



Remembrance

There are now no living veterans from the First World War but the four years of fighting had a powerful affect on the churches and congregations of Sutton. St Nicholas like many local churches holds memorials of some of those from the parish that died in the conflict. The majority of its dead however are listed in among the 524 names that are on the memorial in Manor Park.

The First World War saw men from the parish of St Nicholas fight and die on battlefields in Iraq, Turkey and in the trenches of France and Belgium. It saw Sutton men who had emigrated to new lives in Australia and Canada answer the call of the Empire to return and fight.

During the fifty years after the consecration of the new building in 1864 the worship at St Nicholas had developed to include congregational hymn singing. The experience of Christian faith and worship provided a strong emotional and spiritual framework for those men who left to fight in the years after 1914.





Rev. John Allen Giles
Rector (1867-1885)

Portrait:
City of London



“The service of public worship, as now conducted, is choral, hearty and in most decided contrast with the prevailing until recently in this as in most other rural parishes.”

Church's Directory of Sutton 1880.





Fight the good fight with all thy might.
Christ is thy strength and Christ thy right.
Lay hold on life, and it shall be
thy joy and crown eternally.

Run the straight race through God's good grace;
lift up thine eyes, and seek Christ's face.
Life with its way before us lies;
Christ is the path, and Christ the prize.

Cast care aside; lean on thy guide.
God's boundless mercy will provide.
Trust, and thy trusting soul shall prove
Christ is its life, and Christ its love.

Faint not nor fear: God's arms are near.
God changeth not, and thou art dear.
Only believe, and thou shalt see
that Christ is all in all to thee.

Words: John Samuel Bewley Monsell, Jr 1860

Hymns Ancient & Modern





The Reverend Canon
H.W.Turner
Rector (1886-1922)



Herbert William Turner was rector of Sutton during the Great War. Before becoming rector in 1886 he had previously spent 10 years as the first minister of Christ Church.

He was highly regarded in Sutton as a friend of the poor and established a mission church in

Collingwood Road and was Chairman of the School Governors and President of the Cottage Hospital.

Many of the Sutton men who went to fight in 1914 had been baptised by the rector.



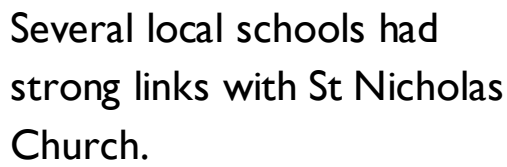


By the outbreak of war Rev H W Turner's health had been begun to fail.

He knew the school boys at Bomfords School (now Homefield Prep School) and Sutton High School who sat in the pews and listened to his sermons. He knew the boy scouts who attended church parade. This was his grandsons generation.

The care of so many families who experienced loss fell heavily on him and his curates. This was a loss that he came to share in 1915 when his grandson Lawrence Turner Blades was killed.





Sutton High School for Boys closed in 1968. The school used to occupy land near Sutton High School for Girls.

The boys used St Nicholas as their chapel and filed into St Nicholas in their purple uniforms and peaked caps.



HOMEFIELD SCHOOL
SUTTON, SURREY.

Bomford's School used to be in a house called Homefield in Sutton Park Road. Homefield Preparatory School still exists and is now in Western Road.

Every Sunday a dozen or so boarders from the school would attend matins at St Nicholas.

Boys from the Bomford's school formed the 1st Scout troop in 1909 and held their church parades at St Nicholas.

The school became known as Homefield Park after 1912.





Second Lieutenant Arthur James Probert of the 25th (Tyneside Irish) Bn Northumberland Fusiliers died 9th April 1917 aged 23.

He was the son of James and Louisa Probert who lived at "The Beeches" in Sherwood Park Road.

He enlisted 26th October 1914 as a private in the 28th Bn London Regiment (Artists Rifles). He was commissioned 10th July 1915 and assigned to the 1st Northumberland Fusiliers.

He is buried in Roclincourt Military Cemetery. He is also commemorated on the Sutton War Memorial.



Officer, a sergeant and a private soldier of the Northumberland Fusiliers: National Library of Scotland





Corporal Cedric William Sutcliff of the 2nd/6th Bn Durham Light Infantry died 28th August 1916 aged 25.

He was the son of Robert and Elisabeth Sutcliff who lived at "Melroyd" in Devon Road in Cheam.

He arrived in France on 24th January 1915.

He is buried in St. Venant Communal Cemetery.

He is also commemorated on the Sutton War Memorial.



Battalion of the Durham Light Infantry: National Library of Scotland





Second Lieutenant Charles Bernard Marks of the 8th Bn East Surrey Regiment died 23rd October 1918 aged 21. He was the son of Mr. and Mrs. H. Bernard Marks who used to live at "The Lodge" in Sutton. The family was Jewish. His father was a journalist and took the family to live in Maida Vale after the war.

He arrived in France on 5th July 1916 as a private in the 16th Bn London Regiment. He was commissioned on the 30th April 1918 and assigned to the East Surrey Regiment. He was awarded the Military Cross.

He is buried in Montay British Cemetery. He is also commemorated on the Sutton War Memorial.



East Surrey's in Gas Mask: <http://www.exploringsurreypast.org.uk/>





Lieutenant Eric Corveroy Cheshire of the 4th Bn Royal Fusiliers died 3rd May 1917 aged 21.

He was the son of Edward and Kate Cheshire who lived at "Coniston" in Burdon Lane in Belmont. His father was an assurance clerk.

He enlisted first as a Private in the 2nd Bn London Regiment and then promoted.

He has no known grave and is remembered on the Arras Memorial. He is also commemorated on the Sutton War Memorial.



Officers of a Royal Fusilier Battalion





Private Ernest George Foord of the 1st Bn Bedfordshire Regiment died 22nd July 1916 aged 30.

He was the brother of Harold R Foord.

He was a railway clerk before the war and living in Luton.

He has no known grave and is remembered on the Thiepval Memorial.



Men of the 1st Bn Bedfordshire Regiment larking around: <http://www.bedfordregiment.org.uk/>





Le soldat de 2e classe Francis Camille Jean Verdavoir of the 137e Regiment d'Infanterie died 2nd October 1918 aged 21.

He was born in Auchy-lez-Orchies in the north of France near the border with Belgium.

He enlisted in 1917 in Cambrai.

He was killed at St Marie a Py near the River Marne.



Men of the 137e RI regimental armoury mark the start of the war: <http://logeaisjp.blogspot.co.uk/>





Lieutenant Frederick G Stribling of the Sherwood Foresters (Notts and Derby Regiment) died 8th July 1916 aged 24. He was the son of Alfred and Elizabeth Stribling who lived at "Thornlea" in Grove Road.

He enlisted 26th October 1914 as a private in the 28th Bn London Regiment (Artists Rifles). He was commissioned 28th May 1915 and assigned to the 1st Notts and Derby Regiment.

He is buried in Waloy-Baillon Communal Cemetery Extension. He has an additional separate monument within St Nicholas and is also commemorated on the Sutton War Memorial.



The Sherwood Foresters on Aubers Ridge 1916: <http://www.trent-to-trenches.co.uk/>





Private Gordon Henry Foster Wootten of the 44th Bn (Manitoba Regiment) Canadian Infantry died 23rd August 1917 aged 25.

He was the son of Robert and Annie Wootten who lived at 11-15 High Street and ran a linen drapers shop.

He has no known grave and is remembered on the Vimy Memorial.

He is also commemorated on the Sutton War Memorial.



Canadian soldier in a 'bath': <http://www.iwm.org.uk/>





Sub-Lieutenant Harold Rickwood Foord of the 2nd (Reserve) Bn. Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve died 4th April 1919 aged 36.

He was married to Mrs F.I. Foord and they lived at "Aysgarth" in Throwley Road. Before the war he had been a company secretary.

He was a sergeant in the 11th Bn Middlesex Regiment before being commissioned into the Navy.

He is buried in Aldershot Military Cemetery. He is also commemorated on the Sutton War Memorial.



Middlesex returning from the trenches in the pouring rain: National Library of Scotland





Private Harold Britton Jones of the 2nd/1st Bn London Regiment (Royal Fusiliers) died 1st July 1916. He arrived in France on 30th August 1915.

He has no known grave and is remembered on the Thiepval Memorial. He is also remembered on the memorial tablet taken from Congregational church and now in Trinity and also on the Sutton War Memorial.



Troops of the Royal Fusiliers resting on the Albert-Bapaume road near Albert after the attack in July 1916: <http://www.iwm.org.uk/>





Leading Seaman Henry Edmund Green of the Royal Navy, H.M.S. Monarch died 9th October 1918 aged 21.

He was the son of Henry Green, a farm labourer of Stoke Row in Henley-on-Thames. The family were living at Stoke Row in 1911. He may have spent time in Sutton with relatives. He has no known grave and is remembered on the Portsmouth Naval Memorial.



H.M.S. Orion, leads Monarch, Conqueror and Thunderer, 1918. Taken from H.M.S. Queen Elizabeth: Imperial War Museum





Second Lieutenant John Seear Gibson of the 8th Bn. Bedfordshire Regiment attached 16th Trench Mortar Battery died 15th October 1916 aged 32.

He was the fourth son of the late Edward and Martha Gibson and had lived in Sutton. He was married to Elsie May Gibson and moved to Maidstone in Kent.

He originally enlisted in the Navy as an ordinary seaman before changing to the army. He has no known grave and is remembered on the Thiepval Memorial. He is also commemorated on the Sutton War Memorial.



Men manoeuvring a trench mortar: National Library of Scotland





Lieutenant Nathaniel Charles Hardwick of the 10th Bn Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry died 15th September 1917 aged 42.

He was the son of Charles and Julia Hardwick of Sutton. Before the war he was a school master in Bodmin in Cornwall.

He arrived in France on 24th July 1917.

He is buried in Ramscappelle Road Military Cemetery.



DCLI in Arras during May 1917: DCLI Museum Bodmin





Lieutenant Percy Horace Adams of the 4th Bn Sherwood Foresters (Notts and Derby Regiment) attached to the 1st Bn died 3rd October 1918 aged 20.

He was the son of Alfred and Amelia Adams who lived at "Woodleigh" in Cumnor Road. He enlisted first as a Private in the 28th Bn. London Regiment (Artist's Rifles).

He is buried in Roclincourt Military Cemetery. He is also commemorated on the Sutton War Memorial.



John Nash: "Oppy Wood, Evening, 1917"





Sous Lieutenant Pierre Emile Eugene Waroquet of the 54e Regiment d'Infanterie died 4th November 1914 aged 25.

He was born in L'Aigle in Normandy.

He was a professional soldier and had enlisted in 1909 at Le Havre.

He was killed at Verdun on the Meuse.





Private Ronald Denne Hewitt of the 8th Bn Royal Fusiliers died 7th July 1916 aged 19.

He was the son of James and Maude Hewitt who lived at "Tweedsmuir" in Woodcote Park Road in Epsom.

He has no known grave and is remembered on the Thiepval Memorial.

He is also remembered on the Epsom War Memorial.



Epsom Royal Fusiliers Recruits: <http://www.exploringsurreypast.org.uk/>





Second Lieutenant Stanley Michael Gashion of the 1st Bn East Surrey Regiment died 8th May 1917 aged 19.

He was the son of Michael and Maude Gashion of "Delamere" in Grange Road. He arrived in France on 27th August 1916.

He has no known grave and is remembered on the Arras Memorial.

He is also commemorated on the Cheam War Memorial.



Men from the East Surrey's learning to map read. Chertsey 1915: <http://www.exploringsurreypast.org.uk/>





Lance Corporal Stanley Cyril Narraway of the 2nd Bn London Regiment (Royal Fusiliers) died 11th December 1915 aged 19.

He was the son of Stanley and Florence Narraway who lived at "The Croft" in Stanley Park Road in Carshalton.

He landed in Turkey on the 30th August 1915.

He is buried in Redoubt Cemetery, Helles.

He is also commemorated on the Sutton War Memorial.



A soldier at Gallipoli in 1915, attempts to draw the fire of a Turkish sniper to reveal his position: <http://www.iwm.org.uk/>





Private Victor Spencer Harold Laudy of the 14th Bn London Regiment (London Scottish) died 26th September 1916 aged 21.

He was the son of Joseph and Edith Laudy of "Sittard" in Grove Road.

His father came from The Netherlands and was a music publisher.

He is buried in Duisans British Cemetery, Etrun.

He is also commemorated on the Sutton War Memorial.



Men of the 14th (County of London) Battalion, London Regiment (London Scottish) at bayonet drill on 10 November 1914:
<http://www.iwm.org.uk/>





Lieutenant Wilfred Metcalfe of the 9th Bn East Surrey Regiment died 19th August 1916 aged 20.

He was the son of David and Martha Metcalfe of "Cheam Ride" in Worcester Road. His father was the director of a gunpowder manufacturer.

He arrived in France on 12th May 1916.

He is buried in Abbeville Communal Cemetery. He is also remembered on the memorial tablet taken from Congregational church and now in Trinity and also on the Sutton War Memorial.



An infantry attack on the Somme: <http://www.iwm.org.uk/>





Private William John Hutchings of the 4th Bn Bedfordshire Regiment died 26th October 1918 aged 19.

He was the son of John and Mary Hutchings of Tudor Court Road.

He is buried in Terlicthun British Cemetery, Wimille.

He is also commemorated on the Sutton War Memorial.



The Bedfordshire Regiment, passing through a French village on its way to the line, shortly before the start an offensive.

