

A photograph of two men in clerical attire standing in front of a large Gothic archway. The man on the left is wearing a black cassock with a green sash and a white cross pendant. The man on the right is wearing a red cassock with a red sash and a gold cross pendant. The archway behind them features a central statue and two smaller statues on either side. The text 'GOLDEN JUBILEE 1955 - 2005' is overlaid in yellow at the top.

GOLDEN JUBILEE
1955 - 2005

CANON ROGER GREENACRE
50 YEARS OF PRIESTHOOD



ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY

27 September 2005

A MESSAGE FROM THE ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY

I am very happy to join all those who are celebrating Roger's jubilee and to offer my warmest congratulations and prayers in thanksgiving for a uniquely distinguished ministry. I first met Roger in 1973, when I was making a brief study visit to Paris; and in that time I realised that here was someone whose knowledge of the complex situation of all the churches in France was as broad and insightful as his theological intelligence. Over the years, work together in different contexts, not least in the Church Union's Theological Committee, reinforced my respect for someone who represented and still represents a particular style of Catholic Anglicanism that is deeply rooted in liturgy and personal prayer, critical and generous all at once – very much a faith for responsible and intelligent adults! For what he is, and for what he has done unobtrusively for so long to enrich our ecumenical work, I am profoundly grateful, and wish him many years of joyful priestly service in the future.

+ Rowan Cantuar :

Lambeth Palace, London SE1 7JU



26th September.

For Roger Greenacre's Golden Jubilee of Priesthood.

It is a great joy to be able to greet Fr. Roger on this most significant anniversary. It is also a real sadness that I am not able to be present personally.

Over this long ministry you, Roger, have been a devoted priest and servant of the Church, a tireless worker for Christian unity, and an interpreter particularly of the Church of England to the Church of France and vice versa. The Diocese in Europe rejoices with you in your long service, first at St. George's, Paris, and now in Beauchamp-sur-Mer. We rejoice with all your friends at a ministry God has richly blessed, & I send you on this day my love & every blessing. + God bless

A personal recollection of Father Roger's ministry

by

Canon Jeremy Haselock (Precentor of Norwich Cathedral)

It is a huge pleasure for me to write something for the *St Michael's messenger* supplement about your chaplain. His ministry has been so wide ranging that I cannot hope to give an adequate account of it within the limits of this short piece so I offer a personal view. Roger is one of my oldest friends (in both senses of the term) and has been an indispensable ingredient in my life for nearly thirty years so I offer this as a tribute to his friendship.



I first encountered Roger, though he claims no recollection of this, when he was Chaplain of St George's, Paris, in the early 'seventies. I was accompanying a party from York Minster Song School who were on a half-term visit to Paris. Naturally, we all turned up at St George's for the Eucharist on Sunday. I remember being struck by the beautifully ordered liturgy and the excellence of the sermon but chiefly I recall Fr Roger's invitation to exchange the sign of peace: "Let us now offer one another a sign of peace with either the embrace of Gallic exuberance or the handshake of English restraint."

In Paris, Roger was talent-spotted by Dr Eric Kemp, recently made Bishop of Chichester, who invited him back to England as Chancellor of his cathedral. Roger's ecumenical credentials were by now well established, with a track record which included time spent as official Anglican student at the Catholic University in Louvain, long-term membership of French ARC, a period lecturing at the Institut Catholique in Paris, and a full diary as more-or-less official spokesman for the Church of England at every francophone ecumenical gathering. Chichester's twinning with Chartres and Roger's extensive network of French contacts went together like knife and fork much to the benefit of his new diocese and the liturgical life of the cathedral was hugely enhanced by his experience of the best of French monastic worship. Roger was not entirely unhappy to move out of the ramshackle Presbytère in the rue Auguste-Vacquerie into a house in Vicars' Close, Chichester, which combined the characterfulness of the fifteenth century at the front with the elegance of the eighteenth century at the back. Here he made a comfortable home where his hospitality rapidly became legendary.

When I left York to work briefly for Inter-Church Travel in London, Roger, now firmly part of the English scene, was invited to lead a pilgrimage to Bruges and, as I was in charge of making the arrangements for the visit, we met again. The fastidious Greenacre found himself having to deal with an eccentric fellow pilgrim whose personal hygiene left much to be desired and who seriously offended the godly matrons who made up the rest of the party. I well remember his carefully-phrased report once they had re-

turned – the offender was blacklisted! Soon after this I went to Oxford to read Theology and prepare for ordination at St Stephen's House. Chichester and Roger's house became a home from home during vacations and his wonderful gift for making and sharing friends vastly increased my circle of acquaintance.

Roger's many theological skills were put to good use in England. He lectured in Church History at the Theological College in Chichester and thus helped shape a whole generation of priests, acting as spiritual director to many. His liturgical knowledge led to him being asked to serve a term on the Liturgical Commission and he was elected to the General Synod. He spent a sabbatical term at St Stephen's House in my final year, working on a number of literary projects. One of which bore fruit in our joint publication, *The Sacrament of Easter*, a study of the liturgy of Lent, Holy Week and Easter, and another in his invaluable little guide to the Church in France published for the then Board for Mission and Unity.

When I was ordained priest I invited Roger to preach at my First Mass which he did to my great benefit and the edification of all those other present. Many of the friends I had made through him in Chichester were present on that occasion. Somehow since then he has been present at nearly all of the important landmark moments in my ministry and I at his. How pleased I was when after I had served two curacies in Central London, Roger mentioned my name to Bishop Kemp who invited me to Chichester to be his domestic chaplain. Many the pub-lunch Roger and I shared with friends in those balmy days. I took over Roger's seat in General Synod, I became a canon of Chichester Cathedral, all, I am sure, through his friendship and support and I was there when he took his leave.

I owe him a great deal, too much to rehearse here, but certainly my own love of France stems largely from Roger's influence. He knows the country and its people, its food and its wine, so well and is always happy to share. "The Chancellor's Reading Parties" – happy group holidays at the same villa in the Var – every other year for nearly twenty years increased my francophilia and now, to my great relief, it is sustained by frequent trips to Beaulieu sur Mer.

Early in our friendship, and I still a layman, Roger invited me to serve at his twenty-fifth anniversary Mass in Chichester. It was therefore with great pleasure that I accepted his invitation to concelebrate with him at his fiftieth anniversary and to offer the intercessions. What a great and moving occasion that was! Most moving for me was Cardinal Jean-Louis Tauran's testimony to Roger's influence on him as a seminarian and young priest. I can only wholeheartedly and sincerely agree.

Laudate Dominum

On the feast of the Archangels they came
To give thanks with him in Chichester
(Holy place of Richard)

Fifty years since he made those solemn vows,
In another hallowed space
(And on the same feast day)

Friends, old and new, bishop, dean,
Priest and deacon flowed smiling down the nave
(And a cardinal from France)

Old, golden stone as mellow as his favourite wine,
Proud organ swell, young choir divine
(And Messiaen, Haydn, Tavener)

What joy was there, such reverence, beauty, light.
All blessing on a long, most fruitful
Dedicated life.

DEO GRATIAS!

Josephine Collins



Fr Roger meeting Pope John Paul II in Rome. 8th September 1982



Overheard at the party after the service:
“What a wonderful idea to have your memorial service before you die. That way you can really enjoy it





Chichester Cathedral

SUNG EUCHARIST

For the Feast of St Michael and All Angels
The 50th anniversary of the ordination of Canon Roger Greenacre to the
priesthood.

Thursday 29th September 2005 at 6pm

Music before the service: **Vater unser im Himmelreich** *Buxtehude*
Christ ist erstanden *J.S.Bach*

During the service the choir sings the 'Missa Sancti Nicolai' Mass *F.J. Haydn*

The Gathering

Hymn: 'Stars of the morning' (*NEH 193*)

The Greeting and invitation to penitence by *the Bishop of Chichester*

The choir sings the 'Kyrie eleison'

The Absolution.

'Gloria in excelsis'

The Collect

The Liturgy of the Word

First Reading Revelation 12: 7-12 *read by Patrick Garland*

Responsorial psalm 103 (19-end)

*Response: 'Bless the Lord, you angels of his' sung by the choir
repeated by the congregation.*

Gospel Acclamation Hymn: 'Ye watchers and ye holy ones' (*NEH 478*)

Gospel Reading John 1: 47-end

Read by *The Deacon, The Reverend Elizabeth Carver*

Sermon: *His Eminence Cardinal Jean-Louis Tauran,*

(Archivist and Librarian of the Holy Roman Church.)

Prayers of intercession: Led by *The Revd Canon Jeremy Haselock*

(Precentor and Vice-Dean of Norwich Cathedral.)

The Liturgy of the Sacrament

The peace

Hymn: 'How shall I sing that majesty' (*NEH 373, Tune: 'Coe Fen'*)

The Eucharistic Prayer

The choir sings the 'Sanctus'

The Lord's Prayer

Breaking of the Bread

Giving of Communion:

The choir sings the 'Agnus Dei' and

'O sacrum convivium' (music by *Messiaen*)

Hymn: Soul of my Saviour (*NEH 305*)

Prayer after communion

Canon Greenacre briefly addresses the congregation

Magnificat sung by the *choir*. (Music by *John Tavener*)

The Dismissal *The Bishop and Cardinal give the Blessing together.*

Music after the service: **Te Deum** *Langlais*

Members of the congregation are invited to the South Transept for refreshments after the Service



A MEMORABLE MICHAELMAS DAY

Though the golden jubilee of Roger Greenacre's priesting on Michaelmas Day was celebrated in Chichester Cathedral, where he served for twenty-five years, it was the churchwardens of St Michael's who, with his sister Mary, sat at the front and represented the congregation of 350 (including numerous members from St Michael's) by taking up the gifts of bread and wine to the altar.

The service was an ordinary festive cathedral Eucharist, with hymns and readings honouring St Michael and the angels. The Bishop of Chichester presided over the Liturgy of the Word and gave the blessing, while Roger presided over the Liturgy of the Sacrament, a number of fellow priests concelebrating with him.

What made the occasion special were the people. For example, I turned round to give the Peace... to Roger's friend Patricia Routledge ('TV's Hyacinth Bucket'). There were several retired bishops, including Bishop Eric Kemp (now 90), who had brought Roger to Chichester in 1975 and was still Bishop when he left in 2000.

Representatives of other churches included many Roman Catholic priests including Père Tschann from Beaulieu and also Archimandrite Ephrem of the Orthodox Church. Most notable was the preacher. Has a curial cardinal ever before flown to England from the Vatican to preach at a celebration of Anglican priestly ministry? Cardinal Jean-Louis Tauran, formerly the Holy See's 'foreign secretary' and now Archivist and Librarian of the Holy Roman Church, spoke – in exquisite English – not about Roger but about three convictions that have been central to his priesthood. Each concerned 'encounter' – the importance of the Liturgy as the place of encounter with God, of pastoral encounter with our contemporaries and engagement with the questions that concern them, and of encounter in dialogue with our fellow Christians of other churches – crossing boundaries for the sake of unity.

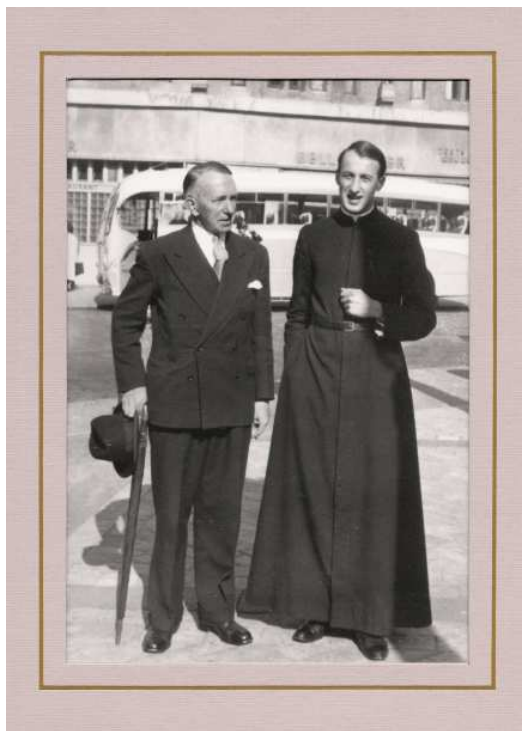
The most memorable moment came towards the end. We stood while the choir sang John Tavener's ethereal Magnificat and Roger, accompanied by his Deacon (the Revd Elizabeth Carver), walked down into the nave and censed an image of Our Lady of Walsingham. Six times Tavener punctuates Mary's song with the refrain

'Greater in honour than the cherubim, and glorious incomparably more than the seraphim; thou who inviolate didst bring forth God the Word, and art indeed the Mother of God: thee do we magnify.'

Roger, for whom we had come to give thanks, gave honour to Our Lady, who in turn points us to her Son, the incarnate Word of God.

In a warm personal greeting read just before the Dismissal, the Archbishop of Canterbury recalled first meeting Roger in 1973 and working with him in different contexts since then. He praised Roger as representing ‘a particular style of Catholic Anglicanism that is deeply rooted in liturgy and personal prayer, critical and generous all at once’ and added ‘For what he is, and for what he has done unobtrusively for so long to enrich our ecumenical work, I am profoundly grateful.’ The importance of Roger’s ecumenical work was underlined in a message from the Abbot of Bec, and in a hand-written letter Bishop Geoffrey spoke of Roger as ‘a devoted priest and servant of the Church, a tireless worker for Christian unity, and an interpreter particularly of the Church of England to the Church of France and *vice versa*’.

Colin Podmore



Fr Roger and his father outside St Paul’s cathedral on the day of his ordination
29th September 1955

From a letter from Mary Holtby, widow of a former Dean of Chichester, who had a fall only a few days before the Jubilee at her home near York:

Broken-hipped and broken-hearted,
Hospital's unwilling lodger,
There by paramedics carted –
O how sad I am, dear Roger,
Not to join your celebration!

Fool, who through her kitchen darted
– unbecoming aged codger –
See me, all too artless dodger.
From those southern pleasures parted,
Junket, joy and jubilation.

Now the first reports have started,
Which renews my lamentation

If you wish to read more about Father Roger's Golden Jubilee you will find articles written in the following journals:

<i>The Church Times</i>	21st October 2005
<i>Oecumenisme-informations</i> (Paris)	November 2005
<i>Les Nouvelles Religieuses</i> of the Diocese of Nice	December 2005
<i>Olivo</i> Parish magazine of N D del l'Esperance	December 2005
<i>Unité des Chrétiens</i> No. 141	January 2006

There is not room to print here the following texts which can, however, be found on St Michael's website: www.stmichaelsbeaulieuurmer.org
Click on 'Newsletter'.

- The Cardinal's sermon
- The message of the Abbot of Bec

Photographs on front cover and pages 7, 8 and 9 by
Marie Hayward and Linda Johnson.
Published by Mellor and Barham

Roger Greenacre gives thanks for the places and institutions which have formed, sustained and developed his vocation, among them:

Aldenham School

Clare College in the University of Cambridge

The College of the Resurrection, Mirfield

The Catholic University of Louvain, Belgium

The Abbey of Notre Dame du Bec in France

(of which he is an oblate)

The Order of St Lazarus of Jerusalem

(of which he is a chaplain)

The Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham

(of which he is a Priest Associate)

- and for the places where it has been his privilege to exercise a priestly ministry:

All Saints', Hanworth, in the Diocese of London

Ely Theological College

Summer Fields School, Oxford

St Mark's, North Audley Street, and Liddon House at

the Grosvenor Chapel, London

St George's, Paris

Chichester Cathedral

St Michael's, Beaulieu-sur-Mer

On the 50th anniversary of
his Ordination to the Priesthood

ROGER TAGENT GREENACRE

gives thanks to Almighty God.

SOLI DEO GLORIA

St Paul's Cathedral, London: 29.ix.1955

Chichester Cathedral: 29.ix.2005

LE CHRIST EN MAJESTÉ

Ed. Abbaye d'En Calcat
F-81110 Dourgne (France)
Imprimé par la S.I.A. - 91500 Lévroux

N° 446

Pontifical à l'usage des Evêques de Chartres
Enluminure du XIII^e siècle - Orléans
Photo Artepnot