



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

Summer 2018 Newsletter



*The peace and calm of St. George's on a summer's afternoon, July 2018*

**Chairman:** Sir Edward M. Crofton, Bt  
Marchwood Lodge, Rake, Nr. Liss. Hants GU33 7PG  
Email: [e.crofton@btinternet.com](mailto:e.crofton@btinternet.com)

**Vice Chairman:** Dr. D.F. Gallagher  
32 Nursery Road, Rainham, Kent ME8 0BE  
Email: [derek@thegalls.demon.co.uk](mailto:derek@thegalls.demon.co.uk)

**Hon. Treasurer:** W.L. Leetham  
69 Honey Hill, Blean, Whitstable, Kent CT5 3BP  
Email: [william.leetham@talktalk.net](mailto:william.leetham@talktalk.net)

**Hon. Secretary:** M.A. McKeon  
63 Wendover Road, Egham, Surrey TW18 3DD

**Membership Secretary:** Miss E. Speare  
32 Fulwood Walk, London SW19 6RB  
Email: [espeare32@talktalk.net](mailto:espeare32@talktalk.net)

**Newsletter Editor:** Dr. D.F. Gallagher  
Email: [derek@thegalls.demon.co.uk](mailto:derek@thegalls.demon.co.uk)



## Chairman's Report

---

**General** The first half of 2018 has been something of a Curate's Egg. The weather has set the tone; early on it was diabolical, while latterly the Country has experienced the hottest summer since 1976. Why we haven't had a Minister for Drought, I find hard to imagine. No doubt the Prime Minister has had other priorities!

The main downside of the year so far, has been the cancellation of the annual Pilgrimage, for the second time in three years. It was due to have taken place during the first week in May, but by January, and in spite of all the hard work by Nigel Divers, it was clear that we were going to be well short of numbers. The reduction, when compared with earlier years, can largely be attributed to frailty and old age, as well as the fact that The Friends, being a charity, relies on its members, rather than the General Public, who won't necessarily be affected by funding restraints. At our recent Committee Meeting, I suggested that there is a need to open up to a wider group of potential attendees. Ideally we need at least 25 participants to make the event viable, and, apart from everything else, cost is always an issue.

**Committee** The Committee held the first of its two yearly meetings in April. We were pleased to welcome the Chaplain, the Rev Gillian Trinder, who gave an informative summary on the highlights at St George's in recent months. She has arranged an impressive list of activities in a full and varied Programme for 2018. These have been significantly augmented by the introduction of the Website. Also attending as Committee Members for the first time, were David Humberston and Valerie Jacques, who are also associated with the Leicestershire and Rutland Branch of the Western Front Association (WFA). They bring a mine of information and expertise to our proceedings, which will be of great value. Also present were Professor Mark Connelly from Gateways (a Co-opted Member) and Dr Glyn Pryor, the Chief Historian of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC). More about this later.

**Events** Notable National Events in the St George's Community have taken place, including the Patronal Festival of St George, and the ANZAC Day

Commemorations, on the 23rd and 25th of April respectively, and The Queen's Birthday Party on 9th June. The final year of World War 1 Centenaries continues, culminating with Armistice Day on 11th November. In this connection it is planned to launch a Poppy Project, which will take the form of a cascade of poppies hanging from the Church Tower.

**Visits** I visited the Diocesan Headquarters in Tufton St in April, to meet the new Secretary, Mike Fegan. Derek Gallagher and I attended the 90th Anniversary Celebrations of the Last Post Association, which took place on 9th July, in glorious weather. This wonderful occasion began with a Reception, at which, among many others, dignitaries from those Nations which fought in the War were present. This was followed by a march, led by the Australian Forces Band, to the Menin Gate, for the Last Post and Wreath Laying Ceremonies. The finale was a return to the Cloth Hall, followed by dispersal. The cobbles don't seem to become any more user friendly as the years go by! The Secretary (Mike McKeon), and the Treasurer (William Leetham), as members of the Committee Working Party, have also represented The Friends at PCC Meetings and other events in Ypres this year. I believe it is most important that we maintain a regular dialogue and high profile with both the St George's and Ieper Communities, so that we are as one going forward in the future. A crucial factor in all this is the creation and subsequent advancement of the Website, which covers both the Church and ourselves. I would like to pay tribute to Mike McKeon, whose work towards what is now a work of art has been second to none. Of course he treats both accolades and brickbats with equanimity!

**Bells** Bell ringing is now in progress, and involves 16 trainees. They are assisted by the Association of Ringing Teachers, which has been of great benefit. The trainees are passing their certificates of bell ringing, and soon the Church will offer regular ringing. Many visiting groups would like to come to St George's, which highlights the value of visitor ministry. The Chaplain and Elizabeth Millward, one of our Churchwardens, have been very supportive, and the latter holds the prestigious title of Tower Captain! The progress achieved in the world of bell ringing has given rise to an increase of information of the Website. It is pleasing to report that a well known consumer review website now ranks St George's 8th among local Ypres visitor attractions, up from 15th ! This is evidence of both the growing popularity through visitors, and the willingness by them to share information and opinion about their visit experience.

**GDPR** All members of The Friends have been written to concerning the new General Data Protection Regulation, asking for permission (or not) to send them

marketing information. Although this is seemingly a tiresome chore for addressees, it has created an additional benefit for us through the receipt of more email addresses from members, which will assist future communication on membership matters.

**Gateways Project** Derek Gallagher had already met Professor Connolly and Dr Prysor (CWGC) on an earlier occasion, and a proposed framework had been devised for a joint project to build and extend upon the work that has already taken place. This is good news for St George's, as future visitors to the Church will be able more easily to access and understand the wide range and volume of memorial information that exists. Dr Prysor felt that The Friends and CWGC should work in partnerships on appropriate projects. CWGC has received funding for an intern project, which involves hosting and welcoming at key sites, and they propose to run tours from their Information Centre in Ypres. The Project will be active on social media, thereby tapping in to an international following (Everything seems to be global these days!). St George's is to remain a key point on the tours, which will be led by the CWGC interns, adopting many elements previously trialled by Gateways. CWGC plan to run a pilot scheme this summer. Dr Prysor hoped that the initial activities would be a start point for future partnership work, and the interns are very enthusiastic. This is a potentially exciting Project for the future, the aim of which is not only to promote the message of legacy to schools, by those who have visited, but also to promote school visits to the battlefields, which would link St George's into these activities.

**Conclusion** With the end of the First World War approaching, attention is inevitably being focussed on maintaining the profile of Remembrance, but in a present day context. I have attempted to highlight some of the developments in which The Friends are involved, and I believe that what has so far been achieved this year is very positive. Of course much remains to be done, but with hard work coupled with enthusiasm we can move forward and provide a pathway of understanding for future generations.

Edward Crofton  
Chairman

## *Bell Tower Update - July 2018*

---

Since the dedication of the bells they have been rung!

The training of a local group of ringers started in February 2018 when 6 members of the Association of Ringing Teachers (ART) travelled from a number of towers in England to start the process. Initially 23 local volunteers came forward and 16 of these received instruction over the seven days of the first training sessions. The trustees of the Bells4StGeorgeYpres have continued to support this initiative with a further 4 groups of trainers travelling over and some more of the 23 have now received instruction. The intention is to have a local group ring for the 11th November 2018 service at St George's.



*The International Group that test rang the bells recently - Change Ringers from England, the Netherlands and Belgium. Alan Regin, back row, far right and Liz Milward is second row, second from right.*

A number of other visiting bellringer groups have already been to the tower and a good number more will be coming in the next few months. One of the key features of these future visits will be to ring with the local group and offer assistance with their development. Rest assured the sound control system is operating well and with it fully closed, the bells are quite quiet outside the tower.

So that visitors are aware of the special place that St George's holds, two prayers have been written by George W. Pipe of Ipswich, and ringing groups are encouraged to read one of them before ringing takes places. The Prayers are:

*Lord – a new day, just like the one that dawned over Ypres in 1918. And a new day for ringers as we give thanks for the skills you have given us and the opportunity to praise your name. May our ringing be a message of peace and reconciliation and may this tower be a beacon of goodwill to all people. Amen*

*Lord, as this tower lifts our eyes heavenwards may our ringing lift our spirits to you. We give our thanks for this opportunity through the sound of bells to remember lost lives for the cause of peace, to work for reconciliation and through our skill, to offer you our praise.*

*May all our lives ring true. Amen*

Meanwhile, Liz Millward has been doing a sterling job as Tower Captain, leading the local group and liaising with visitors.

Alan Regin, M.B.E.  
Trustee, Bells4StGeorgeYpres





## Terence Lionel (Joe) Hubble

---

We, at The Friends, were saddened to hear of the death of Joe Hubble on 9th January 2018. Joe had been a faithful member of the Friends for many years and a constant attendee of its annual pilgrimage. During those pilgrimages and often on Armistice Day, Joe always represented The Friends in St George's and at the Menin Gate by the carrying the RBL standard — in Joe there was no one smarter, no one prouder. Along with other Friends, I attended Joe's funeral on 6th February at Graveney, near Faversham where Joe had been Church Warden at the parish church for many years. As you might imagine in the end it was standing room only, for Joe was a special person — a real gentleman. In honour of Joe, his eulogy was given by Joe's former Commanding Officer, Brigadier Donald Wilson CBE (Black Watch) and with whose permission we now reproduce below. Everyone loved Joe — we will all miss him greatly. Ed



Anyone here with a military background, and many without one, will know of Joe's long service to his country, both while he was in the Army and after he left it. I hope to help us all reflect on it for just a few minutes and on what it tells us about him.

Joe's experience was typical of a British soldier of his time. He joined his brothers' regiment, The Black Watch, in 1950. He served in battle in Korea, against the Mau Mau in Kenya and was part of NATO's Cold War deterrence in Germany. Towards the end of his service he also defended his country in Northern Ireland. Less obvious, is the huge influence that Joe has had on following generations of men who have served in other times and other campaigns. He completed tours as a training instructor of recruits, Omani soldiers and junior infantry soldiers and school cadets here in Kent. This influence continued long after he left the Army.

Joe was a total professional from the Red Hackle in his bonnet to his (very shiny) toecaps. When I joined The Black Watch, he was one of several Englishmen who were prominent at the time among the senior ranks of this



Scottish regiment. English they were, but they were Jocks through and through and no one could have been a keener and prouder Jock than Joe Hubble. Leading by example is perhaps an unfashionable trait these days but I, and many others, tried that little bit harder, made just a bit more effort to get it right, if Joe was involved in whatever we were doing. He could be fierce and quite gruff, but he was always fair and his sense of humour was never far from the surface, camouflaged by his trademark moustache.

I would like to highlight one aspect of Joe's later life which made a huge impression on me while we were fellow members of The London Branch of The Black Watch Association. He always took a great and genuine interest in the next generation and championed them through thick and thin. He was a regular and very popular visitor to The Black Watch and must surely have attended more Burn's Suppers in the WOs & Sgts Mess than anyone since their inception in the late 18th century. On his return, he would speak warmly (sometimes at length) about the battalion and its achievements. I am sure they gained much from his experience and his interest in them. How he remembered any of it is astonishing, as by all accounts, he was usually the last man standing in the Mess!

Of course, Joe was also a hugely respected figure as a Yeoman Warder at The Tower of London, recognised by thousands, and formally by the City of London as a Freeman. His service to The Black Watch Association, The Royal British Legion and the Korea Veterans was immense. He was a tireless supporter of commemorative events at home and overseas, particularly around Ypres, on the Somme, at the Cenotaph and elsewhere in Scotland and England. We should all be grateful that he was able to take part in some of the key events of The Great War centenary. Joe's dedication to the memory of fallen comrades was quite outstanding. Maybe his father's two MMs awarded in 1916, or the fact that his cousin was killed in action in The Black Watch at the crossing of the Rhine in 1945, influenced his devotion. He certainly lived up to their memory. For many years, Joe single-handedly prepared and placed the hundreds of crosses at The Field of Remembrance at Westminster for The Black Watch, The Tyneside Scottish and latterly The Royal Regiment of Scotland. On this parade he would be greeted continuously by many people ranging from apparently random strangers to generals and members of the Royal Family. I took a photograph of the ceremony just a few years ago. In it you might recognise Sergeant Bill Speakman VC, Prince Harry

or even the Dean of Westminster but the one who stands out for me is the ramrod-straight Joe Hubble, steadfast at his post beside the crosses.

Joe Hubble was a true servant of, and ambassador for, his Regiment, the Army and, let us celebrate it, his Country. I know I speak for many when I say that I am privileged to have served with him and proud to have been his friend.

Donald Wilson  
All Saints, Graveney, Kent  
6th February 2018



*Joe at a regular point of Pilgrimage - The Black Watch Memorial,  
Black Watch Corner, near Polygon Wood, Ypres*

## Anzac Day

---

*It is always interesting to know where and when fellow Friends are representing our Association. Here we read of Committee Member, Colin Butler doing just that when he attended the 2018 Anzac Day Parade in Parramatta, Sydney. Some ten hours later similar services, were taking place in Flanders Fields, close to Ypres. Ed*

### Dawn Service, Anzac Day, Parramatta, Sydney

Wednesday, 25th April, 2018

Anzac Day dawned for me with my alarm clock sounding off at 2:30am. I arose promptly and showered and shaved in readiness for my taxi which was due to arrive at 3:45am to transport me to the R.S.L. (Returned Services League) Club in Parramatta.

I had been tasked by my very good friend, Ian Fletcher, who lives in Woking, Surrey, to lay a wreath on his behalf to honour the memory of his uncle and all the men who served with the 17th Battalion, Australian Infantry, during the First World War. I also felt this day that I was remembering St George's Memorial Church where, over the years, memorials to many Australians who fought and died in the Salient, have been placed.

Upon arriving at the club, I joined the parade which was being formed up in readiness to march to the war memorial in Prince Alfred Square, Parramatta. At 4:15am, led by the Parramatta Pipes and Drums, the parade marched off on its way to the memorial. The route was lined the whole way by onlookers, including many parents with young children and infants in push-chairs. Most commendable and respectful.

The parade arrived at Prince Alfred Square at precisely 4:30am, and I was immediately impressed by the sight of four immaculately dressed members of the guard of honour (the catafalque party), one positioned at each corner of the memorial, standing motionless with heads bowed (and there they would remain, motionless, for the entire length of the service, which was of about 70 minutes duration). The men were serving soldiers in the Australian Army.

Towards the end of the service, the wreath-layers were called forward by name and by the name of the person or organisation they represented (for me, that

included being a member of The Friends of St George's Memorial Church). The Last Post was played, after which the Exhortation was delivered and Reveille was sounded — again my heart was back in Ypres, and the Menin Gate.

Before the parade was stood down, all of those present were invited back to the R.S.L. Club for breakfast.

When speaking to one of the guards of honour after breakfast, I told him that he and his fellow guards were a great credit to their uniform and country, and that they had very deservedly earned my respect and admiration, for which he was most grateful.

After midday, anyone wishing to play the game 'Two-up' could do so legally on this day only. 'Two-up' is a gambling game in which players speculate on the way two coins will fall after being thrown in the air.

Although illegal, the game was played widely in the trenches by the Aussies - a blind eye being turned in most cases.

If, like me, any readers are lucky enough to be in Australia for Anzac Day, I can thoroughly recommend the Dawn Service - not to be missed!

Colin Butler, O.B.E.



*Colin, representing The Friends laying a wreath at the War Memorial in Parramatta*

## *Gateways to the First World War*

---

Gateways had a very busy summer in 2017, a highlight of which was playing a role in the official commemorations of the Third Battle of Ypres at the Passchendaele Memorial Museum, Zonnebeke, and once again leading a guiding service in St. George's. At Zonnebeke we had a display and put on a dramatization of the 1923 St. Barnabas Whitsun pilgrimage to the Lijssenthoek cemetery. Drama students from the University of Kent played the main roles, and we received excellent feedback from the many people who watched the presentations.

At St. George's we redeployed the guides(also University of Kent students) who had taken part in the Easter experiment once again abled led by Tim Godden, a PhD student at Kent. They were also exceptionally busy on Sunday 30 July assisting Sir Edward, Derek Gallagher and Mike McKeon from the Friends in hosting the guests for the Menin Gate ceremony.

The Department of Culture, Media and Sport were clearly very pleased with our contribution stating that *'Gateways went above and beyond to ensure that our guests had a rewarding and unforgettable experience'*.

Things remained very busy during the autumn including the completion of a project on battlefield visiting in the 1920s and 1930s. A team of volunteers joined me (Mark Connelly) to investigate stories in the regional British press of the time and we found a host of fascinating reports. I then wrote up our findings for a booklet (<http://www.gatewaysfww.org.uk/projects/visiting-and-revisiting-western-front-1919-39>) which we formally launched in February in Canterbury at the West Gate Halls (formerly a drill hall for the East Kent Regiment during WW1). As part of the day we included a session, introduced by the Vice Chairman of the Friends, Derek Gallagher, reflecting on the centenary in which the student guides outlined their experiences of interpreting St. George's role and mission between the Wars and how they had used the information during their tours around Ypres.

This summer we are delighted that we are now working very closely with the Commonwealth War Graves Commission(CWGC) to embed the tours into its Ieper operation. We are hoping that we can ensure even more visitors get to see St. George's this summer, and crucially, come away with a real understanding of its meaning and significance. The CWGC is using its own interns for such tours this summer but using much of the experiences,

knowledge and information researched and gathered formerly in 2017 by the Kent University students.

We have also been meeting informally with officers of The Friends to continue our dialogue and seek further options for future cooperation in respect of supporting the mission and profile of St George's.

To keep up with Gateways events, please do check our website where you can sign-up for alerts and our newsletter (<http://www.gatewaysfww.org.uk/>)

Professor Mark Connelly  
University of Kent



*Amy Harrison and Natasha Silk former members of the Gateways St George's (2017) Student Project outside St George's in May, when they replicated the tour for current Kent University students.*



## From Our Archives

---

Mike McKeon, our Secretary, also, by default is our Archivist. As a result Mike delves into our previous Newsletters from time to time. For this Newsletter, Mike has discovered a very interesting story from 1984 (Newsletter No.51).

The story so caught the imagination of Mike and myself that we decided on a very hot July day to 'travel down the Dover Road to Shooters Hill' in search of the almost forgotten Ypres Milestone. In what became an emotional journey for us both we found ourselves '*Walking in the footsteps — before endeavours fade\**'



Ironically, having stood in the doorway of Christ Church, Shooters Hill (described originally as the church of Christ the King in the article below), I found myself three days later standing in the doorway of the Cloth Hall in Ypres, just up the road from St George's. I was there to join others in celebrating the 90th Anniversary of the formation of the Last Post Association and the Last Post Ceremony at the Menin Gate.

At that point, standing in the Cloth Hall doorway, the Menin Gate to my left and St George's Church down the Square and to my right, I now knew that I was standing exactly 130 miles away from the Ypres Milestone in Shooters Hill.

It had taken me about three hours that day to travel most of that distance to Ypres — in the Great War it probably could have taken foot soldiers up to a week to reach what was left of the city and the Cloth Hall.

Derek Gallagher (Vice-Chairman and editor)

### AN YPRES MILESTONE

When next you travel down the old Dover Road from London look out for a most unusual memorial to those who fell at Ypres from 1914 to 1918. It is sited in the grounds of the church of Christ the King on Shooter's Hill and has a rather strange history.

Years before the First World War the old stone had informed wayfarers they were 8 miles from London Bridge from its place on the roadside opposite the

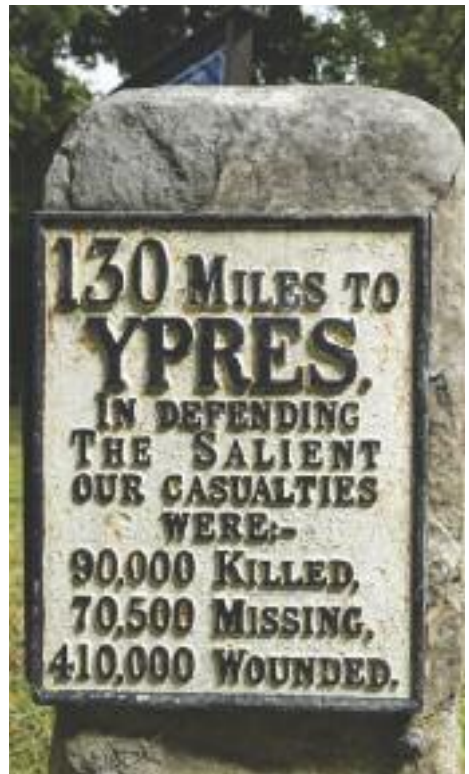
church and were en route for Dartford. Then in 1903 the road underwent repairs during which a steam-roller smashed the stone, breaking it in two pieces and demolishing the Dartford plate. The pieces were thrown into the bushes where they lay forgotten until discovered by the Reverend Dr. T. B. Willson, who caused the stones to be welded together by Mr. Joseph Randall; the London Bridge plate was repaired and the stone was re-erected by the church door.

When after the end of the First World War, the Parish War Memorial Committee was deliberating on the form the local casualties would be commemorated the Secretary, Colonel A. H. Bagnold, C.B., C.M.G., Royal Engineers, conceived the notion of utilising the old stone as a distance marker to the Ypres Salient as a part of the memorial. The Committee considered the idea and approved of it.

Under the direction of Colonel Sir C. F. Close, K.B.E., C.B., C.M.G., F.R.S., Royal Engineers, the then Director General of Ordnance Survey, the distance was extremely carefully calculated on the arc of the Great Circle from the Church Door to the Door of the Cloth Hall at Ypres and is accurate to 1/ 10th of a mile.

The British casualties were compiled officially to record those suffered from the right of the Belgian Line to Hollebeke and the information was cast on an iron plate to match the surviving one. This was placed on the north side of the stone - the eastern one bearing the distance to London Bridge.

The stone was then re-erected in a prominent position, visible from the road where the legend now picked out in black and red could be clearly seen by travellers and remind them how close they were to the dread, but Immortal Salient. The plate reads: .....



130 MILES TO  
YPRES  
IN DEFENDING THE SALIENT  
OUR CASUALTIES  
WERE  
90,000 Killed  
70,000 Missing  
410,000 Wounded

The record of the Fallen of the Parish is set inside the church itself - a larger copper plate weighing 3 cwt. inscribed with the names in full, ranks and service and dates and locations of death of the many sons of the parish

ROSE E. B. COOMBS

*\*Footnote: Rose E. B. Coombes MBE became a member soon after the formation of The Friends in 1956/7 and was a Committee member of The Friends for many years until her death on 7th January 1991. She was a renowned historian of the First World War and worked for 36 years at the Imperial War Museum. In 1976 Miss Coombs combined years of study, travel and research into the production of the first addition of 'Before Endeavours Fade' — a name specially chosen by her to match the initial letters of the BEF — the acronym for the British Expeditionary Force which had set out for France in 1914. Her battlefield tour guide, probably the first modern, illustrated guide book to the battlefields of the Western Front, entitled "**Before Endeavours Fade**" became an absolute must for any pilgrim visiting the battlefields of Belgium and France — in its revised version it is still very popular today as a pivotal guide. The path to Ramparts Cemetery Ypres (Rose E.B. Coombs Walk) is named after the author in her memory. Ed*

*Remembered with honour* \_\_\_\_\_

*In the first of a new series featuring those commemorated in  
St George's Memorial Church, Ypres, we remember:*

## THE HONORABLE LYON GEORGE HENRY LYON PLAYFAIR



*The Hon. Lyon Playfair*

The Honorable Lyon Playfair was the only son of Brigadier General George Playfair, 2nd Baron Playfair, and was born in London in October 1888. His illustrious ancestry included the Reverend James Playfair, a prominent Scottish Minister (1738-1819) whose marriage in 1773 to Margaret Lyon produced ten children. Many of their descendants, including the subject of this article, would bear the name “Lyon” as one of their Christian names.

One of the Minister's many grandchildren was Lyon Playfair (1818-1898) a Professor of Chemistry who was later a member of the Executive Committee for the 1851 Great Exhibition before serving as Gentleman Usher to Prince Albert. Following a notable career as a Liberal Member of Parliament, he was ennobled in 1892 as 1st Baron Playfair of St Andrews (in Fife), a title that passed to his only son, the aforementioned Brigadier General Playfair, upon his death six year later.



The Honourable Lyon George Henry Lyon Playfair (left) was educated firstly at St Andrews and then at Eton College, which he attended between 1901 and 1905. Coming second in the Entrance Examination for the Royal Military Academy at Woolwich, he was commissioned in December 1908 and quickly posted to 126th Battery of 29th Brigade, Royal Field Artillery. Promoted to Lieutenant in December 1911, he became a Captain in March 1915, having served at the Front since the outbreak of the War.

The following month, Lyon Playfair and his Battery were in action near Zonnebeke, defending the front line of the Ypres Salient, a position established after the successful defence of that town, albeit at great cost, in October and November of 1914. On 20th April, whilst engaged in the dangerous duties of a Forward Observation Officer, the Honorable Lyon Playfair fell in action at the age of 26 years. Three days later, the Germans released poisoned gas against the Allied lines and the Second Battle of Ypres began . . .

In June 1915, his grieving parents received a letter advising them that their only son had been buried in a cemetery halfway between the second and third milestones beyond the village of Potijze on the south side of the Ypres-Westroosebeke Road. Following the obliteration of this entire area in 1917, the grave was lost and the Honorable Lyon Playfair is today remembered on Panel 5 of the Menin Gate Memorial to the Missing.

Amongst other commemorations, he is also remembered on the House of Lords War Memorial, at Eton College and at St Marys Church in Redgrave (Suffolk) where a stained glass window and marble tablet were erected. A second identical tablet can also be found at Holy Trinity Church in St Andrews. Lyon Playfair is also remembered on a brass plaque to be found in St George's Memorial Church, Ypres.

Three other members of the Playfair family also served during the Great War, but only one survived to return home. Three months after Lyon's death, his third cousin, Lieutenant Lambert Playfair, R.F.C., was killed on 6th July 1915

during an aerial dogfight and lies in Hospital Farm Cemetery near Vlamertinghe. Another third cousin, Lieutenant Ian Stanley Ord Playfair, Royal Engineers, was awarded the D.S.O., M.C. & Bar and was wounded twice and “Mentioned in Despatches” on four occasions. He retired from the Army in 1947 with the rank of Major-General. Less fortunate was a more distant cousin, Captain Patrick Lyon Playfair, Black Watch, who died of wounds on 11th April 1918. He is commemorated on the Loos Memorial to the Missing.

*Valerie Jacques & David Humberston*



*The Playfair Memorial Window and tablet,  
St Marys Church, Redgrave, Suffolk*



**EXHIBITION**

**EDITH  
CAVELL**  
1915 – 2015



**EDITH CAVELL,  
THE WW1 STORY OF A  
BRITISH NURSE &  
RESISTANCE WORKER IN  
BRUSSELS**

**ST GEORGE'S  
MEMORIAL CHURCH  
ELVERDINGSESTRAAT 1  
8900 IEPER/YPRES**

**OPENING:  
SUNDAY 1 JULY  
2018 AT 11H00**

**ANDREW BROWN  
(CHAIRMAN OF  
THE BELGIAN  
EDITH CAVELL  
COMMEMORATION  
GROUP)  
WILL INTRODUCE  
THE EXHIBITION**

**THE EXHIBITION WILL RUN FROM  
1 JULY UNTIL 31 AUGUST 2018**



**St George's**  
Memorial Church Ypres

*Friends visiting St. George's during the summer can see an exhibition dedicated to the memory of Edith Cavell which is taking place in the church until the 31st August 2018*

## *Lady Crofton* *writes from Marchwood Lodge*

---

Some of you may be aware that I would like to organise a display of knitted or felt poppies with which to decorate St George's Church on Armistice Day. Of course, this would be on a much smaller scale than the display at The Tower of London in 2014, though my inspiration comes from that event. I plan to ask the public to "make a poppy" and post them to me. A work of art could then be created by attaching the poppies to some sort of netting, and exhibiting them either inside or outside the Church. Thus far, I have had a very good response from all those I have talked to, so I am quietly confident. If the take-up is small, then we can equally decorate the interior of the Church. So my idea is to launch an appeal using the power of Social Media, for people to knit or crochet a poppy and, as I said, post it to me! I will then take responsibility for co-ordinating the appeal and getting them to Ypres. The poppies which will be light and easy to transport, could then be glued on to green baize to simulate a Flanders Field, or attached to some kind of netting and allowed to hang/cascade down the outside of the Bell Tower, or perhaps be suspended from the ceiling in The Baptistry.

I would ask you all to support this project in any way you can. It is a wonderful opportunity to raise the profile of St George's Memorial Church and a fitting way, as 2018 draws to a close, to honour the memory of all those who served in Belgium and France during the Great War.

*Ed: See poster on back cover of newsletter in relation to more information, patterns and points of contact etc.*



## *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.

## *Armistice Day 11th November 2018*

Friends are reminded that the Armistice Day Service in St George's takes place on Sunday 11th November 2018 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, one may apply to the Church Warden, Liz Millward at the following address ...

Elverdingestraat 1 - B 8900, Ieper, BELGIUM  
or by emailing Liz directly with your request at: [cherryblossom@telenet.be](mailto:cherryblossom@telenet.be)

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

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

# ARMISTICE DAY CENTENARY POPPY APPEAL

HELP US TO CREATE A  
SUITABLE WORK OF ART  
TO DECORATE



## St George's

Memorial Church Ypres

FOR 11TH NOVEMBER 2018

**SIMPLY MAKE A POPPY**  
TO HONOUR THE MEMORY OF ALL THOSE  
WHOSE LIVES WERE CHANGED FOR EVER  
BETWEEN **1914 & 1918**

FOR MORE INFORMATION & PATTERNS VISIT  
[www.stgeorgesmemorialchurchypres.com](http://www.stgeorgesmemorialchurchypres.com)

FROM UK | [emmacrofton@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:emmacrofton@tiscali.co.uk) | 07770 808 937  
FROM EU | [cherryblossom@telenet.be](mailto:cherryblossom@telenet.be) | 0032 57 301555

**EVERY POPPY COUNTS**