

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

Registered with the Charities Commission No. 213282-L1



President:	The Rt. Revd. The Bishop of Gibraltar in Europe
Vice-President:	Lord Astor of Hever, D.L.
Chairman:	Sir Edward M. Crofton, Bt
Vice-Chairman:	Dr. D.F. Gallagher, 32 Nursery Road, Rainham, Kent ME8 0BE Email: derekfgallagher@gmail.com
Hon. Treasurer:	W.L. Leetham, 69 Honey Hill, Blean, Whitstable, Kent CT5 3BP Email: william.leetham@talktalk.net
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Hon. Minutes Secretary:	Mrs Ash Frisby
Newsletter:	c/o The Honorary Vice-Chairman
Life Members:	John Sumner, Michael Derriman, Jeanne Higgins and Mary Setchfield
Chaplain:	Reverend Andrew McMullon Email: YpresPadre@outlook.com

No. 106

NEWSLETTER

December 2020



Interior View of St. George's Church, Ypres



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DATA PROTECTION

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

Information about our visitors and/or Friends is kept confidentially for the use of St George's Memorial Church and The Friends of St George's Memorial Church.

We do not pass names and addresses or other details to any other person or organisation.

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

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.

plusnet32@espeare.plus.com

In the event that we do not hear from you, we will continue to send the Newsletter by post with pleasure. 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.

ST. GEORGE'S WEBSITE

The new St George's website, developed through support of The Friends, has been up and running since June 2017. One good way of keeping in contact with St George's is by visiting its website on a regular basis. It contains up to date news and information about St George's activities, events and contacts. You can also easily find yourself at any time inside St George's by taking a 360-degree tour of this beautiful church.

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. Please contact the Secretary should you require any content or images that could support your endeavours.



EDITORIAL

Welcomes and Farewells

Dear Friends,

Whether you are reading this Newsletter in the UK, Belgium, France, USA or elsewhere, you will be aware of how we are all living in unprecedented times and just how complex life has become. Needless to say, such complexities have affected the life and mission of St George's and how we, The Friends, have functioned since last March. We have had to adapt and work in flexible ways. Sadly, the regular visits of the Chairman and I to attend St George's PCC meetings seem almost a thing of the past. But then, like many others working within the 'new normal', we discovered and welcomed Zoom into our midst! Things became so much easier in terms of communication with St George's and, equally, for business matters between members of The Friends' Committee.

Zoom played a major part in the recruitment interview process of our new Chaplain. Consequently, it is a delight to be part of a special welcome for Revd Andy McMullon and his wife, Lorraine, to St George's. After arriving in late October, Andy and Lorraine are currently settling into the new chaplaincy house located close to St George's. Andy is facing the challenges of working on the mission of St George's within the current very tight and strict Belgian Covid-19 regulations. In due course and in safer times we look forward to hearing from Andy about life at St George's. Meanwhile, we send all best wishes to Andy and Lorraine as they start their new life in the City of Ypres.

My next welcome is to Chris Sims (Former Senior Cemetery Associate permanently assigned to Flanders Fields American Cemetery) and Amy Harrison (PhD student at Kent University) who have taken up places on the Friends Committee. Amy is no stranger to St George's as she was originally one of the Kent University team of students who spent the Easter of 2017 providing guides at St George's — a project sponsored by The Friends.

At this time I am also very pleased to welcome Dominiek Dendooven (Curator and senior researcher at the In Flanders Museum) who has been co-opted to the Committee. It goes without saying that, in Chris and Dominiek, we now have a new wealth of knowledge of the history of Flanders Fields and the subsequent role played by St George's. In addition, with Chris and Dominiek will come another great advantage, as for the first time that I can remember, we will have committee members based locally to St George's. I am hoping this aspect will be of special benefit to our Chaplain.

In the last Newsletter I wrote about a former pupil of the Eton Memorial School, Jeanne Higgins (formerly, Lomas-Desramault), who, now living in the UK, had celebrated her 100th birthday. As a direct result, I received a beautifully hand-written letter from another former pupil and a Friend of St George's, Mary Setchfield. Mary had spotted herself next to her friend Georgette Piper in the school photograph on the front of the Newsletter. She



explains that in 1937 or thereabouts, the name of the school was changed to the British Memorial School and permission was granted to incorporate a Union Jack into the school badge. Mary writes 'At 97 I am younger than Jeanne Lomas (Higgins) but I also started at the school on the day it opened for pupils. At the age of fourteen I became teacher's helper in the large infant class run by Mrs Yorath. I left Ypres in February 1939. As with all such gatherings, I'm sure my mother would have been at the laying the foundation stone ceremony, and my father too, if the gardeners were given time off'.

Thus, it is that through Jeanne and Mary we have a direct line back to the vision, planning and building of St George's and the school. This is a legacy we in The Friends cherish. And, so it is with much pleasure that I am pleased to announce that The Friends Committee have unanimously voted to confer the title of Honorary Life Member on Jeanne and Mary. Typically, when I told Mary, in her usual modest way, she said 'My parents would be so proud of me'. At that point, I knew we had done the right thing.

My last welcome is for a new concept in the life of The Friends. The project to design and produce a specific badge for The Friends has been completed. I am grateful to my friend Mark Frost, a graphic artist, for completing the final design before the actual production. Members can now apply for their own 'Friends' badge by contacting our secretary, Mike McKeon (mmckeon@aol.com).

And, finally, to a farewell. You will read in the Chairman's Report (and in the 'Letter from the Archdeacon') about the resignation of the Venerable Dr Paul Vrolijk, as Archdeacon of North West Europe. I want to join with the Chairman in recognising the tremendous contribution that Paul has made to the life and mission of St George's and The Friends over the past three years. On a personal basis, I will much miss Paul's calm but energetic and loving approach to the business of caring for St George's and its community. On your behalf I wish Paul and his family all best wishes for the future.

Of course, sadly I will not be seeing many of you in December as our AGM is postponed until 2021. Meanwhile, however, given the current times, as always, stay alert, stay safe and stay well, remembering that it's still very much 'Hands, Face and Space'.

So, it only remains for me to wish you and yours every blessing for Christmas and the New Year with the prayerful hope that, eventually, we will return to something reasonably normal.



Derek Gallagher

Vice Chairman and Editor of The Friends Newsletter



CHAIRMAN'S REPORT - 2020

INTRODUCTION

In the words of that well known military maxim, the year 2020 has gone AWOL (Absent without Leave). From March 23rd, the Nation has been pretty well shut down, and the hope that I extended in our July Newsletter has not materialised. We have now embarked on the problems associated with winter, and the sunlit uplands to which we were looking forward seem a long way away.

As I write my Report, uncertainties related to Covid remain in Ypres (apart from elsewhere), as to the viability of holding Remembrance and Armistice Day Services. The Vice Chairman and I participated in a Virtual (Zoom) Meeting of St George's PCC in September, and The Friends Committee also 'met' similarly in early October. This latter event included the presence of two of our recently appointed Trustees. These meetings highlighted the difficulties in the planning and staging of major events, being brought about by the constant changes in restrictions and lockdowns, and often introduced with the minimum of notice. Nevertheless, we in The Friends continue to dot the Is and cross the Ts, in preparation for the eventual return to some form of normality.

The highlight of a depressing year has undoubtedly been the appointment of the Reverend Andrew McMullon as the new Chaplain of St George's. By the time this Newsletter is circulated, he will have been in post since 1st November and his Service of Licensing should have taken place. We give a warm welcome to the Padre and his wife, Lorraine, and much look forward to meeting them.

On the downside, we have all been greatly saddened by the resignation of the Venerable Dr Paul Vrolijk, as Archdeacon of North West Europe. His work for, and at, St George's, throughout a very difficult past three years has been legendary, and the Community, both Belgian and British, owes him an enormous debt of gratitude. He 'repatriates' himself to Holy Trinity, Brussels, in November, with our very best wishes to both himself and his family, and in the hope that he won't entirely forget St George's !

FINANCE AND ACCOUNTS

Considering the state of the Markets, as the Treasurer says in his Report, 'as a charity we have weathered the storm in better condition than most charities'. We have continued to



underspend our income, but our financial outgoings will increase as the result of the various commitments made to the Church, as part of the Chaplain's financial package, and also, as projects which are currently on hold, gradually start up again. Once again, I would like to express our gratitude to William Leetham for his dedicated work for our Charity, and to Peter Birchall and Alex Spofforth for their respective efforts to see that our Accounts are well looked after, and produced in good order.

THE AGM

At their recent Virtual Meeting, the Committee discussed the holding of this year's AGM. The Treasurer had studied the Charity Commission Website, to establish their recommendations for holding an AGM during the Pandemic. Where a virtual or face to face AGM was not viable, the Commission stated that a charity could either cancel or postpone the Meeting. The general age of those attending the AGM in previous years showed that many currently fall into the most vulnerable category for infection, and that, equally, a number of Members would not be in a position to attend a virtual meeting.

It was therefore decided to cancel this year's AGM, and for its successor to take place in December 2021.

The Accounts for the current Financial Year had already been approved earlier in the Meeting, and have subsequently been signed by both the Chairman and the Treasurer, and have been submitted to the Charity Commission in the normal way.

2021 PILGRIMAGE

I would like to thank Nigel Divers, Valerie Jacques and David Humberston for the enormous amount of work they undertook in arranging this year's Pilgrimage. Sadly, the onset of Covid caused it to be cancelled.

It was decided by the Committee that a decision as to whether to commence arrangements for a Pilgrimage in April/May 2021 would be made at the end of November 2020. (see page 30, Annual Pilgrimage Update).

COMMITTEE UPDATE

Three new Members have recently been appointed to the Friends' Committee. Christopher Sims has lived in Belgium since 1965. He has a wide and international background in education, and is also an experienced historical researcher and military author. Christopher had a long career with the American Battle Monuments Commission as Senior Cemetery Associate and was located at the Flanders Field American Cemetery in Waregem.



Dominiek Dendooven, the Curator and Senior Researcher of the In Flanders Fields Museum in Ypres, joins as a Co-opted Member. He has for long been a stalwart supporter of The Friends and regularly contributes to our Newsletter. Amy Harrison first came into contact with The Friends in 2017 through the Easter Students Project, which was sponsored by both The Friends and Kent University. She was also chosen by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission for their first intake of Internship, where the programme was located in and around Flanders Fields and Thiepval. She is currently studying full time for a PhD at Kent University under the tutorship of Professor Mark Connelly.

We bid them all a very warm welcome.

CONCLUSIONS

At the end of what has been a year to forget, it is difficult to see the way ahead, or to make forecasts which have any value. However, there are many in the St George's Community, both near and far, who have driven, and continue to drive, themselves beyond the call of duty, to keep everything going. To you all, I say 'Thank you'. As the late Dame Vera Lynn has said and sung, 'We'll meet again'.

God is working His purpose out as year succeeds to year.

May you and your families Keep Safe over Christmas and throughout the new Season.

Floreamus
Edward Crofton
Chairman





SECRETARY'S REPORT

Work on the Photography Project has commenced again in earnest, following some delays earlier this year relating to Covid-19 restrictions. The project is evolving and the by-product of all the superb images is that we will be able to use this as a complete index of all memorials and artefacts in the Church which will eventually be searchable online. We are also exploring opportunities for linking this substantial source of information so that it can be connected to other research resources. Ensuring that all memorials are available to be viewed remotely has been made all the more important as the reality of the restrictions on our travel means that a trip to St George's is not as straightforward as it was in the past.

You will have read about our new badge and I am looking forward to distributing them to our Membership in due course (details are on page 39). I do hope that you will wear yours as often as you can and help promote the Church and The Friends' support of St George's mission.

The image below is of our project photographer, Mr Stijn Algoet, in situ in St George's.



Mike McKeon
Hon. Secretary





TREASURER'S REPORT - 2020

The formal Report and Accounts are attached and show a financial picture that is less rosy than this time last year. However, as a charity we have weathered the storm in better condition than most other charities. With a virus we can clean and reboot our computers and start again, but however much we would like to, we can't do the same with 2020.

Our investment income stream remains fairly stable at £36093 (2019 £35790) producing a rate of return way in excess of what can be achieved in most forms of saving such as bank deposits. Some companies have postponed or cancelled dividend payments and this will have an effect going forward. The stock market has had a volatile year and had a massive drop at the start of lockdown, but has since recovered some of this loss. The decrease in value over the year was £94696 (2019: £16256). With so many unknowns in the financial markets and the up coming U.S. Presidential election, more volatility can be expected. Some of the shares held may take a few years to recover fully. The hardest hit shares in our portfolio include BP, Shell, Lloyds Bank, Land Securities, all well known companies.

Inevitably, the absence of a Chaplain in post has led to a reduction in requests from the Church for assistance. Thus, our expenditure on charitable purposes has been limited to a grant to Talbot House of £1000 and a £2000 legacy specifically for the Church. Part of our expenses this year have included £3.3k for the photographing of the interior of the Church with a view to enhancing the information on our website.

The major financial transaction during our financial year has been the sale of the former Chaplain's House at the end of December 2019. The net sale proceeds are being held in an Euro account pending a decision on whether or not to buy another property. This has been done to avoid fluctuations in the rate of exchange between the pound and the euro. As you can see, the sale proceeds are well in excess of the grant of £108k made in 1996. We are likely to have a clearer picture of the new Chaplain's housing requirements in the medium and long term as time goes on.

For the fourth year in succession Spofforth Partners Ltd have conducted the independent financial inspection at an almost nominal fee for which we are most grateful. Our thanks are heartily expressed for the preparation of a very comprehensive 'Trustees Report and Accounts'.

We are grateful to Peter Birchall of Investec who manages our investment portfolio on our behalf through Investec, on a discretionary basis at a very moderate cost to us during this difficult period.

The Accounts for current Financial Year were approved at the recent (virtual) Committee Meeting and have, subsequently, been signed by the Chairman.

William Leetham – Treasurer





TRUSTEES' REPORT AND ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30th JUNE 2020

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CHARITY INFORMATION

Chairman	Sir Edward Crofton, Bt
Trustees	Sir Edward Crofton, Bt
	Dr Derek Gallagher
	Mr William Leetham
	Mr Michael McKeon
	Miss Eve Speare
	The Revd Canon Graham Derriman
	Mr Nigel Divers
	Mr Brian Fawcett
	Mr Colin Butler
	Miss Valerie Jacques
	Mr David Humberston
	Mr Christopher Sims (appointed 29 April 2020)
	Ms Amy Harrison (appointed 13 June 2020)

Charity Registration No. 213282

Principal Address 69 Honey Hill, Whitstable CT5 3BP

THE FRIENDS OF ST GEORGE'S MEMORIAL CHURCH YPRES TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30th JUNE 2020

The Trustees present their report and accounts for the year ended 30th June 2020.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out on page 15 and comply with the governing document, statutory requirements and the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities 2011 (SORP).



Structure, Governance and Management

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

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

Risk Management

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

Objectives and Activities

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

Grant Making Policy

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

Statement of Public Benefit

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

Financial Review

The Statement of Financial Activities is shown on page 12. There was a net increase in total funds of £176,968 (2019: £3,120) and after realised and unrealised losses on investments of £94,696 (2019: £16,256), and the sale of the chaplaincy which realised £244,743 for the charity. The Trustees confirm that the charity's assets are available and adequate to fulfil its financial obligations.

Achievements and performance

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

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



anything that can be obtained from normal deposits.

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

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

Investment Policy and Performance

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

Reserves Policy

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

Statement of Trustees Responsibilities

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

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

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

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

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



THE FRIENDS OF ST GEORGE'S MEMORIAL CHURCH YPRES
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30th JUNE 2020

	Note	Unrestricted Funds	2020	2019
		General fund	Total	Total
		£	£	£
INCOME				
<i>Income from</i>				
Voluntary income		8,474	8,474	8,848
Investment income	2	36,093	36,093	35,790
Total income		<u>44,567</u>	<u>44,567</u>	<u>44,638</u>
 EXPENDITURE				
Expenditure on				
Charitable activities	3	3,000	3,000	7,696
Other expenditure	4	14,646	14,646	17,566
Total expenditure		<u>17,646</u>	<u>17,646</u>	<u>25,262</u>
 Net income and net movement in funds before gains on investments and property		26,921	26,921	19,376
 Net gains on investments	7	(94,969)	(94,696)	(16,256)
Net gains on investments	6	<u>244,743</u>	<u>244,743</u>	<u>-</u>
 Net movement in funds		176,968	176,968	3,120
 Total funds brought forward		<u>920,612</u>	<u>920,612</u>	<u>917,492</u>
 Total funds carried forward		1,097,580	1,097,580	920,612

All reserves movements are on Unrestricted Funds.



THE FRIENDS OF ST GEORGE'S MEMORIAL CHURCH YPRES
BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 30th JUNE 2020

	Note	2020	2019
Fixed assets		£	£
Investments	7	834,581	916,391
Current assets			
Cash at bank		263,276	4,461
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year		(277)	(240)
Net current assets		<u>262,999</u>	<u>4,221</u>
Total assets less current liabilities		<u>1,097,580</u>	<u>920,612</u>
Represented by:			
Unrestricted funds:			
General funds		<u>1,097,580</u>	<u>920,612</u>
Total funds	8	<u>1,097,580</u>	<u>920,612</u>

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees and authorised for issue on 8/10/20 and signed on behalf of the Trustees by ...

Sir Edward Crofton, Bt
Chairman

Mr William Leetham
Treasurer



THE FRIENDS OF ST GEORGE'S MEMORIAL CHURCH YPRES

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30th JUNE 2020

1 Principal accounting policies

Basis of accounting

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

Incoming resources

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

Resources expended

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

Investments

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

Reserves

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

	Unrestricted Funds	2020	2019
		Total	Total
	£	£	£
2. Investment Income			
Income from investments	36,093	36,093	35,790
	<u>36,093</u>	<u>36,093</u>	<u>35,790</u>

	Unrestricted Funds	2020	2019
		Total	Total
	£	£	£
3. Grants made			
Grants to Church and Diocese	2,000	2,000	7,696
Talbot House	1,000	1,000	-
Charitable grants to the Church	<u>3,000</u>	<u>3,000</u>	<u>7,696</u>



THE FRIENDS OF ST GEORGE'S MEMORIAL CHURCH YPRES
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30th JUNE 2020

	Unrestricted Funds	2020	2019
		Total	Total
4. Other Expenditure	£	£	£
Newsletter	2,866	2,866	2,908
Fundmanagers' fees	4,539	4,539	4,618
Sundry expenses	7,001	7,001	9,800
Independent Examiners' fee	240	240	240
	<u>14,646</u>	<u>14,646</u>	<u>17,566</u>

6 trustees (2019: 5) received reimbursement of expenses during the year for travel costs, accommodation and stationery, of £2,133 (2019: £3,016), included in sundry expenses.

	Website Costs
5. Fixed assets	£
Cost	
At beginning of year	21,572
At end of year	<u>21,572</u>
Depreciation	
At beginning of year	21,572
At end of year	<u>21,572</u>
Net book value	
At 30 June 2020	<u>—</u>

6. Property sale

The Friends of St George's Memorial Church at Ypres made a grant of £108,000 in 1996, to assist the Church with the purchase of the Chaplaincy House. This is held in a trust. The trustees had undertaken to pay the sale proceeds to The Friends of St George's Memorial Church at Ypres should the property ever be sold; during the year 30 June 2020 the sale realised £244,743 for the charity.



THE FRIENDS OF ST GEORGE'S MEMORIAL CHURCH YPRES
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30th JUNE 2020

	Listed Investments	2020	2019
		Total	Total
7. Investments	£	£	£
At Market Value			
At beginning of year	916,391	916,391	905,689
Additions & disposals	12,886	12,886	26,958
Realised and unrealised (losses)/gains	(94,696)	(94,696)	(16,256)
At end of year	<u>916,391</u>	<u>916,391</u>	<u>905,689</u>

8. Analysis of fund balances: movement in resources

	At beginning of year	Incoming resources	Outgoing resources	At end of year
	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds				
General fund	<u>920,612</u>	<u>289,310</u>	<u>112,342</u>	<u>1,097,580</u>
Total Unrestricted Funds	<u>920,612</u>	<u>289,310</u>	<u>112,342</u>	<u>1,097,580</u>

9. Registered charity

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



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

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

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

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

It is my responsibility to

examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act,

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

state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's statement

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

Independent examiner's statement

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

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

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

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

6th October 2020



NEWS FROM THE FRONT

Letter from the Archdeacon

Christ the King Sunday - 22 November 2020 - Brussels - Farewell Friends!

In Brussels (and other parts of Belgium) we are still in our second period of lock-down. Serious measures were necessary once more. We have been adjusting to new operational circumstances.

As a result, on Saturday 31 October St George's AGM took place on Zoom. This went very well. Sadly, two important Ypres 'live' events were in the diary for early November:

The licensing on 8 November of the Reverend Andrew McMullon as the new Chaplain. The plan was that this would be just in time for Andrew to preside at the Armistice service on 11 November and to participate in the Remembrance events under the Menin Gate. However, all the usual church services and remembrance activities could not take place.

Instead, a small group of government representatives including the Belgian Prime Minister and only one bugler were there to remember the fallen.

It is great that Andrew and Lorraine have now arrived in Ypres. Andrew has started his work. We hope to see him licensed in January. We have come through a challenging couple of years. This will mark a hope-filled new phase for St George's. We wish Andy and Lorraine all the best as they continue to settle in!

Some personal news: Today on Christ the King Sunday, 22 November, I am stepping down as Archdeacon of North West Europe. It has been an honour to serve as Archdeacon, but it has been increasingly difficult to combine with my work in Brussels.

From December I will focus again on my work as Senior Chaplain and Canon Chancellor at the Pro-Cathedral of Holy Trinity Brussels. It has been a great joy to work alongside The Friends over the last four years and I salute you for your steadfast and faithful support of St George's. It has been truly wonderful working together.

May the Lord bless you and keep you.

Joyfully in Him....who is King

Paul

The Venerable Dr Paul Vrolijk
Senior Chaplain and Canon Chancellor
Pro-Cathedral of Holy Trinity, Brussels





News from the bell tower – November 2020

Bell ringing in the Ieper tower has all but ceased because of the coronavirus pandemic. When the first lockdown measures were gradually lifted in June it became clear that the ringing room is far too small to allow for safe ringing by any team of ringers. Any Social distancing is not possible there.

And so the bells have remained silent. All the visits from UK ringing bands have been cancelled for the rest of the year, as have been the local team's practice sessions.



But the Ieper ringers have still been busy! Apart from the specially cast ring of 8 bells, which were hung in the tower in the Autumn of 2017, there is also a set of so-called handbells. They are 16 individually tuned bells, cast by James Shaw, Son, & Co. of Bradford during the latter part of the 19th century and once owned by Charles T. Coles, a wonderful ringer and ringing administrator.



These bells have been fully restored by Whitechapel handbells. They have been generously donated to the Bell4StGeorgeYpres project by Mr John Coles, grandson of Charles T. Coles. The project's leader, Alan Regan, is certain that the bells have been rung by rifleman Bertram Prewett, to whom the ringing room is dedicated.

The handbells have a range of roughly half a scale. A player holds one bell in each hand. Which means that the team can ring these bells in a covid-safe way. Thanks to the handbells, the local band has been able to aquire this new skill together. We've been practising in the church garden during July and August, moving into the church hall in September. Everyone washes their hands upon arrival, wears gloves and a face mask and keeps at least 1,5 metres distance. Unlike on the tower bells, we're playing tunes this time and we were aiming to learn some Christmas melodies, hoping to be able to perform them during the Carol service in December. Unfortunately, this now looks unlikely to happen, as practice and church services have been cancelled because of the second lockdown. But we plan to pick up the handbells again as soon as it is safe to do so.

The team was preparing to welcome Andrew McMullon, the new vicar, on November 8. It so happens that two ringers in the team are from the same household and a third ringer is their one allowed close contact. This would have allowed three ringers to ring three bells for Mr McMullon's installation service. Steeple keeper Frank Pauwels checked all the nuts and bolts, a must after not having been used for quite a while and practice sessions on three bells were started. Alas, this will now also have to happen at a later date.



*Complete with face masks, those who rang the St George's Bells
on 11 November, witnessed by Reverend Andrew McMullon
Frank Pauwels, (Reverend Andrew McMullon), Marlies Boink
and Hugh Shipman.*



Frank Pauwels 'checks all the nuts and bolts'

There is one more event on the 2020 calendar which can never be missed by St George's Memorial Church and that is of course Armistice Day. It will be an extraordinary Armistice Day: no service, no Poppy Parade, no large crowds for the ceremony at the Menin Gate...but the bells will ring! At the time of writing, the bells have been half-muffled as tradition dictates and the team of three are fully prepared. It will be a very different November 11 this year. It will be an honour to ring for St George's.

There are many things we cannot do in the present circumstances. But there remains enough that we can do, with a bit of imagination and flexibility.

Marlies Boink
Tower Captain





Major works around St George's

From August to September 2020 the church was more difficult to access due to utility works. Only at the end of September the footpath became available again. In the mean time, major works on the cathedral's surroundings have also started. For example, the Vandepeereboomplein Square in front of the Cathedral is being completely redesigned and the entire neighbourhood will be a construction site for the next two years. Under the Square runs the covered Yperlee, the small river that flows through Ypres from south to north (and now forms the main sewer). That is why an (invisible) pumping station will be built near the Elverdingestraat, just next to St George's. As a result, St George's will be temporarily not accessible from the Cathedral during the redevelopment of the Square.

However, the works will never reach the porch of St George's and the church will always be accessible via Haiglaan - Elverdingestraat. Rather positive news is that the footpath in front of the church facade will be much wider than it is today. As a result, Blomfield's beautiful pediment will stand out much more.



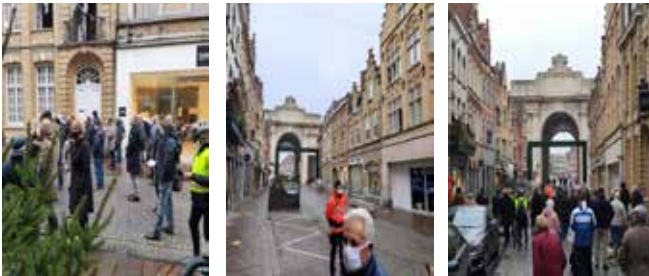
Right in front of St George's runs the Yperlee river, vaulted since the 17th century and thus normally invisible. However, due to major roadworks on the Vandenpeereboomplein, a.k.a. the Cathedral Square, the vault of the Yperlee rivet was temporarily in view. Much of it was restored immediately after the Great War as due to wartime shelling most of the vault was damaged and the river was running in the open again.

The 'Yperlee' is actually the canalized 'Ypere', the original river running through Ypres from south to North. Lee (or leet or geleed) is an old Flemish word for brook or canalized river. And, it was the river that originally gave its name to the town, not the other way round. Entering the town near the Lille Gate, and running south to north, the Ypere river was crucial to Ypres's heyday as a medieval metropolis. Where it crossed the east-west road linking Bruges with northern France, the Cloth Hall would be built. From the hall, the barges could be loaded directly with the famous Ypres cloth – which explains the large side gate of the Cloth Hall in front of the Ypres war memorial – and from there transported onwards on the Yser river and the North Sea to places as far away as Visby in Sweden. In Ypres, the Square in front of the Cathedral is commonly still known as *"The Leet"* after the vaulted Yperlee.



COVID-19, Ypres, and the Last Post

After a relatively good but very quiet summer, Ypres, and then tourism in our town in particular, is once again suffering badly from the measures taken against the coronavirus. When Belgium was severely affected by the second wave of the pandemic from mid-October onwards, pubs and restaurants closed down. Two weeks later, all shops selling 'non-essential' goods followed, as well as all cultural institutions, including museums. There is great fear that the combination of COVID19 and Brexit will create a deadly cocktail for the local tourist business.



The emptiness of Menenstraat at 11am 11th November 2020

Still, the Last Post Association continues to do everything possible to ensure the continuity of the daily ceremony. After the announcement of the second lockdown, the Last Post continued with only one bugler and without an audience. One of the results of this new lockdown was the strangest Armistice Day probably since the German occupation in the Second World War. When I walked towards the Menin Gate on 11 November at 10.45 a.m., I was struck by the empty squares. No marching bands nor groups, and no spectators on either the Cathedral Square and the Market Square. Upon arrival in the Menenstraat, police had blocked the street halfway between the Square and the Menin Gate – no public was allowed and only maybe some 20 to 30 people stood by to attend the ceremony from this distance. However, there was a ceremony at 11 a.m., albeit an extremely modest one. The Last Post was played by one bugler, a piper played a lament and only six people were present under the Menin Gate, including the chairman of the Last Post Association, our Burgomaster and our new Prime Minister, Alexander De Croo. Besides reciting the exhortation and laying a wreath, he also made the powerful statement on Belgian national TV that “*Nothing can stop this commemoration of war, except another war*”.

Dominiek Dendooven
Ypres, November 2020





Connections

In these dark and complicated days I have often found myself thinking of connections and the need for us to connect to the present and its needs, as well as connecting with the past and all that it means to us. That drew me recently to connect St George's Memorial Church to both the Menin Gate and Westminster Abbey. Clearly the common factors that connect all three are pilgrimage and remembrance. An important single element to my mind that connects them unquestionably is their dedication, in different ways, to 'The Missing': those whose bodies were never found, whose graves had been lost in the fighting, or who could not be identified and were buried beneath a headstone bearing Kipling's haunting inscription 'Known Unto God'. When the Menin Gate was inaugurated in 1927, General Plumer told the families of those lost without trace, '*He is not missing; he is here*'.

Interestingly, there are connections between St George's, the Menin Gate and the Cross of Sacrifice to be found in CWGC cemeteries where, often, Memorials to the Missing are located. The connection is that the Gate, the Cross and the Church were all designed by Sir Reginald Bloomfield.

This Armistice Day passed without the usual gatherings in St George's, The Menin Gate and nearby Memorials such as Tyne Cot. But a gathering did take place at Westminster Abbey to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the burial in the abbey of the Unknown Warrior. Perhaps like me, if you watched the service, you felt connected. I could and did return in my mind to the battlefields, to St George's, to Tyne Cot, and to the Menin Gate.

In the words of Fabian Ware, '*nothing brings the stern facts home more forcibly than a visit to the cemeteries and memorials... in a few poignant hours (visitors') minds move from bewilderment to reflection*'. These words resonated with me and encouraged me to re-connect with Westminster Abbey and re-produce the sermon given by The Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby regarding The Unknown Warrior.

Our last connection with the Menin Gate and '*The Missing*' comes with the words and reflection by Lara Cruz on this special and sacred ground given in perpetuity by the Belgian Government.

At 17 years of age, Lara is one of the youngest members of The Friends of St George's. On Armistice Day 2018 and as an Air Cadet, she proudly formed part of the Guard of Honour provided by her Squadron at the Menin Gate 11am Ceremony.

Derek Gallagher— Editor



Sermon given on 11 November 2020 by The Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, regarding The Unknown Warrior.

John 15:12-17 and 1 Cor 15:19-22

Come Holy Spirit and fill our hearts afresh with the fire of your love. Amen.

Robert Graves wrote of the kinship forged between soldiers in his poem ‘The Two Fusiliers’:

*‘Show me the two so closely bound
As we, by the wet bond of blood,
By friendship, blossoming from mud,
By Death: we faced him, and we found
Beauty in Death
In dead men, breath’*



The common testimony of those who fight is that, in the heat of battle, they fight for those around them – those with whom they serve.

On this Centenary of the burial of the Unknown Warrior at Westminster Abbey, we pay tribute to the many millions of men and women who have died on so many battlefields, unnamed and unclaimed, except by God. Those poignant words “known unto God” express loss immeasurable and hope infallible. Whether on the gravestones of Flanders, Picardy and the Somme, of Kohima, Imphal or the Khyber, in a multitude of cemeteries small and large.



Yet no-one is known only to God. Even this warrior had his mother and father, had a birth, had those with whom he trained, marched, fought and died. All of those whose graves are so anonymous, so reluctant to tell their story, had those who did not know where their friends died, never found the grave, yet knew the birthday, heard the memory of the laugh, of the cry, saw the gap toothed smile and the confident swagger of the newly enlisted.

Sacrifice is not only in time of war. In war and peace, sacrifice is the virtue that smooths the rough roads over which our societies travel. This year, sacrifices have been made and are being made by thousands, even millions unknown. People have put aside all they hold dear.

We may never meet them or read their names. We might not know what they have suffered or given up. They may be anonymous, but their actions are glorious. They too are seen and known by God, who alone re-stitches the fabric of a torn and broken world but does so with the lives who knowingly or not hear his call and respond in love. From their lives comes fruit. From the life of this Unknown Warrior comes fruit of remembrance, of hope.

In the heat of the present crisis, we remember their lesson. When, as we have this year, we face deep uncertainties and difficulties, we do not just look after ourselves. We make a stand for our families, for our friends and neighbours. We look out for our loved ones, close and far, because we know that none of us are safe until all are safe. The Unknown Warrior sounds the call of sacrifice for every person.

Loss immeasurable is laid here, yet because of the resurrection, hope infallible. None live for themselves. None die unknown. No death is unmarked by God. The dark of the cross is lit with the light of resurrection – the light that this Warrior, with each of us, is offered in Christ; the light of hope and of life.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.



Menin Gate – Recognising unrecognisable names

“Who will remember, passing through this Gate,
the unheroic dead who fed the guns?
Who shall absolve the foulness of their fate,-

Those doomed, conscripted, unvictorious ones?
Crudely renewed, the Salient holds its own.
Paid are its dim defenders by this pomp;
Paid, with a pile of peace-complacent stone,
The armies who endured that sullen swamp.

Here was the world's worst wound. And here with pride
'Their name liveth for ever', the Gateway claims.
Was ever an immolaFon so belied
as these intolerably nameless names?
Well might the Dead who struggled in the slime
Rise and deride this sepulchre of crime.”

Siegfried Sasson, 'On passing the new Menin Gate' (1928)



We will remember them! Siegfried Sassoon agonises about how the actual futility of war may not have been commemorated. Thousands of men passed through the original Menin Gate: some never returned. Young men were driven into a foreign soil — but for what purpose? These were ordinary boys and men who often had no idea why they were



involved in a European war. It was simply their ‘duty’ to join Kitchener’s newly formed Armies, some excitement for the young men who sang on their way to the trenches.

Sassoon’s anger at the ‘new Menin Gate’ is understandable as a man who experienced the very worst of humanity in the sullen swamp and he consequently suffered for the rest of his life with unseen wounds. The missing are respectfully commemorated, but over time, they have simply become unrecognisable names — we cannot find always find “our boys” in the faded inscriptions. Their individuality has been erased with time but they are on display as a consistent reminder of our loss. This tomb-like structure is deeply important to their perpetual memory. They are more than just names; they lived, loved and were loved.

It is deeply distressing that these men have never been identified and that they will forever be lost so far away from home. I am eternally grateful to them, for the alternative outcomes of the Great War are difficult to comprehend. The vast, extensive list on the Menin Gate may not live in everyone’s memory, and may be only for those that travel to see it on their Pilgrimage to the Salient and witness the daily ceremony. However, it still captures the intention of gratitude and respect, even if, for the majority of us, it is only once a year.

Lara Cruz



Siegfried Sassoon



ANNUAL PILGRIMAGE UPATE

It is with heavy hearts that we have to announce that the proposed 2021 Pilgrimage has been cancelled.

When we cancelled this year's Pilgrimage it was hoped that it would be possible to travel in 2021. Unfortunately, as we all know, the Covid situation in the UK, France and Belgium is still very poor. Despite the recent encouraging news about vaccines, it is likely that all three countries will be subject to lockdowns, restrictions, travel restrictions and quarantines well into next year. The outlook for April and May next year is very unclear and we cannot even be certain that it would be possible to travel.

Our main concern is for the health and well-being of Pilgrimage participants and we feel that it would be impossible to arrange the Pilgrimage with any confidence that it would be safe and enjoyable. It was therefore decided that the only responsible course of action was to cancel the Pilgrimage.

We are all very disappointed but we are determined to arrange a Pilgrimage as soon as conditions are propitious. We will of course monitor the situation with a view to holding a Pilgrimage in 2022, if possible. Valerie Jacques is writing to everybody who expressed an interest in the proposed 2021 Pilgrimage.

Hopefully things will be clearer in the summer 2021 and we propose to give an update in The Friends' newsletter then. We all look forward to the time when we can once again meet on the Pilgrimage to St George's, Ypres and the Somme.

Nigel Divers, Valerie Jacques and David Humberston



The Friends Pilgrimage Group in 2017



FROM THE ARCHIVES

Mike McKeon, our Secretary, has again delved into our Archives and has selected a topical excerpt from an article published in The Friends' Newsletter of 1981.

I read the 1981 issue from cover to cover and there were numerous references to troubling events of that year; trade union strife, a major escalation of violence on the streets of mainland Britain (to name just two) but also lighter moments like the Friend's Annual Pilgrimage coinciding with the triennial Kattenstoet (Cat Festival) and the trip past Plugstreet, to Armentieres and beyond through Belgian and French Customs Posts; "whatever happened to the Common Market?" asks the editor of the time.

The closing verses of that issue were sent in by a Mrs B Barnes of Blackpool after a visit to Tyne Cot. This poem will resonate with many of our members and, in itself, connects to those articles earlier in this newsletter written by the Editor, the Archbishop of Canterbury and Lara Cruz.

Known Only To God

Was it really worth while
All that was vile
Just to lie cold
Known only to God

No name marks the grave
Of he who was brave
But how can we know
That he is with God

This great silent city
Wrings hearts with pity
For what did they die
Into this do not pry
'Tis known only to God



REMEMBERED WITH HONOUR

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

LIEUTENANT BOYCE ANTHONY COMBE

Lieutenant Boyce Anthony Combe was the younger son of Honorary Major Harvey Trewythen Brabazon Combe, 3rd Battalion, Royal Sussex Regiment and his wife Florence Amy, née Lambert. Born on 9th May 1889 at the ancestral home of Oaklands in the East Sussex village of Sedlescombe (some six miles north of Hastings), he was educated at Cheltenham College between September 1903 and July 1907 before being gazetted to the Royal Fusiliers. Promotion to the rank of Lieutenant followed in June 1913.

At the outbreak of War in August 1914, Boyce was attached to the 4th Battalion from the 6th (Reserve) Battalion of the Regiment, the former being stationed at Parkhurst on the Isle of Wight. On 13th August, the Battalion, now part of 9th Brigade, 3rd Division, moved to Southampton and set sail for Le Havre aboard SS *Martaban*.

Upon arrival at the docks, the Battalion received a warm welcome from French soldiers, prompting the Fusiliers to respond in kind by whistling the French national anthem, *La Marseillaise*. This was immediately followed with a version of *Hold your hand out, naughty boy*, a popular music hall number of the era, to which the French bowed their heads in respect, believing this to be the British national anthem! A seven-mile march in blistering heat to a rest camp completed the day's activities.

Three days later, 22nd August, the Battalion began its journey into Belgium, crossing the border near Malplaquet, the scene of Marlborough's triumph in 1709, to arrive at Nimy, a mile and a half north of the mining town of Mons. Their orders were to defend six of the bridges that crossed the loop in the Mons-Conde canal, a task they faced with 26 Officers and 983 other ranks, 734 of whom were recalled Reservists. In the early hours of 23rd August, the first German troops were sighted and shot down by the Fusiliers rapid fire.

The heroics of the Battalion that day, in particular that of the Machine Gun Section at the road and railway bridges leading to Nimy, where Lieutenant Maurice Dease and Private Sidney Godley earned the first Victoria Crosses of the conflict, requires far more detail than space permits in this particular article. However, substantial casualties were



*Lieutenant
Boyce Anthony Combe*



sustained by a German force three times the size of its opponent before the inevitable weight of numbers against them forced the British forces to begin to withdraw.



*Lieutenant
Boyce Anthony Combe*

This was the beginning of what was later termed “The Great Retreat” and saw the British and French Armies withdraw from the Franco-Belgian border to the banks of the River Marne; a distance of some 250 miles marched over a 14 day period, with the enemy continually on their heels. Finally, orders were given for the British Expeditionary Force to turn and advance towards the enemy and, on 10th September, the Fusiliers engaged the Germans on the heights of the River Aisne near the village of Vailly. Here they came under repeated attack, incurring heavy casualties as they held their positions under heavy shell fire.

Relieved on the evening of 2nd October, the Fusiliers then moved north, seeing action in French Flanders before arriving on the outskirts of the Belgian town of Ypres in early November. With the German forces advancing north-west towards



The British frontline east of Ypres on the morning of 11th November 1914.

The position of the 4th Battalion, Royal Fusiliers is ringed in orange

Ypres along the road from the town of Menin (the soon to be infamous “Menin Road”) the defence of the hamlets and villages to the east became critical. Once again, the Battalions of the British Expeditionary Force faced an enemy many times their number, but repeatedly held their ground despite horrendous casualties. On 6th November, the Fusiliers took over trenches east of the hamlet of Hooge, on the south side of the Ypres-Menin Road at the edge of Herenthage Wood. Two days later, the Germans attacked in force, but were driven back at considerable loss. On 11th November, at 6:30 a.m., heavy shellfire descended on the Fusilier’s position, a bombardment described by one Officer as “much the most severe shelling I have seen during the War”. At 9:00 a.m. the shelling eased and a subsequent German advance forced the Fusiliers to retire to their



reserve lines. The German barrage that morning caused many casualties (including the Battalion's Commanding Officer, Brigadier-General Norman McMahon, who is also remembered at St George's) and reduced the Battalion strength to two Officers and 170 other ranks. Amongst those posted as "missing" was Lieutenant Boyce Combe. His body was never recovered and today he is commemorated on Panel 8 of The Menin Gate Memorial to the Missing.

Boyce Combe is also remembered at St John the Baptist Church at Sedlescombe, both on a Memorial Board jointly unveiled by his mother in November 1919 and in a Memorial Window remembering both Boyce and his father, who died in 1923. A further window was erected in the Baptistry of St George's Memorial Church. Both windows refer to Boyce as "Captain", a rank the writers believe was a promotion made on the field as casualties continued to mount.



LEFT & BELOW:
*The Combe Memorial Window at
St George's Memorial Church, Ypres*



RIGHT
*The Combe Memorial Window,
St John the Baptist Church, Sedlescombe*



Whilst Boyce was not amongst the 675 Old Boys originally remembered on the Cheltenham College War Memorial, recent research into their fallen has subsequently revealed an additional 27 fatalities. On 8th May 2004, however, the College Colours were paraded at The Menin Gate (where Boyce is commemorated) with the Memorial to the Great War fallen of the College being renewed at St George's Memorial Church the following day.

Valerie Jacques & David Humberston



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



Our Prayer

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

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



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

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

Name

Address

.....

Postcode

Email

Telephone

Date

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

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

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

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

Signed:

Dated:

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

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

32 Fulwood Walk, London SW19 6RB or email: plusnet32@espeare.plus.com

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. We have already received some responses, for which we are very grateful. We will, of course, be continuing 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.



The Friends of St George's Lapel Badge

We are delighted to be able to announce that an enamel lapel badge that represents Friends of St George's Memorial Church, Ypres is now available. It is an exclusive design, inspired by a Friend (the illustrator, Tim Godden) and expertly brought to completion by Mark Frost (Graphic designer).

Please drop a note to the Secretary at mmckeon@aol.com if you wish to have one sent out to you.

We would appreciate a contribution of £2 to cover postage and packing. The most efficient way of making this contribution would be to make an electronic payment to our bank account:

Account name: The Friends of St. Georges Memorial Church Ypres

Sort code – 30.95.74 Account number – 00252832

To our Friends based outside the UK, please get in touch for specific instructions.

Derek Gallagher, Editor

Photograph taken by Dominiek Dendooven at 10.45 on 11th November 2020



And in after years, if you would blame
His sadness, he was used to say, —
It's dull in our town since my playmates left!
I can't forget that I'm bereft
Of all the pleasant sights they see,
Which the Piper also promised me.

Robert Browning from 'The Pied Piper of Hamelin'