

Guild of vergers A.G.M

This year's A.G.M. began with a talk from our Chaplain Peter Palmer in the robing room at St Albans Abbey, about the Liturgical year and the Vestments of the church. Peter talked about the reasons for all the colours of the church year. After enticing us into this world of colour, Peter introduced us to the history of all of the different robes that were worn by him over the last fifty or so years in the church. Peter likes the Alb rather than the cassock alb. He explained the historical reasons for each of the garments, starting with the cassock, amice, alb, stole and surplice. We were engaged by an interesting lesson on the Manipal and his disappointment somewhat at its demise. A few sound extracts of Peters talk and some photographs of the robes are on our growing website at <http://www.stalbansvergers.org.uk>

The Abbey had an exciting range of all the vestments, not just one red, but several reds to choose from for different types of occasions.

It was really fascinating, to learn the reasons for why the clergy wear these things for a service and how much all of the clothes weighed. The copes were the heaviest thing to wear because of all the embroidery and the fabric. The talk finished with the spectacular copes worn by the Bishop and Dean being shown off and the vergers rather envious of the clergy vestments.

This was followed by the AGM with the election of officers and the plan for the events for this year.

Election of Officers 2008

Chairman Lindsay Kemp [Email](#)

Administrator Peter Hudson [Email](#)

Area Leader Mike Golby

Committee Member 1 Lindsay Bevis

Committee Member 2 Philip Russell

Branch Correspondent Mark Russell (15)

Created by Mark J Russell Branch Correspondent
St Alban Branch

Letter to the Virger Magazine.

Youngest Member

There has been some talk recently from some of the Branches about the age of the youngest members. I am just 15 and have been a member for just over a year. I am hoping that I am the youngest member because my younger brother wants to follow in my footsteps as soon as his voice breaks and has to leave the choir. He is only 13! He works with me and the Head Verger every week.

I was delighted to be given the job of the branch correspondent. This involves me in the branch activities to keep up my interest and of course in this role I have to go to as many events as I can, to report them back to you. Now all I have to do, is wait, until I am 18, so I can study for my Diploma. I look forward to seeing you all at the training conference.

Mark Russell