



Commander of the Order of the British Empire (CBE) Awarded to The Hon. Justice Michael Gordon

The Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court congratulates Justice Michael Gordon, who was awarded the insignia of the Commander of the Order of the British Empire (CBE) on the occasion of this year's observance of the birthday of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

The Order of the British Empire recognises distinguished service to the arts and sciences, public services outside the Civil Service and work with charitable and welfare organisations of all kinds.

It was created during the First World War in 1917 by George V. The King recognised the need for a new award of honour which could be more widely awarded, in recognition of the large numbers of people in the British Isles and other parts of the Empire who were helping the war effort both as combatants and as civilians on the home front.

For the first time, women were included in an order of chivalry, and it was decided that the Order should also include foreigners who had helped the British war effort.

From 1918 onwards there were Military and Civil Divisions, as George V also intended that after the war the Order should be used to reward services to the State in a much wider sense.

Today the Order of the British Empire is the order of chivalry of British democracy. Valuable service is the only criterion for the award, and the Order is now used to reward service in a wide range of useful activities.

Citizens from other countries may also receive an honorary award, for services rendered to the United Kingdom and its people. There are more than 100,000 living members of the Order throughout the world.

After some debate, St Paul's Cathedral was nominated by a special committee and approved by The Queen, as the Chapel of the Order. As the cathedral of the capital city, it could accommodate services attended by very large congregations. In the words of one committee member, 'St Paul's symbolised the

victory of the British spirit during the war of 1939-45 in that, although badly damaged and shaken, it survived the ordeal by battle in an almost miraculous way.' A Chapel for the Order was built in the cathedral crypt (where Nelson, Wellington and Sir Christopher Wren are buried, amongst others). Its formal dedication in 1969 was attended by The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh (Grand Master of the Order). Once every four years, approximately 2,000 members of the Order attend a service there to celebrate the Order.

Many people who have been awarded an honour from overseas attend these services, and each person attending wears their award.

The motto of the Order is 'For God and the Empire'.

The official Website of the British Monarchy

<http://www.royal.gov.uk/MonarchUK/Honours/OrderoftheBritishEmpire.aspx>



When the order was created in 1917 it had only one division, but was divided into Civil and Military divisions in 1918. The order at any level can be awarded for gallantry as well as for service. The order took an abrupt change in 1937 when the insignia and the colour of the ribbon were changed.

BAR

A silver emblem of two oak leaves is worn on the ribbon when the appointment to the order is for gallantry.

RIBBON

Original The civil ribbon was purple (1.5" wide). The military ribbon had a narrow central stripe of scarlet added.

Current (after 1937) The civil ribbon is rose-pink with pearl grey edges. The military ribbon has a narrow central stripe of pearl grey added.

DATES

The order was established in June 1917. In December 1918, military and civil divisions were established. On 9th March 1937, the insignia and ribbon were changed. After 1 January 1958, gallantry awards were recognized with silver oak leaves.