

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

Registered with the Charities Commission No. 213282-L1



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

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President:	The Rt. Reverend The Bishop of Gibraltar in Europe
Vice-President:	Lord Astor of Hever, D.L.
Chairman:	Sir Edward M. Crofton, Bt
Vice-Chairman:	Dr. D.F. Gallagher, 32 Nursery Road, Rainham, Kent ME8 0BE Email: derekfgallagher@gmail.com
Hon. Treasurer:	W.L. Leetham, 69 Honey Hill, Blean, Whitstable, Kent CT5 3BP Email: william.leetham@talktalk.net
Hon. Investment Adviser:	P. Birchall
Hon. Secretary:	M.A. McKeon, 63 Wendover Road, Egham, Surrey TW18 3DD Email: mmckeon@aol.com
Membership Secretary:	Miss E. Speare, 32 Fulwood Walk, London SW19 6RB Email: plusnet32@espeare.plus.com
Hon. Minutes Secretary:	c/o Hon. Secretary
Guest Editor:	Miss Lara Cruz McKeon
Life Members:	John Sumner, Michael Derriman, Jeanne Higgins and Mary Setchfield
Chaplain:	Reverend Andrew McMullon Email: YpresPadre@outlook.com

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No. 110

NEWSLETTER

November 2022

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*Window in the Baptistry dedicated to  
Captain F. Thomas Odonel M.C., 4th Battalion Royal Fusiliers*



## Annual General Meeting

The 67th Annual General Meeting of the Friends of St. George's Memorial Church, Ypres, will take place on Thursday 8th December 2022 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 East. 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 7th December 2021  
*(previously circulated to those who attended)*
3. Matters arising from the Minutes.
4. Chairman's Annual Report.
5. Vice-Chairman's Report
6. Hon. Secretary's Report.
7. Hon. Membership Secretary's Report.
8. Hon. Treasurer's Report  
*Annual Accounts and Independent Examiner'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 Monday 5th December 2022.

Committee: Mr B.C. Fawcett, Miss V. Jacques, Mr C. Sims, Mr N. Divers, Mrs J. Tarrant-Barton, Mr P. Foster, Ms A. Harris, Mr D. Humberston, Prof. M. Connelly (co-opted) & Dr. D. Dendooven (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 **Monday 5th December**, to either 63 Wendover Road, Egham, Surrey TW18 3DD or Email: [mmckeon@aol.com](mailto:mmckeon@aol.com).



## EDITORIAL

Dear Friends,

I am honoured to be given the opportunity to be a guest editor for the Winter Newsletter and I do hope that you enjoy the contents. The front cover is a little different this time! I chose this painting entitled First Glimpse of Ypres by Cyril Henry Barraud because the purple undertones really caught my eye. After he was wounded at the Somme, Barraud was posted as an official Canadian war artist. He is widely known for landscapes, churches and industrial buildings, all motifs you can see on the cover. Crafted between 1917 and 1919, it is a clear depiction of the intense memories many soldiers would have held of Ypres.

Remembrance was a constant presence whilst growing up. I was introduced to the story of my Great Great Uncle who died at Passchendaele, and thanks to the school syllabus, gradually drawn into a wider interest of the background of the Great War. I'm in my second year of university reading History and Art History in London, and the Great War is still something we discuss in lectures.

I spent over 5 years with the RAF Air Cadets and was lucky enough to be selected to represent my Squadron at the Menin Gate on Armistice Day in 2018. This was preceded by visits to the battlefields; being able to stand where so many men would have slept, laughed with their comrades, written letters home and prayed that they would see their families again was an emotional experience, creating an even deeper connection to this beautiful landscape. I became a Friend of St. George's following that visit and donated a mess plaque to the Church Hall.

I feel that I'll be connected to St. George's Memorial Church forever. It tells a distant generation's story, and their loved one's acts of remembrance. The school plaques are probably the most direct connection to my generation. It is a physical and poignant reminder that many who fought and died were of a similar age to me – giving up their dreams to ensure I could chase my own.

Lara Cruz McKeon  
Guest Editor





# CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – NOVEMBER 2022

## PRELUDE

I think that it would be remiss of me as I begin my Report, if I didn't refer to arguably two of the most momentous events in the history of this Nation, namely the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, and the resignation of the Prime Minister, Liz Truss.

Her Majesty died on 8th September, bringing an end to a 70-year reign, the longest in British history. It was a Homeric achievement of both duty and dedication to the Nation. The size of the queue to attend her Lying in State followed by the moving and dignified State Funeral in Westminster Abbey will be long remembered. We will not see the like of her again. May she rest in peace.

The Hon. Secretary, myself and our families paid our respects as the Cortege proceeded along the Staines By-pass, en route to the private Funeral in St George's Chapel, Windsor.

At the other end of the spectrum, and in some contrast, has been the resignation, after only 44 days in Office, of the Prime Minister. Liz Truss has achieved the dubious distinction of being Prime Minister of this Country for the shortest period in its history. The new occupant is now in 10 Downing St, and after three Prime Ministers in five months, hopefully the dust will be allowed to settle.

## INTRODUCTION

Memorial window dedicated to Rifleman Prewitt 2022 has not been a significant improvement on its predecessor. However, life in Ypres is beginning to pick up, but in slow time, and church congregations are struggling. Recent events of note in the past quarter have been Flemish Heritage Day and the Battle of Britain Service in September. A very busy day on 23rd October saw the Dedication at Morning Service of the Memorial Window in the Bell Tower to Rifleman Prewitt, who had been a bell ringer in the United Kingdom prior to the Great War, and to whom a bell was also dedicated. This was followed by a concert given by the Military Wives of Cranwell Choir, and, finally, the dedication of the Plaque for Christ's College Brecon. At the time of writing, plans for the Armistice Day Service are well in hand. The Hon. Treasurer and I will be attending. The Christmas Carol Service will take place at 10:30 on Sunday 18th December.



*Memorial window dedicated to Rifleman Prewitt*



The lack of a custodian at St George's gives cause for concern. With the increase in visitors and school groups, it is important to have someone on hand in the Church to welcome and answer questions. Discussions have been, and are, taking place with Professor Mark Connelly and the University of Kent, regarding ideas of finding ways of getting young people involved in the life of St George's. In 2017, a team of post-graduate students who were doing research in Ypres had also acted as stewards in the Church. This had proved to be a very successful enterprise, and I hope that it might be renewed in the not too distant future. I would add that in less frantic times, The Friends have been able to give financial assistance to this problem, and the thought of paying an honorarium may now have to be considered, if this is what the Church wants.

The most significant positive development during the period has been the creation of a most comprehensive and effective database, in the form of the Church Inventory Report. The brainchild of the Hon. Secretary; it has been masterminded by Scott Davies, who spent long hours getting to know the scale of and detail required for the Project. Being accessible through The Friends Website, it will give the many future visitors involved in research the opportunity to further their experience and will also prove to be of immense value to future historians.

### **THE CHAPILANCY**

Sadly, Andrew McMullon announced that his last Service at St George's would take place on Remembrance Sunday, prior to retiring to the United Kingdom. In the two years that he has been the Chaplain at St George's, there are very many in and around Ypres, who will have cause to be hugely thankful for his Ministry. He departs with our prayers and all good wishes for the future.

### **FINANCE AND ACCOUNTS**

The Hon. Treasurer's comment in his Report, *'as the world has moved from pandemic crisis to energy crisis, The Friends of St George's Memorial Church Ypres has weathered the storms with a steady ship.'* As in previous years, The Friends haven't been able to spend all of their income, but I emphasise that this is not by design! We are extremely fortunate that our finances are overseen by 3 Wise Men of the highest calibre, himself at the receipt of custom, Peter Birchall, the Manager of our Investment Portfolio, and Alex Spofforth, who ensures that the accounting is properly done, and who prepares the annual Trustees Report and Accounts to the Charity Commission. Our thanks go to them all.

As this Newsletter is likely to be out before the AGM which takes place on 8th December, a Committee Meeting was held on 11th October when Paul Foster and Jackie Tarrant-Barton were elected as Members, and the Annual Statements were signed by myself and the Hon Treasurer. Paul has extensive knowledge of St George's and Ypres, and



Jackie was Clerk to the Old Etonian Association and attended the 90th Anniversary Commemorations of St George's in 2019. We give them both a very warm welcome.

We hope that the Membership will agree the decision to appoint the new Members and will accept the figures shown in the Accounts.

### **MEMBERSHIP**

Membership currently stands at 386, a reduction of 17 from last year, which mainly reflects the lack of replies from those older members who have been sent reminders of not having paid their subscriptions for two years. General conditions remain difficult, and the encouragement of young people to become involved in the profile of Remembrance in a modern-day context must remain a priority. The Friends Working Group has been considering the Youth Policy, where it is appreciated that care must be taken not to promise more than can be delivered. I congratulate Eve Speare for her continued determination to chase up nonpayers, and also for her fortitude in continuing to stand in as an emergency Minute taker!

### **THE PILGRIMAGE**

The Instruction for this year's Pilgrimage has been sent out, the first for six years. The work of Nigel Divers, David Humberston and Valerie Jacques on the preparation for those Friends Pilgrimages which have had to be cancelled at short notice has been legendary. I have no doubt that it will be a fascinating and enjoyable 5 days. Please support it.

### **UPDATE FROM YPRES**

Dominiek Dendooven has produced a comprehensive and informative Update in this Newsletter. One can only say that the restoration work on the Menin Gate, although it will take some time and will render the Memorial unsightly, will be well worth waiting for. More locally, I hope that the concern over the positioning of the oversized utility electricity cabin will be resolved!

### **THE NEWSLETTER**

I am most grateful to Lara Cruz McKeon for standing in as Guest Editor. She personifies the dedication and enthusiasm of a member of today's younger generation in wanting to understand her forbears.

### **CONCLUSIONS**

These are worrying times for both Church and State. It is no secret that those of the older generation are passing on, and that their places are being filled with difficulty, if at all. This inevitably puts pressure on those who remain. As we enter a period of uncertainty over when a new Chaplain will be appointed and inducted, the interregnum



will bring an increased workload onto a relatively small team. The Friends are committed to supporting the PCC to fulfil the Mission of St George's, and to ensure the Church remains a bright beacon of Remembrance and hope for the future. Looking ahead, there are centenaries to be commemorated, that of the Menin Gate in 2027, and of St George's in 2029. These dates will remind us of all who made the Supreme Sacrifice those many years ago, and, in the words of the Book of Ecclesiasticus, that '*Their name liveth for evermore*'. Today, we must live up to them.

I am, as always, immensely grateful to the many who, on behalf of the Church, give so freely of their time and energies throughout the year to keep everything moving forward. A very happy Christmas and a successful New Year to you all.

We have a new Monarch. May his reign over us be happy and long. God Save The King.



*Floreamus*  
Edward Crofton  
Chairman





## TREASURER'S REPORT 2022

As the world has moved from the pandemic to the energy crisis, The Friends of St George's Memorial Church Ypres has weathered the storms with a steady ship. The accounts that have been so carefully prepared by our Independent Financial Inspector, Mr Alex Spofforth, and show a sound position despite what has been going on around us.

The investment income position has improved as companies have resumed paying dividends again following the hiatus caused by the uncertainty during the pandemic. Voluntary income has fallen due to fewer legacies and this income has come solely from membership fees supported by gift aid. During this financial year, our main support has been the payment of the Chaplain's Church of England pension contributions, in order to maintain his pension entitlement as if he had been a Chaplain in this country. Additionally, we have provided the Chaplain with assistance regarding the rent of his flat in Ypres.

The trustees maintain a tight control on expenses but are ready to consider any expenditure requests within the parameters of our constitution. As such we have spent much less during the year under review than the previous twelve months.

Although some members have completed Gift Aid forms, there are many who have not. Should you be a taxpayer in the United Kingdom (which excludes council tax) please consider completing the Gift Aid form included in this newsletter and send to me, the Honorary Treasurer. This will enhance your payment by 25% to the benefit of the Friends. Thank you.

I would like to thank Peter Birchall of Investec for his services in looking after our portfolio of investments. Although their fees have been higher than previous years, they remain very modest. May I also thank Alex Spofforth for his work at a very nominal fee.

I would also like express my thanks to the Chairman Sir Edward Crofton, and the Secretary Mike McKeon for their support during the year.

I trust that members will find the accounts to be in order and I will seek their approval during the AGM.

William Leetham – Treasurer





## TRUSTEES' REPORT AND ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30th JUNE 2022

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### CHARITY INFORMATION

Chairman	Sir Edward Crofton, Bt
Trustees	Sir Edward Crofton, Bt
	Dr Derek Gallagher
	Mr William Leetham
	Mr Michael McKeon
	Miss Eve Speare
	The Revd Canon Graham Derriman <i>(retired 6.12.22)</i>
	Mr Nigel Divers
	Mr Brian Fawcett
	Mr Colin Butler <i>(retired 6.12.22)</i>
	Mrs Valerie Jacques
	Mr David Humberston
	Mr Christopher Sims
	Ms Amy Harrison
	Mr Paul Foster <i>(appointed 12.4.22)</i>
	Mrs Jackie Tarrant-Barton <i>(appointed 12.4.22)</i>

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 2022

The Trustees present their report and accounts for the year ended 30th June 2022.

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 thirteen trustees who manage the charity. The trust is also assisted by volunteers who offer their services from time to time.

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

## **Risk Management**

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

## **Objectives and Activities**

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

## **Grant Making Policy**

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

## **Statement of Public Benefit**

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

## **Financial Review**

The Statement of Financial Activities is shown on page 5. There was a net decrease in total funds of £(21,909) (2021: 160,764 increase) after realised and unrealised losses/gains on investments of £38,788 (2021: £155,801 gains). 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.

We have made grants to the Diocese to assist prospective clergy candidates as well as the grants to the Church in Ypres. The investment income stream remains stable and shows a rate of return that is way above anything that can be obtained from normal deposits.

The stock market recovered from the effects of the previous years' covid-19 pandemic resulting in a further increase back of capital values; dividend yields are expected to be lower however. The portfolio is kept under constant review and changes are made from time to time bearing in mind the alterations to the fortunes of our investments.

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



## **Investment Policy and Performance**

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

## **Reserves Policy**

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

## **Statement of trustees' responsibilities**

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

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

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

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

This report was approved by the Trustees on 11/10/221 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 2022**

	Note	Unrestricted Funds	2022	2021
		General fund	Total	Total
		£	£	£
<b>INCOME</b>				
<i>Income from</i>				
Voluntary income		4,842	4,842	7,355
Investment income	2	40,519	40,519	34,451
<b>Total income</b>		<u>45,361</u>	<u>45,361</u>	<u>41,806</u>
 <b>EXPENDITURE</b>				
<b>Expenditure on</b>				
Charitable activities	3	14,022	14,022	16,227
Other expenditure	4	14,470	14,470	20,616
<b>Total expenditure</b>		<u>28,492</u>	<u>28,492</u>	<u>36,843</u>
<b>Net income and net movement in funds before gains on investments and property</b>		16,869	16,869	4,963
 <b>Net (losses)/gains on investments</b>	5	<u>(38,778)</u>	<u>(38,778)</u>	<u>155,801</u>
<b>Net movement in funds</b>		(21,909)	(21,909)	160,764
 <b>Total funds brought forward</b>		1,258,435	1,258,435	1,097,580
 <b>Total funds carried forward</b>		<u>1,236,435</u>	<u>1,236,435</u>	<u>1,258,344</u>

All reserves movements are on Unrestricted Funds.



**THE FRIENDS OF ST GEORGE'S MEMORIAL CHURCH YPRES**  
**BALANCE SHEET**  
**AS AT 30th JUNE 2022**

	Notes	2022	2021
<b>Fixed assets</b>		£	£
Investments	6	1,202,927	1,263,010
<b>Current assets</b>			
Cash at bank		33,748	12,360
<b>Creditors: amounts falling due within one year</b>		(240)	(17,026)
<b>Net current assets</b>		<u>33,508</u>	<u>(4,666)</u>
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>		<u>1,236,435</u>	<u>1,258,344</u>
Represented by:			
<b>Unrestricted funds:</b>			
General funds		1,236,435	1,258,344
<b>Total funds</b>	7	<u>1,236,435</u>	<u>1,258,344</u>

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees and authorised for issue on 11/10/22 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 2022

#### 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	2022	2021
		Total	Total
	£	£	£
<b>2. Investment Income</b>			
Income from investments	40,085	40,085	34,345
Interest receivable on cash deposits	434	434	106
	<u>40,519</u>	<u>40,519</u>	<u>34,451</u>

	Unrestricted Funds	2022	2021
		Total	Total
	£	£	£
<b>3. Grants made</b>			
Grants to Church and Diocese	14,022	14,022	16,227
<b>Charitable grants</b>	<u>14,022</u>	<u>14,022</u>	<u>16,227</u>



**THE FRIENDS OF ST GEORGE'S MEMORIAL CHURCH YPRES**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30th JUNE 2022**

	Unrestricted Funds	2022	2021
		Total	Total
	£	£	£
<b>4. Other Expenditure</b>			
Exchange loss	180	180	9,962
Newsletter	2,495	2,495	2,868
Fundmanagers' fees	7,587	7,587	5,489
Bank Charges	43	43	-
IT Costs	1,462	1,462	985
Insurance	544	544	495
Sundry expenses	1,919	1,919	577
Independent Examiners' fee	240	240	240
	<u>14,470</u>	<u>14,470</u>	<u>20,616</u>

4 trustees (2021: 4) received reimbursement of expenses during the year for travel costs, postage and stationery, of £2,517 (2021: £894).

	Website Costs
	£
<b>5. Fixed assets</b>	
<b>Cost</b>	
At beginning of year	21,572
<b>At end of year</b>	<u>21,572</u>
<b>Depreciation</b>	
At beginning of year	21,572
<b>At end of year</b>	<u>21,572</u>
<b>Net book value</b>	
<b>At 30 June 2022</b>	<u>—</u>





**THE FRIENDS OF ST GEORGE'S MEMORIAL CHURCH YPRES**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30th JUNE 2022**

	Listed Investments	2022	2021
		Total	Total
	£	£	£
<b>6. Investments</b>			
<b>At Market Value</b>			
At beginning of year	1,263,010	1,263,010	843,581
Additions & disposals	(21,305)	(21,305)	272,628
Realised and unrealised (losses)	(38,778)	(38,778)	155,801
At end of year	<u>1,202,927</u>	<u>1,202,927</u>	<u>1,263,010</u>

**7. Analysis of fund balances: movement in resources**

	At beginning of year	Incoming resources	Outgoing resources	At end of year
	£	£	£	£
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>				
General fund	1,258,344	6,583	28,492	1,236,435
<b>Total Unrestricted Funds</b>	<u>1,258,344</u>	<u>6,583</u>	<u>28,492</u>	<u>1,236,435</u>

**8. Registered charity**

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



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

### **Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner**

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

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

It is my responsibility to

examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act,

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

state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

### **Basis of independent examiner's statement**

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

### **Independent examiner's statement**

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

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

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

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

11th October 2022



## SECRETARY'S UPDATE

I am delighted to announce the Church Inventory has been published on the St George's website, along with an update to the 360-degree virtual tour.

The initial remit to photograph every memorial in the Church evolved into the creation of a searchable inventory that allows a website visitor to search for a particular memorial and be shown the exact location along with a high-resolution image of that memorial.

You can find a link to it from the main Church website or go to:

<https://www.stgeorgesmemorialchurchpres.com/memorials/>



You will find instructions on how to use, along with an instructional video should you need a helping hand.

We are hoping to make this resource available to physical visitors to the Church as an aid to locating a particular memorial during their visit.

We are also planning to engage with other research resources to further enhance the information available to a website visitor. Please feel free to get in touch with me directly should you have any questions, comments or suggestions.

We do still have our Friends lapel pin available and would be happy to send by post if you haven't yet requested one; full details are on the next page.

Mike McKeon - Hon. Secretary



## The Friends of St George's Lapel Badge



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

Please drop a note to the Secretary at [mmckeon@aol.com](mailto: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.



## NEWS FROM THE FRONT

### Some Special Commemorations

In the recent months, we have seen a handful of rededications of headstones. Usually these are graves formerly considered of 'unknown' but now known or believed to be that of a known person. Most recently, on 12 October at Dochy Farm British Cemetery (in Langemark) a rededication ceremony was held for Captain Ernest Charles Parry of the 1st. Battalion Auckland Infantry Regiment (16th Waikato Coy). He was killed on 6 October 1917, aged 31, at the Battle of Passchendaele (3rd Battle of Ypres). Captain Parry, who was from Paeroa (North Island of New Zealand), is commemorated on the New Zealand Tyne Cot Memorial to the missing but until now had no known grave. Thanks to the research of local devotee Freddy Deklerck Capt. Parry has been identified and now finally has a known grave.

Especially moving was the burial service on 30 June 2022 for the underaged soldier John Lambert of the Royal Newfoundland Regiment, and six unknown soldiers (one identified as belonging to the Royal Fusiliers, one of the Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, one Hampshire Regiment, two unknown British and one unknown German soldier). The remains of these fallen soldiers were found in April 2016 in Langemark, and the remains of Pte. John Lambert were positively identified in 2019. A full identification is still quite rare. John Lambert was born 10 July 1900 in St. John's, Newfoundland. He enlisted on 14 August 1916, stating his age was 18 and 3 months though he was barely 16. In August 1916 the journey went to the UK where he joined the 2nd. Bn. The Newfoundland Rgt. In April 1917 he crossed to France where on 7 June 1917 he joined the 1st Bn. The Newfoundland Rgt. The poor lad was only 17 when he was killed on August 16th, 1917, during the Battle of Langemark. This happened in the area of Ruisseau Farm-Tuffs Farm where the battalion had established an aid post. His remains were found only about 100m from this spot. A party of family members who earlier had visited the spot where his body had been found, attended the funeral. Pte Lambert's story, from death, over recovery and identification of his remains to his final laying at rest, will feature prominently in In Flanders Fields Museum's next major temporary exhibition 'For Evermore. The Cemeteries of the First World War'(April 2023-Feb 2024).

### A New Memorial

On 25 September 2022 at the edge of Polygon Wood in Zonnebeke, the Brothers in Arms Memorial was officially unveiled. In 2006, amateur archaeologists had exhumed five Australian soldiers. Three of them were eventually identified and all five were given military burials in 2007 at Buttes New British Cemetery. However, one of the amateur



archaeologists involved, Johan Vandewalle was deeply impressed within the story of the soldier identified as John Hunter, for he had died in the arms of his brother Jim. Johan acquired a piece of land near his café De Dreve, and began a campaign to have a memorial erected to brothers who served (and in some cases died) together. With many small and larger sponsors and the efforts of a dedicated team, this was finally achieved after 16 years.

## **Works in the Neighbourhood of St. George's**

Unfortunately, I have to start this section with repeating what I wrote in the last issue of this newsletter: the works in the heart of Ypres are still on and this affects accessibility to St George's Memorial Church. While the works on Vandepereboomplein (cathedral square) were scheduled to last until March 2022 these are still ongoing. At the time of writing (16 Oct 2022) the corner of Elverdingestraat and Vandenpeereboomplein (Cathedral Square) is entirely off limits and even foot passengers can only pass using the sidewalk on the opposite side of St George's. However, the church and the church hall have always remained accessible as the area is only fenced off beyond the porch and tower. In front of the church, both in Elverdingestraat and on the square there is still a gigantic pit showing the underground concrete pumping station that must make Ypres' sewers ready for decades to come.

More worrying, however, is the intention to have an ugly, oversized utility cabin (electricity) built against the beautiful main gable of the church facing cathedral square. There has always been a utility box on that side, but this was situated near the far corner where the fence and hedge that leads to the tower starts. Now, a concrete foot has been placed bang in the middle of the façade, under the gilded letters 'St George's Memorial Church'. No one seems to have been notified of this. Steps were taken at once: several members of the PCC and of the friends contacted the contracting firm, the town administration, and the Flemish heritage department. A worker of the contracting firm explained that they have to look for 'plain, empty walls' as such a utility cabin can hardly be placed in front of someone's window. Fair enough, but it remains a mystery why the church hasn't been informed nor involved in finding a proper solution for this problem. While the town administration reacted elusive, the heritage department answered they would investigate the matter. They must: St George's is a listed building. To be continued....

In the meanwhile, the major restoration works on the Cloth Hall continue as well. While the Belfry tower has reemerged from the scaffolding in all its glory last spring, the West Wing (housing the tourist office) will show its magnificent splendor once again by the end of this year. This is rather important as a large part of the outer walls of the west wing, as well as the tower on the corner survived the onslaught of the Great War and are



still originally medieval. Work will continue along the shorter side of the Cloth Hall leading towards Cathedral Square. Next in the planning is the restoration of the east wing which houses the entrance to In Flanders Fields Museum (to the right when facing the building).

## Restoration of the Menin Gate

As announced in the last newsletter, the Menin Gate is up for a major restoration, to start in 2023. The Commonwealth War Graves Commission has recently given more details about this major and important project. There will be several components to the restoration. The natural stone elements will be cleaned and restored, including the commemorative panels, and the brick façade will be repointed. There will also be a new waterproofing system on the roof. In addition, various repairs will be made to the cellars, stair towers, arched vaults and round openings in the roof (the oculi). During the works, the recovery of authentic materials is paramount, as stipulated in the CWGC's conservation policy. Conservation, innovation, sustainability and safe accessibility are the common threads throughout the restoration.

The project is expected to cost around €4 million. A major part of this cost will be borne by the CWGC with its budget funded by its member states. The Flemish government has decided to provide funds of around €1.6 million while the City of Ypres has allocated €300,000 in subsidies for this project in its budget for the coming years. A public tender for the works will be launched in the coming months. According to the preliminary planning, the restoration will start in 2023 and last several years. As parts of the memorial will be hidden by scaffolding and site closures during the works, the CWGC will offer several alternative options to its visitors. A new exhibition will be on display at the monument and at the nearby CWGC information center. The names of those commemorated on the Gate will be made accessible through a digital device. Access to the City of Ypres via the road under the Menin Gate will be kept open as much as possible and the Last Post ceremony will still take place every day, albeit temporarily under modified conditions.

The CWGC has dedicated a web page to the restoration of the Menin Gate: <https://www.cwgc.org/our-work/projects/menin-gate-restoration/>

Dominiek Dendooven





# THE PILGRIMAGE 2023

## An Introduction

Your Pilgrimage Committee, Nigel Divers, Valerie Jacques and David Humberston, have been visiting the battlefields of the Western Front for many years and are thrilled to announce that, despite the unfortunate intervention of a pandemic, we are really looking forward to resuming next year when we intend to travel over the early Spring Bank Holiday: Friday, 28th April – Tuesday, 2nd May, inclusive.

The Pilgrimages have proved to be extremely popular in previous years as anyone who has previously joined us will confirm. As well as providing vital support for St George's, you will have the opportunity to visit cemeteries, memorials and sites of action which are often excluded from other Battlefield Tour itineraries. You will enjoy the company of like-minded people and, regardless of your expertise or any previous visits to the battlefields, you can be assured of a warm and friendly welcome from fellow travellers and experienced guides. Ladies, anyone travelling alone, or for the first time, will immediately be made to feel welcome and at ease.

We are aware that a focal point for many is a request to visit a relative's grave, memorial or area of action. It will be our honour and privilege to grant any such requests, if at all possible within the itinerary, and a Visit Request Form will be sent with each expression of interest for you to complete and return.

## Why Remember?

With the passing of each year the events of 1914-1918 have faded from living memory – our aim is to perpetuate that memory!

The Great War saw many exploits of gallantry and valour, some of which we will discover throughout the Pilgrimage. These individual stories will no doubt feature and be presented as our own tribute to all those who fought and endured. We will remember the resilience of the troops, their determination, their bravery and, above all, their astonishing achievements.

## Pilgrimage Cost

The price for next year's Pilgrimage will be £550.00 per person for travellers able to share a Double/Twin Room or £650.00 if wishing to occupy a Single Room (which includes the hotel's single room supplement). This price reflects the inevitable increases incurred from Coach and Ferry companies, the Hotel and the ever-fluctuating Exchange Rate! It does, however, compare extremely favourably with other 5-day Battlefield Tours who offer only Bed & Breakfast at far less favourably situated hotels.

Those of you who expressed a wish to join us in 2020 will be given "first refusal" and should, indeed, have already received your "Intention to Travel" letters containing Booking Forms etc. We will, however, be very pleased to receive further expressions of interest as there will be additional places available.





## Hotel

We will stay for four nights at the recently refurbished New Regina Hotel situated right in the very heart of historic Ypres. Valerie and David sampled the hotel's services earlier this year and can affirm its suitability for our requirements. In Flanders Fields Museum, within the Cloth Hall, is directly opposite and, within just a few minutes walk, you will arrive at the magnificent Menin Gate.

## Itinerary

The Itinerary will be created from requests received with priority given to those with Regimental or Family connections. It may not, however, be possible to comply with all requests received but you can be assured that we will do our very best to include as many as is physically possible. Also, we will not ignore anything of interest en route to each destination.

## The Tour will include

- Coach travel throughout + all excursions
- Return Ferry Crossing
- 4 nights Bed & Breakfast at the New Regina Hotel, Ieper
- Two group lunches at local café's "out on the battlefield" (29th & 1st May)
- One group lunch in the Church Rooms adjacent to St George's (30th April)
- One group evening meal (1st May)
- The services of experienced battlefield guides
- Pilgrimage Specific Map Pack & Information throughout

## Itinerary

(Details to be specifically finalised dependent upon visit requests received but expected to follow the below format)

- *Friday 28th April* – Outbound Journey + visit to a cemetery/memorial/site en route to Ypres.
- *Saturday 29th April* – All day excursion to the Battlefields of Loos and The Somme - Lunch at a local café, most probably Ocean Villas, Auchonvillers, Somme.
- *Sunday 30th April* – Morning service at St George's followed by lunch in the adjacent Church rooms. Optional afternoon excursion to areas within the Ypres Salient followed by evening attendance at the Last Post Ceremony, Menin Gate, where we will lay our wreath.
- *Monday 1st May* – All day excursion around the emotive battlefields of the Ypres Salient – Lunch at a local café, most probably Koklikoo Bistro, Zonnebeke – Group Evening Meal at Captain Cook Restaurant, Ypres.
- *Tuesday 2nd May* – Inbound Journey + visit to a cemetery/memorial/site en route to Port of Calais/Dunkirk.



If you would like to register your expression of interest, or require any further details or information, please do not hesitate to contact us as we will be only too pleased to assist. We do hope that you will consider joining us as we very much look forward to welcoming old friends and new to the emotive battlefields of the Western Front.



*Photograph by David Humberston*

Nigel Divers, Valerie Jacques and David Humberston

Contact Details: E-mail: [foft@live.co.uk](mailto:foft@live.co.uk) Mobile: 07908 003398

Postal address: FOSGP, 21 Britford Ave., WIGSTON, Leics LE18 2RF



## ARMISTICE DAY 2022

We are here today in St George's Memorial Church to remember the Armistice signed in 1918 and to celebrate the end of four dreadful years of war. There was indeed 'celebration' over this 'victory'; but by people in a world weary with the cost. A world literally in ruins. With people in deep grief for past lives and loved ones lost, bearing painful physical and mental scars. Facing wearily, but with fortitude and strength, the rebuilding of lives, cities, economies, families, communities and peoples.

We can't but remember also the struggles of our own times – against Covid, Climate Change, the dreadful war in Ukraine, the recent loss of Her late Majesty Elizabeth II, our Queen of 70 years, and families struggling to pay the bills in an energy and cost of living crisis.

There's also the underlying malaise of Governments in so many places in crisis – unable or unwilling to come up with answers with their people having lost confidence in their ability of their elected representatives to find solutions to these dreadful problems. Democracy itself, along with peace and justice, arguably what the fight a century ago was all about, seems under threat. In an international audience such as this, I leave it to you to decide whether any of these 'caps fits' in your context!

Thankfully, some of these things are now in the past. Covid in particular seems to have been overcome (for now, at least) but many of the other fights and struggles, against even more existential threats to civilisation itself, remain.

We can be encouraged by the generation of WWI, by their commitment to see their struggle through, even when victory seemed impossible. The wind and the tide were in their faces – but they did not shrink from their duty, even when it was to take their very lives, and their sons.

For them we remain grateful. Despite the fact that it wasn't the 'war to end all wars', we know that Europe, and indeed the world, was and remains a better place for their sacrifices.

From them too, we receive '*the torch*' to '*hold it high*' and acknowledge that their fight goes on in this generation as in every other once since. Our fight may need different weapons. Our fight may not be against "*enemies of flesh and blood, but against the rulers, authorities, cosmic powers of this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places*" (Ephesians 6) The very forces which threaten civilisation, light, goodness and love in our world. This is indeed an existential fight. If we lose it, as people realised in the First World War, then all is lost. There is no prize for coming second in the fight against climate change across the globe, nor for letting another modern dictator get away



with annexing a neighbouring country in an attempt to bring back some alleged glories of a past empire. These are fights which we must win, or we have lost.

So as ever, when we ask the question, what are we doing here today? Why are we remembering a conflict over a century ago and honouring those who fought and died for peace and justice for all humankind?

The answer is simple. This is not merely about history. It is about the ongoing fight to make our world safe and secure for everyone, to ensure the survival of values we hold dear and to make a better world for all.

Christians may well talk here of the Biblical vision of that elusive time and place when “nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more” (Isaiah 2) building the New Jerusalem, the Kingdom of God in all the lands, whether green and pleasant or no, of everyone. Yet it is a fight, a passion and a hope for people of every belief and faith – for all who believe in humanity and becoming the best that we can be.

**Revd (Wg Cdr) Andrew McMullon (RAF Retired) Chaplain of St George's**



## VALEDICTORY FROM THE CHAPLAIN

I came to St George's Memorial Church in Ypres just two years ago in the midst of the Covid Restrictions. Services had to be run online on something we had barely heard of called Zoom! There was no Memorial Service of Remembrance for Armistice, though the Last Post continued without the presence of the public. These were difficult times.

We got back into St George's in May 2021, with some Covid restrictions remaining. Sadly, as most of you know, my wife and companion of 50 years, Lorraine, who had come to Ypres with me, died unexpectedly in June 2021. I was understandably grief stricken, but well supported by the congregation of St George's and the wider communities of The Friends and the Diocese in Europe. Both Chaplain, and Church, recovered slowly. Visitor numbers have returned to some level of normality, and we have had some memorable services and dedications; not least the joyous celebration of Her Majesty the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in May and the sadder and rather more reflective Thanksgiving Service for her Life and Service, in September.

Early this year I decided, although I had intended to stay in St George's for a longer period, that it was right for me to retire and to return to the UK. I resolved to see things through until Armistice 2022 – which is where we now find ourselves.

I would like to pay tribute to all who have helped and supported me in church and wider community through this difficult time in Ypres, which despite my own troubles, remains a very special place where I have made some very precious friends. I will undoubtedly return, as so many do, and for those who can face a journey to the North of England, to the Yorkshire Dales, I say 'do come and visit me!' – you will be made as welcome as I have been in Ypres.

St George's faces yet more challenges and I wish everyone well as a new Chaplain is sought, especially with the centenary of the Church approaching in 2027.



Padre Andrew McMullon  
Chaplain of St George's Memorial Church, Ypres  
[YpresPadre@outlook.com](mailto:YpresPadre@outlook.com)



## ARMISTICE DAY 2022



*Rev. Andrew McMullon during his Armistice Sermon, November 2022*



*Sounding the Last Post during Armistice Service, November 2022*



*Royal British Legion Standard, Armistice Service, November 2022*



*The front cover of the Armistice Day Service sheet*



*Congregation, Armistice Service, November 2022*





*The Dartford Choir at Armistice Service, November 2022*



*Armistice Day Service, November 2022*



## REMEMBERED WITH HONOUR

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

### LIEUTENANT JOHN ATHRON BRITTAIN

Although forever synonymous with the destruction and slaughter of the Great War, it must also be remembered that Ypres once again became a battleground in 1940 and spent four years under German occupation between May of that year and September 1944. Today, a plaque commemorating the liberation of the town by the 1st Polish Armoured Division can be found at the Cloth Hall, but readers may not be aware that, by a remarkable coincidence, the surname of the General commanding this force, General Maczek, if translated into English, was “Poppy”, our flower of remembrance! At St George's Memorial Church, victims of this Second conflict are also remembered.



*John Athron Brittain*

John Athron Brittain was born in 1913, the younger son of Charles Edward Brittain, Headmaster of Normanton Grammar School in Yorkshire, and his wife Bertha Levitt, née Leake. Originally educated at St Peter's School in York, in 1932 John “went up” to Brasenose College, Oxford, as a Hulme Exhibitioner, a scholarship named after and funded by the trust fund of 17th century lawyer William Hulme.

Having obtained a B.A. degree in History, in January 1936, John, like his father, pursued a career in education and joined the staff of Oundle Public School in Northamptonshire, a prestigious establishment originally founded in 1544. One of his contemporaries would later recall that “*Jack Brittain had*

*the happy knack of inspiring boys with his own enthusiasms, particularly for cricket, and a genius for friendship. He had a deep affection for the school*”.

On 3rd September 1939, Great Britain once again found itself at War with Germany and that very same day, Parliament passed the National Service (Armed Forces) Act, imposing conscription on all males aged between 18 and 41, who had now to register for service. By the following month, the now Lieutenant John Brittain found himself in France as the Intelligence Officer for the 2nd Battalion, Northamptonshire Regiment.

The first eight months of War, the so called “Phoney War”, had seen very limited military actions but, at dawn on 10th May 1940, German forces crossed the Dutch and Belgian frontiers, meeting little meaningful opposition as they advanced. In Ypres, refugees began to appear, and the evacuation of the endangered British community who lived there now became an urgent issue. Eight days later most of them departed, enduring a torturous five-day journey to Calais and evacuation. On 24th May, Poperinghe was bombed and three days later, German artillery fired the first shells into Ypres since 1918. By midday of the 29th, the German flag flew from the Cloth Hall belfry.



**The defence of the Ypres-Comines Canal,  
27th-28th May 1940.**

*Battalion HQ of the 2nd Northants in the  
area indicated by the red ring.*

Two days previously, British forces in the area had made a desperate stand along the natural barrier of the Ypres-Comines Canal. The 2nd Battalion, Northamptonshire Regiment, were part of 17th Brigade and began the battle to the rear of their Brigade positions, the Battalion Headquarters being in a farmhouse south-east of the hamlet of St Eloi (see Map opposite).

The Northamptoners did not become involved until the afternoon of the 27th, when Companies positioned along the Canal itself came into contact with the enemy. Driven back, they launched a counter attack that same evening, but incurred heavy casualties. The following morning, the Battalion Headquarters came under attack and were quickly surrounded on three sides. With ammunition low and casualties increasing, further resistance was deemed impossible and those who

remained surrendered. Lieutenant Brittain was last seen in the vicinity of the farmhouse and was later reported as both wounded and “missing”. Later, he was confirmed as being killed in action. His body, if found, was never identified.

In 1941, the field graves of those who fell along the Canal were removed and the bodies reburied in the existing Military Cemetery, Bus House, on the outskirts of St Eloi. Of the 79 Second War fatalities who rest here, nine are men from the 2nd Northamptoners and a further nine lie in graves inscribed “Known Unto God”. If John rests anywhere, it is tempting to suggest he may be here. His name does, however, appear on Column 110 of the Dunkirk Memorial to the Missing, alongside some 4,500 of his comrades of the British Expeditionary Force. Interestingly the C.W.G.C. records list his date of death as 31st May.

John Brittain is also remembered on the Oundle and Ashton War Memorial, the names of the Second World War fallen appearing on the top step of a four-stepped octagonal base on which stands a pillar on which the names of the Great War fallen are listed.



*Left: The Dunkirk Memorial to the Missing*

*Right: Lt Brittain is remembered on the Oundle & Ashton Memorial*



The Second World War Memorial at Oundle School remembers 252 Old Boys who fell in that conflict, and John is also commemorated in the Oundle Memorial Book, which confirms that John *"bequeathed to the School his books, coins and a sum of money for the Pavilion Fund for the benefit of the 2nd XI"*.



Finally, at the instigation of John's elder brother, Edward Leake Brittain, a plaque was placed in his memory on one of the chairs in St George's Memorial Church, shown above.

Valerie Jacques & David Humberston



## FROM THE ARCHIVES

Our Secretary, Mike McKeon, has once again dived into our Archives for this edition. It is quite an interesting story, with it ending in the present day with a mysterious aura still surrounding it. It is from issue 63 of the Newsletter, published in May 1990. The actual story is from Easter 1989, and was submitted by the Padre of the time: Revd Cameron Walker.

“Two brass candlesticks have been given to St George’s by an anonymous donor. They were found at the back of the Church during the afternoon of Easter Day (1989), with a postcard bearing the following message:

*In the Autumn of 1914, during the retreat from Mons, an English soldier was passing a ruined Church. Only one wall and the altar were still standing.*

*He removed two brass candlesticks and took them to Coventry, where they have remained ever since.*

*Please accept their return in the spirit intended.*

The message is unsigned, but initialled ‘JS or maybe ‘JO’, and I should be very surprised if we ever discover the identity of our kind benefactor. We are even less likely to ever know from what church they originally came, but we shall give them a good home in St. George’s- in the spirit intended, and with gratitude.”

Mike McKeon and John Arnold worked together to establish what happened to these. They have concluded that the candlesticks are the ones photographed below, that were rescued from the Chaplaincy house in Haiglaan before its sale. It is amazing to think that these have survived for so long, and that they are finally back in Ypres thanks to the kindness of someone who felt compassion to return them to St. George’s.



*Photo by John Arnold*



## 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.





## MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

St. George's Memorial Church in Ypres was built in 1927 and provided a focal point for the British Community in Ypres as well as pilgrims visiting the cemeteries and memorials in the Ypres area. After the conclusion of the 1939-1945 war, the church buildings on Elverdingestraat, which had suffered only slight damage, were restored by the Royal British Legion. The British community in Ypres was much smaller than it had been before the Second World War and it was apparent that wider support was necessary in order to provide for the maintenance of the Church. To provide this support, our Association was created.

The objectives of the Association of the Friends of St. George's Church are to provide a link between members in the U.K and the church community in Ypres, to co-operate with other bodies such as the Royal British Legion and Commonwealth War Graves Commission for the benefit of the church, and to help in the maintenance of the church fabric and the life of St. George's Church.

Over the years, the Friends have supported projects including:

- *Specialist Cleaning of the magnificent stained-glass windows*
- *Purchase of a Chaplaincy house*
- *Restoration of the Military Standards hanging in the Church*
- *Redecorating of the Interior walls*
- *Updating the sound system within the Church*
- *Installing CCTV*
- *Redesigning the church website*
- *Refurbishment of the Church Hall*
- *Installation of the Bells*

The Friends issue a newsletter to members twice a year, giving news of what is happening in the church and in the Ypres area as well as interesting articles that our members contribute. Each May, there is a five-day Friends' Pilgrimage to Ypres, when war cemeteries and memorials are visited and new memorial plaques are dedicated at the Sunday evening service. Friends receive a discounted rate for this pilgrimage.

You are very welcome to join the Friends and to help in supporting and maintaining this very beautiful, unique church and feel a close connection to the life of the church and what it represents, even though you may be many miles away. As a Friend of St. George's Church, you will be joining a world-wide community who have forged a personal link with this historic centre of worship and remembrance.

We would be happy to forward everything by email if you wish. get in touch via the website or email: [plusnet32@espeare.plus.com](mailto:plusnet32@espeare.plus.com)



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

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

Name .....

Address .....

.....

Postcode .....

Email .....

Telephone .....

Date .....

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

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

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

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

Signed: .....

Dated: .....

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

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

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

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





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

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

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

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

**Membership Categories**

UK Individual	£10 per year
Overseas Individual	€15 per year
UK Joint Couples	£15 per year
Overseas Joint Couples	€20 per year
UK Corporate Membership	£20 per year
Overseas Corporate Membership	€25 per year
UK Life Membership	£250
Overseas Life Membership	€250
UK Joint Life Membership	£375
Overseas Joint Life Membership	€375

**Gift Aid Declaration in favour of  
The Friends of St. George's Memorial Church Ypres charity number 21382-L-1**

Donor title ..... forenames .....

Family name .....

Address .....

Postal town..... Post code .....

Telephone number in case of query .....

I wish to donate to The Friends under the Gift Aid scheme as follows:

The enclosed donation of .....

All donations I make to The Friends from the date of this declaration until further notice.

I confirm that I pay income tax and or capital gains tax at an amount at least equal to the sum mentioned above in each relevant tax year and that the amount of tax that all gifts made to charities does not exceed the total tax paid. I understand that VAT and council tax do not qualify as taxes.

Signature ..... date...../...../20.....

This declaration may be cancelled by you in writing at any time. Please advise The Friends of any change of address and should you no longer pay income or capital gains tax. Regular payments may be made by banker's order.



**Bankers Order Form**

To (name & address of your bank) .....  
.....

Please pay to Lloyds Finsbury Circus sort code 30 95 74 account number 00252832  
For the account of The Friends of St George’s Memorial Church Ypres

the sum of £ ..... (amount in words ..... )  
on ..... (date)  
and annually on the same date thereafter until further notice.

Kindly mention reference: Gift Aid .....

Account holders name .....

Account Number ..... Sort Code: .....

Signature ..... Date .....

**Electronic Banking**

Account name: The Friends of St. George’s Memorial Church Ypres

**From Great Britain:**

Sort code – 30.95.74 Account number – 00252832

**From outside Great Britain:**

IBAN – GB75 LOYD 3095 7400 2528 32 BIC – LOYDGB21027

**POLITE REQUEST**

Subscriptions are our lifeblood and keeping up to date with Annual Subscriptions reduces our Administration time and costs considerably. If you haven’t considered setting up a Standing Order, this is the most convenient way to stay up to date.



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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](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 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](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.



*HM Queen Elizabeth II meeting First World War Veteran  
Albert Alexandra under the Menin Gate, 1998*

‘Christ not only revealed to us  
the truth in his teachings.  
He lived by what he believed  
and gave us the strength  
to try to do the same –  
and, finally, on the cross,  
he showed the supreme example  
of physical and moral courage.’

HM Queen Elizabeth II