

Southampton Circle newsletter

CIRCLE NO. 12 IN PROVINCE 11

JANUARY 2026

Circle President: Daverio Matteucci



From Harare North with love....

A surprise letter from brothers in Zimbabwe landed in brother president Daverio Matteucci's inbox. Brothers from Harare informed him that their founding member Charles Crampin, who co-founded their Catenian circle in December 1980, would celebrate his 45-year membership of the association with us. And so we celebrated his jubilee at our 5 January circle meeting. Charles is the only surviving founding member of Harare North (Circle 289), which still exists. In those days European Catholics in Zimbabwe wanted to bond and, after the founding of a circle in Bulawayo, Charles and others took the initiative to start a Catenian circle in the capital. It was a beginning with lots of young members and their families with lots of social events.



A cry for help from the diocese of Guntur in India

One week before Christmas we received a cry for help from Fr Yaya Praveen Jenubari (formerly priest in Southampton and CathSoc) who is in charge of a few rural parishes in the Diocese of Guntur, Andhra Pradesh, India. Adverse weather had put many villagers at risk. Torrential rain and unseasonal cold weather had caused a precarious situation. There was an urgent need for blankets and food.

Catenian council members deliberated about possible assistance. Having collected ample funds for president's charities Poitiers Care and Jane Scarth House, Br President proposed to donate £850 from the circle's lottery fund to this cause. All circle council members agreed with this. The money was transferred immediately. In the week after Christmas we received a reply from Fr Jaya about the actions they had taken to alleviate the worst affected:

"I sincerely thank you for everything. People are very happy with the blankets you provided with your circle's contributions. Today, as we celebrated our semi-Christmas, we distributed around 150 blankets. We also sent about 80 blankets to other mission stations, and we currently have around 30 remaining with us. In addition, during our semi-Christmas celebration, we were able to distribute 200 gift hampers to small children.

I sincerely thank you and your entire team for your generosity and for sending these donations. Your support has truly made a meaningful difference.

Thank you, God bless you"

Circle welfare, those who are unwell and in need of our prayers

Maureen Bannon, John Berridge, Anne Brady, Leo Brennan, Martin and Elizabeth Counihan, Pat Crook, Simon and Christine Grummitt, Dawn Harrison, Mark Ingram, Clare Lund Yates, Douglas Manning, Jim Moriarty, Siobhan, Shine, Tony Wilson, George Wysocki, and Donald and Triesa Kumarajeewa in Sri Lanka. Also: brother Frank Hinds (Andover and Winchester member), Luke Andrews (Paul's nephw), Harry & Judith Harrison, Alison Wilson.

Birthdays in February

Paul Barber (19), Helen Eales (21), John Berridge (23), John Farran (28)

In memoriam

James Cosgrove, William O'Neill, Robert Tickle, Sonny Lewis, Gertie McDonald, Jackie Day. Recently died: Betty Norman (mother of Jackie Barber), Brad Bradley (former circle brother) and Ann Reynolds, wife of Mike Reynolds (Bournemouth Circle), Irene O'Connell (Paul Barber's mother in law, New Forest).

January circle meeting (1275th circle meeting)

Circle Strength 40 members

Present 18 brothers, no visitors

Lottery winners

December: First prize: Steven Hulbert 2nd prize Malcolm Forster

January: First prize: Meg Clapham 2nd prize: John Singleton

Happy new Year, our social calendar to start off 2026

Catenian Ladies Afternoon Tea

2.00 pm Friday 23 January at the White Horse Hotel in Romsey, SO51 8ZJ

Contact: Margaret Lillie

Snooker evening and dinner

7:00 pm Monday 26 January, The Academy, Basingstoke

Circle Council meeting

7.30 pm Tuesday 27 January at the Doubletree Hotel

Lunch Club

12 noon Friday 20 February at the Phoenix Inn, Twyford, SO21 1RF

Contact: Malcolm Forster

February Circle meeting and dinner

7:00 pm Monday 2 February Brothers only meeting at the Double Tree hotel
Southampton SO16 3RB *(book with Harry Harrison for dining, apologies to secretary)*

March Circle meeting and dinner

7:00 pm Monday 2 March Circle meeting and dinner. This is a ladies night with invited guests with a 40 year scroll award to Roger Lillie *(book with Harry Harrison for dining, apologies to secretary)*

Brother President's charities for 2025-26

Brother president Daverio Matteucci expressed his desire to promote these charities and to raise funds to support this local group during his presidential year:

- 1. Poitiers Care** A local foodbank to assist families in need, based in Ashurst
- 2. Jane Scarth House** A charity to assist cancer patients and their family members, based in Romsey
- 3. Diocese of Guntur, India**

If you donate individually to these charities, then please use Gift-Aid and let our circle treasurer know so that we have an idea of the extent of our support for this charity. Alternatively you can donate via our circle bank account. Please contact our treasurer for details.

Southampton Circle officers

President:	Daverio Matteucci	07518 223512	daveriomatteucci@googlemail.com
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Circle website: <https://southamptoncatenians.org/>

Have a merry merry Blue Christmas

Malcolm Forster suddenly saw a shiny blue angel appear on his kitchen worktop....

After he had lit a few tods (too many) of brandy on the Christmas pudding, the blue appearance must have seemed like magic.

Was this the early start of a dry January? Not really.

"**Blue Christmas**" is also a Christmas song written by Billy Hayes and Jay W. Johnson and most famously recorded by Elvis Presley, it was first recorded by Doye O'Dell in 1948. It is a tale of unrequited love during the holidays and is a longstanding staple of Christmas music.

*“And when those blue snowflakes start fallin’
That’s when those blue memories start callin’
You’ll be doin’ all right with your Christmas of white
But I’ll have a blue, blue, blue, blue Christmas*

