

SAINTS ALIVE

THE MAGAZINE FOR ALL SAINTS AND ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST, KINGSTON UPON THAMES

Remembrance Sunday 2018

A special service will take place on Sunday 11th November, exactly 100 years since the signing of The Armistice, to commemorate the centenary of the end of the First World War.

To mark this special anniversary the Memorial Gates, facing the Market Place, have been renovated and restored. The Remembrance Sunday service this year will therefore be different. It will begin as normal in Memorial Gardens for the laying of wreaths and an act of remembrance at the cenotaph. Those gathered there will then march and proceed, along with all members of the public wishing to join them, to the Market Place for the rededication of the Memorial Gates by the Bishop of Kingston, the Right Reverend Richard Cheetham. He will bless the newly refurbished gates and there will be a further act of remembrance.



Dedication and Opening of Memorial Gates, All Saints Church, Kingston-upon-Thames, By The Bishop of Kingston, Dr. Herbert, on Armistice Sunday, 9th November 1924.

The gates were unveiled on Armistice Sunday, 9th November 1924, by the Bishop of Kingston, Dr Herbert. The regiment was represented by Major General Sir John Raynsford Longley KCMG CB, who was the Colonel of the East Surrey Regiment from 1920 to 1939. Longley saw service in the Boer War as Kitchener's Adjutant, and commanded the 1st East Surreys in August 1914, fighting at Mons, Le Cateau, the Marne, the Aisne, La Bassée and Armentières.

The memorial gates were largely a gift from the East Surrey Regiment 4th Battalion on disbandment. They were erected in 1924 to complete the commemoration of those from the regiment who had fallen in the First World War and are

associated as well with the memorial chapel within All Saints Church. The East Surrey Regiment has long associations with the Royal Borough of Kingston-upon-Thames, dating back to 1783, when the Kingston-based the 70th (Surrey) Regiment and the 31st (Huntingdonshire) Regiment were linked together. In 1881 the combined Regiments became The East Surrey Regiment, with Kingston Barracks as their Depot. Many thousands of raw recruits passed through the Barrack's gates over the subsequent years, including over 84,000 between 1914 and 1917.



The War Memorial Gates are listed at Grade II and the reasons given summarise their importance:

Historic interest: as an eloquent witness to the tragic impact of world events on the local community, and the ultimate sacrifice made by so many from the Kingston area, particularly the East Surrey Regiment, in the First World War; Group value: placed between the Church of All Saints (Grade I) and the Market House (Grade II) and symbolically connected with the nearby Kingston War Memorial (Grade II); Design: impressive and carefully formed iron memorial gates embellished with the East Surrey regimental badge.

All Saints is grateful to The War Memorials Trust for its support of the restoration and also to the East Surrey Regimental Trust.

From the vicarage

All Saints

by | Revd Jonathan Wilkes



St John's

by | Revd Vicky Maunder

A tragic man

To describe the good life, the fullness of living – which we think about rather a lot here in churches (John 10:10) – Friedrich Nietzsche talked about two Greek Gods on a day out at the beach: Apollo, who he understood as the god of the dream, of art and illusion and Dionysus who, for Nietzsche, represented the chaotic, the dangerous, the unexpected. He painted a picture of these two as opposite ways of living. The first, Apollonian, was a generator of creativity, where we play with fantasies about ourselves and dream about who we could be and what we could do if we were able to live as our best. The second, Dionysian, brings cold water to those dreams forcing us to re-immersing ourselves in the reality of our daily lives, with all our frailties and failings. For him, the person who achieves the fullness of living combines these two and is known as “the tragic man”. Tragic – not as in terrible, disastrous, dire – but as in someone willing to bear the joy of hope and creativity, even if it risks being entirely lost. He imagined a small child on the beach at low tide, enthusiastically building elaborate sandcastles only for them to be washed away when high tide returned. To build them with the expectation that they will last forever was unrealistic fantasy yet to be put off by the inevitable, and not build at all, meant that possibility and potential were lost forever. The Tragic Man, for Nietzsche, is the one whose passions are not dimmed by reality but, rather, enhanced by them. The richest form of life, generating the deepest meaning, is one that is formed in the interplay between illusion and pragmatism, joy and sorrow, despair and hope.

The birth of Jesus, remembered at Christmas, begins the life of one such Tragic Man who, apparently, knew entirely how his story would end and yet never faltered from seeking to create. Indeed, not just in spite of the ending did he live so joyously, so lovingly, with such freedom and fearlessness, but because of it, and bid those around him to do the same (“If you would be my disciples, take up your cross and follow me”). As Joy Gresham says to C S Lewis in *Shadowlands*, “the pain then is part of the happiness now. That’s the deal”.

Scratch just beneath the tinsel and turkey and what you find at Christmas is the birth of something that was willing to make a deal with death in order that it might find life, and life in abundance. What this season actually marks is the start of a tragedy – a glorious, white-knuckled, enthralling tragedy – where we find hints of how to be, what St Irenaeus called, “a human being fully alive”: able to love, willing to forgive, daring to dream, filled with joy and hope and peace.

May Christmas, and the new year that follows, bring you all of these and more.

Jonathan

The darkest time of the year will soon be upon us although of course it is never that dark in a city. When I visit my parents in the countryside, I’m always struck by the difference. At night the deepest darkness descends. The kind of darkness where you can’t see your hand in front of your face. If you wake in the night, the darkness and silence are quite overpowering. They swallow you up and it is easy to lose perspective on your life and the world. Here in Kingston of course the street lights flicker in through the windows and there is the background hum of cars.

My children don’t like the dark. From a very young age they wanted the lights left on at bedtime, fearing monsters lurking in the darkness, hiding in the corners of their rooms. So we left the landing light on and bought them nightlights for their rooms. In those exhausting early years of parenthood it never occurred to me to do anything else. I did whatever was easiest to get them to sleep so I could go and collapse in a heap! But I read an interesting book about darkness and light recently that made me reflect on this. It’s called “learning to walk in the dark” and the writer argues that we are very binary in our attitudes to darkness and light, particularly in the Christian faith. Darkness is seen as something bad, to be scared of and avoided so we often use the language of darkness to talk about difficult times in our lives. In contrast light is seen as good and safe.

But the book argues that when times of darkness come, therefore, which they inevitably do, we are not equipped to cope. We haven’t learnt to accept and embrace the darkness and to know that God is in the darkness as well as the light. It was an interesting read and has made me reflect that rather than buying children’s nightlights perhaps I should instead have taken the time to talk to them about why they were afraid of the dark and to reassure them and help them overcome their fear.

It will soon be Christmas and the promise of the Christmas message, not the sanitised sentimental one we see in Christmas adverts, as cute as they are, but the real message that is that Jesus is born into a dark world of political upheaval and uncertainty, a world of pain and loss. God comes among us in this small child so that he can truly experience everything we do; so that he can truly walk with us in whatever darkness we face. The message of Christmas is that we are never alone. God is with us, loving us, so we can set aside our fear and face whatever challenges life brings with hope. I wish you a very happy Christmas.

Vicky

Tackling homelessness in Kingston

by | Matt Hatton, Operational Director, Kingston Churches Action on Homelessness

The work of Kingston Churches Action on Homelessness (KCAH) is constantly evolving. We offer an Advice and Information Service and an Accommodation Project. We are also known for overseeing successful volunteer-led Night Shelter Schemes; KCAH is incredibly thankful to All Saints for always providing a venue as well as being a source of volunteers for the night shelter scheme.

Most people are acutely aware that rough sleeper numbers have risen throughout the country. The 2017 estimate was 4,751 across the country on any one night. Kingston is no exception to this increase in numbers. An official estimate of 27 rough sleepers was recorded in Kingston in 2017 compared to 23 the year before – a snap shot from just one autumn night.

What is KCAH currently doing to address the issue of rough sleeping?

Central government has injected significant funding into Kingston for this winter to combat rough sleeping. Some of this funding has enabled KCAH to open a night shelter scheme in September: “The Haven” is based at Everyday Church and John Bunyan Church. In week one, 33 individuals made use of the night shelter for food, warmth and shelter. The Haven will run until the end of January and we will then revert to the more established roaming church shelters of which All Saints has always been one of the venues.



Guests and volunteers at this year's night shelter



So, in theory, no-one has to sleep rough in Kingston at all this winter! Yet the reality is that we are working with people who have been homeless for years; they may be suffering with addiction and other health issues and this often prevents them from embracing the services that could be available to them. Gaining their trust is objective number one and from there amazing things can and do happen! KCAH is all about finding solutions.

Solutions can only happen through a multi-agency approach. Although there are few new “housing options”, it is about pulling the existing resources together in a more intelligent way. A temporary post of Rough Sleeper Co-ordinator has been created at KCAH to focus on this area of work.

The extra funding from government has a short shelf life. So, to tackle homelessness in Kingston and make it sustainable, “Kingston” as a whole needs to support local charities such as KCAH and the Joel Community Services in an unprecedented way, both through volunteering and financially. That is the reality. Granted, big national charities do amazing work but for local people to see results at a local level, they need to support local charities.

How you can help today:

To find out more about volunteering at The Haven night shelter: visit www.kcah.org.uk for forthcoming volunteer training dates or email winternightshelter@kcah.org.uk

To donate, please visit www.kcah.org.uk or email Camilla Wheal: camilla.w@kcah.org.uk



“We will remember them”



Douglas Archibald White (Bob) with his family as a young boy and before the birth of his fourth sister. Photograph from family collection by kind permission

The following extracts are from “We will remember them” *The men from the Kingston Congregational Church who died in the Great War 1914-1918*. In this book, John Fisher and Susan Watts set out to fulfil their belief that those listed on the KURC memorial plaque “should be honoured as people rather than just viewed as a list of names from a bygone time.” In this short piece we focus on just one name from the list, Douglas Archibald White, to enable some personal context to be given to the life that was lost.

Douglas White, usually known as Bob, was born on 29th January 1898 in Winchester, where his father Henry Archibald White owned a gentlemen’s outfitters shop.

In 1906 the family moved to Kingston to run a shop at 7-9 Thames Street, close by the parish church. They lived at “Caer Gwent”, Gloucester Road. Bob’s parents joined KCC where his father was for some time secretary of the General Purposes Committee. Bob went to Kingston Grammar School where he was described as a “hard worker of excellent character”. In January 1916, just before his 18th birthday ... he joined the 28th Battalion, London Regiment (Artists’ Rifles) as a Private [Regimental Number 6780]. He went out to France on 21st April 1917, eventually serving as a 2nd Lieutenant in the 8th Battalion, East Surrey Regiment.

On the 22 March 1918 at 8am the Battalion was involved in holding the line at Hallet Wood (“B” and “C” Companies) and Frières Wood (“A” and “D” Companies) in support of the 4th Hussars. ... The Regimental Diary for 23 March 1918 reads: “*The shelling in Hallet and Frières Woods greatly increased in intensity, and at 7am the enemy attacked in mass, with intense machine gun fire.*” ... During 23 March Bob and his party had been cut off and surrounded in Frières Wood. Taking shelter in a shell hole, they held out until only four were left alive. Bob was shot through the chest and died instantly while his fellow soldiers were taken prisoner. He was just 20 years old. ... Bob was reported in *Monthly Notes* (April 1918) as “missing”: “*He with his men went over the top and none has been heard of since. What can we do but hope – and pray? We clutch at possibilities and argue the chances, but in such an hour we fall back upon the eternal certainties. We know that whatever happened, Bob White did his duty and did it with a cheer. If ever there was a Happy Warrior it was he. And we know that around him and us all are the everlasting arms.*”

The White family were still not sure of Bob’s fate at the time of the Armistice in November 1918. In fact it was not until the following March 1919 that a Private McMillan, who had been taken prisoner at Frières Wood, testified that Bob had been killed in battle. Bob’s body was never found. He is commemorated at the Pozières Memorial.



Douglas Archibald White. Photograph from family collection by kind permission



Exhibition about the local soldiers remembered on St John’s WW1 War memorial

researched by Local History Officer, Carolynne Cotton, in St John’s Church from 11th November until the 30th November.

For more information and opening times of the church contact the vicar Vicky Maunder.

Remembrance Day

A soft grey day
on the cusp of winter chill.
Fallen leaves, fragments underfoot –
crushed frail wings of Speckled Wood;
and shy moorhens dipping red shields
backpedal against the charging stream.

The glowing bonfire’s heaving heart
aims smoking tracers to the ashen sky.
Bitter drops of hawthorne’s vivid blood
flood the hedgerows; a heron waits –
and by the church scarlet poppies
lie entrenched with pale crosses.

From Hyde Park cannon boom

fracturing the still air.

© Sue Burley

Armistice: The East Surrey Regiment on November 11th 1918

by | John Dewhurst

During the course of the Great War, the East Surrey Regiment expanded from just two battalions to over twenty, comprising, along with the original Regular and two Special Reserve battalions, four Territorial Army and twelve “New Army” units, including four London Regiment battalions that were “cap bagged” to the Regiment. By the end of the war, some of the New Army battalions had been disbanded and dispersed to other East Surrey formations. The 7th, for example, was disbanded in February 1918 as part of a major army reorganisation and dispersed to the 8th, 9th & 13th Battalions, whilst the 15th Battalion was formed in March 1918 only to be absorbed into the 13th four months later.

The various Battalion War Diaries show that when the Armistice was signed at 11am on 11th November 1918, nine battalions of the East Surrey Regiment were deployed on active service, mainly in Europe but also in the Middle East. A tenth battalion, the **1/6th**, had returned to its station in India after having spent a year in the Aden Settlement, protecting the territory from Turkish threats.

The 1st Battalion was stationed on the Somme, withdrawing from the front line after weeks of fierce fighting and marching from Pont-sur-Sambre to Le Quesney after a 6.30am start. The final casualties of the war (4 “Other Ranks” killed, and 2 officers and 37 “Other Ranks” wounded) had been sustained between November 4th and 7th. The Diary makes no mention of the Armistice on 11th November. On the next day, it records that following an inspection “...a large quantity of new clothing is required, many suits at present in possession of the men are badly torn”.

The 2nd Battalion was stationed in Salonika, opposing Bulgarian forces. On 1st November, when Bulgaria and Turkey surrendered, the Diary records that the Battalion was in Guvesne, near Salonika “... standing by for a move”. This move proved to be a voyage across the Aegean to join the Allied occupation of Constantinople. Following a route march to the embarkation base, where the Brigade Commander praised their marching and appearance, new kit was drawn from the stores and surplus transport handed in, leaving the battalion, as the diary puts it, “immobile”. But not for long. On 11th November the Battalion embarked for Constantinople, where on 15th November they occupied forts on the European shore of the Bosphorus. The Armistice is not mentioned in the Diary.

The 1/5th Battalion, one of the East Surrey’s Territorial Army units, was deployed in Mesopotamia and was encamped at Lesser Zab on the banks of the river Tigris, occupied in repairing the vital north-south railway line. The Diary had recorded on 1st November: “All hostilities with Turkey to cease. An Armistice has been signed by Turkey. No more forward movements to be made”. Now, on 11th November, at 10am, the diarist records: “Received news of Armistice with Germany. Great rejoicings.” And then it was back to repairing the railway line!

The response of the **8th Battalion**, billeted at Pommereuil in northern France following fierce fighting earlier in the month, was more animated: “At 09.30, a message was received to the effect that hostilities would cease at 1100 hours ... the Battalion band paraded and two bugles sounded the ‘Stand Fast’, the Band marching up and down the village playing the ‘Marseillaise’ followed by large crowds of men of the various units billeted in the village.”

The 9th Battalion was at Le Pissotiau, in northern France, marching back from the Front following fierce fighting earlier in the month. On 10th November, the Battalion had been marching down the Mons to Maubeuge road when a German shell exploded amongst them, killing three horses and wounding eight men. The march was continued on 11th November. The War Diary entry for the day records: “At 5.30am the Battalion moved off, and on the way, news was received that the enemy had accepted the terms of our Armistice. The men hardly credited the news (...) In the afternoon, the CO had the Battalion paraded and addressed a few words to them (and) thanked them for their splendid work”.

The 12th Battalion had crossed the river Scheldt near Harlesbeke in Belgium, following action on the Cambrai-Essaut Canal, and was advancing towards the German border. The Diary entry for 11th November reads: “Signing of Armistice was announced at 10.30. Divine Service held at 18.00”. The following day is described as: “...a quiet day: sports and concerts were arranged”.

Three further battalions, **the 1/21st, the 1/23rd, and the 2/23rd**, London Regiment units assigned to the Regiment, were also in Belgium, taking part in the general advance towards Germany. The diarist of the **1/23rd** notes: “News received that the German delegation had signed the Armistice terms. No demonstration ensued”. At the **2/23rd** it was business as usual: “At 10.30 hours news was received that an Armistice has been signed with Germany and that hostilities should cease at 11.00 hours. However, the advance was confirmed and the Battalion marched to Ellezelles”.

The “war to end all wars” was over, but at a terrible cost. 6,684 East Surreys did not come home. And with hostilities ended, the British government was confronted with a huge logistical challenge. An enormous fighting force was deployed in Europe, the Middle East, Turkey and in several other theatres, but with no fighting to do. Just how was this force to be managed in the weeks and months following the Armistice, and when (and indeed how) was it to be brought home? Some battalions would become part of the Army of Occupation of the Rhineland and the 2nd was involved in the occupation of Constantinople. But for the 1st Battalion, it was not over. After a short respite in England, it joined the four-battalion-strong British contribution to the Allied Expeditionary Force that deployed to Russia in 1919 to support the Tsarist forces against the insurgent Bolsheviks.

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All Saints Christmas Tree festival

All Saints Christmas Tree Festival launch is at 11am on Saturday 15th December. During the Christmas period the church will be filled with decorated and lit trees in aid of local charities.

Also at All Saints: Advent Carols on Sunday 2nd December at 6pm; Community Carol Service on Sunday 16th December at 4.30pm; Epiphany Carols on Sunday 6th January at 6pm.

All Saints Church
Market Square
Kingston upon Thames
KT1 1JP

Tickets at the door or wegottickets.com
£12, £10 (concessions)
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Saturday 24 November 2018 at 7.30pm

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November Events

Sun 4th All Saints 9.30am Patronal Festival
Sun 4th All Saints 6pm All Souls Requiem
Mon 5th All Saints 1.15pm Lunchtime Concert - South London Saxophone Quartet
Sat 10th All Saints 7.30pm Kingston Chamber Orchestra
Sun 11th St John's 10am Parish Communion with Act of Remembrance at 11am.
Mon 12th All Saints 1.15pm Lunchtime Concert - Simon Biaseck (tenor)
Thu 15th All Saints 1-2pm Topical Lunch Independent Shops in Kingston. Keith Statham, owner of 7000 Jars of Beer
Thu 15th All Saints 5pm Christmas Lights Switch on Service
Sat 17th All Saints 7.30pm Kingston Choral Society
Mon 19th All Saints 1.15pm Lunchtime Concert - Richard Pilliner (organ)
Wed 21st All Saints Music with Soul
Sat 24th All Saints 7.30pm Kingston Philharmonia
Sun 25th St John's Parish Communion celebrating the completion of the phase 1 building works

December Events

Sat 1st 7.30pm All Saints Ember Choral Society
Sat 1st St John's Christmas Spectacular
Sun 2nd All Saints 6pm Advent Carol Service
Sun 2nd St John's 10am Christingle All Age Communion in support of the Children's Society
Tue 4th All Saints Banquet Records – As It Is
Tue 4th St John's 7pm Christmas Memorial Service remembering those who have died
Wed 5th St John's 5.30pm Kingston University Carol Service
Thu 6th All Saints 11.30am Diocesan Mother's Union Advent Carol Service
Sat 8th All Saints 12.30pm Wedding of Carly Skilton and Emmet Murphy
Sat 8th All Saints 7.30pm Twickenham Choral Society
Sun 9th All Saints Baptism of Arthur Barnaby Langford Joyce & Grace Mary-Anne Keeling
Sun 9th All Saints 3pm 3rd Age Orchestra
Tue 11th All Saints 7.30pm Kingston Grammar School Christmas Service
Wed 12th All Saints 7pm Music with Soul
Sat 15th All Saints 11-12noon Christmas Tree Festival Launch
Sat 15th All Saints 7.30pm Teddington Choral Society
Sun 16th All Saints 4.30pm Community Carol Service
Sun 16th St John's 6pm Candlelight Carol Service
Mon 17th All Saints 1.15pm Special Christmas Lunchtime Concert – Stephen Westrop (Organ)
Wed 19th All Saints 7.00pm Tiffin School Nine Lessons & Carols
Thu 20th All Saints 1.15pm Tiffin School Carol Service (House 1-4)
Thu 20th All Saints 2pm Tiffin School Carol Service (House 5-8)
Mon 24th All Saints 4pm and 5.30pm Carols Around the Crib; **All Saints** 11pm Midnight Mass
Mon 24th St John's 4pm Children's Crib Service; **St John's** 11.30pm Midnight Communion
Tue 25th All Saints 9.30am Christmas Day Service
Tue 25th St John's 10am Christmas Communion

January Events

Sun 6th All Saints 6pm Epiphany Carol Service
Sun 6th St John's 10am All Age Communion celebrating Epiphany
Sun 13th St John's 10am Parish Communion and Holy Baptism of Florence and Charlotte Wickson; **St John's** 12noon Holy Baptism of Huxley Owen
Sat 19th All Saints 4pm Charity Art Festival
Sun 20th St John's 12noon Holy Baptism of Millie Colyer and Mollie Woodbridge
Sat 26th All Saints Burns' Night
Sun 27th All Saints 9.30am Baptism of Sophie Freya Steibelt

Mid-October to Tuesday 18th December All Saints: Cards for Good Causes

16th November-24th December All Saints Grounds: Alpine Village and Christmas Market

All-Year-Round Events

All Saints: The church and cafe are open daily and visitors are welcome.

On weekdays and Saturdays from 11am to 12.15pm trained listeners are available to offer pastoral support to people who wish to speak with someone in confidence. Little Saints toddler group is on Tuesdays & Fridays.

St. John's: The church is open for Little Groovers toddler group on Tuesdays term time only; the Community Café is open Saturday mornings 10am to 12. All Welcome. St John's Weekly Bible Study Group – Tuesday evenings 7.30pm to 8.30pm. We are reading Mark's Gospel, discussing a chapter each week. For more information contact Gordon gjump@gmail.com.”

All Saints Sunday Services

8am Holy Communion
9.30 Sung Eucharist (with Children's Church).
6pm Sung Evensong

Weekday Communion Services

Tuesday and Wednesday 12 noon Common Worship;
Thursday 10.30am Book of Common Prayer;
Friday 11.30am Praytime - brief songs and prayers for Toddlers and Carers; 12 noon Silent Prayer

St John's Sunday Services

1st Sunday of the month: 10am Family Communion
2nd, 4th and 5th Sundays of the month: 10am Parish Communion with children's church
3rd Sunday of the month: 9am Holy Communion
10am Sacred Space with children's church
Morning Prayer is said in Church at **9am** on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday

Celebration and Thanksgiving Service

A service to celebrate and give thanks for the completion of the phase one building works at St John's Church of new heating, lighting and electrics. Sunday 25th November at 10am. Everyone is warmly invited to come and celebrate!

Wonderful news! St John's Church has received a substantial grant which will enable them to do a second phase of building work in the church next summer of toilets, a kitchen and storage cupboards. This grant is from the Garfield Weston Foundation as part of their anniversary award scheme.

Come and meet your local Councillors, Fiona Boulton, Jon Tolley and Rebekah Moll. We hold our advice sessions on Saturday mornings from 10-11.30am at St John's Church. The sessions run alongside the Church coffee mornings so occasionally can't happen if the church is closed to visitors. No appointments necessary but please contact fiona.boulton@kingston.gov.uk to check dates or if you would like to arrange a specific time.

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All Saints & St John's are part of an Anglican Team with St John's Kingston Vale

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DEADLINE FOR FEB/MAR/APR 2019 - 7th JAN

Pick cards and gift wrap. What's next? Let me think...
 Time to relax into the season and stop off for a
 Christmas drink.

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