

# Guild News

A half-yearly update for members of the Guild of St Raphael

May 2011

## 2010 FESTIVAL IN BLACKBURN

**B**lackburn is the See of our Warden, Bishop Nicholas Reade, who preached and presided at our Festival Eucharist. It was a real joy to be welcomed warmly in Blackburn Cathedral by the Dean, The Very Reverend Christopher Armstrong. He worshipped with us and ministered in the laying-on-of hands.

The AGM was Canon Paul Nener's last as Sub-warden and, in addition to our routine business, he gave us a wonderful 'REFLECTION' (see inside) and was presented with an icon of St Paul by his successor as Sub-warden, The Revd Rodney Middleton Vicar of Haydock.

Also at the AGM our Treasurer pointed to the need for increased income if the Guild is to prosper. He made a powerful plea for members to recruit more members and for branches to buy more copies of *Chrysm*: one each, not just one to share.



### IN THIS ISSUE

- 2 A Reflection by our retiring Sub-warden; Important Administrative Changes
- 3 An appreciation of Penelope Turing; Items of Interest
- 4 Notices including the 2011 Guild Festival

### AND IN CHRISM

#### *Surviving Trauma*

This edition of *Chrysm* is about members of the Guild who have survived extreme traumas in their lives, and how their faith has helped them. Our first article, by Jane Jones, Secretary of the Chester Branch, tackles the very difficult subject of surviving abuse in childhood, and the difficulties and rewards of forgiving an abusive parent as their persona changes with age and dementia. Anne Wawszczyk, a member of the Lancaster & District Branch, provides a profoundly moving account of her family's experience of her daughter's battle with a lymphoma, illustrated by her daughter, Ruth's, poetry and her husband, Paul's, pictures. Finally, Guild Council Member, Revd Graham Minors, tells of the devastation of almost simultaneous diagnoses of cancer in himself and his wife, Elizabeth; and how they were helped by the ministry of healing.

#### Also

**CSTH: The Hildegard Lecture  
THE ECOLOGY OF CREATIVITY  
By The Revd Dr June Boyce-Tillman MBE, Professor of Applied Music, University of Winchester**

The next issue, due out in November 2011, will be on the theme: **Healing in The New Testament**. For non-subscribers, extra copies of *Chrysm*, price £3.50, can be obtained from the *Guild Office*.

#### Guild of St Raphael Presidents

The Archbishops of Canterbury and York

#### Patrons

J.P.S. Thomson  
DM MS FRCS  
The Bishops of Exeter  
Gloucester  
Newcastle  
Norwich  
Monmouth  
St Edmundsbury & Ipswich  
Truro  
Worcester and in Europe and the Dean of Chester



The Bishop's Procession



Bishop[Nicholas, Canon Paul Nener and The Dean

The congregation of Guild members



#### GUILD NEWS

is edited by:

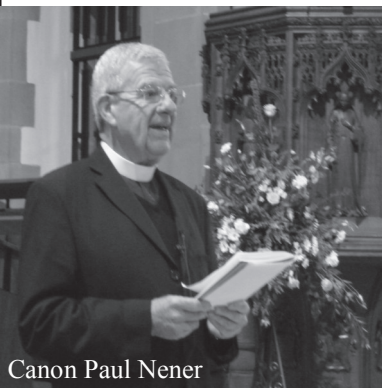
Professor Helen Leathard

Contributions can be sent by e-mail to: helenleathard@btinternet.com

or by post to 29 Coronation Way, Lancaster LA1 2TQ

# REFLECTIONS OF THE RETIRING SUB-WARDEN

by Canon Paul Nener, at the Guild AGM on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2010



Canon Paul Nener

I have been associated with the Guild of St Raphael for about 26 years, since becoming Vicar of Haydock with its then lively Branch. That Branch sprang out of a genuine miracle in the Parish.

My predecessor, 'high and dry', was approached by the people

to pursue the Ministry of Healing in the Parish. In order to control their enthusiasm he suggested that they join the Guild!

In some ways the Guild runs in a bipartite manner. The Council in a broad sense keeps tabs on and 'oversees' the Branches, as well as trying to provide expertise for parish communities wishing to explore healing. In addition, the Council makes the provision of the only C of E journal on the healing ministry: CHRISM. We are happy to continue with that journal, and believe that it has a place at the heart of the healing ministry in our Church. While Chrism has a wide distribution, there is a continuing issue that branches are loathe to order it in numbers for their own branch members and parishes. Here then is a plea for that. Not just for personal reading, but for wider availability 'at the back of the Church' for non-members to read and develop their Christian understanding and life.

The other side of the bipartite structure is in the life of the Branches, as well as a number of individual members across the country, and even abroad. The relationship between the Council and others is loose and the Guild, in practical terms, is a lay-led organisation. At present the Guild, like many such groups in our present society, is struggling financially; and if we believe that we have a mission in the Church, then we must weld together more clearly the life of the Branches and the wider vocation of the Guild. In my view, Branches have become too insular, and less interested in what used to be more common: that is, networking between Branches regionally, thus, in various ways, opening the Guild up more widely to other parishes and individuals.

The ministry of healing is, above all, evangelistic. Healing becomes a reality when Church communities become more what they are called to be: the Body of Christ. In our modern society individualism and relativism are so strong that Christians, if fully committed, will inevitably swim against the stream. Branches of the Guild are called to be at the forefront in challenging the ills of society – and that must begin with ourselves. We are entering a new phase in society where governments are almost having to work on the principle of death for many of our expectations; deaths which we hope will be followed by resurrection. Such is central to our own Christian perceptions. The Church has the opportunity to play its part in the resurrection process. The Guild, with its message of total integration of the person, is well placed in its branches to help

people to find the healing of body, mind, spirit, social life and Church life that is the gift of Christ.

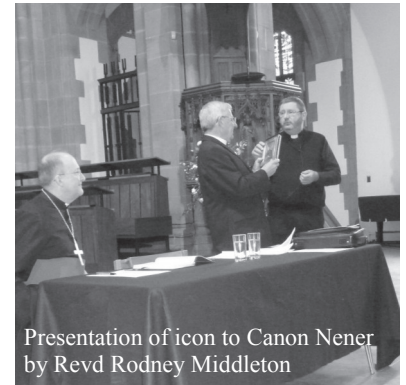
All Christian healing begins with individuals re-ordering their lives to allow the imperatives of the Gospel to govern them. We come at each Eucharist to be honest with God and each other, and to pray for resurrection; which will always mean some deaths of our own selfish and self-centred and unhealed lives. This is not easy, but reminds us that, at the centre of the Eucharist, we are always showing forth the Lord's death until he comes. His death is our death ... His new Resurrection life is our life as well.

I am happy to finish as Sub-warden as I retire but, for the time being, I will stay on the Council. I have offered time, in my retirement, to the Guild. I hope to be available for a travelling ministry, and I am open to invitations, throughout the country, to speak on behalf of the Guild and its ministry and vocation.

My hope for Branches is for growing together in a common purpose for the renewal of life in our somewhat fractured Church - a hope for the Guild to play a real part in the renewal of love in our Church; a hope for the Guild to be a lively society within the Church of England: a society for others and not just for itself. If this were to come to fruition then we would make more branches and fill more pews!

On a practical note, invitations for visits should go through the Sub-warden, and on a more practical note, my travel expenses should be met by the inviting Parishes and Branches.

Thank you for all your love and support over the years. Thank you for listening, and, I hope, for making new resolutions to be true followers of Jesus Christ and part of His healing love in the world. □



Presentation of icon to Canon Nener by Revd Rodney Middleton

## IMPORTANT ADMINISTRATIVE CHANGES

Because of financial constraints the Guild Council is no longer able to employ an Organising Secretary. We are sure that members will wish to join us in recording our grateful thanks to Mrs Hanna Hart for several years of excellent service to the Guild.

Mr John Mounfield has, for health reasons, tendered his resignation as Honorary Treasurer. We are exceedingly grateful to John for the many years he has served the Guild in this capacity. We keep him in our prayers and hope he will stay with us as a Council member.

**We are delighted that the Revd Robin Pettitt, Assistant Priest at St James the Great, Haydock, has volunteered to serve as Honorary Secretary and Treasurer from 1st April 2011.**

**Please communicate with Robin, not Hanna, from now on.**

### PENELOPE TURING, RIP

*An appreciation by The Rt Revd George Hacker, former editor of Chrism and Guild*

I first met Penelope in Chester at the Guild Festival in 1992, where I had been invited to give the Henry Cooper Lecture. As far as I can remember she took no particular part in the proceedings, and I don't think I even caught her name, but she was the person who most impressed herself on my memory. It was her enthusiasm that was so unforgettable, and her eagerness to talk up the work of the Guild and of the ministry of healing in general - clearly seeing me as a potential ally, in a Church in which bishops were not notably enthusiastic about that ministry, when they had so many other pressing concerns to deal with.



That first impression remained unchanged throughout the ten or so years that I knew her after I became editor of Chrism in 1996. At Guild Council meetings you felt that she was always aware of the legacy that we had inherited from the great pioneering days of the Guild, and she would occasionally 'ginger' us all up with a minor outburst, if she felt the discussion was becoming at all negative and defeatist. She truly believed that if only you really believed in something, people would catch your enthusiasm and great things could be done. And who could argue with her - for she was as good as her word? One experiment during my time with the Guild was an attempt to divide the country into regions, with a council member responsible for Guild branches in each region. It never really got off the ground - except in Penelope's region, and in a neighbouring one, which she had also taken under her wing, as there was no council member available for it! She would visit branches, where she would take part in healing services and discussions, lead meditations, and generally enthuse everyone that she could. And the seed did not 'fall on stony ground'. When her book of 'Prayer Group Meditations' was privately published in 2000, one Guild member wrote to me: 'I have heard Penelope speak and been changed and inspired by her words, particularly in relation to our calling as healers and uplifters and how many forms this can take. . . I am so glad that this has been done so that Penelope's words can reach many more people.'

So enthusiasm - yes, but also depth. And great courage. During the time I knew her she had to learn to live on crutches for a while, and then, far more challenging, came ME in her late seventies. Of this she wrote: 'If we serve in the ministry of healing, we know, and teach, that it is God's will to heal all who seek it, but that that healing will be in God's time, not ours, often in ways we did not foresee. . . So ME provides good exercise in the practice of this knowledge for those who suffer from it, and those who minister to them. Secondly, by producing a ridiculous variety of symptoms it enables one to enter more into the sufferings of others. For example, I had never in my life suffered from clinical depression, but ME has brought me some spells of it. Down, down, down into the depths. . . Very unpleasant it is, but I hope it enables me better to understand other sufferers.'

Positive as always - May Christ give you rest in the land of the living, Penelope, for you were his friend and faithful servant. □

*Editor's note: The Guild has had its quota of gifted people, and Penelope Turing ranks as one of its most outstanding members. She worked as a journalist, a lecturer and a writer of books on travel and opera. Having been Editor of Chrism and Organising Secretary from 1984 - 1991, she was a Council member until 2005. All who knew her were truly blessed.*

Centre for the Study of Theology & Health

*CHANGING TIMES, CHANGING FAITH*  
*A summer school on change and transition*  
*at Holy Rood House July 18<sup>th</sup> -21<sup>st</sup> 2011*

Led by Revd. Dr. Jan Berry, Director of the Centre for the study of Theology and Health, with seminars and workshops from Revd Elizabeth Baxter, Professor Roger Grainger, Professor Helen Leathard, Revd Stanley Baxter and Jeannette Roddy.

*For details of other events and information about Holy Rood House, see:*  
[www.holyroodhouse.org.uk](http://www.holyroodhouse.org.uk)

**Acorn Christian Healing Foundation**  
**Whitehill Chase, Bordon, Hants**

*A sample of forthcoming events:*

June 3 - 5 Healing Life's Hurts  
June 11 Why does the church turn men off?  
Aug 8 - 12 New! With God in Silence

Further information: Tel: 01420 478121  
E-mail: [info@acornchristian.org](mailto:info@acornchristian.org)  
Website: [www.acornchristian.org](http://www.acornchristian.org)

**Guild of Health**

*A sample of forthcoming events:*

May 21 London Seminar: The Jesus Prayer  
May 26 Dorset Quiet Day  
Sept 17 Seminar: Modern Art & Theology

Registered and Administrative Office: 9 St George's Road, Folkestone, Kent. CT19 4BE

Tel: 01303 277399  
E-mail: [enquiries@gohealth.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@gohealth.org.uk)  
[www.gohealth.org.uk](http://www.gohealth.org.uk)

**BURRSWOOD CHRISTIAN HOSPITAL**  
**AND PLACE OF HEALING**  
**CONFERENCE: MINDING THE GAP**  
**Where is Support for those in the Caring Professions?**  
**Friday 1st July 2011**  
[www.burrswood.org.uk](http://www.burrswood.org.uk)  
**Tel: 01892 863637**

**ANGLICAN HEALTH NETWORK**  
**Faith and health in practice**  
*An interesting new organisation*  
Find out more at: [www.anglicanhealth.org](http://www.anglicanhealth.org)

**PARISH NURSING MINISTRIES UK**  
[www.parishnursing.org.uk](http://www.parishnursing.org.uk)  
**Tel: 01788 817292**

**Order of St Luke the Physician**

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# Keeping you in the Picture

## GUILD FESTIVAL

### LUNCH ARRANGEMENTS

*After the AGM, at approximately 1.30pm, lunch will be available in the Cathedral Crypt for those who have booked in advance.*

*To book your lunch, please check the price (£8—£10) with the Honorary Secretary and then send a cheque made out to the Guild of St Raphael*

**NB The start is 30 minutes later than usual to allow extra time for travelling to Cardiff on the day of the Festival.**

## RECENT EDITORIAL CHANGES

### PUBLICATION DATES

Guild News and Chrim are now published early in May and November .

### EDITOR'S CONTACT DETAILS

## The Guild Prayer

**H**eavenly Father,  
whose Son Jesus Christ healed the sick  
and restored them to wholeness of life  
bless, we pray,  
the Guild of St Raphael  
and all its members  
in the celebration of this truth  
within your Holy Church,  
through the same Christ  
our Lord.

## PRAYER REQUESTS

If you have a prayer request, and do not have access to the internet, you can now send it by ordinary mail. The address is:



*Sister Mary Cuthbert,  
Community of the Holy Cross,  
Holy Cross Convent,  
Rempstone Hall,  
Rempstone, Nr Loughborough,  
Leicestershire LE12 6RG.*

Prayer support will be given initially for one month, but people are invited to keep in touch and in particular to let the sisters know if the situation changes in any way.

And of course, if you *are* on the internet, you can use that service by writing directly to:  
[smc.bewerley@virgin.net](mailto:smc.bewerley@virgin.net)  
or via the *Guild* website

## GUILD WEBSITE

For information about the *Guild*, news and other items, and a wide selection of articles on subjects connected with the ministry of healing, log on to:-

[www.guildofstraphael.org.uk](http://www.guildofstraphael.org.uk)

Feedback in the form of comments, news, and items of interest will always be welcome at:

[helenleathard@btinternet.com](mailto:helenleathard@btinternet.com)

Items of news from our branches will be particularly welcome. The editor apologises for delays in updating the website.

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## GUILD FESTIVAL 2011

**SATURDAY 22nd OCTOBER  
LLANDAFF CATHEDRAL**

**11.30 a.m. Festival Eucharist  
& Ministry of Healing**

*PREACHER: Revd. Amanda Evans*

*Canterbury Diocesan Coordinator for Healing & Wholeness*

*PRESIDENT: Bishop of Blackburn, Warden of the Guild*

*Followed by*

**Annual General Meeting and Lunch**

## The Guild Council

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