

CBS Quarterly

CONFRATERNITY OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

May, June, July 2026



Serving the Lord in the Blessed Sacrament

An introduction from a new Trustee of the Confraternity of the Blessed Sacrament

It is a privilege to write for the Quarterly Magazine of the Confraternity of the Blessed Sacrament as one of its newest Trustees. I have been a member of the Confraternity since my days as an ordinand some thirty years ago, and throughout my priestly ministry the CBS has been a quiet but constant source of encouragement and prayer. It's simple yet profound rule of life – centred on the Eucharist, intercession, and devotion to Our Lord present in the Blessed Sacrament – has shaped the rhythm of my own spiritual life for many years.



During those years I have served in a number of parishes within both the Church in Wales and the Church of England, always seeking to root parish life in the sacramental life of the Church. The Eucharist remains, as the Church teaches, the source and summit of the Christian life. The witness of the Confraternity continues to remind us that devotion to the Blessed Sacrament is not an optional extra, but something that nourishes and sustains the Church's whole mission.

It is therefore a great honour to have been invited to serve as a Trustee of the Confraternity. I come to the role not with grand strategies, but with a desire to support the CBS in its central calling: encouraging prayer before the Blessed Sacrament, reverence in the celebration of the Holy Eucharist, and deeper love for Christ truly present among his people.

At the same time, I come with a concern which many members will recognise. Across the life of the Church there are places where the centrality of the altar is being diminished. In some churches the altar – once the visible heart of the building and the focus of the Church's worship – is quietly being displaced or even

removed altogether to make way for stages, lighting rigs, and drum kits. While there are many different expressions of worship in the Church today, we must be careful not to lose sight of what the altar signifies: the place of sacrifice, the table of the Lord, and the point at which heaven and earth meet in the mystery of the Eucharist.

It seems to me that one of the important roles of the Confraternity in our time is to ensure that churches and clergy who seek to uphold the centrality of the altar and the reverent celebration of the Eucharist are encouraged and supported. The tradition which the CBS represents is not nostalgic or backward-looking; rather, it is rooted in the conviction that the Church's life must always flow from the altar. Where that centre is weakened, the Church itself is weakened. Where it is honoured and loved, the Church is strengthened.

My own parish, Saint Peter and the Holy Apostles, Plymouth, stands within that tradition. Saint Peter's is a city-centre church with a long Catholic heritage and a strong commitment to the daily celebration of the Eucharist. The liturgy is offered with care and dignity, and the rhythm of the Church's year continues to shape the life of the parish community.

The parish is also known locally for our work in social action. The daily offering of the Mass stands at the heart of that ministry. The altar and the works of mercy belong together: the Lord whom we adore in the Blessed Sacrament is the same Lord whom we seek to serve in the poor and those who come to us in need.

Like many churches today, Saint Peter's seeks to hold together faithful worship and generous mission. We have been working to strengthen the life of the parish around the simple themes of prayer, growth, and service, always with the conviction that the beauty and reverence of the Church's liturgy should never create barriers but rather draw people more deeply into the mystery of God's presence.

As I begin this new role as a Trustee of the Confraternity, I do so with gratitude for the prayerful fellowship of its members. The CBS has played a quiet but significant role in sustaining devotion to the Blessed Sacrament for well over 150 years, and I believe its witness remains deeply needed in the life of the Church today.

Please pray for me as I take up this responsibility, and be assured of my prayers for the Confraternity and for all who seek to honour Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament.

Fr David Way SSC

Vicar of Saint Peter and the Holy Apostles, Plymouth

INTERCESSIONS

MAY

1 *S. Joseph the Worker*

2 *S. Athanasius*

3 5th SUNDAY OF EASTER

4 THE ENGLISH MARTYRS

5 *S. Asaph*

6 *Weekday in Eastertide*

7 *Weekday in Eastertide*

8 *Weekday in Eastertide*

9 *Weekday in Eastertide*

10 6th SUNDAY OF EASTER

11 *Weekday in Eastertide*

12 *S. Pancras*

13 *Our Lady of Fatima*

14 THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD

15 *Weekday in Eastertide*

16 *Weekday in Eastertide*

17 7th SUNDAY OF EASTER

18 *Weekday in Eastertide*

19 *S. Dunstan*

20 *S. Bernardine of Siena*

21 *Weekday in Eastertide*

22 *Weekday in Eastertide*

23 *Weekday in Eastertide*

24 PENTECOST SUNDAY

25 *Mary, Mother of the Church*

26 *S. Philip Neri*

27 S. AUGUSTINE OF CANTERBURY

28 OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, ETERNAL HIGH PRIEST

29 *S. Paul VI*

30 *Weekday in Ordinary Time*

31 THE MOST HOLY TRINITY

All workers

Those who battle heresy in the Church

Joy in the Resurrection

For all persecuted Christians

For Credo Cymru

Little Flower Ward, Longton

Ss Mary and Dominic Ward, Friar Park

The Sacred Heart Ward, Lincoln

The City of London Ward

For those who do not yet believe

The Sacred Heart Ward, East Finchley

Adoremus Ward, Hanworth

All Shrines of Our Lady

World Peace

Alexander Macknochie Ward, Holborn

Corpus Christi Ward, Kenton

For my Parish

S. Giles Ward, Reading

For all craftspeople

Devotion to the Holy Name of Jesus

S. Laurence Ward, Long Eaton

Holy Cross Ward, Nottingham

S. Martin Ward, Salisbury

The Gift of the Holy Spirit

The Walsingham National Pilgrimage

All Parish Priests

The Archbishop of Canterbury

Those in Formation for Ordination

Renewal in the Church

The Ward of S. Michael, Croydon

That all will bow down before the Unity

JUNE

1 S. Justin

2 *Ss Marcellinus and Peter*

3 *Ss Charles Lwanga and Comps*

4 **CORPUS CHRISTI**

5 S. Boniface

6 *Weekday in Ordinary Time*

7 **10th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

8 *Weekday in Ordinary Time*

9 *S. Ephrem*

10 *Weekday in Ordinary Time*

11 **S. BARNABAS**

12 **THE MOST SACRED HEART OF JESUS**

13 *Immaculate Heart of Mary
or S Anthony of Padua*

14 **11th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

15 *Weekday in Ordinary Time*

16 *S. Richard of Chichester*

17 *Weekday in Ordinary Time*

18 *Weekday in Ordinary Time*

19 *Weekday in Ordinary Time*

20 *S. Alban*

21 **12th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

22 **Ss JOHN FISHER and THOMAS MORE**

23 *S. Etheldreda*

24 **NATIVITY OF S. JOHN THE BAPTIST**

25 *Weekday in Ordinary Time*

26 *Weekday in Ordinary Time*

27 *S. Cyril of Alexandria*

28 **Ss PETER and PAUL**

29 *Weekday in Ordinary Time*

30 *Weekday in Ordinary Time*

For all who suffer for their Christian Faith

For the Roman Catholic Church

For the Church in Africa

Thanksgiving for the Holy Eucharist and CBS

For the Conversion of England

S. Agnes Ward, Kennington

For the Bishops of the Society

Corpus et Sanguis Christi Ward, Plumstead

Persecuted Christians in Muslim lands

Holy Trinity & St Cadoc Ward, Llandaff

For bravery in our proclamation of the Gospel

That all will come to know the love of Christ

Devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary

For the Catholic Societies

S. Michael and All Angels Ward, Bathwick

For the Bishop of Chichester

The Holy Family Ward, Swindon

S. Thomas Ward, Birmingham

Holy Family Ward, Leamington Spa

The Church of England

For our PCC

For those who witness in adversity

For all women Religious

That we may always point towards Christ

S. Wilfrid Ward, Leeds

Ark of the Covenant Ward, Sheffield

For all Theologians

For those being Ordained

S. Benedict Ward, Blyth

Our Lady of Deal Ward, Deal

JULY

1 *Weekday in Ordinary Time*

2 *Weekday in Ordinary Time*

3 S. THOMAS

4 *Weekday in Ordinary Time*

5 14th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

6 *S. Maria Goretti*

7 *Weekday in Ordinary Time*

8 *Weekday in Ordinary Time*

9 *Weekday in Ordinary Time*

10 *Weekday in Ordinary Time*

11 S. BENEDICT

12 15th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

13 *Weekday in Ordinary Time*

14 *Weekday in Ordinary Time*

15 **S. Bonaventure**

16 *Our Lady of Mount Carmel*

17 *Weekday in Ordinary Time*

18 *Weekday in Ordinary Time*

19 16th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

20 *Weekday in Ordinary Time*

21 *Weekday in Ordinary Time*

22 S. MARY MAGDALENE

23 S. BRIDGET OF SWEDEN

24 *S. Charbel Makhlūf*

25 S. JAMES

26 17th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

27 *Weekday in Ordinary Time*

28 *Weekday in Ordinary Time*

29 *Ss Martha, Mary and Lazarus*

30 *Weekday in Ordinary Time*

31 **S. Ignatius Loyola**

The Annunciation Ward, Chislehurst

Christ the King and Stella Maris, Blackpool

For those who doubt

Ward of the Protomartyr, Blackpool

The Catholic Group on Synod

For all young people

The Precious Blood Ward, Swinton

The Holy Angels Ward, Brentwood

The Sacred Passion Ward, Romford

S. Anthony Ward, Woodford Green

For the European Union

For our Parish

The Sacred Heart Ward, Hammerfield

The Annunciation Ward, Brighton

All male Religious

For contemplatives

Ss Saviour and Peter Ward, Eastbourne

The Transfiguration Ward, Haywards Heath

Our Parish Priest

S. Anne Ward, Hove

Anima Christi Ward, S. Leonards on Sea

That we may proclaim Christ fearlessly

For world peace

Persecuted Christians in the Middle East

For the Shrine at Compostela

For the Bishops of the Society

Ward of S. Gabriel, Worthing

Our Lady and Corpus Christi, Cambridge

Protection of family life

S. Edmund Ward, Downham Market

All Spiritual Directors

R. I. P.



We commend to God the souls of all departed Associates of the Confraternity, especially the following who have died recently:

Lay Associates

Veronica Eagle
Dawn Etherington
Una Wade
Adrian Rilstone
Thelma Garry
Norman Garrod

Priests Associate

Fr Michael Brinkworth
Fr Michael Slack

With regret, it has been noted only recently that the following deaths have gone unrecorded:

Fr John Brownsell (2024)
Fr Edward Bundock (2024)

Fr Geoffrey Squire (2024)
Fr Robert Teare (2025)

NEW MEMBERS

Please pray also for new members:

Lay Associates

Lesley Bird
Ernest Burton
Philip Evans
Rachel Fielding (*Deacon*)

Barrie Smith
Brian Tiller
Mary Tiller

Priest Associate

Fr Lee Dunleavy

A VISION REALISED

Christens Gård (Christian's Acre) celebrates twenty years

In her tribute to the late Fr John Brownsell, Sister Gerd Swensson recalled a conversation early on in her association with All Saints', Notting Hill soon after she moved from Sweden to join the Deaconess Order of Saint Andrew in 1975. Having now experienced Exposition and Benediction, which is not part of the Church of Sweden tradition, she wondered why it was such a problem to



some Christians. Her priest friend and mentor explained that some people found it a bit emotional but since we all have feelings and emotions of all sorts, we can offer them to God as part of our worship before the Blessed Sacrament. Sister Gerd wrote: "That clinched it for me. I have always loved Exposition and Benediction ever since I first met it at All Saints."

Fifty years on, and still a loyal member of CBS, Sister Gerd lives out her love of Christ in the Blessed Sacrament in the Retreat House both she and Fr Brownsell created at Christens Gård, near Lund. Set in the rolling countryside of Southern Sweden, Sister Gerd's family home is a haven of peace and warmth, where the former pigsty has been transformed into a beautiful chapel, dedicated to the Holy Cross, while the house offers generous hospitality and spiritual refreshment.

This June Sister Gerd will celebrate her seventy-fifth birthday and the twentieth anniversary of Christens Gård with a Mass and a party. The Chapel will be fit to bursting with friends and supporters and the tables overflowing with delicious food including some of Gerd's Swedish specialities. Representatives from the



Society of Saint Bridget, the Chaplaincy at the University of Lund, the local parish of Bunkerflo together with friends from England including a loyal group from her beloved All Saints', Notting Hill.

A tireless worker for the 'Catholic Faith as Received' Sister Gerd has built strong and lasting links between the Church of Sweden and the Church of England,

encouraged diaconal and priestly vocations and through her association as an Oblate of the Community of the Holy Cross at Costock, modelled her Christian life on the Benedictine model of faithfulness, stability and open generosity and hospitality.

And as it happens, while the celebrations in Sweden are in full swing, the annual festival of CBS will be taking place at St George in the Meadows in Nottingham. United in prayer and fellowship and incorporated into Christ in the Most Blessed Sacrament, our two celebrations will meet together, both in the sharing of the Heavenly Banquet and as an offering of thankfulness for Christens Gård and not least Sister Gerd's special birthday.

✠ Norman Banks

CBS NATIONAL FESTIVAL

SATURDAY 13 JUNE 2026



*at Saint George in the Meadows
Nottingham. NG2 1NX*

12.00noon CONCELEBRATED MASS
*followed by Lunch and Meeting of Associates
with Admission of New Members*

3.30pm BENEDICTION

The Preacher at Mass will be

FATHER TOBY BOUTLE SSC *Rector of Swindon New Town*

Grant funding support from the CBS has been vital in supporting the parish at a time of renewal and growth, with a strong focus on the Eucharist – with projects ranging from Messy Mass to social action projects and a new young adults' guild. Fr Toby will be joined by colleagues who will offer a presentation on the life and ministry of the churches of the parish.



Further information for Priests Associate (and other priests in sympathy with the aims and objectives of CBS) wishing to concelebrate will soon be available on our website <https://confraternity.org.uk/>

WARD NEWS

Ward of the Stigmata of Saint Francis, Bournemouth

Fr Robin Nash SSC writes:

“SOME great news,” said the organist of our Ward in Bournemouth, on the telephone, “we have NINE people wanting to join the CBS.”

This really was good news after what had been a difficult few months. But let me go back some years.

I joined the CBS as a Life Member in 1992 in the Ward at a church in Nottingham, when I was Rector of Kegworth in Leicestershire. Then in 1998 I inaugurated a Ward in my parish, which also attracted members from a number of other parishes around and about.



Now we come to the Ward which is the object of the “great news” I mentioned earlier.

When I moved to Bournemouth in 2001, I discovered there was already a Ward in my neighbouring parish with their Vicar as Ward Superior. Unfortunately, this had become dormant but, rather than start a new Ward in my parish, it made more sense for me to support the Vicar in bringing the Ward back to life. Alternating our meetings between their church and mine, the Ward revived, with the addition of some new members from my parish. The Vicar’s final Mass there was on Low Sunday 2010, so I was consequently appointed as Ward Superior, and have continued as such since my retirement in 2014.

The Ward meets four times each year, for Vespers and Benediction, Mass (jointly with the local GSS Chapter), a Mass on or near our name-day in September, and a Holy Hour and Benediction. Non-members are always welcome, too, so there was a slow increase in the number of people attending, making a total of about a dozen on good days. Following the arrival of Fr Adrian Pearce in 2013 as Incumbent of S. Ambrose, Bournemouth, we held some of our meetings there. Then came the “difficult few months”!

We had continued to hold two meetings each year at S. Ambrose’s with Fr Adrian Pearce as the Incumbent, and two at the Ward’s host parish church with the approval of the Incumbent, other clergy and Churchwardens there. But in

May 2025 I received an email from the parish's Pioneer Minister, on behalf of their Incumbent and the other clergy (of whom there were more female than male), to say that we were no longer welcome there.

After some correspondence, including my referring them to the Five Guiding Principles designed to enable us all to live together AND to flourish together, I felt we could not win the argument. And, even if we DID win, there would then remain an unhelpful atmosphere of disharmony which would make any of our services there uncomfortable for us and for them. But we parted in peace and goodwill.

To be honest, all our meetings now being in S. Ambrose's actually makes things easier! I arrange the annual programme and send out circulars to the members, and Fr Adrian is an excellent host. Indeed, Fr Adrian has been gently encouraging his church members to join the Confraternity. We have a brilliant organist who plays for our CBS and GSS gatherings, and he, too, has encouraged the new members who have recently applied for CBS membership. Our meetings are advertised in the S. Ambrose' Parish Magazine and on their website, so up to a handful of non-members often come along.

There are three things which I am sure has helped the Ward to grow:

- Each December I produce a programme for the following year, and a draft is sent out to my mailing list for them to tell me if they notice any clashes of dates with other events in local churches. After any amendments, the year's list of dates is sent out to everyone, and to the web master for the CBS web site.
- A week or so before each gathering I send a reminder email to everyone.
- After each gathering there is wine/fruit juice and eats while socializing, discussing any business, and chatting about topical church matters.

The Ward mailing list now comprises 16 Lay Associates, 2 other Priests Associate and me, plus a few laity and 2 priests who are not members but often attend.

*We would like to make this focus on CBS Wards a regular feature.
If you wish to tell us about your Ward,
please contact us using our new contact details,
given on the top of the next page.*

CBS CONTACT DETAILS

Please note that these have recently changed



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The Superior-General writes:

A VISIT to Southwell Minster for Choral Evensong on 26 March reminded me that Harriet Monsell, the Mother Foundress of the Community of Saint John the Baptist at Clewer, was held in commemoration that day in the CW Calendar. With the active encouragement of the Rector of Clewer, Thomas Thellusson Carter, the community was established on 30 November 1852, thus one of the first Anglican religious orders founded since the Reformation. Checking up on the background to this, reminded me that our Founder and first Superior-General, Canon T T Carter, has a significant anniversary this year: on 28 October we recall the 125th anniversary of his death. I hope, therefore, that the next edition of the Quarterly will include an outline and appreciation of his life and work, particularly as his "piety, spiritual insight, and zeal in good works, combined with his courage and skill in organisation, gave him for many years an almost unequalled influence amongst advanced high churchmen, an influence much extended by his fecundity as an author" (*DNB 1912 Supplement*).

✠ Roger

**Would you like to contribute to the Quarterly,
passing on your news and sharing events with others?**

**Please email contributions to Fr Peter Edwards SSC
admin@confraternity.org.uk**

**Material for the next edition must be received by
FRIDAY 3RD JULY, 2026**



GLASTONBURY PILGRIMAGE 2026

Saturday 5th September

**12.00 noon: Solemn Concelebrated Mass
in the Nave of the Abbey Church**

For full details see <https://glastonburypilgrimage.co.uk>

*The Confraternity of the Blessed Sacrament continues to support
this important annual act of Eucharistic witness with a significant grant.*

GRANTS TO THE WALSINGHAM YOUTH PILGRIMAGE

For several years the CBS has made a series of grants
both to the Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham,
and to individual parishes to help reduce the cost
of taking young people to this Pilgrimage.

We welcome applications from parishes hoping to take young people
to the 2026 pilgrimage which takes place 3-7 August.

There is an application form available on the Shrine's website
<https://www.walsinghamanglican.org.uk/ypsupport/>

or direct from the CBS

<https://confraternity.org.uk/grant-application/>

The application deadline is Tuesday 5 May 2026
for formal approval by Trustees later that month.

Fr Peter Edwards
Secretary General