

the magazine for the College of St George  
**Companion**



Celebrating the Coronation  
of Her Majesty The Queen

# DIARY OF EVENTS

## JUNE & JULY

Exhibition in the Dean's Cloister to mark the Coronation anniversary

## JUNE

- 4 Lunchtime Organ Recital
- 4 Quarterly Obit at Evensong
- 5 Evening Organ Recital
- 11 Lunchtime Organ Recital
- 16, 17 & 18 Solemnity of St George
- 18 Lunchtime Organ Recital
- 25 Lunchtime Organ Recital
- 27 Adopt a Boss Event for adopters
- 28 St George's School Sports Day
- 30 St George's School Speech Day

## JULY

- 2 Feast of Title - The Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary
- 3 Evening Organ Recital
- 6 Guild of Stewards 40th anniversary

## AUGUST

## SEPTEMBER

- 22 September Obit at 10.45 am  
Windsor Festival Book Talk in the Nave
- 25 Windsor Festival Concert in the Nave

## OCTOBER

- 13 Feast of Title – Edward the Confessor
- 23 Bond Memorial Lecture by Dr Richard Barber:  
'The Company of the Garter: a religious confraternity'

## NOVEMBER

- 1 All Saints
- 2 All Souls
- 10 Remembrance Sunday

## DECEMBER

- 1 Advent Sunday
- 3 Quarterly Obit at Evensong
- 9 & 18 December Concerts
- 12 St George's School Carol Service
- 21 Lunchtime Organ Recital
- 22 Choristers Carol Service
- 23 Carol Service at 5.15 pm
- 24 Carol Service at 5.15 pm and Midnight Mass at 11.15 pm
- 25 Christmas Day– services include Sung Mattins at 10.45 am and Evensong at 3.30 pm

**REGULAR SERVICES AT ST GEORGE'S CHAPEL, TO WHICH ALL ARE WELCOME, ARE AS FOLLOWS:**

### SUNDAY

- 8.30 am Holy Communion
- 10.45 am \*Mattins with sermon
- 11.45 am \*Sung Eucharist
- 5.15 pm \*Evensong

### MONDAY TO SATURDAY

- 7.30 am Mattins
- 8.00 am Holy Communion
- 5.15 pm \*Evensong (except Wednesdays when the service is said)

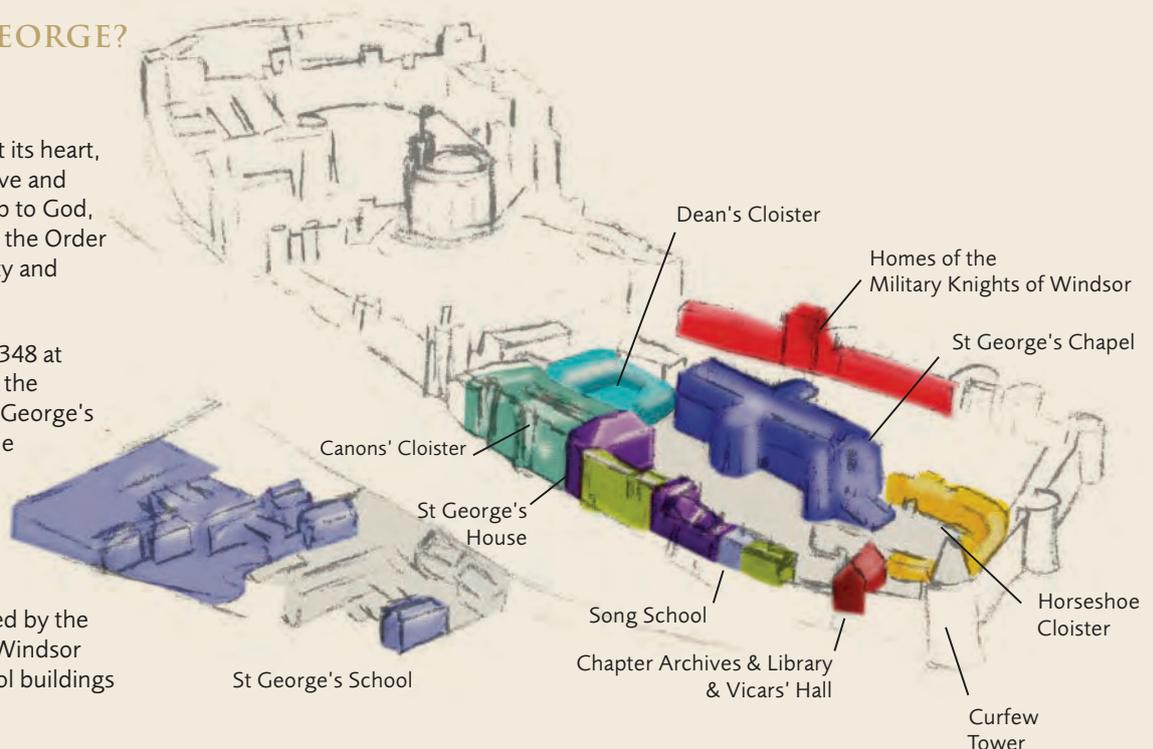
**FRIDAY** Additional 12 noon Holy Communion Service

*\*sung by the choir of St George's Chapel during term time*

## WHAT IS THE COLLEGE OF ST GEORGE?

The College of St George is, at its heart, a community of people who live and work together to offer worship to God, prayers for the Sovereign and the Order of the Garter, service to society and hospitality to visitors.

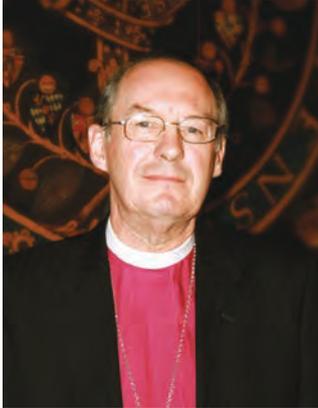
The College was founded in 1348 at the same time as the Order of the Garter and now consists of St George's School, St George's House, the Military Knights of Windsor, the Chapter Library & Archives and the Choir as well as, at the centre, St George's Chapel itself. The buildings, owned and occupied by the College, take up a quarter of Windsor Castle together with the school buildings outside the north wall.





# the Companion

Photograph: David Clare



This edition of The Companion has a distinctly Coronation flavour. I hope you will therefore agree that it is appropriate for me, on behalf of all our readers, to record our congratulations to Her Majesty on this year's anniversary, and to express our thanks for all that The Queen has given us over the years, and of course for all that she continues to give us.

The pages of this issue will illustrate very clearly that the community of St George's is richly blessed. As

articles about the Coronation will remind us, some wonderful memories form part of our common consciousness. Other items will reveal how fortunate we are in being served and supported by some faithful staff and volunteers. Elsewhere, we shall find evidence of the generosity of our benefactors. And, amongst other things, we shall note again the gift of music that is so easily available to us.

Of course, it is easy for us to forget how fortunate we are. We can become bogged down in our own particular responsibilities, and take things far too much for granted. This is one of the reasons for the importance of this publication from time to time. The Companion draws attention to the

variety and vitality of this place. Every time it arrives on my desk, I am reminded of the privilege of working here; of the loveliness of the surrounding sights and sounds, and of the goodness of so many people.

So allow me to say a word of thanks to Canon James Woodward and his team for producing a periodical that encourages us to celebrate our life, and to share that life with our readers, our friends both near and far, who in so many different ways deserve our gratitude.

*The Right Reverend David Conner, KCVO  
Dean of Windsor*



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Front cover shows a detail from a Coronation Jubilee Cope. Photograph: David Clare

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Designed by Exposed Design Consultants



Photograph: Charlotte Manley

## ST GEORGE'S CHAPEL WINDSOR CORONATION JUBILEE COPES

Easter Day saw a new set of cloth of gold copes being used liturgically for the first time.

The copes were commissioned, by Fred and Jean Sharf, American friends, to celebrate the Diamond Jubilee of the Coronation of Her Majesty The Queen. The Sharfs have been keen to support the College in its work as a Patron of the Arts.

1935. The design emerged out of many conversations about how best to provide distinctiveness and quality.

The first challenge was the question of the fabric. It was felt that it was not possible to source fabric of this quality commercially. So it would mean weaving a fabric specially. But what sort of design should it have? We ruled out a plain weave as impractical and David Gazeley set about to design an original pattern.

We worked with David Gazeley of Watts. This renowned ecclesiastical design company have a long history of producing many vestments worn at royal occasions. They provided copes for Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee 1897 and King George V's Silver Jubilee in

The Star of the Order of the Garter immediately identified itself as an obvious design motif. The rays of the star translating into gold weave splendidly. Using a traditional abstract arrangement left a subsidiary shape, onto which was drawn the Royal Cypher surrounded





by the Garter and surmounted by the Royal Crown, on each side of which the Roman numerals MM...XIII for the year specifically identify the fabric as unique for this occasion.

The design drawings for the fabric were then passed to a weaving company, who undertook the time consuming task of painstakingly 'designing' the cloth so that all the individual weaving stitches, which would finally produce the finished cloth, were in place. This unique fabric, woven in specially dyed gold silk and metallic gold thread, is what has been used as the body fabric for the copes.

We then looked at the design layout and felt that it needed to be in sympathy to the architecture of St George's Chapel. The Chapel is so rich in individual motifs that it became a process of selection from a vast amount of potential material. It was while looking at the wonderful bosses of the ceiling that gradually ideas began to form. Initially my thoughts were

to use the wonderful range of medieval designs from the bosses, but it was clear that this did not really work in the context of vestments. Indeed what was needed was a stronger, more architectural shape. Of course the obvious answer was to look at the intricate rib vaulting of the Quire roof. This inspiration has worked well for the panels on the copes. We then decided to incorporate the St George's Cross, Shield and Garter, as used by the College of St George, into the design.

After the final approval was given for the design the next stage was to give the go ahead to weave the cloth of gold and to draw up the embroidery at full size. This includes the shading of the architectural elements to give the effect of light and shadow. On a project of this size it is necessary to employ several different embroiderers at once. This means that a very careful control needs to be in place to ensure that all the work is exactly the same. The embroidery has been executed on a ground of plain



cloth of gold in gold bullion work and laid Japanese gold thread couched down in red. The College of St George emblem has used cloth of silver and red silk work in Garter blue silk and bullion gold.

The results are breath-taking and our thanks go to David Gazeley and to Fred and Jean Sharf.

*The Reverend Canon Dr James Woodward  
Canon Steward*



Major and Mrs Alan Denman on Garter Day 2010

## MEMORIES OF THE MIDDLE WARD

In July Major Alan Denman leaves his post of Castle Superintendent after almost ten years in Windsor.

During that time he has been involved in all manner of major occasions as well as the daily round of work. When asked to highlight just a few particularly memorable events the first one that came to Alan's mind was the November 2004 celebration of the centenary

of the Entente Cordiale. The visit to Windsor Castle by President Chirac of France included a performance of *Les Misérables* in the Waterloo Chamber. The preparation for the show was particularly complicated in terms of building the staging and erecting the lighting but all went well for the performance itself which involved a cast of 60 together with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra.

News of the forthcoming marriage of The Prince of Wales to Mrs Parker-Bowles was announced when Alan Denman was in the State Apartments not far from a bevy of journalists. He remembers well the speed at which the press moved on that occasion. In 2005 came the day of the marriage itself; it was moved from a Friday to the following day due to the funeral of Pope John Paul II. For Alan

the run up to the day and the day itself highlighted the important and happy collaboration between all parts of the Household together with the Police and the College of St George. Amongst the possessions Alan and his wife Jane will take to Wales are commemorative Prince of Wales and Duchess of Cornwall wedding mugs with both the correct and incorrect dates on them. Alan summed up the day itself in one word 'fantastic'.

Other particular memories over the years include the visit of President Bush, preparations for Baptisms in the Private Chapel and functions for organisations such as the Child Bereavement Charity.

Every year on Garter Day the Castle Superintendent marches from the Quadrangle to the Horseshoe Cloister. He marches as he lives, that is to say near the Military Knights of Windsor. In the Lower Ward of the Castle the procession passes his home at Garter House together with the homes of all the Military Knights. Alan describes the procession as both enjoyable and emotional; he recounts having a 'great laugh' with Military Knights in the State Entrance whilst waiting for the procession to form up and also realising that still being able to wear the uniform of the Welsh Guards at this time in his career is a particular privilege.

Alan is not retiring but moving from Windsor to new challenges in Wales. Whatever his new work turns out to be he has one particular date in his diary, 30 August, when he will join others walking 18 miles from Flint to Prestatyn as part of the Welsh Guards 'Walk on Wales' ([www.walkonwales.org](http://www.walkonwales.org)) around the full Welsh Coastline. The walk is to raise money for Combat Stress and the Welsh Guards Afghanistan Appeal.

We wish Alan and Jane every happiness in their future home in Wales.

*Charlotte Manley, LVO, OBE  
Chapter Clerk*





## Memories of Coronation Day by two Military Knights of Windsor

Richard Moore carried the Regimental Colours of the Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers and Ray Giles was a NCO in the Royal Horse Guards (The Blues) riding in the Sovereign's Escort.

**Richard Moore:** Our first task was to get into training for the 17 mile march through London for the Coronation. We trained by a series of 20 mile route marches along the byways of Kent. It was a huge parade with the Commonwealth Contingents, Navy, RAF, everything. In front of the Line Infantry were the massed Pipes and Drums of the Scottish and Irish Regiments. It was good to see our own pipers stand out distinctly among them.

From Olympia we marched through Kensington and on into Hyde Park, At Hyde Park Corner we crossed into Constitution Hill, went across the front of Buckingham Palace and into Birdcage Walk. Here we halted. There were tents with places to sit. "Haversack Rations" (lunch pack) were issued and we all relaxed. The Coronation Service was broadcast over loud speakers. We were ordered to "Fall In" and the procession formed up again.

As we turned into Trafalgar Square I heard my name called and a loud Aussie "COOEEEE". It was my mother! She, and my father, had obtained seats on the first floor on the corner of Trafalgar Square. We swung into Pall Mall, through Hyde Park to Marble Arch and into Oxford Street. It was here that I had a slight crisis. When marching at the slope the Colour was on my right shoulder and the escorts rifles on their left. When the bands changed the rifles went from left to right and the colours from right to left. The colours had long gold cords ending in gold tassels. The bands changed and in a smart drill movement, as the left foot hit the ground, I moved the colour from left to right. The escort to my right moved his rifle from right to left. The gold cords snaked out and wrapped themselves round his rifle. What to do? Nothing much. I shouted to the detachment commander who attracted the attention of one of the Guards Marshals who came and unwrapped them.

Past Buckingham Palace we were at the carry again. So back to Olympia. Very tired! The rain had caused the white to run off the colour belt and ruined my No 1 Dress. My legs were red raw where the tops of the Wellington Boots had rubbed. The crowds and everything was very exciting.

**Ray Giles:** Leading up to the Coronation we were up most nights walking the routes with our horses constantly being told by officials with stopwatches "No, too slow go back and do it again". The buildup was exhausting; there were some nights when we were up all night rehearsing and straight on to the following days duties.

We provided horses for foreign detachments and their dignitaries, the Canadian Mounted Police were in a tented city opposite our barracks in Hyde Park and they were very excited were up half the night singing Alouette!

Reveille was at 2am; morning stables, watering and feeding the horses followed by our breakfast, stables again, grooming and kit cleaning. The trumpeter sounded Boots and Saddles and on parade for Inspection.

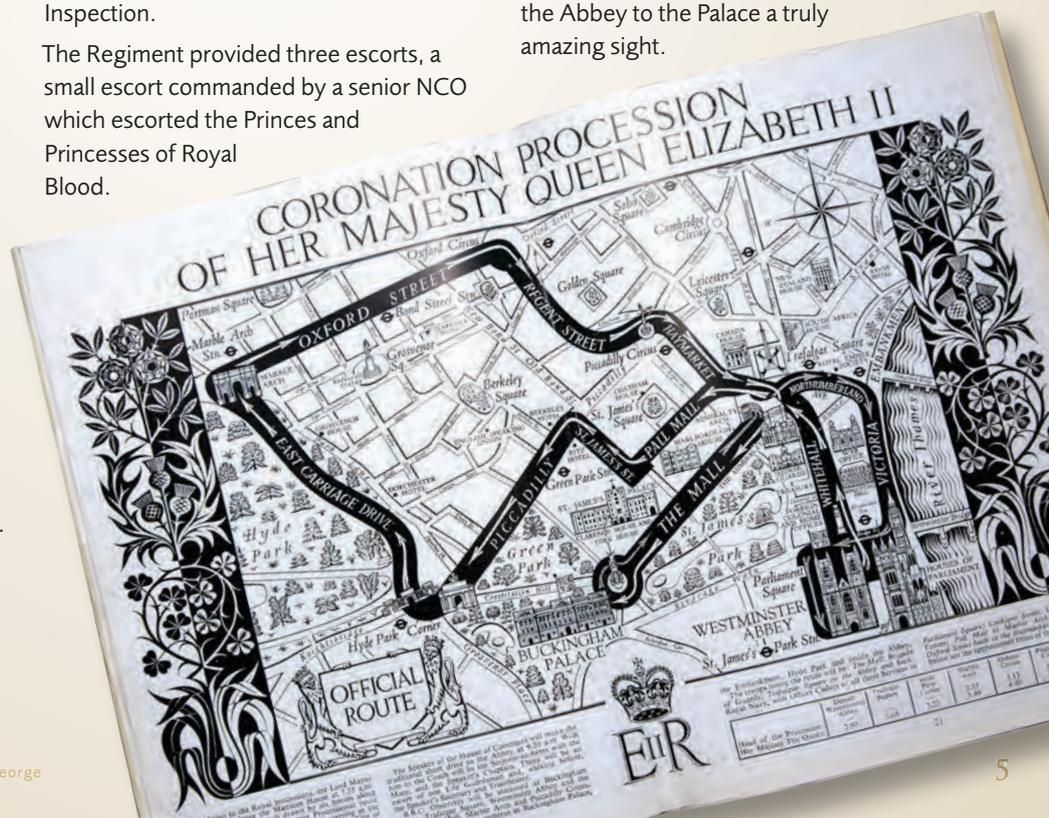
The Regiment provided three escorts, a small escort commanded by a senior NCO which escorted the Princes and Princesses of Royal Blood.

The second was a Captain's Escort for Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother, the third and largest the Sovereign's Escort with Standard, escorted Her Majesty and HRH Prince Phillip from the Palace to the Abbey. We were mounted on Parade in the pouring rain, somewhere around 8am,

I was in the Sovereign's Escort in the third of four divisions 25 yards behind the Gold State Coach. We waited in the forecourt of Buckingham Palace and we took up our positions and escorted The Queen to the Abbey.

While The Queen was being crowned we moved to Wellington Barracks where we stood on the square in the pouring rain, one man to four horses, while the rest went to try to scrounge a cup of tea. We only had about half an hour before we had to be back in our positions; we then escorted The Queen back to Buckingham Palace.

It took about two and a half hours, all at the walk, at which point we were all soaked to the bone and the wet was getting the horses down. There were literally thousands of people all soaking wet waving their flags along the route from the Abbey to the Palace a truly amazing sight.





The Choir of St George's Chapel that took part in the Coronation service

## THE CORONATION & ST GEORGE'S

The Coronation of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II in June 1953 involved a lot of preparation for St George's Chapel, despite the fact that it would take place in Westminster Abbey.

The lay clerks and choristers were to form part of a nearly 400-strong choir, made up of members of the choirs of Westminster Abbey; the Chapels Royal of St James' Palace, Hampton Court and the Tower of London; St George's Chapel; St Paul's Cathedral; the Queen's Chapel of the Savoy; and members of 15 other cathedral and church choirs including those from St Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin, and St Mary's Cathedral, Edinburgh. Still more came from the dominions.

Individual rehearsals began in earnest, and were so frequent that in a Chapter meeting held in March "It was agreed that the Precentor should arrange with Dr Harris for choristers to be excused if necessary on certain Wednesdays when Evensong is sung in order that they may take part in school cricket matches in view

of the extra rehearsals required for the Coronation service."

By May, it was time for every choir to practice together. A full choir rehearsal was to take place on the 26th May, with the Earl Marshal's rehearsals on the 27th and 29th May. Full instructions were issued to the members of the choir, regarding timings, places in the Abbey, and more practically the careful naming of robes to ensure there'd be no mix-up on the day. For the day itself, the choir were advised that if they were to take refreshments with them, they should consist of no more than can be carried in the cassock pocket, with the specific notes suggesting "Sandwiches made with fresh vegetables as well as meat or eggs are recommended, also stoned raisins and perhaps a small bottle of milk. It is advised





The Keeper of the Priuy Purse presents  
 his compliments and begs to forward Coronation  
 Medals for distribution after Her Majesty's  
 Coronation to the Chapter and Choir etc., of  
 St. George's, Windsor.

If for any reason a person is no longer  
 eligible to receive the Medal, it should  
 be held and returned to



that no tea or coffee be taken on the morning of the Coronation."

22 choristers and 10 lay clerks from St George's Chapel, together with the organists William Henry Harris and Lionel Dakers, and the Minor Canons Christopher Hare and W.A. Pike, performed at what would surely be one of the greatest occasions of their careers. Each would receive a Coronation medal, along with other members of the College, as a memento of the event, and as a further commemoration, the choristers chose to put their expenses towards a new garden-seat for the playing fields.

A further part was played by the Dean, Bishop Eric Hamilton, who walked in the procession in his office as Register of the Order of the Garter, wearing his officer's robes and carrying the Register before him.

The event was celebrated at Windsor with a broadcast service of Mattins and Eucharist. The Dean chose as the Prayer:

"We are also come together to pray for our Queen, that both now, at her anointing and Coronation, and always, in her ministry among us, God may endue her richly with all wisdom and grace; and for ourselves and all her peoples, that we may be enabled to do all that our true service to God and to our Sovereign doth require."



Eleanor Cracknell  
 Assistant Archivist

## Coronation tract

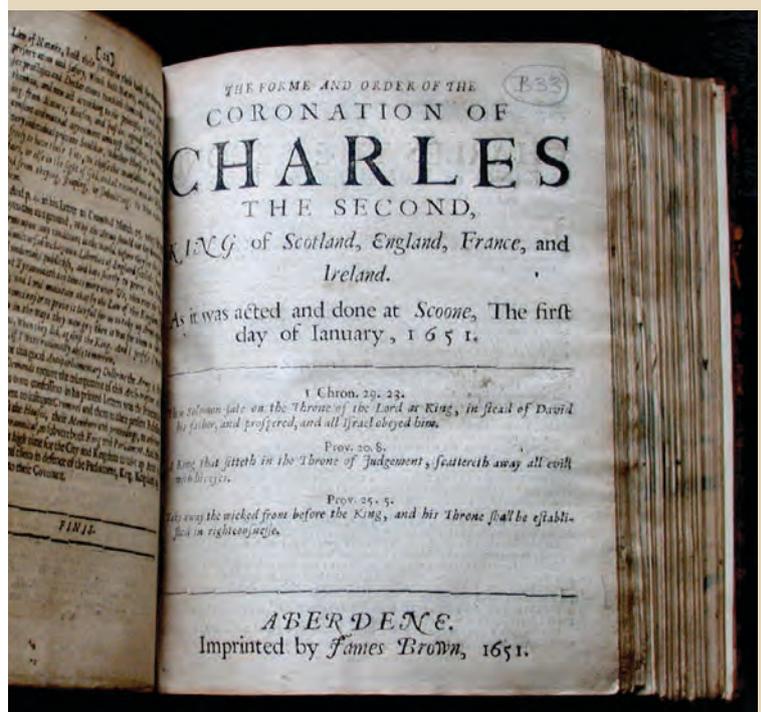
Held in the Chapter Library in a volume of religious tracts is one entitled *The forme and order of the Coronation of Charles the Second...* by Sir James Balfour [SGC RBK B.33].

It was published in 1651, and records the Coronation of Charles by the Scots at the Palace of Scone, the traditional crowning place of the Kings of Scotland, on 1st January 1651.

Scone had been the resting place of the Stone of Destiny, which legend said was the stone used at the crowning of Fergus Mór, the founder of Scotland. It was used for centuries in the Coronation ceremony, until 1296, when Edward I took the Stone from the Palace as spoils of war. It was taken to Westminster Abbey where it was set into a wooden chair on which future Kings of England would be crowned. Although crowned King of Scotland in 1651, it was not until 1660 that Charles II would sit on the Stone of Destiny, but this time he would be crowned King of England.

It is interesting to read in the tract that Charles swore his oath with the words "I Charles, King of Great Britain, France and Ireland...", creating a union between Scotland and England decades before the formal union under Anne in 1707.

Eleanor Cracknell  
 Assistant Archivist



# MUSIC AT THE CORONATION

The music heard at the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II draws together the work of some 24 different composers, many of them alive at the time of the occasion.

In fact, at least nine of the pieces heard were commissioned especially for the Coronation. This seems to contradict Archbishop Geoffrey Fisher's assertion that the service would be an 'empty show' without the spiritual and nationally significant elements of the service. I would argue that we would be left with a fine showcase of British music!

That aside, there are some very interesting points to note regarding the musical selection.

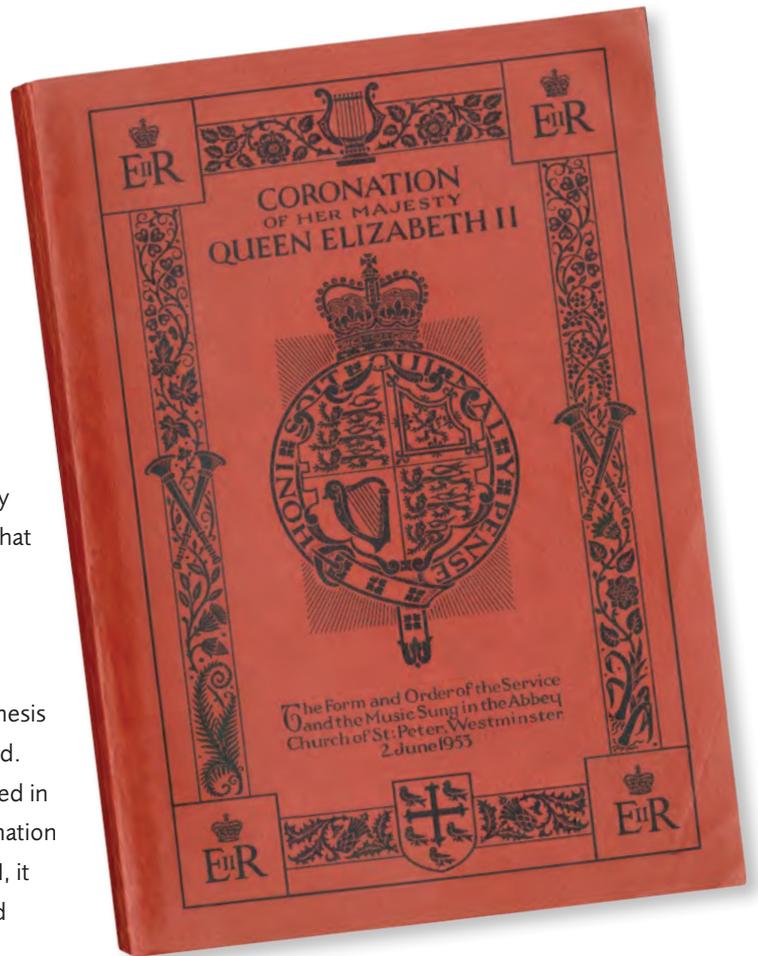
The most popular Coronation anthem is George Frideric Handel's *Zadok the Priest*. Two of King George I's last acts before his death were to sign an 'Act of naturalisation of George Frideric Handel and others' and to then commission this newly English man to write four Coronation anthems for the Coronation of King George II and Queen Caroline. These works remain a firm favourite of choirs and audiences alike, and Handel has come to be regarded as one of Britain's greatest composers. Handel selected the texts himself, and *Zadok* tells of the anointing of King Solomon – much

in the manner that our Queen was, herself, anointed. These words have been used at every Coronation since King Edgar in 973 and Handel's setting has been performed at every Coronation since that of King George II in 1727.

More interesting, perhaps, is the genesis of Parry's I was glad. Originally composed in 1902 for the Coronation of King Edward VII, it has also been used at each successive Coronation service. The anthem hails the new monarch's arrival into Westminster Abbey, and famously includes a series of "Vivats" which represent the Queen's (or King's) scholars of Westminster School exercising their right to be the first commoners to hail their new sovereign. In his 2002 edition of the piece, Professor Jeremy Dibble tells us that in the first performance the ceremonial choreography did not quite work out as planned. Played at the beginning of the service proper, to herald the entrance of the monarch, the signal failed to reach the new King so he was not even in the building when the King's Scholars began their Vivats, in fact they had finished the entire piece before he set foot through the great west doors. After some clever improvisation from Walter Alcock, the organist, the scholars' acclamations were repeated to the now-present King and the final sections of the

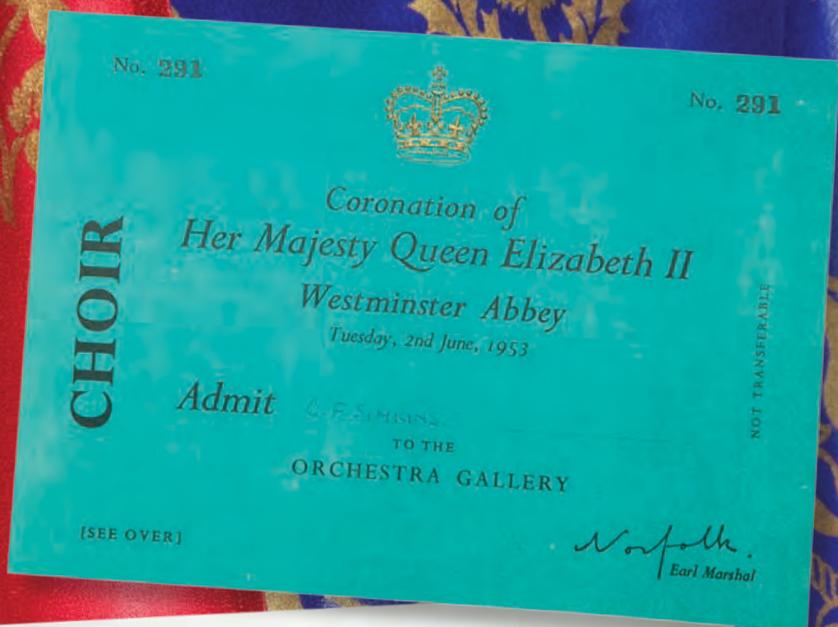
anthem were heard again. Perhaps to guard against this occurring again in 1911, for King George V, Parry provided a new introduction (the one that is familiar to us today) which opens with a fanfare rather than the original gentle build-up.

Mention must be made of Benjamin Britten, who is conspicuous by his absence from the music list. A look at the wider musical life of the country in that time might explain why. Having spent some of World War II in America and the subsequently registering as a conscientious objector, Britten was considered by some to be a controversial figure. A look at the Coronation Honours list of 1953, however, shows that he was not 'out of favour' as he was made a Companion of Honour (and later, in 1976, became the first composer to be granted a life peerage). It is also notable



Photographs: David Clare





# The Windsor Festival at St George's

Sunday 22 September

Talk by Dr David Starkey on 'Music & Monarchy'.

Wednesday 25 September

Coronation anniversary concert by the joint choirs of St George's Chapel, St James's Palace, Hampton Court Palace and The Savoy.

Further information will be available from [www.windsorfestival.com](http://www.windsorfestival.com)

The Song School,  
The Cloisters,  
Westminster Abbey, S.W.1.  
July 1, 1953.

Dear Mr. Simkins

I should like to take this opportunity of thanking you for your contribution to the success of the music of the Coronation Service. There was a wonderful spirit of co-operation among all those taking part, both performers and officials: and I am specially grateful to the performers for their patience in accepting the difficulties in which we had to work, and for overcoming these difficulties so brilliantly. The performances were wholly worthy of the greatness of the occasion.

Yours sincerely  
*William McKie*

CORONATION SERVICE of H.M. QUEEN ELIZABETH II Tuesday, June 2nd, 1953		
ORCHESTRAL MUSIC BEFORE THE SERVICE		
(N.B. - The Order may be varied. Please watch the signal cards)		
A	Trumpet Tune	Purcell
B	March, 'Crown Imperial'	Walton
C	Fantasia on the Alleluia Hymn	Gordon Jacob
D	'Jupiter'	Gustav Holst
E	Chaconne, from 'King Arthur'	Purcell (arr. Herbage)
F	Epic March	John Ireland
9.45 a.m. Regalia Procession (no Orchestral Music)		
G	March, 'Pomp and Circumstance', No.2	Elgar
H	Idyll, 'Banks of Green Willow'	Butterworth
J	Processional	Arthur Bliss
K	'Greenleaves'	Vaughan Williams
L	'Nimrod'	Elgar
M	Minuet from 'Saul'	Handel
N	Minuet from 'Arminius'	Handel
O	March, 'Orb and Sceptre'	Walton
P	Air, from the 'Water Music' (At the Grand Entry)	Handel
Q	Fireworks Music: Overture and Minuet	Handel
AFTER THE SERVICE		
X	Coronation March	Bax
Y	Pomp and Circumstance No.4	Elgar
Z	Pomp and Circumstance No.1	Elgar

that he was commissioned to write his Gloriana by the Royal Opera House to commemorate the Coronation.

The last piece that I shall briefly focus on is Ralph Vaughan William's famous Old Hundredth hymn – All People that on Earth Do Dwell. This most 'English' of composers was passionate about using singing to bring people of any (or no) musical ability together through music. To this end he convinced the Archbishop of Canterbury to approve the use of a congregational hymn in the Coronation service. Having received this necessary permission, he rearranged his 1928 setting of the Old Hundredth for this use with an opening fanfare and gloriously uplifting final verse accompaniment.

These pieces, and the many more written and performed for Her Majesty's Coronation, demonstrate British music at its best. Whilst the service could never have been an 'empty show' (to borrow Archbishop Fisher's term) without the music, we can be in no doubt that it was enhanced and enriched by it.

Richard Pinel  
Acting Director of Music





Photograph: Charlotte Manley

## Sir, when do we get to sing?

This was a question asked by a Year 3 boy during an Evensong he attended with me, which was sung by the Chapel Choir.

The next day my lesson plan was hurriedly adjusted in order that the question of 'what is Evensong' could be addressed. It is my hope that they learnt the value of being part of this act of worship even though they would not be playing an 'active' part.

Every day at St George's School starts with singing and it is correctly a central part of what we do. The choristers have the regular round of services to prepare, the three training choirs and the Supers' Choir rehearse on their appointed days and there is robust hymn singing in assemblies. When asked what their favourite hymns are, the answers can be a little surprising: Let all mortal flesh keep silence and I heard the voice of Jesus say are two that always seem to come out on top. So my young charge attending Evensong can be entirely forgiven for enquiring when it might be his turn to sing - singing is very much part of the culture.

As we celebrate the 60th anniversary of

Her Majesty The Queen's Coronation this year, so the importance and desirability of continuity comes into sharp focus. Choral worship has been offered in St George's Chapel for over 650 years and at various points in this history the choir have been involved in ceremonies of national importance. The daily rigour of preparing service music to the highest standard is something which has continued through the generations and the current group of choristers are a significant part of the history of our choral foundation. The sense of history is palpable and we, as the current custodians of this precious tradition must ensure its continued excellence.

The school has of course changed enormously since its foundation in 1352 - there were six choristers at the time who were taught in a single room in the castle. It remained exclusively for choristers until 1893 when a number of day boys were enrolled. More recently, the school became coeducational and pupil numbers have increased to their current high level. However, the life of the choristers within this changing environment has remained almost unchanged.

There are few (if any) activities undertaken by children aged 7 to 13 which require them to work daily to professional standards. How many other children will have broadcasted on national radio, sung at occasions of national importance, performed major choral repertoire in front of large audiences and congregations or experienced the recording industry at first hand before they leave prep school? The impact of this work on their life is obvious from a musical and personal point of view.

But what is the impact of having this specialised experience within a school community?

It is in no sense the case that St George's is a school for choristers and some other children who follow along quietly in their shadow. The breadth of talent is extraordinary, with music scholars, national swimming champions and much more coming from 'supernumeraries' over the years. It is obvious to say that during a maths or science lesson a chorister is just part of the group - they need to work as hard as their classmates to achieve success. However, it is the continuous presence of the choral tradition and all it embodies which has its quiet yet fundamental effect on all that we do. Children naturally aspire to do their best to ensure that they achieve equal standing amongst their peers. The fact that we have a group of choristers who have a particular experience in their school lives can only have a positive impact on those around them. It touches every child in the school, even if they don't necessarily realise at the time.

The answer to the question 'Sir, when do we get to sing?' is therefore, as often as possible and to the best of our ability. Be it as one of the six founding choristers, one of the number who sang at the Queen's Coronation or one of the 'supernumerary' pupils. Each contribution is important and vital to the continuation of the life and soul of a choir school.



Stephen Burrows  
Director of Music,  
St George's School





Silk paintings by Andrea aged 9, Layla aged 9, Lulu aged 9



# The Future of Water

## Snapshot of a St George's House Consultation

Earlier this year, some forty key people from a range of organisations involved with water gathered at St George's House to discuss and debate the challenges facing the UK in terms of water supply, security and usage.

In recent times, the water challenge has become an increasingly dominant feature of public discourse. It has moved from being a peripheral concern for a few countries and companies to one that can now be found on the agenda of organisations and governments across the world. As a government White Paper stated in 2011, "We cannot do without water. Clean thriving water bodies are an integral part of the natural environment, giving life to plants, animals, and people alike. Water is also integral to the economy. We need it to grow food, for industrial processes and for energy production."

The Consultation took as its starting point a number of key questions: What are the main pressure points? How can we reconcile sustainability and affordability? Can we change behaviour in the way we use water? Is it possible to protect the environment, support economic growth and secure household supplies? What is the role and impact of regulation? Can we

learn from international practice? Can we lead international practice?

A vital component in any Consultation is the Chair. We were fortunate to capture the services of the Rt Hon Michael Jack whose career in government as the Conservative MP for Fylde included stints as Minister of State at the Home Office, at the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, and as Financial Secretary at the Treasury. That breadth of experience meant that he was informed, incisive, and inclusive in his approach.

Early on in the discussion, the topic of climate change reared its head. After a decade of weather characterised by extremes, 2012 saw parts of the UK experience both drought and severe flooding within the same few months. Overall, our annual rainfall level still resembles those of previous decades but its distribution has changed markedly.

At the end of 2012, if southern England had suffered a third dry winter in



succession, large areas would have faced severe water shortages. The precarious margin between normal supply and a standpipe crisis has focussed attention now on our unreadiness for more 'black swans' in UK weather – events that exceed or defy knowledge based on past experience.

The problem of erratic extremes of weather interlocks with and exacerbates other problematic issues that influence water use and supply in the UK and around the world, including: population growth, industrial growth, and changing agricultural needs.

Domestic use of water receives the most political and media attention. Better use of water overall in the UK absolutely requires the general population to see its value (rather than only its cost) and to use it well, assisted by measures such as default metering, dynamic tariffs, grey-water systems in new builds and good communications by water companies and other bodies to and with the public about water use, groundwater levels, supply and the like.

Industry and commerce also consume large quantities of water; commerce has made perhaps the most striking progress among UK sectors in reducing consumption levels and pollution, mostly using existing technology. In the same way that businesses' carbon footprints are publicly available, we might begin water foot printing as a way of exerting pressure and encouraging best practice.

Agriculture, of course, is the largest consumer of water in the UK and a significant contributor to pollution in runoff. It is also one of the most promising areas in which to nurture better storage and stewardship of water, through good communications towards funding incentives and voluntary schemes, local partnerships, introduction of inexpensive technologies and better leveraging of old technology.

So much for the problems. Did the

Consultation come up with any solutions? While a good deal of the discussion focused on technical issues to do with abstraction and storage, for example, there also emerged a number of clearly defined needs. These included:

- better connections between water companies: cooperation and coordination between regions and catchments for (careful) moving of water when advisable, taking into account pumping expense and ecological imperatives.
- Efficient domestic use of water – reduced consumption per person per day, grey water for toilet flushing in new builds. Consumers of water, in order to value the resource, must be enabled to know how much they consume; universal default metering seems a very necessary and simple step. It will show up leaks and inconsistencies but the overall gain will be very worthwhile.
- Price reviews in consultation with Ofwat, to build overall demand into the pricing equation and incentivise reductions in water use when they are most needed. Incentivise selling less water. Dynamic tariffs, if well communicated, will help reduce consumption when supply is most stressed.
- Exhort, assist, incentivise and generally induce industry and commerce to use less water; many organisations have voluntarily made large reductions in water consumption using current, inexpensive technology.
- Work for longer-term thinking in politics; water availability is a long-term problem needing long-term planning, for which four- or five-year cycles are unhelpful. Find and promote common objectives of the various political parties regarding water.



Some such work in these areas is already taking place but by the end of the twenty-four hours it was evident that the future of water in Britain faces substantial, unprecedented challenges about which all we know for certain is that they will arrive. By compounding better use of existing technologies with greater efficiencies, rapid improvements in the existing systems and careful planning for better ways to deal with the unforeseen without having to foresee it, we can do something effective to secure the invaluable supply of water that we expect every day to be easily available. And like all good St George's House Consultations, this one revealed a number of other, related areas that our programme could usefully focus on in Consultation format.

Gary McKeone  
Programme Director





## Colonel David Axson

*How would I describe Colonel David Axson?  
My answer: A stalwart of the College community who wears many hats.*

Many of you will know David in his role as Clerk to the Friends and Companions. Others of you will know him as one of the Military Knights of Windsor. David first came to St George's on his appointment as a Military Knight in 2002, following his retirement from the army where he had been the Corps Secretary REME (Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers). As someone who finds it difficult to embrace retirement, David quickly volunteered to help and became Treasurer of the Military Knights and Honorary Secretary of the Guild of Stewards.

On creation of the post of Clerk to the Friends and Companions in 2007, David took up the role with enthusiasm and vision. This new post combined part of the responsibilities of the Honorary Secretary of the Friends of St George's together with aspects of financial management; a position for which David's considerable organisational skills were well suited.

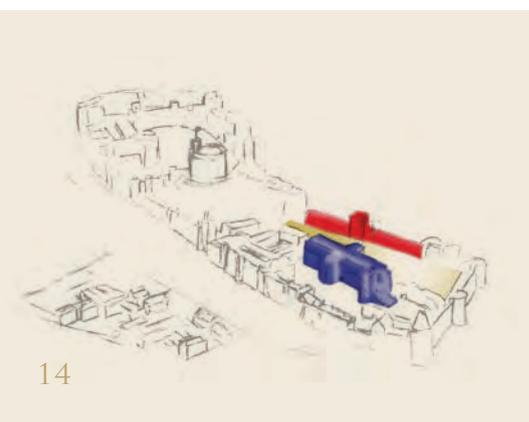
Although voluntary, this role takes up the majority of the week and still David finds the time to update the Blue Book used by the Guild of Stewards, give tours of the Chapel, organise Friends' events and research a book on the Stall Plates in the Quire of St George's

Chapel. All of this leaves very little time for David's hobbies which include sailing and wood turning.

This year David handed over the role of Clerk to the Friends and Companions to a fellow Military Knight, Colonel David Steele, so that he can finally enjoy retirement with his wife, Sheana, their very energetic dog, Benjie, and their grandchildren. Of course, his duties as a Military Knight continue and David will be on parade with his colleagues on Sundays during term time and on official occasions, such as Garter Day.

We all owe David a vote of thanks for his untiring work on behalf of the College. I suspect that he will soon find a way to become involved in other aspects of the College; as I mentioned at the start, retirement doesn't come easily...

*Carol Griffiths  
Fundraising Manager*



## 'A Canon of Windsor, how fascinating, marvellous... what does that mean exactly, **what do you do?'**

A not untypical response to my appointment to the College of St George and Her Majesty's Free Chapel from friends and colleagues alike. It is a rather unique world in which we live and work, and now some six months into my appointment there is certainly value for me in pausing for a moment to assess how I might answer that initial question. Having taken over from Canon John Ovenden there are two distinct facets to my work. Firstly, to share with my colleagues the Dean and Canons Finlay and Woodward responsibility for the life and worship of the Collegiate community. As Canon Chaplain I have a particular care for the Chapel Stewards, the Friends and Descendants and also regular members of the congregation. The second area of my work focuses on the pastoral care of the Great Park and the surprisingly large number of those who live and work there (and in many cases those who have retired from royal service but who still live within the community) The Royal Chapel of All Saints (Her

Majesty's private chapel used with her gracious permission by those who live and work within the Great Park) provides a focus for this work with its regular Sunday worship of Holy Communion and Mattins.

It's frequently suggested to me that this must all be very different from my previous ministry of 22 years in the Royal Navy. Whilst there are obvious differences from life at sea, the core of the work is the same. As a priest I am duty bound to provide pastoral and spiritual care to all committed to my charge, and above all to pray for them. One of the huge privileges I value is the place of primacy given daily to the

offices of morning and evening prayer and the Eucharist which St George's espouses. So often in my naval ministry I was inevitably saying my prayers alone. At heart the College of St George is a religious company committed to prayer and hospitality. I am delighted and hugely privileged to be, for a while, part of such a community. Naval Chaplains are described in Queens Regulations as "a friend and advisor to all on board"

It's a personal mission statement that still holds good as far as I can see.

*The Reverend Canon Martin Poll  
Canon Chaplain*



Photograph: Charlotte Mankey



## A SPECIAL SERVICE

Towards the end of his Introduction to the Order of Service for Her Majesty's Coronation in 1953, the Archbishop of Canterbury, Geoffrey Fisher, wrote of that liturgy as "a noble drama of religious and national emotions". He continued: "But at its heart is a deep simplicity. The young Queen dedicates herself to the service of her peoples: God consecrates her to it: she goes out clothed in the divine grace and in the robes of royalty." The grandeur, ritual and pageantry of the Coronation Service combined to celebrate a particular vocation to a life of service.

In her broadcast to the Nation at the end of that most memorable day, the young

Queen reminded her listeners that, when she had spoken to them in her Christmas Broadcast, she had asked them to pray for her on the day of the Coronation – to pray that God would give her wisdom and strength to carry out the promises that she would then be making. And, at the end of the Coronation Day, as she spoke to her people once again, she reminded them of something at the heart of all that she had promised. "I have", she said, "in sincerity pledged myself to your service, as so many of you are pledged to mine. Throughout my life and with all my heart I shall strive to be worthy of your trust." The words of course echoed those spoken by The Queen at the very beginning of her reign: "I declare before you all that my whole life, whether it be long or short, shall be devoted to your service."

The Queen has kept her word. This is one of the things for which so many people are giving thanks during this sixtieth anniversary year. Yet, what was made clear through the Coronation Service, and what she has made clear by word and example down through the years, is that she could not bear the burden and responsibility of a life of service in her own strength alone. Happily, she has been blessed with a genuine religious faith upon which she has been able to rely, and from which she has drawn strength.

The precise nature of the burden and responsibility is not easy to describe. However, it must go without question that the Sovereign is, at any one time, a symbol of our national (and international) unity; a sign that the things that tie us together go far beyond anything like immediate and ephemeral political allegiances. The Sovereign is one whose unsought vocation is to be such a person as, by never ceasing to go out to others, can remind us that we are drawn together by common bonds, by a kind of extended family loyalty, and by our being

deeply rooted in a story that is still being told. We are not discrete units; individuals all fighting their own corner. Rather, we are 'persons' who find our 'personhood' most surely in our belonging to each other.

That understanding of our belonging to each other is of course nourished by religious sensibility; by a heartfelt conviction that we are all children of the one Father. As the representative

of all her people, The Sovereign, kneeling in a holy place at a Coronation, provides us with an almost archetypal picture of what a good society should be; a people bound together in its understanding of its accountability to God, and in its acknowledging its need of grace.

You might think that in an often faithless age, this sounds unrealistic and romantic. To some, it might even seem offensive. However, I believe that, though words might fail us in any attempt to account for it, the heart can still be moved to recognise that there is something very precious here; something worth preserving. For all our questions and our doubts about

Order of Service, The Coronation

religious credal matters, many of us still long to be freed from self-centredness and pride, and to live more generously and humbly. The simplicity of what can be glimpsed at the heart of the Coronation Service might at least give pause for thought.



The Right Reverend David Conner, KCVO  
Dean of Windsor



Knights of the Garter placing the canopy of gold over The Queen before her Anointing

**COMMUNITY NEWS** 21 January – Interment of Ashes of Kenneth Adams • 24 January – Memorial Evensong and Interment of Ashes of Alegría Gunner • 27 January – Surplicing of Thomas Sebastian Breedon, Oliver Byron Prew and Dominic Andrew Wall Rogers as Choristers • 14 February – Installation of Christopher McDade as Master of Grammer • 11 March – Admission of Gary McKeone as a Member of College • 18 April – Service of Thanksgiving for Geoffrey de Bellaigue • 5 May – Baptism of Theodore Otter de Rougemont and Charlotte Emily Hazelwood • 14 May – Surplicing of Giacomo Balaes as a Chorister • 17 May – Baptism of Sebastian Clare-Panton, James McLean Max Ticehurst and Mollie Wilson-Khanna • 17 May – Funeral of Alan Clarkson • 18 May – Memorial Evensong and interment of ashes of Frederick Wilson • 19 May – Confirmation of Georgia Basham, Michael Bovingdon, Sebastian Clare-Panton, Christina Hamilton-Foster, Henry Hampshire, Charlotte McCombe, Katelyn McDade, James McLean, William Renwick, Max Ticehurst and Mollie Wilson-Khanna



Photograph: Charlotte Mankey

## The Chapel Team

... is made up of the Virger, two Senior Sacristans, three part-time Beadles and one part-time cleaner.

Our day begins just before 7am every morning when one of us arrives at Chapel and prepares for the first of at least three services we will be assisting the clergy with of the day, all the time aware that there is usually already someone in Chapel at prayer, the Dean. The Canons soon arrive as well as guests from the House, community and other worshippers, and at 7.30am we signal for the first service to begin. After Mattins we prepare for and assist at the Holy Communion service at one of the various Chantry Chapels in St George's. We then clear away and begin the task of readying the Chapel for the thousands of visitors that come to the Chapel on a daily basis, some

as tourists, some as worshippers. We meet with the members of the Guild of Stewards on duty that day, who as volunteers help support us in opening the Chapel to visitors. In the Vestry we have the daily briefing, highlighting special visits, tours and recitals that maybe happening that day, services taking place, anything extraordinary taking place within the Castle, and allocating the Stewards their first station within the Chapel. The Chapel Team and the Guild of Stewards then head off to their positions and we welcome our first visitors of the day. If there is a special event in Chapel coming up the Chapel Team will begin to prepare for this, which often involves setting out the Nave furniture and the many, many chairs, sorting seating plans and putting out orders of service. If, on the other hand there is nothing urgent that needs to be done in preparation for

a special service like Garter, then we carry on the endless but vital task of caring for the general cleanliness and well-being of the Chapel, all the while helping to make the visitor experience as enjoyable as possible not least by helping to answer questions from the public. When we close to visitors our day does not end there; next we make the Chapel ready for Evensong or Evening Prayer. Only once the service is over and we have said goodbye to our last worshipper and prepared for Mattins the next day can we head for home leaving the Chapel ready for the organists to practice and St George's House late night tours to be given. The day is often long and tiring and it can be very challenging, but I think we all consider it a tremendous privilege to be able to play a part in the life and work of the College of St George.

*Vaughn Wright*  
*Virger*