

# I V O

Celebrating  
the Millenary  
of the Discovery  
of the Relics  
of St Ivo

24 April 1001 – 24 April 2001

All Saints Parish Church  
Saint Ives

7.15pm  
24 April 2001

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# Welcome!

A very warm welcome to the Town Mayor and Council of St Ives, to the other visiting civic dignitaries, and to everyone this evening, as we come together to celebrate one thousand years of the history of St Ives.

On Thursday, 24 April 1001, 'a villager struggling to furrow the earth with a plough hit against a stone coffin. Astonished and excited by the hope of wealth, he called back the oxen, which were at a standstill, and put every effort into clearing the site. Realizing that it was a human burial, he called his fellow ploughmen to help him. When the cover was lifted they found religious tokens suggesting a priest.' So runs the account of the discovery of the body of St Ivo, as recorded by the monk Goscelin around the year 1100.

The discovery of the coffin was a turning point in the history of the little village of Slepe, which gradually became the town of St Ives.

The question of whose body was in the coffin can no longer be answered with any certainty. Following the discovery, Goscelin records, the monks of Ramsey Abbey took the remains and placed them in the village church (where the parish church stands to this day). It was then revealed in a dream to the village smith that this was the body of Bishop Ivo, and that his companions were buried near the same spot. When two more coffins were found in the same area, this was taken as proof that the body was indeed that of Ivo, and the bodies were translated to the abbey at Ramsey and enshrined there, where they became the scene of many reported miracles before the destruction of the cult.

Meanwhile, Ramsey Abbey, which owned the village of Slepe, developed it into an important source of income, with an annual fair, one of the biggest in England, and a stone bridge crossing the river. In time, the description of the fair – St Ivo's Fair – became also the name of the town, and the old name of Slepe was largely forgotten. A small priory was built at the site where the coffins had been found. The general site is recalled in the street name 'Priory Road', together with a few stones incorporated in local buildings, including the Norris Museum.

In 1981 a small excavation took place on part of this site, and discovered underneath the remains of a Roman villa. As the Romans are known to have buried their wealthy dead in stone coffins, this provides a possible explanation of the original discovery.

Nonetheless, the finding of Ivo marks the start of the development of St Ives from the small village of Slepe into the town we know today, and it is this that we celebrate tonight.

## The Entrance

Please stand as the Town Mayor of Saint Ives, together with the Town Council are greeted at the West Door of the Church and escorted to their places.

Stand for the Opening Hymn during which the Icon of Saint Ivo will be carried through the Church and placed at the Nave Altar.

Entrance Hymn

For all the saints, who from their labours rest,  
Who thee by faith before the world confessed  
Thy Name, O Jesu, be for ever blessed.  
Alleluia! Alleluia!

Thou wast their rock, their fortress, and their might;  
Thou, Lord, their Captain in the well-fought fight;  
Thou in the darkness drear their one true Light.  
Alleluia! Alleluia!

O may thy soldiers, faithful, true, and bold,  
Fight as the saints who nobly fought of old,  
And win, with them, the victor's crown of gold.  
Alleluia! Alleluia!

O blest communion! fellowship divine!  
We feebly struggle, they in glory shine;  
Yet all are one in thee, for all are thine.  
Alleluia! Alleluia!

And when the strife is fierce, the warfare long,  
Steals on the ear the distant triumph song,  
And hearts are brave again, and arms are strong.  
Alleluia! Alleluia!

The golden evening brightens in the west;  
Soon, soon to faithful warriors cometh rest:  
Sweet is the calm of paradise the blest.  
Alleluia! Alleluia!

But lo! there breaks a yet more glorious day;  
The Saints triumphant rise in bright array:  
The King of glory passes on his way.  
Alleluia! Alleluia!

From earth's wide bounds, from oceans farthest coast,  
Through gates of pearl streams in the countless host,  
Singing to Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.  
Alleluia! Alleluia!

*Bishop William Walsham How 1823–97*

The service is introduced by the Revd Ivan Weston

The Lord be with you  
All And also with you.

Lord our God,  
in whose sight a thousand years are but as yesterday  
which passes like a watch in the night:  
as we commemorate this day  
the finding of your servant Ivo  
in whose honour our town took its name,  
grant that we may continually glorify you,  
acting justly, loving mercy,  
and walking humbly with you;  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. Amen.

## The Reading

Sit. The Town Mayor of Saint Ives, Cllr John Davies, reads *Ezekiel 37:1-14*.

A reading from the book of the prophet Ezekiel.

The hand of the LORD came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the LORD and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. He said to me, 'Mortal, can these bones live?' I answered, 'O Lord GOD, you know.' Then he said to me, 'Prophesy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the LORD.'

So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them. Then he said to me, 'Prophesy to the breath, prophesy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord GOD: Come from the four winds, O breath,

and breathe upon these slain, that they may live.' I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

Then he said to me, 'Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, "Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely." Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord GOD: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. And you shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the LORD, have spoken and will act,' says the LORD.

Stand for the Hymn:

Breathe on me, Breath of God,  
Fill me with life anew,  
That I may love what thou dost love,  
And do what thou wouldst do.

Breathe on me, Breath of God,  
Until my heart is pure,  
Until with thee I will one will,  
To do and to endure.

Breathe on me, Breath of God,  
Till I am wholly thine,  
Until this earthly part of me  
Glows with the fire divine.

Breathe on me, Breath of God,  
So shall I never die;  
But live with thee the perfect life  
Of thine eternity.

Edwin Hatch 1835-89

### Address

Sit for the Address, by the Revd Dennis Clark, Mayor's Chaplain.

## Anthem

Remain seated for the Anthem: the *Benedictus* from the *Kleine Orgelmesse*, by Franz Joseph Haydn (1732–1809), sung by the St Ivo School Choir.

Benedictus qui venit in nomine Domini. Hosanna in excelsis.	Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.
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## The Acclamation

Representatives of the people of St Ives gather at the front of the nave and together proclaim their part in the continuing life of the town of St Ives.

1. Representatives of the churches:  
Together we are the Churches Together in St Ives.
  2. Representatives of the voluntary organizations:  
Together we are the voluntary organizations of St Ives.
  3. Representatives of the community:  
Together we are the community of St Ives.
  4. Representatives of the youth organizations and schools:  
Together we are the youth of St Ives.
- All the representatives together:  
We are the people of St Ives.
- All the people respond together:  
We are the people of St Ives.

## Prayers

Kneel or sit for the prayers, which are led by the clergy of St Ives: the Revds Raymond Kerby, Eileen Springbett, Pearl Luxon, Vic Hudson.

Stand for the final Hymn:

I sing a song of the saints of God,  
Patient and brave and true,  
Who toiled and fought and lived and died  
For the Lord they loved and knew.  
And one was a doctor,  
And one was a queen,  
And one was a shepherdess on the green:  
They were all of them saints of God – and I mean,  
God helping, to be one too.

They loved their Lord so dear, so dear,  
And his love made them strong;  
And they followed the right, for Jesus' sake,  
The whole of their good lives long.  
And one was a soldier,  
And one was a priest,  
And one was slain by a fierce wild beast:  
And there's not any reason – no, not the least,  
Why I shouldn't be one too.

They lived not only in ages past,  
There are hundreds of thousands still,  
The world is bright with the joyous saints  
Who love to do Jesus' will.  
You can meet them in school, or  
In lanes, or at sea,  
In church, or in trains, or in shops, or at tea,  
For the saints of God are just folk like me,  
And I mean to be one too.

Lesbia Scott (1898–1986)

## The Conclusion

Remain standing for the Lord's Prayer:

All Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name;  
thy kingdom come;  
thy will be done;  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation;  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
the power and the glory,  
for ever and ever. Amen.

The Dismissal

The Revd Dennis Clark, Mayor's Chaplain.

Please stand as the icon of St Ivo is carried out and the clergy leave. The congregation are asked to remain in their places until the Town Mayor, Town Council and other civic dignitaries have left.

Refreshments will be served in the Church Hall after the Service.

Acknowledgements

Our thanks to the members of the Choir of the St Ivo School, directed by Aryan Arji, for leading the singing tonight. The Choir will be singing more of Haydn's *Kleine Orgelmesse* at 6.30pm on Sunday, 29 April. Our thanks also to the organist, David Yeandle.

The text of the Bible Reading is from the New Revised Standard Version of the Bible © 1989, 1995, the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA, used by permission. All rights reserved.

Ramsey Rural Museum is organizing two day seminars looking at the achievements of Ramsey Abbey, where St Ivo was buried: *The Written Record* on Saturday 23 June in Cambridge; and *The Archaeological Record* on Saturday 7 July in Ramsey. There is also an exhibition *Ramsey the Golden* at Ramsey Rural Museum between 22 July and 16 September. More information from Mrs J M Yardley, 01487 814304.

The Civic Society of St Ives is organizing a day seminar on Saturday 13 October in the Free Church, St Ives. This will focus on the history and legend of St Ivo, and the development of the town, and its fair.