DIARY OF EVENTS

JANUARY 2014
6 Epiphany
19 Service of Readings and Music for Epiphanytide
26 Chorister surplicing at Evensong

FEBRUARY
8 “Chorister for a Day”

MARCH
4 Shrove Tuesday and Quarterly Obit
5 Ash Wednesday
15-23 Windsor Spring Festival

APRIL
13 Palm Sunday
17 Maundy Thursday
18 Good Friday
20 Easter Day
28 St George’s Day (transferred from 23 April)
27 National Scouts service

MAY
10 Friends & Companions Day
18 Confirmation
20 Henry VI Obit

JUNE
4 Quarterly Obit
5 Royal British Legion concert
8 Pentecost
15, 16 & 17 Solemnity of St George

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

LUNCHETIME ORGAN RECITALS 2014
APRIL 29,
MAY 6, 13, 20
JUNE 3, 10, 17, 24

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.
In the course of the last few years, from time to time we have welcomed to St George’s Chapel a group of Veterans of the Korean War. They visited us again this year – the year that has marked the sixtieth anniversary of the ending of hostilities on the Korean Peninsula. It was, as always, good to see them.

The Korean War is sometimes called ‘The Forgotten War’. If indeed it has been forgotten by many people, it will be only one of a number of conflicts that have passed out of memory. It is easy to forget, but it is also dangerous. However shocking it might be, we need to bear in mind just what the price of strife can be.

Perhaps fortunately, the First World War (the centenary of its beginning being observed in 2014) is unlikely to be forgotten. In many ways, it marked a watershed; a turning point in human history. The scale of destruction and carnage was enormous. The ignorance of so many combatants of what they were fighting for was alarmingly widespread. There was great confusion. The result was that an enormous question-mark was placed against any casual idea that we might take ‘progress’ for granted in the unfolding of human affairs.

Here at St George’s, we shall remember. And, as we acknowledge our human frailty, we shall pray for God’s grace and guidance as we pledge ourselves to work for the peace to which we have been called by Jesus Christ, whose birth we celebrate at Christmas.

The Right Reverend David Conner, KCVO
Dean of Windsor

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STEADFAST SUPPORT

Tucked away at the top of 8A The Cloister is a small group of people known as the Development Team. “Who are they?” I hear you say. Well, broadly speaking, the Development Team is responsible for raising the funds to support the day-to-day maintenance and running of the College (Revenue) and the refurbishment and restoration of the College buildings (the Capital Fabric Appeal).

You will probably have heard of the Capital Fabric Appeal, this is fund into which any contributions towards the fabric (College buildings, sculpture, artwork etc.) are paid. Some benefactors ‘restrict’ their donation by specifying which part of the refurbishment they wish to fund, for example The Bray Fellowship made possible the works to the Canons’ Cloister and the Canadian Bray Fellowship are helping with the current Deanery and Dean’s Cloister works. Other benefactors make an ‘unrestricted’ donation and this is put towards the next project in the refurbishment works as directed by the Canon Steward.

The Revenue fund encompasses the Companions’ Scheme, any unrestricted donations not made to the Capital Fabric Appeal and income from the Friends of St George’s and Descendants of the Knights of the Garter. This fund allows the Dean and Canons to pay for the day-to-day running of the College and its maintenance.

The Development Team also look after The Queen’s Choral Foundation which was set up specifically to secure the essential role of the Choir in the life and worship at St George’s Chapel. As part of the Choral Foundation we have the Choral Partners’ Scheme; a scheme similar to the Companions but specifically for those who wish to support the choral tradition at St George’s. You might remember reading about this in Issue 16 of the Companion. Income from the Choral Partners’ Scheme goes towards the costs of the Choir/Music at St George’s Chapel.

The Development Team is structured so that Canon Woodward is the Development Director, with Sir John Spurling (one of the Foundation Trustees and a benefactor) as the Chairman. Carol Griffiths is the continuity in the office, overseeing the team.

To date, the very generous support of our benefactors has enabled the following projects to be completed in and around St George’s Chapel:

CHAPEL INTERIOR
Bray Chantry
Rutland Chantry
South Quire Aisle
Ambulatory
North Quire Aisle
Urswick Chantry

CHAPEL EXTERIOR
Bray Chantry
Nave South Elevation
Beaufort Chantry
West Front, including great west window
Urswick Chantry

If you would like to support the work of St George’s please call Carol Griffiths on +44(0)1753 848 885 or email carol.griffiths@stgeorges-windsor.org
The support of the Bray Fellowship, a group of benefactors who each give £1 million, has enabled the refurbishment of the Canons’ Cloister buildings. The Canadian Bray Fellowship is now making possible the works to the Deanery and Dean’s Cloister. The refurbishment of Marbeck and the Song School was also made possible by the support of one major benefactor.

In terms of revenue fundraising, each year the Development Team has a target to raise for revenue purposes. This year the target is just over £520,000 net (i.e. income less expenses). This is a similar target to previous years and, so far, the target has been achieved, although not exceeded.

There is still a lot to do though. The capital fabric appeal is a rolling programme and, as such, the costs increase as time goes on. The approximate amount still needed to complete all the works to St George’s Chapel and the surrounding College buildings is £28 million and the next most urgent project is the refurbishment of the Horseshoe Cloister. Likewise, revenue funding is an ongoing requirement.

To meet these needs it is necessary to recruit new benefactors to the College. At the moment, due to the economic climate, this is not an easy thing to achieve. The Development Team is therefore actively trying to expand its pool of prospects. To do this, team members are meeting with people who can help to forge networks with others who may be interested in supporting the College of St George. This is a time-consuming process and it often appears that nothing is being done; this is not the case.

Carol Griffiths
Fundraising Manager
THE WORKING YEAR OF C BRANCH

Nestling just out of sight from Middle Ward, beside the Visitor Admissions Centre, lies Pug Yard, so called because in the past it was a building crafts yard and where the ‘pug’, a rough lime, clay and straw mortar was prepared from the waste materials produced by the stone masons creating the fine window and door surrounds for the Castle.

Pug was used to fill floor and ceiling voids and hollow walls in the Castle buildings to form insulation against noise transmission and some suggest, a measure of fire protection.

Nothing’s new!

Today Pug Yard is home to C Branch of the Master of the Household’s Department, the ‘C’ standing for craft. The many trades and craft skills required to maintain the historic furniture and furnishings within the Occupied Royal Palaces are practiced by the ten craft and conservation specialists working in the Yard’s workshops.

Broken and worn out furnishings: chairs, chests of drawers, collapsed upholstery, curtains, blinds, French polished tables and finely gilded furniture from across all the royal residences may find their way to Pug Yard and are lovingly restored to former glory and more importantly, sound working condition. They will certainly be put to use again in
requiring support from the craft team in one way or another. The Balmoral Recess at the end of July is when the really big projects begin, rooms being stripped virtually as The Queen leaves the building for the summer. At Windsor C Branch is usually the first on site to dismantle and remove furniture with assistance from the Castle Superintendent’s staff, and last off site, installing curtains and putting the finishing touches to the new interior schemes. October brings Her Majesty’s return and another round of official events and a State Visit which involves setting up and polishing the great banquet table in St George’s Hall, Windsor Castle, or the horse-shoe table in the Ballroom at Buckingham Palace, erecting the canopies and daises for the arrival Inspection of the Guard of Honour and polishing and upholstering furniture in guest suites to present them in their best light.

As Christmas approaches there is always an air of excitement in Pug Yard as tables and room sets in Royal and State Apartments are prepared for Christmas tree installations and Royal Collection seasonal displays. Boxes, tubs, weights and watering equipment are collected from stores, dusted off, and taken to Windsor Castle and Buckingham Palace for two days of intense indoor tree planting and decorating, including the installation of the Grand Staircase garland, all 200 feet of it! The Queen’s departure for Sandringham in late December brings us back to another busy time, but not before we pause to reflect on the delights of another year spent working on beautiful things in such delightful surroundings – we are truly blessed.

"the delights of another year spent working on beautiful things in such delightful surroundings"

a household that still operates in much the same way as it did when these historic furnishing pieces were originally crafted. The full restoration of suites of rooms has been an important part of C Branch’s work in recent years and working in conjunction with Property Services, all aspects of decoration and furniture and furnishings are refurbished at the same time, creating a dramatic re-presentation of interiors.

The working year for C Branch, like many other activities that go on in and around the Castle, has a regular pattern which conforms to the royal calendar of Court Progress and high-days and holidays. The Sandringham period works in January see frenetic activity to complete maintenance and refurbishments in the private apartments before The Queen returns from spending Christmas and New Year in Sandringham. Then begins the familiar programme of investitures, State Visits, Easter Court, Horse Show, Garter Day, Royal Ascot and Garden Parties, all requiring support from the craft team in one way or another. The Balmoral Recess at the end of July is when the really big projects begin, rooms being stripped virtually as The Queen leaves the building for the summer. At Windsor C Branch is usually the first on site to dismantle and remove furniture with assistance from the Castle Superintendent’s staff, and last off site, installing curtains and putting the finishing touches to the new interior schemes. October brings Her Majesty’s return and another round of official events and a State Visit which involves setting up and polishing the great banquet table in St George’s Hall, Windsor Castle, or the horse-shoe table in the Ballroom at Buckingham Palace, erecting the canopies and daises for the arrival Inspection of the Guard of Honour and polishing and upholstering furniture in guest suites to present them in their best light.

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AS THE SEASONS ROLL

The leaves on the tree outside St George’s House have turned from the green of summer to the wonderful rust red of autumn. Soon the wind will scatter them into winter and the shorn branches will be etched, ink-like, against the Windsor sky.

While nature follows its perennial path, St George’s House too has its own enduring pattern. The House draws breath during the summer months, a chance to attend to the fabric of the place, a time to ensure that the fixtures and fittings are refurbished, and an opportunity also to plan ahead on the programme.

No sooner has August drifted into September than you will hear the sound of suitcases on wheels climbing the hill towards the House as our first Consultation participants arrive to debate and discuss an eclectic range of topics.

The new season began with a Consultation on Being Human in the Digital Age. As the pace of technological change seems undiminished, what impact is this having on us as human beings? How is the age of social media affecting our relationships with each other and with the wider communities in which we live? As the distinction between work time and personal time becomes increasingly blurred are we alert to change in the quality of our lives? Is our acclimatisation with technology part of an inevitable and perhaps essential evolutionary process? The Vicars’ Hall played host to lively exchanges, passionate insights, and some far-sighted thinking as people from a range of disciplines grappled with the topic to hand.

One of the pleasures of programming St George’s House Consultations is the capacity to embrace a wide variety of subjects. By the time you read this we will have confronted New Ways of Fighting for Peace, a partnership with the London School of Economics that looks at the role of international law in the business of building peace, a decidedly pertinent topic in this age of increasing conflict.

If present wars are a continuing concern, remembrance of past wars will also engage our imaginations in the coming months, not least as we approach the centenary of the start of World War 1, the war to end all wars. Book shop shelves will shortly groan with the weight of reflection and analysis. St George’s House is taking a somewhat off-beat approach to the anniversary. In January 2014 a mixture of academics, military generals, artists, writers, musicians, architects and others will gather in the Vicars’ Hall to undertake a counterfactual approach to the First World War. What if it had never happened? How different would our social, cultural and economic lives be? To underline this counterfactual approach, the Consultation will use counterfactual techniques to explore possible variations from the historical strategic course of the war in 1914, and the development of the famous trench stalemate. Current British, French and German officers will engage in a kriegsspiel of the crucial Western campaigns of August and September to explore whether a more decisive outcome might have occurred as in 1870 and 1940. The Consultation will then consider the
possible military and political consequences of more radical alternatives such as a German decision not to invade Belgium or perhaps even France itself. By taking such a counterfactual approach, as much light will be shed on what did happen as on what might have happened.

Other highlights in the 2013-14 programme include a return to our work on the relationship between faith and the media. On this occasion, journalists, media producers, representatives of NGOs and of course faith representatives will explore the relevant issues under the banner title, Truth, Power, and Communication – Faith and Media in Dialogue.

If the church and the media are two institutional pillars of society, a third is the judiciary. The House is working with the Constitution Unit of University College London to look at the question, Is Judicial Independence Changing in a Changing World? The Consultation will look at developments in the UK in a comparative context, with particular reference to Scotland, N. Ireland, the Republic of Ireland, Europe, and Canada. Among the areas under scrutiny will be: Judicial Appointments, Managing the Courts, Judges and Parliament, and Judicial Input to Policy.

Partnership working is one of the lynch pins of our way of working. Once a topic has been identified we strive to find the individual or organisation capable of helping us put intellectual flesh on the idea’s bones. Among such partners are Quilliam, an organisation dedicated to countering extremism in all its forms but with particular reference to Islamist extremism. Our Consultation this autumn explored how best to counter extremism in the continuing aftermath of the so-called Arab Spring. It is a controversial area and one that generated some high-quality disagreement, something the House is perfectly positioned to accommodate.

Numerous other Consultations are in the pipeline, not to mention plans for the 2014 Annual Lecture, the 2014 Elson Ethics Lecture and our on-going lecture partnership with Cumberland Lodge. These are busy times so we will have to make time to watch the seasons change around us, to watch that tree outside the House as it marks the passing of time so memorably each year.

Significant Space

On a Summer morning I have some time between the end of Mattins and the beginning of the Eucharist.

The Nave of the Chapel is empty of all furniture and I wander down the aisle towards the West door, turn and look back through the Nave upwards into the vaulted ceiling and beyond the organ loft to the high altar. In a short moment I am caught up into the sheer beauty of this space: its shapes and size and significance.

My response is to thank God for such space where centuries of prayer and devotion, where the love and care expended on this space, help us to know that the presence of God is here and his spirit is with us.

As I reflect on this fragment of insight one further thought emerges. The largeness of this space seems perhaps to mirror the largeness of Spirit – in its generosity and openness and space. God sets our feet in a large room to give us space to grow.

One of the glories of our Christian faith, as I understand it, is that we are not shut up in some narrow doctrine, not given all the answers to life’s questions but we are called upon to respond to our living past which may lead us into unexpected places. I shudder at the thought of a world ruled by people who are absolutely certain of their wisdom, by people to whom everything in the world is crystal clear, whose minds know no mystery, no uncertainty.

We need space and significant space for this exploration. Here in our Chapel anyone may come in faith or unfaith and hear through liturgy, through art, through music, through architecture, the eternal truths of God are offered to all those who have eyes to see and ears to hear and spirit to respond.

The Reverend Canon Dr James Woodward
Canon Steward
In 1910 Arthur Stafford Crawley (subsequently Canon of Windsor, 1934-1948) had been appointed to a chaplaincy and to the living of Bishopthorpe by Cosmo Gordon Lang, the Archbishop of York.

In 1915 the Archbishop gave him leave to volunteer with the British forces in France. Crawley initially spent two months in an unofficial capacity at the Anglo-American Hospital at Wimereux, on the coast south of Calais. During this time, Crawley wrote almost daily to his beloved wife, Anstice, and kept closely in touch with his family and friends. In letters now preserved in the St George’s Chapel Archives [SGC M.126/F/1-754], he writes of his life at the hospital and his impressions of the war.

On arrival, Crawley finds the AA Hospital to be in “a nice little place”. He soon organises a daily service for injured servicemen, nurses and orderlies in the biggest ward and gives Communion to bed-ridden patients in their own wards. The patients due to return to England on the hospital ship are carried out to the motor ambulance on orderlies’ backs or stretchers; “the poor fellows are delighted when the red tape is tied to the foot of their beds, the sign they are due for the next boat”.

In his unofficial role, Crawley took every opportunity to find out how the war effort was being managed. He is excited at being taken to see an armoured train and to visit Béthune, Merville and other places behind the lines, crossing territory formerly held by the Germans, where now British troops are being concentrated. He sees some trenches, wire entanglements and a gun in position, concealed but not fired. He observes troops going back and forth from the trenches and realises a forward push is imminent.

Two days after the allied advance began (March 10th) The Times reported the fall of nearby Neuve Chapelle to German Forces. Admissions to the AA Hospital were high, those who were less seriously injured being quickly returned to England. Crawley writes that at the hospital they see some part of the price paid for success in battle; he hopes there will be worthwhile gain from all the casualties, realises he is seeing only a tiny part of the
fighting and cannot imagine what is going on at the Russian Front.

Crawley regrets that military people are annoyed with the Archbishop for maintaining Christian principles: if Britons degenerate into hatred of the Germans, to retaliate by asserting such principles becomes humbug. Some officers are upset at the inability of the British public to take the war seriously – Britain is the only nation relying on volunteers and the French are asking why they should fight Britain’s battles, while the English still talk of football and racing. Perhaps, says Crawley, the British public will come to understand from the allied advance what the army must expect in the summer.

The previous day’s Times is delivered daily to the hospital, but Crawley asks his wife to send the Times Literary Supplement, also up-to-date magazines for the soldiers. Not permitted to wear uniform of any kind, he requests that extra clothes be sent: brown breeches, brown leather boots, puttees and kid gloves, also a shaving brush and shaving gloves. He expected to be sent a cake each week, enjoyed receiving dark chocolate, and asked for cigarettes, matches and playing cards for the men. A keen musician, Crawley practised and took part in concerts and organised a glee club for soldiers, officers and orderlies.

Crawley was required by his Archbishop to return to York to prepare for the Easter services. However, he returned to France in September 1915 and served for two years as chaplain in the Guards Division of the British Expeditionary Force, commanded by his brother-in-law, the Earl of Cavan, at the Western Front.
Anson, sqooosh as a bullet flew through the air.
One life, one chance, it’s now or never.
Run, run through No Man’s land,
Like a madman, not thinking
Down, down, bombs crashing down everywhere.
William, no. I can’t bare looking at him. My only friend.
Artillery’s being catapulted through the atmosphere.
Right now it’s just me, no one else to talk to. It’s the end.

by Zain, aged 11

Anniversary of the First World War

In November 1921, the Very Reverend Albert Victor Baillie, Dean of Windsor, dedicated a new stained glass window above the North Door of St George’s Chapel, commemorating the eighteen old boys of St George’s School who had lost their lives in the Great War of 1914-18.

In common with the rest of British society, the First World War had made a considerable impact on St George’s, as the school magazines of the time testify. Throughout the war, old boys wrote of life at the Front: in the Easter 1916 magazine, for instance, J.F.B. Northcott reported the arrest of a man wearing the uniform of a British Officer: “He was spying for Germany to aid Zeppelins in finding their bearings and he will be shot”. E.H. Cox wrote of the gallantry of Harold Cox who had led an attack in taking and holding for an entire day a line of German trenches. As we approach the centenary of the First World War, pupils at the School have been reflecting on these moving and engaging accounts; and have responded with poetry, creative writing and artwork as they empathise with their forebears of a hundred years ago.

The Reverend Andrew Zihni
Minor Canon & Chaplain to St George’s School

Poetry inspired by Dulce Et Decorum Est
Wilfred Owen

Tragedy seeps across the deep trenches of gloom.
Rage trying to burst out of the innocent souls, but are too weak to let it out.
Everything, everybody, everywhere, are surrounded by ill bodies and deceased corpse.
Nothing can heal the scarred hearts of the soldiers, the blood racing out, and the fear racing in.
Crash! The bombs blasting your life away, you know you can’t survive.
Heaven, or hell? I know what I want, please let me go there, right now I have no choice.
Ending my life. It’s coming soon. I know I won’t make it. But please let me do!
Survival, that’s all I need.

by Elizabeth, aged 11
Alone

Everywhere I look,
Dead bodies, rotting flesh and boiling blood.
Mud fills our boots,
Gas fills the air,
Depression fills our minds.
This isn’t what I signed up for.

Death is my only wish now,
In this hellish nightmare.
I know that I won’t make it.

Bullets, shells, grenades, mines, wire, bombs, flamethrowers, tanks or gas,
One of them will get me.

As my platoon runs forward across the trench
Being tangled, shot, and exploded,
they turned to me for faith.
I smile at them with false courage, cheering them on
And somehow we make it and take the trench.

I give a whooping cheer,
then I realise it’s just me…

I’m alone.

by Dylan, aged 11

To Die for my Country

To save my country,
that’s all I want,
but it’s not like I thought,
not one bit at all.

My friends are all dead,
I’m all on my own
in my small depressed world
covered with dirt.

Gas! Gas! Boys get them on!
I frantically grab my sack and pull it over my head.
How long is it now?
It seems like forever, but
Tick Tock Tick Tock
and they shout the all clear.

However, I can’t even prepare
the loud bell rings and
I sense my end is near.
Over I go, tipping in the mud
as I get slammed into the ground
by an artillery shell.

I have a quick glance back,
I see all my life, but
Dolce et Decorum Est,
I died for my country

by Henry, aged 12

Dying for your Country

Stained with sadness, drowned in hatred.
An empty space in our stomachs where a happy soul once was,
Remembering our loved ones, few still living,
Marching through the gloomy darkness of war.

Weak and worn we crawl through the terrible pits of death.
Bodies falling at our feet, desperate soul gasping for survival,
moans from empty hearted soldiers,
and prayers to survive.

Guns firing,
deafening noises.
My life is drowning, slowly but surely,
the world has been painted petrifying red.

Death or survival? That is the question I asked to thee,
Asking the opposition, spare my life let me be. Will this hell never end?

by Darcey, aged 11
The Deanery Refurbishment

Refurbishment is now underway to the Deanery, over which a complex and large scaffolding has been constructed to provide working access to the roofs and the external walls.

The scaffolding sides are sheeted in plastic and it is roofed in corrugated-metal sheeting to protect the Deanery from the weather whilst comprehensive external repairs are underway.

The external refurbishment works include the removal of defective copper roofing and its replacement with new cast-lead roofing, together with relaying the old hand-made roof tiles and wall-hanging tiles augmented with new tiles to match. Stone and brick chimneys are being repaired and re-mortar jointed, and rainwater gutters and downpipes are all being overhauled and repaired. All of the external windows and doors will be overhauled and put into good working order, and fine leaded-glass in some of the windows including some early stained glass will be carefully conserved. External walling is being repaired and repainted, and the historic heraldic plaques to the Deanery entrance-yard walls will be carefully maintained by a specialist conservator. Internally, the Deanery will be rewired for safety, with fire compartmentation being installed throughout, together with the same ‘mist-spray’ fire suppression system that has been successfully installed throughout the Canons Cloister. Re-plumbing and internal decorations will be carried out.

Passers-by will have noticed that the front garden wall and gate has been taken down and a contractors hoarding erected as protection to visitors and to provide contractors access to the works from Chapel Hill. The opportunity has been taken to erect a visitors information board on the hoarding providing information about the project whilst also allowing visitors to log-onto the St George’s Chapel.

Views of the scaffolding works in progress.
The Friends of St George’s and Descendants of the Knights of the Garter

It has been six years since the Friends were incorporated into the Foundation of the College of St George. This is, though, only a very small piece of their history.

Founded in 1931, the Friends offer financial support to the Dean and Canons of Windsor on whom the sole responsibility to maintain St George’s Chapel, its Cloisters and medieval lodgings lies. The Friends and Descendants offer more than monetary assistance, however. They are part of the wider community of the College of St George, making up a network of over 5000 members worldwide, committed to the values espoused by the College of St George and keen to preserve its magnificent buildings for future generations to enjoy.

Many of our Friends and Descendants offer volunteer service to St George’s, from manning the Chapel shop to stewarding visitors; helping to keep the Chapel clean and talking to groups about the history of St George’s Chapel. The Friends and Descendants’ office is also largely staffed by volunteers. We simply could not do our work without this team and all of those who offer their time and energy to this extraordinary place.

In terms of financial support, in the past ten years the Friends and Descendants have helped in the funding of some 40 projects to the value of over £1.3 million. This includes a major contribution of over £500,000 towards the conservation of the West Front and Great West Window. Most recently the Friends Legacy Fund has made possible the new steps and ramp for disabled visitors leading from the Chapel to the North East Door.

If you are interested in joining the Friends, or becoming involved in supporting the work of the Chapel, please contact Colonel David Steele, Honorary Secretary to the Friends, on 01753 848722 or email: friends@stgeorges-windsor.org

Carol Griffiths
Fundraising Manager

The new permanent steps and ramp at the North-East Door
Viv Caldwell & the Chapel Shop team

St George’s Chapel Gift shop grew out of a stall selling postcards and guidebooks. At first there was a stall outside the south door then an additional stall inside the Nave and then, for many years, the shop was located in the Bray Chantry with an extra counter in the summer in the Galilee Porch. One common thread running through the shop’s life has been the dedicated work of a mixture of paid and volunteer staff coming together to bring in important funds to support the daily life of St George’s Chapel. Today the part time Retail Manager and Buyer, Viv Caldwell and the full time Assistant Retail Manager, Caila Blandford, are helped by several paid staff (one full time equivalent) and 15 part time volunteers. The Cloister shop would not function without this dedicated team whose efforts are much appreciated especially during the winter months when, despite the heating, a stint on the tills can be chilly.

The shop is open six days a week and sometimes in the evening for concerts or special events. Although some residents might find it convenient if the shop in the Cloister sold a pint of milk the vast majority of customers are, of course, visitors to the Castle including the Chapel. The stock is chosen to appeal to the interests of those from this country and abroad who have chosen to visit Windsor Castle but also reflects the fact it is in a shop supporting a Church. Therefore the stock selection ranges not only in price (50p to £250) but in style. Amongst the breadth of items on sale you could find the Book of Common Prayer, the children’s book ‘That’s not my Dragon’, Icons, Guardsmen fridge magnets, Nativity sets, 1ft high model Knights, Heraldry items, stained glass, gloves & scarves and Royal anniversary & celebratory china. Each item sold contributes to the profit; the Cloister shop exists to raise funds for St George’s Chapel. The shop is self-funding paying for utilities, staff and business expenses; all profits raised are handed over to the Dean and Canons to support the daily running of St George’s Chapel.

Many things are produced exclusively for the Cloister shop on a bespoke basis and include ranges such as ‘Gilebertus’ and ‘Golden Vault’, inspired by the Gilebertus doors and the Oxenbridge chantry vaulting; they include hanging decorations, silk ties and scarves and china. Each year a new

Visit the Chapel Shop or online at www.stgeorgeshop.com
Christmas card is designed and sold both through the Cloister shop and also in large quantities by mail order; in order to meet the deadline for the publication of the Friends Annual Review the Christmas card design is settled on in November the preceding year i.e. 13 months before Christmas! Other things are not planned so far ahead for instance coasters and magnets based on some stained glass in the Oliver King Chapel were specified in June and on sale two months later.

Over 400 deliveries to the Cloister shop each year mean that organising the stock both in terms of space and finance is a key part of the daily management of the shop. Sales each year, amongst many others, include over 30,000 postcards, over 13,000 books, over 2000 commemorative spoons, over 8000 bookmarks and over 2000 pieces of china.

Two Christmas shopping evenings for staff and residents are held each year when the smell of mulled wine and mince pies fills the Dean’s Cloister; the Cloister shop is also open at each of the two December concerts. Stock levels need to be just right at this time of year as visitors as well as those more local to the shop undertake some Christmas shopping. Other busy periods are the summer when visitor numbers are high but also less expectedly in the period immediately after Christmas when overseas visitors purchase many Christmas decorations and Nativity sets ready for their next Christmas at home.

Charlotte Manley, LVO, OBE
Chapter Clerk
Recently purchased by the Friends for St George’s Chapel Archives is the Order of Service for the baptism of Prince Albert Edward (later Edward VII), held at St George’s Chapel on 25 January 1842 [SGC M.912]. Bound in cream silk with gilt decoration, it was inscribed on that day with a dedication to Canon Wriothesley Russell by Frederick William IV, King of Prussia, godfather to the young prince.

It was subsequently signed by Albert Edward on the day of his confirmation, 1 April 1858, and by him and his wife, Alexandra, on their wedding day in 1863. Their wedding was held in St George’s Chapel, as was that of other children of Queen Victoria, three of whom have also signed this Order of Service along with their spouses on the dates of their royal weddings.

The Order of Service highlights the close link between St George’s Chapel and the Royal Family. This relationship is shown through the many baptisms, marriages and funerals held here, but also on a much smaller scale, with the daily prayers for the Queen given at every service, in accordance with the original intention of the College’s founder, Edward III.

God Bless Our Gracious Sovereign and all the Companions of the Most Honourable and Noble Order of the Garter.

Eleanor Cracknell
Assistant Archivist until November 2013, now Archivist at Eton College
During last term the children at Sunday School began a big project for Advent; they made an Advent calendar and involved the community in populating it! The calendar shows Bethlehem with the stable at the centre. By Christmas Eve all of the people were assembled ready for the birth of Jesus.

The children started by drawing the various people and animals they would see in the stable. They had great fun deciding exactly what each person would be wearing. We had fabulous designs for shepherds, wise men and angels as well as Jesus, Mary and Joseph.

Claire Conley-Harper
St George’s Chapel is blessed with an organ of a distinctive voice.

Since my arrival from Temple Church in September, I have enjoyed spending some time getting to know the instrument. Despite being built by the same organ builder, the organs here and at Temple couldn’t be more tonally different from each other: if Temple were a Rolls-Royce, St George’s would be a Ferrari.

The present instrument dates from 1965, although it uses some older pipework from the previous organ. It is incredibly versatile: its clear choruses and fiery reed stops enable it to play convincingly most schools of organ music. It seems particularly at home with French organ music, particularly the great Parisian composers such as Langlais, Duruflé and Messiaen. You can close your eyes and smell the garlic...

With this in mind, I was pondering what voluntaries I might play in December: the organ repertoire is rich in pieces suitable for Advent and Christmas. Before long, I was drawn to the last movement of Olivier Messiaen’s nine movement cycle La Nativité du Seigneur, an illustration in music of the Incarnation of Christ.

The cycle dates from 1935 and was Messiaen’s first major organ cycle: it is probably his most popular organ work and in its preface, Messiaen outlines his inspirations - theological, instrumental and compositional. My fondness for the cycle comes from a variety of sources: my father’s record collection included a 1960’s recording from Westminster Abbey by Simon Preston and I remember, as a young boy, hearing the cycle’s final movement Dieu parmi nous being played after a carol service at Worcester Cathedral. I was immediately drawn to the piece and was determined one day to learn to play this piece myself. For organists, this movement is as popular as Handel’s Hallelujah Chorus: it is technically difficult but satisfying to play. In 1936, a review stated: ‘Olivier Messiaen is one of a small number of chosen people who have been able to see Christ and show Him in music.’ I would agree.

James Vivian
Director of Music