

THE MASTER'S BLOG 37

DRUMHEAD SERVICE AT THE ROYAL HOSPITAL CHELSEA- SATURDAY 1 SEPTEMBER 2018

Although we have visited the Royal Hospital Chelsea on several occasions during the last year, there is something rather poignant today as we take our seats in the Figure Court for a Drumhead service to commemorate the actions of the London Divisions during the final 100 days offensive of the First World War. As we watch the Right Reverend and Right Honourable Lord Chartres conduct the service (in glorious sunshine), the Latin inscription on the building stands out above his head- and particularly the words which record that the Hospital was founded by King Charles II for those veterans who had been broken by war.

Prayers are said for those who have served, those who now serve and for the Reserve Forces. The North London Military Wives Choir sing a London medley. In his address, the former Bishop of London stresses the importance of telling young people about the errors of the past while striving for peace and a "just future for all humanity".

After the service we make our way across Royal Hospital Road to Burton Court for a programme of events under the heading "London Remembers WWI". The emphasis is on youth organisations and it is good to see so many of them promoting their cadet units and the work which they undertake. The Master even has a go at pottery! (Hard to believe for those who know him well, but the photographic evidence shows him in action with his teacher (and friend), Chelsea Pensioner, Ray Pearson).

Although the month of August has been quiet in Livery terms, it is good to be back in action today at such a special event.