

St Oswald's CHAPEL

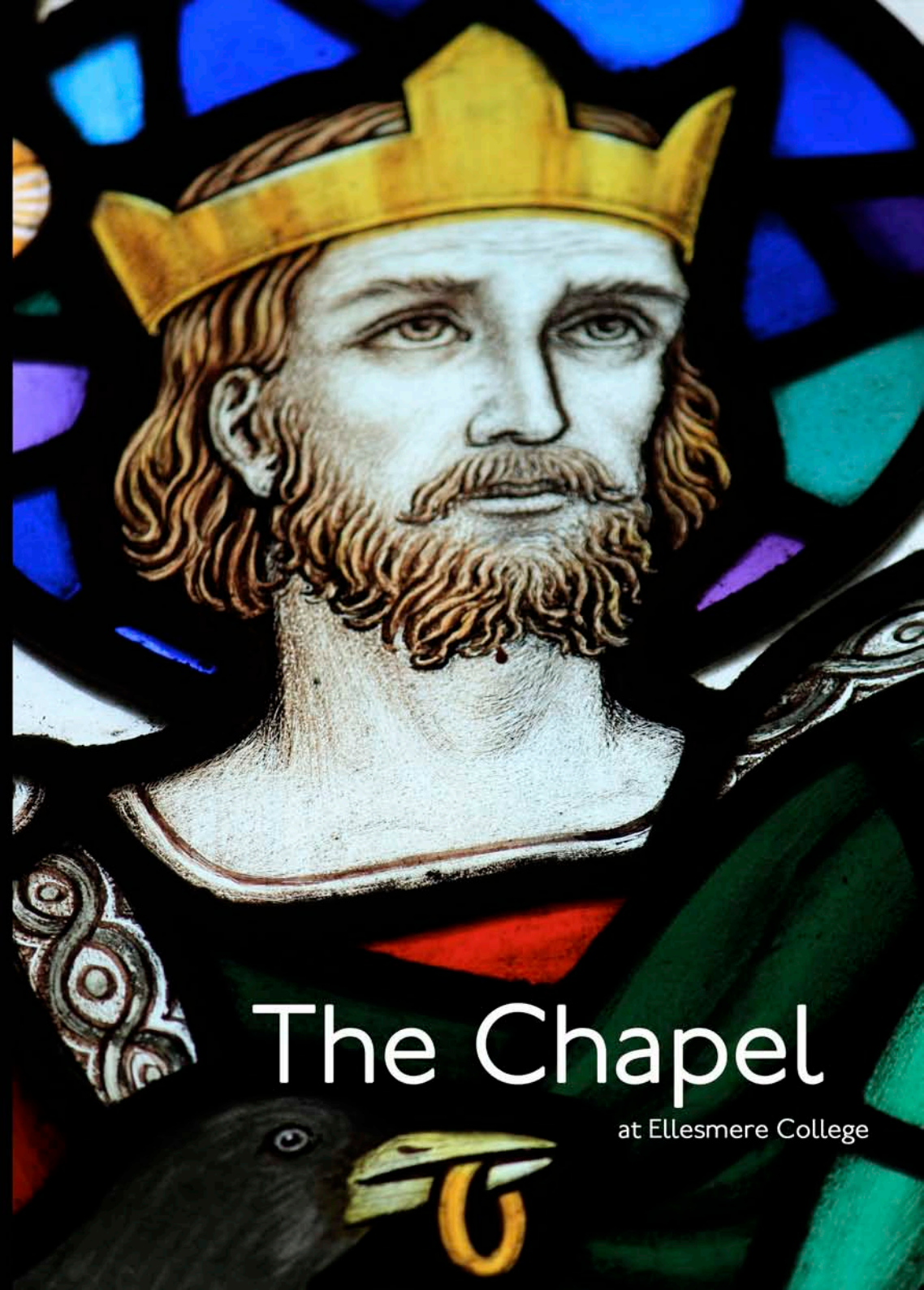
Ellesmere College
Ellesmere
Shropshire
SY12 9AB

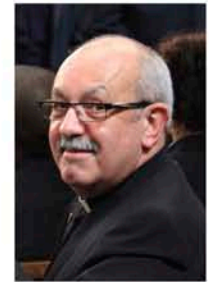
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at Ellesmere College

The Chapel

at Ellesmere College





College Chaplain
The Reverend David Sum

The Chapel of St. Oswald KING AND MARTYR

WELCOME TO ELLESMERE COLLEGE CHAPEL.

Ellesmere College was founded by the Reverend Nathaniel Woodard in 1884 and seeks to uphold the Christian principles on which it was founded and in which the Chapel, dedicated to St. Oswald, King and Martyr, has played and continues to play a significant part in school life.



The Chapel, past and present.

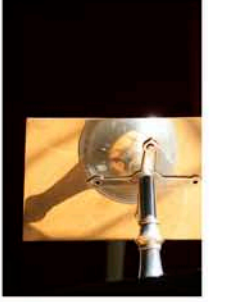
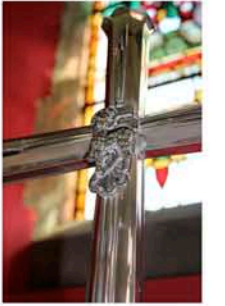
The present Chapel was designed by Sir Aston Webb in 1926 in the Collegiate style and on a lavish scale. However, by 1928 resources had permitted only the first portion to be built. In 1932 Sir Charles Nicholson made modified plans. These were followed and building was completed in 1959.

Following a fire in the Chapel on 23rd June 1966, the Chapel was gutted as far as the Chancel Arch. All the woodwork that you see in the Chapel today is post-fire, except for the roof timbers in the Lady Chapel and the cupboards in the Choir Vestry.



The Chaplain of the day, Reverend Maurice Gray, commented, "The most remarkable piece of wood to survive the fire is the piece with a golden cross and stars above the West door. How this survived the inferno I shall never know."

Rebuilding of the Chapel was completed in 1969 and present at the time of re-dedication of the Chapel was the Archbishop Trevor Huddleston who preached the sermon for the occasion.





“Pro patria dimicans”

“STRIVING FOR ONE’S COUNTRY”

Take a few paces into the Chapel and then turn around. Above the Chapel doors you will see three coats of arms with crests. The middle one is the School Coat of Arms and Crest with the motto, “Pro patria dimicans” which translates as “Striving for one’s country” and is believed to have been chosen by the first Custos, Sir Offley Wakeman. The crest displays a crown symbolising Oswald, Patron Saint of both the College and the Chapel, as the King of Northumbria, and a raven with a ring in its beak. The motif refers to the legend of St. Oswald who wanted to marry a pagan Princess and sent his proposal via his pet raven with the proviso that she must first become a Christian. She declined and the raven returned with the ring.

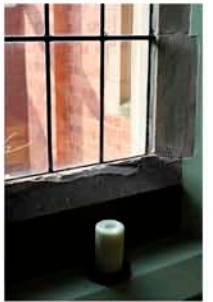


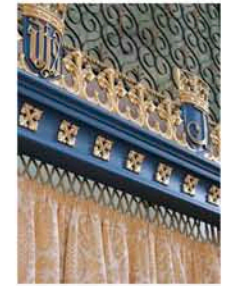
The School Coat of Arms bears two horizontal Celestial Crowns in gold. Celestial Crowns have eight points of which, traditionally five are shown. These crowns represent Oswald's kingship and the heavenly crown he gained. Each of the five points ends in a star. The fact that the points of these two Celestial Crowns are unconventionally longer than the heraldic tradition allows is believed to be the result of being commissioned prior to the actual Grant of Arms in 1959 and as a result would appear to have been produced according to the specification of an "artist's impression" rather than an authentic design. When the Grant of Arms was made and the specific design showing the traditional length of the points established, the design fault was duly noted but not corrected.



Over the Headmaster's Stall is the Coat of Arms and Crest of Offley Wakeman, Baronets, Father and Son, who were Custodes of the School Council for no less than seventy-four years between them! By convention the Headmaster vacates his seat in the stall, by moving to one side, to allow the Custos to take that seat when he or she is attendance at Chapel service.

Over the Deputie's stall you will see the Coat of Arms and Crest of Arthur Talbot. He was the first Provost of the Midland Division of the Woodard Corporation.





The Sanctuary and Altar. ST. OSWALD, KING AND MARTYR

In the Sanctuary, there is a blend of the old and the new with many of the furnishings having been gifted to the College in memory of former pupils and staff. The High Altar, with riddle-posts and curtains, has a stone bed and framework. It weighs almost two tons! Symbolising the five wounds of the crucified Christ, the top of the altar stone is marked with five crosses. A small pebble collected from the shores of the Sea of Galilee is set into each cross.

The magnificent Eagle Lectern is the work of Robert Thompson & Co. of Kilburn. Robert Thompson was known as the "Mouseman". Both the Lectern and the Hymn Boards bear the mark of this craftsman, a small mouse.



Above the Sanctuary, the legend of St. Michael is depicted in the stained glass window. The angels and St. Michael are shown slaying the dragon, a symbol of evil.

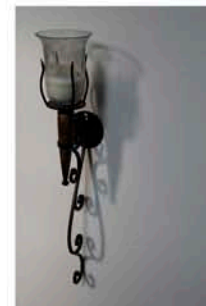
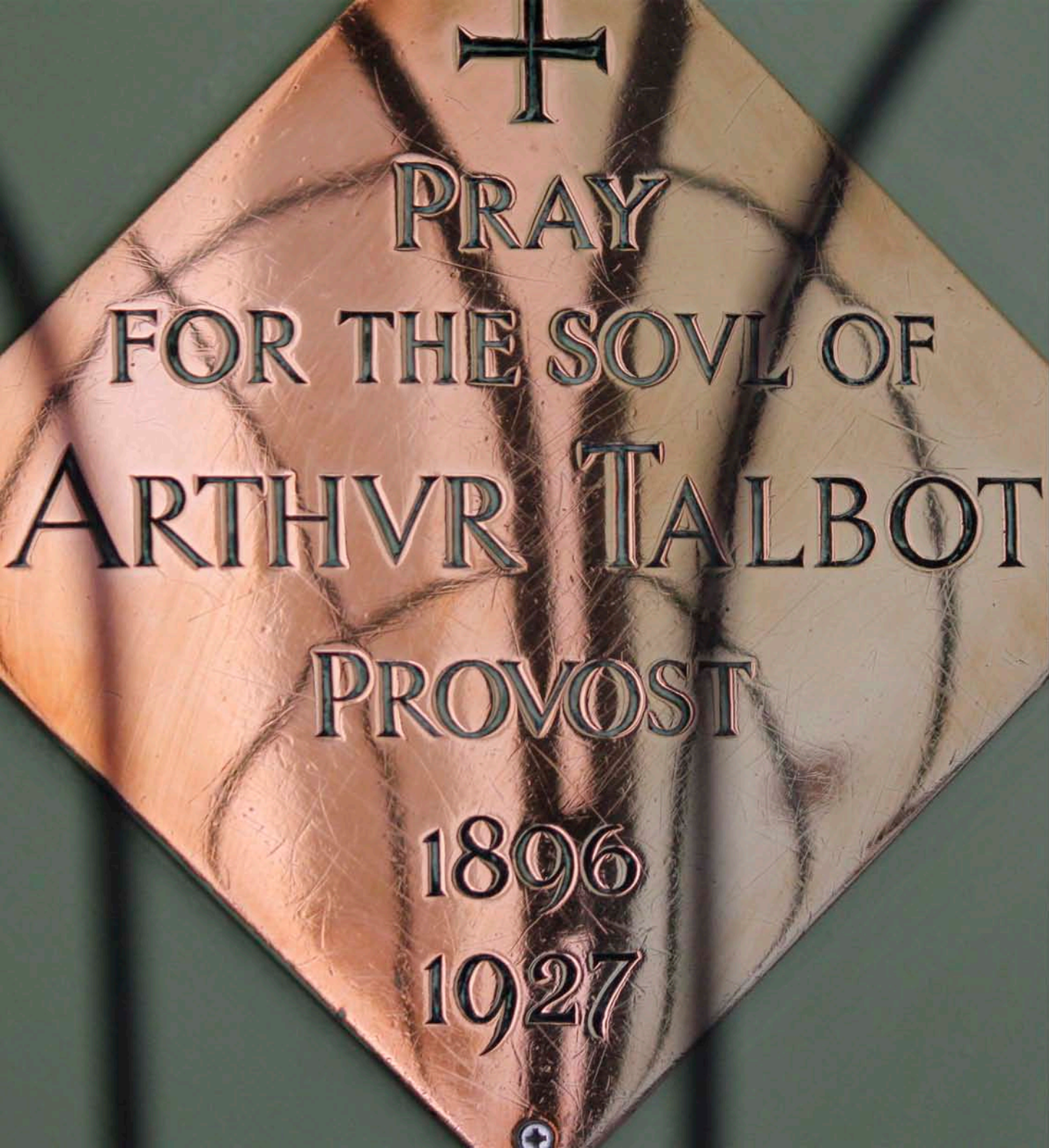
The College Banner is on the North side of the Sanctuary and shows St. Oswald with the Raven. This is carried in procession at certain Chapel services and at "Woodard" pilgrimages. On the South side of the Sanctuary is the Processional Cross displaying Christ crucified. Standing beside the choir stalls, this is carried for regular Chapel and Lower School services. Usually on display in the cabinet and used to lead processions on special occasions is the Woodard Processional Cross which was given in memory of John Frederick Woodard who died in 1917. This was fully restored in 2009 by Andrew Lamputt whose children were pupils of the school.




The Lady Chapel.

The stairs on either side of the Sanctuary lead up to the Lady Chapel, which is in daily use as a tranquil place of refuge for those who wish to think and pray. It is also where the Office has traditionally been said and where, on various occasions worship for smaller groups takes place and Occasional Offices may be conducted.

The stained-glass window in the Lady Chapel depicts St. Oswald and St. Aidan. At Oswald's request Aidan was sent from the Scottish Island of Iona to preach the Christian faith to the people of Northumbria. Oswald used to translate Aidan's sermons for him and had the reputation of being a kindly and peaceful monarch during a reign which lasted for only eight years. Oswald was killed at the Battle of Masefield, just outside of Oswestry, by the forces of the pagan ruler Penda of Mercia.





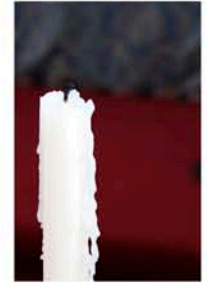

The Reverend Maurice Gray
1927 - 2006
Chaplain - Teacher - Friend



In memoriam.

There are two urns of ashes interred in the walls of the lady Chapel and one at the foot of the North staircase. Interred in the North side of the altar in the Sanctuary of the Lady Chapel are the ashes of the late Reverend Raymond Evans-Prosser, Headmaster of the College from 1935 until 1961. On the South side of the Sanctuary are the ashes of Michael Davis, late of Lambart House, who died just a year after leaving the College.

The ashes interred at the foot of the North staircase are those of the Reverend Maurice Gray. He was a much loved and respected Chaplain who served the College community for twenty-nine years.



The Aumbrey on the East wall of the Sanctuary is marked, when in use, by a lighted candle and above the small altar, the perpetual light of the Sanctuary Lamp, the fellow of the lamp hanging over the small altar in the Chapel Sanctuary. It illuminates the place where the Blessed Sacrament, the Holy Communion may be administered during regular worship and at other times to members of the College community suffering illness or distress.



The Organ.

The original Chapel Organ was installed in 1938 by Kingsgate, Davidson & Co. and stood in the West Gallery. Sir Charles Nicholson designed the casework and the Organ was built to a specification by the Reverend Noel Bonavia-Hunt. The current Organ design is the outcome of consultation with Herbert Norman FRSA FISOB, Dr. Herbert Sumsion CBE, an independent consultant and Rex Lumley, former Director of Music at the College.