

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

Registered with the Charities Commission No. 213282-L1



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NEWSLETTER

July 2019

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The Eton College Memorial Stone

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## **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.



# Editorial

Dear Friends

In a year which appears to have been somewhat dominated by ‘doom and gloom’ we can, by contrast, report on a year, so far, of thanksgiving, anniversaries and celebration.

In March, some of us joined the joyous celebrations of the 90th Anniversary of the opening of St George’s in 1929. This event allowed for a renewal of our historical connections with Eton College via the Old Etonians Association (OEA), whose representative group was headed by its Vice Provost, Andrew Gailey.

In recent days, our Secretary, Mike McKeon, reminded me that 2019 is the 60th Anniversary of the publication of our first newsletter — quite an achievement. For 40 years of those 60 years the Friday family from the Isle of



Sheppey, have printed our newsletters. Such has been their involvement and commitment over that period that we informally regard the family as ‘honorary’ members of The Friends. Initially, John Friday collated and printed the newsletter but on retirement handed the reins over to his son Christopher. Sadly, John died on 3 April and on 23 April I had the privilege to represent The Friends at his funeral in the celebration and thanksgiving for the abundant life of John. As editor for nearly four years, I wish to thank Island Printers and Christopher, in particular, for his ongoing unstinting professional help, and technical knowledge in the production of our Newsletter. Things are certainly more colourful than in 1959, that’s for sure!

Another aspect to celebrate is an initiative carried out by our member Christine King from Kent. Single handedly, Christine was inspired to design and source the production of a most brilliant badge struck for all bellringers who commemorated the 100th Anniversary of the Armistice on 11 Nov 2018. The



badges of this non-profit making initiative have now found their way to the four corners of the world. I was privileged recently to present individual badges to Alan Regin and his team who specifically rang the bells at St George's on 11 November. In May, I was able to present similar badges to Liz Millward (Tower Captain) and to the rest of the St George's band.

And lastly, I want to share news about an event that recently took place at St George's. Tim Godden, a member of The Friends, was, as some of you may remember, the academic leader of the MA students from the University of Kent during their tour guide project at St George's over the Easter period in 2017. I am very happy to report that with his wife Kate and his little son Fernley, he chose to return to St George's on 25 June, where their marriage was blessed. Area Dean, Rev. Stephen Murray (from Ghent), conducted the service and Liz Millward and her team of bellringers enhanced this very special and happy occasion by ringing St George's bells before and after the service.

Enjoy the Newsletter — enjoy the Summer.  
Every blessing, Derek Gallagher  
Vice Chairman and Editor of The Friends Newsletter



*Tim (holding young Fernley) and Kate outside St. George's following their Wedding Blessing.*

*Quotes from Twitter ...*

*"We had a special morning at St. George's Memorial Church in Ypres. A wonderful intimate service with the three of us and Rev Stephen (Murray) surrounded by memorials and history that mean so much to us."*

*"A massive thanks to Elizabeth Millward and the rest of the bell ringers of St. George's for making it that little bit more special."*



# Chairman's Report

**General** I write this Report in the aftermath of the D Day Commemorations, all of which provided an unforgettable spectacle, and proved once more that Great Britain reigns supreme in the staging of major world public ceremonies. All those who followed the passage of events, either through the Media, or by being present at a particular venue, could not but have been deeply moved by the dignity and modesty shown by those Veterans who were returning to Europe, where they and their comrades in arms had fought so valiantly 75 years ago. It is also fitting to pay tribute to the Royal British Legion, who organised such a momentous and highly complex operation so magnificently, an achievement which was wholeheartedly endorsed by the open appreciation of the Veterans.

The Church Year at Ypres has once more been dominated by the continued absence of the Chaplain on Pastoral Leave. As a result, planned projects to which The Friends have agreed financial assistance, remain on hold. The PCC at St George's has continued to cope nobly in this difficult situation, led by the Ven Dr Paul Vrolijk, the Archdeacon of North West Europe, and the Rev Stephen Murray, the Vicar of Ghent and Area Dean. I don't think that it is too much to say that whenever Committee Members of The Friends have attended PCC meetings, the bonhomie that clearly exists in the group is very heartening.

**Pilgrimage** The decision taken to cancel this year's pilgrimage was very disappointing, but sadly inevitable due to lack of numbers. At our October Meeting, a discussion took place with the aim of planning future pilgrimages, with one in 2020 particularly in mind. It was agreed to form a working party to review the whole Project, consisting of Nigel Divers, together with David Humberston and Valerie Jacques, who also run the Leicestershire and Rutland Branch of the Western Front Association. The result of their subsequent meeting, is that it is planned to circulate all WFA Branches, giving them the opportunity of Corporate Membership of The Friends, and encouraging their individual members to join The Friends, so that they can claim other existing benefits. I am immensely grateful to all three for their hard work and time spent, in their efforts to revive what is arguably the Flagship of our Association.

**Committee** The Friends Committee held the first of its two yearly meetings



in April. We were pleased to welcome the Rev Canon William Gulliford, the Diocesan (in Europe) Director of Ordinands, and Mr Michael Mackenzie, representing the Old Etonian Association (OEA), on both of whom there is more later in this Report.

**Diocesan Headquarters** Andrew Caspari has taken over from Michael Fegan as Diocesan Secretary at 14 Tufton St. I would like to thank Michael for his support and encouragement during his time as Secretary, and to wish Andrew well on his taking up the appointment.

**Events** This year, owing to the absence of the Chaplain, the annual Patronal Festival and ANZAC Day Commemorations at St George's were put on hold. However, The Ven Dr Paul Vrolijk represented the Anglican Church at a special Service on ANZAC Day in St Martin's Cathedral. The Queen's Birthday Party took place on 8th June, and this was followed a week later by the Australian's annual Barbecue. Undoubtedly the main event, so far, has been the 90th Anniversary Commemoration of the Opening of St George's and the School (now Memorial Hall), which took place over the weekend of 30th/31st March, a week later than the actual opening all those years ago.

The St George's Community was delighted to welcome a delegation from Eton College, whose Old Boys Association had sponsored the building of the School. In the absence of the Provost, Lord Waldegrave of North Hill, who sadly was unable to attend, owing to ill health, Eton was represented by Dr Andrew Gailey, the Vice Provost, and Mr Michael Mackenzie and Mrs Jackie Tarrant – Barton for the OEA. The Vice Provost and Mr Mackenzie laid wreaths at the Menin Gate during the Last Post Ceremony, on the Saturday evening, with the former also giving the Exhortation, and Mr Mackenzie reciting the Kohima Epitaph. Dr Gailey gave a most moving Address at the Holy Communion Service in St George's on Sunday morning, and this was followed by him planting a rowan tree in the garden to commemorate the Anniversary. Mrs Tarrant – Barton subsequently laid a wreath beneath the Inscription on the outside of the Memorial Hall.

The Event has undoubtedly brought into focus the long standing relationship between Eton and St George's, which has perhaps been somewhat dormant over the years. We look forward to rekindling what was once a close association.





**Visits** The Chairman and Vice Chairman have attended two PCC Meetings this year, including the AGM in May. They, together with the Secretary, who has attended one PCC Meeting, and a meeting to set up the Photographic Project, attended the 90th Anniversary of the Opening of St George's. Owing to the start times of meetings being put back, what used to be an early Reveille for those travelling from the UK has now become a late Nightfall in Camp !

**Church of England Ministry Experience Scheme (CEMES)** In 2018, The Friends had received a request for funding from the Rev Canon William Gulliford, the Diocesan (in Europe) Director of Ordinands, to support their training course, part of which would cover the life and history of St George's. The programme would run over three years, of which two days each year would be spent at St George's.

At our April Meeting, Canon Gulliford explained the purpose of the Scheme, which gives young people the opportunity to experience church life, to deepen their theological knowledge, and to gain pastoral skills. The Scheme has so far been very successful in attracting younger ordinands, both in Europe and the UK. He went on to describe a recent day visit to Ypres in March this year, as part of a two day intensive meeting in Belgium, in which he had accompanied seven interns and their team leaders. He expressed his gratitude to Professor Mark Connelly who had given a most illuminating and thorough presentation throughout the day. The visit had proved to have been very worthwhile, as of the seven interns, six have committed to go on to theological college, which is very encouraging. Who knows, St George's itself might even be a beneficiary in the future !

I believe that this is a most worthwhile association, among the reasons being that the aims of the Scheme connect with the main Objects of our Constitution, and, secondly, it also ties in with our warm relationship with Mark Connelly, who is not only a Co-opted Member of The Friends Committee but is also the Director of Gateways to the First World War, at the University of Kent (*see reports and reflections from Dr Clare Amos, Professor Mark Connelly and others later in this newsletter*).

**Life Membership Fees** The Committee has agreed to introduce a Life Membership Fee of £375, which will reflect the annual Joint Membership Fee relationship with that of the Standard annual membership.



**Bells** Bell ringing is flourishing, under the supervision of Liz Millward, Tower Captain of St George's, which has now become a place of pilgrimage for ringers all over the world. Many individuals and bands give up their time to come over and help with the training of the St George's Band of Bell Ringers. The Band is very fortunate in now having a Ringing Master, Gregory Woods, an experienced English ringer, who comes up from Brussels to teach. Martin Adshead is Deputy Tower captain. The Band had its first outing to Dover last November, and other trips are planned.

Liz Millward has recently been in hospital for an operation. We wish her a speedy and complete recovery.

**Conclusions** There is no doubt that the past months have been difficult for St George's. I have been greatly encouraged by the willingness and enthusiasm of all who are connected with the Church, to keep everything moving forward. In particular, the work of Paul Vrolijk and Stephen Murray has been, and is, Homeric. They have been wonderfully supported by the PCC, whose members have fully lived up to the maxim that there is no substitute for experience !

Closer to home, The Friends Committee is hard at work overseeing a variety of projects and new ideas, under, of course, the eagle eye of the Treasurer ! There are high hopes that the efforts of the working party will result in the resurgence of the Pilgrimage next year. As I have said before, there is much to do, but I am confident that there is both the will and the way to move forward to better times ahead.



Edward Crofton  
Chairman



# Letter from the Archdeacon

Dear Friends,

It is an honour and joy to write to you at this particular time.

The last twelve months have been action packed for me in relation to St George's Memorial Church Ypres.



*Roman Catholic Bishop of Ypres Monseigneur Jean Kockerois working "ecumenically" with Liz Millward on the Poppy Project*

It has been very special to have been involved in the Armistice Centenary, the 90th Anniversary and Easter. Very special in the run-up to the Armistice Centenary was the visit by 22 Roman Catholic Bishops who were visiting Ypres in October. We took the opportunity to give them a quick tour of St George's and the Church Hall, which was buzzing with busy handwork in preparation of the magnificent Poppy Display, already reported on in this magazine. I was also

invited to participate in the ANZAC Day commemorations, which gave me a chance to meet various people in the Ypres community, including Ypres mayor.

Some recent news: The Revd Gillian Tinder has resigned as Chaplain of St George's Memorial Church Ypres as of 1st July 2019 and has returned to the UK for personal reasons. We wish her well.

This means that a vacancy process has started. As Archdeacon, I am looking forward to being involved with that.

Looking back over the last twelve months I am filled with expectation and hope about the appointment we are preparing to make. The Friends will certainly be consulted as part of the recruitment process. The support of the Friends to St George's and the Diocese in Europe is very important and much appreciated.

It has been wonderful to work with Sir Edward and other members of the Board and I am looking forward to working together with the Friends for years to come.

Wishing you a blessed Summer.  
With warm greetings from Brussels,  
Paul Vrolijk (Senior Chaplain and Canon Chancellor  
Archdeacon of North West Europe)



# 90th Anniversary of the opening of St. George's Memorial Church - Reflections and pictures

*A service was held at St. George's on 31st March 2019 and the address was given by the Vice-Provost of Eton College, Andrew Gailey.*



At 11am on the 11th of November last year, the boys at Eton gathered in School Yard. Such gatherings of the whole school are rare, for we are a large school and do not have a building that can hold all the boys under one roof. Of course, this particular meeting held a greater significance. We were there in an act of remembrance of all those who died fighting in the First World War. Amid the traditional ceremonial – the prayers, the sounding of the Last Post, the Two Minute Silence scrupulously observed, and the laying of wreaths – there hung in the air something truly awful before our eyes. As I looked over the ranks of boys, all 1320 of them – distinctive in their black tailcoats, just as their ancestors had worn 100 years before – I suddenly realised that they were only a little more than the 1157 Old Etonians who had died in the war. It was as if the dead had returned to show us just what these numbers meant in human terms. Here was the mass of their sacrifice. And they would have looked no different from their successors in the yard last November: young, hopeful faces, eager to embrace the lifetime that was their due. The service over, the boys drifted out to the future that lay ahead and, as they did, the memory of those that died silently retreated back to the memorial tablets that line the whole length of the Colonnade.

But we continue to remember them not simply for the scale of the horror that struck down whole communities across Western Europe. Nor for the dreadful manner of their deaths, so memorably captured by Wilfred Owen:

*What passing-bells for these who die as cattle?*

*Only the monstrous anger of the guns.*

Rather what really resonates today is the spirit with which their sacrifice was given. The camaraderie of the Pals regiments, the willingness to support one's friends in an hour of need, the call of patriotic duty: 'Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends'.



But what about those who were not his friends? The generations he could never have known, the boys in the School Yard last November, for instance? When I was a house master I would read out the Kohima Epitaph and challenge the boys if they would do the same as their predecessors in 1914:

*When you go home,  
Tell them of us and say:  
For your tomorrow  
We gave our today.*

Who honestly could say yes they would do likewise? And yet in 1914 they did; and did so fearing what would come every step of the way.

What they gave us was Freedom. The freedom to forget as well as to remember, and hence the importance of places like this St George's Memorial Church in Ypres 'lest we forget'. In the endless ranks in the well-kept cemeteries, we have a stark reminder of the inhumanity of man to man that potentially lies within us all. A reminder too of the greater importance of the struggle to promote the human virtues of tolerance, of love of our fellow man (and not simply a gruff respect), above all of compassion. 2018 saw us add another memorial to the Eton roll of honour in Cloisters. It was in memory of Bruny Schroder, of the great Anglo-German banking family. Bruny, a young Etonian, was staying with his German cousins in August 1914. He volunteered with them for the German army and was killed in September 1915. Bruny makes it 1158 Etonian dead. We are a hundred years too late of course, but it is an illustration of how this war keeps challenging us.

It has been the unlucky fate of Ypres that the British always seem to end up fighting here. Agincourt, the Spanish Armada, Waterloo and so again in August 1914. Many Etonians fought in these fields then and of them 342 were not to return home. Yet after such bloody conflict, it was telling and inspired that those that survived the Ypres Salient should seek to remember their lost friends by building a school here. They would put their trust in education to heal and bring together; a place where the young could learn the values of truth, of respecting your neighbour as yourself, of learning to live through others. The School is no more alas, a victim of the Second World War, but in this place are still the echoes of lessons taught there that will never grow old. Echoes that resounded loud and clear, as we gathered last night to witness the humbling act of remembrance at The Menin Gate. Echoes that could be heard too when



we met in School Yard as the clock in Lupton's Tower rang out at 11am on the 11th of November 2018.

Andrew Gailey Vice-Provost



Michael Mackenzie OEA  
delivering the Gospel Reading



Sir Edward Crofton  
giving the Exhortation



*Planting of the Tree  
to Commemorate the  
90th Anniversary  
by the Vice-Provost  
as Lord Waldergrave was  
sadly unable to attend*



*Representative group of the Old Etonians Association (OEA)  
before the Eton College Memorial Stone.*



*I would like to thank the Friends of St George's for inviting me to the 90th Anniversary commemorations. I was made to feel most welcome and it was an honour to participate in the proceedings and, in particular, to lay a wreath at the Foundation stone of the school. I enjoyed every moment of our visit. I have since joined the Friends and I look forward to returning to St George's often.*

Jackie Tarrant-Barton  
Clerk to the Old Etonian Association



# News from the Front

*Firstly, we hear from Amy Harrison, one of our younger members who reports from Ypres on her recent appointment as a CWGC Intern.*



*Amy Harrison, far right, with other CWGC Interns in Ypres*

Two years ago, the Friends of St. George's Memorial Church teamed up with the University of Kent and Gateways to the First World War to create the Unlocking Ypres project. Focussing on the history and community of the church, the project created a series of tours around Ypres and involved a group of postgraduate students stewarding the church during the day, welcoming visitors and

explaining how special the Memorial Church is. For those involved, the experience was amazing and their interest in the Church and Ypres has continued.

Since that time, and due to the opportunity provided by the Friends, two of the students (myself and Edward Tesei) have gone on to be chosen for the Commonwealth War Graves Commission Internship! This scheme is available for young people aged 18 and over and creates two teams of 6 stationed at the major Commission sites of Thiepval Memorial to the Missing on the Somme, and the Tyne Cot Cemetery and Memorial near Ypres. Starting from the 9th June 2019, the Tyne Cot team have also begun running the original Unlocking Ypres town tours on Sunday afternoons!

Part of these tours include visiting St. George's Memorial Church once more, bringing visitors inside if possible and explaining the long history and continuing importance of the building to those visiting the Salient. It's noticeable how long visitors want to spend looking round the church and memorials, looking for a personal link to a local school, family, or regiment!





As one of the students given the opportunity by the Friends to experience guiding and researching, I would like to personally thank the Friends of St George's Memorial Church for their support! Describing the history and community of the church to Ypres visitors will continue through the work of the CWGC and the new groups of interns who learn this history each year.

Amy Harrison  
CWGC Intern  
Ypres, July 2019

*Secondly, we follow the activities of the CEMES Interns Project Team with reports and reflections from Dr Clare Amos, Project Director; Professor Mark Connelly (Co-opted Committee member of The Friends and Professor of History at Kent University); and two interns, Erik Heemskerk from The Netherlands and Sharon Ejinkonye from the UK*

It was a privilege to accompany the journey to Ypres (Ieper) which formed part of the two day intensive meeting in Belgium held for the interns of the Diocese in Europe Ministry Experience Scheme 17-19 March 2019. As someone a few years older than the interns it was interesting both to reflect on my own experience – I had never been to Ypres before, though I have visited other First World War battlefields and cemeteries – and also to explore what we saw and heard through their eyes.



*The Interns on their visit to Ypres Town Cemetery -  
Professor Mark Connelly is seen to the far right*

Undoubtedly our visit was 'made' for us through the presence of Professor Mark Connelly of the University of Kent at Canterbury as our immensely learned, yet also engaging and accessible, guide for our time in Ypres. We are very grateful both for the suggestion that we might ask Professor Connelly to join us for the day, and to Professor Connelly himself for making the considerable effort to come to Ypres for the day from his home in Kent. Professor Connelly's presentation was thorough and very illuminating – he explored with us in considerable detail the Menin Gate, walked us to and





through two cemeteries, one of which in particular (the Ramparts Cemetery) spoke to us of human dignity and beauty in the midst of such tragedy, pointed out to us locations in the town, such as the site of Little Talbot House, and in situ told the story of both the reconstruction of St Martin's Cathedral and of the building of St George's Church Ypres, where we ended our day. I was fascinated to learn from Professor Connolly about the considerable British community that lived in Ypres through the 1920s and 1930s, and the pattern of 'pilgrimage' from the UK which developed in those years. Coincidentally, just after we arrived at St George's the church bells began to be rung – in a long peal which was apparently due to last more than two hours. They felt an intriguing backcloth to the service of Evening Prayer that we said together in the church, which included a reading of Wilfred Owen's poem, 'Anthem for Doomed Youth'. Owen's poem of course includes the line, speaking about the 'doomed youth', 'No mockeries now for them; no prayers nor bells' so there was something very moving about our own praying in that context, accompanied by the church bells being rung out. It felt as though in some small way that the youth of the 21st century were helping by their prayers to mitigate that lack that had been so bitterly experienced by their forbears of a hundred years ago. Owen spoke elsewhere of 'the pity of war' and I think we experienced some deep sense of such pity in our memorable day in Ypres.

One of the aspects of the experience that clearly moved our interns (and myself) was the considerable care in the design and the deep equality of the cemeteries: all were buried in a similar fashion with a similar headstone whether they were private soldiers or aristocratic officers. We were challenged though by the alteration of the text from St John's Gospel, into 'Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his country' which was seen on several gravestones. For myself, with my long term involvement with interreligious issues I was fascinated by a grave which, decorated with the star of David and a Hebrew inscription, seemed to be of a Jewish soldier – yet the text at the bottom of the headstone was a quotation from the New Testament! Our visit took place in the middle of Lent – and as we spent the following morning in Brussels 'unpacking' our visit to Ypres we were inevitably led to reflect together on the role of the cross of Christ in breaking the chains of violence and retaliation in our world.

We would certainly hope to include a visit to the town of Ypres and its cemeteries in our programme for the interns in the Diocese in Europe Ministry



Experience Scheme in future years. We are very grateful to the Friends of St George's Ypres for its contribution to enabling the present visit.

Dr Clare Amos  
Ministry Experience Scheme Coordinator,  
Church of England Diocese in Europe.

*Professor Mark Connelly writes ...*

On Monday 18 March on behalf of the Friends I accompanied a group of potential ordinands attending the Ministry Experience Scheme run by the Diocese of Europe. The group arrived from Brussels under their team leaders, Dr Clare Amos, and Canon Jack Macdonald (KU Leuven). They were all very interested in exploring the history of Ypres as a commemorative site as a way of providing insights into the wider questions of public commemoration and remembrance activity and, consequently, to discover the pivotal role that St George's Memorial Church has played, and is playing in this continuing process.

We started at the Menin Gate, where I sketched out the memorial's dual significance as marking a battle exploit and commemorating the missing. We then walked on to Ypres Town Cemetery to see the CWGC plot and Prince Maurice of Battenberg's grave, which revealed fully the CWGC's commitment to equality of treatment.

Walking back into town, we stopped at Little Toc H on the Rijsselstraat, and explored that history of Toc H, before going on to the Ramparts Cemetery. We then doubled back into the centre of Ypres to study the city war memorial noting the differences in its artistic style and commemorative inferences compared with British and Commonwealth commemoration. Our penultimate stop was St. George's itself, where we went through its crucial role at the heart of the city's British community and as a focal point for pilgrimages. The final stop was the IWGC memorial plaque in St Martin's cathedral, which I think provided the final underlining of Ypres' significance to Britain and the Commonwealth with its powerful inscription, 'To the million dead of the British Empire'. The group then departed for an evening service in St. George's, followed by tea in the parish hall, which John Arnold was helping arrange. All on the tour seemed to gain a great deal from being at a site of so much deep significance and gained a real insight into the unique role and function of St. George's.



*Erik Heemskerk writes of his experience as a CEMES Intern in Ypres.....*

My name is Erik Heemskerk, and in this last year, I was involved in the Ministry Experience Scheme (MES) in Holy Trinity Utrecht, in the Netherlands, as an intern. My internship focused primarily on ministry to international students. Another important part of the internship was to discern my vocation within the Church of England.

The theme of the year was pilgrimage. This was because we went on pilgrimages to Lyon, to the Holy Land, to Ypres and ended the year together in London and Canterbury . But it was also a year of personal pilgrimage for me, trying to listen to God's voice, to find out what He is calling me to.

The focus of our pilgrimage to Ypres was war and remembrance in the context of the First World War. I myself, as a citizen of a country (The Netherlands) that remained neutral in the First World War and was overrun in five days in the Second World War, learned a lot about the scars it leaves in society when so many young men don't return from war or are traumatized for life. This challenges our theology and the way we remember. And also, what do we say to the mothers and widows?

What struck me was what Professor Mark Connelly explained to us about the remembrance of this war in the 20s and 30s. Every soldier was, by his courage, by his comradeship, by his love for family and country, seen to have walked the way of the Cross. Each soldier was remembered as to have carried Christ's cross and to have laid down his life for his friends, like Jesus did.

This is reflected still today in our remembrance services when we say: 'They shall not grow old as we that are left grow old, age shall not wear y them, nor the years condemn.' Those lines have a clear sense of us being left on the way of the Cross, us suffering in the struggles of life, while they already fully share in Christ's resurrected life.

I was also very impressed by the enormous amount of thought and symbolism that went into the memorials and the graves for soldiers. This really highlighted a sense of equality and comradeship, even after death. But this remembrance was also marked by the presence of God in this place, especially manifested in the graves of unknown soldiers with the text 'known unto God'. Even though we ourselves can't remember the person, we believe and trust that God will.

Our visit in Ypres ended with saying evening prayer in St. George's Memorial



Church. It was good to join our prayers with so many pilgrims who visited this place before us and remembered those who fell. We were strongly reminded of this by the many plaques on the walls.

The visit to Ypres was a great experience in my MES-internship. For me this place stands out as a place in which we remember the depths of human suffering, resonating the pain and suffering of Christ. But the deep faith that is reflected in the remembrance makes it also a place of hope, based on the resurrection of Jesus. Consequently, this place calls us to follow the example of these soldiers, to walk the way of the cross in love, courage and comradeship with each other.

I hope Ypres may for many more years serve as a call to everyone to follow Jesus' command to love one another and take up our cross and follow Him. And that it may also continue to reflect the hope of eternal life that is in that road.

EH

*And lastly, another of the CEMES Interns, Sharon Ejinkonye writes.....*

Our visit to Ypres, was a chance for me to learn things I previously had little knowledge about. I do not think Jack McDonald, who took us on this pilgrimage, could have chosen anyone better than Prof. Mark C., who had a great passion for his work. He seemed to have an enthusiasm when talking that could make any uninteresting point, exciting. He led us around and we had chance to visit war graves, cemeteries and a cathedral.

Though a cemetery may sound depressing and dark, I found that there was a great respect and honour in those grave stones. I was especially struck by the beautiful words on a grave stone, if the person there was unknown, it would read 'known unto God', a beautiful hope for one to hold onto, a sense that it does not matter who is known and unknown, ultimately if they are known by God, their Creator, that is all that matters.

At the Menin Gate, the most significant thing that struck me was the way in which the names were engraved into the walls. Professor Mark explained to us that the names which you can see at eye level, are as easily seen if you look up to the first line of the wall, which was intentionally done so that each name was remembered equally, regardless of who the person was. They were each heroes, and worthy of remembrance to all – a great reminder of equality and



unity during this time. For me, personally this day was particularly interesting because it got me thinking about my maternal grandfather (who I did not know) who was in the Nigerian civil war. Being at Ypres on this day got me curious and left me wanting to trace my mother's ancestry to see if perhaps anyone had been involved in WW1.

SE



*On a summer's evening in July, our Chairman (second from left), Vice-Chairman (far right) and Secretary (third from left) met with with CEMES Co-ordinator, Canon William Gulliford (far left) and the CEMES Interns following Evensong in Westminster Abbey and their visit to the office of the Diocese of Europe. Interns Sharon Ejinkonye and Erik Heemskerk are shown 5th and 4th from right respectively.*

# *The Friends of St. George's*

Dear Friends,

For the previous two years, our traditional Pilgrimage has regrettably not taken place as, on both occasions, we did not quite reach our required number of attendees.

Nothing daunted we are, however, already making plans for 2020 and readers will see our advertisement on the opposite page. It is appropriate at this stage to announce that, in addition to Beryl Burgess, I will also be assisted next year by Valerie Jacques and David Humberston, experienced tour organisers in their own right, and fellow Trustees of the Friends of St George's. Valerie and David are also officials of their county branch of the Western Front Association and will bring valuable expertise and knowledge to enhance your tour experience.

Our proposed Pilgrimage will be run to our traditional format and I now invite anyone wishing to join us to register their interest with Valerie, whose contact details are shown opposite. A letter of introduction will then be forwarded to you outlining our plans in greater detail.

I very much look forward to meeting both old acquaintances and new in what promises to be a most evocative, memorable and enjoyable visit to the sacred battlefields of the Great War.

Nigel Divers Pilgrimage Secretary





# *Annual Pilgrimage*

## **THE FRIENDS OF ST. GEORGE'S MEMORIAL CHURCH, YPRES ANNUAL PILGRIMAGE 1st to 5th MAY 2020**

**JOIN US FOR AN EXPERIENCE  
TO REMEMBER**

### **THIS BESPOKE TOUR WILL INCLUDE:**

**4 Nights Bed and Breakfast at the New Regina Hotel, Ypres**

**Experienced Battlefield Guides**

**Full Day Trips to the Battlefields of Ypres and the Somme**

**Attendance at St. George's Memorial Church Sunday Service  
followed by a buffet in the adjacent Church Rooms**

**Attendance at the Nightly Last Post Ceremony  
at the Menin Gate Memorial to the Missing**

**Personal Cemetery and Memorial visits upon request**

For further details and to register your  
expression of interest please contact

Miss Valerie E. Jacques

21 Britford Avenue, Wigston, Leicestershire, LE18 2RF

Email: [foft@live.co.uk](mailto:foft@live.co.uk) or call mobile: 07908 003398



# Remembered with Honour

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

## CAPTAIN HENRY LANGTON SKRINE

Captain Henry Langton Skrine was the only son of Colonel Henry Mills and Lady Mary Skrine of Warleigh and Cleveland Manors near Bath. Lady Mary (nee Gore-Langton) had illustrious ancestry, her own mother being descended from the Tudor and Plantagenet monarchs of England through the Seymour Dukes of Somerset, the Percy Dukes of Northumberland and also Lady Katherine Grey, sister to Lady Jane, the ill-fated “Nine Day Queen” of 1553.

Born on 12th November 1880, Henry was educated at Eton and Balliol College, Oxford, and was gazetted as an Officer to the Somerset Light Infantry in 1901. Arriving in South Africa shortly after the close of the Second Boer War, he applied for a posting to Nigeria and was promoted to Lieutenant in 1904. The climate was not conducive to his health, however, and he retired to the Reserve of Officers two years later.



*Henry Langton Skrine*

In September 1914, Henry re-joined his Regiment and was promoted to Temporary Captain of the 6th Battalion the following month. That same month he married Ferdinande Anna Josephine Georgina

On 21st May 1915, Henry departed for the Western Front and on 25th September found himself commanding his men in a subsidiary attack east of Ypres along the Bellewaarde Ridge. The last major British attack of 1915 – the Battle of Loos – was to take place some 30 miles to the south that very day and it was hoped a further assault in the Ypres Salient would prevent German reinforcements being rapidly deployed to the main battle area. Attached to 42nd Brigade for this assault, the 6th Somerset Light Infantry found themselves in a position close to Railway Wood, an area in which many Cavalry units had been destroyed four months earlier during the 2nd Battle of Ypres.

After a heavy night bombardment by Artillery, the British infantry launched



their attack and the Somersets were then ordered to reinforce the line just north of the Wood. The Germans now retaliated with heavy machine gun fire and began to drive the British back towards their original positions. Under this hail of fire, the British then concentrated on holding their existing positions. It was at this stage that Henry observed the enemy gathering in a communication trench and ordered his men to commence rapid fire. A German machine-gun on their flank returned fire and Henry was shot through the head and killed instantly. He was one of three Officers and eleven men from the Battalion who fell in this engagement. His widow was informed that “Every officer in the battalion loved your husband and showed most evident signs of sorrow when they heard of his death, a thing rarely done when they are surrounded, as at present, by terrible fighting. His company are deeply grieved, for he was not only a good leader, but a generous, sympathetic friend”.

Henry was buried close to where he fell, although his grave was destroyed during subsequent fighting and never recovered. The discovery in 1920 of a battered wooden cross bearing his name at the junction of British positions known as “Cambridge Road” and “Gully Farm” led to the subsequent purchase of a small plot of land near that spot, upon which was later erected a granite cross in memory of Henry and his men. In 1996 this cross was moved to the western edge of the same field where it today stands beside the memorial cross to Geoffrey Bowlby (featured in the previous newsletter) and the recently erected memorial to the Leicestershire Yeomanry. Henry is also commemorated on the Menin Gate Memorial to the Missing and at St George’s Memorial Church, Ypres.

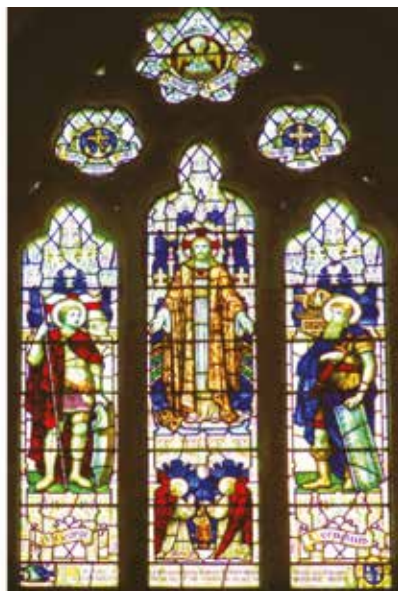


*Henry Skrine is remembered in St Georges Memorial Church, Ypres (above) and by a granite cross near to Railway Wood (left)*



*The Skrine Memorial Windows, St Swithun's Church, Bathford.*

*The larger window on the right also commemorates Henry's father.*



Henry is remembered at two Churches in Somerset, one being St Swithun's in Bathford, where two stained-glass windows, one erected by his widow and another by his mother, form part of a small family chapel in the transept which also contains plaques commemorating various members of the Skrine family.

Additionally, a brass plaque can be found at St Mary's Church, Claverton, which was erected by Henry's four sisters. As a member of the Freemasons, Henry's name also appears on the Masonic Roll of Honour housed at Freemasons' Hall, Great Queens Street, London.

Possibly most poignantly of all is the battered wooden grave cross (depicted on the right), discovered in 1919 and later returned to the family, which can today be found on display at the Museum of Somerset in Taunton.



*Valerie Jacques & David Humberston*

# From the Archives

Mike McKeon, our Secretary, has selected another poem by A.R.G Richards, an early member of The Friends and a Canadian veteran.

Mike writes....it's always good to re-read about those who came before us.

The following poem is from Issue 2 of our newsletter, right back in October 1959. What is even more interesting is that we started to publish the newsletter in 1959 so this is a 60th anniversary!

I like this poem because it references the 80,000 still missing to this day; a slightly different view as many people view General Plumer's "he is not missing, he is here" as a source of comfort to the families of that era and still today.

## DUSK AT THE MENIN GATE

Traffic halts-the hatless crowd is stilled  
As Buglers stand- a signal to await,  
Most eyes with silent tears are filled  
For "Last Post" at the Menin Gate.  
First notes ring out so firm and clear  
Re-echoed by that magic Square.  
The "Clarion Call" we hold so dear  
Remembrance of all ranks everywhere.  
Nightly at nine-in winter time at eight  
Shall ever sound this Tribute-come what may,  
To millions dead who rest around that Gate  
And eighty thousand "Missing" to this day.  
Nearby "St George's" of Memorial fame  
With open arms in welcome will await  
All Pilgrims bound for Flanders Plain  
And "Last Post" at the Menin Gate

*A.R.G. Richards (A "Friend")*



# *Bellringing News from St George's*

Change Ringing or Campanology is a unique and ancient tradition which only happens in the UK, America and Australia. But, it is growing worldwide at a considerable rate. There is now a set of 10 bells in Vernet-Les-Bains, south of France, a set is being erected in Singapore and another set hopefully in Thiepval, France in the coming year or two, due to the demand and popularity of the pastime.

There are more than 6,000 churches in the UK where Change Ringing occurs on a daily/weekly basis. Ypres was the first ever Church tower outside of the UK in Europe to have bells and to train raw recruits from people who had never even heard of Change Ringing. Ypres has now become a place of pilgrimage for ringers from all over the world, not only to ring on our special remembrance bells, but to ring to remember the fallen and over 15,000 Bellringers who died or served during World War 1

Change Ringing is a wonderful way of bringing people together, learning a new pastime and socialising together. Many dedicate their whole life to ringing and enjoy visiting as many towers as possible over the world. There are many expats in Europe who travel back to the UK regularly and also to the set of mini bells in Dordrecht just to be able to have the opportunity complete some ringing. Dordrecht is working on having a set of 10 in the local church also.

It certainly keeps you both physically and cerebrally fit as there is much to do and remember and things certainly become more complicated as you progress. But, the social side is most as important and brings people together from all walks of life.

I would like to thank The Friends of St George's Memorial Church for their support by purchasing training materials for in Ypres. The Raising and Lowering DVDs, and Ringers Guides to Learning the Ropes books are proving most useful. They are a great asset to us. And, of course, grateful thanks to Derek Gallagher (Vice Chairman) for the wonderful Remembrance Bellringers Badges designed by his neighbour Chris King back in Rainham, Kent.





During 2018, we rang for two Wedding Blessings and we were lucky enough to have some visitors from the UK to help Martin Adshead (Deputy Tower Captain) and myself in ringing for them. We are hoping to ring for another Wedding Blessing in June 2019.

Generally, we decided on having our training evening on a Tuesday evening which for which there is now a notice up on the church notice board for all to see. This is equally to encourage new recruits to join us and also, to let the local neighbours know when ringing practice will be taking place.

Our newest recruits, Ivan, Mieke and Carine are doing extremely well at the practice evenings and with the visiting ringers. They thoroughly enjoy their pastime of Campanology.

On Tuesdays our beginners train for half an hour from 6.30 until 7.00 and anyone who would like the opportunity of trying bell ringing for the first time or have bellringing explained can come into St George's to see us. Meanwhile, the more advanced ringers in the band train every other Saturday morning. There is no doubt that the business of bell ringing at St George's is helping to reach out and improve contact with the local community.

Three members of the band received their Level 2 ART ringing Certificates in March and I achieved my Level 3, when the Whitfield Society recently came to St George's and helped us with a weekend of training.

We look forward to moving forward with our ringing, and becoming a Method Ringing Band in the future. We are very grateful to all the visiting bands of ringers who are visiting us at St George's and giving us help and inspiration in our ringing

Liz Millward  
Tower Captain



# *The Remembrance Bellingrings Badge Project*

## WW1 Commemoration Badge



I walked past the war memorial where I live in Rainham, Kent and was amazed at the sight of poppies painted on stones and spread around the memorial. I thought it was a lovely idea. I found out later about the fun project of painting things on stones and hiding them for children/adults to find and then re-hide for others to find. The fun was shared on FaceBook and called 'Rainham Rocks'. They had thought of the idea of getting children involved in painting poppies on rocks so as to educate the younger generation.

Last year 'Rainham Rocks' asked people to paint a rock with a name to commemorate the fallen whose names are on the memorial outside St Margaret's Church. I knew my great uncle's name was there, so I went have a proper look and found several surnames I recognised from when I was a child. Rainham was a much smaller town 70 years ago and it seemed that everyone knew everyone at that time.

I got details of the listed names on the memorial and found my great uncle. My best friend also had a great uncle on the memorial. I did some research and found names and addresses of neighbours who had lost sons, and a son whose father had lived in the same house that I had lived in as a child. The father and son's name was Charles Henry England. Charles Henry Junior was 19 when he was killed. My initials before I married at 19, was CH. It was thought provoking. This was an emotional journey. People and places became real and not 'only' names on a memorial.

When I learned to ring at the Parish Church, the Tower Captain was one Francis Cheal. Looking through the list of names I came across a Cheal, an unusual name, so I looked him up and I discovered he was our Tower Captain's



father. They are buried together in St Margaret's Church, Rainham cemetery.

I painted rocks with the names of people who meant something to me and placed them around the monument. 'Rainham Rocks' had given me a life changing moment.

I ring the bells on Sunday mornings, weddings and occasional funerals. But the most emotional is always the 11th of the 11th at 11 o'clock.

Last year 2018 was a once in a lifetime event, the 100th commemoration of the end of World War 1. So many lives lost.

## *The badge story starts here.*

A learner ringer in our tower, St Margaret's Rainham Kent, showed us the 'Ringing Remembers' badge he was wearing. I didn't know anything about the incentive for learner ringers who started to learn in memory of bell ringers who were killed in WW1. The aim was to try to get 1400 learners enrolled all over the country. It was a government funded incentive organised by the Central Council of Change Ringers, in the end nearly double the amount of learners enrolled. The 'Ringing Remembers' badge was struck only for learner ringers.

When I saw the badge I thought was a great idea. I sensed that I would like to be able to wear one with my poppy. I have rung on Armistice Day for many years. But last year was in fact a once in a lifetime historical event, 100 years from the end of World War 1.

I contacted a couple of bell ringing associations and asked if there was a badge for experienced ringers to purchase for such a memorable day and was told 'No'. I was disappointed. I talked to other ringers and some thought it would be a great thing to wear such a badge with a poppy every year. Others did not like the idea of a badge and couldn't see the point. However, the more I thought about it, the more I wanted a badge. My only solution was to get one made. I contacted the badge company who made the 'Ringing Remembers' badge but unfortunately received no help from them. It seemed no-one had thought about the experienced ringers, and the hours willingly given up to teach the new bell ringers. Without them this initiative wouldn't have succeeded.

So I took a giant leap and researched badge companies on line and found i4c



# Publicity

I did not have a clue how to start. I had never done anything like this before. But if you want something enough you can always find a way. I contacted them and was amazed at the support and inspiration given to me. And so it started my journey into the unknown. Do I just get a few made for our tower? Or do I share my thoughts with others and see if anyone else would like one? I chose the second option. Social media can be an inspiration.

Now what shape do I choose? A poppy or a bell? My first thought was a poppy. Then it was pointed out to me poppies on badges could have a copyright. I hadn't thought about copyrights!

Then I thought it must be a bell. This was so obvious that it was staring me in the face.

I found a photo I had taken when Chatham bells were removed by Taylors to be eventually rehung in Gorran, Cornwall. I used that as a template. For a ringer to wear a bell badge is something to be proud of. No-one else would wear one and ringers would recognise other ringers instantly. So the shape was born.

Now the words! What do I say? There is so much to say. Where do the words go on the bell? What about the date? Oh yes and the time, how will all that work? The next big question was, do I say 'I rang' or 'we rang'? I decided on 'we rang.' Bell ringers are like family and ringing on that once in a lifetime memorable day is something we will never forget.

So, I had what I wanted to say, the date and time. What I needed now was the WW1 and the 100 years commemoration to be placed somewhere. It sounds so basic, believe me, it wasn't! Knowing what you want/need to say isn't the same as picturing it in your mind. Eventually I got there with inspiration from other ringers and the design team of the badge company.

Now what colour should the badge be? My first thought was silver, then it was pointed out to me copper/bronze would look more bell coloured. I agreed with that brilliant idea. I asked for opinions from fellow ringers and the majority voted the same.

So that was all I needed to do to get the project started. Within a few days of publicising the initiative, orders started to arrive with the first badges arriving

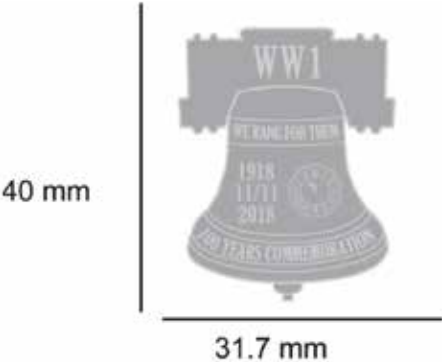


in March. Over these past few months the interest and support has been truly amazing, I have been contacted from all over UK, Canada and USA.

The power of social media can be inspiring and in this case certainly has been.

Initially, I ordered 500 badges but since that time I have had to re-order a further 4,500 to meet the demand in orders (the badge costs £1.50 plus p&tp). Any small monies over at the end of the project will be donated to the British Legion.

Christine King  
ww1badge@gmail.com



# Recent Projects at St. George's

The Friends have developed and supported, financially, two practical projects this year to improve the quality of welcome and visits to St George's.

One is the creation of a set of 'pop-up' banners that can be placed anywhere in the church or church hall or anywhere where publicity for St George's is required. The banners explain the history, role and mission of St George's, while one individual banner encourages visitors to join The Friends. Translations of the wording on the banners have been made into French and Dutch and made available in the church in the form of a printed pamphlet. A duplicate of The Friends specific banner has been used in the UK alongside presentations given over recent months to various organisations and associations, in terms of publicising the work of The Friends. The Friends are indebted to the extensive work carried out by our Secretary, Mike McKeon and Professor Mark Connelly, our co-opted committee member, in design and production of the impressive banners.

Another project has been the renewal of paving slabs on the northern side of the Church garden. The work took place in February just in time for the 90th Anniversary in March. It is hoped that this project will be extended and that the paving slabs on the southern side of garden will equally be renewed during 2020. Grateful thanks go to St George's Treasurer, John Arnold who drove the work and ongoing liaison with paving company on site.



*One of our Banners on display  
outside the Church Hall*



*The path before restoration*

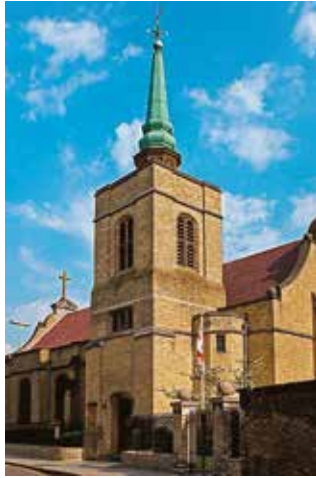


*And after restoration*





# 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.





*The Interior of  
St. George's Church  
Ypres*

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 [plusnet32@espeare.plus.com](mailto:plusnet32@espeare.plus.com). 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.

## *Armistice Day 11th November 2019*

Friends are reminded that the Armistice Day Service in St George’s takes place on Monday, 11th November 2019 starting at 09:15hrs — those attending are asked to be in their seats by 09:00hrs.

Tickets, we understand are very limited. For those still requiring tickets, please apply to the Church Warden, Mrs Ricky Beets at the following address ...

Elverdingsestraat 1 - B 8900, Ieper, BELGIUM  
or by emailing Ricky directly with your request at: [ricky.beets@orange.fr](mailto:ricky.beets@orange.fr)

**DEAR FRIENDS, DO HAVE A LOVELY SUMMER !**

Derek Gallagher, Editor and Vice-Chairman of The Friends  
[derek@thegalls.demon.co.uk](mailto:derek@thegalls.demon.co.uk)







*Young Fernley Godden sits amongst  
the daisies in the silence and peace of  
Railway Dug Out Cemetery*

