



# Called to Order

INVESTITURE, JUNE 2013



## Now eye see you

A direct appeal from our Spiritual Protector, Canon Andrew White GCStG, resulted in the Order of St George providing an ophthalmoscope for the Eye Clinic in Baghdad.

This piece of equipment is critical for early Ophthalmic Intervention and will help identify and deliver valuable Ophthalmic Services to those with the greatest need.

We are committed to continuing this support into the future and we will look to further developing this important humanitarian project.

We extend heartfelt thanks to Dr Richard Reyes MBBS MS FRCSE FRCS for his unfaltering assistance in obtaining this equipment. It was the Grand Prior's pleasure to prefer an Honorary Companionship of the Order to Dr Reyes at the Annual Investiture at Rochester.

## From Iraq to Rochester

Our annual Investiture ceremony in the magnificent setting of Rochester Cathedral is one of the highlights of our Order's year. It's a time for celebration, as we welcome new members formally to our ranks – followed by an extremely lengthy lunch!

But there is a serious side to the work we do, and this year we were aptly reminded of the important contribution we can make in the sermon given to our Investiture by our Spiritual Protector, Canon Andrew White. Andrew had travelled from Baghdad especially to be with us, despite the ongoing upsurge in violence in Iraq.

Canon White reminded us that of the 1.2 million Christians who lived in Iraq in 2003 only 200 thousand are left. The rest have fled, or been killed. In his own church of St. George's, Baghdad, a shocking 1,023 people have been killed since 2003 out of a total

congregation of 6,500. "Yet," says Andrew, "they keep coming, and the Church goes on."

*This is the background that makes our work so important and why we are proud to contribute to supporting those manning the front lines of religious freedom.*



▲ Canon Andrew White, in foreground, with other participants at our Rochester Investiture.

## Rochester highlights

New members welcomed

► <http://is.gd/I3SeMO>

Master General receives honorary Grand Cross

► <http://is.gd/K3nFS7>

Appointments of Honorary Companions ► <http://is.gd/CmrB18>  
Choir and Music ► <http://is.gd/dj5uLK>



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## Welcome to our new newsletter!

Dear Friends!

We have had an exciting start to 2013 with substantial donations to the Royal Hospital Chelsea and the hospice movement.

We move into a new phase in the work of our Order with a hands-on volunteering project in the [Margaret Thatcher Infirmary](#) at the Royal Hospital Chelsea, in partnership with the [Countess Mountbatten's Own Legion of Frontiersmen](#) - a volunteer corps founded in 1904 with many ex-service personnel in it and seeking to expand their community role in London. The Order hopes to extend the scope of the volunteering programme, and members' participation in it will be a definite "plus" when it comes to promotion!

Our first [masked ball](#) and dinner on 6th April was a tremendous success and we will be delighted to welcome the Worshipful Mayor of Broxbourne, Cllr Eddie Rowlands, into the Order in May.

Our commandery in Georgia, USA is now up and running with many good Companions being enrolled. They

will assist in fundraising for the persecuted Christians in Egypt and Iraq, and the prospects are very exciting. We hope to see yet more English speaking Commanderies in the USA and Commonwealth.

We will be promoting several members of our Scottish Commandery to Knight Commander in appreciation of all their hard fundraising work over the past year.

As you will see from the panel below we have significant targets to reach, and I would like to exceed them. To do this, we need your help. We are very keen to have volunteers willing to organize one or more fundraising events each per year. If you would like to join the management team and help organise events, please contact me at [simon.mcilwaine@ormerods.co.uk](mailto:simon.mcilwaine@ormerods.co.uk) or Chev Mark Haley at [mark.haley@btclick.com](mailto:mark.haley@btclick.com)

I look forward to seeing you again very soon!

Yours under the Banner of St George

*Simon McIlwaine,*  
GCStG, Grand Prior



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**These are commitments that we must fund over the next two years, and we appeal for your support.**

3PWR Welfare Fund-our affiliated regiment  
**£3,000**  
over 2 years

Medical relief to Coptic Christians  
**£10,000**  
minimum over 2 years

St George's Baghdad  
**£2,000**  
minimum over 2 years

Platinum Friendship of the Royal Hospital Chelsea  
**£3,000**  
over 2 years

▲ Our Grand Prior is devoted to building healthy interfaith relationships between Christians and Jews and recently spent a further "tour" of duty volunteering in the SAR EL volunteers for Israel programme. Simon spent two weeks working in a logistics role in an Army base, undertaking tasks with a humanitarian focus.



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▲ Chevalier Brian Cumming MBE KCSIG, Chelsea Pensioner and Knight Commander of the Order.

## Supporting our soldiers – past and present

The Order is honoured to be associated with the Royal Chelsea Hospital - famous worldwide for the scarlet uniforms of the 'Chelsea Pensioners' - and with our affiliated Territorial Army Unit, The 3rd Battalion Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment.

The Royal Hospital Chelsea was founded in 1682 by King Charles II to provide soldiers with a fitting home in their retirement. Three centuries later, it continues its work as a hospital in the original use of the word - as a place where hospitality is provided.

Known as the Tigers, the Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment is the most decorated of all British Army regiments, with 57 Victoria Crosses including the VC awarded to Lance Corporal Johnson Beharry in 2004 for his gallantry in Iraq.

Find out more about the Royal Chelsea Hospital at <http://www.chelsea-pensioners.co.uk/> and the Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment at <http://www.army.mod.uk/infantry/regiments/23994.aspx>

## The Knight of the Ball

An unmitigated triumph. That's the unbiased verdict on the Order's first Masked Ball, held in the convivial surroundings of the Chesfield Downs Golf and Country Club in rural Hertfordshire.

Revellers enjoyed an excellent dinner and live entertainment before being parted from their money via a raffle, auction and a heads-and-tails game. We raised over £1200 for two of our good causes - the welfare fund of the Territorial Army Unit, 3rd Battalion Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment, and for our on-going commitment to the Chelsea Pensioners.



Special thanks to Chev. Mike and Ann Doak for organizing the Ball!

▲▲ The Mayor of Broxbourne opens proceedings.  
▲ Quality entertainment from Just Us, supported by Chev. D'Elia on, er, broom...

More photos! <http://is.gd/MxSV9I>

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## About our Order

The International Knightly Order Valiant of Saint George takes its inspiration from the ancient and honourable Christian Order of Knighthood founded in 1326 by King Károly Róbert of Hungary.

Today, the Order supports charitable endeavours in four continents. In the UK, organisations we support include the Royal Hospital Chelsea, the 3rd Battalion of the Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment Welfare Fund (our affiliated Regiment) and youth charities such as Fairbridge, which aims to transform the lives of young people by teaching them about team working and inter-dependence.

In addition to being the Patron Saint of England, St. George also holds a special place in the affections of Christians in Africa and the Middle East, and so we are particularly proud of our links with the Coptic community in Egypt, and with the Anglican Church in Baghdad, whose vicar, the Rev Canon Andrew White, is our Order's Spiritual Protector.

All members of The Order sustain its work directly by means of an annual Oblation (currently £50), by voluntary donations and by actively engaging in charitable activities - large or small, that raise much-needed money for the

less fortunate in society. Our aim is to make a difference in the world.

We warmly welcome into membership of our vibrant Order ladies and gentlemen over the age of 21 years who wish to be involved in improving the lives of others.

For information about joining our Order, please contact Chev Mark Haley at [mark.haley@btclick.com](mailto:mark.haley@btclick.com) or complete the Petition form at <http://is.gd/YiiM1k>.

### On the bench

Our Thistle and Rose Commandery's charitable donations so far this year have been in excess of £1,500. The Commandery has donated three benches in memory of two Brethren. One bench has been placed at Strathcathro Hospital Stroke Unit in Brechin and two more in Kirkcunel in Dumfries.



The Commandery has also sponsored an electrical disabled scooter to another individual, which from feedback from his family has greatly increased his independence and mobility. We also were able to donate 22 very good quality Christmas gifts to a local heart group in Alloa in Clackmannan.



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## Called to Order

*Called to Order* is the new interactive e-newsletter of the Order of Saint George, to be published three times a year. It is designed to be viewed on a PC or tablet, or can be printed out as a paper newsletter. We hope members of the Order will take the opportunity to circulate *Called to Order* to their friends and encourage them to join! A link to *Called to Order* on-line is at <http://is.gd/9GBCD8>

### Forthcoming attractions

Friday 9 August 2013 and Saturday 23rd November: Tower of London after hours private tours; Ceremony of the Keys followed by a return to the Yeoman Warder's Club at the Tower for buffet supper. 6.45pm at the Tower Main Gate. (NB: Dress code is jacket and tie as the Yeoman Warders' Club is licensed; admittance is strictly over 18's only.)

7 December 2013: Christmas Lunch

More info: <http://is.gd/NchcaR>



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