

# AVE

The Magazine *of* The Society of Mary



Immaculate Conception, Cospicua

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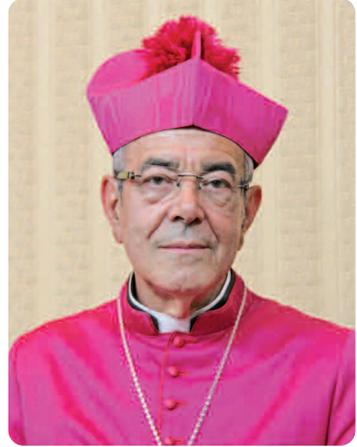
**Annunciatide, 2016**



## The Superior-General writes

### *Letter from the Superior-General*

**F**rom its foundation our Society has been blessed in its work and in fulfilling its Objects by a number of particularly dedicated Officers and Members. None more so than by Father Graeme Rowlands. It is right and just to record that, as our current Chaplain-General and Director of Pilgrimage, his contribution to the life and work of the Society of Mary has been exceptional. As Chaplain-General his commitment to the day-to-day running of the Society is matched only by his detailed work in preparing for and hosting the May



Devotion. As Director of Pilgrimage his intimate knowledge, spiritual and devotional sensitivities and trusted personal relationships with our contacts in Rome and Lourdes, have each enabled us to establish a unique place in fulfilling our Object to encourage Pilgrimage.

It is against this background of service to our Society that we are particularly pleased at the announcement that Father Graeme has been appointed by the Bishop of London, as Prebendary of Ealdstreet within the Chapter of Saint Paul's Cathedral. A Prebendary is a type of Canon of Old Foundation cathedrals. Before the Reformation nine English cathedrals, including that of London, were staffed by secular clergy and the Canons of those cathedrals were also Prebendaries; deriving their stipend from endowments of their "prebends". Father Graeme was admitted as a Prebendary, with all the attendant and ancient ceremonies, on Thursday 25th February 2016. We offer him sincere congratulations.

Our Society's primary means of communication and publicity is through our journal *AVE*. It is widely acknowledged and respected as an important contribution among the Catholic Societies both in regards to its material content and quality of publication. Over the

## *AVE*

period of his editorship, Henry Frier has made a major contribution in developing *AVE* to its high standard and consistent quality. Henry has decided that the time has come for him to hand on the role. As he does so, I gladly lead our Society in expressing thanks to Henry for his quiet and painstaking dedication; for his skill and knowledge and for his absolute commitment to the Society of Mary and its work in promoting Devotion to Our Lady and the Catholic Faith of the Church. An expression of thanks also to Dorothy Frier, whose photographs contribute greatly to the presentation of *AVE*. A Reliquary was commissioned and presented to Henry as a token of thanks and our good wishes.

A great deal of detailed work continues in producing the necessary documentation to effect changes in provisions of the structure and constitution of the Society of Mary. These are required to enable us to continue to fulfil our Aims and Objects under the terms of Amending Canon 33, enacted by General Synod 17th November 2015, relating to the appointment of women as bishops.

It is planned to have the documentation in place for the Annual General Meeting of our Society in May 2016. I am appreciative of all those who are working with me to achieve safe, appropriate and constructive outcomes for the future.

But then see, under God, the outcome of the Synod. These jointly powerful, outstanding and courageous leaders of the Church, by the grace of the Holy Spirit, were able to come to an agreement; leading the Church forward in the way of unity which is Catholic and Apostolic yet rooted in that which is local and real and able to support and feed a devotional life, a deepening spirituality, a practice of worship and prayer and a true expression of Catholic Faith and Life.

May Saint Wilfrid, Saint Hilda and Our Lady Help of Christians pray for us.

With my love and Blessing,

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✠ Robert Ladds – *Superior-General*

## A Letter from the Chaplain-General

My dear friends,

Over the last few months, I have become even more aware of how many people give a lot of time and energy to the work of our Society and how much they deserve our thanks. I was very glad that Henry and Dorothy Frier were able to come on the Pilgrimage to Rome last year and that Henry managed to cope with the cobbles, which are a challenge for the most intrepid walker! But



since then, their life has become so much more difficult. He had an operation on his feet which proved to be only the beginning of his troubles. He was back in hospital over Christmas with a stomach ulcer and is now beginning to recover. To my surprise and delight he kindly offered to edit this issue of *AVE* before he retires from that post and this gives us the opportunity to reflect on how much he has given over the years. *AVE* has been packed with news, photographs, homilies and articles; thanks to him it has become a witness to the many ways in which we show our love for Mary. Our thanks go to him and to Dorothy for all their work for the Society.

Whilst Henry was in hospital, I received two offers from young priests eager to help with the work of our Society in any way. So I am very happy to say that, as from the next issue, Fr James Leigh will take on the role of Editor in collating material, photographs etc., and Fr Sam McNally-Cross will deal with the layout and production of the magazine. We are very grateful to them for agreeing to take this on. Any copy for the next issue should be sent to Fr Leigh by the beginning of October.

As the Society grows, so also does the complexity of keeping the records up to date. Some years ago, Brigid Reeve kindly took on the role of Membership and Grants Secretary and we are grateful to her for all that she has done to sort things out. Tom Middleton has now taken on the job of dealing with this and Anne Gray will take on the membership records.

We look forward to the May Devotion and AGM in London on Saturday 7th. Rather than include many details in this letter, please refer to the display advertisement elsewhere in this issue. As last year,

*AVE*

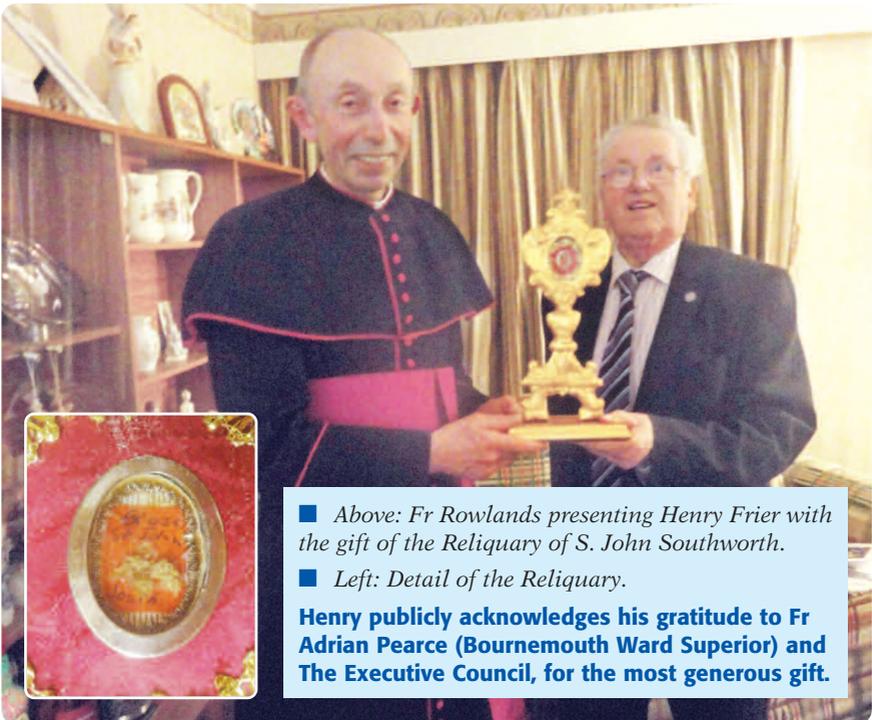
our Procession will go from one church to the other. I need at least six stewards for the Procession to help to keep things moving and would welcome offers of help from Deacons, Seminarians or servers. Any offers to me, please, by 30th April. We are very grateful to Fr Philip Barnes, the Acting Administrator of the Shrine at Walsingham, for agreeing to come and preach to us. The arrangements for lunch on the day are as last year – you do not need to book beforehand and there will not be tickets, it will simply be £10, pay at the door on the day.

I shall hope to see you in May if not before.

With my love and blessing,



Fr Graeme Rowlands, *Chaplain-General*



■ Above: Fr Rowlands presenting Henry Frier with the gift of the Reliquary of S. John Southworth.  
■ Left: Detail of the Reliquary.

**Henry publicly acknowledges his gratitude to Fr Adrian Pearce (Bournemouth Ward Superior) and The Executive Council, for the most generous gift.**

# The May Devotion and AGM

will be held in

**The Parish of S. Silas the Martyr,  
and Holy Trinity, London NW5**

on

**Saturday 7th May 2016**

**12 noon, at the Church of S. Silas the Martyr, St. Silas Place  
(off Prince of Wales Road), Kentish Town**

**Solemn Pontifical Concelebrated Mass followed by  
Procession of Our Lady through the streets to  
the Church of The Most Holy Trinity, Hartland Road NW1**

**Principal Celebrant: The Superior-General, The Rt Rev'd Robert Ladds**

*All priest-members of the Society who wish to concelebrate  
should inform Fr Rowlands of their intention by Tuesday 3rd May  
and bring an alb, etc. with them.*

**1.30 pm Lunch in Holy Trinity Church Hall**

*Pay-on-the-day £10.00 (minimum price) at Holy Trinity Church.  
No need to book beforehand.*

**3.30 pm AGM of the Society in Holy Trinity Church**

**4.00 pm Solemn Vespers, Sermon and Pontifical Benediction**

**Preacher:** The Rev'd Philip Barnes

*Interim Administrator, The Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham*

*All priest-members of the Society are invited to sit in choir,  
please inform Fr Rowlands.*

**To reach S. Silas:** Underground to Chalk Farm on the Northern Line,  
left out of station and follow sign up Crogsland Road.  
Buses 24, 46 and 393 to Malden Road.

**To reach Holy Trinity:** Underground to Chalk Farm on Northern line. Turn left  
out of station, then right down Chalk Farm Road towards Camden Lock Market  
and up Hartland Road. Bus 46 from central London goes to  
Hawley Road, or buses 24, 27, 31 or 168 to Camden Market.



■ *Mass at S. Silas.*

On **Saturday 21st May** the Rt Rev'd Robert Ladds will Celebrate and Preach at **S. Ambrose Westbourne, Bournemouth BH14 8BE, at 12 noon.** Lunch at £10. For further details and to book lunch, please contact [henryfrier@btinternet.com](mailto:henryfrier@btinternet.com)

## **THE CHANTRY BOOK**

Vera Chopping, Felicity Okran-Darko,  
James Stuart Snaith, Colin Reynolds,  
Russell Harrison, The Rev'd Roger Calder

**JESU MERCY**

**MARY PRAY**

## S. JOHN SOUTHWORTH

Westminster Cathedral's saint

**S**aint John Southworth was a Lancashire man. Born, in 1592, into a branch of the Southworths of Samlesbury Hall, Blackburn. The Southworths were a recusant family, who had remained loyal to the Catholic faith despite the many hardships this incurred. In fact, S. John's father had been penalised by heavy fines for his refusal to attend the local Anglican parish church. He had also spent some time in prison for his role in harbouring the famous Jesuit martyr-priest, S. Edmund Campion. These were dangerous times to be a Catholic in England and Wales, and, as S. John would have known from his earliest childhood, many good men and women had to pay with their lives for their desire to follow Christ in the Catholic Church. It shows amazing bravery on his part, then, that at the young age of 21 he decided to go abroad and train as a priest specifically for the English mission. He knew that this vocation could end up in his own martyrdom.



Many young men had gone over to French Flanders to train for the priesthood at Douai. In 1613 John Southworth joined them. Little is known of his time here, though we know that he was ordained in 1618, and, after further training, was sent back to England in October 1619. Like many of the men who worked as priests in the home mission Fr Southworth went back to his home turf. We know that he remained active in the north-west for several years, and was probably well accustomed to hiding in priest-holes from time to time! During 1624 and 1625 S. John Southworth went back to Douai, before returning to

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*Westminster at the time of S. John Southworth  
was known for its dark, rambling alleys  
and extreme poverty...*

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his native Lancashire. In 1627, though, he was arrested. This was his first arrest of many! Another priest, S. Edmund Arrowsmith, was arrested with him. They were both tried for treason (by being active Catholic priests), and both were found guilty and detained at Lancaster Castle. S. John was given a reprieve, but not before seeing Fr Arrowsmith being led to his gruesome execution. In fact, John Southworth gave his friend absolution as he was led past his cell window.

The Queen, Henrietta Maria, wife of Charles I, was a Catholic and worked hard to try and save as many priests as she could. It was probably at her request that S. John Southworth was moved from his miserable conditions in Lancaster Castle to The Clink prison (built for the purpose of housing religious dissenters), in Southwark. In April 1630 the Queen moved again, with the help of the French Ambassador, and managed to release 16 priests from The Clink into exile, and safety, in France. S. John was amongst these prisoners. Some suggest that he didn't actually cross the Channel, but others seem to think that he probably did, and that he went back to Douai. Whatever happened to him during that time, we do know that he was back in London and specifically in the Westminster area in 1636 – where he remained off-and-on for the rest of his life.

Westminster at the time of S. John Southworth was known for its dark, rambling alleys, extreme poverty, and for the criminal underclass that lived amongst the marshes and hovels just south of where the Cathedral stands today. During the Middle Ages Westminster had become a centre of power, thanks to the Royal Abbey and the greater role of Parliament (which met within the Palace of Westminster). Many powerful people moved into the area, and they were catered for and served by the poor of the marshland. Also, during the Reformation many places of Sanctuary (where suspected criminals could seek refuge from the law) had been dissolved or abandoned (and rights of sanctuary removed). One of the greatest Sanctuaries was Westminster Abbey, and many suspect characters had sought refuge there. During

the 16th century many criminals, who had left the Abbey (now it wasn't a safe place to hide), decided to settle in the locality. This established Westminster with a reputation for danger and criminality, which lasted even to the time of Dickens, who called area "the Devil's acre"! During the time of S. John Southworth this same place would have had a very bad reputation, and there were parts that were definitely to be avoided by "the great and the good". It was in this area that our Saint found himself in the 1630s.

Westminster Abbey had a prison, called The Gatehouse, which had been in use since the 14th century. In 1636 S. John Southworth was committed to this prison – though also seems to have had a dwelling in Clerkenwell. The

Gatehouse was what we would nowadays call an "open prison" and many inmates were allowed out on day-release or even to live in their homes outside the prison walls. It was whilst he was a prisoner here that S. John, together with the Jesuit, S. Henry Morse, tended



to the spiritual and material needs of local Catholics. The years of 1636/7 were known for a plague epidemic in London. Westminster was badly hit by this disease. Most people in need had to rely upon the charity of the local (Anglican) parish, therefore Catholics were left unaided. Frs. Southworth and Morse would visit Catholics in the marshes and alleyways of Westminster, to distribute alms (probably provided by the Queen and foreign Embassies) whilst officially being prisoners of The Gatehouse themselves!

One of the curates at S. Margaret's, Westminster, complained of two "Popish priests" [Southworth and Morse] who "...under the pretence of distributing alms sent from the Friars at Somerset House [the Queen's chaplains] and other Papists, doth take occasion to go into divers

plague-stricken houses in Westminster, namely into those of William Baldwin and William Stiles, in the Hemp Yard, Westminster...". It seems that the curate, William White, was worried that parishioners of his, suffering from the plague, had converted to Catholicism through S. John's ministry, as he wrote that "...Baldwin...received the sacraments from him according to the Church of Rome and so died a Romish Catholic...thus under the pretence of relieving the bodies of poor people, he poisons their souls." The complaints of local clergymen led to Fr Southworth's arrest and detention at The Gatehouse on the orders of Sir Dudley Carlton, Clerk to His Majesty's Privy Council. In 1640 he was transferred to The Clink, where the Commission for Causes Ecclesiastical confirmed his imprisonment. By mid-1640 S. John Southworth was free again, but by the end of the year he appears to have been detained at The Gatehouse once more. During these various imprisonments Fr Southworth was protected by the Secretary of State to the King, Francis Windebank, who seems to have allowed him relative freedom, and who eventually became a Catholic himself.

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*It would be true to say that many people,  
even outside the Catholic faith,  
loved Fr John Southworth*

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His Royal protectors were soon to be of no use, as England became a Protectorate and virtually a Puritanical nation under Oliver Cromwell, and King Charles I himself was executed (1649). Still, S. John Southworth continued in his ministry amongst the poor of Westminster. He seemed to have been living in the area when he was apprehended whilst in bed in 1654. When S. John Southworth was finally arrested and brought to trial at the Old Bailey many people urged him to plead "not guilty" to the charge of administering the sacraments as a Catholic priest. Even the Judge himself is said to have advised him to deny the charge – having no real evidence against him. Fr John Southworth, though, could not deny his priesthood and as a result was found guilty of the treasonable charge. At the sentencing it is said that Serjeant Steel, who read out the sentence, wept bitterly. It would be true to say that many people, even outside the Catholic Church, loved Fr John Southworth.

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On 28th June 1654 S. John Southworth was dragged to the gallows at Tyburn. He was to be hanged, drawn and quartered. The executioner felt such pity for the 62-year-old that he let him hang to death – thus relieving him of the torture of quartering. S. John was allowed to make a speech and to wear his vestments at the place of execution – a rare privilege. An eye-witness recorded his last words during which he said:

“My faith and obedience to my superiors is all the treason charged against me; nay, I die for Christ’s law, which no human law, by whomsoever made, ought to withstand or contradict... To follow His holy doctrine and imitate His holy death, I willingly suffer at present; this gallows I look on as His Cross, which I gladly take to follow my Dear Saviour...I plead not for myself...but for you poor persecuted Catholics whom I leave behind me.”

It seems that the butchered corpse was bought by the then Duke of Norfolk and given to the Spanish Ambassador, who ensured that S. John Southworth’s remains were buried at Douai. There he remained at peace until 1793, when the French Revolution reached the seminary, and his body was hidden and buried in an unmarked grave. In 1927 the Saint’s body was rediscovered during some building work, and was returned to England by the Reverend Albert Purdie. A hearse took the relics from Dover to St Edmund’s College, Ware.

When John Southworth was beatified in 1929 his relics were enshrined at Westminster Cathedral – where he now rests in the Chapel of St George and the English Martyrs. S. John’s remains are the only complete relics of any of the Martyrs of England and Wales. On October 25th 1970 Pope Paul VI canonised John Southworth, along with the other Forty Martyrs.

Almighty God,  
you made your Church grow  
through the missionary zeal and apostolic work  
of S. John Southworth:  
By the help of his prayers  
give your Church continued growth  
in holiness and faith.  
Grant this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God for ever and ever. **Amen**

**S. John Southworth, *ora pro nobis***

## **Mary and Christian Unity**

A talk given by Fr Graeme Rowlands to the  
Kentish Town Ward in January 2016

**F**or many people, both within and outside the Church, the very title of this paper would seem to be a contradiction in terms. It is a common assumption (please forgive the pun) that Roman Catholics worship the Virgin Mary rather than God, and that Protestants think she is a dead Roman Catholic. I still have people who stroll into S. Silas en passant who express utter surprise that there is even a picture or statue of Our Lady, let alone six shrines, votive candles and all the rest. But for those who notice such things, Mary has become acceptable, even in relatively moderate Anglican circles, and in many an Anglican Cathedral there are votive candles and statues of Our Lady even if they are so placed that you can choose to whom or what it is you are lighting a candle.

As Catholics, we are fortunate in that we take devotion to Our Lady for granted, as part of the natural pattern of our worship and our life of prayer. So I think we are ideally placed to teach something to the rest of the Church, both in terms showing why we offer this devotion and in encouraging others to do the same; for religion is caught, not taught; theological explanation is demanded because of what is already happening in practice.

I begin, as you would expect me to, with the Bible. The Angel greets Mary as someone in whom God is already at work: 'Hail Mary, full of grace'. Although she is an individual, uniquely chosen and prepared by God and it is up to her to choose whether to say 'Yes', she still represents each of us. She answers, not only for herself, but for the whole of the human race, and what she does will change the course of history, will create for each of us a new relationship with God. We exist only because of God's grace given to us. And if that is true for each of us, it is true also for the Church as a whole. One of the concepts on which all Christians agree completely is the doctrine of Grace, this free gift from God. If the Church were a human institution, just carrying on because we like one another and get nice feelings out of being together, it would have collapsed long ago, because human nature is not like that. So many of the divisions in the Church have been caused by self

interest and human argument – just look at our old mate Henry VIII – and once positions have become entrenched they become more extreme. But, as the Abbé Paul Coutourier said, the walls of division do not rise as high as heaven.

Look then at Mary praying with the Apostles on the day of Pentecost. They are full of fear as they do not know what will happen in the future. Now that Jesus has gone back into heaven, is it simply going to peter out? Are they all going to be killed? For Mary, this was the second time she received the Holy Spirit, and by this she became the Mother of the Church, the Mother of each of us. So she gives us the confidence that this Apostolic ministry will continue to support and nourish us. If she is our Mother, she will look after us. The current situation, with women bishops and all the rest, fills us with fear because it creates doubts about the future. We need those successors of the Apostles so that we can be nourished with the Sacraments. But Mary will show us the way forward, Mary will make sure those Sacraments are there, so that our influence as Catholics can grow and flourish.

Now, what of the influence? The first time I took pilgrims to Lourdes was in 1977. It was mainly the youth club from S. Mary's Kenton. We stayed in a rather grotty hotel, with the walls made out of compressed cardboard, we were grudgingly allowed to have our daily masses in the Salle Laurence, which was outside the grounds of the Shrine, but we were able to take part in the processions and to dress as priests within the Domaine. In the first official Anglican pilgrimages in the 1960s, the clergy were not allowed to wear cassocks in area of the Grotto in case people thought they were the real thing: isn't it interesting how the pendulum swings? In 1979, by the generosity of the Rector and the Bishop, we were allowed a chapel within the grounds, actually part of the crypt which was the first Church, but only because it was a separate place and could be closed to the public during Mass. But because we have kept on going back, we have proved how much we love Mary, we have shown that we believe and practise the Catholic Faith. The Society of Mary is now one of the official pilgrimage groups of the year, recognised by the Shrine, along with English and Continental Diocesan Pilgrimages and religious orders and societies. We were chosen to represent the focus of Christian Unity in the Jubilee year of 2008 and we are now free to offer the mass in almost any of the

chapels. Our group is chosen to play an active part in the processions and International Mass; through our influence, the Anglican Shrine at Walsingham is part of the International Marian Network and is invited to the annual conference.

But this has also been the case elsewhere. The Shrine at Nettuno and our involvement with the pilgrimages there building on the work of Maryamana and groups from Ipswich, has created some useful contacts and growth in understanding. For those of you who do not know the connections, the statue there is the Mediaeval image of Our Lady of Ipswich, rescued from destruction under Henry VIII, and saved by God's providence to arrive safely on the coast of Italy. There is a copy of her in S. Mary Elms in Ipswich. Padre Alberti, the Rector at the Sanctuary there, has, in recent years, organised an Ecumenical dialogue during our Pilgrimage with both Roman Catholic and Anglican speakers which helps others to understand why we love and honour Mary. The friends we have made there, the demonstration that we are united in love of Our Lady, that we believe the same things and are celebrating the same sacraments, will never be wasted.

So it is that we go on in the way that we do; so it is that I continue to organise pilgrimages and, I hope, enable that growth in understanding to continue to develop. That understanding is something which needs to happen not only in the Ecumenical scene but throughout the Church. The work of the Society of Mary is still not over, the battles are still not won. But we are not doing this on our own: I am not here on some glory trip to tell you about what I have achieved over the last few years. All that has happened is through Our Lady's prayers. She is the one who inspires us and leads us on. She is the one who achieves what we never dreamed would be possible.

Let me finish by quoting Archbishop Rowan Williams when he was speaking at Lourdes in 2008. 'What unites us as Christians is the Holy Spirit of Jesus Christ. Our unity is not a matter of the plans we formulate, the forms of words we can manage to agree about. We need that work – and heaven knows we need it as much in our day as ever, if not more – and yet the unity that matters, the unity that Mary has with Jesus and with Jesus' friends, depends on the Spirit and is deeper than any human achievement. As we pray and search for unity, we have to do it in the openness of prayer, not in the anxiety of planning

alone. If our unity rests in the Spirit and is renewed by the Spirit, there is a certain insecurity (which again we know very well) which means that we have to rely not on what we can do, but on what God alone can achieve in the Spirit.'

*Graeme Rowlands*

## **THE SOCIETY OF MARY**

**Eighty-Fifth Annual General Meeting of the Members of the Society, to be held at the Church of The Most Holy Trinity, Hartland Road, London NW1, at 3 pm on Saturday 7th May 2016.**

### **AGENDA**

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of the eighty-fourth Annual General Meeting, held on 2nd May 2015 (printed in this Annunciationtide 2016 edition of *AVE*)
3. Matters arising
4. Report of the General Council for 2015 (printed in this Annunciationtide 2016 edition of *AVE*)
5. Consideration of the Accounts for the year ended 31st December 2015
6. Report from the Director of Pilgrimage
7. General Council elections:
  - Rt Rev'd Robert Ladds as Superior-General
  - Fr Philip Gray
  - Fr Alan Parkinson
  - Fr Simon Morris (Executive for 2 years)
  - Co-opted: Fr Alex Garner and Mr John Linge
8. Election of Officers (Returning Officer and Director of Pilgrimage)
9. Any Other Business

### **CELIA K. BUSH**

*Honorary Secretary  
7th May 2016*



## **THE SOCIETY OF MARY**

### **Report of the General Council 2015**

The General Council met in February and October.

The 84th Annual Festival took place at S. Silas the Martyr, Kentish Town on 2nd May 2015, by kind invitation of the Chaplain-General. The Superior-General, the Right Reverend Robert Ladds, presided at Mass, which was concelebrated by 21 priest members of the Society. As is now an established custom, the Procession took place through the streets from S. Silas to the Church of the Most Holy Trinity, Hartland Road, NW1, the weather staying fine. Many children took part in the Procession and cards were distributed to passers-by explaining what it was all about and inviting them to take part in other events at either church. Lunch was served, followed by the Annual General Meeting, and the day concluded with Vespers of Our Lady and Benediction. The preacher was Fr George Westhaver, Principal of Pusey House. Grateful thanks are due, as always, to Fr Rowlands and the people of S. Silas the Martyr and Holy Trinity, for making us so welcome and making the day a great success.

Fr Robert Beaken and a small group made a pilgrimage to Nettuno in May, which was much enjoyed and was appreciated by the people in Nettuno. Grateful thanks to Fr Beaken for organising this and keeping the link with Nettuno.

In September, the Superior-General led the Society's Pilgrimage to Loreto, Subiaco, Lanciano and Rome. Numbers were small but this made for a cohesive group and the Pilgrimage was enjoyed by all. Highlights included Sung Lauds in S. Maria Maggiore on the Feast Day of Our Lady of Walsingham. Grateful thanks are due to the Superior-General, Fr Rowlands and all concerned with organising this Pilgrimage.

The highlight of the 2016 Pilgrimage year will be the Youth Pilgrimage to Lourdes. Preparations are already well in hand for this, together with fundraising in order to be able to subsidise the young people. At the time of this report there are 39 bookings for young people and 53 adults. This Pilgrimage will be fully reported in *AVE* and in the 2016 Annual Report.

## *AVE*

The October Devotion took place at St James', Haydock. The Devotions comprised Solemn Mass, the Rosary, Procession of Our Lady and Benediction. Attendance was very good, some people coming from quite long distances. The Principal Celebrant and preacher was the Bishop of Burnley. Thanks are due to the people of St James' for their kind hospitality and the officers and members of the North West Ward for organising this successful event. The specially produced Rosary prayers which were used are now available on the Society's website and that of the North West Ward, with many thanks to Fr Brooks.

It is my pleasant duty as Secretary to record the Council's thanks to all those who have assisted the Society during the past year, in particular to the officers of local Wards and to the clergy and people of churches where the Society has held local or national festivals. Many smaller local events take place during the year, and the Council particularly thanks Ward Superiors and members for keeping faith with the Society in this way and encouraging new members.

In conclusion, the General Council gives thanks to Almighty God for the many blessings received during the last year, and commends the Society's future work to the prayers of our members under the patronage of Our Lady, Help of Christians.

### **Celia K. Bush**

*Secretary, on behalf of the General Council.*



**Minutes of the Eighty-Fourth Annual General Meeting  
of the Society of Mary held at the Church of The Most  
Holy Trinity, Hartland Road, London NW1,  
2nd May 2015**

**PRESENT**

The Right Reverend Robert Ladds, Superior-General, in the Chair  
The Reverend Graeme Rowlands, Chaplain-General  
Mr Tom Middleton, Treasurer  
Mrs Celia Bush, Secretary

and 75 members of the Society.

Opening the meeting the Superior-General welcomed members present and thanked Fr Rowlands and his people for their kind and generous hospitality.

**1. Apologies for absence:** Received from Fr Robert Beaken, Fr Philip Gray, Mrs Anne Gray, Craig Aburn, Michael Wilson, Henry and Dorothy Frier, Derek Judd, Mr and Mrs Stephen Barber, Fr Brooks, Fr Skelton, Fr Hingley, Fr Marshall, Mary Moore, and 8 other members. In noting the Apologies, the Superior-General particularly mentioned Henry Frier, who was missing the meeting for the first time in very many years owing to illness; members' prayers and good wishes for a speedy recovery were recorded.

**2. Minutes of the Eighty-Third Annual General Meeting, 3rd May 2014:** It was proposed by Fr Burridge, seconded from the floor and carried unanimously that the Minutes as published in the Annunciationtide issue of *AVE* be agreed as an accurate record of the AGM held on 3rd May 2014. The Minutes were therefore duly signed as a correct record.

**3. Matters Arising from the Minutes:** None

**4. Report of the General Council 2014:** This was received as published in *AVE*, and it was noted that the Society had had another extremely active and interesting year. Thanks were expressed by the Superior-General to those who had prepared the Report. The Report was formally adopted unanimously, subject to the following

amendment: removing the words ‘to which the Society had contributed’ in the second paragraph, this statement having been erroneously included owing to a misunderstanding for which the Secretary apologised.

**5. Consideration of the Accounts for the year ended 31st December 2014:** The Treasurer explained that following deregulation by the Charity Commission, organisations whose annual income fell below £25,000 need no longer submit full accounts to the Commission. All that is required is for the Society to keep accounts of income and expenditure, which can be approved by the members at this meeting and did not require to be independently examined.

A financial statement had therefore been prepared and was available for inspection. Mr Middleton reported that the Society’s finances were in a stable condition so that all approved grants could be disbursed. This year the Lourdes Youth Pilgrimage had accounted for substantial spending: as had been done last year, it was proposed to run an appeal for contributions towards subsidising the young people, and publicity for this is available as well as booking forms for that Pilgrimage in 2016.

Mr Middleton reported that the Society’s investments stood at around £140,000 and there was £20,000 in the current account.

The Superior-General thanked the Treasurer for keeping the accounts in such good order and making them readily explicable. The formal adoption of the 2014 Accounts was proposed by Fr Williamson, seconded from the floor and passed unanimously.

**6. Report from the Director of Pilgrimage:** Fr Rowlands drew attention to the excellent display around the walls of the church today so that members could see and gather the spirit of the Youth Pilgrimage to Lourdes. He again expressed thanks to Fr Luke and Jacqui Miller and to (now) Bishop Philip North for all their work. The Pilgrimage has been fully reported in *AVE*. The journey by train was described as ‘interesting’ by Fr Rowlands! He expressed his great appreciation to Fr Simon Morris who had led the second group and had coped with all difficulties so efficiently. Fr Rowlands thanked all those who had taken part and contributed to a very successful week. Modifications to the programme and travel arrangements are proposed

for the Pilgrimage of 2016; travel will be by air, leaving Stansted Airport at 10am and arriving at 3.30pm local time. Departure will be after lunch on the Friday, arriving at 4.30pm. This way there is plenty of time for onward journeys and the maximum time will be available in Lourdes. The Society proposes to subsidise each young member by £80 and there are flyers available at the back of the church: members are asked to publicise this at their home churches. Fr Morris has set up a BigGive page for those who wish to donate online. Fr Rowlands expressed the hope that Wards might do some fundraising: altogether £10,000 will be needed.

The Pilgrimage will run from 1st–5th August 2016 and early booking will be appreciated.

There are still some places on this year's September Pilgrimage to Loreto, Subiaco and Rome. Forms are available at the back of the church.

The Superior-General said that Pilgrimage is a great part of the Society's work and he wished to thank Fr Rowlands particularly for all his work in furthering this object. This was endorsed with acclamation from the floor and a round of applause was given.

**7. General Council Elections:** The Returning Officer, reported that it had not been necessary to hold an election, as the numbers of those standing for election corresponded to the number of vacancies. The following were therefore declared duly elected for a period of four years from May 2015:

Mrs Celia Bush as Secretary  
Fr Jonathan Beswick (Executive only, for 2 years)  
Fr Simon Morris (Council only)  
Bishop Philip North  
Fr Philip Barnes  
Fr Philip Corbett  
Fr Ian Brooks  
Fr Paul Cartwright

There remain two vacancies to which members can be co-opted during the year if the Council desires.

The Superior-General thanked those Council members for their continuing service to the Society, and a round of applause was given in appreciation.

## **8. Election of Returning Officer and Director of Pilgrimage**

**Returning Officer:** Archdeacon Luke Miller, was proposed and seconded from the floor and unanimously elected.

**Director of Pilgrimage:** Fr Rowlands was unanimously elected unopposed and with acclamation.

Fr Rowlands thanked members for their support and said that he would like to propose a new office of Assistant Director of Pilgrimage. To this post he proposed Fr Simon Morris, who had been to Lourdes with him to the meeting of Directors of Pilgrimage. Fr Morris had given sterling service on the Youth Pilgrimage and had helped to ease the workload in other ways as well. This proposal was unanimously approved.

## **9. Any Other Business**

**AVE:** The Superior-General said that he wished to thank Henry Frier publicly in his absence for his outstanding work in the production of *AVE* as a quality magazine.

Unfortunately, there are still problems occurring in the distribution of *AVE* and work is ongoing to try to resolve this with Postprint. The Superior-General asked members to let the Membership Secretary know immediately if they did not receive their copy or the details on the envelope were wrong, rather than waiting over two years as in some cases! He also emphasised the importance of notifying changes of address and deceased members: copies of both editions of *AVE* are still being returned and contact has been lost in spite of much work by the Membership Secretary and the Secretary in trying to locate names and addresses.

**The Society of Mary in the USA:** The Superior-General welcomed Fr Alexander, who is the Superior-General of the Society in the USA. Fr Alexander thanked the officers and members for their hospitality.

**Expressions of Gratitude:** Fr Rowlands said he wanted to express particular thanks to Bishop Norman Banks for coming today and also

to thank the Seminarians who had come and helped especially with the Procession. A number are being ordained this summer and he hoped that they would support and foster the Society of Mary in the parishes to which they would be going.

The preacher for this afternoon, Fr George Westhaver, Principal of Pusey House, was also duly welcomed. Fr Rowlands said that a crisis had been averted as Fr Westhaver's temporarily lost rail ticket had now been found!

Fr Rowlands thanked members for coming to this May Devotion and especially to this meeting and to Vespers at Holy Trinity. He hopes that by next year the scaffolding will be removed.

**There being no further business**, the Superior-General thanked everyone for their attendance and the meeting closed at 3.55 pm.

**Celia K. Bush**, *Secretary*

## **FROM THE RETURNING OFFICER**

### **ELECTIONS TO THE GENERAL COUNCIL, 2016**

The following have been Elected (re-elected) to the General Council following closure of Nominations on 31st January 2016:

Bishop Robert Ladds, as Superior-General  
Fr Simon Morris (Executive only, for two years)  
Fr Philip Gray  
Fr Parkinson  
Fr Garner, and  
John Linge

Bishop Philip North, has regretfully resigned as he was unable to attend meetings.

## The Society of Mary Pilgrimage, 2015

*The following article by Louise Arrand is reproduced from the Holy Trinity Doncaster Magazine for March & April 2016*

### Highlights of Roma

Over the next few days we visited the various places in Rome including St John Lateran, St Paul's outside the Walls, Santa Croce (Holy Cross Church) plus many others.

Below are a few of my favourite highlights of this wonderful pilgrimage.

Scala Santa the steps which Jesus took to see Pontius Pilate. The set of 28 marble steps were brought from Jerusalem to Rome in about AD326 by St Helena, mother of Constantine the Great. The steps are now covered in wood to protect the original steps. The tradition is to climb the steps on your knees and praying on each step. In September 1817 Pius VII granted that every pilgrim who ascended the steps their knees would be granted an indulgence of nine years for every step. It



*Ave*





was busy on the steps but Sheila and I started along with other pilgrims.

As I climbed up, about half way I looked up and saw it was still seemed a long way to the top, at this point my knees had started to hurt, but I continued on, on each step praying a different intention. All of a sudden I was on the next to the top step and my knees had stopped hurting. At the top some people had put money down between the steps – I had to stop Sheila bending down and getting the coins with her teeth! (She has a very good talent at finding dropped money on the floor!). As we were at the top, we look around to find that Alethea had managed the steps with just one good hand. The experience of climbing the steps was very moving and I was very emotional.

The Catacombs are on the outskirts of the city and there are about 40 catacombs here. Some have only been discovered recently. They were started in about the 2nd century and thought to be started by Christians, there are people buried here from many beliefs. By AD380 the custom of being buried in the catacombs declined as people were being buried in cemeteries. By the 10th century the catacombs were abandoned and forgotten until they were rediscovered in 1578 by accident. Antonio Bosio spent many years exploring the catacombs but it was until 1800s when Giovanni Battista de Rossi published an extensive study of the catacombs.

Between 1956 and 1959 more catacombs were found near Rome and they have become an important monument of the Christian Church. All the catacombs are under the papacy.

This visit to the Catacombs was very good and informative as our guide was very good at making sure that everyone in the group (which was quite large) could hear everything he was saying and pointing out as we walked around. He made sure there was time to everyone to see everything of importance.

On the Sunday morning we had some free time and the Holy Trinity Trio treated Dorothy and Henry Frier to lunch at Babington's, the English Tea Room next to the Spanish Steps. Well we arrived eventually at the tea room after going for a round trip around Rome thanks to our taxi driver who didn't at first understand where we wanted to go – we ended up passing the Coliseum and Circus Maximus before turning around and heading in the right direction.





■ *In the English Tea Room.*

The Tea Room was found by two English ladies Isabel Cargill and Anne Marie Babington in 1893. The original idea was to cater for English people in Rome – giving them an opportunity to have tea since at that time the only way one could have a cup of tea in Rome

was by purchasing it from a pharmacy. The Tea Room was on a side road but because of the huge success it moved to a building at the bottom of the Spanish Steps where it has remained ever since. The building is 18th century but inside the decor is from the 19th century.



We enjoyed a selection of finger sandwiches – white bread with the crusts cut off (of course!), there was a huge variety of teas – hot, iced, herbal and fruit. The lunch was finished off with a slice of cake – well three huge pieces divided between the five of us.

## *AVE*

Our visit to Basilica de Santa Maria Maggiore (St Mary Major) started with Lauds sung in the Chapel of Crucifixion. I must say after the practice the day before in Subiaco, the acoustics of the chapel made us sound very professional. We even had other visitors peering in through the closed glass doors.

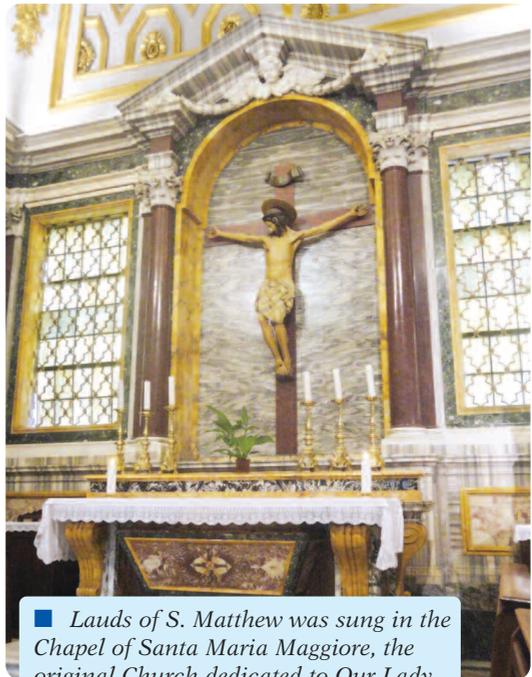
The last night of the Pilgrimage we enjoyed a wonderful meal in L'Eau Vive restaurant which of course ends with the tradition of singing to Our Lady and then looking at the various little handmade gifts which are sold to help people in the country where Sisters are from.

Once again thanks must go to Fr Rowlands, Bishop Robert and our guide Jacqueline for a wonderful, spiritual and enjoyable pilgrimage to Loreto, Lanciano, Manoppello, Subiaco and Rome. Also to Maria who was our walking guide in Rome, she was very informative and a joy to listen to with all her facts and figures of the various places we walked to and around.

*Louise*



■ Statue in the L'Eau Vive restaurant, around which we sang anthems to Our Lady.



■ Lauds of S. Matthew was sung in the Chapel of Santa Maria Maggiore, the original Church dedicated to Our Lady.

## Lourdes 2016



We're thrilled that 110 people have signed up to come to Lourdes, including forty 12 to 18 year olds. It's wonderful that it has proved to be so popular again. **Bookings are now closed.**

We commit to subsidising each young person coming by around £300, and we will be taking five supervisors to care for them and ensure they have a fun time learning the Christian faith. The costs total nearly £15,000. Thank you to those who have already donated over £1,000. We are also applying to a couple of charities to help raise money for this. You can donate in two ways if you feel able to. Cheques can be given to Fr Rowlands or sent to Fr Morris, S. Mary's Vicarage, Lansdowne Road, N17 9XE. Online you can search for the Society of Mary at [www.biggive.org.uk](http://www.biggive.org.uk) and make a donation electronically. Rarely do we get to make such an impact on a young person's life for the sake of the Gospel.

*Fr Morris, S. Mary's, Lansdowne Road, N17 9XE*

## SHRINE OF OUR LADY OF HANWORTH

I was greatly struck with the picture of our Blessed Lady in S. Peter's London Docks, when I attended their 150th anniversary celebrations a few years ago. Our Lady of the Docks stood beside the London Docks (now defunct) with cranes and warehouses in the background: in the image she shows the Christ Child to the people working in and around those very cranes and warehouses.

When the chance came to restore the Lady Chapel at St George's, Hanworth Park (which had languished for many years as a junk store) to its intended purpose as an apsidal side chapel, we had a disused door niche that was perfect for use as a shrine.

For some years the church had a statue of Our Lady of Victories on display which belonged to the parish priest, which was a start; however, it was decided that a new and much grander statue of Our Lady should be acquired.

The statue of Our Lady has a shrine base made in oak which is carved to match the chapel screen. The base conveniently doubles as an altar linen cupboard. She is surmounted by a gilded canopy and has a pale blue watered silk back drop, together with devotional items from Lourdes to complete the whole. Our Lady has a beautiful white lace veil for festal seasons, and a black one for funerals, as well as a jade rosary from a departed parishioner.

Our Lady was enshrined after a Festival Mass, outdoor procession, luncheon, and Vespers & Benediction, augmented by a Dominican preacher and a trumpeter!

As months and years passed, interest grew in devotion to Our Lady of Hanworth.

Dom Anselm OSB of Alton Abbey painted a new centre panel for the beautifully restored antique Lady Altar from Stanbrook Abbey which sits in the Chapel to the right of the shrine: Our Lady shows the Christ Child to the world with the Church of S. George on one side and King Henry VIII's stables on the other (KHVIII, though not my favourite



■ *Statue of Our Lady of Hanworth.*



■ *Outdoor Procession of Our Lady of Hanworth.*

## AVE

historical character(!) has significant connections to the parish). Christ is shown to the Church, and to the secular state, and to the world.

Soon afterwards we had a 'College of Our Lady of Hanworth' medal struck to show this. It is worn with a wide dark blue ribbon by clergy and ordinands, and with a pale blue and white ribbon for the ladies and gentlemen who support our work with fostering vocations. The Lord Bishop of London is Patron of the College – on his visit to the parish on All Saints' Day in 2015 he wore his gold Patron's medal for the celebration of Pontifical High Mass.

Our Lady of Hanworth is invoked at our weekly Thursday 10am Mass, and the medals are worn on the Feasts of Our Lady, and on other special occasions.

We pray that devotion to Our Blessed Lady continues, and increases, and that our parish life and College are aided by her prayers.



■ *Rev'd Fr Paul Williamson, Rector, College of Our Lady of Hanworth and Parish Priest, St George's Hanworth, with the Bishop of London, The Rt Rev'd and Rt Hon Richard Chartres.*

## FROM THE EDITOR OF AVE

In October 2005 I was approached by Fr Nathan Pain-Davey, at that time assistant Priest at S. Silas, Kentish Town if I would be prepared to edit AVE and it has been a joy to do this, until age caught up with me, upon reaching 80 last year. Following a spell in hospital, recently, I felt I should retire from this position. I assure when my successor is appointed I will send him a few photographs and items of local interest.

**Henry Frier** henryfrier06@btinternet.com



*Copy for consideration for the Presentation issue of AVE must be sent to Fr James Leigh, Editor and received by **Friday 7th October 2016 at the latest** (see contact details inside back cover). It would be helpful if copy were sent electronically – although hard copy of any pictures may be needed. The Editor reserves the right to amend or delete copy as may be expedient and as space permits. It is regretted that hard copy cannot be returned.*

## PRINTING AND POSTAGE OF AVE

In order to avoid unnecessary printing and postage costs it is requested that Ward Secretaries and individual members attached to the Headquarters Membership please advise the Membership and Grants Secretary (*contact details inside back cover*) of cases where only one copy of each edition of AVE is acceptable for any one address, rather than individual copies for each member.

*Celia Bush, Secretary*

## The Society of Mary Webpage

The Webmaster is always pleased to receive reports and photos for the website

**Mr Richard Doney,  
40 Laburnam Crescent,  
Kidlington,  
OXFORD OX5 1HB**

[webmaster@societyofmary.net](mailto:webmaster@societyofmary.net)

*The Society of Mary Online*  
**[www.societyofmary.net](http://www.societyofmary.net)**



## **Future Council Meetings of the Society**

**Thursday 11th October, 2016**

*Preceded by Rosary at 2.00pm  
and Benediction at 2.15 pm*

**Wednesday 8th February, 2017**

*Preceded by Benediction at 2.15 pm*

The Executive meets at 11.00 am on the above dates  
and also on Monday 4th July 2016 at 11.00 am.



# S.O.M. – Merchandise Order Form

Please send this form, together with your remittance which should be made payable to **The Society of Mary, to the Treasurer**, Mr Tom Middleton, Flat 1, Cedar House, 1 Woodland Crescent, LONDON SE16 6YL.

Enquiries should be directed to [tom.middleton@london.gov.uk](mailto:tom.middleton@london.gov.uk)

| Quantity              | Item  | Price (inc P&P) | Total |
|-----------------------|---|-----------------|-------|
|                       | Society Medal,<br>Manual &<br>Lapel Badge                                     | £10.00          |       |
|                       | Mary – A focus for Unity<br>for all Christians &<br>People, Places and Things | £5.00           |       |
| <b>Remittance – £</b> |   |                 |       |

Name .....

Address .....

.....

.....

Postcode .....

Telephone .....

E-mail address .....

## Officers of the Society

### Superior-General

The Rt Rev'd Robert Ladds,  
Saint Peter's Mission House,  
Wapping Lane,  
London E1W 2RW  
T: 020 7488 3864  
M: 07530 285389  
E: episcopus@ntlworld.com  
E: episcopus70@gmail.com

### Chaplain-General

and Director of Pilgrimage  
The Rev'd G. C. Rowlands,  
S. Silas Presbytery,  
11 St. Silas Place,  
London NW5 3QP  
T: 020 7485 3727  
E: ssmktw@googlemail.com

### Secretary

Mrs Celia Bush,  
169 Humber Doucy Lane,  
Ipswich, Suffolk IP4 3PA  
T: 01473 423750  
E: secretary@societyofmary.net

### Membership Secretary

Mrs Brigid Reeve,  
Honeysuckle Cottage,  
5 Theatre Street,  
Woodbridge, Suffolk IP12 4NE  
T: 01394 382727  
E: membership@societyofmary.net

### Treasurer & Grants Secretary

Mr Tom Middleton,  
Flat 1, Cedar House,  
1 Woodland Crescent,  
London SE16 6YL  
T: 020 7237 2666  
E: tom.middleton@london.gov.uk

### Editors of *Ave*

The Rev'd J. W. Leigh,  
15 Park View,  
Peterlee,  
SR48 4DE  
M: 07837 977723

E: fr.james@outlook.com

The Rev'd S. J. McNally-Cross,  
St Saviour's House,  
31 Holybrook Road,  
Reading RG1 6DG  
M: 0781-073045  
E: frsamuelcross@hotmail.com

## The Society of Mary

*(Established 1931)*

The Society of Mary springs from two similar societies founded in 1880 and 1901 respectively, which united in 1931. It has members all over the world and is not confined to Anglicans. Where there are sufficient members in one place or area, they combine to form a Ward, with a priest as Superior and an elected Secretary. They can organise regular services, meetings and many other activities. Five or more members may form a Cell, and organise joint prayer and fellowship.

Isolated members are joined to the Headquarters Ward.

The Society publishes its magazine *AVE* twice each year with details of pilgrimages, retreats, festival services etc. It is free to all members and is the effective link between the various Regions.

The Society is not affiliated to any single Shrine or Marian institution, and is the only organisation endeavouring to promote equally all the different aspects of devotion to Mary.

### The Society of Mary

The Society is dedicated to the glory of God and in honour of the Holy Incarnation under the invocation of Our Lady, Help of Christians.

1. Members shall keep a Rule of Life, which will include such special devotions as the Angelus, the Rosary, the Litany and Anthems of Our Lady.
2. They will pray for Departed Members of the Society and offer Mass for them.
3. They will take part in the Mass on the principal Feasts of Our Lady.
4. They will engage in apostolic and pastoral work, according to opportunity, under the guidance of the local Ward Officers and the General Council.

### Objects and Membership of the Society

The Society was founded as an Anglican Society with these Objects:

1. To love and honour Mary.
2. To spread devotion to her in reparation for past neglect and misunderstanding, and in the cause of Christian Unity.
3. To take Mary as a model in purity, personal relationships and family life.



The restored shrine, supported by The Society,  
in S. George's, Bickley, Bromley