

God shall be my hope, my stay, my guide and lantern to my feet'

(from Shakespeare's Henry V).

## St George's Chapel



Before entering St George's Chapel, walk a bit further down the hill and look through the archway into the Horseshoe Cloister.

Look up at the triangular second floor of the building (right). This is the Vicars' Hall where, according to legend, an early performance of **The Merry Wives of Windsor** took place!

The Chapel is the resting place of eleven kings and queens, including Charles I, whose copy of Shakespeare's plays is within the Royal Library. Head to the Quire of the Chapel and find the marble slab on the floor, which shows where he is buried.

When someone is made a Knight of the Garter, a metal stall plate illustrating their coat of arms is fixed to the back of their stall (seat) in the Quire. Ask a steward to point out the stall plate that belonged to **Sir Thomas Erpingham** (right), who lived nearly 600 years ago and makes an appearance in Shakespeare's play Henry V.



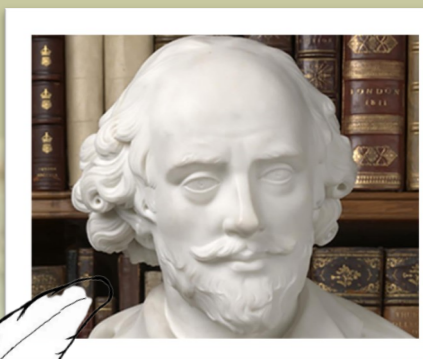
# Shakespeare at Windsor



William Shakespeare was a writer of great plays and poems.

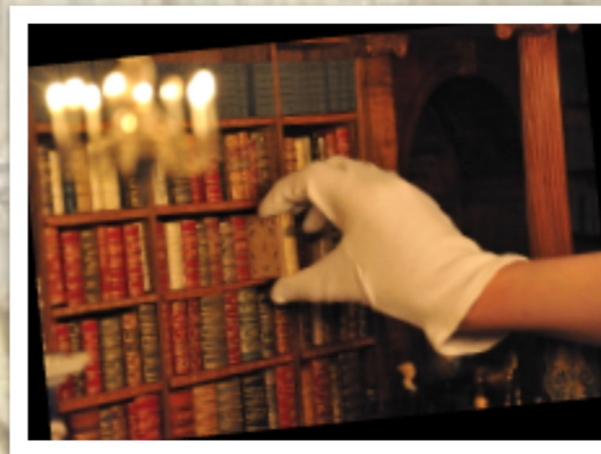
This year, 2023, marks 400 years since he had his first collection of poems and plays published. (**FOLIO 400**) Shakespeare himself probably performed here at Windsor Castle, and Windsor is also the setting of his play '**The Merry Wives of Windsor**'.

Many of the kings and queens to have lived at Windsor since Shakespeare's time have greatly admired him. The timeline on the next page shows you when these monarchs reigned.



Follow this trail to find out more.....

## The Dolls House



The Library inside the **Dolls' House** contains a copy of Shakespeare's play Troilus and Cressida.

The books are not much larger than a postage stamp.

## The Grand Vestibule



Look for the statue of a famous Queen. She had a great interest in Shakespeare and, as a child, started to record her thoughts about his plays in her journals.

Her name is Queen V \_\_\_\_\_.



## The Waterloo Chamber



Look for the painting of **King George III** above a fireplace. He is wearing blue garter robes. The King had a great love of learning and this led him to create a new royal collection of books. The Royal Library in the Castle is sadly not open to the public. It has over 500 books by Shakespeare!

## St George's Hall



This huge room was used to perform plays during the life of Shakespeare. Find a painting of **King Charles II**. It was during his life, that women were allowed to act on the stage for the first time. Until then, men took all the female parts, just like in pantomime today.



On the ceiling you can see lots of shields, with the coat of arms of all the Knights of the Garter. Shakespeare was not made a Knight but was granted his own **coat of arms**. I wonder what was on his coat of arms? Design your own coat of arms for Shakespeare on the shield.

## The Queen's Drawing Room



There are paintings of 2 monarchs in this room, each of whom actually knew Shakespeare!

1. The play 'Merry Wives of Windsor' was performed for this Queen. She had a magnificent appearance and people think this inspired Shakespeare to include a *Queen of the Fairies* in this play. **Queen E \_\_\_\_\_ I.**
2. This King called Shakespeare and his actors, **The King's Men** and they performed at his coronation. The King had a fascination for witches and witches were included in his 'Scottish' play as a result. **King J \_\_\_\_\_ I (or VI)**

## The King's Drawing Room



In the 1800s, a famous Queen watched '**Macbeth**' in this room, as shown in the painting opposite. A stage was built in front of the window.



William Shakespeare  
1564—1616

Elizabeth I



James I



Charles I



Charles II



George III



Queen Victoria



Queen Victoria enjoyed performances at Windsor Castle

Elizabeth II



Queen Elizabeth Opens the new Globe Theatre

Charles III



King Charles performs Macbeth at school. He celebrates Folio400 in 2023

1500

1600

1700

1800

1900

2000