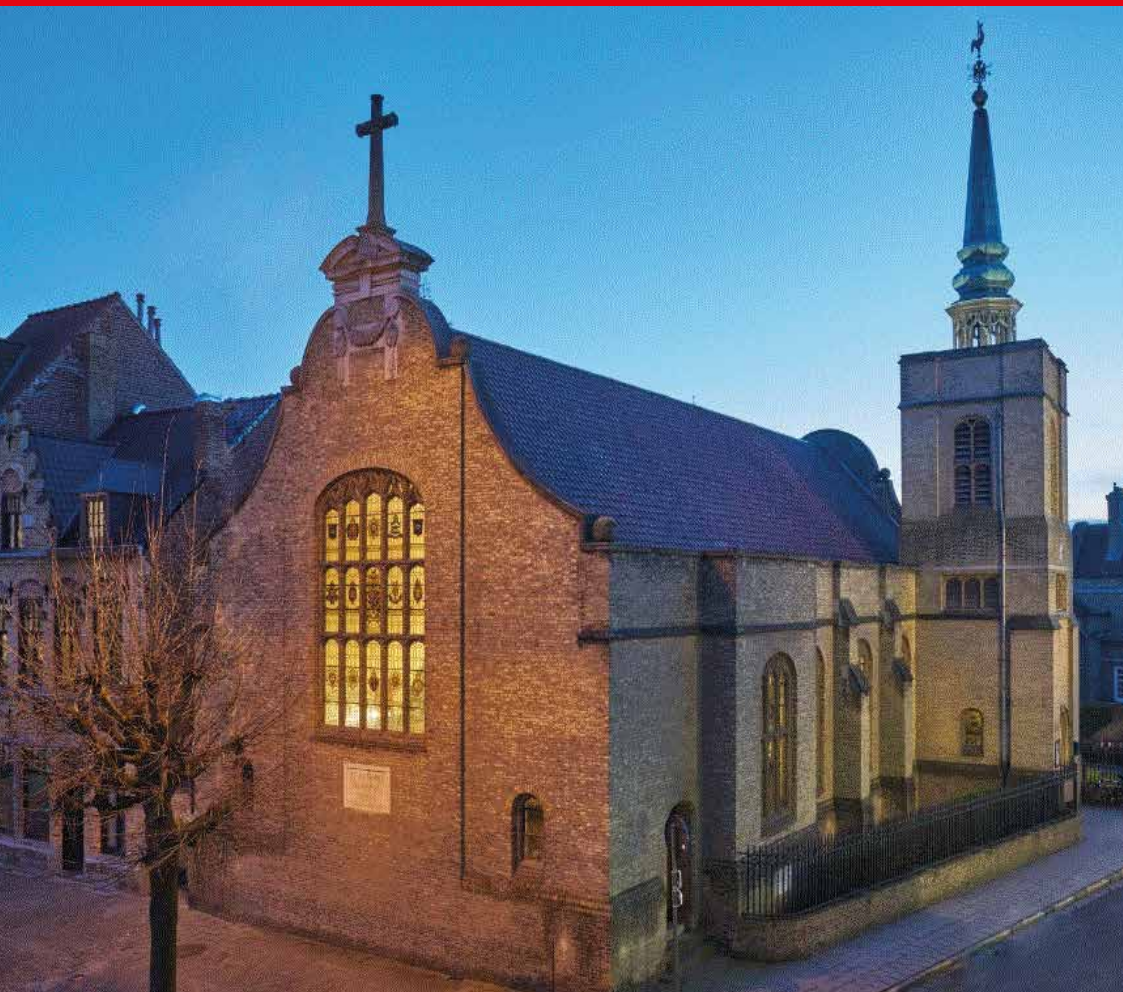


The Friends of St. George's Memorial Church, Ypres

Registered with the Charities Commission No. 213282-L1



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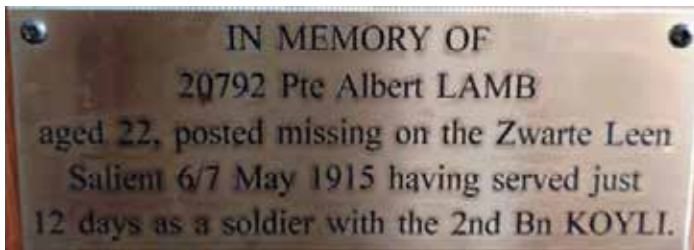


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Life Members:	Michael Derriman and Mary Setchfield
Chaplain:	Reverend Richard Clement

No. 115

NEWSLETTER

July 2025



Plaque located in the North West Corner

Front cover image: Courtesy of Lara Cruz McKeon



EDITORIAL

Dear Friends,

I hope that you enjoy the contents of the Summer Newsletter as usual. The cover is a little different this time, I have used one of my favourite photos of St George's instead, which I think ties nicely with the back cover too. I have been lucky enough to visit Ypres twice this year already. The first was with the RAF Air Cadets, and another visit for the Royal British Legion, which you will find details later on in this edition.

I spent three days with the RAF Air Cadets visiting different battle sites and memorials, and for many cadets and staff there, it was their first time on a battlefield tour. To really make sure that the cadets were taking their time at these memorials and listening to the history that myself and other staff members gave throughout the trip, I tasked them with taking photos of the most interesting headstones they could find. They really engaged with this, and constantly took me to see headstones of these people so we could pay our respects as a group. To many of the cadets, learning outside of a classroom was eye-opening for them: it made the effects of war a reality. They wanted to learn more about the people they were finding, and it inspired me to write about it in this editorial. Although we did not have the chance to visit St. George's, it got me thinking that there is such a wealth of information that these young adults would be interested in to spark even more curiosity.



*Image: Chair dedicated to
Lieutenant I.N. Buckingham*

St. George's is somewhat of a microcosm for what we see in the Salient. From a historical perspective, it is where regiments that cease to exist are commemorated with honour. There is scripture that ties in with hints of personal stories, like "In Memory of our Son, Missing at Gheluvelt Oct 1917", gives us a glimpse of what happened to some of these men all those years ago. It adds another perspective to the headstones and memorials that the cadets were seeing for the first time; a deeper insight into the sense of grief of those who knew these men directly.

I hope that we can get more youth groups and schools into St. George's, either at the start or the end of their trips, as it provides an insight to the importance of the act of remembrance and that the numbers they learn in the classroom, are so



much more: they are real people who had people who loved them. On this trip, I could actively see empathy building within these mostly 13- to 15-year-olds, which is such a skill that cannot be taught in a classroom, but really something they learn from experiencing it and learning through others. It was highly emotional for some on the trip, including staff, but everyone left with a new found understanding and appreciation for Ypres, wanting to return and continue their journey.



Lara Cruz McKeon
Editor

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT - JULY 2025

INTRODUCTION

The first half of 2025 seems to have proceeded at some pace, but with some similarities to those conclusions, on both sides, to which I referred last December. However there is the continuous commitment from those whose duty it is to keep things moving at St George's, to do exactly that, on which I shall elaborate further on in my Report. There have of course been highs and lows, which I shall also cover.



DEREK GALLAGHER BEM

The year began with the Award of the British Empire Medal in the New Year Honours to Derek Gallagher, for Services to Charity. In recognition of this, He and Heather attended a Garden Party at Buckingham Palace on 20th May, two days before being presented with his Award by Lady Colgrain, the Lord Lieutenant of Kent, his home County.

JOHN ARNOLD

A very sad contrast was the announcement of John Arnold's death on 18th February. John had been the Curator at St George's for very many years, following service at St George's by his father, who had fought in the 2nd World War, had married and settled in Ypres. He will be greatly missed, and, not least by the organiser of the Poppy Pageant at St George's in 2018! His Thanksgiving and Memorial service took place at St George's on 8th May. A full subsequent Tribute from the Chaplain is included after my report.

RICKY BEETS

Ricky Beets was a member of the PCC before becoming Secretary in 2009. She took on the role of Churchwarden for a short period, because, as she says, there was nobody to take it on! She has now resigned as Secretary, but remains on the PCC.



CENTENARY COMMEMORATION OF THE DEATH OF FIELD MARSHAL SIR JOHN FRENCH

The event was held on 22nd May, and organised by the New Ypres League, as Sir John had been the Founding President of the original Ypres League. The Chief Guest was Lady Lucy French, the Field Marshal's great granddaughter. The Friends were represented by Paul Foster, and David Humberston and Valerie Jacques also attended. A report on this can be found later in the Newsletter.

The Rt Rev Andrew Norman, the new Suffragan Bishop of Europe, who was on his first visit to the Church, was welcomed by the Chaplain. We bid him a warm welcome, and wish him a long and happy association with Ieper.

BELGIAN COMMEMORATION AT THE CENOTAPH – 2025

The 91st Ceremony to commemorate of the British and Belgian soldiers who have fallen for peace, takes place on 12th July. The Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer of The Friends of St George's Memorial Church will be representing the Church for the first time, and a wreath will be laid.

MEMBERSHIP

This now stands at 399, an increase of 11 over the same time last year. Once again the Pilgrimage has been responsible for the majority of new members. The Chaplain and Secretary have updated the old leaflet, and the new version is available in the Church, and is proving popular.

EVENTS AT ST GEORGE'S IN 2025

There is a steady and varied stream of events, which is encouraging. Particularly pleasing is the number of new entrants on the list. Carine Sinnavee, one of the Churchwardens, also reports a notable increase in visitors, including many from Northern France, who have been attending the Church with great enthusiasm. She is working to build strong relationships with all nationalities and communities in the area. Apparently, the French language leaflets will soon need to be reprinted! An updated version of the hymn book has been ordered, and will appear in July. All very encouraging.

THINKING WITH THE FRIENDS OF ST GEORGE'S ABOUT THE FUTURE

The Committee is now exploring ways of securing the future of St George's, which will enable the Mission supporting the Church to continue. Consideration will also be given as to how the necessary funds can be raised to strengthen the position for the years ahead.



In subsequent discussions, which involved an amicable 'beauty contest' with a leading Consultancy Agency, there was a unanimous decision to opt for a course of action, which involves the advice and guidance of Paul Vrolijk as a facilitator and international accredited coach. Paul was until recently the Archdeacon of North West Europe, and has a deep knowledge of what The Friends stand for, and how we go about our role. He has recently founded Christilience, an Organisation which specialises in high level consultancy, and also involves working and training smaller teams and groups working on practical strategies.

I believe that this development is a very important part for the future of St George's, and is a great opportunity for us to further our communications with those in both the British and Belgian Communities who work so hard for the Church in Ieper.

CONCLUSIONS

As always I am so grateful to those who support St George's in many different ways. As I have pointed out, there have been ups and downs over the past six months. The death of John Arnold in January was a grievous blow, after a lifetime of priceless Service. We shall also miss the Minutes of PCC Meetings from Ricky Beets. However, there are new faces around, be they in the PCC, The Friends Committee, or in the Agencies with which we work, and these are very welcome, together with those of long service who we know so well. We must note the approaching Centenaries, the Menin Gate in 1927, and St George's in 1929, and we must be ready for them. The dates of this year's Pilgrimage have been changed to take place in July, with the organisers eyes being very much on the ball, to be in 'the right place at the right time' at future events!

Lastly our congratulations are due to the Editor, Lara Cruz McKeon, for being appointed to teach History at Strode's College, a sixth form college in Egham. We wish her all success in her appointment, which will no doubt add to her already full life!

There is no doubt that there are projects to which we can look forward. May you all have an enjoyable summer.



Floreamus
Edward Crofton
Chairman



JOHN ARNOLD- A TRIBUTE

It is with great sadness that I am writing this tribute to John Arnold, who was very well known and loved here in St George's Church and amongst the Friends' and the wider St George's community, as well as in the local community in Ypres where he lived all his life, although he was half British. He passed away in hospital on Tuesday 28th January with his wife and family by his side.

John was a tireless and committed servant of St George's and worshipper at the church, and for many years was the church treasurer. He ensured that the church buildings were kept in good order and indeed, did much of the practical work himself including such things as going up a long ladder to clear the gutters on the church roof. He leaves a wonderful legacy of the buildings in good repair despite their age, although I have no doubt that he would have liked to have seen the replacement of the church and hall roofs, work which needs to be done before too long.

John showed me a picture of himself at around the age of 8 in the Pilgrim's Hall with other children, which proves his very long association with St George's! His father, Sidney (a British man who had served as a soldier in the Second World War and then met & married John's Flemish mother and settled in Ypres) became the church caretaker in 1980 and John used to help him with various practical jobs in and around the church. John had many tales to tell of the life of St George's in those days.

Eventually, Sidney passed away in 1995 and John took over from him although he had more time to dedicate himself to the church after he retired. He was a huge support to various chaplains over the years, including Brian Llewellyn, Andrew McMullen and then myself when I arrived in post in April last year (although at that time he was starting to suffer with the effects of the cancer that would eventually take him from us). A highlight for John was receiving the Maundy Money from the late Queen Elizabeth a few years ago, which I gather he was delighted about. This was in recognition of his many years of dedicated service to St George's.

To quote from someone who knew John well:

'For all the time, some 20 years and more, we have been coming to St. George's, he has been abundantly kind, generous and welcoming, always going the extra mile to help us.'

John will be greatly missed by his family, friends and indeed all who knew him, and is a sad loss for St George's.

The Reverend Richard Clement



CHAPLAIN'S REPORT

We seem to be living in particularly uncertain and troubled times, with various violent conflicts going on around the world, either civil wars as in the conflict in Sudan or else state-on-state wars. Of course, in every conflict it seems that innocent civilians are the main victims. In military-speak, they are regarded as 'collateral damage' (a very cold and heartless term) and some states do not seem to care how many civilians are injured or killed so long as they achieve their target kill. It must be said that there have been conflicts going on all the time since the Second World War in some part of the world; it's just that we haven't always heard about them in the news and media. But it's an unsettling time right now, made worse by erratic and unpredictable leadership of the United States, which has brought into question the old certainties of US military help and support.

At St George's Church we have had some very big centenary services recently. The first one was to commemorate the centenary of the death of Field Marshall Sir John French organised by the New Ypres League, a revival of the old Ypres League who were instrumental in raising the money to build St George's. Sir John's great-granddaughter and her children were with us for this commemoration, together with other members of the French family. Sir John looks down upon you as you enter or leave St George's from his big memorial on the south wall opposite the door!

The second big service was to celebrate the centenary of the Ypres Branch of the Royal British Legion, a very special occasion to mark an important milestone which also included dedicating the new RBL Ypres Branch standard. The service was followed by a wonderful garden party in the church garden, followed by a parade to the Menin Gate and attendance at the Last Post Ceremony.

On 7th July the Menin Gate will be officially reopened at a ceremony after the extensive restoration works, although it has actually been reopened for some time now. And in a couple of years' time we will commemorate the centenary of the opening of the Menin Gate, together with the centenary of the laying of the foundation stone of St George's on 24th July 1927. This will be a very big event, and will bring together many of the remembrance and commemoration organisations in Ieper. We have very good relations with them, and I look forward to working with them for this celebration and in many other ways.

St George's is a memorial church, and the number of memorials and commemorative plaques in the church help visitors not just to remember those



who died, but to ask the questions, 'What did they sacrifice their lives for?', 'Was it worth it?' and 'Have we learnt any of the lessons of the First World War?' These are difficult questions to which there are no easy answers. What is certain is that many people come to Ieper to remember and give thanks for the sacrifice of those who gave their lives in that conflict, and for some of them their visit is a pilgrimage to the place of their ancestor's grave or to see the name of their ancestor written on the Menin Gate or on the memorial at Tyne Cot Cemetery. This can be an emotional, poignant and very special moment for people.

We are still either rededicating graves in cemeteries where an unknown soldier has finally been identified, or else burying remains that have been discovered and in some cases identified. I am invited to all these services by the JCCC (part of the MOD in the UK), and often take part in them although they are usually led by the Regimental Padre.

St George's is for some of our visitors a really important place of pilgrimage, some of whom come to see our regimental plaques (and other military memorials), school plaques, and plaques or other memorials to individuals. For me, it is essential for us to provide a place of welcome, peace and prayer to enable people to remember those who died in the First World War and do some reflection in our troubled world. And I hope that people, whether they are regular worshippers, people coming to concerts or our many visitors, meet God in this sacred space.



The Reverend Richard Clement

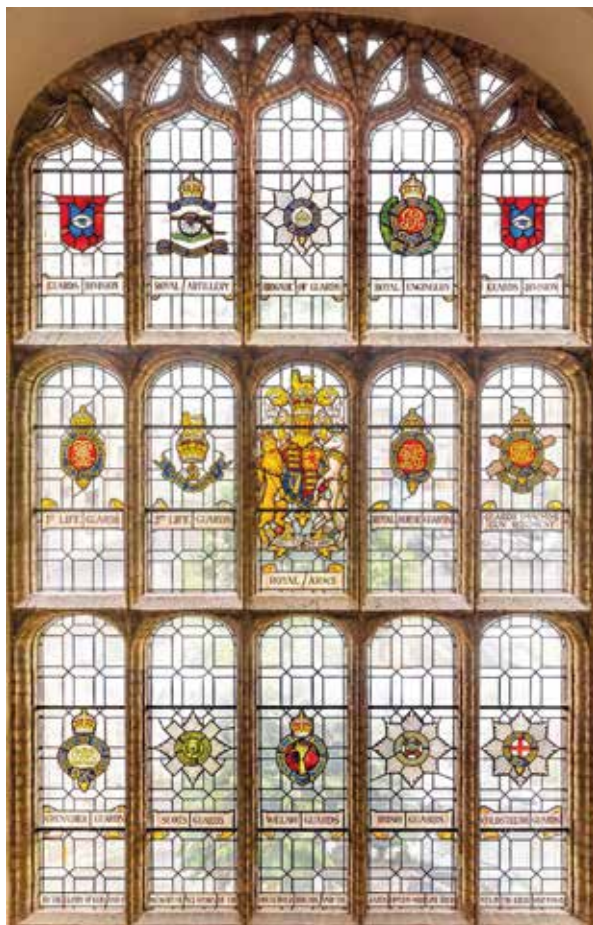


ARMISTICE DAY

11TH NOVEMBER 2025

Friends are reminded that the Armistice Day Service in St. George's takes place on Tuesday 11th November 2025 starting at 09:15 hrs – those attending are asked to be in their seats by 09:00 hrs.

Paper tickets are no longer issued. For those willing to attend please contact the Chaplaincy Warden, Christopher Sims to secure a reservation by emailing to Chris directly with your request at: sims.christopher@hotmail.com





ARTHUR MERGHELYNCK'S MUSEUM – YPRES' HIDDEN GEM

Until the First World War, the plot on the corner of Everdingestraat and Vandenpeereboomplein - now St George's Memorial Church- was occupied by the town residence of Arthur Merghelynck. While the grounds there were sold to the British by his widow, the private museum he had founded elsewhere in Ypres was to be reconstructed and reinstated – be it decades after the war that had it ruined.



A member of the local gentry, Merghelynck, who died in 1908, had made a name for himself as genealogist, archivist, and antiquarian. He spent his considerable fortune on what we could describe as “the reconstruction of the past”. His country retreat Beauvoorde, located some 20 miles north of Ypres, is a moated 17th century castle which he fabulously restored (it is now a museum). In 1892, Arthur Merghelynck was able to buy the grand neoclassical house his great-grandfather François Merghelynck had built upon his ennoblement in 1774. Two years after the purchase of the ancestral townhouse, Merghelynck opened the *Hotel-Museum Arthur Merghelynck* and filled it to the brink with 18th century furniture, everyday objects and works of art. On the museological level Merghelynck was progressive: he created period rooms where it seemed as if the original dwellers had just left and



he did so before other museums started using the same exhibition technique. However, politically, Arthur Merghelynck's museum served a conservative agenda: more than 100 years after the French Revolution which had drastically reduced the nobility's power, Merghelynck wanted to 'celebrate' the lifestyle and importance of his class as it was in the decades just before the Revolution.

The museum which Merghelynck had bequeathed to the Belgian Royal Academy, thrived and kept functioning well into the Great War. On 2 March 1915 a French interpreter was the last to sign the visitors' book. One day later, Father Delaere of St Peter's Church wrote in his diary that "a shell struck in the courtyard of the Hotel Merghelynck, and a nice collection of porcelain has been reduced to crumbs". That was the sign for the evacuation: in all haste the museum collection was brought to Paris where part of it was put on show in the Petit Palais. After the war, the collection was brought back to Belgium only to remain in boxes. Rebuilding a museum was obviously not a priority in the early 1920s, and in the mid-1930s the 'hotel' was faithfully reconstructed waiting for the museum to be reinstated. Alas that was not to be. The financial, and somewhat later, the political crisis came in between. In the late 1930s a local school that needed more space was allowed to use the building, and many elderly Ypres inhabitants still have fond memories of the time their classroom was in what is now again a museum. While the school only vacated the premises in the late 1940s, it had prevented the German occupier in the Second World War to make use of it. However, after the liberation of Ypres on 6 September 1944, some rooms have been briefly used by the (British) town major.

As a consequence of this checkered 'tale of two wars', it was only in the 1950s that the boxes containing the collection and hitherto preserved in Brussels returned to Ypres, and that the museum was reinstated. Much had been lost during the evacuation and the subsequent many removals, and war damage funds were used to complement what remained. Roughly estimated 2/3 of what is on display now once belonged to the original collection, and 1/3 was bought with war damage funds in the 1950s.

As from 1953 the museum reopened, and since little has changed: today's visitors are led through a series of period rooms evoking the life of the local gentry in the late 18th century. In April 2025, I transferred from In Flanders Fields Museum in order to bring new life in the Merghelynck Museum. Though it has a 'unique selling point' - being the only museum in Flanders dedicated to the 18th century - this is not an easy task. For one, due to the fact that the museum consists of period rooms often filled to the brim with smaller objects, the museum could hitherto only be visited on a guided tour. One of my aims is to open this exceptional and unknown museum more often to the public. This year this will be the case on three 'open



weekends' (the last being on 14-15 September), but I hope that as from next year the museum can open each summer weekend. And visitors from abroad are very welcome, especially those with a link to the spot where once the museum's founder had lived.



Dominiek Dendooven



CHURCH LIFE

I would like to thank Chris Sims for keeping me updated on the many events that happen in St. George's throughout the year.

Nottingham High School visited the Church on the 1st April, and hosted a concert. All the students involved were between 11 and 17 years of age, which is very impressive!



Nottingham High School - Music Programme

Locus Iste by Bruckner 3:17
Mother Of God, Here I Stand by Taverner 3:06
Selections from The Spring of Thyne arr. Rutter 3:53
Beaver, My God, To Thee by Brown 3:37
Music from Aladdin arr. Vinnon 4:51
Chamber Brass Ensemble
Vocal Duets/Trio
Gaelic Blessing by Rutter 1:55
How Deep is Your Love? arr. Halsey 4:00
The Water is Wide arr. Dileworth 3:26
La Caracola by Sparkes 1:00
March of the Belgian Paratroopers by Brown 2:46





Phoenix Singers held another concert on the 18th April. As you can probably see, this event filled up the Church.



Photo courtesy of Rev. Richard Clement

The centenary service of the death of Lord French and Ypres League service was on the 22nd May. Paul Foster attended on behalf of The Friends, and has written a report, which can be found later on in this edition.



*Left: Standards of The New Ypres League and The Royal British Legion in front of the memorial for Lord French.
Right: The Right Reverend Andrew Norman and The Reverend Richard Clement.*

Photos courtesy of Paul Foster.



The 14th of June saw a service for the centenary of the Royal British Legion in Ypres, followed by a garden party and wreath laying at the Menin Gate. It was great to see the garden party back on to celebrate the King's Birthday as well as celebrate the long history of the RBL in Ypres.



The Rev. Richard Clement opening the service, and the congregation. Photos courtesy of Eric Compernelle.





Service of Celebration to mark the
Centenary of the Ypres Branch
and
Birthday of His Majesty King Charles III

St George's Memorial Church, Ypres
Saturday 14 June 2025 at 3pm



The RBL Standard, seen on the right, was dedicated in St. George's as part of the service.

Photo courtesy of Eric Compernelle.



Left: The wreath laid on 14th June 2025 on behalf of the Friends.

Photo courtesy of Lara Cruz McKeon



Right: The garden party also saw many speeches and the building of relationships between the many organisations in Ypres. Photo courtesy of Mike McKeon.

On the 18th of June, Chichester University Chamber Choir also visited. It is nice to see more choirs visiting, as you can see in the past few concerts that there is a range of ages that come to sing at St George's.



Photos courtesy of Carine Sinnaeve

Finally, on the 28th June, the Featherstone Male Voice Choir and Knottingly Silver Band held a concert. I heard that it was lovely, and the addition of a violinist was a welcome surprise.



Photos courtesy of Rev. Richard Clement



SERVICE HELD IN ST GEORGE'S MEMORIAL CHURCH FOR THE CENTENARY COMMEMORATION OF THE DEATH OF FIELD MARSHAL SIR JOHN FRENCH, 1ST EARL OF YPRES

Photos courtesy of Paul Foster

A commemoration service was held in the Church on Thursday 22nd May 2025 to commemorate the centenary of the death of Sir John French. His striking memorial greets all visitors as they step into the Church.

The event was held by The New Ypres League, Sir John being the Founding President of the original Ypres League. The service was well attended by many organisations involved in remembering and commemorating those who fought and died in World War I. Sir Edward kindly asked me to represent The Friends and write this report that I was pleased to do. I was delighted that David Humbertson and Valérie Jacques were able to join us at the events too, also representing the Friends.

Heading the guest list was Lady Lucy French, OBE, great-granddaughter of Sir John, accompanied by a number of the French family. Other dignitaries included the Mayor of Ypres, the Military Commandant of West Flanders, Xavier Puppink of the CWGC, representatives of The New Ypres League, In Flanders Field, the Last Post Association and Western Front Association, amongst others.

The service was led by our Chaplain, The Reverend Richard Clement, who welcomed the Right Reverend Andrew Norman, the Suffragan Bishop of Europe who was on his first visit to the Church. The standards were paraded and presented to the Chaplain who then began the service that followed largely the Order of Service used in Westminster Abbey for Sir John's funeral. The first hymn was "I vow to thee my country" and was sung with gusto supported a young choir whom Lady Lucy had brought with her. Lettice French-Barry, great-great-granddaughter of Sir John, read Psalm 121 beautifully. This was followed by Lieutenant Colonel Matthew Forde, Deputy Chief of Staff, London District, Horse Guards, reading 1 Corinthians 15. 51-58.

Our Chaplain gave an excellent address that included: *"Sir John understood the need for the legacy of those who served and died to be maintained, and was the first President of the organisation (the Ypres League) that raised the money for this church to be built. St George's was designed by Sir Reginald Blomfield and constructed as a permanent memorial for those who served and sacrificed their lives, just as the Menin Gate is also a permanent memorial. We owe them a huge debt of gratitude, as indeed we do*



to Sir John who had the vision to understand the need for this lasting memorial of St George's Church."

Following Richard's much appreciated address the hymn "O God, our help in ages past" was sung. Roger Seward, Chairman of the New Ypres League addressed the congregation providing a historical background to today's events. Lady Lucy then led us in prayers before we sang the final hymn, "Abide with me".

Bishop Norman gave the Collect and Blessing before the Last Post was sounded by buglers from the Last Post Association. Wreaths were then laid by the French family followed by others, including by the Mayor, from The Friends by David Humberston, New Ypres League, CWGC amongst others.

It had been a most successful, positive and enjoyable event that showed off St George's Memorial Church as its best, introducing a good number of the congregation to the Church who had not visited before.



*Left: Lady Lucy French with other members of the French family
Top Right: The number of wreaths laid at the service
Bottom Right: The congregation attending the commemoration service*



REMEMBERED WITH HONOUR

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

CAPTAIN THE HONOURABLE ARTHUR ANNESLEY

Viscounts in the Irish, but not the British, Peerage, the Annesley family began their rise from obscurity in the time of Queen Elizabeth I before helping to subjugate Ireland in the 16th and 17th centuries. In 1716 the family purchased Bletchinglydon Park in Oxfordshire, which was home to several generations of the family before being inherited by Arthur Annesley, 11th Viscount Valentia in 1863, who, from 1895, served as Member of Parliament for Oxford.

In 1914, the heir to the title was another Arthur Annesley (shown right) who was born at Bletchinglydon on 24th August 1880, the second of eight children (three sons and five daughters) of the 11th Viscount and his wife, Laura. Educated at Eton, young Arthur served for two years in the 3rd (Militia) Battalion of the Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry before being commissioned in April 1900 in the 10th (Prince of Wales' Own) Royal Hussars, in which both his father and grandfather had previously served.



Promoted to Lieutenant in November 1901, Annesley served in the Second Boer War, principally in The Transvaal, receiving both The Queen's South African Medal (with three clasps) and the King's South African Medal (with two) for his service. Promoted to Captain in April 1907, he then served in India, where his sporting abilities on the Polo field gained considerable attention.



According to one source: *Captain Annesley, like his father, was a distinguished polo player. In 1907 he played at No. 1 for the 10th Hussars, when they won both the Inter-Regimental and the Subaltern Tournament of India, and, except in 1909, he was always at No. 1 in the team, which, between 1907 and 1912, ran up such a remarkable series of successes in the Indian Inter-Regimental tournaments. He also assisted*

LEFT: 10th Hussars Polo Team with Arthur Annesley seated left.



the 10th Hussars to win the Indian Championship at Calcutta. The reference to Captain Annesley's father is significant as it must be noted that Arthur Senior played in the first ever recorded Polo match in Britain, when the 10th Hussars defeated the 9th Lancers on Hounslow Heath in 1869.

In 1912, when the 10th Hussars were posted once more to South Africa, Arthur Annesley did not accompany them, being detached from the Regiment to serve as Aide-de-Camp to Major General the Honourable Julian Byng, General Officer Commanding British Troops in Egypt, where Lord Kitchener had acted as Consul-General since 1911. Byng's four-year posting was cut short by the outbreak of War in August 1914 and, having put plans in place to protect both the Suez Canal and the railway system from sabotage, he was recalled to London in September to take command of 3rd Cavalry Division.



Also returning to England were the 10th Hussars, departing from Cape Town and arriving in England in September. Arthur Annesley had elected to rejoin his Regiment, which, after a period of re-equipping, departed for Ostend as part of the 6th Cavalry Brigade, 3rd Cavalry Division. Arriving on 6th October, the initial plan to advance east to assist with the defence of Antwerp was made superfluous when the city fell to the Germans three days later. The remnants of the Belgian Army then withdrew westwards along the Channel coast; this retreat being covered by the British Cavalry.

The Belgian Army established a new line between the towns of Nieuport and Dixmude, nine miles to the south. A further 13 miles south from Dixmude, the British forces, including 3rd Cavalry Division, would join French troops in the defence of Ypres in an attempt to stem the German advance towards the French Channel Ports of Dunkerque and Calais. Under continual assault from German forces, the 6th Cavalry Brigade were constantly in action, moving wherever required to plug any gap that appeared in the Allied front lines.

The Brigade history therefore confirms their presence at Wytschaete ("Whitesheets") on 14th October; Poelcappelle two days later; Passchendaele on the 18th, Langemark on the 20th and Zandvoorde on the 21st; each a small village that saw desperate fighting as the German advance continued to gather momentum



and gain valuable ground. The final days of the month saw a potential German breakthrough on the Menin Road thwarted at Gheluvelt, but the enemy assaults continued into November, when the 6th Cavalry Brigade fought as dismounted infantry at Herenthage Chateau on the 6th and again entered trenches between the village of Zillebeke and the hamlet of Klein Zillebeke on the 10th. In this same area, six days later, Captain Arthur Annesley was killed in action, either by a shell fragment or a sniper's bullet, with sources differing on this point.



The grave of Arthur Annesley photographed in 1915 (above) and 2025 (right).

Captain Annesley was buried beneath a wooden cross in Ypres Town Cemetery, with two fellow Officers of the 10th Hussars being buried alongside him in the following days. He is also remembered at St Giles' Church at Bletchington, where a Gallic Cross stands in his memory in the Churchyard, whilst a Memorial Window and an original grave marker can be found inside the Church itself.

Captain Annesley is commemorated on the hamlet of Poundon Roll of Honour at nearby Twyford Church in Buckinghamshire, where his name appears alongside his fallen brother-in-law, Captain Geoffrey Bowlby of the Royal Horse Guards (who was featured in the second of this series of articles in 2018). Arthur Annesley is also remembered at St George's Memorial Church where six chairs were given in his memory.



Valerie Jacques & David Humberston



The Friends of St George's Lapel Badge



We would like to remind you that an enamel lapel badge that represents Friends of St George's Memorial Church, Ypres is still available.

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 £2.00 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.



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 under £30

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

Membership Categories

UK Individual	£15 per year
Overseas Individual	€20 per year
UK Joint Couples	£20 per year
Overseas Joint Couples	€25 per year
UK Corporate Membership	£25 per year
Overseas Corporate Membership	€30 per year
UK Life Membership	£300
Overseas Life Membership	€250
UK Joint Life Membership	£450
Overseas Life Membership	€300
Overseas Joint Life Membership	€450



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



**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.



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.



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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 summarizes what personally identifiable information we may collect, and how we might use this information. This policy also describes other important topics relating to your privacy.

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

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

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 never 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

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.





*Another day closes on the Salient,
another day when we remember our fallen.*

Photo and words courtesy of Mike McKeon