



# John of Gaunt



THE MILITARY & HOSPITALLER ORDER OF ST. LAZARUS OF JERUSALEM  
COMMANDERY NEWSLETTER Issue No 35 –January 2011

## In This Edition ....

From the Chancellor’s Desk.....	1
Garden Party at Prescott.....	2
Events Corner .....	3
Fundraising Events .....	3
World Leprosy Day.....	6
Friar Lucia Pacioli.....	8
⌘ Gerard’s Jottings. ....	11

## From the Chancellor’s Desk...

### Observations of a would be Gardener – Part 2

*“... that at the end of the day, kneeling for your blessing,  
you will find no blot on my shield. Amen”*

Let’s talk about weeding. Weeds can be really difficult to dig out! The new vicarage garden had a very overgrown flower bed and as I began to hack, dig and hoe I couldn’t believe the strength of some of the weed roots, especially the brambles. It took hours of back breaking work to dig them out. By the end of the day only about a 1/3 of the ‘flower’ bed was done but WOW it looked really good. Freshly turned soil, hoed to perfection and not a weed in sight. A week later when I returned to the garden (contrary to popular opinion vicar’s get one day a week off not on) they were back and almost as strong as before!

I eventually learned that tackling weeds is best done on a daily basis, the work is much lighter and the rewards more constant.

Sin is an ugly word and is of course the bane of every Christian life. It is the weed that grows in our lives; it is the blot no Lazarist wants on his shield. Sin spoils the gardens God intended our lives should be. The solution however is simple; God's forgiveness. No sin can resist it, it is the weed killer par excellence, it's even eco friendly (but I'll let you ponder that one!). The difficult part is working with God to expose its root; this can be a hard and painful business, it cost Jesus his life, but WOW the beauty we see in our lives once it is accomplished! Of course some daily attendance to our newly forgiven lives is necessary, old habits die hard, they can resurface and we need to seek the master gardener's attention before they take hold and take over.

My life is a garden in progress, tended by no less than God himself; he has a vision for it (Dreamin') and is working daily to shape it (Doin'). He has given his Son to remove the sin that would spoil our lives but there is more to God's gardening expertise than weed killing. That however is part 3 of this would be gardeners' observations; for now let me take this opportunity to wish you all a blessed and fruitful New Year.

Chris

## **Garden Party at Prescot**

We need donations of bottles for the bottle stall, and other items for the tombola. If anyone would like to donate a large teddy for the Name the Teddy stall, or would like to volunteer for being on a stall or even to do the washing up.

**Please contact Elaine on 0161 337 0593**

## Events Corner

### COMMANDERY EVENTS

At the Screeton's

Friday 11th February 2011 - Cheese and Wine and Pub Quiz at 7.30pm.

Friday 11th March 2011 - Saint Patrick's Theme night at 7.30pm.

Friday 8th April 2011 - Fish and Chip Night at 7.30pm.

Friday 6th May 2011 - Race Night at 7.30pm.

Friday 17th June 2011 - Hawaiian night at 7.30pm.

See also the enclosed events Flyer

### EVENTS ELSEWHERE

06 Mar	Mersey Commandery - Commander's 'At Home'
12 Mar	Londinium Investiture
14 May	Service of Thanksgiving for the Reunified Jurisdiction – Oxford
4 Jun	Avalon Investiture
16 Jul	Mercia Investiture
6 Aug	King Offa Investiture
17 Sept	Edward the Confessor Investiture
8 Oct	St Wilfrid Investiture
5 Nov	National Vigil and Investiture (North) under the banner of John of Gaunt

Further details at [www.st-lazarus.org.uk](http://www.st-lazarus.org.uk) calendar of events

### **Fundraising Events**

Just to let you know that a further £85 has come in from the picture quiz, so that has made it a quite respectable £278, though still not as good as last year.

We have a winner, Mr Philip Hallman, of Great Sankey, Warrington.

Also, thanks Elaine for the fantastic £120 that you raised at the recent Murder Mystery evening!

And thanks, too, to Tony Hilton, who gave talks in January to Liverpool Athenaeum and to West Lancs. Heritage Group, and raised a total of £130. Tony tells us that the number of “friends” is now up to 17.



And not forgetting David and Edna, who attended the Mersey dinner and took photographs of the service and those members attending.

You probably heard about the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemoration of the Blitz service, which made TV stars of Gareth, Brian and Anne! Remarkably there were 6 Commandery members attending (almost as many as the Carol Service!)



St Lazarus Annual Carol Service  
&  
Afternoon Tea Dance for “Help for Heroes”

Everything was set for a good Carol Service well attended by members of John of Gaunt and well supported by local parishioners and friends. Everything was also set for an excellent Afternoon Tea and Dance to raise money for “Help for Heroes”.

Over 80 tickets were already sold, the food bought, raffle prizes donated, hall decorated with 1940’s posters, memorabilia and dress arranged; and then late Friday evening it snowed.

On Saturday morning the phone started to ring, people were snowed in; no trains, no transport, no Christopher Cunningham to lead the carol service, Chris Fallone on crutches, Curate Jonathan ready to stand in, no organist. One thing was there though we were remembering the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Salford and Manchester Blitz and the same spirit that helped us then was with us again.

The carols were sung unaccompanied Chris had managed without crutches and everyone enjoyed the service.

The Afternoon Tea was enjoyed by just 34 people who listened to a message from the Prime Minister Winston Churchill, survived an “air raid” with a few bombs, enjoyed a sing song in the “black-out”, danced a little and held a raffle which raised £90 for the “Heroes”. The surplus food was put to very good use locally. The evening had by this time raised £510 for “Help for Heroes”; but.....

That is not the end of the story. After clearing and cleaning the hall, we arrived home to another phone message to say that the local Co-operative Shopping Giant had donated a small hamper for the raffle, another bottle was put to it, then a box of chocolates, a friend rang with a donation which was turned into ten pounds worth of raffle tickets; so now we have another raffle which will be drawn some time in January.

Brian Lee

Our efforts to raise funds for the St Lazarus Foundation via the link to [www.easyfundraising.org.uk](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk) continues to be a great success, and we have now raised almost £300 for zero effort.

We are also pleased to announce that we have “signed up” our first referral from another body. This means that we also receive 20% of any sales that they generate themselves. Do you know of any other organisations that might be interested in raising money, such as clubs, churches, scout groups, charities, etc? Just send them this link and if they sign up then St Lazarus Foundation will benefit - <http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/referral/26996>

Also, don't forget that shopping online is not just restricted to persons – many businesses now buy online, and if they too access their intended site via easyfundraising then we gain!



# **World Leprosy Day**

(31st January 2010)

On the occasion of the 57th World Leprosy Day, I am writing to you on behalf of the 14 Members of the International Federation of Anti-Leprosy Associations (ILEP). I would like to extend greetings to all those affected by leprosy and our thanks to all those individuals, organisations and governments actively working together for a world without leprosy.

Over the last 43 years, ILEP Members have helped cure many millions of people affected by leprosy and continue to support vital leprosy work in 82 countries. In addition to the treatment provided, ILEP Members have also helped to prevent disability, reduce stigma and discrimination, and restore dignity to those affected.

A significant development in the continuing fight against leprosy in 2009 was the finalisation in April 2009 in New Delhi, of WHO's Enhanced Global Strategy for Further Reducing the Disease Burden due to Leprosy 2011-2015. This builds on the current Global Strategy and in particular gives an additional focus to the reduction of the level of Grade 2 (i.e. visible) disability.



ILEP and its Technical Commission have played a vital consultative role in this process. The Enhanced Global Strategy agreed a new global target for leprosy to reduce the rate of new cases with grade two disabilities per 100,000 population by at least 35 % by the end of 2015 compared to the baseline at the beginning of 2011.

The reduction of the number of new cases with grade-two disability would indicate that leprosy is being detected early before nerve damage can develop. One of the topmost priorities in the fight against leprosy is the avoidance of nerve damage. Therefore this new global target brings a meaningful focus on this most important objective.

Another enhancement agreed at the meeting was to examine all household contacts of newly detected cases. The re-introduction of this focussed

examination policy is regarded as a positive step that could have the potential to actively detect cases earlier and prevent disabilities.

In addition to these enhancements, the Enhanced Global Strategy is further boosted by:

Reinforcement of the humanitarian issues and rights of people affected by leprosy and absolute assurance of equity and social justice

Rigorous advocacy of the use of more dignifying terminology whenever talking about or referring to people affected by leprosy.

Stress on the particular needs for improved leprosy control in underserved areas including urban slums and migrant populations

Highlighting of opportunities to explore public-private partnerships

Assurance of quality clinical services

Training of peripheral health workers so they can refer people affected by leprosy to the appropriate services according to their personal needs

More holistic assessments of the needs of each person affected by leprosy and to provide appropriate support under community based rehabilitation.

Promoting further research in the area of chemoprophylaxis for future use as a control measure and in developing better treatment regimens with shorter duration of treatment.

Underpinning all of the above is the recommitment to the main principles of leprosy control outlined in the current strategy, namely - timely detection of new cases and their treatment with multi-drug therapy (MDT) and quality patient care that is equitably distributed, affordable and easily accessible.

World Leprosy Day this year falls on 31st January and will be marked by many thousands of people around the world who will use this occasion, as I do here on behalf of the ILEP Federation, to recommit to the vision of a World Without Leprosy. ILEP remains convinced of the need to continue working tirelessly together with all its partners to ensure that effective leprosy activities are sustained wherever they are needed. This will require the continued integration of leprosy control activities with other health services. It will require the continued provision of training for all health workers. And since the close links between poverty, exclusion and leprosy are already well documented, ILEP

support will continue to be channelled into preventing disability, and promoting socio-economic rehabilitation and community development in a spirit of partnership with leprosy affected persons.

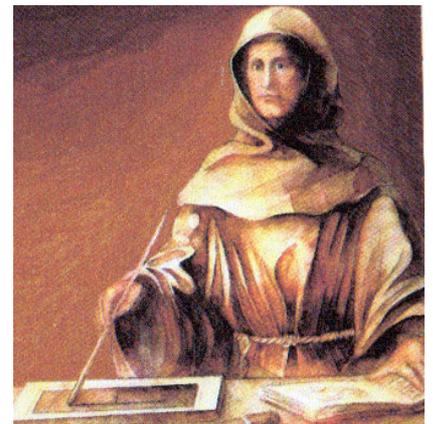
On the occasion of World Leprosy Day we renew our commitment to ensuring that all persons affected by leprosy have access to the necessary treatment, rehabilitation and care, without prejudice and stigma, in a world where all human beings have the right to live their lives with dignity. "A world without leprosy" remains the vision of all partners. Working together, we are confident we can achieve the goal of further reducing the global burden of leprosy by 2015, in line with the target date of the global Millennium Development Goals (MDG-6)

Message from René Stäheli,  
President of the International Federation of Anti-Leprosy Associations

## **Friar Lucia Pacioli**

(c1445 – c1515)

As a charitable organisation we are dedicated to raising moneys for deserving causes. Additionally we are required to properly account for all income and expenditure in a manner that can be readily understood. The format adopted to record items of income and expenditure is known as bookkeeping. This is a universal system and we use it on an almost daily basis without perhaps ever thinking where it originated except to vaguely recall that it was used in the 'Middle Ages' by the merchants of Venice.



In 1994, accountants from around the world gathered in an Italian village about sixty kilometres north of the city of Perugia, known as Borgo San Sepolcro, to mark the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first book ever written on double-entry accounting. This book was written by an Italian friar, Friar Luca Pacioli.

Pacioli is regarded as being 'The Father of Accounting' although he did not invent the system which had been used for many years by merchants in Venice during the Italian Renaissance period. He did, however, write down and codify

the system which included most of the accounting cycle that we recognise today. He described the use of ledgers and journals including assets, liabilities, income, capital and expense accounts. Additionally he demonstrated year-end closing entries and advocated the use of the trial balance to prove a balanced ledger. His treatise also alluded to a wide range of topics from accounting ethics to cost accounting.

It is not certain exactly when Pacioli was born or died but most scholars suggest that his birth took place in 1445 and his death in 1515. If these dates are reasonably accurate then he lived during the height of one of the most exciting times in the history of mankind, the Renaissance.

Although, as a child, Pacioli lived in Borgo San Sepolcro he does not appear to have lived with his father Bartolomeo, but with the Belfolci family. Little is known of his early life although it is thought that he was partly educated by Piero della Francesca, the celebrated artist and mathematician, who had a workshop and studio in Borgo San Sepolcro. Whilst still a young boy he moved to Venice and entered the service of a wealthy merchant Antonio Rompiasi where he tutored his three sons but also took the opportunity to expand his mathematical studies under Domenico Bragadino. Pacioli gained considerable experience as a teacher from his role as a tutor and also in business matters as an assistant in helping with Rompiasi's financial affairs.

During his time in Venice Pacioli wrote his first work, a book on arithmetic completed in 1470, which was probably the year that Rompiasi died and this no doubt prompted him to leave Venice for Rome. In Rome he spent some time in the house of Leone Battista Alberti who was secretary in the Papal Chancery. As well as being an excellent scholar and mathematician Alberti was able to provide Pacioli with good religious connections. Pacioli then studied theology and during the next few years he became a friar in the Franciscan order.

In 1477 Pacioli spent a number of years travelling and teaching at various universities including Perugia, Naples and Zadar in Croatia, which at that time was part of the Venetian Empire, and finally back at Rome. Pacioli returned to his home town after two years in Rome and worked on one of his most

famous books the 'Summa de arithmetica, geometria, proportioni et proportionalita' known as the 'Summa' which was published in Venice in 1494.



This work gives a summary of the mathematics known at the time including arithmetic, geometry, algebra and trigonometry. Although it contained little originality it did provide a basis for the major progress in mathematics which took place in Europe shortly after this time. Included in the 'Summa' was a treatise on 'double entry bookkeeping which consisted of 36 short chapters named, 'Of Reckonings and Writings.'

Through the patronage of the influential Ludovico Sforza, who had set about making his court in Milan the finest in the whole of Europe, Pacioli was invited to teach mathematics there in 1494. He was now in the illustrious company of Leonardo da Vinci who had an enthusiastic interest in Mathematics and also provided the diagrams and figures for some of Pacioli's publications.

The University of Pisa moved to Florence in 1500 and Pacioli taught there and also became involved with church affairs and was elected the superior of his Order in Romagna. In 1506 he entered the monastery of Santa Croce in Florence. He again went on his travels, first to Perugia in 1510 and Rome in 1514 before returning to Borgo San Sepolcro where he died in around 1515.

Many bookkeeping and accountancy students, myself included, may not have been aware that it was Pacioli who was responsible for the burning of the midnight oil whilst wrestling with the intricacies of double entry or struggling to detect imbalances in a 'trial balance.' His system, however, has stood the test of time and is basically unchanged in a world of rapid change. In one of UMIST's Management and Business lecture theatres is a prominent bust of Pacioli, rather disturbingly it is the 'spitting image' of a former disagreeable and somewhat terrifying Director of Finance for whom I once worked.

James Partington.

## ✘ Gerard's Jottings.



At the time of starting to put quill to parchment for this issue of my Jottings, it's positively nithering outside! At breakfast this morning Pam and I watched a recording of a program about statistics, which was appropriate because the weather forecasts seem to be full of them. One that I recall from my early studies is; "He's standing outside naked, in a bucket of hot water, with a pile of snow on his head, saying that on average he feels fine!" I also remember my dad shouting to mother; "Gerard reminds me of our kettle,--- up to his neck in hot water - and still whistling!" Isn't it funny what gets stuck in your head?

It's the same with tunes. Someone only has to mention that song from 'The life of Brian' ... *"Always look on the bright si-ide of life, de dum, de dum de dum de dum."* and I can't get it out of my head. There is a name for that condition you know, it is called 'Ear Worm'. The great 'kicker' for the Welsh Rugby Team, Neil Jenkins I think he's called, — *I'm a soccer man myself*, — was asked on T.V. what was going through his mind when he was standing like a rock in that particular crouched position which he always adopts prior to kicking for a conversion. "I'm listening to the music in my head." he replied. "But why stand there so long?" he was asked. To which he responded; "I have to wait until the end of the tune!" I know exactly what he was trying to explain.

It is similar to the use of a Mantra for relaxation or prayer. One that I use a lot is the word *"MARANATHA"*, which means; 'Come Lord, come Lord Jesus', and is taught in the Benedictine Order. In my experience, it is so simple but very effective in a situation that can be more tricky to accomplish than people appreciate — until they try to do it, although it is certainly one way of "Praying without ceasing" as we are asked to do. The trouble we have is that there is so

much noise going on in our heads all the time, it becomes well nigh impossible to obey the command; “Be still, and know that I am God”. If one can master that technique one is then on the path to realise the secondary goal, namely; “Man know thyself” — or to put it another way:- “Knowledge of the self leads man towards a knowledge of God”, a teaching much emphasised in certain philosophies, even referred to as; ‘The greatest of all human studies’ in one organisation in particular.

I hope you had a happy Christmastide, and I pray for good health and every happiness for the coming year. My friends, whatever path you are travelling along, I wish you well, and I pray that Almighty God will send His Holy Angels to guide and protect you each and every day throughout 2011; which will most certainly be a very special year in the history of our Order of St. Lazarus! May the Holy Spirit help and guide us in all our doings, and may the Peace of God, which passes all understanding, be with us all.

I wish you good luck with your Ear Worms, and leave you with this old Scottish Toast :-

“Lang may yer lum reek — wi’ ither folks coal!”

Bishop † Gerard J. Crane

The John of Gaunt Commandery newsletter is produced on a quarterly basis by Conf. David Green, to whom all articles and comments should be sent.

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