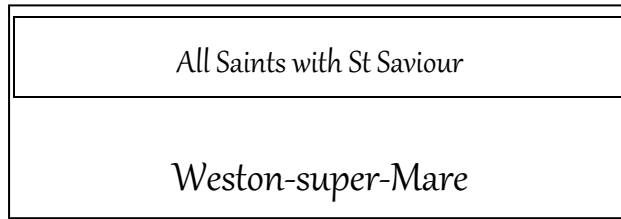




Arms of St Saviour



Arms of All Saints

21<sup>st</sup> July 2024

Dear friends,

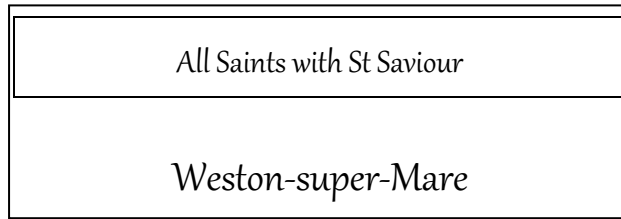
It is not easy to document the origins of the Confraternity of the Blessed Sacrament simply because it came into being during “dangerous times”. Thus, membership lists were secret (and destroyed) for fear they might fall into the wrong hands. As a result, little exists of how we came into being.

Various Anglican Catholic organisations emerged during the 19th century, of which the Society of the Holy Cross (Societas Sancte Crucis or SSC) for priests was the “elite”, so secretive that you could be nominated for membership without even your personal knowledge of it! Seven years later, in 1862, the Confraternity of the Blessed Sacrament was founded at All Saints Margaret Street, London by Canon TT Carter (right) for Anglican clergy and laity (the first Catholic society for both) partially out of SSC and in close association with the English Church Union. Its particular emphasis was for the careful preparation of those wishing to come to the Sacrament of Holy Communion, through fasting and confession. These two aspects have remained ever since in our Rules, though the conditions for both have relaxed considerably over the years.

Membership grew rapidly: by the 1870s there were some eight hundred priests-associate of CBS. With such firm beginnings CBS went from strength to strength and, whereas many other smaller devotional societies faded away or united with others, the Confraternity became a leading force.



Arms of St Saviour



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Today it is no longer confined to England alone but has spread to many places within the Anglican Communion of churches, especially in Great Britain, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Europe and parts of Africa. There is a separate, self-governing CBS in the USA.

Wherever possible members of CBS meet in local Wards for prayer, worship and mutual support under the guidance of a priest as Ward Superior. We honour Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament in other ways too: Mass said daily, Holy Hours are prayed, and Benediction is celebrated regularly in many of our churches.

As of 10 August (and then on every second Saturday of the month), we plan to resurrect the Ward of CBS at All Saints with Mass at 10am followed by a time of prayer before the Sacrament, and Benediction just before 11am.

If you are, or were a member, or if you are interested, please come along.

Fr Brendan