

VENERABLE VIEW

Published by The Friends of



The English College Rome

FROM THE RECTOR'S WINDOW

Summer
2012

It is mid-August; and activity in the *Cortile* suitably muted given the extreme temperature (35°C/95°F)! Still our faithful workmen continue the redecoration of the *scala grande*, the great staircase across the Cortile which was the main entrance into Cardinal Howard's seventeenth-century *palazzo*. They have also been busy converting the end of the *Monserrà* corridor back into student accommodation – because we need the rooms again. For we have been blessed with another large intake.

ELEVEN NEW STUDENTS

We have some eleven new students starting with us next October. We have ten seminarians coming from English dioceses: three from Birmingham, two from Leeds, one from Salford, one from Shrewsbury, two from Southwark and one from Westminster. We also have three seminarians returning to us – two from Westminster and one from Antigonish (in Nova Scotia). And we have a new student-priest coming to us – from Leeds.

FORTY-SIX SEMINARIANS

So the total number of seminarians we anticipate there being in the College at the start of the new academic year is forty-six.



Cardinal Keith O'Brien
with 1st Year students

This figure breaks down as follows: one for Antigonish, one for Arundel & Brighton, four for Birmingham, one for Brentwood, one for Clifton, two for Copenhagen, one for Hexham & Newcastle, one for Lancaster, eight for Leeds, one for Liverpool, one for Menevia, two for Middlesbrough, one for Northampton, one for Portsmouth, one for Reykjavik, two for Salford, four for Shrewsbury, one for

Stockholm, six for Southwark and six for Westminster; i.e. forty-one seminarians for England and Wales, five seminarians from other countries.

In addition, there will be four student-priests – coming from the Dioceses of Birmingham, Leeds (two) and Westminster. This will amount to a student body of fifty. With a staff of five, this makes for an anticipated community of some fifty-five residents.

FAREWELLS AND ORDINATIONS

Three of our Deacons bade us farewell last month at Palazzola: Fr Joseph Gee was ordained six days later in Salford Cathedral by Bishop Terence Brain; Fr Michael Doody was ordained on the last Saturday of July by *Old Roman* Archbishop Arthur Roche in Leeds Cathedral; and Deacon Michael Patey will be ordained to the Sacred Priesthood on Our Lady's Birthday, 8th September, in Northampton Cathedral by Bishop Peter Doyle.

Two other Deacons are scheduled to be ordained as priests in the first part of 2013: Revv. David Doran for Birmingham and Liam Bradley for Menevia.

The *Villeggiatura* reached its traditional climax with the Ordination as Deacons of Revv. Benjamin Theobald and Michael Coughlan – for Portsmouth and Shrewsbury respectively. *Old Roman* Bishop John Arnold, Auxiliary Bishop in Westminster, was with us for the final days of the *Villa* in order to preside at this wonderful celebration. Prior to that, *Old Roman* Southwark Auxiliary Bishop Paul Hendricks spent a week with us in order to (i) admit as a Candidate John Carlisle of Leeds; (ii) institute as Acolytes Tom Cunnah of Shrewsbury, Michael Deas of Salford, David Howell of Southwark, Colin Mason of Clifton, and Kasper Baadsgaard and Jan Hansen of Copenhagen; and (iii) institute as Lectors Philip Andrews of Southwark, Olafur Haukur Arnason of Reykjavik, Luke de Pulford of Southwark, Peter Stoddart of Hexham & Newcastle and Elliott Wright of Leeds.

Four other good men also took their leave of us at term's end: Frs Jonathan Brandon and Guy de Gaynesford – to return to the mission in the Dioceses of Shrewsbury and Plymouth respectively; Fr Benjamin Ixcamparic from Guatemala moves to the United States to continue studies in Psychology; and David Edwards returns to Hexham & Newcastle to continue discerning his vocation there.

It was emotional the evening that we bade these seven students our fond farewells; and they will be sorely missed.

HISTORIC COLLOQUIUM

The previous term ended with an historic Colloquium entitled *Britain & the Holy See: A Celebration of 1982 and the Wider Relationship*. The College co-hosted this Colloquium with the British Embassy to the Holy See - to mark the thirtieth anniversary of both the Establishment of Full Diplomatic Relations between the United Kingdom and the Holy See as well as the Pastoral Visit of Blessed John Paul II to Great Britain.

There was a most distinguished line-up of speakers: Cardinals Cormac Murphy-O'Connor and Keith Patrick O'Brien; Archbishop Mario Conti; Bishop Edwin Regan; Anglican Bishop Christopher Hill; Canon David Richardson; Monsignori Charles Burns and Mark Langham; former Ambassador Mark Pellew; Fr Norman Tanner SJ; Professor Eamon Duffy; and Dr Judith Champ. Archbishop Vincent Nichols was the guest speaker at the dinner; and Ambassador Nigel Baker opened and closed proceedings impressively well.



Cardinals Cormac Murphy-O'Connor and Keith O'Brien with Archbishop Mario Conti and Bishop Edwin Regan.

THE KING'S HOSPICE

Of course, it was no coincidence that the Colloquium should take place in the year we celebrate the 650th Anniversary of the English and Welsh Hospice. Systematic reflection on the relationship between the United Kingdom and the Holy See brought home to us all the more powerfully what an important ambassadorial role the *King's Hospice* had played in Tudor times and before.



Dr Judith Champ lecturing at the 650th Anniversary

It was a joy to us that so many *Friends of the Venerable* had been able to join in the Hospice celebration last January - not least the Chairman Miss Jo Barnacle.

But I was keen that Jo's kind presence for the Hospice anniversary should not discourage her from coming to spend another week with us during term-time. After all, it is in the stillness and calm of *Ordinary Time* - the ordinary *Venerable* weeks - that the profound work of discernment of, and preparation for, priestly ministry takes place.

So Jo visited us in the middle of the summer exam period; and found herself enjoying the freer timetable and the unique atmosphere of Rome in June – even if she had to experience a fire-alarm at two o'clock one morning!

FRIENDS' GIFTS

I was particularly pleased that Jo could see the use students were making of *St Joe's Terrace*, graced with smart, elegant and robust furniture and hardy shrubs and olive-trees – all of which were, of course, the *Friends'* most recent gift to the students.



St Joe's Terrace

Jo was able, one evening, to witness World Cup football being watched there on television – a fine television brought from the *Snug*, the complete refurbishment of which was also, of course, the *Friends'* gift some years back. On the students' and College's behalf, I would like to say a heartfelt *Thank You* once again to every single member of the *Friends* for helping us achieve such projects for the College - which we would otherwise not be able to afford.

Now the College is quiet, though preparations are continually being made to welcome the New Men the last weekend of August. The refectory is filled to the brim with scaffolding so as to allow the cleaning and restoration of the Pozzo fresco which has adorned it since 1700 (I know because I saw the receipt – signed by the artist!). With new lighting as well, it should be a sight to behold.

JUBILEE YEAR

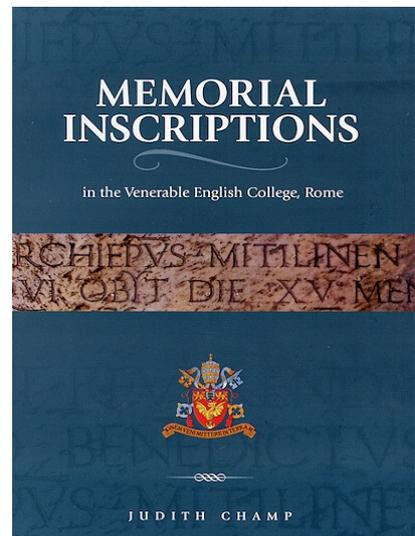
It remains our hope that the first term of the new academic year will see fulfilled our deep desire that the Holy Father, Pope Benedict XVI, should grace us with his presence – to conclude festivities in what has been a remarkable 650th birthday. We have much to thank God for this Jubilee Year! Like the nation we prepare to serve, we can feel we have been much blessed in 2012.

The end of our Hospice celebration will be preceded, of course, next October by the opening of the Year of Faith. True to the Hospice tradition, we have written to every English and Welsh diocese encouraging them to come on pilgrimage to Rome as recommended by the Holy Father in *Porta Fidei* and to make a Mass at the *Venerabile* a significant part of their itinerary. We trust many *Friends* will be among them and that several of these pilgrims will feel moved by the Spirit to become *Friends of the Venerabile* themselves.

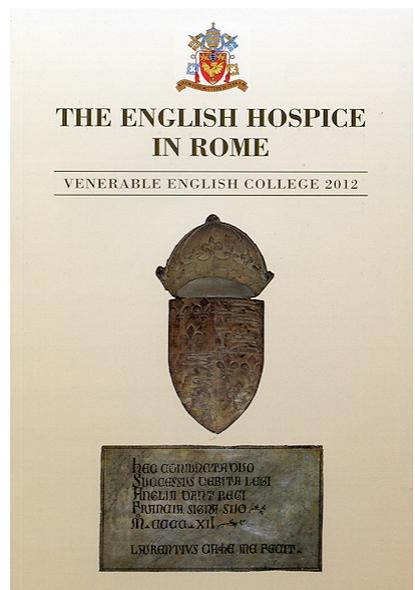
Mgr Nicholas Hudson
Rector

650TH ANNIVERSARY PUBLICATIONS

Dr Judith Champ has done an invaluable service in collating the inscriptions of the College memorials which provide a fascinating glimpse into the lives of those recorded. These include a Cardinal Archbishop (probably poisoned!), a 9 year old, and a seminarian who fought for the Papal States.



This book is based on research originally deposited with the College by *Friend of the Venerabile* member the late Rosemary Rendel DSG and illustrated by Fr Anthony Milner, the present theology tutor at the College. Price £18 (includes UK postage).



This book is a replica of a special 1962 issue of the *Venerabile* magazine published to celebrate 600th anniversary of the English Hospice. It has been reprinted with new photography and an additional chapter by Dr James Willoughby of New College Oxford, on the Hospice's first library. Price £28 (includes UK postage).

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

My visit to the English College took place in June this year so I experienced the heat of a Roman summer.

I met with the Rector (Mgr Nicholas Hudson), the Vice Rector (Fr Mark Harold) and the Senior Student (Deacon Michael Coughlan). I also had a chance to chat with the First Year Students who had finished their exams – my sympathy was with them due to the heat. The Sacristan again managed to find a number of items for me to mend!

THANK YOU

The Committee have been working very hard at their usual tasks: Sarah Gough on the new Prayer Card which she had printed for us all; Mike Lang on the new *Friends*' website (see friendsofenglishcollegerome.org.uk); Louise Sage on the *Towards Advent* event and also, with Anthony Coles, on the *Venerabile View* and Louise Bradley on recruitment. I am indeed very grateful to them all.

BRANDON GOUGH RIP

We were all saddened by the recent sudden death of Sarah's husband, Sir Brandon Gough. Several of the Committee attended his Memorial Mass at Westminster Cathedral on the 26th June. We were full of admiration for the way Sarah has borne her loss. She went ahead with the outing she had planned for the Friends to Rochester on the 6th July which was greatly enjoyed by all who went.

650TH ANNIVERSARY PUBLICATIONS

A few copies of these two books are still available from the membership secretary, Mike Lang, 22 Kingsley Avenue, Royal Wootton Bassett, Wiltshire SN4 8LF. Cheques made payable to the *Friends of the Venerabile*.

MOVING HOUSE?

If you are planning to move house now or at any time in the future, please add details of the *Friends of the Venerabile* to the list of all the other organisations you need to inform.

This will save us trying to track down your new location when items are returned to us by the postal services.

Please kindly advise the membership secretary, Mike Lang, 22 Kingsley Avenue, Royal Wootton Bassett, Wiltshire SN4 8LF. malang@ntlworld.com.

FUTURE OUTINGS

We would like to receive suggestions from any of you for future outings particularly those venues with connections to the College Martyrs.

2012 AGM

Finally, I look forward to welcoming many of you at our **Annual General Meeting**

on

Saturday 15th September

at

St Patrick's Church Hall,

Dillon Court,

Redfield,

Bristol BS5 9PF.

**Jo Barnacle
Chairman**

E-MAIL ADDRESSES

Do we have YOUR e-mail address?

In the Spring 2012 edition of the *Venerabile View* we appealed to all those who were on e-mail and had not sent us their e-mail address to do so as soon as possible in order to save the organisation time and money posting letters/holiday details etc. As a result of that appeal, approximately 40 people sent us their e-mail addresses.

Please could we ask those of you on email to send your email address to both Mike Lang malang@ntlworld.com and to Jim Holroyd JHGlennewes@aol.com.

FRIENDS OUTING

ROCHESTER VISIT



Restoration House

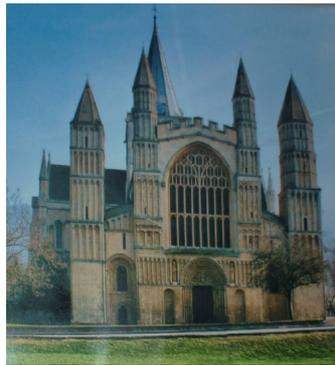
On Friday 6th July, thirteen of us met up for a day in Rochester, Kent. We started with a tour of Restoration House, just off the old High Street. The house derives its name from the visit of King Charles II when travelling from Dover to London in 1660 for his restoration as king after fifteen years of exile. It is also reputed to be the model for *Satis House* in Charles Dickens' *Great Expectations*; and mentioned by Pepys and Pevsner.

We were guided round by one of the owners, Robert Tucker, who proved to be a great expert on paintings and antiques. When Robert and his partner bought the house in 1994 it was crumbling and they had painstakingly restored the interior to its former 17th century condition. Layers of paint had been scraped off to reveal the pine panelling with its delicate mouldings and original paint, faux marbling was also found on doors that were rediscovered, perhaps decorated for the arrival of the King; original floorboards had been revealed, repaired and scrubbed with sand. This must have not only been a labour of love, but a unique undertaking.

Sadly, it was a rather dull morning and the rooms were quite dark. Robert explained that they liked to show the pictures and furniture as it would have been seen at the time. One landscape in particular had figures in the left hand corner that were only visible when the light came in through the adjacent window in the early morning – we had to take his word for this!

The rooms were full of treasures including many paintings by Thomas Gainsborough; a collection of Staffordshire salt-glaze pottery; an Aubusson tapestry, and an exquisite satinwood 18th Century decorative square fortepiano which almost certainly originated from Kenwood House in north London. The Great Chamber upstairs is also known as Miss Havisham's Room, and the whole is very atmospheric.

In the bedroom used by the King, we were shown another interesting picture of a couple in Puritan attire in shades of black and greys, obviously in deep mourning, but there was a hint of red and Richard suggested that possibly the picture had a hidden meaning and might be interpreted as mourning for the loss of the monarchy rather than the death of a loved one.



Rochester Cathedral

Time was running out as we were due at the Cathedral for a rehearsal of Choral Evensong so we abandoned the garden for later and after an excellent snack lunch provided by the ladies from the local Hospice, we headed out in the rain. Unfortunately the schedule had been altered and we arrived just in time to hear the final anthem which was Handel's *Zadok the Priest* accompanied on the very fine organ. The boys were in excellent form and it was very rousing.

When this ended the sun started to shine and we returned to Restoration House to wander around the beautiful and immaculate gardens which although just over an acre in size are full of surprises and interest. There are clipped box parterres in Jacobean style and yews, natural informal planting also used for cutting

for the house and many herbs. The sun still shone on us as we made our way back to the Cathedral which is situated adjacent to the Norman Castle for a guided tour. It is very much a living place being continually used by the community.

Rochester Cathedral is England's second oldest, founded in 604 AD by Bishop Justus. The present building was the work of the French monk Gundulf (1080) whose image is on the beautiful Romanesque façade over the main door. Inside, the aisle is flanked by Norman arches and finishes with some additions in Gothic style. Our excellent guide, Helen, told us that at one time the intention was to replace all the Norman arches with the Gothic, but fortunately for posterity the money had to be used elsewhere. We were shown remnants of the frescoes that would have once covered all the walls making the building quite dark in contrast to the light that now shines in through windows added later.

A new fresco had been commissioned, the first in an English cathedral for over 800 years, painted by a Russian iconographer showing the baptism of Christ by St John, the descent of the Holy Spirit in the form of a dove, and the baptism of the Saxon King Ethelbert by St Augustine.

Whilst we were in what was remaining of the cloisters we were able to see the house in which St John Fisher lived during his tenure as Bishop of Rochester (1504-1535).

Finally, Deacon Mark Woods, his wife Jane and myself stayed on for Evening Prayer (for the *Feast of St John Fisher* in the Anglican Communion) which was very peaceful as we had the Cathedral virtually to ourselves. Prayers were said up by the High Altar with the sweet smell of incense rising heaven-wards. When the service was finished we chatted to the two Clergy present and found out that one of them, the Rev'd. Neil Thompson, the Canon Precentor, had studied at the English College in 1979 to 1980. He said he had happy memories of his time there and remembered with fondness the Martyrs picture in the Chapel. It was lovely to spend the day among friends and I look forward to many more outings in the future.

**Sarah Gough
Committee Member**

PREVIOUS RECTORS

ROBERT GRADWELL

To continue this mini-series, I thought we could look at Robert Gradwell's tenure 1818-1828.

Robert Gradwell was born (with his twin brother John) at Clifton-in-the-Fylde, Lancashire on the 26th January 1777, and was sent to the English College, Douai in 1791. He was imprisoned there during the French Revolution. However, he was able to rescue and bring back to England some of the Douai Diaries. He eventually completed his education at

Crook Hall, Co. Durham, was ordained in 1802 and taught at Ushaw before moving to St. Thomas the Apostle, Claughton on Brock, Preston, Lancashire.



*St Thomas The Apostle Church
Claughton on Brock*

Here he acted as assistant to Fr. John Barrow and as Chaplain to the Fitzherbert-Brookholes family. Whilst there, he was also responsible for enlarging the presbytery.

At this time Europe was going through a very unsettling period, firstly from the effects of the French Revolution and secondly by Napoleon Bonaparte. The French invaded Rome, the College was seized and suppressed and the students sent back to England (1797-8) and the College lay empty although the account books were faithfully kept and much of the property survived. Pope Pius VII, like his predecessor, Pius VI, was taken into captivity by the French and taken to France from 1809 until 1814. Following Napoleon's defeat the Papal States were restored and Pope Pius VII returned to Rome.

Cardinal Ercole Consalvi, Pope Pius VII's Secretary of State and acting as Protector of the College, directed the English vicars Apostolic to suggest a priest as Rector and to send him to Rome at once.

They chose the Rev. Robert Gradwell.

Gradwell then left his Parish in charge of a younger brother, the Rev. Henry Odo Gradwell and arrived in Rome on the 2nd November 1817 staying at the Scots College and on 13 November registered as agent for the vicars Apostolic.

Robert Gradwell received his appointment as Rector from Cardinal Consalvi on the 8th March 1818 which was later confirmed by the Pope. He said his first foundation Mass at the College on the 9th March with his installation taking place on the 11th June. Gradwell moved into the English College in December accompanied by ten students, including the future Cardinal Nicholas Wiseman.

Robert Gradwell was the first British secular priest, to be Rector since Maurice Clynnog in 1578 and the first English secular priest since the re-opening of the College in 1818. In the intervening years the College had been administered firstly by the Jesuit Society and then Italian secular priests. Since his appointment all Rectors have always been members of the English secular clergy.

On arrival at the College he found the building itself to be in a bad state of repair, Whether this was due to culpable neglect or the actions of the French troops is debatable. Robert Gradwell faced enormous difficulties. He had been educated at Douai, had never been a student at the *Venerabile*, had

never previously been to Rome, was ignorant of the Italian language and did not have a single acquaintance in Rome. He also had to cope with the ill-health of the students, fevers, meagre diet, overwork and even death in one instance; the economics of running the College and even disputes as to which College the students should attend lectures. In spite of all this, he seemed to have made a success of his time at the *Venerabile*. He also wrote a Journal during his time there which now resides in the Westminster Archives.

In 1821 Pope Pius VII made him a Doctor of Divinity for, according to Butler's *Historical Memoirs of the English Catholics*, "the integrity of his life, his learning, zeal and meritorious discharge of his duties as President of the English College and agent of the clergy".

On the 24th June 1828 Dr Gradwell was consecrated in the College chapel by Cardinal Zarla the Protector as Bishop of Lydda and Co-adjutor to James Bramston, the vicar Apostolic of the London District. The Vice Rector at the time was Nicholas Wiseman. Gradwell then left the College to take up his duties in London, residing in St. James, Westminster.

After some years of ill health he died of the dropsy on the 15th March 1833 and was buried in the Church of St. Mary Moorfields in the City of London. *Old Roman* Fr Peter Newby, the current parish



Dr Robert Gradwell

priest, told me that in the middle of one night in 1899 (prior to the Church being pulled down and rebuilt in 1903), Londoners were treated to the macabre sight of a number of black carriages drawn by black horses with black plumes on their heads lined up outside the Church ready to take the coffins and remains of all those buried there to be re-interred in the Catholic section of Kensal Rise Cemetery.

**Louise Sage
Committee Member**

PALAZZOLA NEWS

A big *thank you* to the *Friends* for their continued support of Palazzola, including their recent assistance to provide *Wi-Fi* throughout the building for the benefit of students and guests alike.

Since I last wrote the work on converting St Edward's chapel into a conference room and upgrading the terrace beyond is almost finished. We hope to have these ready for both the Westminster Diocese Priests' Retreat and for the Jubilarian Priests' week this autumn. We are just awaiting the final

touches to the garden and a kitchenette for the conference room. Already the terrace area is being used by the students to spend their quiet time there during the *Villeggiatura*. As a result of these new facilities we have been able to attract interest from bishops' conferences and the Knights of Malta for their meetings.

A new project that we wish to undertake is the refurbishment of the swimming pool area. This will include levelling the paving, re-surfacing the handball court and improvements to the changing rooms, along with pool furniture and an activity area under the trees.

To the list of the many school, parish, retreat and wedding groups, we can now add birthdays and anniversaries. Palazzola is proving to be *the* venue for those 25th, 40th, 50th, 60th and 70th celebrations - and don't let those particular milestones stop you from booking your own event!



Fr Michael praying his breviary

Recently we had a group that celebrated several significant birthdays as well as the Golden Jubilee of Priesthood of *Old Roman* and first chair of *Palazzola Holidays* Canon Michael Cooley. *Ad Multos Annos* to them all.

**Joyce Hunter
Director**

CHRISTMAS, NEW YEAR & EPIPHANY at PALAZZOLA

New for 2012/2013. We are extending the Christmas & New Year season to include the *Feast of the Epiphany*. There are three 4 night packages:

Christmas - 23 to 27 Dec,
New Year - 28 Dec to 01 Jan
Epiphany - 02 to 06 Jan.

Combine two or more packages and obtain 9 nights for the price of 8. Book all three and enjoy 14 nights for the price of 12.

LENTEN RETREAT

An opportunity for prayer and relaxation with sessions from the staff of the College. From **Mon 25 Feb to Fri 01 March 2013.**

EASTER TRIDUUM

with Easter Sunday Mass at the *Venerabile*. Accommodation is available between **Tues 26 Mar and Mon 01 April 2013.**

For details see www.palazzola.it
- Tel: 00 39 06 94 74 91 78.

Information may also be obtained from **Anthony Coles**, 18 Maresfield Gardens, London NW3 5SX - Tel: 020 7431 3414
arctc@btinternet.com

VENERABLE SILVER

In association with the *Friends of the Venerabile*, we offer you the opportunity to purchase sterling silver hall-marked jewellery relief engraved bearing the details of the shield of the *Venerabile*.

Orders with cheques payable to Rev Thomas Wood, LACE, Croxteth Drive, Sefton Park, Liverpool, L17 1AA. Prices include UK P&P. Profits to the *Friends of the Venerabile*.



Cuff links - £55



Pendant engraved with College crest £40.

22" silver chain £22

Ornate Pendant with College shield £35



22" Silver chain £22



Ornate lapel badge £30

Plain lapel badge £25



TOWARDS ADVENT 2012

Annual Festival of Catholic Culture

Saturday 24th November
Westminster Cathedral Hall
10.00 am – 4.00 pm

Opening Ceremony at 10.30 am with Archbishop Vincent Nichols

Displays by Catholic groups, organisations and charities
Refreshments available all day
Play corner for children
Books, DVDs, CDs and cards on sale

ENTRY FREE

1.00 pm Workshop with Marcus Grodi of EWTN.

3.00 pm Celebrating Newman's Second Spring

Tickets for workshops £2 from the Welcome Desk

As last year the *Friends of the Venerabile* will again be taking a stand at this Festival. If you are in the area on that day, do please call in and meet us. We would be delighted to see you

This edition of *Venerabile View* was edited by Louise Sage and produced by Anthony Coles. Photographs courtesy of Nicholas Hudson, Louise Sage, Thomas Wood, Mark & Jane Woods. Printing by Anil Thapen
www.akdesignandprint.co.uk

Friends of the Venerabile
Membership Secretary
22 Kingsley Avenue
Royal Wootton Bassett
Wiltshire SN4 8LF