



# GOOD NEWS

*ACS - Passionate About Priesthood*

Volume 77 Number 1 £1

Download the Good News Publication at [www.additionalcurates.co.uk](http://www.additionalcurates.co.uk)



## **Inside this issue**

"We seek to do His Will  
and that is really the only  
thing that matters. To be  
fools for Christ's sake is  
no bad thing!"

***Mother Mary Teresa SSM  
of Walsingham  
see page 12***



***Page 12***

New Venture  
in Walsingham



***Page 18***

The Next Stage



***Page 22***

Ask! Seek!  
Knock!



# VANPOULLES LTD

**Complete Church Furnishers  
Est. 1908**

ADVERTISEMENT



**Suppliers of all types of  
Church requisites**

**Vestments,  
Clerical Clothing  
& all Textile Items**

**Candles & Consumables**

**Church Plate, Brassware,  
Woodwork & Statuary**



**Telford Place, Crawley, West Sussex, RH10 1SZ**  
**Tel 01293 590100      Fax 01293 590115**  
**E-mail: [sales@vanpoules.co.uk](mailto:sales@vanpoules.co.uk)**  
**[www.vanpoules.co.uk](http://www.vanpoules.co.uk)**

## Contents

Fr Darren Comments .....	3
Richard Schwab .....	5
St Barnabas, Oxford .....	8
A New Venture in Walsingham .....	12
Cooking Up An Idea .....	14
The Next Stage .....	18
Ask! Seek! Knock! .....	22
Congratulations .....	24
Wagner Quiz Night .....	26
A Good Read .....	30

## THANK YOU to all our advertisers

Vanpoules .....	2
Church Times .....	11
Forward in Faith .....	21
The College of St Barnabas .....	27
Luzar Vestments .....	30
J & M Sewing Service Ltd .....	31
Pax Travel .....	31
Autosave .....	Back Cover

The opinions and views  
expressed in this magazine and  
by the advertisers are those of  
the individuals and not of the  
Additional Curates Society.

# Fr Darren Comments...



On the 29th June 1986 in Leicester Cathedral I was ordained by Bishop Richard Rutt, a most momentous occasion in my life and dare I say it, in the life of the Church. I was one of about 30 candidates, several of a Catholic persuasion.

Each year as the anniversary comes round I am always very moved by friends who remember this event and send me cards and the assurance of their prayers. Moved because there is a sense in which this

anniversary is special to me, but perhaps not as significant to others.

It is always so wonderful for us here at the Additional Curates Society to receive cards from other clergy celebrating their ordination anniversaries, 10th, 25th and 40th in particular. It is even more wonderful though to receive invitations to actual ordinations. What worries me and dare I say it, should worry everyone who reads this magazine, is that unlike June

1986 the number of candidates and particularly Catholic candidates, seem to get fewer and fewer.

Numbers are not always indicative of strength and my mother always used to say that it was quality and not quantity that mattered, but I think we all know that as well as having priests of sound caliber we do need more.

The effects of the ordinariate have been significant on our constituency, not only in terms of departure of so many clergy but also the morale of many laity. This society along with others is firmly committed to the encouragement and the nurturing of vocations within the Church of England but this is something that we need all of your help with. I cannot stress enough the importance of praying and paying for priests and in these times of serious economic depression every penny really does count when it comes to the resourcing of church's ministry.

At present we are being asked by a number of dioceses to fund up to 50% of a priest's stipend, almost taking us back to where we started, a trend that is likely to gather pace as more and more dioceses look to cut posts. The sorts of parishes that we support are in socially deprived areas, the exact place where the Gospel needs to be heard. Without the ACS these parishes would close. **Thank you dear friends and supporters for your generosity in these hard times. Remain faithful to praying for vocations and for the financial assistance that you offer us.**

I was recently asked if I had any plans for my 25th anniversary of priesting in 2012 and at the time of printing the answer is "Not really". I would rather concentrate my efforts on encouraging more ordinations which will bring greater rejoicing in the kingdom of heaven, than one solitary priest looking back on his ministry.

***Almighty God give us priests!***





# Richard writes...

***"And it is impossible to please God without faith.***

***Anyone who wants to come to him must believe that God exists and that he rewards those who sincerely seek him."** Hebrews 11:6*

My name is Richard Schwab, I was born in 1971 in London, the third son in a devout Roman-Catholic family. Baptised at 4 weeks I soon accompanied my parents to church and watched my older brothers, who were acolytes. From the age of 10 I was enrolled in the 'Guild of St Stephen' and became an acolyte. I remember feeling very close to God as I stood on the altar assisting the priest. In my teenage years I stopped going to church briefly, but aged 17 came back via the church's drama group. Besides serving as acolyte, I started helping out in the presbytery, answering phone-calls and helping the priests handing out sandwiches at the door (Camden had many homeless).

By 1990 I felt a strong call to the priesthood and got in touch with the vocational director of the Westminster Diocese. For about 6 months I was tested and interviewed, until after a

meeting with Cardinal Hume I was told I would enter 'Campion House Seminary' in September 1991. I

studied there 2 years, reaching

A-level standards in various subjects and studied

Theology, English and Latin. We were encouraged to get

involved in activities that

interested us; I chose to work on

the 'soup-run' for the homeless in the centre of London. I had some of

my most profound and

interesting theological debates there.

Weekly visits to 'Feltham Young

Offenders Home' with the prison-chaplain, organising Mass and talking

to the young offenders was also an experience that is with me even now.

Ministering to the needs of Kurdish

asylum seekers housed at 'Campion

House' at the time, helped me mature my practical faith.

During my holidays I accompanied sick

and handicapped children to Lourdes

with 'HCPT', while for Westminster

Diocese I was a 'Redcap'-leader. In my

second year I took coach-groups as

tour-director to Lourdes, and on a few

occasions had the honour of acting

as 'protector' for Cardinal Basil Hume.

I will never forget his down-to-earth

manner and genuine interest in me.

His words of wisdom I will always

carry with me. For years after seminary



I took parish groups to Lourdes (leading around 40 pilgrimages) and organised several trips to Walsingham.

After 'Campion House' I was put forward to continue at 'Allan Hall seminary', but decided to take a year out, as I began to feel called to marriage and fatherhood too. Cardinal Hume's intervention secured me a place at 'London Colney', the Diocesan retreat centre, where I spent a year working with children from deprived backgrounds, as well as organising Confirmation-preparation weeks and conferences. The children and their stories made the most impact on me and despite the fact that many were deeply wounded inside; it was a very rewarding time.



Not long after, I met my future wife and continued my career in tourism in London, both for 'Trafalgar Tours' and 'Big Bus

Company', where in the sales-team, I helped bring in 4 million GBP revenue a year in the years before '9/11', when tourism to London nose-dived. Having young children made us yearn for a more rural and wholesome upbringing for them and we moved to Somerset, where we had holidayed for years. I worked in the haulage industry and had my own courier and recruitment business for lorry drivers and van-drivers. We were happy but

financially things were tight, the haulage industry in the West Country started to slow and we decided to move to Carlisle, where my wife had friends.

We settled in the suburb of Currock and met Fr John Walsh. He and I had many long discussions and he helped re-awaken my vocation, something which



laid dormant since 'London Colney'. With his encouragement I became a Foundation Governor at our daughters' school, Master of Ceremonies and in charge of training the young acolytes in the parish and member of the Parish Council. Over the years I did many things that met the deep feeling that I wanted to be 'useful' to the Lord and His people. I continued to devour theological books and studied the Bible daily and enjoyed a close walk with the Lord, but was confused to keep hearing the call to be a priest. Being married the path to priesthood in the Roman Catholic tradition was cut off and the Diaconate in the Diocese was on hold indefinitely, so my growing vocation felt stifled. I even took the decision, after long and careful consideration with my wife, to take a deep pay-cut and leave the haulage industry, to become a Healthcare Assistant. Jesus' words about looking after the poor and weak in society felt directed at me. I also hoped it would make me 'useful' to God. I worked first with young men with learning difficulties, then found a position in a private hospital, where I work in the 'Complex Care Unit', looking after people with brain trauma, MS and various complex neurological conditions. I find much satisfaction in doing this work.

For the Foundation Stage of the school I was taking children into the



church, teaching them about liturgy, the tabernacle and the presence of Jesus. Through the parish I was sent on various courses. I now hold a Certificate of 'Lancaster University' in 'Echoes of Faith' (Passing on the faith to a new generation) and last year completed a Diploma in

'Evangelisation in the Parish'. However, the tug at my soul remained. My wife and I started looking into the Church of England, as we knew there marriage was no barrier to Ordination. After reading every book I could find about Anglican tradition, liturgy and church history and much prayer, we started attending services in Carlisle Cathedral last Autumn, and found a parish where we found a warm welcome. Here I have joined the 'serving-team', our daughters are both acolytes and my wife has joined the choir.

God still surprises me. I never thought to be 'here' in my faith journey, but it has taught me that God does not give up, ever! When He has a plan, He will get you there, accompanying you every step of the way. That's why I know, I will get there, and for the first time since leaving 'Campion House' I feel a peace inside, a quiet confidence that this is all in God's Hands, and I am following Him.

*Richard*



# Saint Barnabas, Oxford

by Fr Jonathan Beswick  
Priest-in-Charge

Since March 2009, the ministry of St Barnabas has been generously supported by SSC and ACS: together, the Societies pledged to provide a quarter of the stipend for the parish priest for a period of four years. The reason for this need arose as a result of the decision, made by the Diocese of Oxford, to cut the stipend to half when the last parish priest retired in 2007. It was expected that the new parish priest would find other, additional, employment to support himself and his family. We are extremely grateful to the Societies for their help at this critical time in the life of the parish. Half a stipend can easily turn into house-for-duty, which can easily turn into an unfavourable union of benefices. And you can fill in the rest for yourselves! With the priest on the half-stipend and half-time formula, it would have been very hard to do much more than maintain the status quo.

So, what about the parish? St Barnabas, known locally as 'Barney', is the parish church of Jericho, serving a clearly defined pastoral district. It is also on the edge of the city centre, so has something of a dual identity: ministering both to the local parish and also joining in with the wider Christian life of Oxford. Jericho is a Victorian suburb of the city and St Barnabas was built to embody the vision of the second-generation of the Oxford

Movement: a focus for pastoral service and evangelism, harnessed with the customarily 'advanced' ritual of the worship. The original 'plant' included not only the church and clergy-house, but the school, the Institute and the hall. All of this was in a tiny acreage of the city, with badly-built housing, poor drains, cholera and no welfare state on hand: as in so many places, the church was the chief focus for welfare. The main local employment, apart from domestic work in the colleges, was at the Lucy's iron foundry and at the University Press. Today the parish is densely residential and much more mixed in character and occupants! 50% of the housing is rented, 25% is owner-occupied and 25% is social-housing.

The first parish priest, Fr Montague Noel, was an early member of SSC and an uncompromising ritualist. The stories are legion. Amongst other things, he was also the local 'dentist', drawing parishioners' teeth in the clergy-house common-room. It was said that he was enthusiastic and skilled and that he hardly ever 'lost a patient'. I am glad to say that this particular aspect of local priestly ministry fell into abeyance some years ago. Fr Noel was zealous for the faith and for the furnishing and liturgy of the church. The great Latin Cross which hangs over the entrance





to the choir (as described in Jude the Obscure), is almost identical to that of the Society, and is a powerful reminder both of our roots and also of our future. Deo gratias!

St Barnabas was caricatured in a cartoon of the late 19th Century as a railway station called “Barn’bas Junction”, with the guard on the platform calling out “Change here for Rome!” In spite of the caricature, St Barnabas has always maintained a strong Tractarian spirit. It has walked close to the line at times, but has held fast to a strong sense of its place in the Church of England.

St Barnabas has, from the foundation, maintained a strong musical and sacramental tradition. The main weekly gathering is the Parish Mass: a colourful occasion on Sunday mornings, at 10.30am. Although we all know that “numbers don’t matter”, and it’s “quality not quantity” that counts, there is, for every church building, a critical mass of people. If the numbers drop below this, it can all feel a bit empty. For St Barnabas the critical mass is about 100 people; we have been regularly hovering around the 95-115 mark since late 2009. The immediate challenge is how to consolidate this and look towards further growth: not growth for its own sake, but because we have something joyful and life-giving that we long to share with others.

So, what have we done since the offer of help from SSC and ACS was so gladly received? Apart from anything else, it has meant that the parish

priest has been able to concentrate wholeheartedly on life at St Barnabas, rather than having to go out to work elsewhere. It has also been important to have a full-time advocate for the parish with the Diocesan staff, and we are now ready to petition for the restoration of the living (albeit under Common Tenure) and the restoration of the full stipend.

We have re-launched the Sunday School and have three flourishing classes at the parish mass, and children are also members of the serving team. We have just started a junior section of the choir, and have successfully appointed a part-time children’s worker. We are now attracting children and families from the church-aided primary school in the parish; we have close links here, including a weekly assembly which is led by the parish-priest. We have also installed a good



sound-system, which has been a bigger step forward than many readers will realise: and for several reasons. Not least of all, it means that women and children can now read in church and be heard.

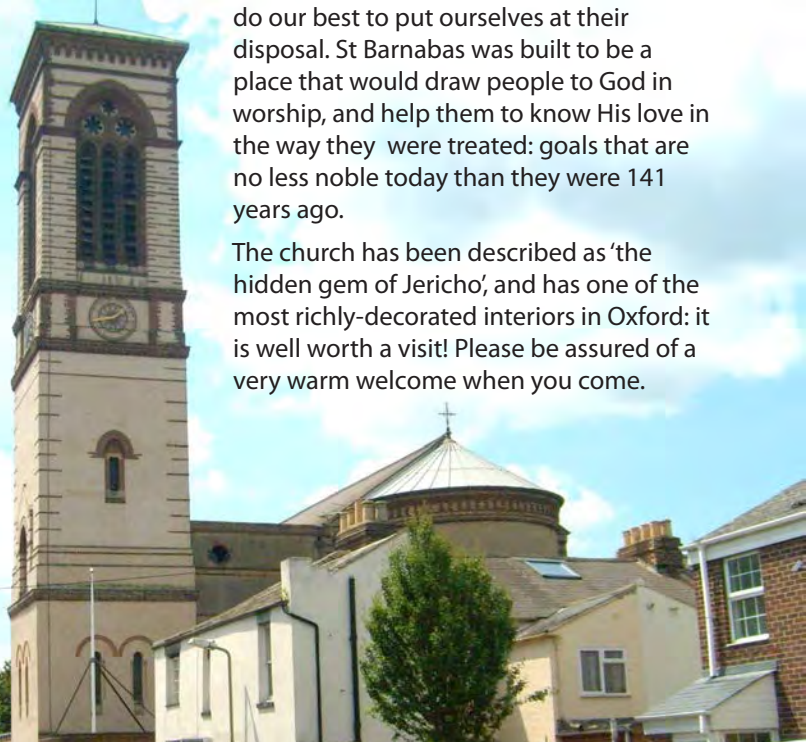
We have launched a quarterly magazine for the parish, called 'Jericho Matters', which is distributed to every household and business. It is intended to be, amongst other things, a means of mission and is deliberately accessible to all, rather than simply addressing the concerns of a Church congregation. One core aspiration for the magazine has been that of raising the local profile of St Barnabas. Copy for the ninth issue is being gathered at the moment.

Another exciting development is that we are in the process of appointing a full-time, stipendiary, title-curate for Petertide 2011. This will be the first such appointment since before the Second World War. We also have a Reader and a Permanent Deacon in training at the moment.

There is so much for which to give thanks, and more to record than there is room for here. At times it has been a struggle to persuade people that there is a place for St Barnabas in the future of the wider Church. For me, I think there have been several hard lessons: not least among them is that 'maintaining the status quo' is not a category of Christian ministry. We are either growing and being renewed or we are dying. It is God's ministry and the evangelist is the Holy Spirit: we have to

do our best to put ourselves at their disposal. St Barnabas was built to be a place that would draw people to God in worship, and help them to know His love in the way they were treated: goals that are no less noble today than they were 141 years ago.

The church has been described as 'the hidden gem of Jericho', and has one of the most richly-decorated interiors in Oxford: it is well worth a visit! Please be assured of a very warm welcome when you come.





# CHURCH TIMES

the UK's leading Christian weekly



Receive a **FREE** copy  
of Rowan Williams'  
*For All That Has Been,  
Thanks*

when you  
subscribe to the  
*Church Times*  
for £65



Each week, the *Church Times* bring you the news stories that matter, plus incisive comment on everything that is new in the Church – UK and abroad. Join more than 60,000 readers reading the *Church Times* every week by subscribing today.

In your **FREE** book, Rowan Williams, writing in partnership with the bestselling American Benedictine author, Joan Chittister, explores the meaning of a word often spoken in Christian worship, but rarely considered. What are we doing when we say the word 'Alleluia'?

To find out more about this special offer and  
other benefits:

**Call: 01603 785 911**

**Visit our website: [www.churchtimes.co.uk](http://www.churchtimes.co.uk)**

**Email: [subs@churchtimes.co.uk](mailto:subs@churchtimes.co.uk)**

CT1103



# A new venture in Walsingham

by Mary Teresa SSM

2010 opened with a very real possibility of new life here in the Priory of Our Lady of Walsingham—a possibility which faded somewhat at the beginning of December, when our three younger Sisters left us for the Ordinariate. There were just the four of us left, Sisters Mary Teresa, Christina Mary, Alma Mary and Francis Anne, plus Sister Columba working in Aberdeen—and none of us exactly in our first youth!! There was also Rose, our postulant, who decided it best to leave the Noviciate for a while to await events. To start with we felt numb—life looked somewhat bleak, but true to the spirit of our Society this did not last very long. We soon bounced back to face the challenge and decided not to give up just like that. Did not our Founder, John Mason Neale, always insist that ‘the impossible must be done?’ We were well aware that many of our Associates, friends and people unknown to us personally, were all praying hard that we would continue to bear witness here in Walsingham and were encouraging us to do so. There were times when one felt it was crazy even to contemplate it, but it would not go away!

After about three months of waiting upon God, we reached our decision.



It seemed quite clear to each of us that our way forward must be to do our very best to seek to re-build the little Community here in this holy place. (I do not think we ever really doubted it.) The aspirants have been informed of the whole situation and at the moment seem set to come to test their vocation, despite everything. In addition to all this, Sister Caroline Jane from St Peter's, Woking, has decided to explore a transfer to us here and will be doing so from June 1st. We are very much supported by the other Houses within our Society, and by many well wishers far and wide, which is a source of great encouragement. Rose is planning to return in the near future, and Carol is preparing to join us in the autumn. They, and we, are all very aware of the fragility of the whole situation, and that it is an enormous risk, but are determined to go ahead in hope and faith. They and we all know that postulants do not always find the





Religious Life to be their true vocation and that much will depend on this. Time alone will tell.

On Easter Monday I was elected as Mother, so we can now begin to move forward. I do not think any of us could face life if we just gave up now, without trying. That would certainly not be the spirit of our Founder! It is not going

to be easy, but we can do no other. If it really is of God, then He will bring it about; if not, then we shall have the knowledge that we did try, but would then have to think again. We leave that aside at present, and move forward positively. How could we do any other when we live and work in Walsingham? We seek to follow Our Lady's great example and say our 'Yes to God!' We are so blessed to be in this holy place, especially at this time, when our church is in such a state of confusion and uncertainty.

As I have written elsewhere, humanly speaking this must seem quite mad. At times, I wonder what on earth we are attempting, but we shall never know unless we try. And this we must do. God is the God of the impossible; He can do all things and will make the way plain. Under Him there will be a resurrection after an apparent death - whatever the outcome-so there is nothing to fear. We seek to do His Will and that is really the only thing that matters. To be fools for Christ's sake is no bad thing! Please remember us in your prayers as we step out into an unknown and exciting future.



# COOKING UP AN IDEA

The Parish of St. James the Great, Haydock was without a curate for over forty years. When they did get one, they had to buy a house; and that's where ACS stepped in. A grant to assist with the cost of keeping a curate helped the parish meet the cost of the house and it was renewed when another curate came along. The parish is at present without a curate, but having the house gives scope for future appointments, and the parish is truly grateful. Each year the Parish holds an "Advent Appeal" for ACS. On Advent Sunday the Parish Secretary ensures that nobody escapes the building without an ACS box in their hands and in fact the appeal is kept going until just before Lent; but the Vicar, Fr. Rodney Middleton, wanted to do more.

Fr. Rodney had long cherished a dream of organising a fund-raising dinner and so, in aid of ACS, the CHEZ CURÉ concept was born. For one night only, the clergy would run a restaurant under that name – it roughly translates as "At the Vicars." Guests would order in advance from a menu offering a variety of choices. The clergy would cook, serve and wait on, and there would be some entertainment between courses

to give them time to catch their breath. Such was the success of the venture that it has been repeated several times – and each time with greater demand! The most recent event was held on the mid-Lent weekend and featured the most ambitious menu yet, with a Spanish theme – "Una Noche Española" – and the option to pay in Euros or Pounds.

It goes without saying that organising such an event needs a lot of planning, – and a fair degree of madness! It's important to create a sense of occasion, so this time the red and gold of the Spanish flag and bunting was carried through into flower arrangements, table settings and even candles, specially made by a member of the congregation.

Over fifty people sat down to the dinner, there was the inevitable raffle, and "Stand Up Bingo" added to the fun. Create the right atmosphere and





people respond. Obviously the event was intended to make a profit, but the £812 raised that night was certainly more than profit, it was a truly generous response to the effort that had gone into making a memorable and enjoyable evening – even if it took the clergy and their helpers several days to recover (and people are already asking “when’s the next one”!).



## UNA NOCHE ESPAÑOLA 1 de ABRIL 2011

CHEZ CURÉ PRESENTS  
UNA NOCHE ESPAÑOLA: 1 de ABRIL 2011

Cava y Tapas

+++++  
PLEASE TICK YOUR CHOICE OF THE FOLLOWING  
COURSES

+++++  
+++

Gambas o Champiñones al Ajillo  
(Prawns or Mushrooms in hot Garlic Oil - PLEASE  
TICK YOUR CHOICE)

or

Tortilla con Pan Tomate  
(Spanish Omelette served with Tomato Bread)

or

Melón y Jamón Serano  
(Melon and Serano Ham)

+++++  
Gazpacho

(Tomato and Garlic Soup served with Croutons,  
Diced Cucumber, Peppers and Onion)

[Traditionally this soup is served cold, but please  
indicate if you would like it HOT or COLD:  
please tick]

or

Crema de Verduras  
(Cream of Vegetable Soup)

Chuletas de Cerdo al estilo de Aragón  
(Pork Chop and Potato Bake: served with  
Seasonal Vegetables)

or

Pollo con Naranja y Menta  
(Chicken Breast in an Orange and Mint  
Sauce: served with Seasonal Vegetables)

or

Paella Mixta  
(traditional Spanish rice dish with prawns,  
chicken and chorizo)

+++++  
+++++

Tarta de Santiago  
(‘St. James’ Almond Tart served with  
Creme Freche and a shot of Pacharán)

or

Crema Catalana  
(Catalan Custard with a hard Sugar Glaze  
served with Almond Biscuits)

or

Helado de Vanilla con Sopa de Fresas  
(Vanilla Ice Cream on a Strawberry ‘Soup’)

+++++  
+++++

Queso / Fruta / Oporto  
+++++  
+++++

£18 per person (or 20 Euros)

PLEASE BRING YOUR OWN WINE



# What's NEW at the ACS

available to order online at [www.additionalcurates.co.uk](http://www.additionalcurates.co.uk)



## 1) Exquisite Silver Rosary

This exquisite silver coloured rosary is made of the finest materials and its weight and feel both communicate quality. Overall length 58cms, crucifix 4cms. In its own gift box with the inscription My Rosary.

## 2) Our Lady of the Rosary Statue

This stunning resin statue is 8" tall. Beautiful detailing on both Our Lady's and Our Lord's face. Each statue comes complete with gift box and gift tag. A chance to have a focus for prayer in your home or for you to get one for a friend.



## 3) Rosa Mystica Incense

The exquisite Rosa Mystica Incense made exclusively at Alton Abbey, blended aromatic gums from subtropical regions with nine essential flower oils from around the world in a 350gram box - without any doubt the most beautiful of all incense.

**SPECIAL OFFER**

was £24.99

**20% Discount - NOW £19.99 per box**

All prices include postage & packaging



4) Red Chasuble with Eucharistic Design  
An Italian made modern polyester chasuble in red with an attractive centre design front and back, (slight variation according to colour) edged in gold with a simple understole. A beautiful garment, excellently priced at £79 which includes postage and packing and VAT. Available in Red, Green, Purple, White and Black.



5) 8" Pewter Celtic Knot Crucifix. By popular demand we have a new celtic cross. At the heart of the cross is found a pewter figure of Christ. Supplied in a green lined presentation box.

Order Form

- |                         |                          |        |      |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|--------|------|
| 1) Silver Rosary        | <input type="checkbox"/> | £13.50 | each |
| 2) Our Lady Statue      | <input type="checkbox"/> | £14.99 | each |
| 3) Rosa Mystica Incense | <input type="checkbox"/> | £19.99 | each |
| 4) Red Chasuble         | <input type="checkbox"/> | £79.00 | each |
| 5) Celtic Knot Crucifix | <input type="checkbox"/> | £18.49 | each |
| 6) Sea Without A Shore  | <input type="checkbox"/> | £10.99 | each |
| 7) A Fire in Walsingham | <input type="checkbox"/> | £6.50  | each |



Name .....

Address .....

.....

.....Post Code .....

Email .....

Tel No .....

CARD DETAILS

Card No .....

Start Date .....Expiry Date .....

Issue No .....Security Code .....

Please make cheques payable to: "Additional Curates Society" and return to:  
Additional Curates Society, Gordon Browning House, 8 Spitfire Road,  
Birmingham, B24 9PB

Or order online: [www.additionalcurates.co.uk](http://www.additionalcurates.co.uk)



# The Next Stage ...

It's nearly three years since I had the pleasure of writing for the ACS about being a rebellious teenager, and yet at the age of 38 I started to explore a vocation to the priesthood.

My first task, May 2008, was to meet with the local advisor to discuss certain aspects of my vocation, who then recommended me to the DDO (Diocesan Director of Ordinands) David Newsome. David explained that over the next few months we would meet to discuss the standard of the nine sections of the criteria set by the Church of England which I would be expected to meet: - Vocation, Ministry within the Church of England, Spirituality, Personality and Character, Relationships, Leadership and collaboration, Faith, Mission and Evangelism and finally, Quality of Mind.

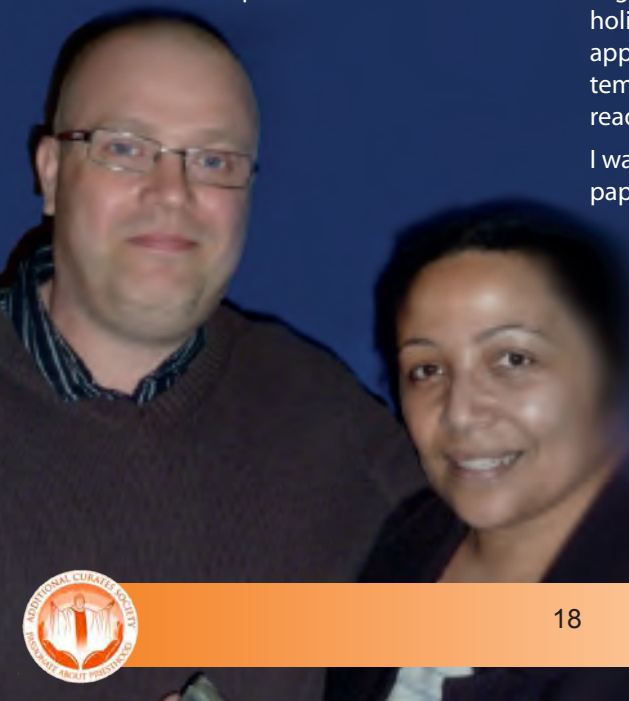
No pressure there then!

After a few meetings with the DDO it was suggested an exploratory year, explaining the criteria in more depth would be the best route in preparation for the Priest selection panel. Question upon question finally gave me the phone call from my Parish Priest, Fr Ron Farrell, with the good news that I was now ready to stand before the BAP (Bishop's Advisory Panel) and I would soon meet up with David. It felt wonderful that my sense of calling was starting to take shape as I enrolled on the Local Ministry Training Course to help me get back into studying. This was quite daunting, because studying was a task I'd eagerly left behind at school, years ago.

Following a meeting with the DDO confirming my selection, I was asked to attend a panel in Ely in Cambridge. I agreed the dates and confirmed holidays from work. I was finally ready, apprehensive, nervous sick, short tempered (so Carole, my wife said), but ready.

I was shell-shocked by the amount of paperwork required prior the BAP, yet more questions. My parish priest, tutor from the local ministry training course, lay person and my manager provided me with the necessary character references'. My task was to provide an essay, a reflection from criteria H which is Mission and Evangelism.

In April, I met with the Bishop of Lichfield, who was quite



happy to endorse my recommendation, so the pre BAP was the next step. This allowed me to lead the discussion following my presentation, which, similar to a dress rehearsal, helped increase my confidence and lose the fear of the unknown.

As the BAP was drawing nearer, the nerves were starting to get the better of me. This was down to my lack of self-confidence; was I really good enough for selection? I was comforted tremendously as many family members and friends continued to pray for me to remind me that my future now lay in God's safe hands.

Monday 16th May I set off for Ely with another candidate Mike, from St Anne's of Willenhall. There were sixteen candidates at Bishop's Wood House with six Bishop Selectors. After a few bonding exercises which helped us to get to know each other and helped to put us at ease, we were given the agenda by Hilary Ison, the panel secretary. Hilary gave us interview times, details of the personal inventory exercise and the pastoral exercise to be completed over the next few days. The personal inventory was the first task to be completed that evening. Forty questions based on the criteria of the Church of England.

I actually found this quite hard, as I prefer to think deeply, rather than being spontaneous. The selectors would later use our inventories as material for the forthcoming interviews.

After dinner, we were given a pastoral exercise to complete by the final day. The scenario was a complex situation which needed understanding and guidance, which had to be detailed within the form of a letter. After night prayer, as I needed to stretch my legs, I just managed to reach the pub for a well-deserved drink before returning to my room to compile my letter and try to rest.

Tuesday morning already, I'd had little sleep worrying about various aspects of the BAP, especially the letter response to the pastoral exercise and my presentation due this very morning. Each presentation had a deadline of five minutes, followed by a thirteen





minute to summarise. The selectors were present in the room, observing our presentation and discussing our leadership skills. Our contribution to other presentations was also monitored.

During the afternoon I had a brief meeting with the panel secretary confirming Queen's College Birmingham as the preferred place of study if recommended; followed by my first major interview entitled 'Vocation' discussing my vocation, ministry within the Church of England and spirituality. One down, two to go!

The final day, my second interview, Pastoral discussed Personality and Character, Relationships and Leadership and collaboration followed by my last interview, Education discussed Faith, Mission and Evangelism and Quality of Mind. This captured my interest as a reference was made to my favourite book, *The Prodigal Son* by Henri Nouwen.

The final session was with the panel secretary Hillary Ison. Hillary advised us of the outcome, recommended or not and suggested it was good to confide in someone on returning home to relieve the stress. I can honestly say that I really enjoyed the whole experience; although it was one of the most stressful 3 days in the last 18 years, since our wedding day!

A few days later, the DDO rang me to see how I was bearing up waiting on the decision of the panel and advised me he would inform me of the outcome as soon as he was notified. Ten days later on the 27th May, David rang, aptly just as Carole and I returned from Mass. I was relieved, ecstatic, nervous, and so very grateful I had been recommended for training. I was in disbelief and astonished to think that someone like me, with little education could achieve something so great. I struggled to sleep for the first few nights as I was still in awe of the outcome. After a few days, the shock had begun to wear off and the mixed emotions turned to excitement, the thought of me, Gary Hartill, a mature student. Come September I will start training in Birmingham at Queens for 3 years. I am living proof that walking with God, anything is possible. Please pray for me and all men who believe they have a calling to the priesthood, that they are able to receive the guidance and have the courage to offer themselves to God, so the Catholic faith remains strong within the Church of England for our future generations.

Gary







We affirm the Faith of the Church as revealed in  
Scripture and Tradition.

We proclaim our Faith through the Creeds, the Sacraments and the  
apostolic ministry of bishops and priests of the Universal Church.

We seek a guaranteed ecclesial structure in which we can pass the  
Faith on to our children and grandchildren.

We have a vision for unity and truth and we are going  
Forward in Faith.

**new**directions ~ a monthly journal of news and opinion

a quarterly newspaper with all the news  
from FiF parishes and branches ~

**Forward!**  
plus

**Forward  
Teaching** ~ a weekly Sunday School course

a weekly catechetical pew sheet ~ **Forward!**

*For further details, please visit our website or contact us at:*

2A The Cloisters, Gordon Square, London WC1H 0AG

Telephone: 020 7388 3588

Facsimile: 020 7387 3539

Email: [FiF.UK@forwardinfaith.com](mailto:FiF.UK@forwardinfaith.com)

[www.forwardinfaith.com](http://www.forwardinfaith.com)

# ASK! SEEK! KNOCK!

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

It doesn't seem all that long since I last wrote for the magazine but a lot has happened in the meantime! Since I last wrote I have found a title post to serve a curacy in. I am to be (God Willing) the Assistant Curate of the Parish of St Helen, Auckland ([www.sthelenschurch.co.uk](http://www.sthelenschurch.co.uk)), in the Diocese of Durham. Durham Cathedral is set to be the venue of the ordination on 3rd of July. I am very much looking forward to serving the people of that parish under the watchful eye of Canon Robert McTeer, Vicar of St Helen's.

At the time of writing it is less than two months until the date of the ordination and I must confess to feeling more than a little apprehensive. I am aware of my own shortcomings. I am aware of the great demands of the job. I understand that the church isn't perfect. But more than anything else I am acutely conscious of all of those people: who have prayed for me, supported me, brought me up, inspired me and taught me. All those people who have put their faith in me and wish me well. I pray and hope that I will be a faithful servant of the church and live up to at least part of their confidence.

As I have said in previous editions of this publication, a vocation to the priesthood is never the sole property of the candidate - it is owned by the whole church. A priestly vocation in a young person is always the product of the prayers, support, love and encouragement of a countless number of people. I am reminded of them each day as I ponder what will happen over the coming months. Some of them I know personally and can thank them for their support, whilst others are unknown to me. I pray then for all those who pray and support people exploring a vocation in the church. I thank the readers of this publication who have prayed for me and I thank ACS for its work in praying and promoting vocation to the sacred ministry.

Our Lord Jesus tells us to pray to him for our needs and promises that he will hear and answer our call. Without prayer we lose our anchor in Christ. In these coming months I ask you to pray for all those seeking ordination. Pray that they will build up the necessary strength in the Spirit to go forward to serve the holy people of God!

## **UPDATE- 20th June**

Halfway through the writing of this article I completed my studies at St Stephen's House and moved to County Durham, from where I am writing the second half of the article. I am currently surrounded by boxes which need to be unpacked and furniture that needs to be arranged. It is strange adjusting to living in a house of my own without the familiar noises of the other students at St Stephen's House (welcome and unwelcome!). It is a great source of joy to have my own house, but



I have been reminded over the past few weeks of how privileged I have been to be formed in a community like St Stephen's House. The round of prayer and the community changed each and every one of us who studied together. I hope for the better! Now we are flung to the four corners of the kingdom and await our respective ordination dates. I thought that it was highly appropriate that Leavers' Day this year coincided with Pentecost.

I now have less than two weeks to go. Before the ordination there will be a retreat where all of the candidates gather to pray and prepare for what will happen to them.

Bishop Gordon Mursell is set to conduct the Durham retreat. I am looking forward to the retreat because I know that I can leave the last bits of unpacking behind, the unanswered emails and the laundry basket and try to focus on preparing for ordination and the work to come.

Please continue to pray for me. Pray for St Stephen's House and for all those being formed for ministry in the church. Pray for Canon McTeer and the people of St Helen's. Pray for the Diocese of Durham and Bishop Mark Jarrow who is (D.V.) to ordain me a Deacon. And pray all the more fervently for the renewal of the Church and the increase of vocations to the sacred ministry and religious life.

Fr Grant





# CONGRATULATIONS ...

## *to our Council Members ...*



Bishop Jonathan Baker, ssc,  
on his appointment as  
Bishop of Ebbsfleet



Andrew Roberts who has been  
appointed as the new Diocesan  
Secretary for Peterborough



John Hanks who is in training for  
the permanent diaconate



Father Jeremy Winston who  
has been appointed as the  
Dean of Newport Cathedral



*and also to ...*



Fr Michael Bailey  
Ordained Priest on 4th May 2011



Fr Simon Sayer  
Ordained Priest on 19th June 2011



Fr David Boundy who celebrated his  
Golden Jubilee Mass at the Convent  
of St Mary at the Cross Edgware on  
16 Oct. 2010.



Father Adrian Furse  
Ordained Priest on 6th July 2011

# WAGNER QUIZ NIGHT WITH SUPPER

The Anglo-Catholic parishes of S. Bartholomew, S. Martin, S. Michael & All Angels, S. Paul, and S. Patrick serve the city centre of Brighton & Hove and have formed themselves into a grouping under the name of 'Wagner'. In response to a pastoral review of the needs of the city, and the formation of groups and clusters of parishes, these churches formally pledged to work together in mission and service, giving mutual support, sharing resources and clergy whenever possible, at a Solemn Mass at S. Martin's in 2010.



Like The Annunciation, Brighton, an associate parish, each was either founded or profoundly influenced by two remarkable 19th century priests, Henry and Arthur Wagner. Recently 70 people, representing all 6 parishes, met together at S. Michael's for a most enjoyable Quiz Night with Supper. The Evening raised £350 for the work of the Additional Curates Society. This Lent we continued the practice of recent years in meeting jointly for weekly Stations of the Cross in each others



churches, and we share patronal festivals and some solemnities, and have a joint Walsingham Cell. Each church has its own distinctive form of outreach to the city centre, whether through supporting care of the homeless and the addicted, community cooked breakfasts, Street Pastors and 'Safe Space,' the Arts, schools, youth work, and in offering 'sacred space' amidst the noise of a bustling city, and in some of the most

magnificent Victorian churches in the country. Clergy and churchwardens, and sometimes with treasurers and Deanery Synod representatives, meet together quite often, and it is hoped this sharing will be furthered when new priests are appointed to vacant parishes in the group. We have, likewise, pledged to work collaboratively with other city centre parishes wherever we can in shared mission and witness.



ADVERTISEMENT

## “A wonderful place for a wonderful retirement”



**For further details or to arrange a preliminary visit, please see our website or contact the Warden, at:**



**The College of St Barnabas,  
Blackberry Lane, Lingfield,  
Surrey, RH7 6NJ**

**Tel. 01342 870260 Fax. 01342 871672**

**[www.st-barnabas.org.uk](http://www.st-barnabas.org.uk)**

**[warden@collegeofstbarnabas.com](mailto:warden@collegeofstbarnabas.com)**

**The College of St Barnabas** is a residential community of retired Anglican clergy. Married couples are very welcome, as are those who have been widowed. Admission is open to licensed Church Workers and Readers; there are facilities for visitors and guests.

- ♦ All Cloister flats have sitting rooms, bedrooms and *en suite* facilities;
- ♦ There are two Chapels with daily Mass and Evensong;
- ♦ Three Libraries; Snooker Room; 9 hole Putting Green;
- ♦ Well equipped Common Room and Refectory;
- ♦ The Nursing Wing offers both residential and full nursing care. Direct admission is possible;

Occasional quiet days and private retreats can be accommodated.



# Give a Little Change a Lot

We would like to invite all our readership to consider joining our regular giving initiative that does as the label says, "Make a considerable difference" by donating a fairly small and insignificant amount. Yes for just £1 per week (£4 per month) you can help the ACS resource our Church and ensure the much needed ministry of priests not only for today but also for the future.

We at the ACS are in the business of transforming lives by praying for vocations and praying for priests who

work in some of the toughest parishes in England and Wales. By committing yourself to just £1 per week we can make some real radical changes in the society that we live. So please join our scheme by filling in the enclosed form and returning it to us here at the Additional Curates Society, Gordon Browning House, 8 Spitfire Road, Birmingham B24 9PB or alternatively by logging onto our website [www.additionalcurates.co.uk](http://www.additionalcurates.co.uk) and clicking on the donations section where donations can be made using your credit or debit card.

## LEGACIES

Have you considered supporting the work of the Church through the ACS after your death? The money received from legacies is the life blood of the Society, helping to put priests in parishes, supporting the Church for many years to come.

If you would like to make a bequest to the ACS please use the following form of wording in your Last Will and Testament.

"I give and bequeath to the Additional Curates Society and its work  
care of the General Secretary

Gordon Browning House, 8 Spitfire Road, Birmingham B24 9PB

the sum of £\_\_\_\_\_

(Instead of naming any particular amount of money you can express a wish that a certain fraction of your estate should be applied to the work of the ACS) (free from all death or legal duties), to be applied for the purpose of the work of the Additional Curates Society, and I declare that the receipt of the General Secretary for the time being of the Additional Curates Society shall be sufficient discharge to my executors of the same."



## GIFT AID DECLARATION

I desire that the Additional Curates Society treats all donations that I have made since the 6th April 2000 and all donations I make from the date of this declaration as a Gift Aid Donation until I notify the Society otherwise.

I confirm that I am a UK tax payer and that my tax bill will always be more than or equal to the amount of tax that the Additional Curates Society will be able to reclaim in the relevant tax years.

Name .....

Address.....

.....Post Code .....

Signed .....Dated .....

Parish .....Diocese .....

## BANKER'S ORDER (please use capital letters)

To (Name & Address of your own Bank).....

.....Postcode .....

PLEASE PAY:

Bank of Scotland, 55 Temple Row, Birmingham B2 5LS

Bank Sort Code: 12-05-65 • Account No: 06074410

for the credit of the Additional Curates Society

Your Bank Account No:

.....

The sum of £.....(amount in figures)

(amount in words) .....

on .....and thereafter on the same day of each month/year

for .....years/or until I cancel it in writing.

Signature .....Name (Mr/Mrs/Miss/Rev'd/etc) .....

Address .....

.....Postcode.....

### IMPORTANT

If you are signing a Gift Aid Declaration and wish to pay by Banker's Order,  
please complete the above and return to:

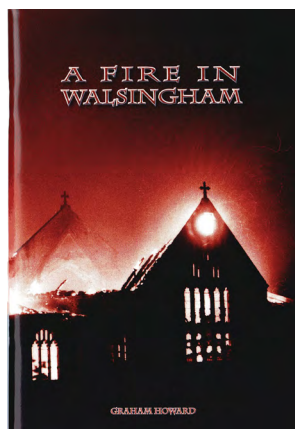
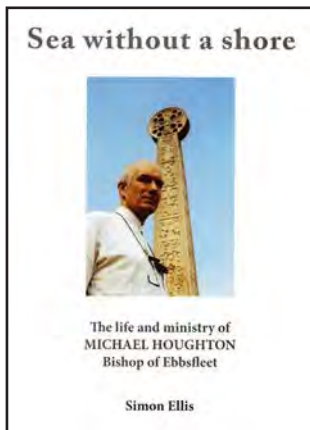
ADDITIONAL CURATES SOCIETY, Gordon Browning House, 8 Spitfire Road, Birmingham B24 9PB

Thank you for supporting the work of ACS

# A Good Read ...

**Sea Without A Shore - £10.99 incl P&P**

**A Fire In Walsingham - £6.50 incl P&P**



**Both books are available from the  
Additional Curates Society.  
Order on page 17 or via our website  
[www.additionalcurates.co.uk](http://www.additionalcurates.co.uk)**

ADVERTISEMENT

## LUZAR VESTMENTS

37 Fallowfields Bicester Oxfordshire OX26 6QT. U.K.

**Tel:** 01869 327535 **Email:** [richard@luzarvestments.co.uk](mailto:richard@luzarvestments.co.uk)

Please contact us to place an order or to discuss your requirements in more detail.

[www.luzarvestments.co.uk](http://www.luzarvestments.co.uk)



**GL003 - £575 - 5 piece set**  
Available in all colours



**RC003**  
Gold brocade Cope & Stole



**GL005 - £370 - 5 piece set**  
Available in all colours





## J & M SEWING SERVICE LTD

CHURCH ROBES INDIVIDUALLY MADE TO ORDER

'Quality is not expensive ..... it's priceless'



By Appointment to  
Her Majesty The Queen  
Manufacturers of Clerical Robes

**CASSOCKS + SURPLICES  
ALBS + COTTAS  
CLERICAL BLOUSES  
CLERICAL SHIRTS**

**STOLES & VESTMENTS  
CHOIR ROBES  
VERGERS ROBES  
BANNER & FRONTALS**

**you name it, we probably make it.**

**OUR MOTTO ... "THERE'S ALWAYS TIME FOR COURTESY!"**

Order on-line at: [www.jandmsewing.com](http://www.jandmsewing.com)  
or ask for our free Catalogue

Tel: 0191 232 9589 Fax: 0191 230 1215

email: [jandmsewing@btconnect.com](mailto:jandmsewing@btconnect.com)

1 Charlotte Square, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE1 4XF

**Established by Joyce Davison & Maureen Waterston in 1980**



ADVERTISEMENT

## *Pilgrimage & beyond*

*2011 brochure now available*

**For your copy call: 020 7485 3003**

**Tailor-made pilgrimages for Parishes,  
Schools and Groups**



***[www.paxtravel.co.uk](http://www.paxtravel.co.uk)***



**AUTOSAVE...OUR TEAM HAS OVER 25 YEARS  
EXPERIENCE SUPPLYING NEW AND USED  
VEHICLES TO THE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY**

# ENJOY

**Hassle Free, Risk Free  
vehicle purchasing.**

- **Massive Choice**
- **Any Make, Any Model**
- **Save ££££'s**
- **Total Peace of Mind**
- **Convenient**



**Plus...**

**Cars from £3,999**

**Fully checked serviced  
and guaranteed**

**VMC mileage and HPI  
history checked**

**Nationwide Delivery**

**Part Exchange Welcome • Finance Available**

**Call: 0845 122 6920**  
or visit us online: [www.autosave.co.uk](http://www.autosave.co.uk)

**autosave**   
good news for car buyers