

Death of a Dover Frequent Visitor

Fr. Peter Sherred

In the middle of May Fred Palmer, who appeared in Dover Society newsletter in August 2007, died in the William Harvey Hospital in Ashford aged 89. His association with Dover stretched back over 70 years from his early involvement with summer staff at the western docks. Starting work with the railways in the mid 1930's he retired as senior stores inspector for British Railways, Southern Region, having been responsible for an area from Thanet to Weymouth embracing Dover.

Although born in Ashford and a resident of Kennington his frequent visits to Dover were occasioned by his employment and in his capacity as long time secretary of The St Michael the Archangel Chapter of the Guild of Servants of the Sanctuary. He held this post from 1948 and in 2008 he celebrated 60 years as secretary, a period of time unlikely to be overtaken. Fittingly his celebration took place at the church of St Peter and St Paul, Charlton in Dover. This was when Fred was presented with a special framed certificate and a gift for his services to the Guild by the former Lord Bishop of Durham, the Right Reverend Michael Turnbull, (now in retirement an assistant Bishop of Canterbury Diocese) and Fr Paul Christian, Parish Priest of Temple Ewell and Lydden and Chaplain to the local Guild Chapter.

Guild members from three East Kent Chapters were present to celebrate with Fred on that



occasion, especially gratifying because Fred was a Councillor for the Provincial Group. Later the same year he was honoured nationally by the members of the General Council of the Guild, who, unanimously agreed to make Fred Grand Councillor in recognition of the tremendous service he had contributed to the running and organisation of the Guild.

His funeral service was held in his parish church of St Mary in Ashford on Monday 1st June, his coffin having been received

into church the night before in the setting of a funeral mass. Both services were well attended by both clergy and laity.

He leaves a widow, Kathleen, to whom he was married for 50 years and two sons. May he rest in peace after his lifetime of devoted service and commitment to his beloved Guild.

