

WINCHESTER COLLEGE

SCULPTURES OF THE VIRGIN & CHILD BY PETER EUGENE BALL

CHAPEL



This Madonna and Child was made as the centrepiece for a one-man exhibition in Salisbury Cathedral in September 2009 where it remained on display until purchased for Winchester College Chapel in November 2010. It has now found its natural home in a Lady Chapel as Our Lady of Winton. The sculpture is carved from two railway sleepers which are of yarra, a

semi-tropical red hardwood. It is partially covered in thick copper, some polychrome, some silver and gold leaf embellishment. The Christ Child sits upon his mother's knee, one hand clutching hers while the other is outstretched as if in a gesture of welcome and acceptance. His eyes are closed, perhaps in contemplation of what lies ahead. The Virgin's face is peaceful and her eyes are also closed as she reflects upon her love for her son and what the future holds for him. Her right hand holds him protectively while her open left hand symbolises her offering him to the world. Through their gestures and expressions both Madonna and Child convey an aura of resignation, peace and tenderness.

## CHANTRY



The main body of the sculpture is made from driftwood which is a semi-tropical hardwood found in New Zealand. The natural shape of the wood inspired the subject matter and lends itself to the slim, curving figure of a woman holding her child. The heads, hands and feet are carved from other wood and the sculpture is partly covered with pewter and embellished with some silver and gold leaf. The piece stands on a bronze base. The Christ Child has his eyes wide open in a thoughtful expression, perhaps with knowledge beyond his years of where his destiny lies. His Mother's head is bowed towards her son in an attitude of profound love and resignation as she too contemplates his future.

### **ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH**



This piece was carved from the beam of an ancient building, estimated to be around 300 years old, which is made of very hard oak. It is partly covered with copper and stands on a bronze base. The wood is decorated with a green patina and embellished with some gold leaf. This Mother and Child was created specifically for Michla and depicts a strong maternal figure protecting her child within the cocoon of the folds of her robes and enveloping him with her love. The child feels safe as he sleeps peacefully within his mother's arms. His mother's expression is serene and peaceful and the sculpture conveys an overwhelming sense of a mother's tenderness and love for her child.

*Winchester College is dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary. The sculptures were given to the College in December 2010*