

## Did You Know? An Anglican Glossary

### The Tenebrae Herse/Hearse



Anglican churches that wish to use the herse for Tenebrae, must have the approval of the bishop

The Tenebrae herse/hearse (F. Hersia: a barrow) is a triangular stand for the fifteen candles used during the service of Tenebrae.

In England the herse was “a necessary ornament to be provided by the parishioners of both Canterbury and York.” (Act 25, Henry VIII)

During the services fourteen candles were extinguished at appointed parts, but one candle was removed to a “concealed place.” At the end of the service all lights were extinguished during the Benedictus, and after the Miserere a senior monk would strike his book three times (all others followed). This was the Streptitus (L: loud noise), reminding us of the darkness following the crucifixion. Then the concealed candle was returned to the sanctuary in anticipation of the kindling of the new fire on Holy Saturday night.