

Did You Know? An Anglican Glossary



*Left: A verger in Eucharistic procession. (From Dearmer's *The Parson's Handbook*.)*
Right: A verge.



The Verger and his Verge

The traditional task of the Verger is to walk ahead of processions. He is not a part of the procession; he merely walks ahead to clear the way. He also “leads” the preacher to the pulpit.

His duties may overlap or include those of the sacristan, acolyte and even the chalice bearer. He may also be the parish clerk. The verger may be a holdover from the *Ostiarium*, or lowest of the church orders.

In ancient times the vergers of Ely Cathedral wore a surplice. These were discarded for a distinctive robe. A verger may not wear a surplice.

His Verge (twig) is his distinctive badge made of wood with an ornamental metal cap, or of all metal.

Two wardens have taken the place of Verger and Sexton. Wands are distinctive badge of wardens. They are made of wood with plain metal heads or painted white with blue and gilt trim.