



Swale Circle's 25th Anniversary will take place on Tuesday January 14 in the presence of Grand Vice President Gerald Soane, Provincial President Martin Harnett and Provincial Director Pat Gallagher. Brothers from all circles are warmly invited to join the celebrations. Registers open at 6.30pm for meeting at 7.30pm followed by dinner at 9pm. This is a Stag Night. Black Tie. Medals. £19 per person. Essential to book early because of limited numbers. Payment by cheque. Contact Vice President Terry Mahoney.

Meeting Notices

On December 16 **Brooklands Circle** will be having a joint meeting with **North Cheshire Circle** at the Bowdon Hotel, Altrincham so there will be no meeting at the Woodheys Club on December 19.

As the January meeting falls on Jan 1 **Manchester North & Middleton Circle** have moved it to Wednesday Jan 8.

Because of the New Year's Day Holiday **Poole Circle** have moved their January meeting date to Wednesday January 8, when it will still be a Ladies night.

Streetly Circle is changing the venue, date, and time of its December meeting to Saturday December 7 - 12.15pm Fairlawns Hotel, Little Aston Road, Aldridge, West Midlands WS9 0NU. The meeting will be followed by lunch. The change is to accommodate some of the older members who find it difficult to attend normal meetings.

Sunderland Circle's meeting scheduled for the first Wednesday in January would fall on New Year's Day. The January meeting will therefore be held on Wednesday January 8 at 8.00pm.

Swale Circle will not be meeting in December but on the 4th will be holding a Christmas Dinner and Dance with a five piece band at the UK Leisure Centre, Sittingbourne. Black Tie, Medals £20 per person. Booking by November 24. Payment by Cheque to Vice President Terry Mahoney.

Swindon Circle's meeting of December 4 will be followed by the Christmas Dinner (cost £25 incl. wine). Ladies will be welcome along with visiting brothers. Please advise Terry Aspel 01793 849319 (new number). The January meeting has been changed to the 8th.

West Somerset Circle will not be holding a meeting in December especially as Christmas is coming early in West Somerset (see letters in October issue).

Valetta Circle Produces Second Ordinand

It was a very auspicious and imposing ceremony on Sunday July 28 when the Archbishop of Malta, Mgr Joseph Mercieca, ordained Rev Fr Claude Portelli with Holy Orders.

It was obviously auspicious for Claude's parents, Peter Paul and Tania Portelli of **Valletta Circle**, but it was also auspicious because it was a week before his 27th birthday when, together with six other new young priests, he was ordained in the historic St John's Co-Cathedral in Valletta.

Rev Claude Portelli is the second priest to come out of Valletta Circle, the first being Rev Etienne Caruana, the son of Maurice and Rose Caruana. Fr Etienne is now a parish priest.

The new Fr Claude is now serving pastoral work in the rural parish of Ghaxaq, in the south of the island.

By contrast he hails from one of the most cosmopolitan Sliema parishes, that of St Gregory the Great, and he was educated at St Edward's College, Cottonera, Malta.

He continued his post secondary studies at the State Sixth Form then proceeded to the University of Malta where he read for a BA degree in Philosophy and Italian. In September 1995, Claude began his formation studies at the Archbishop's Seminary and in June 2001 he successfully terminated his three-year course in theological studies at the University of Malta.



His Grace the Archbishop of Malta, Mgr Joseph Mercieca, centre, with Rev Fr Claude Portelli, 3rd from right, together with his family after his ordination. On left, his brothers Andre and Pierre, his mother Tania, and on right, his father Peter Paul and sister Clarissa

Harare Circle News

On October 9, the clergy night, John AT Graham hosted a very successful barbecue at Hartmann House School, at which some 14 clergy, including the Chancellor of the Nunciature, Mgr Leon, a Kenyan, and in all 58 people attended. This was a miracle as the weather that day had been very stormy and uncertain. As usual, the clergy and laity enjoyed the informal atmosphere of the occasion. Unfortunately no sisters were present.

The headmaster, Paul Nenjerama, and his wife had organised the occasion splendidly. It was rather sad to bid farewell to James and Jeanette Cameron who have left after some 41 years of circle membership to retire to Melbourne to be near their children and grandchildren. James has seldom missed a meeting and had delivered in his time most of the circle young! We wish them every happiness in their new abode.



Kenyan Visit

In September Peter Smith (**Stockport Circle**) and his wife, Christine paid a second visit to The Holy Family Mission station at Koru, Kenya. The station, run by Father Anthony Clarke, has a mission house, church and school and services a number of outlying churches, some of which receive a visit to say Mass only once every six weeks.

Peter and Christine have involved themselves with both the school and church projects which they have found most rewarding.

The children are most anxious to acquire a good education and they work very hard. Sadly many of them are orphaned and the state fees of £60 a year for schooling would be beyond their means but for the contributions made by Father Anthony.

Archbishop Okoth has met Peter and Christine on each of their visits and appreciates all the help that is being given from church groups in England. Combining a holiday in Kenya with their visit to the Mission Station, Peter and Christine have a host of wonderful memories - the excitement of the African liturgy, the beauty of the Nandi Hills, the wild life sanctuary at Lake Naivasha (former home of Joy Adamson and Elsa the lioness) and game park visits.

The world is a small place, however. While they were there they met three Sisters of Mercy who had connections with Oldham and with whom they had several friends in common!



Pictured with Archbishop Okoth, Peter Smith, his wife Christine and Father Anthony Clarke

Papal Knight

Frank Savage, of **Black Heath Circle**, who is the Governor of the British Virgin Islands, has been created a Knight of St Gregory. He was invested on September 13. One of the reasons quoted in the citation was his contribution to the Catholic community in Montserrat during the volcanic crisis there, while he was Governor of that unfortunate island.

Jim Sails into the Wind

Visitors to Guernsey during the past year have been intrigued by an unusual craft moored in St Peter Port harbour.

The boat is the brainchild of Jim Wilkinson, a retired engineer who is a member of **Guernsey Circle**.

Unlike a conventional boat, Revelation II can sail straight into the wind. Drive from the wind-powered turbine (see right) passes through two gearboxes to turn the propeller in the water at the stern. The vessel has reached speeds of up to 11 knots.

Jim says that other boats like this have been built, but as far as he knows he is the only person to have designed two. Revelation I was on the water for about 10 years, but Jim was not satisfied with its performance and he knew it could be improved upon - hence Revelation II.

The 36ft boat has five berths, shower, toilets and galley and is fully equipped for use on the water. It has aroused considerable interest, particularly from French



Photograph courtesy of The Guernsey Press

visiting yachtsmen, who think that Jim is mad in designing something which could be almost as dangerous as a guillotine if you're not too careful on deck - but as Jim says, there is no boom to swing across the boat and the drive just stops if anything untoward occurs.

Ealing 75th Anniversary

Ealing Circle rounded off a year of celebrations that started last September, with a 75th Anniversary dinner held in Ealing Town Hall, and culminated in the 900th Meeting, which was held in St Benedict's Senior School, Ealing, in October 2002.

The evening commenced with Mass in Ealing Abbey. The meeting, held in the school sports hall, was attended by 115 brothers, including brothers from Provinces 2,6,7,14,17 & 19 together with those from Province 8, and a visiting gentleman.

This was followed by a sumptuous banquet in the School Hall, where the Circle President Anthony Phillips welcomed Grand Vice President Gerald Soane, Rt Rev Martin Shipperlee, Abbot of Ealing; Representative Deputy Lieutenant, George Bodin; local MP Rt Hon Stephen Pound, Rev Gregory Chillman OSB, Director Kevin Jennings, Provincial President Des Bentley, Head Master Chris Cleugh. In addition he welcomed 2 Directors, 3 Provincial Presidents, 20 Circle Presidents, and brothers representing 36 Circles. Gerald proposed a toast to Ealing Circle and George Bodin DL replied on behalf of the guests.