



THE QUEEN'S CHAPEL *of the SAVOY*



Newsletter 2019

Welcome from the Chaplain



Rev. Canon Prof. Peter Galloway OBE

The year 2018 saw a number of anniversaries both national and personal. The national events – the centenary of Armistice Day and the legislation extending to women the right to vote – are noted elsewhere in this Newsletter. On a personal level, I celebrated ten years as chaplain in February. In August, I preached at All Saints Church, Queensbury where I had been confirmed in May 1968, and in September I preached at St Michael and All Angels, Bishops Cleeve, Gloucestershire, in the churchyard of which both my parents were laid to rest. I don't know why they gave me the apostolic names of Peter and John, and of course it's now too late to ask. The death of our parents marks the closure of a chapter and the ending of childhood. It is no longer possible to ask them questions about the earliest years of our lives – which only they could answer.

Putting John aside, Peter had an endearingly human personality. He is the apostle about whom we have the most reliable information. He was as loyal and faithful to Christ as he could be emotional and headstrong in his acts and words. He emerges from the gospels as a man devoted

to his Lord and always trying to say and do what he felt was right. One of the most well-known stories about him comes not from the New Testament, but from the Acts of Peter, an apocryphal work dating from the 2nd century AD. Fleeing from persecution in Rome, Peter met Christ on a road to the south east of the city. In the Latin translation, Peter asked Christ: *'Domine, quo vadis?'* (Lord, where are you going?), and Christ replied: *'Romam eo, iterum crucifigi'* (I am going to Rome, to be crucified again). The apostle was so shamed by the encounter that he returned to Rome, where, according to the Acts of Peter, he was martyred by being crucified upside down – believing that he was unworthy to be crucified in the same manner as Christ. It is not improbable that the event actually occurred. In the earliest days of Christianity, the Church was a fellowship of martyrs.

There are times when I am grateful that I was baptised, confirmed and nurtured by the Church of England. It has been the church of my spiritual growth and a companion on my spiritual journey. There are also times when the behaviour of some of its members is hardly Christ-like in its expression. People who are convinced that they are right and take a stand on a single verse from the bible, wrenched out of context and hoisted as a placard to justify occupation of what is held to be the moral high ground. When that belief of being 'right' is declaimed with arrogance, then dialogue, common sense and love are the first casualties of what is in effect an intolerance of difference. Unity is strength. Combined, much can be achieved. Divided and polarised, aspects of Christianity become judgemental and harsh, others weak and ineffective, and by the world generally, both are dismissed as irrelevant.

At such times the last moving prayer of Christ for his apostles comes to mind: 'protect them . . . that they may be one.' The words of the last verse of Ethel Smythe's song, sung in the chapel on 10 June, are relevant to the church – past and future: *Life, strife – those two are one, Naught can ye win but by faith and daring. On, on – that ye have done But for the work of today preparing. Firm in reliance, laugh a defiance, (Laugh in hope, for sure is the end) March, march – many as one, Shoulder to shoulder and friend to friend.*



Domine, quo vadis? Annibale Carracci (1550-1609)

The church is neither dead nor stagnant, devoid of life and meaning, and justifying its right to exist by clinging defensively to forms and structures that are not fit for purpose because they no longer speak to an ever changing world. The church is a continually flowing river composed of open minds and kind souls and loving hearts of people, whose lives unselfishly reflect only the light and peace of God.

1918-2018

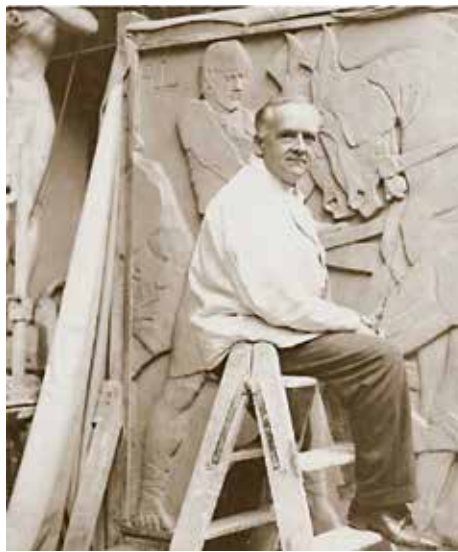


The Chapel's marble and mosaic memorial designed by Gilbert Bayes

11 November 2018 marked the centenary of the end of the Great War. This was commemorated at war memorials across the world, carefully listing the names of those who had died on active service. The Chapel's memorial in marble and mosaic was designed by the sculptor Gilbert Bayes (1872-1953) and unveiled by the Major General the Earl of Athlone on 2 December 1920. The commemorative inscription 'THESE LAID DOWN THEIR LIVES FOR KING AND COUNTRY AND NOW BEHOLDING THE KING IN HIS BEAUTY ARE SATISFIED' is a reference to the prophecy of Isaiah Chapter 33, verse 17: '*Your eyes will see the king in his beauty; they will behold a land that stretches far away.*'

Gilbert Bayes was a leading exponent of the New Sculpture movement. Among his best known works is '*The Queen of Time*' which stands above the entrance portico to Selfridges, the department store in London's Oxford Street. Among those names inscribed on the chapel war memorial is a distant cousin of Patrick De Courcy-Ireland, married at the chapel in

February 1918. De Courcy William Plunkett Ireland (1885-1916), joined the Royal Navy and achieved the rank of Squadron Commander of the Yarmouth Air Station in Norfolk. He invented, with Wing Commander Osborne, the so-called 'airship plane' in order to attack German Zeppelins. A Renault BE2C aircraft was attached to an SS-type airship, giving the aircraft greater height and endurance when it was released at altitude. The first trial launch took place on 21 February 1916. At 4,000 feet the aircraft was released as planned, but it turned on its back and De Courcy fell to the ground. He is buried at Gillingham (Woodlands) Cemetery.



Sculptor Gilbert Bayes (1872-1953)

The chapel has another example of Bayes' work: a bronze and enamel lectern presented

as a memorial to Laurence and Mabel Irving. Laurence Irving was the son of the actor and theatre manager Sir Henry Irving. Laurence and Mabel were passengers on the *RMS Empress of Ireland*, a Canadian ocean-going steamship which collided with the *Storstad*, a Norwegian collier in the St Lawrence River on 29 May 1914 and capsized with the loss of 1,012 lives. It was the worst maritime disaster in Canadian history. The bodies of Laurence and Mabel were never found.

The lectern stood in the chapel until the 1938-39 works. Since 1958 it has been in the Lancaster Hall. It bears an inscription from the works of Kalidasa (fl. AD 400), the Indian poet and playwright. '*Listen to the Exhortation of the Dawn! Look to this Day! For it is Life, the very Life of Life . . . For Yesterday is but a Dream, And Tomorrow is only a Vision; But Today well lived makes Every Yesterday a Dream of Happiness, And every Tomorrow a Vision of Hope.*'



The Bayes Lectern in the Lancaster Hall

In Memoriam

Twenty-nine memorial plaques were removed from the internal chapel walls in the restoration work of 1938-1939. From 1940 to 1957 they were stored in a room below newly constructed flights of entrance steps on the east side of the chapel. Both steps and room were demolished in 1957-58 to create what is now the Lancaster Hall. Some of the plaques were affixed to the walls of the rear steps leading up to the garden. In 2015 the majority were removed, cleaned and re-located. Three were returned to the chapel itself, the majority being placed in the Lancaster Hall.

Among them is a war memorial to John Fryer Bruce (1898-1918): *In dear memory of John Fryer Bruce. 2nd Lieut. Argyll and Sutherland Highrs who died of wounds 28th Feb. 1918.* John was the son of Michael and Gertrude Bruce. Both his parents were lost at sea on



The restored memorial plaque in the Lancaster Hall.

10th February 1910 when the French liner *General Chanzy* sank off Menorca. John then came into the care of his uncle and aunt, who called him '*their dearly beloved nephew-son*'. He was educated at Winchester College where he developed a talent for music. During school holidays he played the organ at the Savoy Chapel. He was commissioned in October 1917 and wounded on his first day in the trenches while leading his platoon into their position

in the front line. He died two days later at Poperinghe, Belgium at the age of 19. He was buried there at the Nine Elms Military Cemetery.



John Fryer Bruce (1898-1918)

Lest We Forget



The commemorative Tommy figure on display at Lancaster Castle

The Duchy of Lancaster was proud to support the commemoration of the 100th Anniversary of the Armistice on 11th November 2018.

At 6.00 am lone pipers played 'The Battle's O'er' outside Lancaster Castle's iconic John O'Gaunt Gate, and also in the courtyard of The Queen's Chapel of the Savoy. Remembrance Services attended by faith and secular leaders of the community were held in the morning at The Queen's Chapel, and in the evening at the Priory Church in Lancaster. The 'Tribute to the Millions' was read by the Chapel's Steward in London and by the Lord-Lieutenant of Lancashire, Lord Shuttleworth KG KCVO after the playing of the Last Post in Lancaster.

At the Priory Church a beacon of remembrance was then lit and the flame relayed to a second beacon on top of the Castle's mediaeval keep. At the conclusion of the ceremony, the Constable of Lancaster Castle Mrs Pam Barker laid a wreath at the foot of the 'There But Not There' Tommie silhouette which also carried a memorial stone carved by the Castle's resident stone carver Alan Ward.

Rest in Peace

Services of thanksgiving commemorating the lives of two departed members of the Order were held at the Chapel in October and December.

Richard Martin Sands (1937-2018) was formerly Honours Secretary at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and was appointed LVO on 17 January 2000.

Felicity Margaret Salisbury Murdo-Smith (1942-2018) was Information Officer at the Press Office of Buckingham Palace and was appointed MVO on 14th June 1969, LVO on 31st December 1979 and CVO on 12th June 1999.

The Duchy Team

The Duchy of Lancaster bid a fond farewell this year to outgoing Chairman Sir Mark Hudson KCVO who completed his term of office at the end of 2017. Sir Alan Reid GCVO, previously Keeper of the Privy Purse and an ex officio member of Council since 2002, took over the role of Chairman of the Duchy Council in January.

We also took the management of all the Duchy's rural estates back in hand this year and welcomed two new members of Council, Nicholas Hill, Marquess of Downshire and Marcus Rose.



Lord Downshire



Marcus Rose

A landowner with 20 years' experience in corporate finance, the Marquess of Downshire is a Trustee of the Country Land and Business

Association (CLA) pension fund and the Game and Wildlife Conservation Trust (GWCT). Marcus Rose is a highly regarded commercial property professional. Formerly with Richard Ellis (now CBRE) and then a director at DTZ, Marcus is also a former England international rugby player.

The Order at Windsor

The Queen has commanded that a service of the Royal Victorian Order will be held at St George's Chapel Windsor Castle at 11am on Friday 3 May. Those members of the Order and holders of the Medal wishing to attend, should apply for tickets to:

The Registrar of the Royal Victorian Order
Central Chancery of the Orders of Knighthood
St James's Palace
London
SW1A 1BG

Investiture

Our congratulations go to Mrs Julie Townsend, personal assistant to the Legal and Records Team of the Duchy of Lancaster. In recognition of her long service to the Duchy, Julie was appointed MVO in the Birthday Honours List on 8 June 2018.

A welcome to new members



52 new members of the Order and their guests gathered at the Chapel on Wednesday 16 May 2018 for a service to welcome them both to the

Order and to their Chapel. The service was held in the presence of the Grand Master and Officers of the Order. During the service, HRH The Princess Royal read the lesson from Paul's Letter to the Colossians: 'Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.' The choir sang an anthem by Samuel Sebastian Wesley, the wording taken from various scriptural texts:



Mrs Julie Townsend MVO

*Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace,
whose mind is stayed on thee.
The darkness is no darkness with thee;
but the night is as clear as the day:
The darkness and the light to thee
are both alike.
God is light, and in him is
no darkness at all.
O let my soul live, and it shall praise thee.
For thine is the kingdom, the power,
and the glory, for evermore.*

From Romania

On Sunday 9 December 2018 the Chapel welcomed Her Majesty Margareta, Custodian of the Romanian Crown. The 11am service that morning marked the end of the Great War, the contribution of Queen Marie of Romania at the Versailles Peace Conference, and the first anniversary of the passing of King Michael of Romania. At the time of his death on 5 December 2017, the king was the Senior Knight Grand Cross of the Royal Victorian Order, having been appointed by his cousin King George VI during the course of a state visit to London in 1938. The Crown Princess succeeded her father with the title Custodian of the Romanian Crown. Her Majesty was accompanied by HRH Prince Radu, HRH Princess Helen and HE Alexander Nixon. TRH the Duke and Duchess of Gloucester were also present for the occasion.



Her Majesty Margareta, Custodian of the Romanian Crown and HRH Prince Radu of Romania

Wedding Congratulations

Many congratulations to all members who celebrated weddings, christenings and confirmations at the Chapel this year. These have included the weddings of Patrick de Courcy-Ireland CVO to Marie-Antoinette Engelhardt in February 2018 and of Nicholas Loughran MVO to Clara Madden in December 2017.

Patrick de Courcy-Ireland was appointed to the Order on 29 October 1980 while serving as Consul General in Casablanca. His uncle was Captain Gerald Blakeney de Courcy Ireland, MC (1895-1986), who was appointed MVO 4th class on 14 July 1917 for his services as commander of the guard of honour at the Château de Bavincourt on the occasion of the visit of King George V to the army in France. Sixty-one years after his appointment to the Order, Gerald de Courcy Ireland was present at the first

Order service to be held at Windsor Castle's St George's Chapel in 1978.

Nicholas Loughran was appointed to the Order on 31 December 2016 for his services as Deputy Communications Secretary to the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge and Prince Henry of Wales.

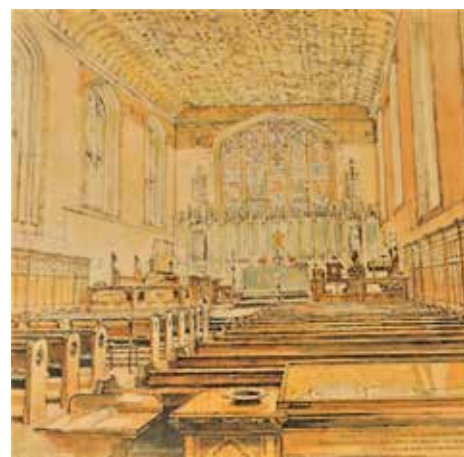


The wedding of Nicholas Loughran MVO and Clara Madden took place on 16 December 2017

New Addition

Among the additions to the chapel's collections this year is a drawing of the interior of the chapel by the artist Charlotte Halliday. A brass plate carries the following inscription: *To Cyril and Madeleine Cresswell with love and gratitude from their friends at The Queen's Chapel of the Savoy July 1961.*

Cyril Cresswell (1890-1974) was chaplain at the Savoy from 1933 to 1961. He played a significant role in establishing it as the chapel of the Royal Victorian Order in 1937. He and his wife Madeleine (1901-71) had no children, and the picture passed into the possession of his solicitor. It was presented to the Chapel by Mrs J. Macdonald in January 2018 and now hangs in the Royal Robing Room.



Pen, ink and watercolour drawing by Charlotte Halliday



The Queen's Chapel of the Savoy *Overlooked but not overshadowed*

Chaplain: The Revd Canon Professor Peter Galloway, OBE
Steward: Squadron Leader Thomas Leyland, BSc, RAF (retd)
Master of the Music: Philip Berg, MVO, FRCO, ARCM
Email: chapel@duchyoflancaster.co.uk
Telephone: 020 7836 7221 or 020 7379 8088
Facebook: Queen's Chapel of the Savoy

www.RoyalChapelSavoy.org