

Faithful servants given a royal Maundy honour

TWO long-serving members of our diocese were honoured to receive Maundy money as part of an ancient royal tradition.

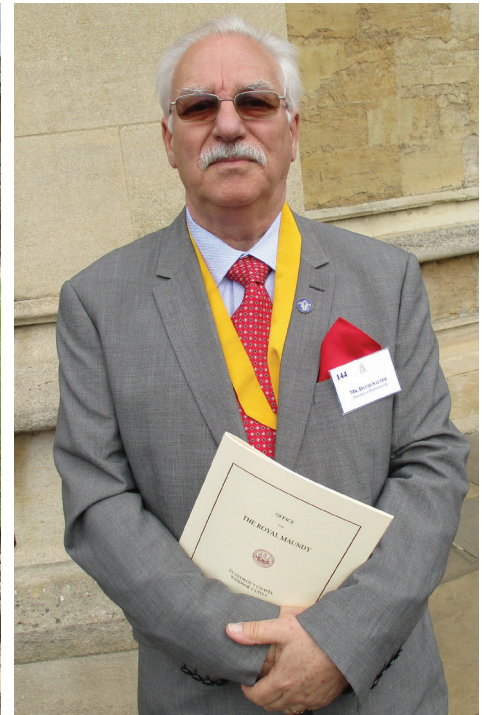
The Rev Barbara Hammond, from the parish of Warblington-with-Emsworth, and Graham Salter, who is the lay chair for the Isle of Wight deanery, went to Windsor Castle for the ceremony.

They were each handed two leather purses of Maundy money by the Prince of Wales, on behalf of HM the Queen. It came during a special service of Matins at St George's Chapel.

The custom dates back centuries, and derives initially from Jesus washing his disciples' feet at the Last Supper. In medieval times, the monarch washed the feet of beggars and gave them money and clothing. More recently, the coins have been presented to those who have served their communities faithfully – one man and one woman for every year of the Queen's life.

Barbara was joined by her daughter Carol at the service, staying the night before and the night after opposite the castle. On the day itself, they were pleased to be sat in the second row from the nave altar.

"We had a splendid view of the altar, all dressed up with the ancient silver gilt jugs and bowls for the washing of feet," she said. "The combined choirs of St George's Chapel and the Gentlemen and Children of the Chapel Royal sat behind with the Yeomen of the Guard behind them. Prince Charles



The Rev Barbara Hammond and Graham Salter at Windsor Castle

was a few feet away to our right, and all the officers of the Royal Almonry were to our left."

She was presented with a red purse, which contains new coins for this year – the £5 and 50p – and a white purse with a collection of silver pennies adding up to 96p, which is the Queen's age.

"The most striking piece was a rendition of *Zadok the Priest*, and many people commented afterwards that it had brought a lump to their throats," she said. "Prince Charles spoke to every recipient. Afterwards we went to the State Apartments for a reception, which included mini-shepherd's pies made from Balmoral venison. It was an unforgettable day."

Graham said he was humbled to

be nominated, especially in the Queen's Platinum Jubilee year. He said: "The service was full-on pageantry as well as Christian worship, recognising and giving thanks to all who have given dedicated and long service to the church."

"Those who had other organisation's medals and awards were permitted to wear them. You will see that I am wearing the Scout silver acorn, which was noted by one of the royal stewards who was also in the Scout movement."

"There was a lovely buffet reception and we spoke to many other worthy recipients. It was a memorable day."

● For events to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, see: www.portsmouth.anglican.org/jubilee