

## **ARCHCONFRATERNITY OF ST STEPHEN**

### **REPORT OF THE CENTRAL COUNCIL FOR THE YEAR ENDING 30 SEPTEMBER 2010**

The highlight of this year has, of course, been the visit of the Holy Father to Great Britain. The Guild was well represented in the serving of the Papal celebrations around the country and was officially represented in the banners procession at the Prayer Vigil at Hyde Park.

The first edition of the re-launched Altar Server magazine has been published. A copy has been sent free of charge to each Guild branch. The magazine is of a very high quality and a lot of positive feedback has been received and our aim is to produce the magazine on a yearly basis. Special thanks go to Anthony Ogunseitan who not only edited the Altar Server but took the opportunity to update the address list of Guild branches.

As mentioned in last year's report closer relations are being forged with servers in Germany. Dr Hahnen from the German Bishops Conference visited London and attended a Central Council meeting on December 8<sup>th</sup>. He spoke in depth of the support given to German servers by their Bishops Conference.

A new Diocesan Director has been appointed for Middlesbrough, Fr Paul Dowling, he succeeds Fr William Massie who has now been appointed Vocations Director. Hallam is the only diocese without a director.

Last year Adam Dora from Holy Trinity Brook Green was the youngest ever member elected to the Central Council. He recently resigned from the Council as he has been accepted for training for the priesthood and has begun his studies in Valladolid. We wish Adam all the best in the years ahead.

The Centenary project to install a mosaic of St Stephen near the credence table is ongoing. At an estimated cost of £60,000, the Central Council is under no illusion that this project will take time and effort to achieve. Fundraising is being managed by Nicholas Tilbury with a "Create a Mosaic" campaign being run throughout the country. To date just over £10,000 has been raised and donations are gratefully received.

The sale of Guild Goods exceeded 300 orders with an approximate value of £25,000. The monthly team meeting to pack goods works extremely well, orders are despatched normally within one month of receipt. Our thanks go to Fr. Keith Stoakes for facilitating this.

Bearing in mind the fourth coming VAT and postage increase happening some prices may need to be increased but they will be kept to a minimum.

Realising that publicity is important to the work of the Guild. The Central Council is looking to appoint a Publicity Officer. If anyone knows of a person with journalistic skills who would be interested in this position please contact the Secretary or a member of the Central Council.

The Annual Archbishop's Mass for Altar Servers took place in Westminster Cathedral in April, attracted approximately 900 servers together with family and friends. Organised by the Events Committee under the chairmanship of Michael Chute, it was a great success.

During this past year members of the Central Council have attended Diocesan celebrations in Arundel and Brighton, Cardiff, Northampton, Nottingham, Southwark and Westminster as well as local Branch celebrations and presentations. Council members are always willing to attend Guild events providing adequate notice is given.

The Annual Dinner returned to the refurbished Holy Trinity Parish Centre Brook Green in February. The Guest of Honour being Monsignor Vincent Brady, Private Secretary to the Papal Nuncio. 100 members and guests enjoyed a fine meal. This was one of the most successful dinners for many years and thanks go to Michael Chute and his team.

The Council welcomes the following newly affiliated parishes

St Pius X	East, Merrow	Arundel & Brighton
St Philip Evans	Llanedeyrn,	Cardiff
Our Lady & St Walstan,	Costessey	East Anglia
St Mary	Thetford	East Anglia
St Matthew	Ponteland	Hexham & Newcastle
St Mary Newhouse	Barton	Lancaster
St Ignatius	Ossett	Leeds
St Paul of the Cross	Burtonwood,	Liverpool
St Teresa	Upholland	Liverpool
Our Lady of the Angels	Saltash	Plymouth
St Peter & St Paul	Newport	Shropshire
St Columba	Plas Newton	Shropshire
St Mary (Polish Church)	Ealing	Westminster
St Edmund	Millwall	Westminster
St Andrew	Craigshil	St Andrews & Edinburgh
St Philip	Dedridge	St Andrews & Edinburgh
Pope St Pius X & All Saints	Episkopi, Cyprus	Bishopric of the Forces
Immaculate Conception	Ashbourne	Meath, Eire
St Patrick	Donagmore	Meath, Eire
Fundacion Vivan Los Ninos	Antioquia	Medellin (Columbia)
St Stephen	Bradshaw, MD	Baltimore (U.S.A.)
Christ the King	Sarasota FL	Venice in Florida (U.S.A.)
St Stephen the First Martyr	Sacramento, CA	Sacramento (U.S.A.)
Marine Memorial Chapel	Quantico, VA	Military Services (U.S.A.)
Our Lady Queen of the Universe	Black Rock, St Michael	Bridgetown (Barbados)

During the year the Council approved the award of the Archconfraternity's **Gold Medal** to the following for completion of 50 years of serving as enrolled members of the Guild.

George Brand	Aberdeen Cathedral	Aberdeen
Michael Macklin	St Joseph, Brighton	Arundel & Brighton
Arthur Foley	Camberley & Bagshot	Arundel & Brighton
Chris Newling-Ward	Camberley & Bagshot	Arundel & Brighton
Denis Sayer	Camberley & Bagshot	Arundel & Brighton
Thomas Faughnan	English Martyrs, Biddulph	Birmingham
Bernard Cooper	Our Lady & St Rose of Lima, Birmingham	Birmingham
William Simpson	Our Lady & St Kenelm, Birmingham	Birmingham
Lawrence Stuart	St Mary & St Modwen, Burton-on-Trent	Birmingham
Anthony Baker	St Thomas More & St Edward, Waltham Abbey	Brentwood
Bernard Forward	Our Lady of the Angels, Cwmbran	Cardiff
Joseph Reid	St Bede, Carlisle	Lancaster
David McBain	St Mary Magdalen, Stony Stratford	Northampton
Paul Andow	Our Lady of Lourdes & St Swithun. Southsea	Portsmouth
Don-John Buckland	Our Lady of Lourdes & St Swithun. Southsea	Portsmouth
John Maguire	St Osmund, Barnes	Southwark

The Council extends its congratulations to them all.

The **Gold Medal of Merit** was awarded to the following during 2009/10 for completion of 50 years of serving but not necessarily all that time as members of the Guild

Anthony Wagstaff	Holy Angel, Ash	Arundel & Brighton
Bill Burnett	Holy Rosary, Billingham	Hexham & Newcastle
Eddie Donnelly	Holy Rosary, Billingham	Hexham & Newcastle
Alf Huntley	St Paul, Dover	Southwark
Gregory Gallagher	St Teresa	Brentwood
Jim Wall	St Luke & the Holy Cross	Brentwood
John Muter	St Margaret Mary, Carlisle	Lancaster
Timothy Fox	St Mary Newhouse, Preston	Lancaster
Gerard "Brian" German	Our Lady & the Welsh Martyrs, Wrexham	Wrexham

The Council extends its congratulations to them all.

The Council is greatly appreciative of the dedication shown by the many priests and servers throughout the country who uphold the ideals of the Archconfraternity. Maintaining high standards of serving, a primary object of the Guild, can only be achieved by training and encouragement in local parishes which the Central Council wholeheartedly supports.

Nicholas Tilbury  
CHAIRMAN OF THE  
CENTRAL COUNCIL  
4<sup>th</sup> December 2010

Future Events for 2011 are:

The annual Dinner will be held on Friday February 4<sup>th</sup>.

The Archbishop's Mass for Altar Servers at Westminster Cathedral on 14<sup>th</sup> May 2011 at 2:30pm

The Events Committee is also organising a pilgrimage to Walsingham on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2011.

More details will be available nearer the time.

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