



Catholic Police Guild Magazine 2007  
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**OVERVIEW**

The Catholic Police Guild is a national organisation with membership from forces all over England and Wales. It has been recognised by a number of forces as an official staff support association and is a member of the Metropolitan Police Service [MPS] family of staff associations (the S.A.M.U.R.A.I. group) supporting officers, police staff and the extended police family.

The Guild was originally formed in London in 1914, by a group of Metropolitan Police Officers. In many ways they reflected the guiding principles of our various network associations within the SAMURAI group and the work they are involved in today.

In the early part of the last century young Catholic men – and at the time it was an all male affair - were arriving in London to join the Met in large numbers from Ireland, Scotland, Wales and other parts of England, a challenge to any young person.

The Guild offered its members mentoring and paternal advice to these young men who were new to city life. It also provided the spiritual support, necessary for the maintenance of its members' life of faith. The Guild continues to support and encourage members to deepen their faith and to recognise that this faith can be lived out practically through a career of service through policing.

Over the years, the Guild, like any other organisation has evolved and developed. It is now open to all members of the police service in recognition of the diversity of contributions to the task of policing.

**CHRONICLE**

The Catholic Police Guild operates with the spiritual support of the Catholic Bishops' Conference for England and Wales.

Throughout the year there are opportunities to come together in various contexts including: an annual retreat, Mass at Westminster Cathedral on the Feast of Corpus Christi (the day on which the Guild was founded), an annual Requiem Mass for deceased police officers and staff and an event – usually a Mass followed by some social activity to mark the Feast of St Michael, the patron saint of the Guild.

In addition, there are other, more socially orientated, opportunities to meet other members during the year. There are regular, if not annual, pilgrimages to various important places, recently including Rome, the Holy Land, Fatima and Santiago de Compostella. However, the Guild is always looking for new activities through which to serve its members and also to reach out to others. In recent years, we have undertaken some joint activity with the Catholic Association for Racial Justice, and it may be argued that the area of the Church's social teaching should provide a particular focus for the Guild.

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**Disclaimer**

*The opinions and views given in submitted articles are those of the Author and are not necessarily those of the CPG or the MPS*

### **Welcome from the Chairman**

I am delighted to welcome you to the return of the Catholic Police Guild magazine. As you know, we have seen a number of changes in recent years and one of the biggest tasks was to find a replacement for John Bracken as magazine editor. Of course, it is not until someone has retired that you realise the amount of work they did and we all thank you John for everything he did for the Guild as editor. I am very pleased to say that in Loretta we have found an excellent replacement. Loretta is a member of the Met police staff; it is good to see that this branch of the policing family is playing its full part in the life of the Guild.

You will notice that, in addition to some updates from long-standing members and reports on the pilgrimage, the recent retreat and others aspects of Guild life, there is something of a focus on Police Community Support Officers. This group is the newest addition to the extended policing family and PCSOs are of course welcome to join the CPG. We have seen a number joining the Guild in recent years but we know that there are many more who would be interested. In addition, we recognise that this is the fastest growing section of the Service and that there may be those who, through parish, social or other contact with Guild members are drawn to a career as PCSOs. It is with this in mind that we have paid greater attention to this group in the current edition.

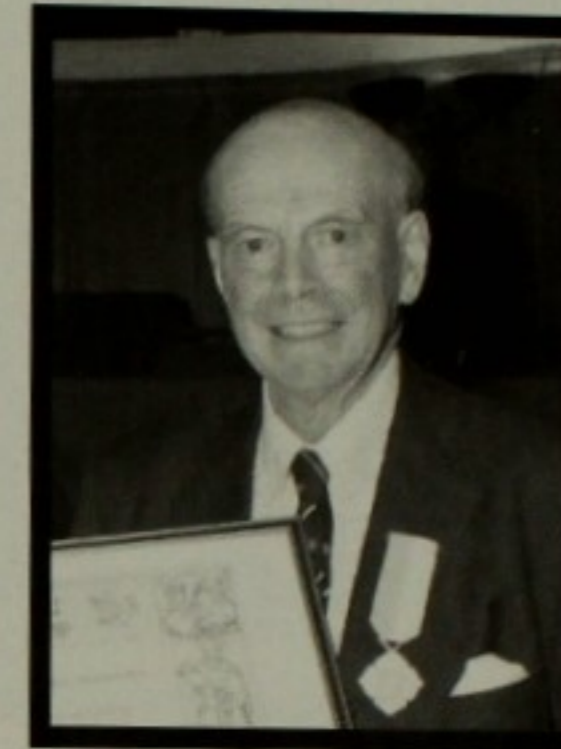
There is also an interesting article from a colleague in Cheshire, Tony Hunt, who was ordained Deacon in July. As I write, we are preparing for the Requiem Mass and I hope we shall see several Guild members who are also ordained Deacons. Earlier this year saw the ordination of Neville Dyckhoff, recently retired from heading up the MPS catering branch and a long time supporter of the Guild. Also ordained this year was Tim Marsh, another retired officer and long standing Guild member. I am sure you will join me in wishing them well in their ministry as they seek to continue a life of service.

I hope you enjoy this new version of the magazine. I further hope it will encourage you to submit your own articles or pieces of interest for future editions. We will continue to communicate key dates through newsletters but would also recommend that those of you with Internet access keep an eye on the CPG website for key dates. On behalf of the Guild NEC, may I conclude by wishing you a Spiritual and Peaceful 2007.

*Andrew Bayes  
C.P.G. Chairman*

### **Obituaries**

## **MICHAEL (MIKE) DOYLE R.I.P. C.P.G. TREASURER 1974-2005**



It is with deep regret that the Guild announces the death of C.P.G. Treasurer Michael Doyle who died on 30<sup>th</sup> October 2005, aged 71, after a long illness

Mike was born in Dublin on 11<sup>th</sup> May 1934 and first came to London in 1956 to start a career with Lloyds Bank in the City. However, he was soon called up and posted to the Royal Ulster Rifles in which he served from 1956 to 1958. He attained the rank of Corporal and saw service in German and in Cyprus. He then returned to his job with Lloyds Bank where he pursued his career in banking until retiring in 1991.

He joined the City of London Special Constabulary in 1959, serving for a total of 36 years until retiring in 1995 in the rank of Senior Divisional Commandant. He was subsequently made a Freeman of the City of London.

Mike also joined the Catholic Police Guild in 1959 and has held the post of Treasurer of the Guild for the past 41 years until his death. He was frequently to be found in Westminster Cathedral on stewarding duties at the great ceremonies and other events held there.

He was a member of the Catenians for over 30 years and a member of the Combined Irish Regiments Association and the latter's Treasurer for the past seven years.

In 2003, he was awarded the Papal Honour "Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice" by Pope John II for his service to the Church.

A Funeral Requiem Mass was held on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> November 2005 at St. Augustine's RC Church in Rainham, Kent which was attended by family, friends and members of the Guild.

(Adapted from the Obituary insert in the Catholic Police Guild Mass Booklet 2005).

Guild members have started to pay tribute to Mike:

Michael Doyle was a very good banker as well as everything else.

When I was due to retire I was unsure as to whether to take a full pension or commute some of it so I asked Mike's advice.

He said: "If you decide on a full pension then that is government money. If you commute then that becomes Kenny money, therefore take that commutation and invest in property."

This I did without regret.

Thanks Mike

Johnny Kenny, Norfolk

The Guild also announces the death of Bro Dennis Robert on 19th February 2006.

Brother Dennis led the Catholic Police Guild on two trips to the Holy Land including a follow up visit to the British Museum showing us many artefacts confirming the information he had given us on our pilgrimage. He also ran one of our Retreats for us. He would have led more trips to the Holy Land but his superior told him to finish, as he was then 90!

A small group of committee members visited Bro Dennis at Clayton Court over a year ago. He was his usual congenial self and hosted us to lunch with the community and other friends. He took great pleasure in showing us round the house and grounds. A delightful place! Some priests were convalescing there and were making excuses to stay on as long as possible. We hope to arrange a Guild mass for Brother Dennis at some future date.

May he rest in peace.

Bob Mann and Bill Wright

### Catholic Police Guild Pilgrimage 2006 – Assisi



Catholic Police Guild Pilgrimages seem to be a permanent fixture in the life of the Guild these days and since the Guild's foundation on Corpus Christi in 1914 we have recorded Pilgrimages to Rome, four times, The Holy Land, Fatima, Santiago de Compostella, Padua, and now our latest Pilgrimage to Assisi between 17<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> June.

Forty-one pilgrims under the spiritual leadership of our Chaplain Father William Scanlan, our friend and tour operator Anthony Coles and myself representing the members all met up at Terminal 3, at Heathrow on a Pilgrimage that was to run very smoothly and kept almost exactly to the programme that was planned. It should be said that at this early stage that we thank God throughout the week there were no mishaps or accidents and everyone returned home safe and sound. I am pleased to say that it was a very successful Pilgrimage and enjoyed by everyone.

Pilgrims all have their own reasons for making such journeys but following in the steps of St. Francis and St. Clare and indeed being able to have Mass offered by Father William at both Churches was very spiritual and uplifting. Other Basilicas included Saint Mary of the Angels in Assisi, Santa Maris della Consolazione in Todi (a Hill top town), and the Cathedral in Orvieto where we had Mass in the Crypt and where a guided tour explained the frescos of the End of the World. Beautiful Churches included the simple church of St. Maria Maggiore in Spello.

However, away from the Cathedrals, Basilicas and Churches we were able to find time to visit an Umbrian vineyard Lungarotti, and have an hour finishing with wine tasting. The white wine was clearly most popular and we all left experts in wine tasting.

The afternoon excursion to the Commonwealth War Cemetery outside Assisi was also not to be forgotten and Father William's short homily and prayer over the graves was very memorable for all of us. We were told that this cemetery is seldom visited by touring groups so we felt pleased that paying out respect to so many young persons was included in our programme.

Our day visit to Florence was excellent despite the three hour coach trip. We were met by two guides who really treated us very well and the system of having our own received and ear phone worked very well as we walked the streets and were told the history of the buildings. Our two hour stop for lunch was a welcome break in the heat and the coach driver finally took us up the hill to see the panoramic view of Florence which was truly stunning. However, we were all glad to get back to Assisi after a long day for late dinner.

Many great saints have come out of Umbria but no one would ever know that St Patrick, Patron Saint of Ireland had also his influence amongst the Umbrian noblemen. It was a great pleasure for me that I had arranged our morning visit to Todi, to visit the Poor Clare Convent of St. Francis to view a Fresco painted in 1346 which had been whitewashed over in the 1400's and then rediscovered and restored in the 1970s depicting the famous Pilgrimages in Lough Derg, Co. Donegal. Umbrian noblemen had travelled to Ireland in the 1300 & 1400's to do Penance and to hopefully do their purgatory on earth at L.D. Upon their return they told of their journeys to Ireland and the Convent commissioned the fresco by Jacopo Di Mino Pellicciaio. It should be said that the nuns did not like what they saw viewing the seven deadly sins, however in the 1970s after restoration St. Patrick was recognised and the true meaning of the fresco was discovered. We thank the Rev. Mother, Sister Paola for allowing us, the first ever Pilgrimage group to visit the Convent, for her hospitality and the marvellous welcome she gave us.

During our week, on mid-summer's day we also had the honour to celebrate three wedding anniversaries, Beryl and Bernard Moger, celebrating 58 years, Kate and Charles Hunt all from North London celebrating their 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary, and Mobhin and Jack Smith from Belfast celebrating their 41<sup>st</sup> anniversary. These lovely occasions were celebrated on the veranda of our Hotel before dinner with courtesy of Anthony Coles who supplied the sparkling wine for our toasts. Incidentally the Guild had congregated on the same Veranda 21 years previously on their Rome pilgrimage and on a day visit to Assisi. It was all a very memorable evening.

All good things must come to an end and so it was with our Pilgrimage when we celebrated our final Mass at the Cathedral of San Rufino and then onto our Hotel for our last evening dinner together. Awards for the week were then presented by our past Chairmen to the most senior citizen on the Pilgrimage, Bernard Moger, our youngest Pilgrim Kate Hunt, the furthest travelled Mobhin Smith (from Belfast) and the two quiz questions on the life of St. Clare for the women, won by Margaret Egan, and then St. Francis for the men won in a disputed result by Ted Keal, Con Hickey claimed he had given the correct answer. The most coveted award for Pilgrim of the Week was won by Anne Smith, which followed allegations of nepotism and favouritism by the judge which were all denied. Father William who presented the award said it was worth presenting to see the look of amazement on the face of the winner. Anne has still not opened her award, donated by Maurice, since the event.

Finally our trip home all ran smoothly, although Marie and Mary had to wait another day before their luggage was delivered to them at home.

We thank God, through St Francis and St Clare for answering all our prayers.

Maurice Smith

**A NEW CHALLENGE**



After twenty six years of service with three police forces, RAF, Kent and Cheshire, I find myself with a new and perhaps unexpected challenge. My three-year formation course for ordination as a deacon in the Roman Catholic Church is fast coming to a close and on July 1<sup>st</sup> this year, I will, please God, be ordained in Shrewsbury Cathedral.

All of this has coincided with the formation of a Christian Chaplaincy Team, formed to serve the needs of the officers and staff of the Cheshire Constabulary. With the approval of both my Bishop and Chief Constable I have accepted the invitation to work as a member of this team.

As a serving officer with a CID and Police Intelligence background I have expected and even anticipated a few of the changes and developments in my career, I could not however have foreseen this particular opportunity or development.

I believe that I have enough knowledge of the police service to know that a chaplaincy team could be of tremendous value to our colleagues. The stress and pressures that can go hand in hand with modern policing are well known and documented. A real and visible chaplaincy can provide support, reassurance and a confidential contact for our colleagues. I believe that we also serve as a modern Christian Witness, a daily reminder of God's presence in the midst of our busy and demanding work life. Of course, where appropriate we can offer advice and support of a spiritual nature in addition to being visible and available.

I certainly do not seek to write these few words posing as some sort of expert on all things chaplaincy when quite the opposite is nearer to the truth. In terms of both chaplaincy and ordained ministry I feel that I am about to commence my probationary period. In many ways it will be a new challenge, almost a fresh start. I do however feel that I have been presented with a wonderful opportunity to use whatever experience I have in support of my colleagues and friends.

Of course the experience of ordination is now only a few weeks away. The privilege of serving the Church as a deacon will soon become a reality and I expect that life will never be quite the same again. At the millennium, our late Holy Father Pope John Paul II invited members of the Church to 'Push out into the deep and take a risk for Christ' The invitation was for each one of us to consider walking a more challenging or even dangerous path, to embrace our call to discipleship even if the path shown to us appears to involve elements of change and risk. It was this particular challenge that encouraged and helped me to be more open to God's will for me. Responding to my particular vocation has certainly led me along a less easy path. My new challenge includes being an ordained minister, a serving police officer, a family man and part of a team ministry for four catholic parishes. I look forward to what the Lord has in store for me and remain very open to any support or advice that might come my way. I would be delighted to speak to any colleagues who might have a similar story to tell or perhaps are discerning a similar journey of faith.

Please remember our chaplaincy and my ministry in your prayers  
Tony Hunt

(Detective Constable Cheshire Constabulary  
Contact number 01244 613040 or 07816975217)

### **Greetings from France**

The Guild always welcome articles and news from its members. Mike Jeffers a long-serving member of the Guild writes from France...

*Here in the Languedoc, South West France the 'vendange' of grape harvest has just started in early September. As the largest wine region in the world you can imagine the activity, huge motorized picking machines with the drivers sitting at first floor level go out at 4am looking in bedroom windows!*

Every viticulturalist (wine grower) is on his tiny tractor towing trailers piled high with grapes to the Caves Co-Operatives (wine factories). The roads are covered in grape juice. The shoppers are at the supermarkets knowing that the domains (wine estates) have to move last year's vintages at bargain prices to clear the cellars for this year's crop.

The Summer, especially July and August, when all of France seems to take a holiday, is coming to a close. It is still hot, it has reached 40 Celsius (105 Fahrenheit in Sterling!) but last week it was so cold I had to wear a shirt. The French love the beaches so much they have imported tones of sand to Paris to have a beach on the River Seine, they flock to the river and lakes and the Mediterranean is only twenty minutes from us.

My wife, Shelia and I have an exciting future (as usual). We have sold our house and move next month to ten minutes from the Med. In wine appellation terms we are moving from the Minervoise to La Clape (no laughing please!)

Mike Jeffers

### **PCSOs – Serving the Community and Extending the Police Family.**

*The Guild wishes to make contact and support Catholics joining the Police Service and those currently serving. We support market place events for recruiting police and staff and PCSOs.*

*As stated elsewhere, the Guild is open to all members of the police service. It is important that we should reflect the fact that modern policing is delivered through the professionalism of all sections of the Service. The Guild exists primarily to provide its members support, both spiritual and practical. The Service recognises the value of this through the staff association network.*

*The Guild runs a number of events throughout the year, for its members and for the wider community. Interest from our previous functions and significant events stimulates interest not just in the Catholic faith but also in joining the Service. The following piece was written by a PCSO who, while not himself a Guild member, shares the Christian faith and reminds us that just as the Police Service is an extended family, so too is the church.*

#### **WHY I CHOSE TO BE A PCSO.**

"PCSOs are an integral part of the MET family" and "PCSOs are here to stay" These were the welcoming words of the Metropolitan Police Commissioner at the first introduction of the PCSO concept. My background was more IT related and having been interested in community related issues and the effect of crime and anti-social behaviours on our community. I became highly motivated on the idea of becoming the "Eyes and ears" of the police at a time when many people from ethnic minority background shy away from becoming police men and women. My background is that of a strong belief in God and the application of those biblical principles in creating a change where my contribution on a daily basis will help in the reduction of the high level of crime in our community. I specifically joined the Met as a PCSO, and not as a Police Constable, because I felt drawn by the concept of a bridge builder and a peace seeker at a time when members of my community appeared to have lost trust in the policing system. My joining was a revelation from God, just as in the bible when Jonah was asked to go and preach God's work in Nineveh (Jonah Chap 1 Vs 2). I feel it was ordained that I become a PCSO and after almost four years in service that revelation is now fulfilled as I went on to become a union representative, representing all police staff especially PCSOs at group executive level and now local level. For me, constant prayer is the key to the challenges of daily life, which, on the one hand, may be rewarded by a simple thank you from members of the public or, on the other, resentment from those who hate you for the uniform that you wear. However, the only thing that gets me going is the understanding that even our Lord Jesus Christ was persecuted for all the good things he did for mankind so when I receive abuses I say 'Thank you God'.



I tend to forgive a lot and focus my strength in my sole service, which is to help make London a safer place. I rejoice in the Lord at the end of every shift for his mercy and the wisdom he has endowed me with.

I will always recommend that my fellow brothers and sisters in the Lord, who intend to join or who are already PCSOs, should remain steadfast and use this medium to help bring about a better service to mankind and to the Metropolitan Police Service. I thank God for his blessing and I thank him for making my dreams come true as in my belief, I am well fulfilled in a position where I can now give advice to new recruits at the same time represent their needs. With God all things are possible and I glorify him always.

I derive my daily strength from the book of Proverbs and I hope you will also enjoy these consoling words:

**Passage Proverbs 4:20-27:**

Pay attention to what I say, my Son. Listen to my words. Never let them get away from you. Remember them and keep them in your heart. They will give life and health to everyone who understands them. Be careful how you think; your life is shaped by your thoughts. Never say anything that isn't true. Have nothing to do with lies and misleading words. Look straight ahead with honest confidence; don't hang your head in shame, Plan carefully what you do, and whatever you do will turn out right. Avoid evil and walk straight ahead. Don't go one step off the right way.

PCSO Damian Okonkwo, Hammersmith and Fulham Borough, M.P.S.



***Don't Mention Dixon***

*I am sure many of us remember the sixties song "All my life's a circle" The Met has come full circle and is now putting police officers back on the beat.*

I have been privileged to lead a small team of officers who patrol a small area for the last year or so. We are a Safer Neighbourhood Team. It is the best job I have had.

We patrol a single electoral ward; there are 625 wards in London. Every ward has a team, a wonderful amount of officers. The Met has put as many officers on this as Thames Valley Police have in total!

My team includes three PCs and three PCSOs. You may have read about Police Community Support Officers in the press. Many reports were jaundiced and unfair. My 3 PCSOs are most important to our team; they are always out on patrol and our public love talking to them. They are the visible presence on our streets, in our parks and outside our schools.

*We walk our beat, speak to our public and respond to the problems they have.*

A good example was when one of our PCSOs noticed that a lot of low garden walls had been knocked over in a few streets. We wrote a short leaflet asking for any information and delivered it to the area. A young boy phoned us and told us he had seen some boys do a couple of these walls, he knew they went to his school but didn't know them. We spoke to the deputy head who showed our witness a series of class photos. Our suspects were identified and we arranged for their arrest by appointment. They were all very sheepish and their parents were mortified. They voluntarily agreed to pay for the damage and were given a caution. I would have agreed to belt them with a rolled up cape but they have been withdrawn for a few years now.

The locals were happy it was dealt with, and were reassured that they were not victims of a premeditated attack but suffered from juvenile stupidity.

We have a mobile phone and we encourage our public to contact us on it. If you ever tried to contact a policeman before you will realise how revolutionary this is.

Every 3 months we meet with our Ward Panel who tell us what our priorities should be for the next 3 months. The ward panel is made up of locals, council officers, a councillor and our fire brigade watch commander. We even have Surrey police officers on it! Our current priorities are; preventing anti social behaviour in a local park, preventing car crime and ensuring road safety. Sir Robert Peel said that the primary purpose of a police force was the prevention of crime. In the last year crime has been reduced by 21.9 % in my ward.

Surveys show people feel safer all over London because of the Safer Neighbourhood Teams.

I have just over 20 years service (6 weeks less than Gerry!) and consider myself as cynical as any other street copper. I have never been happier in the Job.

\* The title refers to one of my team who before a recent meeting said "Sarge please don't mention George Dixon again "

Brendan

PS Brendan McWilliams

Safer Neighbourhood Team Cheam, M.P.S.

## PCSO's – The Eyes and Ears of the Police Service

*Below is an article from PCSO John Woods who works in the Finsbury Park Ward as part of the Safer Neighbourhoods Team within the Metropolitan Police Service.*

I joined the MPS in October 2005 and undertake the role of Police Community Support Officer (PCSO) in Finsbury Park Ward. I am going to tell you a little about how I became a PCSO and the training it entails.



Police Community Support Officers receive approximately four weeks initial training. The training programme includes the following elements: Officer safety training, which involves training in self –defence techniques; and legislation training covering relevant powers and procedures. The following is a summary of the basic powers held by a PCSO, which may be of interest to some of retired Guild members.

- Common law (self defence or defence of another)
- Section 3 criminal law act 1967 (reasonable use of force to prevent crime/ or undertake lawful arrest)
- Any persons powers S24 PACE (past and present arrestable offences)
- Powers to require name and address.
- S17 PACE entry to save life and limb or prevent serious damage to property.
- Seizure of tobacco or open containers of alcohol in public places (juveniles) S7 children and young persons Act 1933 or S1 confiscation of alcohol (young persons) Act 1997
- Seizure of open containers of alcohol in designated paces (adults) S12 criminal justice and police Act 2001.
- Enforcing cordons' S36 terrorism Act 2000 stopping and searching vehicles and anything carried by a driver, passenger or pedestrian S44/45 terrorism Act 2000. Only to be used when under direct supervision of a constable.

There is no power for a PCSO to search a person. However, they can issue certain penalty notices for disorder (PNDs) and fixed penalty notices for disorder (PNDs) and fixed penalty notices (FPNs) currently limited to cycling on the footway. As I hope you can see from this list, we have an interesting and varied range of responsibilities.

The primary purpose of PCSOs is to support police officers through their role as 'eyes and ears', observing and reporting what they see and hear. PCSOs are also trained in intelligence gathering, Crimint and tasking. Communications and radios are an important part of a PCSOs training. Before a PCSO starts patrolling he or she logs on to the briefing and tasking section on the aware system. This is important as they need up-to-date information and intelligence in order to patrol effectively and reduce crime and disorder.

As a member of a Safer Neighbourhood team, the PCSOs are involved in a variety of tasks, such as visiting victims of crime, this is a reassurance visit PCSOs don't investigate the crime. These crimes include burglary and theft and vehicle crime. One of my tasks is to visit the various businesses in the area and collect information about their CCTV cameras. I go to a Turkish and Kurdish women's group meeting once a week to listen to their issues and concerns. One of the issues commonly raised is antisocial behaviour in their area. One of the PCSOs in our ward visits the schools in our area with a PC approximately once a week. They teach the pupils about the various tasks that are involved in policing.

We have a steering group meeting at our station once every three months. This involves various representatives from the area such as a member of the council and from the community centre, which is located in the nearby estate and also representatives from the various ethnic minorities that live in the area. They voice their issues and concerns regarding crime and antisocial behaviour in our area therefore this will give the team a good idea of which issues they need to focus on the most.

What I find most rewarding about my role as a PCSO is being able to make a difference to the community. In addition, how my career within the Police Service allows me to work with the community.

PCSO John WOOD  
Finsbury Park Ward

If any Guild member knows anyone who would be interested in a career as a PCSO, you are invited to pass on the details for the National Police Recruitment line on telephone 0845 608 3000. From here it will be possible to contact all forces that operate PCSO programmes.

***Need a break from the Rat Race?***

I have worked as a police officer for twenty-eight years and witnessed so many acts of faith and good work by Samaritans radiating from the Holy Spirit. Nonetheless there have been times when my faiths been challenged and I have focused on the negative.

I was very fortunate therefore some years ago to meet a group of multi-faith aid workers who travel to various countries helping in many ways to improve the lot of others. It was amazing upon my return to the UK how grateful I was for the things we take for granted like an indoor flushing loo! How true the phrase "nothing broadens the mind like travel"

For a number of years now I have worked with charities going out to former Eastern block Countries. One couple I met on my travels had the strength and conviction to sell up in the UK and buy a house in Romania in a poor village working with the locals in that area.

They now provide support in many ways books, clothing to the children and meals and medical support to the elderly. This couple also run a canteen in the village and there is always work of some sort to be done.

They love visitors from home for it can sometimes be lonely for them, they have asked me to mention to you that if anyone would want to travel out to Romania and help out for a week staying at their home they would be most welcome.

You would have to pay for your keep and travel costs but the rewards for you would be fantastic, directly helping others and engaging with local villagers. It would be an opportunity to rest and reflect on your own life in our consumer-focused world. If anyone is interested in visiting them please email me direct this could be for singles, couple or small groups, families.

Paul O'Keeffe, C.P.G. Treasurer.

**Announcements**

A presentation of a silver truncheon was made to Fr. Tim Buckley as a token of our appreciation for his work within the Guild. A member of the Guild made the presentation in Co. Kerry, Ireland. Fr. Buckley's health still remains fragile Please remember him in your prayers



Stewarding opportunities are available at Westminster Cathedral. Events range from the annual flower shows, concerts and other significant events in the life of the Cathedral. For further information please contact Andy Bayes on 07712 191078 (further contact details are at the back of this newsletter).

The Guild is inviting members to have their copy of the newsletter sent to them via e-mail. If you would like to avail yourself of this service, please e-mail any of the Guild's officers - details at the back.

**CATHOLIC POLICE GUILD MERCHANDISE**

The following Guild merchandise is available to purchase:

Catholic Police Guild Tie: £10

Catholic Police Guild Badge: £2

Catholic Police Guild Plaques: £2

Catholic Police Guild Tie Pin: donation

To purchase any of these items please contact Bob Mann

**Now, on a lighter note: Be very proud to be British because...**

Only in Britain... can a pizza get to your house faster than an ambulance.  
Only in Britain... do supermarkets make sick people walk all the way to the back of the shop to get their prescriptions while healthy people can buy cigarettes at the front.

Only in Britain... do people order double cheeseburgers, large fries, and a DIET coke.

Only in Britain... do banks leave both doors open and chain the pens to the counters.

Only in Britain... do we leave cars worth thousands of pounds on the drive and lock our junk and cheap lawn mower in the garage.

Only in Britain... do we use answering machines to screen calls and then have 'call waiting' so we won't miss a call from someone we didn't want to talk to in the first place.

Only in Britain... are there disabled parking places in front of a skating rink. NOT TO MENTION..... 3 Brits die each year testing if a 9v battery works on their tongue.

142 Brits were injured in 1999 by not removing all pins from new shirts.

58 Brits are injured each year by using sharp knives instead of screwdrivers.

31 Brits have died since 1996 by watering their Christmas tree while the fairy lights were plugged in.

9 Brits have died in the last 3 years believing that Christmas decorations were chocolates.

British Hospitals reported 4 broken arms last year after cracker pulling accidents.

101 people since 1999 have had broken parts of plastic toys pulled out of the soles of their feet.

8 Brits had serious burns in 2004 trying on a new jumper with a lit cigarette in their mouth.

A massive 543 Brits were admitted to A&E in the last two years after opening bottles of beer with their teeth.

5 Brits were injured last year in accidents involving out of control Scalextric cars.

## Review of Guild Events and Activities

### Retreat

*For many years Guild members have enjoyed the opportunity to participate in an annual retreat and we are very grateful to Bill Wright for all the work he has done in organising the retreat. There has been, in more recent years, a resurgence of interest in the idea of a retreat. Perhaps programmes such as the Monastery have contributed to the rediscovery of the value of a little time out.*

As many of you know, retreats can take many forms ranging from the unguided, quiet time for personal prayer and reflection to the more organised, guided retreats which tend to follow a particular theme, usually set down by the retreat giver. The Guild has been very fortunate over the years with the quality of spiritual guides who have delivered retreats. Of course we do not forget that there is, for many retreats, a social element which is integral to the experience.

While the annual retreat continues to be an important feature of Guild life, there is scope to explore other forms of contemplative and prayerful experience. Where any Guild member would like to organise an event, we would be grateful for notification so that we can publicise it on your behalf.

### Annual Requiem Mass

*I think that the annual Requiem Mass still holds a very special place in the life of the Guild. It remains the defining event in our calendar and does so not least because of its importance. It is pleasing that in more recent years a Service of Remembrance has been introduced with the assistance of the CPA, hosted by St Paul's Cathedral. Many Guild members also support that event.*

At the Requiem Mass we recall all our colleagues who have died, including and especially those who have died on duty. It is always a poignant moment when the names are read and we realise that not a year passes but that we have colleagues who pay the ultimate price. The Mass is always a celebration of unity but perhaps especially in the Requiem Mass we are reminded that bonds that exist between us are not broken by death: we pray for the departed, who journey towards the heavenly kingdom just as we are encouraged to invoke the prayers of those who are now in the presence of God.

### Corpus Christi Mass

It has been our practice to celebrate Mass in the crypt chapel at Westminster Cathedral. As you know, the Guild was founded on the Feast of Corpus Christi back in 1914. Of course, the Bishops of England and Wales have taken a decision regarding the manner in which the Feast is celebrated, with the translation of the feast to the nearest Sunday. It will be necessary to look at the impact this has on our practice of celebrating the Corpus Christi Mass in the Crypt chapel.

### Feast of St Michael

St Michael being, the patron saint of police officers, means that his feast day on the 29th September is a natural focal point for the Guild. In recent years we have combined the spiritual with the social by following the celebration of Mass with a dinner.

### AGM

As with any formally constituted association, the CPG holds an Annual General Meeting at which, among other things, officers are nominated and appointed for the Executive Committee. However, we must recognise that attendance at this event in recent years has been quite low. It will be necessary to explore ways in which the event might attract better attendance so that the views of a broad range of members are heard.

It is also the case that membership among forces other than the Metropolitan Police is increasing and in time it may be necessary to reconsider the appropriateness of holding the event every year in London.

### Pilgrimage

The notion of pilgrimage is an ancient one and, of course, the principle of undertaking a journey to a place of specific religious significance is not unique to Christianity. Over the years, the Guild has run a number of highly successful pilgrimages to a variety of places including, the Holy Land, Rome, Fatima, Santiago de Compostella and, as you will see elsewhere in this publication, Assisi. Although I have included pilgrimage in this section, it should be pointed out that this is not an annual event so much as a regular event. We must be aware that the organisation of such a trip requires a significant amount of work, which usually requires a volunteer to step forward. So, any thoughts...

### Stewarding at Westminster

The Guild has had a long association with Westminster Cathedral, notably through the Requiem, referred to above. In addition, many older Guild members have happy memories of the work that the Guild did during the papal visit in 1982. More recently, the Guild contributed to the honour guard that was mounted throughout the period when the body of the late Cardinal Hume was lying in state.

As part of a reciprocal arrangement, the Guild provides a small number of stewards for a variety of events that take place in the Cathedral. These events include musical recitals and concerts, the annual Westminster Carol Concert and the recently re-instituted flower festival. For the main part, Guild stewards are asked to cover the main doors to ensure that ticket holders are admitted and non ticket holders are not! Apart from the opportunity to catch up with other Guild members, there is the benefit of free concert.

We are always looking for new volunteers for this activity and elsewhere in the magazine you will find contact details.

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**Guild Prayer**

Most merciful God, giver of all authority, by the merits of Thy Divine Son, and through the intercession of His Holy Mother, and our glorious patron St. Michael, grant that we may this day and every day, overcome all temptations, especially to injustice and disloyalty, and with our minds inflamed by the Holy Spirit perform all our duties in such a manner as may be pleasing to Thy Divine Will, so that when called to report for the last time we may not be found wanting, and may be allowed to remain for ever in thy presence.  
Through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen



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## Clare Priory, Suffolk

