

# The Friends of St. George's Memorial Church, Ypres

Registered with the Charities Commission No. 213282-L1



President:	The Rt. Revd. The Bishop of Gibraltar in Europe
Vice-President:	Lord Astor of Hever, D.L.
Chairman:	Sir Edward M. Crofton, Bt
Vice-Chairman:	Dr. D.F. Gallagher, 32 Nursery Road, Rainham, Kent ME8 0BE Email: derek@thegalls.demon.co.uk
Hon. Treasurer:	W.L. Leetham, 69 Honey Hill, Blean, Whitstable, Kent CT5 3BP Email: william.leetham@talktalk.net
Hon. Investment Adviser:	P. Birchall
Hon. Secretary:	M.A. McKeon, 63 Wendover Road, Egham, Surrey TW18 3DD Email: mmckeon@aol.com
Membership Secretary:	Miss E. Speare, 32 Fulwood Walk, London SW19 6RB Email: plusnet32@espeare.plus.com
Hon. Minutes Secretary:	Mrs Ash Frisby
Newsletter:	c/o The Honorary Vice-Chairman
Life Members:	John Sumner and Michael Derriman
Chaplain:	Vacant

---

No. 104

NEWSLETTER

November 2019

---



*Mike McKeon, Derek Gallagher and William Leetham  
visiting St. George's for the Church Council Meeting on 24th October 2019*



## COPYRIGHT

All items printed in this newsletter are copyright of the Friends of St. George's Memorial Church, Ypres. No part of this publication may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying, recording or any information storage and retrieval system, without prior permission in writing from the Friends of St. George's Memorial Church, Ypres.

## DATA PROTECTION

We respect your right to privacy. Our data policy adheres to the principles of the General Data Protection Regulation and summarizes what personally identifiable information we may collect, and how we might use this information. This policy also describes other important topics relating to your privacy.

Information about our visitors and/or Friends is kept confidentially for the use of St George's Memorial Church and the Friends of St George's Memorial Church. We do not pass names and addresses or other details to any other person or organisation.

Full details of our policy are displayed on our website and is also available from our Membership Secretary. To exercise all relevant rights, queries or complaints please contact the Membership Secretary at 32 Fulwood Walk, London SW19 6RB or by email: [plusnet32@espeare.plus.com](mailto:plusnet32@espeare.plus.com)

## DATABASE UPDATE

Dear Friend, we are continuing the process of updating our membership database and have had a number of requests to consider sending future editions of The Friends newsletter electronically. If you would like to receive the newsletter and other occasional communications such as updates on St George's Memorial Church via email, please send your email address details to the address below with a brief note giving us permission to contact you via email. You can rest assured that these details will not be shared with any other organisation.

In the event that we do not hear from you, we will continue to send the Newsletter by post with pleasure; likewise if there are any details that we may not have correct or any other queries on your membership, please feel free to contact us and help us to keep our records up to date. Alternatively, please write to: Miss E Speare, Membership Secretary, 32 Fulwood Walk, London SW19 6RB.

Please keep our Membership Secretary up to date with any changes to your communication preferences and we thank you for the excellent response to our circular concerning GDPR. If you haven't responded to this, it is not too late!

## ST. GEORGE'S WEBSITE

The new St George's website, developed through support of The Friends, has been up and running since June 2017. It contains up to date news and information about St George's activities, events and contact points for The Friends. Or you can easily find yourself at any time inside St George's by taking a 360 degree tour of this beautiful church.

So, one good way of keeping in contact with St George's is by visiting its website on a regular basis.

[www.stgeorgesmemorialchurchypres.com](http://www.stgeorgesmemorialchurchypres.com)

## PUBLICITY FOR ST. GEORGE'S CHURCH

One of the objects of the Association of the Friends of St. George's Church is "To promote interest in and knowledge of St. George's Memorial Church in Ypres". An effective means of bringing St. George's Church to the notice of people in the United Kingdom is through local newspapers, magazines and local history societies. Church magazines are usually looking for articles and will often welcome articles about St. George's and The Friends. Local history societies and similar organisations often welcome talks in which St. George's and The Friends are mentioned, bringing the church and the Friends to a wider audience. We hope our members will grasp any opportunity that arises to engage in such publicity.



## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The 65th Annual General Meeting of the Friends of St. George's Memorial Church, Ypres, will take place on Monday 9th December 2019 at 2.00 p.m. The meeting will be held at the Union Jack Club, Sandell Street, Waterloo, London SE1 8UJ. The nearest mainline station is Waterloo. The nearest underground station is Waterloo on the Jubilee, Bakerloo and Northern lines. From the station, take the exit on to Waterloo Road and Sandell Street is opposite the station.

Copies of the Annual Report and the Accounts are included in this newsletter. Please bring it with you.

## AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of the last meeting, held on 10th December 2018  
*(Previously circulated to those who attended)*
3. Matters arising from the Minutes.
4. Chairman's Annual Report.
5. Hon. Secretary's Report.
6. Hon. Membership Secretary's Report.
7. Hon. Treasurer's Report.  
*Annual Accounts and Independent Examiner's Report.*
8. Hon. Pilgrimage Secretary's Report.
9. Election of Officers and Committee.
10. Observations by members.
11. Any other business.
12. Date of next Annual General Meeting.

If any member wishes to propose a formal motion at the meeting, it would be appreciated if details are sent to the Honorary Secretary by 6th December 2019.

Committee: Mr C. Butler, M.B.E., The Revd. Canon G.S. Derriman, Mr N.G. Divers, Mr B.C.Fawcett, Miss V.Jacques, Mr D. Humberston, Prof. M. Connelly (Co-opted).

To assist the Union Jack Club in continuing to provide a safe and secure environment for all visitors, we need to provide a list of attendees to Security on the evening before the event. The Union Jack Club writes, "**We take the security of our guests seriously and any inconvenience the aforementioned request may cause is for your safety and not for the sake of bureaucracy.**" Please RSVP to the Hon Secretary by Friday 6th December, to either 63 Wendover Road, Egham, Surrey TW18 3DD or Email: [mmckeon@aol.com](mailto:mmckeon@aol.com)



## EDITORIAL

### *A Day in the Life ....*

Dear Friends,

It's fair to say that hardly a day goes by when, like my fellow officers of The Friends committee, I am not engaged in some activity or other concerned with the life and mission of St George's.

In recent years The Friends have been given two places at the regular meetings of St George's Church Council. Thus, on 24 October I found myself with Mike McKeon (Secretary) and William Leetham (Treasurer — and observer for the day) setting out on the 10:20 shuttle from Folkestone to Calais. This allowed us, when we arrived in Ypres, to have a quick snack before joining the local members of the Church Council for what turned out to be a very positive meeting, centred mainly, around the business of the appointment process of the new Chaplain. At the conclusion of the meeting I was able to use some important time liaising with two members (Marlies and Martin) of the St George's Bell Ringing Team.

As usual we also spent some quiet and reflective time in St George's itself. These moments are especially important to us as Mike and I both have plaques in place there for our respective Great Uncles, for me Private Jack MUDD of the London Regiment, and for Mike, Private Jack SHANKS of the Oxford and Bucks Infantry. Jack Mudd's plaque was dedicated in 1984, and Jack Shanks's plaque in 2008. For us, St George's grounds us in perpetual memory and pilgrimage for both Jacks on behalf of their families left behind.



On visits such as this we often link their plaque in St George's to their place of rest in Flanders Fields. Where we can we traditionally visit those emotive places on our way home — The Memorial to the Missing at Tyne Cot for Jack Mudd (for he's still missing) and for Jack Shanks, Brandhoek New Military Cemetery. We do it on the way home because deep in our hearts there is a sense of sadness that they never came home.

By the time we reached our homes it was 9.30pm for William and I and 10.30pm for Mike. It had been a long day. But given the daily circumstances of 1914-18, 100 years later, it's the least we can do.

Hopefully, I may see you at our AGM but, in any case, every blessing for Christmas and the New Year,

Derek Gallagher  
Vice Chairman and Editor of The Friends Newsletter



# CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2019

## INTRODUCTION

Gillian Trinder resigned her post as Chaplain of St George's on 1st July, for personal reasons, thereby bringing an end to an unhappy period in the history of the Anglican Church in Ieper. The recruitment of her successor is now under way, and it is hoped that a new incumbent will be in situ during the first part of 2020. In the meantime, the work of the Church continues, thanks to the many who deserve praise for their dedication to preserving the life of the Parish over the past months. In particular, the Churchwardens, the Archdeacon, the Area Dean, and the Rev Philip Edell, the Mission to Seafarers Chaplain in Dunkirk, have all served over and beyond the call of duty. The recent photographs of the PCC Treasurer, John Arnold, on his knees repairing the Poppy Cascade for this year's Display, says it all.

As we are now into our 65th year, it is encouraging to see how far The Friends have progressed in the life of St George's. As I mentioned in my last Report, a variety of projects and new ideas are ongoing. The Church Photography Project continues to evolve, thanks to the photographer Stijin Algoel. The Secretary has also approached Dominiek Dendooven at the In Flanders Fields Museum, to ask whether his Staff would be able to assist in ensuring that the text entered in the database is cross referenced with the physical inventory in the Church. This will be of enormous benefit to all future researchers, as it will form the basis of a searchable, and will ultimately be published on the Worldwide Web.

## FINANCE AND ACCOUNTS

I am once more very pleased to report that the Accounts have continued on an upward path, in spite of Market volatility. I am well aware that we have continually underspent our income over the financial years, which is not necessarily a bad habit. However, there are currently justifiable requests for us to release the purse strings somewhat, and, as I have mentioned above, things are happening. We should all be very grateful to our Treasurer for the work he does on the Charity's behalf, much of it unheralded, and over many years; to Peter Birchall of Investec, who continues to oversee our investments, and Alex Spofforth who meticulously prepares our annual Report in compliance with the required format.

## 2020 PILGRIMAGE

As has been hoped, the resurgence of the Pilgrimage has been brought about through the endeavours of the Triumvirate of Nigel Divers, and our two new Committee Members, David Humberston and Valerie Jacques. As a result, next year's Pilgrimage will take place from 1st – 5th May, the first for three years. Numbers are already up to the limit, so all that is now needed is some good weather!

## MEMBERSHIP

Membership numbers have risen slightly. Eve Speare carries out an annual follow up of members dormant, and the recent positive responses have been encouraging. In addition, Corporate Membership has been offered to branches of the Western Front Association, and, again, the response has been encouraging. Among ideas, it is also the intention of the



Chairman and the Secretary, in collaboration with the PCC of St George's, to approach those schools which are represented by plaques in the Church, explaining their connection to St George's, in the hope of encouraging membership.

### COMMONWEALTH WAR GRAVES COMMISSION (CWGC)

A new development, on the initiative of the Vice Chairman, has been a link up with the CWGC, which has now established both an office and workshop in Ieper. The main objective is to forge closer liaison and working relationships. One way we feel that this could be implemented to the benefit of both organisations, would be for The Friends to be financially responsible for those interns who are on sponsorship courses run by the CWGC, and who could possibly carry out some daily hosting duties in St George's, under the auspices of the PCC. The business of hosting and welcome has become of paramount importance, as the Church currently receives up to 150 visitors daily, who are not necessarily hosted.

### ARMISTICE DAY

This year, unlike last, Armistice Day, which is always commemorated in Belgium on 11th November, and Remembrance Sunday in the UK, were on successive days, with the latter not replicated in Belgium. Poppies were once again resplendent on St George's Church Tower, and along the railings in front of the Church. The latter also featured an additional historical event in the life of the Church, namely the 90th Anniversary, painstakingly knitted in 'golden' poppies among the red, by Emma Crofton and her team.

We were warmly welcomed at St George's by Church Secretary, Ricky Beets, ably supported by The Friends Pilgrimage Secretary, Nigel Divers and his son Richard, acting as Stewards. The Service began with a packed congregation in the Church. The British Ambassador to Belgium, His Excellency, Martin Shearman, read the Lessons, the Archdeacon of North West Europe, The Venerable Dr Paul Vrolijk, preached the Sermon, and The Exhortation and Kohima Epitaph were given by the Chairman of The Friends.

After the Service, the main Parade for the Menin Gate assembled in the square outside St Martin's Cathedral, before proceeding to the Belgian Memorial, where wreaths were laid, and the National Anthems of Belgium and the United Kingdom were sounded.

By this time it was raining hard, as the marching column moved on to the Menin Gate. One's mind inevitably began to focus on the terrible conditions endured by the Allied Forces as they slogged their way through the mud and slough of the slope up to Passchendaele 102 years ago. Not for them the eventual luxury of a warm stew in a local hostelry. They would later be haunted by the words of a senior Officer on the General Staff; ' Good God, did we really mean to send men to fight in that ? '

The annual Service and wreath laying followed under the Menin Gate, with the poppies finally floating gently down from above, bringing an end to the Commemorations. On the march back to the main square, the rain redoubled its vigour, just to remind us all, as if we hadn't realised, what those who had served in the four years of the Great War had been through.



## CONCLUSIONS

A difficult year is coming to an end. We all look forward to the arrival of the new Chaplain, so that the life of St George's can move on. The United Kingdom is shortly to undergo a General Election, the result of which nobody can be certain. Be that as it may, there have been many positives in what we have been doing, and I am confident of their fruition. However, a major concern, not only in our Association, but I believe in the general world of Employment, is that those of the younger generation are perhaps reluctant to commit themselves in the way that their forbears have. There are many obvious reasons as to why, but I mention it in our own context, where the work in Committee is not only definitely increasing, but is also notably interesting. Our younger readers, please note and volunteer !

I am very grateful, as always, to our President, Bishop Robert Innes, for the unsung work that he does to support us, and also to the Archdeacon of NW Europe, the Venerable Paul Vrolijk, and the Reverend Stephen Murray, the Area Dean of Belgium and Luxembourg, for all they have done to keep the show on the road. Also to the Committee, and particularly Derek Gallagher, the Vice Chairman, who is in his 23rd year of service to The Friends, the Secretary, Mike McKeon, and William Leetham, the Treasurer, who have been responsible for many pearls of wisdom throughout the year. Our Committee Meetings are not as onerous as some might think !

As I have said, there are projects to which we can look forward, and which will help us to progress into the future with confidence. We must go to it.

May you all have a very happy Christmas and a successful New Year.

Floreamus  
Edward Crofton





## LETTER FROM THE ARCHDEACON

### *Sadness, gratitude and hope.....*

This time of year with All Saints, All Souls and Remembrance in quick succession, I always feel a mix of sadness, gratitude and hope. At our Armistice Service at St George's and the commemoration events that follow in the centre of Ypres and at the Menin Gate, we pray that, by the grace of God, these emotions may find a place. Our church service will be announced to the town with bell-ringing from our local bell-ringing team. The church will be beautifully decorated with the Poppy Display featuring 'golden' poppies which mark the 90th anniversary of St George's. (See later.)

I also need to mention the Poem and Prayer for Peace project, which will feature in the Armistice Service. The aim of this initiative was to educate children about the effects of war. How war does not just affect adults but children of all ages. Students had to write a poem or a prayer showing their innermost feelings about war and conflict around the world and empathise with children of war. How war affects thousands of people through death, being critically wounded, harmed and being displaced. How local communities are destroyed and the world at large suffers. Reflecting on a suitable poem or a prayer, helped young minds to explore 'this could never happen to me', but how it could due to situations beyond their control. The students learned what is needed in order to live in peace and they discussed how this can be accomplished. The age group was 10-13. Students came from three different schools; Morootjes Basis School, Oostende, Koninklijk Atheneum, Oostende and VBS Lyceum - Heilige Familie, Ieper. There were forty-five entries and it has been very difficult to choose a winner. We congratulate Mijguelle and Elisa for their winning entries. We thank Marie de Coster, a member of our congregation at St George's, for organising this initiative, and we thank The Friends of St George's and the Council of St George's Memorial Church for their support.

Finally, I would like to report good progress in the recruitment process for a new chaplain. Key recruitment documents have been agreed on in our October Council meeting. Progress has also been made on the sale of the Presbytery. Clearly in this season of Remembrance we also live in hope!



Every blessing,  
Paul Vrolijk  
Archdeacon of North West Europe





## TREASURER'S REPORT 2019

I have pleasure in presenting the treasurer's report for the twelve months ending 30th June 2019.

The formal report and accounts are attached and show a healthy financial position despite the continuing political uncertainties.

The investment income stream remains stable and shows a rate of return that is way above anything that can be obtained from normal deposits.

The stock market has had a non descript year resulting in a fall back of capital, after allowing for investment and disposals. The portfolio is kept under constant review and changes are made from time to time bearing in mind the alterations to the fortunes of our investments.

The cost of the web site which was revamped in 2017 has now been fully depreciated. We have made grants to the Diocese to assist prospective clergy candidates and grants to the Church in Ypres.

Last autumn saw the major success of the Poppy Cascade which brought in additional funds of almost £2000.00 which were paid over to the Church.

The Friends have for the first time instituted essential insurance cover for the Trustees. We now have procedures in place to comply with recent legislation regarding Automatic Exchange of Information relating to all foreign payments.

The creditor's figure of £240.00 covers the auditor's fee. For the third year in succession Spofforth Partners Ltd have conducted the independent financial inspection at an almost nominal fee for which we are most grateful. Our thanks are hereby expressed for the preparation of a very comprehensive 'Trustees Report and Accounts'.

May I thank Peter Birchall of Investec who manages our investment portfolio on our behalf through Investec, at a very much reduced cost.

I trust that you our members will approve the accounts at our AGM.

William Leetham – Treasurer



## TRUSTEES' REPORT AND ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30th JUNE 2018

### CONTENTS

Charity information
Trustees' report
Statement of Financial Activities
Balance sheet
Notes to the financial statements
Independent Examiner's Report

### CHARITY INFORMATION

Chairman	Sir Edward Crofton, Bt
Trustees	Sir Edward Crofton, Bt
	Dr Derek Gallagher
	Mr William Leetham
	Mr Michael McKeon
	Miss Eve Speare
	The Revd Canon Graham Derriman
	Mr Nigel Divers
	Mr Brian Fawcett
	Mr Colin Butler
	Miss Valerie Jacques
	Mr David Humberston
Charity Registration No	213282
Principal Address	69 Honey Hill, Whitstable CT5 3BP

### THE FRIENDS OF ST GEORGE'S MEMORIAL CHURCH YPRES TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30th JUNE 2019

The Trustees present their report and accounts for the year ended 30th June 2019.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out on page 7 and comply with the governing document, statutory requirements and the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities 2011 (SORP).

#### Structure, Governance and Management

The charity is organised so that the Trustees meet to manage its affairs. There are currently eleven trustees who manage the charity. The trust is also assisted by volunteers who offer their services from time to time.



In selecting individuals for appointment as Trustees, regard is given to the skills, knowledge and experience needed for the effective administration of the charity. New Trustees are provided with the trust deed and latest Report and Accounts and appraised of the application of the charitable objectives set, and of the essential duties of a Trustee. This includes an annual evaluation of risks facing the Trust in pursuit of its charitable objectives.

### **Risk Management**

The Trustees have informally assessed the major risks to which the charity is exposed, and are satisfied that systems are in place to mitigate the exposure to major risks.

### **Objectives and Activities**

The object of the charity is to to provide interest and knowledge of St George's Memorial Church in Ypres, and to provide funds to ensure the future of the Church and augment the Endowment Fund administered by the Ypres British Settlement.

### **Grant Making Policy**

Grant applications are considered by the Trustees and grants are given consistent with the charity's objectives.

### **Statement of Public Benefit**

We have reviewed the Trust's objectives in accordance with the Charities Commission guidance on public benefit.

### **Financial Review**

The Statement of Financial Activities is shown on page 5. There was a net increase in funds, after realised and unrealised losses on investments of £16,256 (2018: £29,461 gains), on the unrestricted funds of £3,120 (2018: £44,552). The Trustees confirm that the charity's assets are available and adequate to fulfil its financial obligations.

### **Achievements and performance**

The Trust was set up in 1957 to promote interest in St George's Memorial Church, Ypres and acting as a link between the Church and people in the United Kingdom and overseas, co-operating with other organisations in Belgium and Britain for the benefit of the Church, making grants to the Church for specific projects, and arranging visits to the Church by groups of members and friends.

Autumn 2018 saw the major success of the Poppy Cascade which brought in additional funds of almost £2,000 which were paid over to the Church. We have made grants to the Diocese to assist prospective clergy candidates as well as the grants to the Church in Ypres. The investment income stream remains stable and shows a rate of return that is way above anything that can be obtained from normal deposits.

The stock market has had a non descript year resulting in a fall back of capital, after allowing for investment and disposals. The portfolio is kept under constant review and changes are made from time to time bearing in mind the alterations to the fortunes of our investments.

The Charity has ended the financial year in a sound and healthy state.



## **Investment Policy and Performance**

In accordance with the Trust Deed, the Trustees have the power to invest in such stocks, shares, investments and property in the UK as they see fit. Investec manages the investments on behalf of the Trust.

## **Reserves Policy**

Whilst the need for certain specific reserves are identified to produce income for grants, the balance representing the General Fund is retained on the basis of working capital being required in order to allow the Charity to fund future activities in furtherance of its charitable objectives over future years.

## **Statement of Trustees Responsibilities**

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' report and financial statements in accordance with applicable law and UK Generally Accepted Accounting Principles.

The law applicable to charities in England & Wales requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of its incoming resources and application of resources for that period. In preparing those financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements, and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Charity and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

This report was approved by the Trustees on 8/10/19 and signed on their behalf by Sir Edward Crofton, Bt., Chairman.



**THE FRIENDS OF ST GEORGE'S MEMORIAL CHURCH YPRES**  
**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30th JUNE 2018**

	Note	Unrestricted Funds	2019	2018
		General fund	Total	Total
		£	£	£
<b>INCOME</b>				
<i>Income from</i>				
Voluntary income		8,848	8,848	5,740
Investment income	2	35,790	35,790	34,009
<b>Total income</b>		<u>44,638</u>	<u>44,638</u>	<u>39,749</u>
 <b>EXPENDITURE</b>				
Expenditure on				
Charitable activities	3	7,696	7,696	126
Other expenditure	4	17,566	17,566	24,532
<b>Total expenditure</b>		<u>25,262</u>	<u>25,262</u>	<u>24,658</u>
 Net income and net movement in funds before gains on investments		19,376	19,376	15,091
 Net gains on investments		(16,256)	16,256	29,461
<b>Net movement in funds</b>		<u>3,120</u>	<u>3,120</u>	<u>44,552</u>
 Total funds brought forward		917,492	17,492	372,940
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>		<u>920,612</u>	<u>20,612</u>	<u>317,492</u>

All reserves movements are on Unrestricted Funds.



**THE FRIENDS OF ST GEORGE'S MEMORIAL CHURCH YPRES**  
**BALANCE SHEET**  
**AS AT 30th JUNE 2019**

	Note	2019		2018	
Fixed assets		£	£	£	£
Investments	7		916,391		905,689
<b>Current assets</b>					
Cash at bank		4,461		12,043	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year		(537)		12,402	
Net current assets			3,924		11,803
Total assets less current liabilities			920,315		917,492
Represented by:					
Unrestricted funds:					
General funds			920,315		917,492
Total funds	8		920,315		917,492

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees and authorised for issue on 8/10/19 and signed on behalf of the Trustees by ...

Sir Edward Crofton, Bt  
Chairman

Mr William Leetham  
Treasurer



# THE FRIENDS OF ST GEORGE'S MEMORIAL CHURCH YPRES

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30th JUNE 2019

#### 1 Principal accounting policies

##### *Basis of accounting*

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, as modified by the revaluation of investments. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Charities Act 2011, the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities'.

##### *Incoming resources*

Donations are accounted for on receipt, at the estimated value of investments donated, or the actual value of cash donated. Voluntary income and donations, and any gift aid relief, are accounted for on receipt by the charity, and recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities.

##### *Resources expended*

Expenses and grants payable are recognised in the accounts when they are incurred by the charity.

##### *Investments*

Investments are stated at market value. Realised and unrealised gains and losses on investments are recognised within the Statement of Financial Activities. Dividend income is credited to income on an accruals basis, using the date of payment of the dividend.

##### *Reserves*

The charity holds reserves in order to fund future charitable activities and grants in furtherance of the charitable objectives.

	Unrestricted Funds	2019	2018
		Total	Total
	£	£	£
<b>2. Investment Income</b>			
Income from investments	35,790	35,790	34,009
	<u>35,790</u>	<u>35,790</u>	<u>34,009</u>

	Unrestricted Funds	2019	2018
		Total	Total
	£	£	£
<b>3. Grants made</b>			
Grants to Church and Diocese	7,696	7,696	
Silhouettes for chairs			126
Charitable grants to the Church	<u>7,696</u>	<u>7,696</u>	<u>126</u>



**THE FRIENDS OF ST GEORGE'S MEMORIAL CHURCH YPRES**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30th JUNE 2019**

	Unrestricted Funds	2019	2018
		Total	Total
	£	£	£
<b>4. Other Expenditure</b>			
Amortisation of website costs			10,886
Newsletter	2,908	2,908	2,548
Fundmanagers' fees	4,618	4,618	4,733
Sundry expenses	9,800	9,800	6,125
Independent Examiners' fee	240	240	240
	<u>17,566</u>	<u>17,566</u>	<u>24,532</u>

5 trustees (2018: 6) received reimbursement of expenses during the year for travel costs, accommodation and stationery, of £3,016 (2018: £3,329), included in sundry expenses.

	Website Costs
	£
<b>5. Fixed assets</b>	
<b>Cost</b>	
At beginning of year	<u>21,572</u>
At end of year	<u>21,572</u>
<b>Depreciation</b>	
At beginning of year	10,886
Charge for the year	<u>10,886</u>
At end of year	<u>21,572</u>
<b>Net book value</b>	
At 30 June 2019	<u>—</u>
At 30 June 2018	<u>10,686</u>

**6. Contingent asset**

The Friends of St George's Memorial Church at Ypres made a grant of £108,000 in 1996, to assist the Church with the purchase of the Chaplaincy House. This is held in a trust. The trustees have undertaken to pay the sale proceeds to The Friends of St George's Memorial Church at Ypres should the property ever be sold, at no loss to Friends of St George's Memorial Church at Ypres.





**THE FRIENDS OF ST GEORGE'S MEMORIAL CHURCH YPRES**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30th JUNE 2019**

	Listed Investments	2019	2018
		Total	Total
7. Investments	£	£	£
At Market Value			
At beginning of year	905,689	905,689	847,086
Additions & disposals	26,958	26,958	29,142
Realised and unrealised (losses)/gains	(16,256)	(16,256)	26,461
At end of year	<u>916,391</u>	<u>916,391</u>	<u>905,689</u>

**8. Analysis of fund balances: movement in resources**

	At beginning of year	Incoming resources	Outgoing resources	At end of year
	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds				
General fund	917,492	28,382	251,262	920,612
Total Unrestricted Funds	<u>917,492</u>	<u>28,382</u>	<u>25,262</u>	<u>920,612</u>

**9. Registered charity**

The charity is registered in England (No. 213282) and as such is not liable to tax.



## THE FRIENDS OF ST GEORGE'S MEMORIAL CHURCH YPRES INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

### Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of accounts in accordance with the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Act and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to

examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act,

follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Act), and

state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

### Basis of independent examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

### Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no material matters have come to my attention which gives me cause to believe that in any material respect

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of the accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Alex Spofforth FCA  
Spofforth Partners Limited  
Chartered Accountants Byne Cottage  
Manley's Hill  
West Sussex  
RH20 48N

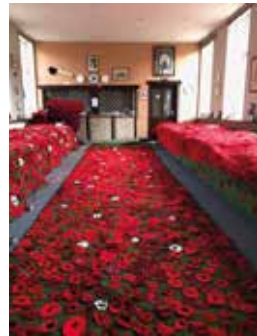
8th October 2019



## NEWS FROM THE FRONT

### *The Poppy Cascade 2019*

John Arnold is one of the very familiar faces of St George's. He is, of course, its long term Treasurer. But that is only part of the story. He is the second generation of the Arnold family who have faithfully committed their time and energy to the life of St George's for, Syd, his dad, was Custodian of the church for many years. There is hardly a day when John is not in St George's doing something or other. He is passionate about keeping the property well maintained, safe and secure. So when the Poppy Cascade returned from its storage in the UK in mid October looking a little in need of some TLC and repair, of course, John singlehandedly leapt into action. He discovered that the separate pieces of the Cascade still needed to be fully laid out in order to completely dry out before repairs could be made to all the loose poppies. This was all completed in the Church Hall, which was taken over by the Cascade for several days. John then set about replacing the wooden stabilising planks the top of each part of the cascade. Thus, by 3rd November the Cascade was in perfect order and ready for the lads from the local Ypres Fire Brigade to erect in all its glory. John, well done and many thanks from us all.



*John Arnold on his hands and knees making the 2019 Poppy Cascade good and ready for the Ypres Fire Brigade to hang again from the church tower.*





Again, grateful thanks go to Lady Crofton for organising this unique addition to the part of the Cascade along the railings of the church. This aspect and the Cascade as a whole will no doubt raise the profile again of St George's on both a local and national level.



*After.... All quiet on the Western Front, for the time being.....*

*Ed*

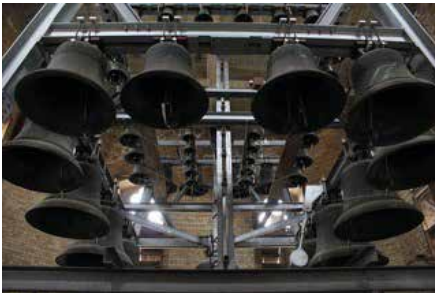


## St. George's Bell Ringing News

A lot has been happening in and around the bell tower since Liz Millward's contribution to the July issue of the Friends' magazine.

I am writing to you today in Liz's place because she has recently resigned for personal and work related reasons. She was the very first Tower Captain of Saint George's, overseeing everything involving the bells for over two years. We are grateful for her dedication and hope that she will keep on ringing with us. Unlike Liz, I am not an experienced ringer. I was dragged along by my partner Hugh in the spring of 2017 because there was a fun new skill to be learned. It turned out this skill had far more complicated angles to it than I ever imagined – it is not just pulling a rope, I can assure you. And there was a whole social life attached to it as well, with so many sharing the same fascination. So I am an enthusiastic learner and will try and do my best to fill Liz's shoes.

This summer, the local ringers have been exploring other bells in Ieper. Hosts Ludo Geloën (Organist and Carillon player) and Benjamin Luyckx (Warden of St Martin's Cathedral) took us from one extreme to another: from the 49 bells of the Carillon which hang in the Belfort of the Cloth Hall, to the 5 bells of St Martin's Cathedral. Ludo plays the Cathedral organ every Thursday at 1pm and he performed some special pieces inspired by British change ringing. Both the delicate Carillon and the impressively heavy Cathedral bells were played and rung for us, leaving our ears ringing and our knees trembling from the many steps up and down both towers. A wonderful outing.



*The Belfort Carillon (49 Bells) and the five Bells of St. Martin's Cathedral*

The resident Ieper band keeps practising on Tuesday evenings under the dedicated leadership of Gregory Woods who very dutifully travels down from Brussels every week. We try our hand at more complicated patterns on Saturday mornings. Mid-November we will be travelling to Hampshire to ring, having been invited by ringers who visited and rang the Ieper bells in September. There are no less than eight towers on the programme, varying from 6 to 10 bells and most of them a lot heavier than we are used to. A perfect opportunity for practice and fraternisation with fellow ringers.



*From left to right, some of the St. George's team members practising theory with visiting teachers and steeple keeper Frank up with the bells*

The Ieper team's highlight of 2019 was without a doubt the ringing for the Armistice Day service on November 11th. It was the first time that the local band rang for this very special occasion. Steeple keepers Frank and Sven had half-muffled the bells for the Saturday practice beforehand – we wanted to be prepared. The sound they produced was solemn and very appropriate for the day. Everybody felt honoured and pleased to have been able to contribute.

Next on our calendar is the Carol Service on Sunday 15 December. We have figured out that the opening eight notes of Handel's "Joy to the World" form a perfect scale. I am not making any promises, but if you listen carefully, maybe you can hear it in the ringing of our eight bells.

Marlies Boink  
Tower Captain



## Sir John French

*Throughout this year, St George's has been celebrating the 90th Anniversary of the opening of the Church in 1929. As a result, many interesting aspects of that era and pivotal activity have produced numerous facts and interesting stories surrounding the design, building and furnishing of the Church. One such piece of information that has emerged concerns Sir John French who was very much involved in the vision of the building and the founding of St George's.*

*Our good friend Dominiek Dendooven, Curator of the 'In Flanders Museum' enlightens us .....*

Whoever enters St George's is immediately confronted with the effigy of Field Marshal Sir John French. The marble bust of the British commander in chief of 1914-15 has been opposite the entrance since the unveiling of the church, more than 90 years ago.

As chairman of the Ypres League, French was the initiator and the main driving force behind the creation of an Anglican church in Ypres. However, the 'Earl of Ypres' died on May 2, 1925 and would therefore not experience the inauguration of the church himself. It is therefore not surprising that the Ypres League had the idea to place a memorial of its deceased president in the new church. After a fundraiser at the end of 1926 the order was given to sculpt a bust of the late Field Marshal. It is remarkable that the assignment did not go to a renowned British sculptor, but to an American, Jo Davidson.

Jo Davidson (1883-1952) was born in New York City. He studied sculpture at the Art Students League in New York City and the École des Beaux-Arts in Paris. He worked in many different materials, including terra-cotta, marble and bronze, and specialised in portrait busts in a realistic, tightly modelled and psychologically receptive style. Through his captivating personality, he succeeded in obtaining the cooperation of many of his subjects. Davidson's busts of famous contemporaries such as Woodrow Wilson, Franklin D. Roosevelt, Anatole France, Mahatma Ghandi, Marshal Foch, and Albert Einstein gave him an international reputation. This was no less the case with the bust of John French for the Saint George's Memorial Church: the statue was exhibited at the Royal Academy in London in 1927 and would later be placed in the finished church. The Getty Museum keeps a photograph of the famous photographer Man Ray showing Jo Davidson while Gertrude Stein poses in front of him. The photograph is dated 1926 and was taken in Paris. It must have been about the same period that the American also sculpted the bust of Sir John French.

Around 1930, the rich philanthropist, congressman and governor of Oklahoma, E.W. Marland, for whom he had sculpted several family members, offered Davidson a two-storey artist's studio on the vast Marland Mansion estate, in Ponca City, Oklahoma. The Artist Studio is still considered a place of interest to visitors of the Marland Mansion estate, since long open to the public. In 1951, a year before his death, Davidson published his autobiography, *Between Sitings*.



Jo Davidson's work can be admired in some of the most important American museums such as the National Gallery of Art and the National Statuary Hall in Washington DC. In the National Portrait Gallery, also in Washington, gallery 219 is entirely dedicated to him. A retrospective exhibition was also held there in 1978. His works can also be seen in various other institutions, such as the Congress.

So, whoever is visiting Ypres with Americans, should make the effort to visit St George's. They could then point out to their American guests that a work by one of the most successful twentieth-century sculptors from the United States is unusually on display there.

Dominiek Dendooven, In Flanders Fields Museum



*The bust of Sir John French at St. George's Memorial Church*





## The Gateways Project - Update



Gateways to the First World War launched the new series of talks held in partnership with the In Flanders Fields Museum, Ypres. Alternating between Canterbury and Ieper, they are free and open to all, so do come along to anything that looks of interest. Details can be found here: <https://www.gatewaysfww.org.uk/news/first-world-war-seminar-series-2019-20>.

The guided walks around Ieper pioneered by Gateways/University of Kent and the Friends back in 2017 are still running, but now under the banner of the CWGC Interns programme. Reflecting on the experiences of the last two years, some small tweaks have been made to the itinerary, but St. George's is still firmly embedded in the tour and contextualising its role in the life of the city is a crucial part of the tour. In November, I will be addressing a CWGC staff conference at its Beaurains office (Arras), and will be flagging up the importance of the Church to the staff of the Commission and the role it continues to play in the life and culture of Ypres.

Professor Mark Connelly

(co-opted Committee member of The Friends & Professor of History at Kent University)

## Ypres Cloth Hall Renovation

*Paul Foster, is Friend of St George's and now living in Germany. Paul is also an accomplished Battlefield Guide and an excellent photographer. I am grateful to Paul for the several submissions of photographs that are used on a regular basis in our Newsletters.*

*Paul (with acknowledgement to the Battle Honours Tour Company) reports on news that the near neighbour of St George's is, it seems, about to undergo a full renovation.*

The Cloth Hall, originally built in 1230 and restored after the Great War seems to look good from a distance, but those who move closer see the cracks: the facing bricks have slipped and if you look up, you will notice that nets are strung around the small towers next to the Belfry Tower, because stones are coming loose.

The Cloth Hall and the Belfry will be thoroughly restored over the next ten years. The Belfry Tower in particular needs to be refurbished: the timber of the trusses suffers from damp, but the facades, niches and statues also need a face lift, as does the inside of the building. All in all, it will cost around 15.5 million Euros. However, Ypres owes much to the iconic building and what it stood for both in the medieval period and the Great War.

The Tower will be literally beheaded in the coming years. The large spire and the 4 small towers will be brought down for restoration. They will be put back as new. The entire restoration will cost €15.5 million. The city of Ypres will pay 7.8 million euros, the Flemish government 8.7 million. The two museums will remain open throughout the restoration period.





## ANNUAL PILGRIMAGE 2020 UPDATE

Following an excellent response to our recent advertisement in the last Newsletter, arrangements for the 2020 Pilgrimage are now in progress. Booking Forms etc. will be sent to those who have expressed an interest during November and the response has been particular encouraging following a number of years where there was insufficient interest to make the Pilgrimage viable. I am very much looking forward to its renewal and its very special camaraderie and sense of purpose.

The centrepiece of our five-day itinerary will continue to be our Sunday visit to St George's, where we will attend Morning Service and meet members of the Church. This resident Congregation keeps St George's Memorial Church alive and functioning and are now a very small community. It is always a great privilege to meet them and offer our friendship and support and I know that they value and look forward to our visits. That same evening, we will attend the Last Post Ceremony at The Menin Gate Memorial and lay a wreath on behalf of "The Friends".

We will also be visiting various Cemeteries, Memorials and Sites to remember the fallen relatives of our party who fell in the Great War. A full day will be spent on the battlefields of The Somme, most likely in an area between Vimy Ridge and Thiepval, whilst the remaining days will be spent in and around the Ypres Salient. Visits are selected at the request of the Pilgrims and it is always a very moving experience to visit a relative's grave or commemoration with "Friends" and hear a recital of The Exhortation. I myself, for example, look forward to visiting and paying my respects at both my great uncle's commemoration at the Pozieres Memorial to the Missing and the grave of another relative at Guillemont Road Cemetery. I am sure that many others will feel the same.

Nigel Divers  
Pilgrimage Secretary





## ARMISTICE DAY 2020

*Traditionally, Armistice Day in St George's starts with a Service of Remembrance before many of the congregation join others from the nearby St Martin's Cathedral to be under the Menin Gate for the Last Post at 11am. This year the service in St George's was led by The Venerable Dr Paul Vrolijk, Senior Chaplain and Canon Chancellor, Archdeacon of North West Europe.*

The following sermon was given this year by the Archdeacon himself.

**Readings: 2 Sam 18:31-19:2; Isaiah 2:2-5**

Last week the family and I spent a few days in Katwijk on the coast of the Netherlands. From our living room we had the view of a beautiful dune top —sea birds, autumn sunshine, a glorious view. What only the oldest villagers remember is that in World War 2 a German bunker dominated that height as part of their Atlantik Wall. People tell me that it was a horrifying, oppressive sight at the time. The bunker was removed in the fifties. Maybe that dune top is a picture of Remembrance. The signs of oppression and war have long disappeared but unless we remember what was there, we do not fully appreciate what we now have.

In other words, the better we know history, the more gratitude we will have for the present and the more responsibility we will take for the future. We desperately need Remembrance because both gratitude and responsibility seem to be fading at times. Good things always risk being taken for granted. For Remembrance we first need to remember the atrocities of war, which brings us to our first reading.

2 Sam 18 - A snapshot of history.... Prince Absalom, a proud and rebellious son had rebelled against his father King David. Absalom had taken his father's throne by force. He had tried to kill his father but failed.

The whole story is a tragedy of sin and death. We only heard a snippet of the story. The battle between Absalom's troops and David's is both national tragedy and personal tragedy. Many lost their lives in the power struggle, fallen in the 'line of duty'. But it is also a personal tragedy for David, a father who loses a son. We heard David's anguish.... "O my son Absalom! My son, my son Absalom! If only I had died instead of you—O Absalom, my son, my son!"

Any war is a sum of national tragedies and a sum of many personal tragedies. Just consider the vast numbers of lives that perished in this area alone in WWI—an historic city completely shot to pieces. Sadly, war is never far away from the headlines. Ongoing conflict in Afghanistan, Syria, National tragedies, many personal tragedies, millions of them.....

Will we ever learn? Which brings us to our second reading, Isaiah 2. We are now nearly 400 years later and precious little is left of King David's kingdom. Actually, the whole period between King David and the words of the prophet Isaiah was mostly made up of war and civil



war, a long steady slide into the abyss with small glimpses of hope and restoration. At the time of Isaiah 2 things are dire once more. The Assyrians are the superpower, the Nazis of the Ancient Near East and the position of Judah and Jerusalem is utterly precarious. Also, spiritually their position was deplorable. God's people, in Judah and Jerusalem were meant to be a beacon to attract the nations to the living God.

The reality was very different, just read Isaiah chapter 1. In that dark setting, where war and destruction is a daily reality, the prophet's words are astonishing. Nations would be attracted to God. They would stream to the temple of the Lord and there would be peace. Nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war anymore. Wonderful hope pronounced 600 years before the birth of Jesus Christ. However, were we ever able to live without war? Will we ever be able to live without war? The historic record has not been promising. By the end of 19th century many in Western Europe hoped that human progress would take care of this. A few decades later this continent experienced WW1 and WW2. We are utterly grateful for peace in Western Europe since WW2.

But sadly war is a daily reality somewhere in the world. President Macron's sobering warning a few days ago regarding NATO and the serious situation Europe finds itself in is something that deserves serious reflection. Isaiah says that a future without war will become a reality only because of God. 'Many people will come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob. He will teach us his ways, so that we may walk in his paths." The law will go out from Zion, the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. Come, O house of Jacob, let us walk in the light of the Lord.' As Christians, we believe that the hopes of Isaiah have been and will be fulfilled in Jesus. Jesus is the King we have been waiting for King David's greater son, the Son of the Father, who showed perfect obedience — who did not grasp power but laid down his life.

His instruction has gone out from Zion and from Jerusalem. The Lord's teaching from his mountain, remember Matthew 5, the Sermon on the Mount? Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons [and daughters] of God. These amazing words of Jesus bear in them a hope that those who follow him by God's grace will become more like Him. Jesus says live like this because I am with you. And, when Christians live those words of Jesus, people are going to be attracted to God in an imperfect, violent world. And, when people live these words there will be peace one day.

In the Pro-Cathedral in Brussels on 12 October we always remember Edith Cavell who was executed by the Germans in 1915.

Earlier this year marked 100 years since the repatriation of her body. Her closing words spoken to the Chaplain at the time were "Standing as I do in view of God and eternity, I realise



that patriotism is not enough. I must have no hatred or bitterness towards anyone." She could say that because she was a Christian. She could say that and live it because she knew Jesus died for her, that this same Jesus did not retaliate but prayed... 'Father forgive them'. Edith Cavell lived from certain hope because she knew that Jesus not only died but also that He rose and will return.

What is our future? As we witness history unfold, it might well get worse before it will get suddenly better but Jesus, King of Kings, Lord and Judge of all will return and 'of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end'. And because of that, as we are here together for Remembrance, we may live in hope that Nation will not take up sword against Nation, nor will they train for war any more. Jesus said I am the one you have been waiting for. In John 8:12. we hear "I am the Light of the World. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." So friends, let us turn to Jesus, Prince of Peace and learn from Him, the Lord, with the words of Isaiah "Come, let us walk in the light of the Lord. Amen.



Paul Vrolijk,  
Armistice Ieper, 11 November 2019



*from top, left to right; The Dartford Choir sing the Introit to begin the service followed by the Exaltation given by Sir Edward Crofton. The congregation in good voice singing 'O Valiant Hearts.' The Last Post and Reveille given by Buglers of the Last Post Association*



## A POEM AND PRAYER FOR PEACE

*Earlier in the year the Friends' Committee were informed of a very worthwhile project emerging from St George's and decided to support it as part of the Mission of the church. The project was entitled 'A Poem and Prayer for Peace'. The vision and the energy for this project came from Marie de Coster, one of the congregation members at St George's. The fruits of this project culminated in both a beautiful poem and prayer being read in Dutch by two young local students during the Service of Remembrance at St George's on Armistice Day.*

*As part of the Order of Service notes on the day, Archdeacon Paul Vrolijk takes up the story .....*

'The aim of this initiative was to educate children about the effects of war. How war does not just affect adults but children of all ages. Students had to write a poem or a prayer showing their innermost feelings about war and conflict around the world and empathize with children of war. How war affects thousands of people through death, being critically wounded, harmed and being displaced. How local communities are destroyed and the world at large suffers. Allowing young minds to explore 'this could never happen to me', but how it could due to situations beyond their control. Young people were encouraged to reflect on the movement of people fleeing from war and famine, searching for a better life that is safe and peaceful. The students learned that we need to live together in peace and they discussed how this can be accomplished.

The age group was 10-13. Students came from three different schools; Morootjes Basis School, Oostende, Koninklijk Atheneum, Oostende and VBS Lyceum - Heilige Familie, Ieper. There were forty-five entries and it has been very difficult to choose a winner.

We congratulate Mijguelle and Elisa with their winning entries. We thank Marie de Coster for organizing this initiative, and we thank The Friends of St George's and the Council of St George's Memorial Church for their support'.

### A POEM FOR PEACE

*Poem originally in Dutch by Mijguelle Nevejan*

It is not easy to make peace  
We would like to remain silent about war  
This does not work very well  
Because nobody knows exactly how to do that  
Begin with yourself and then with others  
So let us turn war into peace.  
Share and learn to love each other  
Together we shall learn to be the victors of peace.



## A PRAYER FOR PEACE

*Poem originally in Dutch by Elisa Dambre*

Dear God,  
We have been around for thousands of years.  
But we have never had a day  
That everyone is happy.  
That everyone feels happy.  
A day without hatred and anger.

I hope there will be another day without war.  
That there is only good news on the radio.  
And there is no poverty.  
If only that day may come...  
Amen





*On Armistice Day (2019), The Friends were represented at the Menin Gate Ceremony by the Chairman, Vice Chairman, Committee Member Brian Fawcett and Friends, Chris Sims and Claudine Fawcett to witness the ceremony of the Last Post at 11am (exactly 101 years after the cease fire at 11am in 1918) and at 8pm in the presence of the King and Queen of the Belgians.*

*At the 11am ceremony St. George's was represented by Archdeacon Dr. Paul Vrolijk, who joined Clergy from other denominations to pray for the fallen of WW1 and for peace in our time.*

*A moving speech was made by the Chairman of The Last Post association, Benoit Mottrie and is reproduced below.*

## **ARMISTICE 2019: SPEECH BY CHAIRMAN BENOIT MOTTRIE**

Burgemeester, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, Dames en Heren,

This is the first 11th November ceremony since the end of the centenary celebrations that took place between 2014 and 2018. Many people have suggested that this period of remembrance might be the last major commemoration of the Great War. After all, it is a very long time ago and those who took part in the conflict are no longer with us.

This is also a question that we in the Last Post Association are often asked: how long do we intend to carry on with our self-appointed task of daily commemoration, which today takes place for the thirty-one thousand, five hundred and eighty sixth time. Our answer to this question is simple: forever.

Because we shouldn't forget what happened here 100 years ago. The past shapes us. It makes us who we are today. In fact, the past ensures that we can all stand here together. Western Europe has known unbroken peace freedom and prosperity for 75 years. These are valuable gifts that we have to treasure. The many names on the wall of the Menin Gate are proof of the heavy price that was paid for these values. This certainly merits a dedicated remembrance, each day anew.

We stand here today, because it reminds us of who we are and what we are. And what we stand for. It reminds us of what it means to be Belgian or British, Canadian or Australian, New Zealander or South African. But also perhaps what it means to be German or Austrian or Hungarian. War is a terrible thing, but it is a terrible thing for both sides, for all who take part in it. Surely this, too, is something we must continue to remember?

A wise man once said: "Forgiveness does not change the past, but it enlarges the future".

In this sense, the Last Post ceremony is a place where forgiveness and reconciliation go hand in hand, where the past and the future both meet.

As such, the ceremony is not only a mirror on all our pasts, but also a beacon of hope for the future.

Long may it so continue.



*Images from the Last Post Ceremony at the Menin Gate, 11am on 11th November 2019*



## FROM THE ARCHIVES

*Mike McKeon, our Secretary, has again delved into the Archives and has discovered the following extract originally from The New Church Times (formerly The Wipers Times) and sent to the Friends Newsletter editor back in February 1970 by G.K. Parker who served with The Sherwood Foresters. He wrote the following:*

“I see how right the author was about Ypres. To me, after all these years, and after serving on other fronts, there is, in spite of the mud, squalor (and other things), a sort of mysterious affection for the place, combined with the memory of the comradeship which seemed to come with the danger. I wish such comradeship existed in the world today”

### SIGNPOSTS

(author unknown)

There's a line that runs from Nieuport  
Down into Alsace Lorraine,  
Its twists and turns are many, and each  
Means a loss or gain,  
Every yard can tell a story, every foot  
Can claim its fee,  
There the line will stay forever from  
Lorraine up to the sea.  
Places memorised by symbol, little things  
That caught the mind,  
As at Loos 'twas but a lone tree which  
In memory is enshrined

Perhaps at Wipers 'twas a corner, shell bespattered, held our sight  
Or a nightingale at Plug Street sending  
Music through the night.  
Little things, yet each implanted when  
The nerves are tension high  
And in years to come are remembered how  
While gazing, death passed by.  
So the line for all has signposts,  
And a dugout oft can hold  
Little memories to haunt one, as the future years unfold,  
Though this line will be behind us as we push on to the Spree,  
Yet to all it will be sacred, mud encased though it may be.  
In the future dim and distant, they will tell the tale again  
The Ghosts of those who held the line from Nieuport to Lorraine.



## REMEMBERED WITH HONOUR

*In the fourth of our Series featuring those commemorated in St George's Memorial Church, Ypres, we remember . . .*

### 2nd LIEUTENANT CHRISTOPHER SEROCOLD TENNANT

Second Lieutenant George Christopher Tennant was the eldest son of Charles Coombe Tennant and his wife Winnifred (née Pearce-Serocold) and was born on 10th October 1897 at Cadoxton Lodge, Vale of Neath, Glamorganshire, where his ancestors had settled in the first decades of the 19th Century. A nephew by marriage of the famous explorer Henry Morgan Stanley, Christopher (as he was always known) was also, via his maternal grandmother, a direct descendant of Oliver Cromwell, Lord Protector of England following the English Civil War.



*Christopher Tennant*

At the age of nine, Christopher was sent to West Downs Preparatory School, Winchester, and he attended Winchester College between 1911 and 1916. He did not enjoy his schooling and it was clear that he suffered bullying at both establishments. In June 1915 he suggested to his mother that he should leave the school at the end of the term *"I am am not very happy and often feel lonely - there is no sort of intellectual companionship with boys in my house"*. A sensitive young man, his love of music and literature was not appreciated by his contemporaries.

Christopher then briefly attended Trinity College, Cambridge, before leaving for Sandhurst, where he passed out twelfth in April 1917 and was commissioned into the 2nd Battalion, Welsh Guards, at the end of the same month. Here he appears, according to one source to have *suddenly found his feet, the regimental system giving him a sense of purpose*.

2nd Lieutenant Tennant departed for the front lines on 9th August 1917. Eight days later he arrived at a reinforcement camp at Proven (nine miles north-west of the martyred town of Ypres) and the following night had his first experience of war when a German air raid occurred nearby. Due to visit Paris, on leave, on 4th September, Christopher had already expressed his disappointment that his mother could not join him in the French Capital when the Welsh Guards were ordered to the frontline positions on the night of 31st August 1917, to participate in the 3rd Battle of Ypres, better remembered as the Battle of Passchendaele. In the days that followed, Christopher would win the trust of his men, as later recorded by his orderly, Private William Rees:

*"I first had speech with Mr. Tennant on the evening of Friday, August 31st, when No.4 Platoon started for the front line. . . Mr. Tennant asked me if I was a Welshman, and on hearing that I came from Port Talbot talk fell on Wales and home affairs. We got into the trenches after much clambering over mud and shell-holes, and established ourselves in a concrete blockhouse. This had a concrete*



floor, the ceiling and sides being boarded; it was pitch dark, and was lighted by candles.

*Mr. Tennant was a good soldier. He didn't know what fear was, but he was not reckless or foolhardy. He was specially loved by us men because he wasn't like some officers who go into their dug-outs and stay there, leaving the men outside. He had us all in all day long; his dug-out was full of private soldiers the whole time, many smoking, others writing letters. Our rations had not come up to begin with, and Mr. Tennant gave us out cigarettes. The men would have done more for him than for many another officer because he was so friendly with them and he knew his job. He was a fine soldier, and they knew it".*



Monday 3rd September 1917 was an unremarkable day on the battlefields, noted only for the lack of rainfall for the first time in over a week. The Welsh Guards, however, suffered 13 fatalities that day, one officer and 12 other ranks, all bar one subsequently laid to rest at Canada Farm Cemetery, close to a farm of the same name used as a Dressing Station during the offensive. The Officer concerned was 2nd Lieutenant Christopher Tennant.



*The headstone of George Christopher Tennant (right) in Canada Farm Cemetery (left), Plot II Row D Grave 1.  
His epitaph reads: "CHRISTOPHER" CADOXTON, NEATH, WALES DEEPLY LOVED RESURREXIT*

Killed by shell-fire near the ruins of the village of Langemark as he came out of the frontlines in the early hours of the morning, his mother would later receive a letter of condolence from 2nd Lieutenant Basil Webb, who knew Christopher at Winchester College and joined the Regiment at the same time. In it, he explained: "With regard to his death, I know you have heard the whole story from his servant, Hobbs. It was quite unavoidable, just one of those bits of bad luck which go to make up this business of war. The great thing is, he was doing his job up in the line, and was killed practically outright and suffered nothing. If he was going to be knocked out it could not possibly have happened in a better way. But even so, the whole thing is a horrible affair, and I can only express my sympathy with you".





A book was published in 1919 as an early memorial entitled **Christopher: A Study in Human Personality**. It was written by Sir Oliver Lodge, a well-known spiritualist and a friend of Mrs Tennant whose interest in spiritualism and life-after-death had begun following the death of an infant daughter in 1908. Christopher is also remembered at St George's Memorial Church, Ypres, on War Memorials at both his Winchester Schools and at Trinity College, Cambridge. His original grave marker (shown below, right) can be found at the Church of All Hallows by the Tower in London.



Finally, in October 2004, a small brass plaque (shown above left) was discovered in the parish church of Elverdinghe, some four miles south-west of Langemark, by workmen moving a pulpit to lay a carpet. Its history remains obscure, but it is another fitting tribute to a promising young man taken shortly before his twentieth birthday.

Valerie Jacques & David Humberston  
(with acknowledgements to [www.winchestercollegeatwar.com](http://www.winchestercollegeatwar.com))



The Friends of  
St George's Memorial Church, Ypres,



## Our Prayer

O Lord Jesus Christ in whose name  
The St George's Memorial Church  
in Ypres is dedicated.

Grant that its life and worship  
may ever abound to your greatest glory;  
And that as The Friends we may do our part,  
by prayer and offering,  
To strengthen its witness to all the world;  
Who with the Father and the Holy Spirit  
live and reign ever One God.

Amen.



To: The Honorary Membership Secretary, The Friends of St. George's Memorial Church,  
Ypres, 32 Fulwood Walk, London SW19 6RB

I wish to become a Member and enclose/ or have arranged electronic payment/ bankers order  
of £ . . . . . as my first subscription.

Name . . . . .

Address . . . . .

. . . . .

Postcode . . . . .

Email . . . . .

Telephone . . . . .

Date . . . . .

By signing below, you are confirming that you are consenting to The Friends of St Georges  
Memorial Church, Ypres holding and processing your personal data for the following purposes  
(please tick the boxes where you grant consent):

To keep me informed about news, events and activities about The Friends of St Georges  
Memorial Church, Ypres

I consent to the church contacting me by    post    phone    or email.

Our communications are typically (but not limited to) our newsletter, which is published twice  
per year.

Signed: . . . . .

Dated: . . . . .

Where you do not grant consent, we will not be able to use your personal data; (so for example  
we may not be able to let you know about forthcoming activities and events); except in certain  
limited situations, such as where required to do so by law or to protect members of the public  
from serious harm. You can find out more about how we use your data from our "Privacy  
Notice" which is available from our website.

You can withdraw or change your consent at any time by contacting the Membership  
Secretary at:

32 Fulwood Walk, London SW19 6RB or email: [plusnet32@espeare.plus.com](mailto:plusnet32@espeare.plus.com)

Please note that all processing of your personal data will cease once you have withdrawn  
consent, other than where this is required by law, but this will not affect any personal data that  
has already been processed prior to this point.





Please indicate if you wish to pay subsequent subscriptions by banker's order or electronic banking.

We would appreciate it if you could fill out the Gift Aid form if you are a UK Tax payer.

A Gift Aid form is not required for donations of £20 and under but we will need you to tick here to agree to Gift Aid.

Note: All membership fees are regarded as a minimum donation.

#### Membership Categories

UK Individual	£10 per year
Overseas Individual	€15 per year
UK Joint Couples	£15 per year
Overseas Joint Couples	€20 per year
UK Corporate Membership	£20 per year
Overseas Corporate Membership	€25 per year
UK Life Membership	£250
Overseas Life Membership	€250
UK Joint Life Membership	£375
Overseas Joint Life Membership	€375

#### Gift Aid Declaration in favour of The Friends of St. George's Memorial Church Ypres charity number 21382-L-1

Donor title . . . . . forenames . . . . .

Family name . . . . .

Address . . . . .

Postal town. . . . . Post code . . . . .

Telephone number in case of query . . . . .

I wish to donate to The Friends under the Gift Aid scheme as follows:

The enclosed donation of . . . . .

All donations I make to The Friends from the date of this declaration until further notice.

I confirm that I pay income tax and or capital gains tax at an amount at least equal to the sum mentioned above in each relevant tax year and that the amount of tax that all gifts made to charities does not exceed the total tax paid. I understand that VAT and council tax do not qualify as taxes.

Signature . . . . . date. . . . . / . . . . . /20. . . . .

This declaration may be cancelled by you in writing at any time. Please advise The Friends of any change of address and should you no longer pay income or capital gains tax. Regular payments may be made by banker's order.



## Bankers Order Form

To (name & address of your bank) .....

.....

Please pay to Lloyds Finsbury Circus sort code 30 95 74 account number 00252832

For the account of The Friends of St George's Memorial Church Ypres

the sum of £ ..... (amount in words ..... )

on ..... (date)

and annually on the same date thereafter until further notice.

Kindly mention reference: Gift Aid .....

Account holders name .....

Account Number ..... Sort Code: .....

Signature ..... Date .....

### Electronic Banking

Account name: The Friends of St. George's Memorial Church Ypres

#### From Great Britain:

Sort code – 30.95.74 Account number – 00252832

#### From outside Great Britain:

IBAN – GB75 LOYD 3095 7400 2528 32 BIC – LOYDGB21027

### POLITE REQUEST

Subscriptions are our lifeblood and keeping up to date with Annual Subscriptions reduces our Administration time and costs considerably. If you haven't considered setting up a Standing Order, this is the most convenient way to stay up to date.



## *Membership matters*

We are continuing to modernise and update our membership records and would like to remind Friends that if you wish to receive communications via email to please pass your details on to our Membership Secretary, Miss Eve Speare. She can be contacted at [espeare32@talktalk.net](mailto:espeare32@talktalk.net). We have already received some responses, for which we are very grateful. We will, of course, continue to communicate by traditional mail but are happy to embrace the ever changing “digital” world.

This is also to remind Members not paying by standing order that regular subscription needs to be paid on a regular basis to our Treasurer in order to ensure Members receive the Newsletters and other communications.





## Our Fallen Comrades

*"In truth they were young Gentlemen,  
Yeomen and Yeomen's Sons,  
and Artificers of the most brave sort,  
such as went voluntarily to  
serve of a gaiety and joyalty of mind:  
all which kind of people are  
the Flower and Force of a Kingdom."*

*Sir John Smyth to Lord Burleigh  
on our Men in Flanders in 1589-90.*

