

LEADING THE WAY SINCE 1932
Presidents: The Archbishops of Canterbury and
York

Residential Training Conference

The annual residential training conference is held for five days usually in early June, at All Saints Pastoral Centre, London Colney, Hertfordshire.

All students will be required to attend the conference, which is structured to further the knowledge and ability of vergers and to equip us for our ministry.

Apart from the formal lectures by experts in their own fields, Conference is also a time for fellowship among vergers from many backgrounds, and there is a great

exchange for resources, ideas and fellowship. There are also workshops on allied topics, talks and practical training available during the week. This coupled

with the fun and fellowship we generate ourselves and a rich diet in Chapel and Refectory makes for a very rewarding time together.

Four times a year we publish a magazine—*The Virger* - containing news from the Branches, both in the UK and from our sister Guilds overseas, with articles, letters, comments, book reviews and notices of both National and local Festivals.



Email: cofev.org.uk

At the recommendation of the General Synod, the Central Council of the Guild formulated a training course, which would cover the work and ministry of the Verger

The Course is formulated in two stages, consisting of four units, Foundation, Pastor, Historian and Administrator.

The first stage is the **Foundation Unit**, this consists of sixteen assignments, covering preparation for worship, care of the building, records and archives, care of the churchyard, and care for the people of God.

On completion, and if successful, the Guilds Foundation certificate is awarded. Some students may wish to undertake more challenging training by completing the second stage.

The second stage is the remaining three units:-
Pastor Unit consists of twelve assignments covering the individuals personal development, their relationship with people and God, care for others and resources.

History Unit consists of eighteen assignments covering the history of church building, architecture, the history of worship, and the purpose of a congregation.

Administration Unit consists of sixteen assignments covering communication, forms and registrars, the structures of the Church of England, and the role and importance of people in the life of the church.

The Church of England Guild of Vergers



Membership of The Guild is open to all persons employed or occupied regularly, whether full or part time, or as a voluntary verger (however titled), in the Provinces throughout the Anglican Communion.

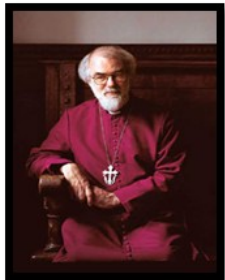
For more information please contact



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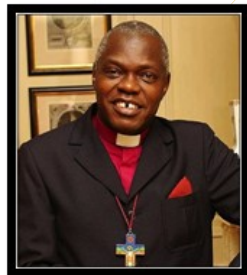


The Church of England Guild of Vergers (CEGV) was founded in 1932, and has as its **Presidents** the Archbishops of Canterbury and York who take a very keen interest in the Guild, and together they appoint a priest to act as the National Chaplain.



The Guild was founded to promote Christian Fellowship and spiritual guidance among the Vergers of the Cathedrals and Parish Churches of England. It has a current

membership of around 750 with a further 100 members overseas, witnessing to the Guild's influence in other parts of the Anglican Communion.



The community of the Guild is divided into many Areas, comprising one or more local Branches, where friendships, help, and encouragement are to be found. Branches are responsible for arranging their own programmes of events, services and training during the year, details of which will be available from each Branch's Officers. The Guild also enjoys national gatherings, usually including two annual Festival days and a residential Training Conference.

The Guild seeks to make effective the ministry of Vergers through the following key **objectives**, by :

Promoting the spiritual nature of the **Vergers' Vocation** through Christian Fellowship and spiritual guidance for all its Members;

Encouraging the advancement of knowledge by **education**, through maintaining standards of good practice, and by equipping Members for Ministry as vergers in all its

aspects, through the provision of advice, training, resources, and by organizing

and promoting training courses and conferences;

Providing the means and opportunity for **communication** and

discussion of ideas and proposals of common interest to Members;

Providing **support** and encouragement to the Membership in all aspects of their duties whatever they may be and wherever performed;

Advising, upon request, and making recommendations as to terms of employment and welfare of any Member;

Recording the gamut of work undertaken by Vergers; in addition noting each Member's training, experience and qualifications.



The Office of Verger (Virger, Custos, Sub-Sacrist, Serjeant of the Vestry, or even 'Church Mouse') is an ancient one and means 'He who carries the Virge before the procession'.



Today, Vergers continue to have an important ceremonial role, but add management responsibilities, with the care of people and a variety of other duties, including the behind-the-scenes management of worship, and the care of vestments, plate and other valuable objects.

Vergers are committed Christians dedicated to serving Our Lord Jesus Christ and his Church.

Their work brings them into contact with a whole spectrum of people who visit our churches and cathedrals, and they must be sensitive to the widely varying needs of these visitors. Many will be seeking historical information or just the time of the services, but others may be in emotional or spiritual distress, and to these the verger must offer a sympathetic ear, guiding them towards appropriate counselling if required.



At a practical level vergers will often bear the immediate responsibility for the care and security of the building and - particularly in many parish churches - the presence of the verger guarantees that the building can remain open outside service times as a place of prayer and of Christian witness to the local or wider community.