

# 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.  
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Life Members: John Sumner and Michael Derriman  
Chaplain: The Revd. G. Trinder

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No. 102

NEWSLETTER

November 2018

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Night falls on the Poppy Cascade at St. George's

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

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

## **DATABASE UPDATE**

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

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

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

## **ST. GEORGE'S WEBSITE**

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

So, one good way of keeping in contact with St George's is by visiting its website on a regular basis. [www.stgeorgesmemorialchurchypres.com](http://www.stgeorgesmemorialchurchypres.com)

## **PUBLICITY FOR ST. GEORGE'S CHURCH**

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

# ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The 64th Annual General Meeting of the Friends of St. George's Memorial Church, Ypres, will take place on Monday 10th December 2018 at 2.00 p.m. The meeting will be held at the Union Jack Club, Sandell Street, Waterloo, London SE1 8UJ. The nearest mainline station is Waterloo. The nearest underground station is Waterloo on the Jubilee, Bakerloo and Northern lines. From the station, take the exit on to Waterloo Road and Sandell Street is opposite the station.

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

## AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of the last meeting, held on 27th November 2017  
(Previously circulated to those who attended)
3. Matters arising from the Minutes.
4. Chairman's Annual Report.
5. Hon. Secretary's Report.
6. Hon. Membership Secretary's Report.
7. Hon. Treasurer's Report.  
*Annual Accounts and Independent Examiner's Report.*
8. Chaplain's Report.
9. Hon. Pilgrimage Secretary's Report.
10. Election of Officers and Committee.
11. Observations by members.
12. Any other business.
13. Date of next Annual General Meeting.

If any member wishes to propose a formal motion at the meeting, it would be appreciated if details are sent to the Honorary Secretary by 7th December 2018.

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

To assist the Union Jack Club in continuing to provide a safe and secure environment for all visitors, we need to provide a list of attendees to Security on the evening before the event. The Union Jack Club writes, "We take the security of our guests seriously and any inconvenience the aforementioned request may cause is for your safety and not for the sake of bureaucracy." Please RSVP to the Hon Secretary by Friday 7th December.

# CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2018



## INTRODUCTION

As I write this Report, much has been done in preparation for this year's very special Armistice Day. The Tower of St George's is covered, on three of its sides, from top to bottom, with 15 metre strips of Astroturf, two metres wide, emblazoned with knitted and crocheted poppies, supplemented by a further 22 metre spread, in all colours of red, and the occasional speck of purple, covering the railings and gates leading to the Church Hall. This has resulted in the creation of a stunning and moving Display, inspired by the original poppy display of 2014 at the Tower of London, marking the start of the Great War. A full Report from the architect and organiser of this great pageant follows elsewhere in this Newsletter.

The year has been dominated by the absence, on Pastoral Leave, of the Chaplain, since mid May, and which remains ongoing. This has resulted in a number of projects supporting St George's having to be put on hold. The Churchwardens have coped nobly in a very difficult situation, ably assisted by the senior clergy in the Diocese of NW Europe, and the members of the Parochial Church Council (PCC).

## VISITS

The members of the Working Party of our Committee, Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer, have all attended PCC meetings in Ypres during the year. In addition, the Chairman and Vice Chairman were present at the 90th Anniversary Celebrations of the Last Post Association in July, and also attended a meeting in September with Mr Dominiek Dendooven, Director of the In Flanders Fields Museum and Mr Alexander Declercq, Chairman of the Friends of St Martin's Cathedral, and Secretary of St Martin's PCC, to discuss future project partnerships, through

association with those two organisations and CWGC. Along with other members of the Committee, the Chairman, Vice Chairman and Secretary will all be attending the Centenary of the Armistice Day Service at St George's.

### Website and Membership

The Website continues to go from strength to strength, under the watchful eye of the Secretary. Membership numbers are slightly up, but this subject remains at the top of our priorities. In respect of the recent legislation concerning personal data, there has been a very positive response to the letter sent out earlier in the year by the Secretary concerning GDPR.

### FINANCE AND ACCOUNTS

I am pleased to report that the Accounts continue to be healthy. Our investment stream remains strong, although the performance of the Stock Market has not been as strong as last year, resulting in a lower figure for realised/unrealised gains. Income from donations is lower than in 2017, when we benefitted from a large legacy. I am very grateful to Mr Peter Birchall of Investec, who has continued to oversee our investments on a discretionary basis. I would also like to thank Mr Alex Spofforth, who has taken over from Ms Wendy Allen as our Independent Examiner, and who has meticulously prepared our Report in the required standard format.

### GATEWAYS TO THE FIRST WORLD WAR

The process of wider collaboration which began last year has moved on, with a proposed joined up working relationship between The Friends and the Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC), who are now permanently located in Ypres. This coincides with the original and outgoing Gateways Project, involving interns training under a collaborative Project between Gateways, the University of Kent and The Friends. This has now been taken a stage further, through the current model, with the interns under the management of CWGC. The University of Kent has had a major impact on the development and design of the current guide circuit and programme. Interns have made dry runs under the guidance of Professor Mark Connelly, who has also delivered specific training in historical aspects of places (like St George's) to be visited.

### PILGRIMAGE

This year's Pilgrimage sadly had to be cancelled due to lack of numbers. The Pilgrimage Secretary has recommended that no Pilgrimage is planned for 2019, to enable the Committee to take stock of the situation. The next Pilgrimage will therefore take place in 2020. He believes that a new approach is required, and new ways of advertising are needed to attract the numbers required to make the trip financially viable. The feeling on the Committee is that the distinct features and essence of the Pilgrimage must be maintained; namely the visiting of St George's and the connections

to family and friends, and, most important, that members of The Friends have priority for places. These principles will be to the fore of the working party which has been formed within the Committee.

## THE COMMITTEE

There have once again been a few changes. Robin Thorne has departed, as has Sally Moger, who has gallantly typed ever more copious minutes for the past 2½ years. In their places we are fortunate to have obtained the services of Ash Frisby, who came straight into producing the Minutes of the October Committee Meeting, David Humberston and Valerie Jacques, who run the Leicestershire and Rutland Branch of the Western Front Association. To them all we bid a warm welcome.

## CONCLUSIONS

On a personal note, I thank our President, Bishop Robert Innes, for continuing to give us steadfast support and encouragement during a difficult year at St George's. He has been wonderfully supported by the Venerable Paul Vrolijk, Archdeacon of NW Europe, and the Reverend Stephen Murray, Area Dean of Belgium and Luxembourg, who have arranged the cover for services.

I also wish to pay special tribute to our Vice Chairman, Derek Gallagher. He and his wife, Heather, have not been well this year, but happily they are both making a good recovery. Apart from looking after the Chairman, Derek produces two splendid Newsletters during the year, and represents The Friends at numerous meetings, both in this Country and in Ypres, where his knowledge and input are invaluable towards decisions which will have a bearing on the future progress of The Friends and the Mission of St George's.

The Centenary events of the Great War are over, and we must now try and explain what happened 100 years ago in a present day context. I regard our joint venture with Gateways, the University of Kent and CWGC to be one of great potential, from which I have no doubt that much wisdom will come.

Another year is coming to an end. It would be presumptuous to claim that it has been totally straightforward, but thanks to the dedication of those on both sides of the Channel, I believe that there is a path to the way ahead. The Poppy Cascade to commemorate the Centenary of Armistice Day has undoubtedly brought great joy to both the British and Belgian Communities in Ypres; just what is needed in today's uncertain world. As I said in my Report last year, we have to accept and adapt to the challenges that face us today. Our forbears will expect nothing less.

Floreamus  
Edward Crofton

## TREASURER'S REPORT 2018

Welcome to the Treasurer's report for the twelve months ending 30th June 2018.

The formal report and accounts are attached and show a healthy financial position.

The income stream remains strong as far as investments are concerned. The donations income is lower than 2017 as in that year we benefitted from a large legacy and that fact is also reflected in the lower figure for investment 'additions and disposals'.

The stock market has had a fairly good year although not as strong as in the previous year resulting in a lower figure for realised/unrealised gains.

The cost of the web site which was revamped in 2017 has been depreciated over a two year period, with half depreciated in the first year and the balance in the current year.

On the expenditure side we paid for the silhouettes for chairs and a marquee for a reception at St George's to mark the Queens official birthday in June this year. General expenditure has fallen even though a large number of visits have been made by the Chairman and other senior committee members to the Church representing The Friends. Travel and other out of pocket expenses on those occasions are fully reimbursed when claimed.

The figure of £240.00 being Creditors due within 12 months relate to the Auditor's fee. For the second year in succession we have been fortunate to have secured the services of Spofford Partners Ltd who have conducted the independent financial inspection at a remarkably reasonable fee for which we are most grateful. Our thanks are heartily expressed for the preparation of a very comprehensive 'Trustees Report and Accounts'.

My thanks once again to Peter Birchall of Investec who manages our investment portfolio on our behalf at a very much reduced cost.

I trust that you our members will be satisfied with the financial position and I look forward to the accounts being approved at our AGM.

William Leetham – Treasurer.

# TRUSTEES' REPORT AND ACCOUNTS

## FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30th JUNE 2018

### CONTENTS

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

### CHARITY INFORMATION

Chairman	Sir Edward Crofton, Bt
Trustees	Sir Edward Crofton, Bt
	Dr Derek Gallagher
	Mr William Leetham
	Mr Michael McKeon
	Miss Eve Speare
	The Revd Canon Graham Derriman
	Mr Nigel Divers
	Mr Brian Fawcett
	Mr Colin Butler
	Miss Valerie Jacques (appt 17th April 2018)
	Mr David Humberston (appt 17th April 2018)
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 2018

The Trustees present their report and accounts for the year ended 30th June 2018.

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

#### Structure, Governance and Management

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



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

### **Risk Management**

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

### **Objectives and Activities**

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

### **Grant Making Policy**

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

### **Statement of Public Benefit**

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

### **Financial Review**

The Statement of Financial Activities is shown on page 5. There was a net increase in funds, after realised and unrealised gains on investments of £79,659 (2016:£27,345 deficit), on the unrestricted funds of £142,630 (2016: £3,469 deficit). 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.

2017/18 has been a quiet year for the finances with the only major item expenditure being payment for the hiring of a marquee for the Queen's birthday celebration. The investment income has seen a small increase. The overall value of our portfolio has increased albeit at a lower rate than the previous year. 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 manage the investments on behalf of the Trust.

## 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 9th October 2018 and signed on their behalf by

Sir Edward Crofton, Bt  
Chairman

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

	Note	Unrestricted Funds General fund	2018 Total	2017 Total
INCOME		£	£	£
<i>Income from</i>				
Voluntary income		5,740	5,740	68,630
Investment income	2	34,009	4,009	32,184
<b>Total income</b>		<b>39,749</b>	<b>39,749</b>	<b>100,814</b>
 EXPENDITURE				
Expenditure on				
Charitable activities	3	126	126	6,363
Other expenditure	4	24,532	24,532	31,480
<b>Total expenditure</b>		<b>24,658</b>	<b>24,658</b>	<b>37,843</b>
 Net income and net movement in funds before gains and losses on investments		15,091	15,091	62,971
 Net gains on investments		29,461	29,461	79,659
 Net movement in funds		44,552	44,552	142,630
 Total funds brought forward		872,940	872,940	730,310
 Total funds carried forward		917,492	917,492	872,940

All reserves movements are on Unrestricted Funds.

**THE FRIENDS OF ST GEORGE'S MEMORIAL CHURCH YPRES**  
**BALANCE SHEET**  
**AS AT 30th JUNE 2018**

	Notes	2018	2017
<b>Fixed assets</b>		<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Investments	7	905,689	847,086
Website	5	-	10,886
		<u>905,689</u>	<u>857,972</u>
<b>Current assets</b>			
Cash at bank	12,043		14,968
Creditors: amounts falling due within one years	(240)		-
Net current assets		11,803	14,968
Total assets less current liabilities		<u>917,492</u>	<u>872,940</u>
 Represented by:			
Unrestricted funds:			
General funds		917,492	872,940
Total funds	8	<u>917,492</u>	<u>872,940</u>

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees and authorised for issue on 9th October 2018 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 2018**

**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	2018 Total	2017 Total
	£	£	£
<b>2 Investment income</b>			
Income from listed investments	34,009	34,009	32,184
	<u>34,009</u>	<u>34,009</u>	<u>32,184</u>

	Unrestricted Funds	2018 Total	2017 Total
	£	£	£
<b>3 Grants made</b>			
Silhouettes for Chairs	126	126	-
Bells inscription	-	-	3,000
Sound system	-	-	3,363
Charitable grants to the Church	<u>126</u>	<u>126</u>	<u>6,363</u>

**THE FRIENDS OF ST GEORGE'S MEMORIAL CHURCH YPRES**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30th JUNE 2018**

	Unrestricted Funds	2018 Total	2017 Total
	£	£	£
<b>4 Other expenditure</b>			
Welcomers	-	-	7,890
Last Post Association	-	-	1,088
Amortisation of website costs	10,886	10,886	10,686
Newsletter	2,548	2,548	1,726
Fundmanagers' fees	4,733	4,733	4,247
Sundry expenses	6,125	6,125	5,593
Independent Examiners' fee	240	240	250
	<u>24,532</u>	<u>24,532</u>	<u>31,480</u>

6 trustees (2017: 5) received reimbursement of expenses during the year for travel costs, accommodation and stationery, of £3,329 (2017: £3,217), included in sundry expenses.

**5 Tangible fixed assets**

Website Costs £

**Cost**

Additions	21,572
<b>At end of year</b>	<u>21,572</u>

**Depreciation**

At beginning year	10,886
Charge for the year	10,886
<b>At end of year</b>	<u>21,572</u>

**Net book value**

<b>At 30 June 2018</b>	<u>10,886</u>
<i>At 30 June 2017</i>	<u>10,886</u>

**6 Contingent asset**

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

**THE FRIENDS OF ST GEORGE'S MEMORIAL CHURCH YPRES**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30th JUNE 2018**

	Listed Investments	2018 Total	2017 Total
7 Investments	£	£	£
At beginning of year	847,086	847,086	716,129
Additions & disposals	29,142	29,142	51,298
Realised and unrealised gains/(losses)	29,461	29,461	79,659
At end of year	<u>905,689</u>	<u>905,689</u>	<u>847,086</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	872,940	69,210	24,658	917,492
Total Unrestricted Funds	<u>872,940</u>	<u>69,210</u>	<u>24,658</u>	<u>917,492</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 4BN**



# THE POPPY PROJECT 2018

## Mission Accomplished

The Poppy Cascade is now complete and on 31st October was blessed by the Area Dean, Rev Stephen Murray, assisted by Rev Philip Edell. It has been amazing how this very special project has come together in only a matter of months. My original vision of what it might eventually be like was published in the Summer Newsletter. However, such was the response, that the final outcome of the project and its shape and sheer size, exceeded all expectation.

It has only been possible to create this work of art thanks to the few thousand people who gave up their time to make poppies, not forgetting those generous financial donations which enabled us to settle the few expenses which we incurred. I would also like thank Swale Borough Council and Nigel Martin, but particularly Justin Aggett, the Arts and Media Manager for Sheppey Matters, for enabling me to transform my vision into reality. As soon as I saw pictures of previous projects of Justin's using AstroTurf, I knew that was what I wanted to achieve. Justin's advice was invaluable from a technical aspect. He fulfilled the role of Mentor, something which was essential for a complete amateur such as myself. The crowning glory was the moment when Justin told me that he and Nigel were going to come and offer their support and expertise when the project was being staged. They also brought 600 much needed poppies with them. These were made by those who live in and around Sittingbourne, the only UK town to be twinned with Ypres.



*The Chairman (right) assisting in the construction of the Cascade in the Church hall*

We used approximately 15,000 poppies knitted, crocheted and cut out of felt. These were attached to 90 sq m of AstroTurf and 24 sq m of black plastic Clematis Netting with 12 glue guns, an awful lot of glue and over 5,000 cable ties! I will be forever grateful to Lakeland Plastics for their supply of large Zip-Seal Store & Protect clothes bags which were essential for storing the poppies and keeping a count of them. My thanks also go to Petersfield Forge, Travis Perkins Petersfield, and White & Co Removals for transporting the AstroTurf and 10,000 poppies to Belgium with no charge, not forgetting Mail & Print from Salisbury for their posters. I need also to pay tribute to John Arnold, a long-term member of the congregation, who acting in a

liaison capacity portrayed all his local knowledge and his long experience of maintaining the fabric of St George's.

Last, and by no means least, without the assistance of the Ieper Fire Brigade, the job could not have been completed. Many thanks to them, and the people of Ieper who had to put up with Elverdingestraat being partially blocked by the Fire Engine for 2 hours. The fact that Elverdingestraat is on a bus route didn't make things any simpler either!

It is hoped that the Cascade will be in place beyond 11 November, perhaps for a few extra weeks — depending on the weather and conditions.

The effect of the Cascade on the life of the City of Ypres has been spectacular and can be summed up in part of a letter received from John Arnold himself, where he says this:

*'It was my pleasure to help and be part of this. Anything for St George's, which has been dear to me for a very long time.*

*People are almost queuing up to take photos; never seen anything like it. St George's is the "talk of the town" at the moment! Passers-by can't take their eyes off it. What a great idea this was. I never ever thought it would be like this.'*

Emma Crofton



Volunteer helpers putting the finishing touches to one of the Cascades (left) and those to be displayed on the Church railings (right)

## THE POPPY CASCADE

Vision, Construction, Erection,  
Dedication and Blessing









*On behalf of The Friends, I would like to thank Emma Crofton for her vision, organisational skills, and sheer energy in the development of the Poppy Cascade Project.*

*The Poppy Cascade was a fitting witness for St George's to commemorate the ending of the Great War Centenary.*

*Belgian national and international coverage elsewhere of the Poppy Cascade story ensured that the profile of St George's has been significantly raised and that, as a result, many extra hundreds of visitors have been to St George's to admire the exquisite beauty of this very special work of art.*

*Photographs courtesy of Graham D. Young*

*Derek Gallagher (Ed)*

# ST GEORGE'S BELLS - ONE YEAR ON

## Bell Tower Update – November 2018

The bells have continued to attract a number of visiting ringers, including a number of the Association of Ringing Teachers (ART) members who helped with the initial training who have made return visits to continue passing on their expertise and everybody is most grateful for their continued support.

Following on from the training the local group have now started a regular practice night on a Tuesday evening and this has proved to be successful and is often supported by visiting ringers. Gregory Woods, an experienced English ringer who has recently retired from working at the European Union in Brussels, has been a great supporter of these practices.

The local band rang the bells on Saturday 10th November to make certain all was ready for the 11th. Alan Regin, Ian Campbell and Jo Dorling travelled over from London and were joined by other ringers, four resident in the Netherlands and one near Waterloo, Belgium. It is traditional to ring bells “*half muffled*” for remembrance, leather covers are attached to one side of the clapper so the bell sounds loud on one side and softer on the other, a wonderful sound. The Ypres muffles were made by Wilf Grove of Big Wilf’s Bell Muffles and are beautiful examples of traditional leather work – Wilf donated the complete set to the Bells4StGeorge project and we are most grateful. The bells were rung before and after the 09.15am service and later at 12.30pm, a full peal was rung, the details of which can be found below:

### Ypres Bell Ringers Guild

Ypres, Belgium, St George’s

Sunday, 11 November 2018 in 2h 47 (6–1–11 in B)

### 5056 Cambridge Surprise Major

Composed by Charles Middleton, arranged Henry Johnson

1 Ian G Campbell

2 Nicola D Bright

3 Thirza R de Kok

4 Joanna K Dorling

5 Paul M de Kok

6 Mathew Williams

7 Harm Jan A de Kok (Conductor)

8 Alan Regin

Rung half muffled, remembering the fallen.

In particular we remembered Private John Henry Parr, died 21st August 1914, believed to be the first British Soldier killed by enemy action in WWI; Private George Edwin Ellison, died 11th November 1918, believed to be the last British Soldier killed by enemy action in WWI; Private George Lawrence Price, 28th Bn. Canadian Infantry, died 11th November 1918, believed to be the last British Empire Soldier killed by enemy action in WWI; Sgt Henry N. Gunter, died 11th November 1918, believed to





*Ypres Peal Band (Alan Regin far right) which rang before/after the Armistice Service and a full Peal at 12.30pm (11.11)*



*Ypres Local Ringers and visitors with Alan Regin, who rang the bells 'open' at 7pm (11.11)*

be the last American Soldier killed by enemy action in WWI, at 10.59am, and Able Seaman Harold Edgar Walpole of Geddington, Northamptonshire, RNVR, Anson Bn. died 11th November 1918, believed to be the last bellringer battle casualty of WWI. *Their name liveth for evermore.*

Later in the evening the bells were rung by the local group and visitors, the muffles had been removed and the bells were rung 'open' as happened across the United Kingdom on 11/11/1918. Many of the local group had joined the Ringing Remembers campaign which attempted to recruit 1,400 new ringers to symbolically replace those that died during WWI; so successful was this campaign that over 2,750 new recruits were found and trained. *Ringing Remembers* badges were presented to many of the local group during the evening ringing session. Liz Millward, Churchwarden and Tower Captain writes: "*we are all over the moon we got our Ringing Remembers Badges*"

The TV screen in the porch showed live coverage of both the ringers and the bells each time the bells were rung during the day.

It was an amazing experience to be in Ypres on 11/11/2018, the town was full of people, the poppy display on the tower and railings around the church was stunning and much admired, the service was very moving and the church hall gathering along with the catering was much enjoyed by all, a huge thank you to all concerned.

Alan Regin  
Trustee, Bells4StGeorgeYpres



*The Ypres Peal Band in situ - Alan Regin prays with the team before commencing the full peal.*



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

*The following sermon was given by the Revd Canon Tim Jones, Diocesan Director of Ordinands & New Ministries, Diocese of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich. Ed.*

## ARMISTICE DAY 2018

### ST GEORGE'S MEMORIAL CHURCH, YPRES

Immediately after this sermon, the choir will sing for us a relatively little-known hymn by Charles Wesley.

“Come, let us pursue our journey anew.

Roll round with the years.”

It draws on the insight from our Bible reading, Psalm 90: “A thousand years in your sight are like a watch in the night: you sweep them away; they are like a dream

...

So teach us to count our days that we may gain a wise heart.”



Is one hundred years a long time? So much depends upon perspective. So very few of us get to live as long as a century, that it can feel like a long time. When I checked last week, the oldest living British person was Grace Jones, aged 112. She looks to be in remarkable shape, frankly; in a television interview recently said that she doesn't feel a day over 65! She put that down to a drop of whiskey every night at bedtime. She was twelve years old when the First World War came to an end; a child of course, but old enough to comprehend and appreciate the significance, the magnitude, and the rejoicing of that day. The eleventh day, of the eleventh month, at the eleventh hour, in 1918, the guns fell silent. It is remarkable that there are still alive a handful of people who can remember that day from their childhood. But for the most part, it is an event which is now lost to living memory.

And yet, here we are. We are gathered here in Ypres, a place of dramatic and poignant significance in the history of that Great War. Some of us here live locally,

but most of us here, and some thousands gathering outside, have travelled many miles, at considerable personal expense, in order to be here. We are here because we recognize that it matters. It is on the very cusp of being beyond living memory, but the day of 11th November 1918 matters. We don't make this effort unless it really matters.

There are those who fear, or argue, that Remembrance is some kind of redundant nostalgia, or even worse, some mawkish glorification of violence and killing, and that we should let it go. There is course some risk of that — there are many millions of people marking Remembrance Day, and doubtless some of them are doing it for inappropriate reasons. But that isn't where most of us are. Most of us mark Remembrance with the strange mingling of respect for those who fought and died in the Great War and subsequent wars, for all those who have accepted the responsibilities and dangers of military service, and the grim recognition that for all the pomp, war brings fear, suffering, distress and grief which is almost unimaginable for those of us who have not had the direct experience. Remembrance done properly is the moral and practical safeguard against the terrible sin of taking war lightly, or taking war for granted. It was the experience of total war, of sustained, grinding war which sucked in the youth of nations, that forged into the national psyche, the national soul, a need to stare the reality of war in the face, year after year. Remembrance done properly is not nostalgic, and does not glorify violence. It is the polar opposite of all that. War might at times be necessary, but by the solemn act of Remembrance we would never again allow ourselves to imagine that it was romantic.

Did I say never? That might be where the dangerously romantic has slipped in. One hundred years — a complete century — carries a resonance. I know that I, somehow, feel differently about this Remembrance Day than I have for others, and I suspect that is a common experience. But there is more going on than simply marking the centenary of a military victory. In June of 1915, on the centenary anniversary of the 1815 Battle of Waterloo, which had been pivotal in shaping European politics for generations afterwards, there were just a handful of brief newspaper articles. The Daily Telegraph published a commemorative poem by Rudyard Kipling. But that was it. The Napoleonic Wars, as politically and socially formative as they had been, were by 1915 simply a dry historical memory.

The second verse of the hymn that the choir is soon to sing for us reminds us that mortal life is limited: “Our days as a dream, our time as a stream glides swiftly away, and the fugitive moment refuses to stay.” Our time, as a stream, glides swiftly away. Many of us here will have memories — fond memories — of those who lived and fought in the Great War, and find ourselves from time to time startled by how time has flowed by. Time marches on, and somehow we cope with the reality of loss, and get on with life because we have to. Life is short, and a century feels like a long time.

There is then a danger that one hundred years might mark a shift in our attitude towards Remembrance of the Great War, that somehow, a hundred years of Remembrance feels like a satisfying round number, and we move to a sense that we have now done the lads of the Great War proud, and give ourselves permission to move on. There is a danger that as the Great War slips from the wet history of living memory, into the dry history of Waterloo or the Armada, that we let its lessons go. That would be a crying shame.

*“Come, let us anew our journey pursue.”* Over the four generations since the Great War, Remembrance has become a part of who we are as a people. It allows us to have a sense of humble pride (rather than arrogant pride), a pride tempered into humility by horror and grief. It matters that we do this, and that we continue to do it, even as the personal memory of those we knew who served in the Great War slips away. Many of those who fought on both sides of the trenches round here and across the face of Europe, of course, simply wanted to get home safe and sound, and prayed fervently to God for deliverance. But a repeated feature of their writing, their prose and poetry, was the recognition that they were not doing it for themselves, but for those who would come after them. Many of them, even in the midst of fear for their own safety, had a sense that they were doing it for us, even though they didn't know us. Even today, surrounded here in Ypres by the graves of many thousands of them, we need to hold on to their insight, their recognition that Remembrance is not actually about them, not primarily for them. It is for those who came after them, for us, and for those who will come after us.

We must therefore resist the dangerous temptation to let the centenary of the Armistice be the point at which we let the value of Remembrance begin to slide. Remembrance has shaped our culture, shaped our values, prodding us over the years to be both more noble and more humble than we might otherwise be. That capacity for nobility and humility is feature of who we are, and we owe it to those who come after us to pass those values on. Those values were bequeathed to us at the most terrible cost. *“So teach us, [Lord], to number our days, that we might gain a wise heart.”*

I would like now to read aloud the final verse of the hymn that the choir are about to sing for us, in honour of that generation who endured the suffering of the First World War.

“O, that each in the day of God's coming may say, I have fought my way through,  
I have finished the work thou didst give me to do.”

O that each from the Lord may receive the glad word: “Well and faithfully done.  
Enter into my joy, and sit down on my throne.”

## ‘THERE, BUT NOT THERE’

*The following article is reproduced from the St. George’s Church, Ypres website,  
written by the Chaplain, Rev’d Gillian Trinder*

In 2018 a variety of creative projects have been launched to mark the centenary of the Armistice. One such project is the ‘There But Not There’ campaign which commemorates the lost generation of the First World War. The origins of this idea came from the Penshurst Church Remembrance Project called ‘No Longer A Name On A Wall.’ They are an installation of perspex silhouettes of figures of soldiers which are produced by the Royal British Legion Industries. This project has now been widely taken up by churches throughout the UK as part of a national campaign of remembrance.



This project aims to promote the remembrance of the fallen of the Great War. It is intended to enable communities to take the names of those who made the ultimate sacrifice in this conflict off the Rolls of Honour and back into the spaces they left behind. It reminds us of the individual sacrifices made by so many young men and it seeks to honour their loss. The Friends of St George’s Trustees recently purchased three of these silhouettes as a gift to the church. The Chair of the Friend’s Trustees Sir Edward Crofton brought them over in April and placed them on chairs at the back of the church. He has named them Tom, Dick and Harry.

St George’s Memorial Church was particularly interested in taking part in this project because we receive visits from many UK school groups every year. St George’s church holds a remarkable collection of 116 school memorial plaques including the Eton School Roll of Honour and some schools bring groups of their pupils here to see their school plaques every year. The Great War is one of the topics on the Key Stage 3 History National Curriculum and many secondary schools make annual tours of the Flanders battlefields in order to give their students first hand experience of their WW1 studies. The ‘There But Not There’ project aims to educate today’s younger generation, born nearly 100 years after the outbreak of WW1, to understand what led to the deaths of 888,246 British and Commonwealth men. The silhouettes serve to take the names written upon memorial plaques and to recreate them as personal figures. They

prompt their viewers to consider the personal sacrifices which are represented by the traditional memorial plaques and honour rolls on the walls of the church.

The silhouettes provide a moving and dignified addition to the collection of memorials to the fallen of the Great War which are central to the identity of St George's Memorial Church in Ypres. The church was built at the request of the regiments who wished to have a memorial dedicated to their comrades who fought and fell here during the Great War. The intention was to build the church not only as a memorial but also as somewhere for the relatives to visit and find a peaceful place for reflection. This was especially important in the cases of soldiers for which there was no known grave. Their names are all recorded on several memorials including the Menin Gate Memorial which is the twin memorial to St George's church.

The church was built in 1927 by the architect Reginald Bromfield who also designed the Menin Gate and the Cross of Sacrifice which may be found in all Commonwealth War Grave cemeteries. The intention was that the interior would serve as a memorial to individuals, families, schools and the military units themselves who in many cases donated many items of furniture, plaques, windows, the font and the altar. To emphasise the memorial identity of the church a replica of the CWGC Cross of Sacrifice was installed on the roof directly above the altar. It was the intention of the Founders of St George's Memorial church that we should provide an ongoing ministry of the remembrance of the fallen and pastoral care to their families and descendants who still continue to come here as pilgrims one hundred years after the events of the Great War. The 'There But Not There' silhouettes mark the latest phase of an ongoing memorial ministry at St George's church which is illustrated by a range of unique commemorative monuments including wall plaques, stained glass windows, regimental banners and standards, embroidered coloured kneelers and the peal of memorial bells.



*'Tom, Dick and Harry' sit silently in St. George's*

## THE DAILY ACT OF HOMAGE

### Armistice Day 11th November 2018

The Last Post, the traditional final Salute to the Fallen, is played every evening at the Menin Gate by the buglers in honour of the memory of the soldiers of the former British Empire and its allies, who died in the Ypres Salient during the First World War.

This unique Act of Homage has taken place since its inception at the beginning of July 1982, and which has continued uninterrupted until the present day.

It is the intention of the Last Post Association to maintain this daily act of homage in perpetuity. The Last Post Association, of which, we The Friends, are members, reached its 90th Anniversary in July this year.

On Armistice Day (2018), The Friends were represented by the Chairman, Vice Chairman and Secretary to witness the ceremony of the Last Post at 11am (exactly 100 years after the cease fire at 11am in 1918) and at 8pm in the presence of the King and Queen of the Belgians.

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

At both ceremonies, pivotal and moving speeches were made by the Chairman of The Last Post association, Benoit Mottrie and are re-produced below.

His poignant and inspiring words speak for themselves .....

Ed.



© Stad Ieper/Patrick Sennesael



## 11am Ceremony

Minister president, burgemeester, gouverneur, excellenties, ladies and gentlemen, dames en heren,

The eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month.

Armistice Day, 1918.

A moment that will live in history. And what a remarkable moment it must have been for those who experienced it. A moment, no doubt, of many confused and often conflicting emotions :

- Rejoicing that peace had come at last.
- Relief that the killing and the misery would finally stop.
- Perhaps pride in what had been achieved, but also mingled with sadness for what had been lost or destroyed.
- Above all, a deep sense of grief for those who would never be coming home.

As we stand here today, exactly one hundred years later, which of these emotions do we still share?

Softened by the distance of time, it is perhaps difficult to rejoice and feel grief with the same intensity as those who lived through the moment. But I am sure that many of us still feel great sadness. Sadness at the loss of so many young lives; often a personal sadness for a grandfather or great uncle we never had the chance to know.

Just as I am sure that many of us here today also feel a sense of pride in what the peoples of our respective nations suffered and endured, the qualities of courage, comradeship and self-sacrifice that were displayed.

But perhaps our dominant emotion should be one of gratitude. The First World War was not fought exclusively to serve immediate national interests. It was also fought to secure the survival of certain values and to ensure the well-being of future generations.

This means that in a very real sense it was also fought for us.

Sadly, it was not the 'war to end all wars', but was a very important part of a long and painful process which saw the survival of freedom, justice and democracy. Nearly all of us standing here today have known lives of unbroken freedom, governed by the rule of law.

This would not have been possible without the willingness of the men of the Great War to fight and die for what they believed to be right.

We are the beneficiaries of their legacy - and for this we must be grateful. Eternally grateful.

And with gratitude comes remembrance.

The remembrance of the heart.

This, then, must be our task as we come to the end of the centenary period:

11 November 2018 will not mark the end of our remembering.

Only then, we will be truly worthy of the legacy left by the men of 1914-1918.

Thank you.

## 8pm Ceremony

Sire, Mevrouw, Ministers, Minister President, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen  
dames en heren,

In 1919, Siegfried Sassoon wrote a poem entitled 'Aftermath'. Its opening lines asked following question:

Have you forgotten yet?

For the world's events have rumbled on since those gagged days,

Like traffic checked awhile at the crossing of city ways...

Of vrij vertaald :

Ben je dit reeds vergeten?

Want de wereld is weer zichzelf sinds die donkere dagen,

Zoals het verkeer dat even halt hield aan een kruispunt...

The huge numbers of people attending the Last Post ceremony during the centenary period, the vast crowds witnessed here this morning and our own presence this evening show that Sassoon need not have worried. We have not forgotten. Our nightly claim that 'We will remember them' is not an empty boast.

Yet as this centenary period draws to a close, it is perhaps also important to remind ourselves precisely what it is we remember.

First and foremost, we remember the fallen. At this place and in this ceremony, we remember above all the soldiers of the British Empire and allies, who fought in defence of the Ypres Salient for four long years.

Tegelijkertijd denken wij ook aan zij die aan de andere zijde van niemandsland vochten, toen de vijand maar nu onze partners in verenigd Europa. Ook mogen we de talrijke burgerslachtoffers niet vergeten : hun families betaalden ook een zware prijs.

In total, some 600,000 people died on Belgian soil during the First World War.

We remember them all.

But we also remember the reasons for which men fought and died. King and



country, justice, freedom, the right to live our lives the way we want. Were these values worth the price that was paid to secure them between 1914 and 1918? This is a question that each of us must answer in his or her own heart.

But whatever differing conclusions we reach, we must surely all be united in a common hope that it will never happen again. Peace is unquestionably our greatest good. This, too, is something we remember.

And we must continue to remember.

The end of the centenary period must not mean the end of our remembrance, but must mark a new beginning. For this reason, it seems appropriate to end with the final lines from Sassoon's poem :

Have you forgotten yet?

Look down, and swear by the slain of the war that you'll never forget.

Ben je het reeds vergeten?

Kijk neer en zweer in naam van de gesneuvelden dat je nooit vergeten zal.

This is the pledge that each of us must make this evening.

Inspired by the example of those who have gone before us, we must use the lessons of the past to help make a better world for the future.

If we can achieve this, then the sacrifice of the men and women of the Great War will not have been in vain.



## FROM THE ARCHIVES

### by MIKE McKEON

Delving into The Friends archives is always a pleasure as it gives us a chance to connect with the past.

From Newsletter number 22, published in October 1969, I have extracted the words of a veteran from Canada. His name was A.R.G Richards and he was 74 years old at the time (interestingly enough, I was 1 month old when this was published!).

*'The arrival of the Newsletter takes priority over all else. The outstanding production is a vital link with all that "Ieper" means to us First World War veterans. We relive those ghastly moments when the whole landscape quivered in "zero's" fantastic barrage. We had a tot of "S.R.D\*." and there was a hasty exchange of addresses and valuables with intimate pals, just "in case". We remember the desperate excitement as we went over the parapet and a moment later one's best friend was blown mid-air. Then we were off to cross flooded craters at Steenbeek, Langemarck, St Julien, Pilkem and Passchendaele*

*I have never felt such an awareness of being surrounded by the spirits of our departed comrades as in St Georges Memorial Church. I can picture the whole platoon that "went under" on a desperate raid or counter- attack. I repeat their names with the certain knowledge that they are with us in spirit. The names of "Ieper" with the Menin Gate, Tyne Cot and Talbot House are with us for all time. We veterans made a solemn pledge that we should remember them. We hope that you, the descendants of those veterans will also remember them. We make annual pilgrimages, knowing that each one may be our last.'*



\*SRD refers to the daily tot of rum that was supposedly issued daily to the troops. The rum was stored in rum jars.

These jars were labelled with "S.R.D.". This officially stood for "Supply Reserve Depot". But troops often joked that these initials actually stood for things like "Service Rum Diluted" and "Seldom Reaches Destination".

Ed.

## REMEMBERED WITH HONOUR

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

### CAPTAIN GEOFFREY VAUX SALVIN BOWLBY

Captain Geoffrey Vaux Salvin Bowlby was the eldest son of Hertfordshire Barrister and J.P. Edward Salvin Bowlby by his second marriage to Elizabeth Vans Agnew and was born in Brompton on 1st December 1883. Whilst five of his seven elder half-siblings died in infancy or as children, Geoffrey and his six full siblings (one elder and five younger) all attained adulthood.

Educated at Eton (1897 to 1901) and Sandhurst, Geoffrey Bowlby was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in the Royal Horse Guards (The Blues) in March 1904. A Captain by 1908, he then served as A.D.C. to Sir Neville Lyttleton (Commander in Chief, Ireland) before returning to his Regiment in 1910.

He was an excellent polo player, winning the Inter-Regimental Cup in 1910 & 1912. In 1911, he married the Honourable Lettice Annesley, fourth daughter of Viscount Valentia, at Holy Trinity Church, Sloane Square, London. Two years later a daughter Elizabeth was born, followed by a son, John, in 1914.



*Captain Geoffrey  
Vaux Salvin Bowlby*

With War declared in August 1914, Geoffrey Bowlby left for the front as Billeting Officer for the 4th Cavalry Brigade. Having participated in the B.E.F.'s withdrawal to the River Marne, he saw action in the Battle of the Aisne, remaining in that area until 4th October before moving north into Belgium where he saw action at the village of Wytschaete (south of Ypres) on 31st October 1914. At midnight, the Germans attacked in superior numbers and fierce hand to hand fighting took place as The Blues position was attacked from three sides. Geoffrey, now in temporary command of the Regiment, then received orders for his men to retire, which he oversaw with success.

After participating in the Battle of Neuve Chapelle in March 1915, he returned to the battlefields of Ypres and on the 22nd of the following month the Germans released poisoned gas against the Allied lines and the Second Battle of Ypres began. On the morning of 13th May, as that Battle reached its climax, the Cavalry Brigade were in shallow frontline trenches on the Frezenberg Ridge, east of Ypres and close to a position known as Railway Wood.



*The battlefield memorial at the Church of St Lawrence, Marston, St Lawrence.*

The German assault began at 4.00 a.m. with an intense artillery barrage followed, three hours later, by an Infantry advance. The remnants of the dismounted Cavalrymen held on against overwhelming numbers and at 2.30 p.m. Geoffrey ordered his men to fix bayonets and dry your butts. Whilst leading this counter-attack over one thousand yards of open ground north of Bellewaerde Farm, Geoffrey was killed. His commanding officer wrote: I cannot tell you what a loss he is to the Regiment; energetic and proud of his squadron, of which he took the greatest care. Although a battlefield memorial cross was later erected (which can today be seen at the Church of St Lawrence, Marston St Lawrence in Northamptonshire), the grave of Geoffrey Bowlby was never recovered and he is today commemorated on Panel 3 of the Menin Gate Memorial to the Missing.

Amongst other commemorations, he is also remembered in St George's Memorial Church, Ypres (where three chairs were given in his memory) and by a private Memorial Cross (shown below) which originally stood on a track close to Gully Farm, where Geoffrey was seen to fall. In 1996, however, the Cross was moved 100 yards to its present position on the road leading towards Railway Wood, where it stands alongside memorials to the Leicestershire Yeomanry and Captain Henry Skrine, 6th Somerset Light Infantry (who is also remembered in St George's Memorial Church).



*Geoffrey Bowlby is remembered in St Georges Memorial Church, Ypres (above) and by the Cross near to Railway Wood (left)*

The participation of the entire Bowlby family in the Great War must also be acknowledged. Geoffrey's younger brother, Lionel, also fell near Ypres in 1916 and lies at Bedford House Cemetery, whilst his brother-in-law Captain the Honourable James Boyle was killed in October 1914. His widow, Katharine Boyle, would later marry Sir Hugh Trenchard, Marshal of the Royal Air Force. Another sister, Eva, was married to Vice Admiral Roger Keyes, who led the naval raids at Zeebrugge and Ostend in April and May 1918, whilst two nephews of Sir Horace Smith-Dorrien, Commander of II Corps, BEF, were married to Eleanor and Frances Bowlby respectively and served as Majors with 17th Infantry Brigade and the Shropshire Light Infantry respectively. Eight of Geoffrey's nephews would also give their lives in World War II. Finally, the brother of Lettice Bowlby, the Honourable Arthur Annesley, was killed in October 1914 and rests in Ypres Communal Cemetery.

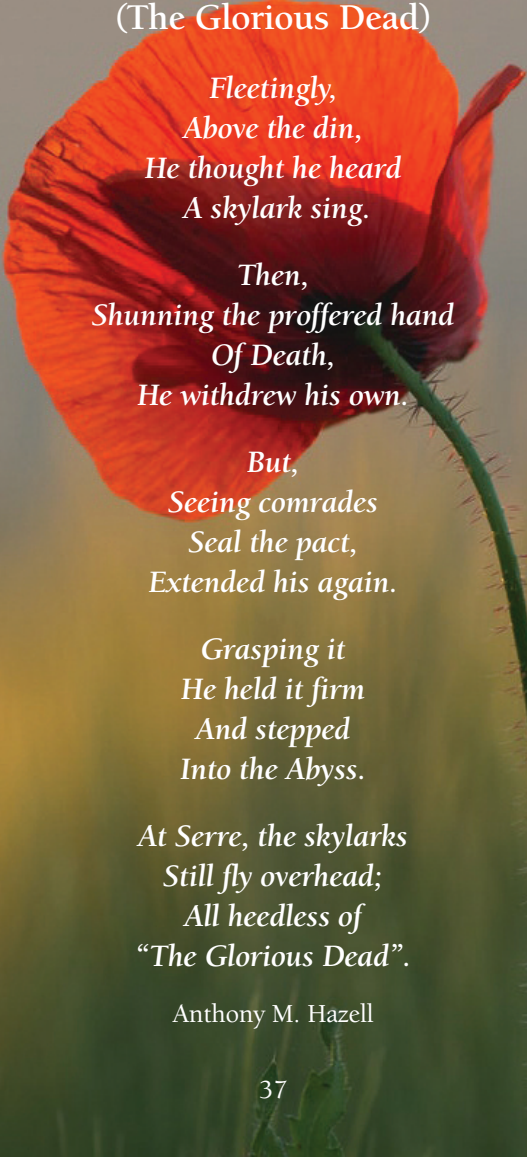
Valerie Jacques & David Humberston

*Footnote: Readers may also be interested to learn that the wife of Geoffrey Bowlby's surviving brother, Hugh, was the granddaughter of Lady Horatia Seymour, whose younger sister, Lady Mary, is the great grandmother of Emma, Lady Crofton.*



Over many years on Armistice Day, Tony Hazell, one of our members, has not ventured to many places like the Menin Gate, the Thiepval Memorial or Tyne Cot. Instead, some years ago he chose to adopt Serre Road No.2 Cemetery (the largest British cemetery in the Somme region) as his place of remembrance on 11 November each year. Invariably, standing there with a few chums, they are the only people in attendance at 11am on 11/11. Tony has written the following lines in an effort to explain the emotions he experiences on the day of such visits. *Ed.*

## SERRE ROAD No 2. (The Glorious Dead)



*Fleetinglly,  
Above the din,  
He thought he heard  
A skylark sing.*

*Then,  
Shunning the proffered hand  
Of Death,  
He withdrew his own.*

*But,  
Seeing comrades  
Seal the pact,  
Extended his again.*

*Grasping it  
He held it firm  
And stepped  
Into the Abyss.*

*At Serre, the skylarks  
Still fly overhead;  
All heedless of  
“The Glorious Dead”.*

Anthony M. Hazell

## AND FINALLY ...

I have learned over the years that things do not just happen and one of my mantras has been *'Always expect the unexpected and you will not be disappointed'*.

One of those typical serendipitous events happened to Mike McKeon and myself towards dusk on 11 November. We had just left Tyne Cot and as the light was fading Mike was eager to show me a newly erected monument to the 1st Battalion of the Hertfordshire Regiment. It records that in the first two hours of fighting on the morning of July 31, 1917 (the first day of the Battle of Passchendaele), whilst attacking near the village of St Julien, of the 620 Herts men and officers, all the officers and 75 per cent of the other ranks had been either killed, wounded or captured.

As we stood there in that fading light we were suddenly approached by a woman who clearly wanted to speak to us. Without any introductions she said this *"In the dimness and as I was driving by, I saw two guys standing by the monument. I knew you would be British. And I just had to stop and come over to you and to thank you for being there. So I drove up to the junction(100metres away), turned around and came back. I want to show my respect to you and to give thanks for the great sacrifice made here"*.

I'm not sure if she noticed but at that moment I welled up with the effects of these special sentiments. We thanked her and introduced ourselves. Our new friend is Nadine Hullebusch, a local resident whose grandfather, an infantry soldier of the Belgian Army, was gassed nearby in 1915.



The moment needed to be recorded and remembered so duly before the light finally disappeared, photographs were taken. Those very observant readers will have noticed that Nadine is clutching a copy of The Friends' Summer Newsletter. No half decent Vice Chairman or Editor should ever be without spare copies of the Newsletter about his person! I am very much hoping that Nadine will join our ranks.

Meanwhile, thank you Nadine for that memorable moment and for reaching out a hand of friendship to us in a way I like to imagine her grandfather may well have done all those years ago to some British lads fighting alongside their Belgian comrades.

Derek Gallagher

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

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

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

Amen.





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

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

Name .....

Address .....

.....

Postcode .....

Email .....

Telephone .....

Date .....

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

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

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

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

Signed: .....

Dated: .....

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

#### Membership Categories

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

#### 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.

