

## **Sarum College to Display Original Victoria Cross of 1913 Alumnus, Padre Addison**

For a few days in August, Sarum College will display a rare and valuable Victoria Cross - one of only 1358 awarded since its inception in 1856 - awarded to The Revd William Addison.

Addison became an army chaplain in WW1 shortly after he trained for the priesthood at Salisbury Theological College.

On August 19<sup>th</sup>, military chaplains, veterans and members of armed forces support organisations and others will gather in the historic buildings at 19 The Close to commemorate this notable alumnus, Padre Addison.

'Medals are important reminders of our capacity for humanity and valour, and this one recalls the particular role of Christians in armed conflict,' says The Revd Canon Professor James Woodward, Principal of Sarum College. 'We are grateful to Padre Addison's grandson, Tim Addison, for lending us this medal to make this a very special commemoration.'

The celebration marks the centenary of Addison's award of the Victoria Cross by George V on 3rd August 1917 for his bravery in ministering to two battalions of the 38th Brigade in Mesopotamia, the modern Iraq.

'Those awarded the Victoria Cross stand in the middle of a concentric circle of bravery,' says Canon Professor Michael Snape, co-editor of *The Clergy in Khaki: New Perspectives on British Army Chaplaincy in the First World War*. 'For every individual honoured in this way, there are many others whose acts of courage and sacrifice went unremarked. There was a broad Christian contribution to the war in the form of clergy combatants, church organisations offering aid, as well as conscientious objectors, some of whom operated under fire as stretcher bearers.'

A replica of the Addison Victoria Cross is being made for a permanent display at Sarum College.

Photo: William Robert Fountaine Addison

## Editors' Notes

### 1. William Robert Fountaine Addison (1883 – 1962)

Entered Salisbury Theological College in 1911 and was ordained as a priest in 1914 to a curacy at St Edmund's Church (now Salisbury Arts Centre). He volunteered for the Army Chaplain's Department when the war began and was posted to the 13th (Western) Division Basra, Mesopotamia (modern Iraq) in March 1916.

After the war, William Addison continued as an army chaplain, serving in Malta, Khartoum and Shanghai, and in England. He was Senior Chaplain to the Forces from 1934 to 1938, when he left the army and became a parish priest. He returned to the army at the outbreak of WWII and again served as Senior Chaplain to the Forces.

He is buried in the military section of Brookwood Cemetery, Woking.

### 2. Sarum College ([www.sarum.ac.uk](http://www.sarum.ac.uk)) and Salisbury Theological College

Sarum College is an ecumenical study, conference and research centre situated in historic grade 1-listed buildings in Salisbury's Cathedral Close.

Sarum provides postgraduate study opportunities through the University of Winchester's Theology, Religion and Philosophy programme. Lay and ordained ministry training is provided through the Centre for Formation in Ministry, programmes are validated by Durham University Common Awards.

Salisbury Theological College was founded in 1861 as a residential training college for the Anglican priesthood, initially serving mainly the diocese of Salisbury, at 19 The Close. In 1971 the College amalgamated with Wells Theological College, and was renamed the Salisbury and Wells Theological College.

Following the Lincoln and Hereford reports into over-capacity in residential theological training colleges it was designated for closure by the House of Bishops and the General Synod, and did so in July 1994. Sarum College opened its doors in 1995.

### 3. The Victoria Cross

The highest award for gallantry that a British and Commonwealth serviceman can achieve. The medal was introduced on 29 January 1856 by Queen Victoria to honour acts of valour during the Crimean War. Since then, this rare medal has been awarded 1,358 times to 1,355 individual recipients. It is handmade, traditionally using bronze taken from a gun captured in the Crimean War.

For more information or to arrange interviews, please contact:  
Christine Nielsen-Craig, director of development and marketing  
Sarum College: 01722 424812 | 07800 866084 | [cnc@sarum.ac.uk](mailto:cnc@sarum.ac.uk)