 Dec 10am Said Mass

> Fr Andrew Waude SSC 0115 940 2868

St Stephen Sneinton

Sunday 19th December 6.30pm Carol Service Christmas Eve 11.30pm Midnight Mass

Christmas Day 10.30am Sung Mass

St Stephen 10.30am Sung Mass Preacher Fr Andrew Waude SSC Contact: Fr Malcolm Crook on 0115 924 1917

St Chad Greengate St. Stafford

Christmas Eve

11.30pm Blessing of the Crib and Midnight Mass

> **Christmas Day** 10am Mass of the Day

Fr Michael Fisher 01785 245069

St Oswald's Hartlepool

Christmas Eve

9.30am Mass 5pm Carol Service and Nativity 11.30pm Midnight Mass

Christmas Day

10am Sung Mass

Parish Priest: Fr Graeme Buttery SSG 01429 273201

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

Christmas Eve

4.30pm Christingle Service (at SMSG) 11.30pm Midnight Mass (All Saints)

Christmas Day

9.30am Parish Mass (SMSG)

26th December 6pm Nine Lessons and Carols (All Saints)

Fr Ross Northing SSC 01908 562148

St Anselm's Parish Church, Hatch End

Sunday 19th December 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 **Holy Family**

8am and 10am Mass Saturday 1st January Mary Mother of God

10am Parish Mass Fr Clive Pearce: 020 8428 4111 - 07710 900545

St Paul's, Royton Nr Oldham

Christmass Eve 12 midnight First Mass of Christmass

Christmass Day 10am Parish Mass

Sun 26th Dec Holy Family 8am Mass 9.30am Parish Mass

2011 New Year's Day Solemnnity of Mary Mother of God 11am Mass

www.saint-pauls-royton.org

During Interregnum contact Churchwarden: Tony Hawkins 0161 628 9573

Holy Family Lord Lane Failsworth, Manchester

Christmas Eve 4.30pm Christingle 11.30pm First Mass of Christmas

Christmas Day 10am Parish Mass Holy Family 9.15am Patronal Festival Mass

Contact - Fr Tony Mills 0161 681 3644

St Michael & All Angels Harbledown with St Gabriel's

Rough Common Christmas Eve

11.30 Midnight Mass (St Michael')

Christmas Day 9.15am Mass with Carols (St Gabriel's)

01227 464117

10.30am Family Eucharist (St Michael's) Fr Michael Morris

St Luke's Holbrooks, Coventry

Sunday 19th 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

St Martin's Milton Keynes

Sunday 12th December 9.30am Parish Mass 6pm Nine Lessons and Carols

Sunday 19th December 9.30am Parish Mass 3pm Children's Christingle, Crib Service and Children's Party

Christmas Eve Midnight Mass at midnight with the Blessing of the Manger

Christmas Day Feast of the Holy Nativity 10am Sung Mass with Carols Fr Victor Bullock 01908 372825

St Andrew's **Kingsbury NW9**

(Nearest tube - Wemblev Park) Mass every Sunday at 10am

Christmas Eve

Midnight Mass at 11pm **Christmas Day**

Sung Mass at 10am January 1st 2011

Sung Mass at 10am Fr John T Smith 020 8205 7447

St Oswald, King & Martyr Jardine Crescent, Tile Hill, Coventry CV4 9PL

Sunday - 12th December 4pm Carol Service Christmas Eve

11.30pm Midnight Mass

Christmas Day 10am Mass - Families welcome

For further information contact Fr Nicholas Leggett on 024 7646 5072

St Helen Abbottsham

Christmas Eve 11.30pm Midnight Mass Christmas Day

11am Sung Eucharist Fr Francis Otto: 01237 473445

St Barnabas **Beckenham**

Christmas Eve

Crib Service 4pm Midnight Mass 11.30pm

Christmas Day

Mass of the Dawn 8am Parish Mass of the Day 10am

> Fr Simon Heans 020 8650 3332

Parish of Tividale Oldbury, West Midlands

(PP: Fr. Martin Ennis - 01384 257888) Parish Church of St Michael's Tividale Road Holy Cross Mission Church Ashleigh Road

Christmas Season

SM - Christmas Eve 11.30pm Midnight Mass Christmas Day 10am Mass of the Day Sun 26th 11am Sung Mass (Holy Family)

HC - Christmas Eve 6pm Crib Mass Sunday 26th 6pm Mass

St Paul's Charlestown

Christmas Eve

6pm Christingle Service 11.30pm Blessing of Crib and First Mass of Christmas

Christmas Day

8.30am Dawn Mass 10am Mass of the Day

Fr Greatbatch 01726 75688

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

Christmas Eve 4.30pm Crib Service 11.30pm Solemn Midnight Mass and Blessing of the Crib

Christmas Day 10am Family Mass Sunday 26th , Holy Family 8.30am Holy Communion, 10am Parish Mass

Fr Jeremy Dowding SSC 01255 861234

Emmanuel Wylde Green **Sutton Coldfield**

Christmas Eve 5.30pm Christingle Service

11pm Carols 11.30 Midnight Mass Haydn, Little Organ Mass

Christmas Day 10am Sung Mass Darke in F **Sunday 26th December**

6.30pm Festval of Nine Lessons and Carols

Fr Ronald Crane SSC 0121 373 8348

MAY YOU LIVE IN INTER-ESTING TIMES says the ancient Chinese proverb, which seems particularly apposite for the members of Forward in Faith as 2010 draws to a close. The General Synod Elections, in which, the pundits told us, traditionalists would be decimated, saw an increase in the number of seats held by those who will probably vote against women bishops (and even more who will vote against women bishops without adequate provision for those who must dissent).

Meanwhile, first details of the Ordinariate emerge and again prove all the pundits wrong. Priests will evidently be fast-tracked through to ordination and a quarter of a million pounds will be provided by the Dioceses of England & Wales to underwrite the scheme. Interesting times indeed.

All the more reason, then for all of us to commit ourselves afresh to the prayerful support of all our brothers and sisters, wherever their pilgrimage may be taking



OW, THIS is getting beyond a joke. Last time, I told you - with no spirit of complaint (!) about how I was spending a morning of my hard-earned holiday writing this Diary. So here I am, writing the next instalment and so I'll give you three guesses - no, one guess - as to where I am and what I am supposed to be doing.

It began as soon as I got back to work in September: there was the Southern Sacred Synod, and then that Society, and then the National Assembly, and then the media-fest attendant upon the an- ${\bf nouncement\ of}\ Five\ go\ off\ to\ Rome$ (Enid Blyton: where are you when we need you?). September and October were a never-ending litany of specious complaints by one person or another about another person or another (if you follow). There are only so many ways you can tell people to Get over it when they whinge that Fr X is joining the Ordinariate or Fr Y isn't joining it and joining the Society instead. So, in the best traditions of inferior British TV comedy, I shall say this only once:

This Assembly, recognizing the variety of sincerely held convictions amongst the members of Forward in Faith, commits itself to the prayerful support in every way both of those who are exploring the generous provisions of Anglicano rum Coetibus as well as those who are committed to remaining in the Church of England and achieving proper and adequate arrangements for all who in conscience dissent from the ordination of women as hishons or priests.

Now, that isn't really that difficult is it? Well, yes, it is for some people. If you don't believe me, take some time out and visit the Blogosphere. And the so-called Social Networks aren't much better (it was on Facebook that I spotted the reaction Good riddance to the news that the Bishop of Fulham was to resign - and that from a man who'd call himself an Anglo-Catholic!) . Whinge, whinge, whinge. Just - get - over - it! Pray for those who are leaving us for the Ordinariate and pray for those who aren't. Pray for those who might join the Ordinariate one day and pray for those who might not. Pray for those who will never - not until hell freezes over - join the Ordinariate and pray for those who that day will. Because praying is what Christians do.

So you'll understand why a

week's break in early November seemed such an attractive idea. Just to be able to get right away from all the name-calling and all the angst, to say nothing of all the journalists anxious to make yet more use of the ludicrous and vile word defect. Which is, of course, why the Editor of this august newspaper decided that a new issue was needed right now and that I would just have to devote another morning of so-called leave to finding 800 words with which to enthral you. (Some hopes!)

The other day, I got an email all the way from the USA, asking after my bookshelves. been simply months since I built any bookshelves but you won't be surprised to learn that there still boxes of books in the garage, looking at me accusingly. (I know boxes can't look accusingly - but books can, believe me.) But the truth is that I'm putting off building the last set, because finally completing the job would only open the door to an even more terrifyingly boring task. I refer, of course, to putting them in or-Now, don't get me wrong. The Dewey Decimal System is just fine for proper, grown-up libraries. All I'm thinking of getting all the murder novels together, all the works of reference or all the travel books, all the food books or all the spiky Anglo-Catholic volumes into some sort of order so that I can find whatever it is I might be looking for. And that is a job that once started will never, ever end. Better, I guess to suffer the accusing looks I get in the garage!

And now someone's gone and called a Press Conference for tomorrow! Apparently the Bishops of England and Wales are going to announce all sorts of arrange ments for the Ordinariate. Ed Tomlinson, Blogger Supreme (and, it seems, Drag Artist Less Than Supreme), is already working himself up into a state of heightened excitement (as Alan Bennett might put it) and no doubt there will be a very great deal of hot air (using the word defect) across the media. Which means I'll have to give up another morning of my holiday in order to be interested in whatever is going on. Chances are I know it all from the leaks I've already had – but I had better knuckle down to it. That or go to the Pub. Now there's

In his own write...



From the Editor's desk

HE FAIR City of Perth, gateway to the highlands as it used to be described on the railway posters, is a lovely place indeed. Sitting on the banks of the silvery Tay, it has a fascinating history, some very fine buildings, beautiful surroundings and plenty of places to eat and drink in comfort.

It is also my mother's birthplace and the scene of several childhood holidays with aunts and uncles now long since at rest. There are cousins still there, so it seemed a good place to spend a few days after the National Assembly, for our first holiday in two years.

Sacramental desert

My cousins have cars, so we had trips out to Crieff (the Glenturret distillery, of course) and

Pitlochry, the vast shopping complex near the Falls of Bruar, and to the beautiful university town of St Andrews with its unspoilt sandy beach, its golf courses, and the historic site of the ancient abbey.

There was a day trip, too, by train to Inverness where Fr

Len Black kindly met us and took us out to the amazing buildings of the Benedictines at Pluscarden before showing us his glorious church, deservedly called the Comper Jewel of the highlands. Sunday, though, was a different

When I stayed in Perth as a child, I went to Mass at the splendid Episcopalian cathedral of St Ninian. Thirty years ago on another visit I celebrated Mass there at the kind invitation of the provost. It is, alas, no longer a place where we can worship. Indeed, not a single church in the whole of the diocese features on the FiF website as a suitable venue for the sacraments.

The nearest, St Salvador's, Dundee, is about twenty miles away by road. There are no trains until 10.48, so to arrive in good time for the 11am Mass would mean catching a bus at 8.30 am for a journey of nearly an hour and a half.

Fortunately I travel with my own mass kit, a little chalice and paten given to me by Fr Anthony of Alton Abbey when I was ordained: so the table in the bedroom of the B&B became the altar for the holy

But if I were a traditional lavman living in Perth, it would be almost impossible to live a full sacramental life in the Scottish Episcopal Church as no provision at all has been made for those who can accept neither the novelty introduced into Holy Order, nor the new liturgy that seems to derive its inspiration rather from 'political correctness' than the rich stream of catholic orthodoxy that characterised it in past genera-

The parting of friends

The Mass at the Assembly was a great occasion as always. Yet I was overcome with a feeling of great sadness at the point of communion. We were singing the Eucharistic hymn by Colonel William Harry Turton, first sung at an English Church Union anniversary mass at St Mary Magdalene's, Munster Square, in 1881. I got as far as the fourth line of the first verse, and then it hit me.



may we all one Bread, one Body be, One through this Sacrament of unity." I looked around at the ranks of concelebrants, realising that within a few months many of them - priests and bishops would no longer be in communion with each other.

I could not sing the second verse "Make thou our sad divisions soon to cease" knowing that yet another division would soon come about. It is heart-breaking that we, who have fought together all these vears with a vision for unity and truth, striving for a guaranteed ecclesial structure in which we can pass the Faith on to our children and grandchildren, are now to be parted. Not because we differ in our affirmation of Scripture and Tradition; not because we differ in our adherence to the creeds, the sacraments or the apostolic ministry of the church; but because the general synod of the Church of England has forced large numbers of her faithful sons and daughters to leave, despairing of a catholic future in the communion that they have loved and served.

Our sad divisions

As others have concluded elsewhere, this proves the true nature of this monstrous creation and disproves the smug and tediously repeated boast that the Church of England is comprehensive and in-

Some have chosen the path of the Ordinariate, responding to the Holy Father's invitation, because they believe that no hope remains here for realising our common vision. Like the recently beatified John Henry Newman they might say, "I do so despair of the Church of England, I am so evidently cast off by her, and on the other hand I am so drawn to the Church of Rome, that I think it safer as a matter of honesty not to keep my living."

Those who have decided to engage with the synodical process and fight on might say with Keble, "You speak of our Church showing no signs of repentance, no yearning after catholicity; but is not the time too short for any one to be acting on this impression?"

Large numbers of clergy and laypeople followed Newman to Rome in 1845, and more after the Gorham judgement in 1850 when the Privy Council ruled that the clergy need not believe in baptismal regeneration. The secessions were a blow to the Oxford Movement, but it recovered its strength and flowed on. Whilst harsh words were spoken about Newman's departure, Dr Pusey adopted an eirenic stance, which can now be seen as prophetic.

He saw that Newman might be a bridge between the two Churches. "It is not what is true in the Roman system against which the strong feeling of ordinary religious persons among us is directed, but against what is unholy in her practice.

It is not anything in our Church which keeps them from acknowledging us but heresy existing more or less within us. Íf anything could open their eyes to what is good in us, or soften in us any strong prejudices against them, it would be the presence of such a one, nurtured and grown to such ripeness in our Church, and now removed to theirs."

Amor vincit omnia

Sad though we must all be that our immediate future lies along different roads, we must not allow anger, resentment or bitterness to destroy the fellowship that we have established over the years. "They have deserted us in our hour of need", or "They are deluded to think there's any point in staying" are accusations unworthy of us.

We should accept in a calm and prayerful manner that both choices are legitimate for those who seek to go forward in faith. The synod has placed a huge obstacle across our path. Some go round it, some try to remove it; but we need to remember that the obstacle and its creators are the enemy. not those who have fought valiantly side by side for the sake of the Gospel and in defence of the Faith.

Though we may for a while adopt different courses of action, if our vision for unity and truth and our love for each other remain as strong as ever, there is, by the grace of God, nothing that we shall not overcome



wonder how many get set alight but they have been used for generations and are one of the traditions of this happy feast.

Divali celebrates the reuniting of Rama and Sita in the Hindu faith. The Diva itself is a small light either oil lamp or candle. These are placed around the homes and shrines together with offerings of food and drink.

Colour also plays a large part as intricate patterns are coloured at the entrances to their homes and henna patterns drawn on hands.
Colour and light together being a form of worship and celebration.

Hannukah is the Jewish Festival when the people remember the time when the oil for the Temple lamp, which should have lasted only one day, actually lasted for a week. By this time new oil had been pressed from the olives. Judas the Maccabee was the hero who led the people in revolt and saved the Temple. Each year a Menorah, a seven -branched candlestick, is placed in the window of every home. A candle is lit each day from a small "Slave " candle until all seven are lit. Light is used to thank God for his miracle and for saving the Temple.

We Catholic Christians are used to having candles and oil lamps lit during services, as they represent Jesus as the Light of the World. At certain celebrations like Christmas, Candlemas and Easter, we light candles and carry them round in procession, witnessing to our faith in the Light of Christ.

At Christmas we really go to town with lights. Even people who are not believers join in the festivities and the electricity companies must rub their hands in glee at this time of year. I buy a new light decoration each year as I can not resist the lure of QVC. Well they

have some really lovely effects that don't break the bank!

I enjoy driving about in December looking at the local homes which have lighting displays outside. One nearby has the whole of the front of the house illuminated and has put free-standing models in his garden. It is a wonderful display and I feel



happy just looking at it. I don't suppose the people in these houses go to church at all during the festive period but despite this they are spreading the word of the Light of Christ as that is what it is all about after all isn't it? What can we do this Christmas to spread that Light?

I wish you all a happy light-filled Christmas.

Advent Treats and how to make them...

If you like baking you can make some festive biscuits for yourselves and your family. You can use any biscuit recipe and cut out shapes from the dough such as stars, trees, moons and animals. When they are baked and cooled you can decorate them with icing, silver balls and sweets. A selection of home made biscuits will be a welcome gift for Grannies and Granddads.

Here is a simple recipe:

Oven 160C, 325 F, or Gas 3

300g self-raising flour pinch of salt

3tsp ground ginger 100g caster sugar

50g margarine 100g caster sugar

4ther milk is given balls at a decent

Method

- 1. Preheat oven and grease a baking tray.
- 2. Put sifted flour, ginger and salt in a bowl.
- 3. Warm sugar, margarine and syrup in a saucepan then add to the dry ingredients and mix together well
- 4. Add milk and mix to a firm dough.
- Knead this until smooth then roll out on flour sprinkled board.
- 6. Cut out your shapes and place on tray.
- 7. Bake for 10 to 15 mins, checking to see they
- 8. Leave to cool on a wire rack then have fun decorating!

If you want to hang your biscuits on a tree you will need to make a hole in the dough before cooking. Make it larger than you need as it will close on cooking.

Light Wordsearch

CANDLE OIL LAMP TORCH FLAMBEAU TABLELAMP FIREWORK LANTERN FLASHLIGHT FAIRYLIGHTS PENLIGHT SUNLIGHT STARLIGHT MOONLIGHT ELECTRICITY FIRE GASLIGHT FLUORESCENT LED FIBRE OPTIC RUSHLIGHT

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

C	N	M	C	T	X	C	F	L	A	N	T	E	R	N	Y
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P	P	E	N	L	T	G	Н	T	K	R	U	N	E	T	Q

St John the Baptist **Parish Church Church Street, Staveley**

Sunday 19th December

5.30nm Service of Nine Lessons and Carols

Christmas Eve

4pm Carol Service for Young People 7pm Confessions (or by appointment) 11.30pm Midnight Mass

> Christmas Day 10am Sung Mass

Fr William Butt 01246 472270

St Wilfrid's, Cantley **Doncaster**

Christmas Eve

5.30pm Vigil Mass & Christingle 11pm Mass of Christmas Night

Christmas Day

8am Mass of the Dawn 10am Mass of the Day

Thursday 30th December

6.30pm Readings and Carols for choir and congregation Fr John Willett 01 302 535133

St John the Baptist

Tatchbrook Street Leamington Spa

Sunday 19th 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

Sunday 26th Dec - Holy Family 8am Low Mass 9.30am Solemn High Mass

Fr David Lawson SSC 01926 422208 www.fifparish.com/stjohnleamington

The Parish of Swinton & Pendlebury

Christmas Eve 4pm Christingle Vigil Mass at Saint Peter's (M27 OWA) 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

Christmas Day 8am Mass of the Dawn at Saint Peter's Sung Mass of Christmas Day with Carols at All Saints' at 9.30am. Saint Augustine's at 10am and Saint Peter's at 10.30am

December 26th All services at usual times

For details of carol services, other services, etc Fr Jeremy Sheehy 0161 794 1578 or paroffsandp@btconnect.com

St Dunstan with **Holy Angels** Cranford TW5 9RG

Christmas Eve

4pm Nine Lessons and Carols (St Dunstan's)

11.30pm First Mass of Christmass (St Dunstan's)

Christmas Day 9.30am Low Mass (Holy Angels)

11am Solemn Mass (St Dunstan's)

Holy Family

9.30am Solemn Mass (Holy Angels) 11.15am Solemn Mass (St Dunstan's)

Rector: Fr Michael Gill SSC 020 8897 8836

St Lawrence Long Eaton

Christmas Eve 11.30 Midnight Mass

Christmas Day

9.30am Sung Mass

St Stephen 8am Low Mass 11am Sung Mass

Fr Simon Ellis 01159 255514

All Saints South Wimbledon

Christmas Eve

3pm Crib Service 11.45 Midnight Solemn Mass

Christmas Day

Contact: Fr Michael Blackman 020 8542 2787

LONDON SW20 St Saviour **Grand Drive, Raynes Park**

Christmas Eve 5pm Crib Service 11.30pm Midnight Mass Christmas Day

9 30am Mass Contact: Fr Michael Blackman 020 8542 2787

St Lukes

Laburnum Road Milber, Newton Abbott

Christmas Eve

Crib Service for Children 11.30pm Midnight Mass

Christmas Day 10am Parish Mass of the Day

Fr J E Potter 01626 365837

St Michael & All Angels, Abban Street, Inverness IV3 8HH

The Comper Jewel in the Highlands of Scotland www.angelforce.co.uk

Christmas Eve 11.30pm Midnight Mass and Blessing of the Crib Christmas Day 10.30am Family Mass

Sunday 26th December - The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph 11am Parish Mass 4pm Lessons and Carols by Candlelight

Monday 27th December - St John, Apostle and Evangelist 11.30am Mass 6pm Lessons and Carols by Candlelight

Fr Len Black ssc - 01463 233797 - fr.len@angelforce.co.uk

WINCHESTER Holy Trinity

Upper Brook Street

Sunday 19th December

6pm Carol Service Christmas Eve

8pm First Mass of Christmas

Christmas Day

10.30am Family Mass

Sunday 26th December 10.30am Parish Mass Contact Fr.Malcom Jones SSC 01 962 810223 (Parish Office) or

Churchwardens, Derek Cramp 01 962 870218 or John Kimber 01 962 862524

St Peter on the East Cliff North St., Folkestone

Sunday, December 19th 4pm Christmas Carol Service Friday, December 24th CHRISTMAS EVE

4.30pm Christmas Crib Service 11.30pm Midnight Mass Saturday, December 25th CHRISTMAS DAY

8am Low Mass 10.30am Solemn Mass Sunday, December 26th THE HOLY FAMILY

8am Low Mass 10.30am Solemn Mass

Thursday, January 6th EPIPHANY

9am School Mass 7pm Solemn Mass www.stpetersfolkestone.org.uk

St Peter & St Paul Osborn Road, Fareham

Christmas Eve 4pm Crib Service

11.30pm Blessing of the Crib and Midnight Mass

Christmas Day 8am Mass of the Dawn 10am Parish Mass

For the times of other Services and Confessions before Christmas please ring 01329 236003

www.sspeterandpaulfareham.org

St Magnus the Martyr London Bridge

Christmas Eve

6pm Night Mass Pastoral Mass by Colin Mayby

Christmas Day

11am Said Mass **Christmas Day**

11am Said Mass Fr Philip Warner

All Saints with St Michael Shrewsbury

020 7626 4481

Christmas Eve 4pm Crib Service 11.30pm Midnight Mass Christmas Day

10.30am Parish Mass Holy Family (Sun 26th) 9am Low Mass 10.30am Parish Mass

Daily Mass throughout the Christmas Octave

Parish Priest: Fr Michael Fish SSC Tel: 01743 244879

St John & St Mary Magdelene Goldthorpe and St Wilfred's, Hickleton

Sunday 19th December 4pm Carol Service at Goldthorpe 6pm Carol Service at Hickleton Christmas Eve

4pm Children's Crib Service at Goldthorpe Midnight 1st Mass of Christmas at Goldthorpe

Christmas Day 9am Parish Mass at Hickleton 10.30am Parish Mass at Goldthorpe

The Holy Family 9am Parish Mass at Hickleton 10.30am Parish Mass at Goldthorpe

Monday 27th - St John the Evangelist . 10am Mass at Goldthorpe

Tuesday 28th - The Holy Innocents 10am Mass at Goldthorpe Wednesday 29th - S. Thomas Becket

Thursday 30th - 6th Day of the Octave Friday 31st - 7th Day of the Octave

10am Mass at Goldthorpe

Mary Mother of God 7pm Mass at Goldthorpe Fr Carl Schaefer 01709 898426

St Francis of Assisi **Bournemouth**

(corner of Charminster Road & East Wav)

Christmas Eve

5pm Vigil Mass suitable for children & families 11.30pm Midnight Mass, preceded by Carols

> **Christmas Day** 8am Mass

10am Procession and Solemn Mass Celebrant and Preacher Bishop Edwin Barne:

For information about all services during the Interregnum contact Martin Taylor 01202570321 or Barbara Geatrell 01425 470370 Churchwardens www.stfrancis-bournemouth.org.ul

St Augustine Aldershot

Christmass Eve

5.30pm Children's Service 11.30pm Solemn Mass

with Blessing of the Crib **Christmass Day**

10am Family Mass Enquiries. Confessions etc Fr Keith Hodges 01252 320840

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

Wednesday 15th 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 2nd January, Epiphany 11am Sung Mass

Parish Priest Fr John Vine 0207 370 3263

St Andrew's Croydon

Christmas Eve 11.30pm Midnight Mass

Christmas Day 10am Feast of the Nativity

Fr Keith Sylvia 020 8667 1353

CHRISTMASTIDE at St Mary Magdalene Millfield, Sunderland 2008

19th December - Advent 4 10.30 Solemn Mass 18.00 Carols & Lessons - Mary & Joseph arrive at The Stable in Bethlehen

24thd 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 &

Candlelight Benediction Masses through the days of the Christmas Octave at 10.30

26th Dec - The Feast of The Holy Family 10.30 Solemn Mass 18.30 Benediction

Sunday 2nd January The Feast of the Epiphany 10.30 Solemn Mass with Procession of the Kings 18.30 Benediction

Parish Priest: Fr Beresford Skelton

Holy Trinity Ilkeston

Christmas Eve 11.30 Midnight Mass

Christmas Day 11am Sung Mass

St Stephen 11am Sung Mass Fr Simon Ellis 01159 255514

St Michael and All Angels Tonbridge Road, Maidstone

Christmas Eve

5.30pm Children's Nativity with Donkey 11.30pm Midnight Mass & Blessing of the Crib

Christmas Day 10.30am Solemn Mass with Sermon Confessions by appointment Fr Gibbons SSC 01622 752710

All Saints Benhilton, Sutton

A Forward in Faith Parish under the care of the Bishop of Fulham

Thursday 23rd Dec: 7pm Festival of Lessons & Carols

Christmas Eve

5pm Carols and Crib Dressing 11.30pm Midnight Mass

Christmas Day 10am Sung Mass

Contact Adelaide Komey 0208 644 2737 and Carolyn Melius 0208 642 4276

St Luke

Kingston-upon-Thames Friday 17th Christingle at 5pm

Sunday 19th 5pm Service of Carols Friday 24th: Christmas Eve 10am Christmas tales at Canbury Arms 4.30pm Crib Service

11.30pm Midnight Mass Saturday 25th: Christmas Day 8am Mass 10.30am Sung Mass

Sunday 27th: Feast of St Stephen (Boxing Day) 8am Mass 10.30am Sung Mass Contact: Fr Martin Hislop (Parish Office) Tel: 020 8549 4551

www.stlukeskingston.org.uk St Catherine of Siena

Richmond Road, Sheffield Christmas Eve

5pm Vigil Mass 11.30pm Solemn Mass of the Nativity

Christmas Day 10am Parish Mass **Holy Family** 10am Parish Mass

Fr Loxley 0114 239 9598 e-mail father.loxley@sky.com For all other details see: www.stcathsiena.co.uk

Holy Spirit Fawcet Road, Southsea

Christmas Eve 6.30pm Crib Service and Christingle .10 to 11.25pm Carols 11.30pm Midnight Mass

Christmas Day

8am Mass of the Dawn 10am Solemn Mass of the Nativity 4pm Prayer at the Crib and Benediction

Sunday 26th December 10am Mass of the Holy Family

Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday 10am Mass

Fr Michael Lewis 023 9287 3535

Winter

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Caption **//?**///



Regional Dean's head was a Crane Fly -

which in turn led to some puns too awful to print while others took it be a Dragon Fly - which in turn led to the winner!

One of Fr Crane's parishioners (we'll not reveal Mr Baker's name, so Fr Crane will be left in the dark as to who it was) went with Well, I'm a Crane Fly, but I didn't expect my dad to be this huge, to say nothing of I thought I'd found an inshore species of Whale and Brain is a delicacy for me, and I've been probing for ages but still can't find any.



Fr Crosthwaite from Doncaster surfaced again with The little-known Biretta Fly, now almost extinct in Central Italy, is seeking to establish a permanent home in the ponds of South Staffordshire.

Dennis Hallam and Shirley Brittan tried the appealing Head Hunted at last and Anne Hind from Berkshire made us smile with Mistaken for a fragrant

But the winner has to be a Mr Harry Johnson of Wood Green, who has obviously met the Vicar of Wylde Green more than once: One buzzes noisily around, landing and interfering where it's not wanted, disturbing the peace, and the other is a

ARATHER ARGUMENTATIVE crop Competition Arather Argumentative crop Competition



dragon-fly. A book-token will wing its way to N22 in due course.

Moving on, here's the Vicar of S.Barnabas, Tunbridge Wells with two of his acolytes, dressed ready for - what exactly?

Entries, please, to: ForwardPlus@forwardinfaith.com or by post to: Forward Plus, Caption Competition, Forward in Faith, 2A The Cloisters Gordon Square, London WC1H 0AG

Kitchen

Banana Bread

This, and the following recipe, could not be easier to make! All the ingredients are beaten together in one bowl at the same time.

INGREDIENTS:

2 Ripe Bananas (browning) 1 Large Egg 5oz R Flour

1 tsp Baking Powder (rounded) 2oz Butter 4oz Caster Sugar

METHOD:

Preheat the oven to Gas 4, 180C, or 160C Fan. Grease a 1lb loaf tin and then line it with greaseproof paper. Mix all the ingredients together using a fork and then beat with a wooden spoon

intil the mixture is of a loose dropping consistency. You may need to add a drop of milk if the bananas arenot really mushy.

Pour the mixture into the tin and level it before baking for 35 - 40minutes. Make sure it is baked throughout by inserting a skewer or knitting pin in the centre. The skewer should not be sticky / wet to the touch. Leave the cake to cool in the tin then turn out on to the rack until cold. Keeps well. Serve

Lemon Drizzle Cake INGREDIENTS:

4oz Butter

60z SR Flour 6oz Sugar

2 Eggs 4 tblsp Milk

1 Lemon (the grated rind)

Preheat the oven to Gas 4, 180C, or 160CFan.

Grease a 1lb loaf tin and then line it with greaseproof paper. Combine all the ingredients together in a bowl and then beat

Spoon into the tin, level and then make a well in the centre. Bake in the oven for 1 hour until well risen and golden. Test with a skewer. If ready ease the cake from the sides of the tin and paper with the blade of a knife before spooning the topping over the cake. Leave in the tin until cold. Serve sliced.

TOPPING:

3 tbsp Icing Sugar (rounded) 1 Lemon[above] (the juice)

METHOD:

Mix together until smooth.

If you have a favourite recipe to share, please send it to Sandra Fowles Forward in Faith, 2A The Cloisters, Gordon Square, London WC1H 0AG ForwardPlus@forwardinfaith.com

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In London?

Mass is said each weekday in the English Chapel at Christ the King, Gordon Square, London WC1, for people who "drop in" as well as for Forward in Faith members who are in the area.



Particular intercessions can be sent to chaplain@forwardinfaith.com to be remembered at Mass

The chapel is open for private prayer Monday to Friday 8am to 4pm (but closed on Bank Holidays).

> **Monday to Friday:** Mass at 12.30pm

In addition: every Thursday: "Holy Hour": Exposition at 12 noon followed by Silent Prayer until 12.20pm. This concludes with Intercessions and Benediction followed by Mass at the usual time.

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THERE WERE GIANTS IN THE LAND

A series of portraits of great Anglo-Catholics

A DIRECT RESULT of the Oxford Movement's rediscovery of the Church of England's Catholic heritage and, in particular, its Eucharistic doctrine, was the inspiration of young priests to revive the faith throughout the land. Nowhere was the impact of their work more visible than in the vast and neglected slum areas of the great cities. In the second half of the nineteenth century and in the opening years of the twentieth, Anglo-Catholic priests and their patrons began to commission churches that would proclaim the presence of God among his people and offer a vision of the kingdom of heaven in their midst. Many architects sympathetic to the movement or devout High Churchmen were commissioned for this work, among them Scott, Bodley, Butterfield, Brooks, Pearson; but none expressed his faith and devotion as profoundly as Ninian Comper.

Fr John Comper

Comper's father, an Englishman, had moved to Scotland at the age of 25 to teach at the newly-founded church school at Kirriemuir. a village twenty miles north of Dundee with a flourishing weaving trade. An ardent supporter of the ritualist development of the Oxford Movement, he was ordained priest in the Scottish Episcopal Church by the saintly Bishop Forbes SSC, a close friend of Dr Pusey. After serving in the Black Isle, Nairn, Inverness, and Stonehaven, he was appointed incumbent of St John's, Aberdeen. He sought help from John Mason Neale's community at East Grinstead to assist, and the sisters established St Margaret's Convent, the first Anglican sisterhood in Scotland, which continued in existence until 2002 when, with the death of Mother Verity, it was closed.

On 10th June 1864 John Ninian Comper was born. His father, now one of the leading priests of the Anglo-Catholic revival in Scotland, invited Dr Neale, to be a godfather. Three years later, Fr Comper established a mission church of St Margaret of Scotland in Gallowgate, one of the poorest of the slum areas of Aberdeen. In 1870 he resigned from St John's to become Mission Priest there and devote the rest of his life to the poor. His death, over thirty years later, occurred suddenly while he was giving strawberries to poor children in the Duthie Park, Aberdeen, on the banks on the Dee.

From school to business

The Comper house was rarely without visitors. Ninian was used to meeting there all the great figures of the Catholic revival from England as well as Scotland, and these contacts stood him in good stead when he began his career. After school in Aberdeen and Glenalmond College, he entered the Aberdeen School of Art at

Sir John Ninian Comper 1864 - 1960

"Devout and learned architect"

18, then spent a term at Ruskin School, Oxford. Fr Congreve SSJE of Cowley introduced him to C.E.Kempe, the noted stained glass designer who offered him voluntary work experience for a year while he continued his studies at the South Kensington School of Art. In 1883 he was articled to Bodley and Garner, the leading ecclesiastical architects of the period, whose churches include St Michael's Camden Town, Holy Angels Hoar Cross, St Augustine's Pendlebury and St John's Tuebrook. While in Bodley's drawing office, Comper met William Bucknall, and in 1888 set up a partnership with him in Westminster.

Life in Norwood

Two years later, Comper married Bucknall's sister Grace. They had six children: Sebastian, who also became an architect and worked for a while with his father; Mary; Quintyn, a teacher; Nicholas, a brilliant aeronautical engineer who designed the Comper Swift aeroplane, but died in tragic circumstances in 1939 after being attacked as a result of a practical joke that went wrong; Ursula; and Adrian, a designer of surgical operating tables and medical equipment. Granddaughter Naomi later described life in the Comper household. They lived, she wrote, "in a rambling old house in Upper Norwood, which had been a priory. My grandfather Ninian was the archetypal Victorian father and his wife Grace was a gentle maternal type and was adored by all the family. I remember the house as being plainly furnished except for some heavy carved oak doors, which my grandfather had brought back from the Continent. The only other decoration was Italian vases and plate also pre-sumably brought back from his travels. I suspect he decided what was in the house and although he was High Church and his churches were ornate to the glory of God everything else had to be simple including his wife's clothes. She was not allowed any jewellery except perhaps for modest trinkets. They sat round a coal fire in the large drawing room with screens to keep out the drafts.

There were six acres of garden. Wood in the front, then terraces in the Italian style led down to a little meadow and more woods.



My grandfather loved his garden would not allow his wife to pick any flowers although, much to the annovance of the family, when she died a box of flowers was sent to her grave every week. She was buried in Wellingborough - one of his churches. I sometimes wonder what they did in the evenings. My grandmother played the piano but none of the others played an instrument. His daughters did embroidery for the churches - doubtless designed by their father! My mother said the house was very lively when the "boys" were at home. They were always playing practical jokes. One of them I was told was when one of the brothers was going out for the evening his brothers sus-pected he might be late so they made a booby trap so that when he opened his bedroom door which was next to the parents, a whole lots of pans fell down and a gramophone started playing.

My grandfather certainly ruled the house. They say he chose all the children's names and my grandmother wept when he called his first born John Baptist Sebastian. He had run out of names when he got to my father and he was only called Nicholas.

My mother said after they were married when they were back at the Priory my father was eating a bar of chocolate and when his father came in the room he hid it behind his back. My mother said 'Why did you do that?' He said it was habit; his father would have said he was indulging himself. My mother said if she came to the house with a low-necked dress

my grandfather would produce a handkerchief to cover her up, but this was done in a jocular way. I wonder what he thought of the 1920s short skirts. I know his daughters weren't allowed to have their hair bobbed.

All my grandfather's business affairs were run by the Bucknall family even to the extent that my grandmother had to go to them for house-keeping money. My grandfather was not interested in money. After the 1914-1918 war there was competition for the design of the Welsh War Memorial. My grandfather did not wish to tender as he thought it was vulgar, but since money was very short during the war and after he was persuaded to and won?

Professional development

Ninian Comper's first commis-sion was from his father, adding a stone-vaulted chapel of St Nicholas at the west end of St Margaret's Church in 1889. In 1908 he added a south aisle, the Founder's Aisle, with a Chapel of the Holy Name in memory of his parents. After 1903 he included a strawberry as his signature in windows as a remembrance of the circumstances of his father's death. Meanwhile, since 1888, he had been designing for the Sisters of Bethany's School of Embroidery. Under his direction the work that the Sisters produced vestments, banners, altar frontals and linen work - became famous and was in great demand, not only in England, but throughout the

His professional career continued for over seventy years. His first major commission was the Convent chapel at St Margaret's, Aberdeen, in 1891. Other notable commissions soon followed including the Convent Chapel at Malvern Link, 1893, St John the Evangelist, New Hinksey,1898, St Margaret's, Braemar, 1899, St Cyprian's, Clarence Gate and St Mary's Kirriemuir,1903, St Michael's, Inverness, and St Mary's, Wellingborough, 1904. There were also very many commissions alterations, additions and furnishings. His style developed from the early period, which he later called "beauty by exclusion", based on the 14th century English Gothic of Bodley and Garner, af-

ter a number of European study tours. He visited the Rhineland, then reluctantly accompanied his father on a trip to Rome in 1900. Southern Italy, Greece and Spain were further destinations over the next decade. His article "Of the Atmosphere of a Church", written for the magazine of Chichester Theological College in 1939 sets out the principles of his work showing clearly his firm grasp of Catholic truth and practice. It is learned and scholarly defence of beauty. Architecture is the "handmaid of liturgy" in which "no beautiful style should be excluded." "But the plan, the 'layout, of the church must first be in accord with the liturgy... and the imagery must express the balanced measure of the Faith; and for guidance in both we must look to tradition." In advance of other architects he came to emphasise the importance of a free-standing altar under a ciborium (canopy) demonstrated at All Saints' Convent, London Colney, Pusey House, and St Philip's, Cosham. The combination of Greek and Gothic influences, "unity by inclusion", independently anticipated the placing of the altar in the central space of worship favoured by the liturgical movement of the mid-60s.

Lasting influence

There must be few places in the Christian world where some trace of Comper's workmanship cannot be found. Apart from his buildings, the vestments and banners, windows and ornaments that he designed were commissioned for China, North America, France, India and South Africa. His work leads us, as it was intended, from time into eternity, by drawing us to the altar where earth and heaven are united.

Knighted at the advanced age of 84, he continued his work almost to the end of his long life. On 22nd December 1960 in the Hostel of God, Clapham, he passed to his eternal rest, receiving the Sacraments at the last at the hands of Fr Leslie Pickett, SSC, the Chaplain to the Sisters of St Margaret in whose care he spent his last days; the same order which had established their home in Aberdeen almost a century before to share in his father's care for the poor. His ashes were buried in Westminster Abbey beneath windows that he had designed: a fitting resting place for the last of the great Gothic revival architects.

Further reading

The leading authority on Comper is Fr Anthony Symondson SJ, whose book "Sir Ninian Comper" which includes a complete gazetteer of his work compiled by Stephen Bucknall, was published by Spire Books & The Ecclesiological Societv in 2006. It contains the text of Comper's "Of the Atmosphere of a Church" and nearly 50 illustrations of his work, ISBN 1-904965-11-3

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- Traditionalist Biblical scholars and theologians (Bible Sunday)
- St Andrew & St Francis of Assissi, Willesden Green, Fr Colin Patterson (London)
- All Saints, East Finchley, Fr Christopher Hardy (London) All Saints, Notting Hill, Prebendary John Brownsell (London)
- St Augustine, Highgate, Fr Philip Goff (London)
- 10 St John, Hammersmith, Fr Hugh Mead (London)
- Lay Ministers and Pastoral Assistants of the traditional integrity
- 12 Guidance of Holy Spirit in discernment of vocations to the priesthood
- 13 St Augustine, Belvedere, Fr Clive Jones (Rochester)
- St George, Bickley (Rochester)
- 15 ${\sf SS\,Michael\,\&\,Augustine,Beckenham,Fr\,Christopher\,Smith\,(Rochester)}$
- 16 St Luke, Gillingham (Rochester)
- St James, Elmers End, Beckenham, Fr Leon Carberry (Rochester)
- Greater devotion to Jesus in the Scriptures, the Sacraments and the coming feast of the Incarnation
- 19
- Due spiritual preparation for the feast of our Lord's birth St Bamabas, Bexhill, Fr Roger Crosthwaite (Chichester) 20
- SS Martin & Wilfrid, Brighton, Canon Beau Brandie (Chichester)
- 22 St Aidan, Carlisle, Fr Richard Oakley (Carlisle)
- 23
- St John the Evangelist, Workington, Fr John Cook (Carlisle) St Bride's Greyfriars Church, Dumfries, Fr Andrew Crosbie (Scotland) 24
- 25 All traditionalist Christians as they rejoice in the Incarnation of our Lord Jesus Christ
- 26 Christian Family Life and our own families (Holy Family) St Alban, Great Ilford, Fr Stuart Halstead (Chelmsford) 27
- 28 St Francis, Barkingside (Chelmsford)
- St Nicolas, Guildford, Fr Andrew Norman (Guildford)
- 30 St Augustine, Aldershot, Fr Keith Hodges (Guildford)
- Holy Trinity, Hawley, Fr Martyn Neale (Guildford)

January, 2011 1 World Peace

- Missionary work
- St George, Headstone, Fr Stephen Keeble (London) St Arvan, St Arvans with Penterrry, Fr Michael Gollop (Monmouth) St John the Evangelist, Brandon, Fr Peter Brown (Durham)
- St Clement, Cambridge (Ely)
- St Hilda, Prestwich, Fr Ronald Croft (Manchester)
 Bishops John Ford, Mark Sowerby and Lindsay Urwin in their temporary care
 for the parishes of the Richborough and Ebbsfleet areas 8
- Parishes of the Ebbsfleet area
- 10 The former congregation of Holy Trinity, Bury (Manchester), now
- closed, as they seek new places in which to worship St Luke, Lightbowne, Fr Philip Stamp, Fr John O'Connor (Manchester) 11
- St James the Great, Oldham, Fr Paul Plumpton (Manchester)
- 13 Christ Church, Moss Side, Fr Simon Killwick (Manchester) St Mary Magdalene, Winton, Fr Ian Hall (Manchester)
- 14 15 $International\ Commission\ for\ Anglican-Orthodox\ Theological\ Dialogue$
- International Anglican-Roman Catholic Commission for Unity and Mission (IARCCUM)
- St Peter, St Augustine, All Saints, Swinton & Pendlebury, Fr Jeremy Sheehy, Fr Paul Hutchins (Manchester) 17
- St Augustine, Tonge Moor, Fr Tony Davies (Manchester)
- All Hallows, Easton Bristol, Fr Richard Hoyal (Bristol)
- St John the Evangelist, Bovey Tracey, Fr Richard Silk (Exeter) St Paul, Hasland, Fr Malcolm Ainscough (Derby) 20
- 21
- **Œcumenical partners of Forward in Faith**
- 23 Pontifical Council for Christian Unity & World Council of Churches All Saints, Ryde (Portsmouth)
- 24
- All Saints, Godshill, & St Alban, Ventnor, IOW, Fr John Ryder (Portsmouth) 25
- 26 Broughton, Marton & Thornton, Fr Nicholas Turner (Bradford)
- St Mark, Stocklands Green, Fr Stuart Powell (Birmingham)
- St Luke, Kingstanding, Fr Nathan Jarvis (Birmingham)

- Parishes of the Richborough area
- Bishop of Beverley and parishes under his care

St Michael, Coppenhall, Fr Charles Razzall, Fr David Johnstone (Chester)

February, 2011

- Andrew, West Kirby (Chester)
- All Saints', Wickham Terrace, Brisbane, Fr Richard Martin (Australia)
- St Francis, Spartanburg, South Carolina, Rt Rev'd Timothy Farmer (USA) St Michael, Wood Green, Fr Colin Coppen (London)
- Meeting of General Synod (Monday to Friday)

- Catholic Group and traditionalists on Synod The Holy Spirit, Southsea, Fr Michael Lewis (Portsmouth)
- The Ascension, Portsea (Portsmouth)
- St Michael and All Angels, Paulsgrove (Portsmouth)
- St James, Milton, Fr Oriel Alby (Portsmouth) St John the Baptist, Marshall, Virginia, Fr David A. S. Hoare (USA)
- Peter, Bishop of Edmonton and parishes formerly under the care of the Bishop
- 13 Conversion of Europe (SS Cyril & Methodius on Monday)
- St Silas the Martyr, Kentish Town, Fr Graeme Rowlands (London)
- 15 St Peter, London Docks, Fr Trevor Jones (London)
- St Mark, Noel Park, Fr Simon Clark (London)
- 17 St Michael & All Angels, North Kensington, Fr Tony Andrews (London)
- 18 St Cuthbert with St Matthias, Philbeach Gardens, Fr John Vine (London)
- 19
- Retired Clergy of the traditional integrity School Chaplains, students and teachers (Education Sunday) 20
- St Peter, Greets Green (Lichfield)
- 22 South Hinskey with New Hinksey, Fr James Wilkinson (Oxford)
- 23 Holy Trinity, Reading (Oxford)
- 24 St Giles-in-Reading, Reading (Oxford)
- St Mark with Christchurch, Glodwick, Oldham, Fr Graham Hollowood (Manchester)
- 26
- Sick Clergy of the traditional integrity
 Credo Cymru, Forward in Faith in Wales (St David's Day Tuesday) 27
- 28 St Andrew's Anglican Church, Geenwood, South Carolina, Fr Peter Geromel (USA)

- The Advent, Greenwich, Connecticut, Fr Robert Bader (USA)
- All Saints, Kooyong, Fr Christopher Seton (Australia) Christ Church, Pinehurst, Fr Thomas E. Parsons (USA)
- Mount Calvary, Baltimore, Fr Jason Catania (USA)
- Renewal of the Church in spirit of penitence
- Worthy preparation for Lent St Mary the Virgin with All Saints, Rotherhithe, Fr Mark Nicholls (Southwark)
- The Ascension, Lavendar Hill, Fr Iain Young (Southwark)
- St Oswald, Tile Hill (Coventry) St John the Evangelist, Clevedon, Fr Roger Jackson (Bath & Wells) St Mary, Huntingfield (St Edmundsbury & Ipswich)
- Greater eagerness for sacred study 13 The hungry of the world (Family Fast Day on Friday)
- St Michael the Archangel Mission Church, Birdsboro, Rt Rev'd Paul Hewett (USA)
- St Bartholomew's Anglican Church, Swartz Creek, Michigan, Fr Gene Geromel (USA)
- St Andrew, Exwick, Fr Robin Eastoe, Fr Colin Fletcher (Exeter) 16
- St Helen, Abbotsham, Fr Francis Otto (Exeter)
- St Just, St Just in Penwith, Fr Stephen Leach (Truro)
- Renewal of Christian Family Life (St Joseph's Day)
 Traditionalist Christians in Ireland (St Patrick's Day last Thursday) 20
- St Agnes & St Pancras, Toxteth Park, Fr Christopher Cook (Liverpool)
- St John the Baptist, Edlington (Sheffield)
- St Paul, North Thornaby, Fr Harry Hopkins (York) St Michael and All Angels, Swanmore, Ryde, IoW (Portsmouth) 23 24
- Holy Nativity, Knowle (Bristol)
- Wonder in the incarnation of the Son of God (Annunciation yesterday) 27
- A new obedience to the Father's will (Annunciation last Friday)
- 28 SS Barnabas & Agnes, Hove (Chichester) 29 St James, Hanslope, Fr Gary Ecclestone (Oxford)
- St John, Kensal Green, Fr Andrew Dangerfield (London)
- St Matthew, Sinclair Road, Hammersmith, Fr Huw Chiplin (London)

Pray for all FiF members and parishes

JOIN FORWARD IN FAITH - BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE! The member to a copy of New Directions each month and voting member-

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The proposed United Benefice of S. Hugh of Lincoln, New Cantley & Holy Trinity, Doncaster

Sunday 19th Christingle Service at Holy Trinity at 4pm Friday 24th

Crib Service at S. Hugh's at 5pm
First mass of Christmas at S. Hugh's at 8pm
First mass of Christmas at Holy Trinity at 10pm

Christmas Day Mass of Christmas Day at Holy Trinity at 10am Sunday 26th

Parish Masses at usual times
9am Holy Trinity & 11am S.Hugh's

Tuesday 28th Mass of the day 10am at S. Hugh's

Wednesday 29th Mass of the day 10am at Holy Trinity

New Years Day
Mass of Our Lady at S. Hugh's at 12 noon

Sunday 2nd January The Epiphany of the Lord
Both Parish Masses at usual times
9am Holy Trinity & 11am S.Hugh's

Carol Service & Benediction at S. Hugh's at 4pm Fr Stokoe - tel 01302 371256

St Barnabas West Street, Crewe A,B&C

For Confessions and Daily Mass times: 01270 212418

Christmas Eve

5pm Christingle Service 11pm Midnight Mass & Blessing of the Crib Christmas Day 10am Solemn Mass and Procession to the Crib

Sunday 26th December 10am Solemn Mass, 5.30pm Low Mass, 6pm Evensong

Thursday 30th December 7pm Carol Service and Benediction followed by Punch and a Mince Pie

Confessions before Christmas 01270 212418

Vicar: Fr Ralph Powell SSC

All Saints, Torre, Torquay

Christmass Eve 6pm Crib Service and Christingle

11.30pm Solemn Mass of Midnight and Procession of the Bambino Christmass Day 8am Low Mass

10am Solemn Mass with Carols St Stephen

8am Low Mass 10am Solemn Mass Fr Roger Shambrook SSC 01803 328865

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 Mary the Virgin **Hunslet and** St Hilda's, Cross Green

Christmas Eve - St Mary's 6.30pm First Mass

of Christmas Christmas Eve - St Hilda's

7.30pm First Mass of Christmas 11pm Carols

11.30pm Midnight Mass Christmas Day - St Mary's 9.30am Mass of the Day

Fr Alex Lane 0113 271 9661

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 OAG.

Email FiF.UK@forwardinfaith.com **Telephone** 020 7388 3588

Date	Where	Times	What	Contact Name	Contact
Nov 17	S.Hilda, Cross Green, Leeds	7.30 pm	Patronal Festival. Solemn Mass Preacher: The Bishop of Whitby	Fr Alex Lane	0113 271 9661
20	Christ the King, Gordon Square WC1	12.00 noon	FiF London & Southwark Annual Solemn Mass for the Eve of Christ the King. Principal Celebrant: The Bishop of Fulham, Preacher: Fr Philip Corbett	Fr Malcolm Gray Fr Andrew Stevens	020 8950 7860 020 8854 0461
Dec 8	Worksop Priory	7.30 pm	Immaculate Conception: Solemn Mass. Preacher: Fr Alan Parkinson	Fr Nicholas Spicer	01909 472180
11	S.Augustine, Pendlebury, Manchester	12.00 noon	NW Ward Society of Mary Immaculate Conception Festival Mass. Principal Celebrant & Preacher: Bishop John Gaisford.Lunch £5, Rosary & Benediction 2.45	Fr Paul Hutchins	0161 794 4298
11-12	Community Hall, D'Arcy Road, S.Barnabas, Old Heath, Colchester	10.00 am - 4.00 pm	Christmas Craft Fayre: In aid of S.Barnabas. Jams, Pickles, Children's Knits, Dolls Boutique, Cakes, Table Decorations, Wood-Craft, Tree Decorations and Chocolate. Refreshments and lunches available	Aldine Laitt	01206 502818
18	S.Mary the Virgin, Kenton (London)	1.00 pm	40th Anniversary of Ordination to the Priesthood of Fr C Malcolm Gray. Concelebrated Mass. Preacher: The Venerable Bernard Holdridge. Followed by buffet lunch. The offertory collection will go to the Caritas Children's Hospital, Bethlehem	Fr Malcolm Gray	020 8950 7860
18	S.John, Tue Brook, Liverpool	7.30 pm	Licensing of Fr Simon Fisher as Parish Priest		0151 228 2025
25	S.Paul the Apostle, Croxteth, Liverpool 7.30 pm		Conversion of S.Paul. Concelebrated Mass. Preacher: Fr Simon Fisher. Followed by Parish Party	Fr Ian Brooks	0151 548 9009
Feb 5	S.Agatha, Sparkbrrok, Birmingham	11.00 am	Concelebrated Festival Mass followed by reception. Preacher Fr Kit Dunkley, Master SSC. Car parking available	Fr John Hervé	0121 449 2790
Mar 5	S.Nicholas, Ryecroft, Rotherham	10.30 am	FiF Sheffield AGM. 10.30 am Mass, followed by meeting	Mr David Oatley	0114 230 2035
May 6	Holy Trinity, Hoxton, London N1	8.00 pm	Confraternity of S.George High Mass followed by 40th Annual Party	GSS Cllr John Donovan or Ch Ward David Fordham	020 8809 6931 07885 064161
7	S.Jude, Hexthorpe, Doncaster	tba	FiF Sheffield Teaching Day on Healing, Wholeness and Reconciliation	Mr David Oatley	0114 230 2035
Jun 26	S.Catherine of Siena, Richmond Road, Sheffield	5.00 pm	FiF Sheffield: Eucharistic Festival	Mr David Oatley	0114 230 2035
Jul 6	Shrine of Our Lady of 7.30 pm Egmanton		FiF Sheffield, Evening Pilgrimage to Egmanton	Mr David Oatley	0114 230 2035
Sept 10	Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham	tba	FiF Sheffield Pilgrimage to Walsingham	Mr David Oatley	0114 230 2035
14-15	Emmanuel Centre, London SE1	tbc	FORWARD IN FAITH NATIONAL ASSEMBLY	Forward in Faith	020 7388 3588
15	Christ the King, Gordon Square WC1	tbc	Forward in Faith National Assembly Mass	Forward in Faith	020 7388 3588

The Fight Continues

Fr Simon Killwick, Chairman of the Catholic Group in Synod, explains what is happening

JITH THE newly-elected General Synod. there is a new Catholic Group in General Synod; a number of the "old hands" have been re-elected, along with around 23 new members. The size of the new intake bodes well for the Group, as it is always good to have "new

Anglican Ordinariate

Next year, the Anglican Ordinariate will begin in the Roman Catholic Church. I do not anticipate that this will bring any reduction in the size of the Catholic Group in General Synod. We understand the reasons of those who will go into the Ordinariate, and we wish them 'good luck in the name of the Lord.'

Proper provision

The Catholic Group is determined to fight on for proper provision in the Church of England for those who cannot accept the oversight of women bishops. The present draft legislation would need to be amended in order to make proper provision. The signs are that it will not be passed by the Synod unless it is so amended.

The next Synod

But the Catholic Group is not a single-issue group, and will engage with the full range of the Synod's agenda, notably in November with a report on the "Big Society", and the proposed Anglican Covenant - a brave attempt to bring unity and coherence to the Anglican Communion, which we will be supporting.

Catholic Anglicans who choose to remain in the Church of England must realise that we are choosing to be in a synodical Church. We must therefore be fully engaged in the synodical life of the Church.

The Catholic Group exists to do just that, and to do so on behalf of all Catholic Anglicans. Please support us with your prayers, and with your own participation, wherever possible, in deanery and diocesan synods - this is especially important as those synods come to debate the draft legislation for women bishops over the coming months.



Saint Catherine's Todmorden Road Burnley, Lancashire

CHRISTMAS EVE 6pm Children's Mass & Nativity Play 11:30pm Midnight Mass

CHRISTMAS DAY

8:15am Mass 10:30am Sung Mass

Epiphany Community

Carol Service
Sunday 9th January 2011 - 6.30pm
In Aid of Pendleside Hospice

Daily Mass Christmas Week and throughout the year

For other times please contact Father Roger Parker 07977 291166

or see our website www.saintcatherines.co.uk

St Helen's Parish Church West Auchland Bishop Auckland

Sunday 19th Dec (Advent 4)

10am Parish Mass 4pm Children's Christingle Service

Wednesday 22nd December 7pm The Parish Carol Service with Ferryhill Town Brass Band

Christmas Eve 4nm Children's Crib Service 11.30pm Midnight Mass by Candlelight Christmas Day

9.30am Family Mass of Christmas Day Sunday 26th December (Holy Family) 10am Parish Mass

Daily Mass during the Christmas Octave Canon Robert McTeer SSC 01388 604152 www.sthelenschurch.co.uk

The Church of St Paul the Apostle

Middle Way, Croxteth, Liverpool A Forward in Faith parish under the pastoral care of the Bishop of Beverley Principal Advent and Christmass-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

Mass in the Octave: every weekday at 12 noon (1st January Sung Mass)

SUNDAY 2nd JANUARY 11am Sung Mass with Sunday School 3.30pm Carols by candlelight (refreshments after

PATRONAL FESTIVAL 2011 TUESDAY 25th JANUARY THE CONVERSION OF ST PAUL

7.30pm Solemn Concelebrated Mass (Parish Party afterwards — all welcome) For details of other services. times of confession etc., contact: Fr lan Brooks SSC (Vicar) Telephone/facsimile: 0151 548 9009 e-mail: FrIGB@blueyonder.co.uk

All Saints with St Saviour **All Saints Road**

Weston-super-Mare

An ABC Parish, everyone welcome Christmas Services December 20th

7pm Carols by candlelight in aid of Cancer Research UK December 21st

3pm Carols by candlelight in aid of Cancer Research UK

December 24th 5pm Crib Service 11.30pm Midnight Mass December 25th 10am Solemn Mass

December 26th 8am St Stephen - Solemn Mass 10am Holy Family - Solemn Mass

Dec 27th 10am St John - Solemn Mass Dec 28th 10am Holy Innocents - Solemn Mass

December 28th

10am St Thomas à Becket - Solemn Mass January 1st 2011 10am Mary Mother of God - Mass Tel: 01934 415379

email: allsaintsoffice@tiscali.co.uk Visit our website www.allsaintswsm.org.uk 14 Forward Plus ★ Winter 2010-2011

visit our website: www.forwardinfaith.com

Women Bishops Legislation comes to Local Synods

Over the next months deanery synods and diocesan synods will be considering the proposed legislation on women bishops that has been sent down from General Synod.

Fr Paul Benfield explains:

WHY A CODE OF PRACTICE WILL NOT DO

• It has not yet been written. Will you sign a blank cheque?

The House of Bishops has only recently appointed a committee to draw up the draft code and General Synod will not see this draft code until February 2012. So diocesan synods will be signing a blank cheque if they approve the legislation now.

· It will not be enforceable

The legislation proposes a code of practice to which bishops (and others) must 'have regard'. But they are not forced to conform to it

At present, a person who contravenes Resolutions A or B is guilty of misconduct and open to disciplinary proceedings.

Under a Code of Practice, there would be no such penalties for non-compliance.

The only possible appeal against a bishop who refused to comply would be a judicial review in the High Court. That would be enormously expensive, with the parish paying its own costs, and the Church Commissioners paying the bishop's.

• It will not be guaranteed to last: past promises have been broken

We were promised that the existing provisions giving protection for incumbents and, in particular parishes "should remain in perpetuity for as long as anyone wanted it."

The proposed legislation will sweep away the existing statutory provisions concerned with women priests, thereby breaking the assurances given to synod and parliament.

· Resolution A will be abolished

Resolution A prevents a woman priest from celebrating Holy Communion or pronouncing the absolution in a parish which has passed it. This will disappear.

· PCCs will have no power to prevent a woman priest officiating

It will be replaced by nothing, and so an incumbent (or churchwardens during a vacancy) may invite a woman priest to officiate in the parish as often they wish. Although a PCC might request this practice to stop, it could do nothing if those responsible for inviting women priests to officiate chose to ignore that request.

· Resolution B will be abolished

Resolution B prevents a woman priest from being appointed as incumbent or priest in charge of a benefice. This also disappears.

• Sacramental assurance will not be guaranteed

A PCC may request the bishop to appoint a male priest. But the bishop could appoint a male priest ordained by a woman bishop.

Since there would be doubt about the validity of the women bishop's sacramental acts there would be doubt as to the orders of the male priest, and it follows there would be doubt about the sacraments that he administered. Sacramental assurance, which is essential for the faithful, would thereby be lost.

• The Act of Synod will be abolished

The Episcopal Ministry Act of Synod that allows parishes to pass "Resolution C" (as it has become known) requesting extended episcopal care from a PEV or other appropriate bishop will be rescinded.

• There will be no guarantee of appropriate Episcopal care

A PCC may resolve to request the diocesan bishop to provide episcopal ministry and pastoral care by a male bishop only. There are two problems with this

- 1 Because that male bishop is simply a delegate of the diocesan bishop, his acts are those of the diocesan though carried out by him. So if he confirms or ordains someone it is as though the diocesan bishop has himself (or herself) confirmed or ordained that person in the same way that if you receive an award from Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant you have received it from the Queen herself, albeit at the hands of her representative. How could anyone who doubted the orders of the woman diocesan accept confirmation or ordination by the hands of her delegate? How could any catholic bishop act as a delegate of a woman bishop whose orders he doubts?
- 2 The resolution and letter of request ignores the fact that the male bishop might have ordained women priests or joined in the consecration of woman bishops. This is nothing to do with 'tainted hands' as our opponents allege, but is about communion and collegiality.

• Each diocese will be free to make different arrangements

Each diocesan bishop is under a duty to make a scheme containing arrangements for episcopal ministry and pastoral care of clergy and parishes that have issued letters of request. In drawing up the scheme the bishop must take note of the code of practice and consult his diocesan synod. This suggests that there may be wide varieties of provision between dioceses. This is not satisfactory for a National Church.

· New voting requirements make dissent more difficult

The draft legislation imposes new requirements, never before seen in any legislation, about the passing of resolutions before issuing letters of request.

Under existing legislation a PCC called to pass Resolutions A or B must be attended by at least half the members. But under this draft legislation a PCC meeting called to pass a resolution for a letter of request to a bishop must be attended by at least two thirds of the members or (if attended by less than two thirds of the members) then a majority of the members entitled to attend must vote in favour of the resolution.

• The parish priest can veto the wishes of the PCC

For a resolution concerning episcopal care to be passed, the incumbent or priest in charge **must** vote in favour of it. So he has an absolute veto over the wishes of the PCC and the laity are at the mercy of the priest. All a woman bishop needs to do is to appoint a male priest in favour of women bishops to a parish, knowing that he will never support a parish resolution. She will thus never be prevented from performing episcopal functions in that parish whenever she wishes.

TO SECURE OUR FUTURE WE MUST OPPOSE THIS LEGISLATION

Photo gallery



FR TONY OULTON was licensed as priest-in-charge of St Luke's, Southport, by the Bishop of Liverpool on 3rd October. It is a FiF parish, one of only 3 in the diocese in the care of the Bp of Beverley who concluded the service with Solemn Benediction



THE COLLEGE OF READERS held their annual festival at All Saints, Clifton, Bristol. After Mass and AGM lunch was enjoyed at the Alma pub.



FR JAMES BRADLEY assists the Bishop of Fulham in censing the altar soon after he was ordained Deacon in St John the Baptist, Sevenoaks.



FR ANDREW TEATHER celebrates his First Mass, a High Mass of Jesus Christ the Eternal High Priest, in St George the Martyr, Preston.



Dear Melomaniacs,

Having a spot of bother in the parish, actually. You may remember from last time that the Homeless Urban Trust (HUT), at the instigation of the lefty Archdeacon, has put a hut for the homeless in the garden. You may also remember that an out-ofwork actor called Cedric has taken residence. Well, he is now not the only resident.

He was joined after a fortnight or so by an Irish vagrant called Paddy, which caused Cedric to sulk - for a while, at least, until Paddy started encouraging Cedric's declamations. "That's great, Rick," he keeps saying, "Let's be after having some more of that potery (sic.)." And off Cedric goes. Eulalie, Jean-Louis' wife, after an initial period of hostility following some thefts from the kitchen, has quite taken to him, having convinced herself that he is famous 'comédien' fallen on hard times, and has started taking portions of her finest culinary creations out to the HUT hút, which is gradually becoming the number one gastronomic destination for homeless gourmets. Paddy was followed by

Fr Crotchet's Corner his pal Stuart, who hails

from Glasgow. Cronan and Stuart imbibe. Copiously. We are getting to the stage where there seems to be a permanent céilidh in the garden, with an unusually high proportion of Shakespearian declamation.

F that were not enough, the Churchwardens are arguing about whether to join the Society of SS Wiltud and Hydebounde or join the Ordinariate.

They seem to think that the C of E will pay us to take St Bibulus' off their hands, but I told them that the best that we could expect would be the occasional use

of the HUT but, and that we would probably have to explain why we had used the freehold to buy agricultural property in the north of France. They have shut up for a while. I hope that noone tells them about the Orthodox.

HAVE turned to (loud) music. I was delighted to see that Testament (www. testament.co.uk) has released a rediscovered performance of Gustav Mahler's Symphony No.2 'Resurrection' conducted by Otto Klemperer in 1951 No, this is not the Holland Festival performance

released by Decca from the same year. It is a live performance that Klemperer managed to arrange using the same forces that he was using to make his first studio recording, which was taped at about the same time. Nerd talk? Well, a bit, but this performance is an absolute sizzler and gives us a real flavour of the conductor that Klemperer was for most of his career. From the first notes it is edgy, purposeful

and surging with manic energy towards the great culmination of the last movement. This is Klemperer aged 67, in complete control of the orchestra and tending to offer tempi on the fast side.

This is the Klemperer who electrified the Kroll Opera from 1927 to 1931 until he fled the Nazis and his career, and health, fell into an abyss for twenty years.

OW, there are nine extant performances of this Mahler symphony by Klemperer, including the fine Philharmonia studio recording. Why should you bother with this one? Well, despite the age of the recording and the use of the Vienna Symphony Orchestra, it is incandescent. Furthermore, you get the performance twice - once in

a straight mono transfer, and once in an 'ambient stereo version which considerably enhances its impact. Those of you who go back a bit

will remember the horrors of 'electronic stereo' as practised by Decca in the 1960s and will be initially put off by any suggestion of tampering. Don't be concerned: this is a benign process if done well, and, in this case, you

have the insurance of both the original version and the enhanced one in the same plastic container. The number is SBT2 1456 and it can be obtained on the internet for about £15. Don't confuse it with the live 1963 RFH performance which is also on Testament, with another number. There is more information on the

HAVE listened to five of Klemperer's performances in preparation for this article (it hides the sound of the céilidh in the garden) and I can see now how his vision developed from 1951 until 1965. În 1951, the amazingly youthful conductor is slightly severe with the Andante second movement and the Wunderhorn moments of the third movement these being the natural

territory of his colleague, and polar opposite, Bruno Walter. In 1951, Klemperer seems unwilling to relax on the great journey to resurrection.

By the 1960s he had learned to moderate his positively forensic intensity and let the lyrical and folksy passages of the score have a

greater freedom and expressivity. This can be heard in the famous Philharmonia studio recording of 1961/2, but most especially in the live Bavarian Radio recording with Janet Baker and Heather Harper. This is

deleted as a CD, but is worth searching out. Happily it is still available as an MP3 download from our old friends at <u>www.amazon.de</u> for the sum of 9.94 €. The CD is available from the same source at a variety of silly

AM sorry to have taken so much space over one issue, but the Testament two-disc set from 1951 is useful in that it shows what ambient remastering can do. Suddenly a whole past era of recordings has come closer to us. I fear for the credit card. Brace yourselves!

Toodleoo...

Fr Amictus Crotchet

Parish Priest St Bibulus of Saragossa East Finchley amictus@aol.com

The story so far: http://bibulus.site.voila.fr

St Andrew Willesden Green NW10 2QS

Cronan, who brought along

Christmas Eve 11.30pm Midnight Mass and Blessing of the Crib

Christmas Day 10am Parish Mass

Sunday 26 December: The Holy Family 11am Solemn Mass

Parish Priest - Fr Colin Patterson SSC 020 8459 2670

The Parish Church of **S James the Great**

Albert Hill, Darlington DL1 2LP **CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS 2010** AT S. JAMES THE GREAT

Friday 24th December (Christmas Eve) .30am MIDNIGHT MASS & BLESSING OF THE CRIB Mass Setting: Mass in G by Franz Schubert Preacher: The Venerable Granville Gibson, Formerly Archdeacon of Auckland

Saturday 25th December (Christmas Day)

9am Mass of the Dawn (Said) 10am SOLEMN MASS OF THE DAY Mass Setting: The 'Little Organ' Mass by Haydn Preacher: Father John Payne, Chaplain to Queen Mary's School, Thirsk

Sunday 26th December (The Holy Family) 10am SOLEMM MASS OF THE DAY Mass Setting: Mass in F by John Ireland Preacher: Father Ian Grieves, The Vicar

Wednesday 29th December

7.30pm FESTIVAL OF NINE LESSONS & CAROLS Followed by wine and savouries in the Church Hall Retiring collection for The Historic Churches Preservation Society

'O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord' EVERYONE WELCOME More Information on 01325 465980

ALL SAINTS CLIFTON Pembroke Road, Bristol

Advent Four

6pm Lessons and Carols

Christmas Eve 5.30pm Carols and Christingles 11.30pm Midnight Mass

Christmas Day

9am Mass 10am Christmas Morning Family Mass 6pm Evensong at the Crib

Christmas Sunday 8am Mass 11am Family Mass

6pm Evensong at the Crib For Confession/further information Fr Richard Hoyal 0117 9706776

Christmas at St Luke's Southport

24th Dec: Christmas Eve 6.00pm Lessons and Carols and lighting of the Christmass trees 7pm Vigil Mass 11.30pm Midnight Mass

Christmas Day 10.30am Mass of the Day Sunday 26th December: The Holy Family

10.30am - Sung Mass Monday 27th, Tuesday 28th, Wednesday 29th, Thursday 30th, Friday 31st December 11am Mass

Saturday 1st January: Mary, the Mother of God 7pm Sung Mass

for more information see our website www.sluke.co.uk Parish Priest: Fr Tony Oulton SSC fr.tony@yahoo.co.uk

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

Sunday 19th December 6.30pm Christmas Carol Service followed by mulled wine and mince pies

Friday 24th December Christmas Eve 3pm Children's Christmas Service with carols

11.30pm Midnight Mass of Christmas with Blessing of the Crib

Saturday 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

All Saints North Street York

Christmas Eve

7.30pm Mass of the Night, Procession, Blessing of the Crib and Sung Mass

Christmas Day 12 noon Said Mass of the Day

> Thursday 6th January **Epiphany of the Lord** 12.45pm Mass

7.30pm Sung Mass Fr Andrew Horsman 01904 706047

STNICOLAS GUILDFORD

Sunday 19th December 4pm Service of Nine Lessons and Carols

Christmas Eve Midnight Mass 11:30 pm

Christmas Day

10am Family Mass with Carols www.stnicolas-guildford.org.uk

St Paul the Apostle Tottenham, N17 0JR

Christmas Eve

12 midnight Solemn Mass at Midnight

Christmas Day

8am Mass of the Dawn 10.30 Parish Mass of the Day

Contact: Fr Mark Elliott Smith 020 8808 7297

email: frmarkelliottsmith@lavabit.com Web: www.stpaulstottenham.org

SS Stephen and Mark, Lewisham (opposite Lewisham Station and DLR 12 mins from Charing Cross) Christmas Eve

5pm Carols for parents and children 11.30pm Midnight Mass

Christmas Day 10am Parish Mass

Sunday (St Stephen)

8am Low Mass 10am Parish Mass 6.30pm Evening Prayer Parish Priest: Fr Geoffrey Kirk 020 8318 1295

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

Contact: Fr David Hawthorn 0161 681 4541

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