

CHAPEL OF ST. EDWARD THE CONFESSOR



GORDON'S SCHOOL

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The Chapel was erected in 1894, by private subscription, at the instance of Queen Victoria, in memory of her Grandson, HRH The Duke of Clarence and Avondale.

The principal donors were:-

HM Queen Victoria - The proceeds of her letter to the Nation

The Princess of Wales - A moiety of the sum derived from the sale of Canon Fleming's funeral sermon, preached at Sandringham on the 24th January 1892.

Mr N Gibbs - £1,000

It is interesting to note that the entire cost of the building at the time of erection was £2,838. The balance of subscribed monies, amounting to £261 was invested in a Chapel Fabric Maintenance Fund. The Organ was later installed in 1898, at a cost of £300.

The Sacristy was built in 1968 with the help of donations given in memory of Brigadier G C Blunt DSO OBE, a great nephew of General Gordon, who served on the Executive Committee, 1945 – 1967, and who kindly presented the Gordon Family Bible.

The Dedication Service, which was held on 21st May 1894, was conducted by the Bishop of Winchester, assisted by the Archdeacon of Surrey. The Service, which was attended by HRH The Prince of Wales, consisted of special dedication prayers, the Collect for All Saints and the singing of both the Hymn, '*Christ is made the sure foundation*', and Psalm 122, the Lesson being read from Verses 9-17 of the Seventh Chapter of the Book of Revelations. Among the congregation was Mrs Moffit a sister of General Gordon.

Following the Service, the Prince of Wales unveiled a memorial tablet in the East Wall, which bears the inscription:-

“Dedicated to the Glory of God, in memory of HRH The Duke of Clarence and Avondale KG. Presented to the Gordon Boys' Home, for the Service of the Church of England, 1894.”

WINDOWS

- (a) The Window on the South side of the Sanctuary, was presented in 1894 by Colonel R W Edis CB Hon, Architect for the building, in memory of The Duke of Clarence and Avondale and depicts Prince Edward the Martyr.
- (b) The Window on the North side of the Sanctuary, by private subscription in 1973, in memory of Mrs Honor Sawyer.
- (c) The East Window by Mrs Tulk of Chertsey, in memory of her husband John Augustus Tulk.

Nave – South Side

- (d) The Window near the Lectern, from School Funds, is in memory of Old Boys who died between 1886 – 1896.
- (e) Window, presented in 1904 by G A Macmillan Esq, one of the earliest Members of the Executive Committee, in memory of Captain M R Bruce who lost his life in Somaliland, 1903. He was the son of Sir Charles Bruce GCMG, Governor of Mauritius.
- (f) Window, in memory of Colonel Mark Bell VC CB, late RE, presented by his Widow.
- (g) Window, in memory of Lady Constance Pasley, presented in 1922 by Major Sir Thomas Pasley BT, at that time Commandant of the School.

West Window

- (h) Presented in 1913 by Mrs Tulk of Chertsey in memory of Colonel Walter G Ley North Staffordshire Regiment.

Nave – North Side

- (i) Window to Major George Collins, Staff Officer at the School from 1885 – 1902, presented by his sister Miss Collins.

The Lectern and Altar Ornaments, which have been in use since the Dedication of the Chapel, were presented by Miss Walters and Lt. Colonel JB Walker respectively, the latter being Commandant of the School at the time. The original Communion Plate was presented in 1894 by Mr S Dartnell and can now be found encased near the pulpit. That in present usage was presented in 1959 in memory of an Old Boy, Lt. Colonel A G Fryde.

The Chapel Bell was the gift of Mr Norris, who was the Contractor for the building.

The following Memorial Tablets have also been placed in the Chapel:-

Lord Ranksborough (Late Commanding Officer of The Royal Horse Guards and a friend of General Gordon)

Mr James Northmore (Deputy Governor of the School)

Mr H L Austin (School Sergeant Major for thirty-seven years)

The fourteen Old Boys who were killed in action in the South African War, are commemorated on a brass plaque on the South Wall. The one hundred and fifty-one who were killed in the First World War, are also recorded on this wall. This tablet being flanked by Ensigns which were previously flown at the Cenotaph. The names of the thirty-one Old Boys who died in the Second World War, are recorded on three pews purchased by the Old Gordon Boys' Association. In addition, the names of those of the First and Second World Wars are also recorded in 'The Book of Remembrance' which stands at the foot of the Chancel Steps. A page of this book was turned each Sunday at Mattins by a Prefect. This simple ceremony was followed by the singing of '*Rest Eternal Grant Them*' by the entire School.

As with the Old Gordon Boys' Association pews, the remainder have been kindly given by various organisations and individuals and were constructed by the Corps of Royal Engineers, who at the same time also generously donated the present Processional Cross and a Prayer Desk.

Both the School and the Old Boys' Colours hang from the Chancel Walls. The former was presented in 1955 by the Duke of Edinburgh when the 'Old Colour', presented by Dr Hope of Chobham, was proudly 'laid up' and now hangs from the North Wall. It was customary for the School Colour to be placed on the Altar during Sunday Mattins, as also was the Old Boys' Colour whenever Old Boys attend the Service.

The Font is of modern design and was constructed by boys in the School Workshops. It commemorates Mr R Gray, School Sergeant Major 1946 – 1965.

The Oak West Door is flanked on one side by a Chinese Banner presented by The Emperor of China, to General Gordon, and later donated to the School by his sister Augusta. On the other side, hangs CW Joy's painting of 'Gordon's Last Stand', which has been kindly presented to the School, on long loan, by the City of Leeds Art Gallery.

Undoubtedly this Chapel contains many interesting exhibits and fine memorials. Is it not possible however, in reflecting on General Gordon's work with the destitute boys of Gravesend, the picking up and carrying on his shoulders of an orphan child during the Siege of Sookchow and the freeing of Capsune, the Sudanese boy from the slave traders, to believe that he would have been particularly interested in a small battered framed photograph of a portrait of Christ placed on the North Wall by David Phillips' fellow members of Nile Dormitory?

David died at the School in 1946.

Today the Chapel is used regularly for morning assemblies during term-time as well as Chapel Service on Parade days throughout the year. The Chapel is also used for Baptisms and Weddings for members of the Gordon's Community.

'SEMPER FIDELIS'

SCHOOL CHAPLAINS

| | | | |
|------|---|-------------|---|
| 1890 | Rev. EL Bevan MA. (Later Bishop of Swansea & Brecon) | 1929 - 37 | Rev. T Guest Blofeld AKC |
| 1896 | Rev. Selwyn E Rudge | 1938 | - |
| 1897 | Rev. JE Davis | 1939 | Rev. KS Proctor MA LTh |
| 1897 | Rev. C Mayhew CIG | 1943 | Rev. S Bell BA Hon CF |
| 1898 | Rev. J Edgar D Pratt | 1947 | Rev. R N Shapley MA AKC RAF (Retd) (Later Bishop of Windward Islands) |
| 1898 | Rev. C Page Wood BA | 1949 | Rev. F A Giles Hon CF |
| 1899 | Rev. HD Madge BA LLM | 1974 | Rev. J H Watson CF (R) |
| 1902 | Rev. WH Gay MA | 1976 | Rev. D Andrews MC BA |
| 1907 | Rev. JHB Mace MA | 1977 | Rev. FA Giles Hon CF |
| 1913 | Rev. KA Utten Todd MA | 1979 | Rev. L Henrey |
| 1915 | Rev. A Keir | 1980 | Rev. HLM Sowdon BA |
| 1916 | Rev. WM Warlow MA | 1986 | Rev. F A Giles Hon CF |
| 1917 | Rev. B Ford | 1987 | Rev. G B Charrett B Sc ARCM |
| 1921 | Rev. TR Walker MA | 1994 - 2017 | Rev. D H Robinson Cert Ed Cert Min NSM |
| 1923 | Rev. RN Shapley MC | 2017- | Rev. S Norbron BEd Dip Min SSM OLM |
| 1927 | Rev. JCL Isard | | |



Put on the Whole Armour of GOD

withstand in the evil day and having done all stand

He that shall endure to the end shall be saved

He that shall endure to the end shall be saved