



# FALKLAND ISLANDS MEMORIAL CHAPEL NEWSLETTER

2008

## Chairman's Letter

For everyone involved with the Chapel, 2007 has been a remarkable year, one for the memory. Undoubtedly the highlight was the Chapel being chosen as the venue to lead the national commemorative events in June to mark the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Falklands War. Broadcast live on BBC television the service on Falklands Liberation Day, 14<sup>th</sup> June, in the presence of Her Majesty The Queen and His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh and attended by political and military dignitaries as well as hundreds of members of bereaved families, veterans and others connected with the campaign or the Chapel, was a moving and unforgettable occasion. The Trustees were very touched by the huge post bag of appreciative letters received soon afterwards and hope that you will enjoy the photographs of the day in this bumper newsletter.

Early in May there had been a stunning Flower Festival in the Chapel which attracted over 4,000 visitors, a record. The Flower Guild Chairman, Mrs Sadie Clare, and her tireless team of volunteers always ensure that the Chapel has lovely floral displays. This was their third Flower Festival and surpassed the high standards of its predecessors. We are truly grateful.

The year has also seen the arrival of three magnificent albatross sculptures by Mark Coreth, which adorn the south-west side of the Chapel, and Her Majesty topped out the Cairn, now situated in a quiet, reflective spot at the back of the Chapel. We hope further stones will continue to gather there, at its base. Other



*Her Majesty The Queen and His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh arriving at the Chapel*



events have been the first Schools Concert in March, the London 10k run and a second round of the Falklands Shield golf competition as well as significant fund raising efforts, including a dinner onboard HMS Victory. The Trustees felt that this 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary year was an opportunity to raise a substantial sum towards the long

term maintenance of the Chapel. We set a target of £150,000 and as we go to press I am pleased to report that we have exceeded that figure by £40,000. The Trustees are delighted with this response and hugely grateful to everyone who has contributed in any way. Thank you.

Plans for the future include a

refurbishment of the Memorial and Education Rooms to incorporate a gifted collection of 105 models of the ships that took part in the campaign of 1982. The policy of the Trustees is not to accept gifts of memorabilia in order to maintain the simplicity and ethos of the Chapel but we have made an exception this year and have also accepted a battle ensign from HMS GLAMORGAN, the ships bell from RFA SIR GALAHAD and some photographs from Norman Clark.

Sadly we have said farewell to two long standing Trustees. Admiral Sir Michael Layard and Sir Brian Hill relinquished their responsibilities in September. Both have been deeply involved for a long time, especially with overseeing the building and maintenance of the Chapel. We are indebted to them and look forward to seeing them and their wives at future annual services.

Next year there will be a second Schools Concert on 1<sup>st</sup> March. If this year's was anything to go by it will be another impressive and enjoyable evening listening to young musicians. The Annual Service of Remembrance and Thanksgiving is on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> June when we look forward to seeing old friends and an increasing number of reunion groups, a trend the Trustees are delighted to witness. Then Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> July marks the next 10K London Run – volunteers please!

I hope you enjoy this newsletter and find much in it to remind you of this special year, not least the book review section kindly contributed by Robin Brodhurst, the Chapel Librarian

## OUR SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE & THANKSGIVING

Please join us on Sunday June 15<sup>th</sup> for our special annual Service of Remembrance & Thanksgiving in the Falkland Islands Memorial Chapel at Pangbourne. By returning the enclosed reply slip we can ensure that there are enough refreshments available after the Service which begins at 12.00hrs. Our Guest of Honour will be former Second Sea Lord Vice Admiral Sir Adrian Johns & Lady Johns, and the preacher will be The Venerable John Green.

**No tickets** will be issued this year. It has come to our attention

that there may be members of families who have been unable to attend our Annual Service due to ill health, inability to travel distances unaccompanied, or budgetary constraints. In such special circumstances it may be possible for the Trustees to give a measure of assistance for those who have been regularly unable to visit the Chapel in June but would like to do so as long as funds are available for the purpose. In this case a letter of application should be sent via the Secretary to the Trustees before the end of April.

## WELSH NATIONAL FALKLANDS MEMORIAL IS CONSECRATED

On 30<sup>th</sup> September the spectacular Welsh Memorial dedicated to all those who died in 1982 was consecrated at a Drum-Head service in Cardiff. Built by veterans of SAMA Wales following 3 years of fundraising it features a gift from the Falklanders of a 5 ton granite rock from Mount Harriet, spotted on a re-visit by Andy 'Curly' Jones WG(Sir Galahad), and mounted on a six foot high plinth. Plaques featuring the names of all 258 who died and a map of the Falkland Islands are mounted on the plinth.



## FLOWER ARRANGING MASTERCLASS

Following our popular & successful Flower Festival to mark the 25th Anniversary of the Falklands War last year the Chapel Flower Guild are organising a demonstration of flower arranging by Glenis Smith, a very talented artist with flowers, & one of the

exhibitors at the May Festival. Glenis is a regular member of the Chapel Rota of Flower Arrangers, a qualified National Association of Flower Arranging Societies (NAFAS) demonstrator, and is currently Chairman of the Berks, Bucks and Oxon Area of NAFAS. It is

hoped that the demonstration will be preceded by a short music recital.

For further details and ticket applications please send a stamped addressed envelope (6"x8" approx) at any time from now on to: Mrs Sadie Clare, FIMC Flower Guild, Hollins, Pangbourne Road, Upper Basildon, Reading RG8 8LN.



Floral excellence at 2007 Flower Festival

## FALKLAND ISLANDS MEMORIAL CHAPEL ASSOCIATIONS & CONTACTS

### Falkland Families Association (FFA)

Chairman: Mrs Sara Jones CBE

Secretary: Mrs Cynthia Middlewick, 20 Newlands Close, Keymer, Hassocks, West Sussex BN6 8BQ

FFA Service: Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> April, 2008 at the Guards Chapel (ticket only from Sec.)

FFA Service: Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> June, 2008 at St. Paul's Cathedral Crypt (ticket only from Sec.)

### SAMA '82

President: Major General Malcolm Hunt CBE Chairman Tony Davies MBE Secretary: Denzil Connick

SAMA'82, PO Box 82, Blackwood, NP12 0YE. Tel: 01495 227577 or email: [densama@aol.com](mailto:densama@aol.com)

SAMA'82 AGM : Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> April 2008 at the Royal Maritime Club in Portsmouth at 2pm

### Merchant Navy Association (MNA)

Capt. John Sail MNI,

C/O Prelude Day Nursery, Ensign House, Osbournby, Sleaford, NG34 0DG 01529 455734 email: [Mna4@sail-mail.net](mailto:Mna4@sail-mail.net)

## Contact FIMCT

Mrs Angela Perry, Secretary to the Trustees

Falkland Islands Memorial Chapel Trust, Wroxton Mill, Wroxton, Banbury, , Oxon OX15 6EZ

Tel: 01295 738123 Fax: 01295 738296

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

**Sunday June 15<sup>th</sup>**  
Annual Service of Remembrance & Thanksgiving  
Falkland Islands Memorial Chapel, Pangbourne 12.00 hrs followed by buffet luncheon  
RSVP, please, on enclosed booking form. **No tickets** will be issued

**Saturday June 14<sup>th</sup>**  
Falkland Families Association Service  
St Paul's Cathedral, London 11.00hrs  
**Ticket only:** apply FFA (See Above)

**Saturday March 1<sup>st</sup> at 19.00hrs**  
Charity Schools Concert supporting the Children's Trust  
In the Falkland Islands Memorial Chapel  
Contact: Susie Belcher 01189 842101  
**Ticket only**

**Sunday July 6<sup>th</sup>**  
10K London Run 9.35hrs  
Volunteers: contact Angela Perry  
**Friday 7 November 2008**  
Flower arranging demonstration at 19.30hrs  
in the Falklands Memorial Chapel (See Above)



# REMEMBERING 25 YEARS ON

## JUNE 14<sup>TH</sup> 2007 – REMEMBERING 25 YEARS ON....

Thursday June 14<sup>th</sup> 2007 marked a tremendous highlight in the Chapel's history when hundreds of bereaved family members and Falklands veterans joined Her Majesty The Queen & The Duke of Edinburgh at a special Service of Remembrance & Thanksgiving to commemorate their loved ones, friends & colleagues on the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Liberation of the Falkland Islands. The fully televised Service was both moving and memorable as the Chapel was filled with the sweet sound of the student choir together with fitting music from the Commando Training Centre Royal Marines Band, and at appropriate moments the poignant tones of the Royal Marines Bugler, the State Trumpeters & a piper's lament by a Scots Guards piper.

Luminaries from 1982 including Baroness Thatcher, Admiral of the Fleet Sir Henry Leach, Admiral Sir John 'Sandy' Woodward, and many of the Commanding Officers of ships, squadrons, regiments & battalions joined the Prime Minister, Defence Secretary, Chiefs of the Defence, Naval, General & Air Staffs in the 600 strong congregation to show their deepfelt respect to those who had given their lives in the cause of freedom and to their families left behind to count the cost. The address given by The Right Reverend David Conner, Dean of Windsor & Bishop to the Forces, was both inspired and inspiring.

The Service was preceded by the arrival of Her Majesty & entourage heralded by the State Trumpeters and a spectacular fly-past by four Harrier Jump Jets watched by crowds of onlookers from the local community. The excitement was palpable as Her Majesty emerged from the Chapel after the Service to make her way to a gathering at the Stone Cairn



*When surrounded by children Her Majesty The Queen never stops smiling...Chapel Chairman Rear Admiral Jeremy Sanders and Lady-in-Waiting Mrs Robert De Pass escort Her Majesty*



*Her Majesty places Her Stone in the Cairn having just received it from Jim Hailwood (behind), 25 year old son of Christopher Hailwood (dec'd) 3<sup>rd</sup> Engineering Officer, RFA Sir Galahad; (behind L-R) Robert Dent (25), son of Captain Christopher Dent (dec'd) 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion The Parachute Regiment, Miss Rebecca Curtis (25), daughter of Lt. William Alan Curtis (dec'd) RN 801 Squadron Fleet Air Arm, HMS Invincible, Leading Seaman CJ 'Rab' Butler – Falklands Veteran & member of HMS Chatham.*



*The Queen & Duke of Edinburgh talking to sculptor Mark Coreth at the bronze Albatrosses*

where she placed her own stone and met three 25 year olds whose fathers had been killed in 1982. Members of HMS Chatham, who had brought 258 stones for the Cairn all the way from the Falkland Islands were also in attendance at the Cairn. On her way to the Cairn Her Majesty had met sculptor Mark Coreth whose magnificent bronze albatrosses are now displayed in permanent flight beside the Chapel.

The Royal Party then proceeded to Devitt House through an excited throng of children and parents laden with flowers and tributes. Smiling throughout, Her Majesty was escorted to a huge marquee on Devitt Lawn where the congregation of families & veterans eagerly waited to meet her & the Duke after which a buffet lunch was served with the Band of the RAF playing in the background. Luckily the weather (which had been threatening rain) was kind and the guests were able to mingle in the garden outside. It was an occasion when many memories were unearthed and exchanged, when old friends renewed their acquaintance, new friends were made and the Chapel again was given the opportunity to fulfil the purpose for which it was built.

The Trustees would like to thank everyone who played a part in making the day a memorable one particularly the College team, the BBC & the MOD under the direction of Wing Commander Chris Pickthall (who was in charge also of all the succeeding weekend's National Commemoration events) and without whom such lavish arrangements could not have been made. They would also like to thank the many family members and veterans who wrote in their numbers to thank them.



# REMEMBERING 25 YEARS ON

## BEFORE THE SERVICE



L-R The Rt Hon. Michael Mates, Helene Robinson-Moltke, Mrs Christine Mates (widow of Lt. Cdr Glen Robinson-Moltke) & Michael Robinson Moltke



L-R Captain Nick Tobin RN (HMS Antelope in '82), Air Chief Marshal Sir Peter Squire and Lt Col. Ewen Southby-Tailyour RM



L-R Colonel David Benest (formerly CO of 2 Para), Sir Hew Pike and Garrison Sergeant Major Bill Mott



Mr & Mrs Ron Obbard (CollegeBursar)



The State Trumpeters announce the arrival of the Royal party



Admiral Sir Jonathon Band, Chief of the Naval Staff with Wing Commander Chris Pickthall (Team Leader MOD Commemorations), and Lady Band



Baroness Thatcher arrives at the Chapel (Crown copyright/MOD 2007)



Major General Julian Thompson (Commander 3 Cdo. Brigade in '82) with his wife Jane



Admiral of the Fleet Sir Henry Leach in conversation with Rear Admiral Jeremy Sanders



25 year old Jim Hailwood, whose father Christopher Hailwood (RFA Sir Galahad) was killed in '82, in the Chapel foyer with Her Majesty's Cairn Stone on the Sir Galahad kneeler.



General Sir Richard Dannatt, Chief of the General Staff



Mrs Sadie Clare, Chairman of the Chapel Flower Guild and her husband John



(L) Private Steve Kettles (formerly 2 Para) & (R) Lance Corporal Mark 'Jonah' Jones (formerly 9 PARA Sqn RE, 2 Tp att. 3 PARA) (Crown copyright/MOD 2007)



# REMEMBERING 25 YEARS ON

## AFTER THE SERVICE



L-R Dave Bassnet, Craig McDermott, Captain Brian Young, and Ian Cox (standard bearer) all of HMS Antrim in 1982 with Lady Thatcher.



Three happy College students enjoying the day!



L-R Mr Danny McDermid, L/Sgt Simeon (son of Sgt. John Simeon, 1st Batt. Scots Guards in '82), Piper Lance Sgt. R McCrindle Scots Guards & Mrs Jane Furlong



The Central Band of the RAF playing at the reception



(Crown copyright/MOD 2007) Her Majesty The Queen in conversation with Baroness Thatcher flanked by The Rt. Hon. Tony Blair, Prime Minister and Mrs Blair



Former Trust Chairman Captain Michael Barrow with (L) Kevin MacDonald (HMS Antrim) and (R) Eon Matthews (HMS Glamorgan Standard Bearer) who have known each other for 30 years from their schooldays.



The family of Lance Sgt. Clark Mitchell, 2nd Battalion Scots Guards L-R: Georgina McConville, Angus Mitchell, Fan Mitchell (mother), Ann Thompson, Theresa Davidson (widow), Jim Thompson & Stewart Mitchell (brothers)



Sir Philip Wroughton, Lord Lieutenant of Berkshire with John Madejski one of the Chapel's major benefactors



Mrs Janet Visuvalingham, sister of Sgt. Malcolm Wigley W/G dec'd, with her husband Vente



Christina Parkhouse, widow of Stephen Heyes RN HMS Ardent with Her Majesty The Queen



Guests outside the marquee enjoying refreshment after the Service



# FLOWER FESTIVAL 2007



Trustee Anthony Hudson with his book about the Chapel beside one magnificent floral display

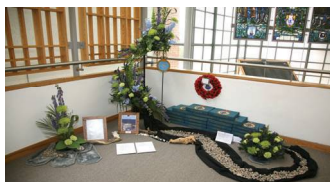


Blue hues of hydrangea, aliums, delphiniums and phlox combine with palm fronds...

## FLOWER FESTIVAL 2007

'And in the morning...'

The 2007 Flower Festival from 5<sup>th</sup>–7<sup>th</sup> May was nothing short of magnificent attracting over 4,000 visitors who viewed an inspiring selection of floral displays on their journey through the Chapel to a title theme of '...and in the morning...' to commemorate the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the liberation of the Falkland Islands. The Chapel Trustees are indebted to Mrs Sadie Clare (pictured on page 4) and her team of volunteers who joined more than 30 flower clubs & individuals to contribute floral art, displays and tributes. "Our festival, with its title taken from the Act of Remembrance, looked back with thankfulness to the ultimate sacrifice of those remembered in the Chapel. It strove to enhance the experience of peace and spiritual atmosphere within this lovely building", she said. The Flower Festival proceeds totalled over £5,500 which underlined the popularity of this event.



Floral & kneeler display remembering all those who died on board HMS Sheffield.



The seat of learning...



From the gallery – a perfection of pinks and lilacs



Bouquets of arum lilies, roses & eryngium festoon gnarled roots in memory...



A private tribute to members of the Royal Army Medical Corps who lost their lives on HMS Sir Galahad.

THANK YOU BOTH!



On 19<sup>th</sup> September 2007 Trustees and former Trustees gathered to mark the retirement of Admiral Sir Michael Layard and Sir Brian Hill both of whom were instrumental in the creation of the Chapel

HMS SHEFFIELD REMEMBER



Mark Hiscutt and members of the HMS Sheffield reunion visited the Chapel on May 4<sup>th</sup> to pay tribute to their colleagues lost on that day in 1982 and said prayers in the Memorial Garden. The Flower Festival included a floral tribute to their lost friends and their families. Mark said " my wife & I find the Chapel a really calming place and somewhere where I can be close to my friends".



# FUNDRAISING



Tony Buckingham of Internet Stamps who has now raised £30,000 for the Chapel seen here with Mrs Sara Jones CBE (widow of Colonel 'H' Jones VC OBE, and Chapel Trustee) and The Rt. Hon. Michael Howard at the opening of Tony's new offices in Kent.



Children performing at the Schools Concert in March 2007 in aid of the Children's Trust and the Chapel - £1,600 was raised for each charity.

## APPEAL TARGET SURPASSED!



L-R Sir Brian Hill, Chapel Trustee and Chairman of the Children's Trust with Headmaster Thomas Garnier and newscaster Alastair Stuart who kindly acted as 'Master of Ceremonies' at the Schools Concert in March



Rear Admiral Jeremy Sanders and Admiral Sir John 'Sandy' Woodward who presented Falklands Shield Golf Tournament prizes – 17 teams raised £5,100 for the Chapel Trust.



L-R Andrew, Tony, and Stephen Allright & Jon Padwick – winners of the Falklands Shield Golf Tournament for the second time. Who will topple them next time?

In terms of fundraising 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Year exceeded all expectations and the Chapel Trust has received a healthy injection of funds exceeding £190,000. Highlights included a dinner on board HMS Victory by courtesy of the Second Sea Lord, Vice Admiral Sir Adrian Johns, which raised almost £95,000, donations from the sale of Internet Stamps Covers organised by Tony Buckingham totalling £30,000, over £10,000 from the sale of sculptures created by Mark Coreth (our albatross creator!), nearly £15,000 from City Livery Companies, £22,000 from Services related charitable Trusts, over £3,000 from a 'Bag O'Gold' raised by Captain Chris Craig, CO of HMS Alacrity in 1982, £5,000 from the golfers who competed for the Falklands Shield, £1,790 from our 'team of two' runners – Chris Cash & Paul Hailwood- in the 10K London Run, £1,640 from the Schools Concerts event held in the Chapel in March, and over £6,000 from notable large donations and provision of articles about the Chapel for various publications. What a total! The Trustees would like to thank all those who have helped the Chapel so generously over the past year.



All participating schools took part in the Schools Concerts grand finale!



R-L Chris Cash & Paul Hailwood celebrating completion of the 10K London Run with Rear Admiral Jeremy Sanders in July 2007

### NEW CHAPEL POSTCARDS!

By popular demand the Trustees have produced 2 new postcards @ 35p for sale in the Chapel foyer and from the Trust Secretary



Mark Coreth's bronze albatrosses beside the Chapel



Floral display in Chapel foyer

**Thanks to all those who have supported FIMCT in past year**

# 25TH ANNIVERSARY BOOK REVIEWS



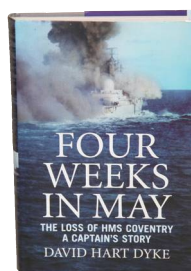
by Robin Brodhurst,  
Head of History, Pangbourne College

## FOUR WEEKS IN MAY

The Loss of HMS Coventry, A Captain's Story

David Hart Dyke

Atlantic Books £18.99



25 years is a long time. That is how long David Hart Dyke has had to ponder the events of losing his ship in the South Atlantic and to agonise about the lives lost and what he might have done differently. There is not a soldier or sailor who has been in combat who does not have those feelings: the "what if" questions, which plague their consciousness. Hart Dyke is unusual in that he has not been one of those who have freely given of their time to interviewers and historians. He is self-evidently an intensely private person, and there were times reading this fascinating book, when I felt like a 'peeping tom'.

However, that is to ignore the outstanding qualities of this book. Rarely have the agonies and the loneliness of command been better expressed between hard covers. The intense loyalty Hart Dyke had to his ship and his crew

come across on every page. Even more so is the deep thought that he put into his command. During the long voyage down the Atlantic he agonised about the future conflict, even writing to his brother in law, Richard Luce in the Foreign Office, urging him to continue negotiating with the Argentineans. However, once combat was joined he recovered his nerve. It is the transition from peace to war that is so fascinating. The removal of almost everything that was of no immediate use from

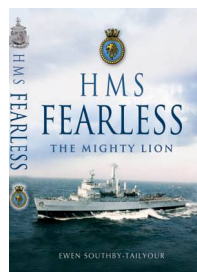
the ship reminds historians of the stripping of Napoleonic ships for action, and the jettisoning of the captain's cabin into a boat towed behind. This is the first book that I have read to explain fully how the screen of ships actually worked to keep out the airborne threat from Skyhawks. The maps are amongst the best I have seen too.

It is in the description of the final attack on Coventry that Hart Dyke is at his best, helped by 10 superb photos taken from her

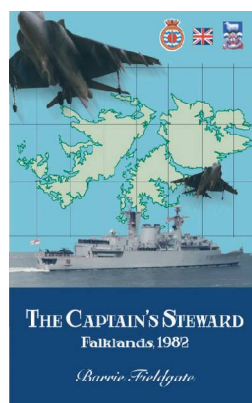
partner ship Broadsword. Unlike previously, modern war is fought from the darkened ops room sitting in front of a plexi-glass screen, with headphones on bringing the commander the latest information. It is this claustrophobic atmosphere that Hart Dyke evokes so superbly, and then the appalling explosions that destroyed his ship, transforming it from a living, fighting, happy and supremely efficient machine into a wreck, that turned turtle and sank within 30 minutes. He uses extracts from memories of his crew with great sensitivity, but what strikes the reader is the awful effect that the sinking had on the captain. My guess is that it has been 25 long years for the author, and that writing this book has proved to be cathartic. As a book which describes the agonies, and the rewards, of command there can be few better examples.

**H.M.S. Fearless: The Mighty Lion** by Ewen Southby-Tailyour (Pen & Sword £25)

is that rarity, a biography of a ship. Fearless, of course, played a critical role in the Falklands



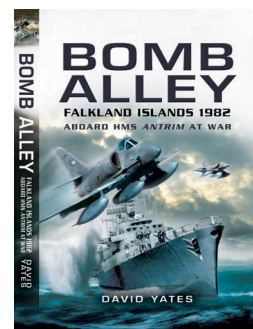
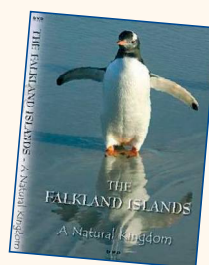
War, and the chapter on that episode is excellent, but this book is more. It is the story, told usually by the Commanding Officers, of a ship from planning and construction right through to her disposal. As such the Falklands War played only a small, but important, part in her life. It is a lovingly told story and her crew's devotion to her is evident.



**The Captain's Steward, Falklands, 1982** by Barrie Fieldgate (Melrose Books, £24.99) is the direct opposite of David Hart-Dyke's volume. Here is the story of the Falklands War told from the bottom up. It was Barrie Fieldgate's ship, Broadsword, that was responsible for rescuing most of Coventry's crew, and this episode forms one of the central moments in the book. Based on his letters and diaries it gives an immediate feeling of life on board one of the ships of the battleground. It is truly a worm's eye view, and highly original.

## DVD: The Falkland Islands: A Natural Kingdom:

A wonderful DVD! Well worth £12.99  
(plus p&p)  
available from: [www.destinationsdvd.com](http://www.destinationsdvd.com)  
or [www.falklands25.com](http://www.falklands25.com)



**Bomb Alley** by David Yates (Pen & Sword Books £12.99 or for signed copies email [rowdytys@hotmail.com](mailto:rowdytys@hotmail.com)) Written by an ordinary sailor, is a snapshot of naval life in the early 80's and more specifically a 'warts-and-all' story of the events onboard guided missile destroyer HMS Antrim during the Falklands War. A brilliant effort full of humour and pathos and a great read.

## ADVANCE NOTICE OF CHAPEL REFURBISHMENT

Anyone wishing to visit the Chapel between July & September should check the Chapel website or ring the College for visiting status.

At all other times it is open daily from 0900-1700 and groups & veterans reunions should contact Rev. Brian Cunningham on 01189 842101 for special arrangements.