This booklet commemorates the war dead of Erdington in the Great War 1914-1918.

It aims to highlight the servicemen who are buried in the graveyard and bring some of the heritage of the church back into view for current generations of the people of Erdington.

There are 136 names commemorated on the memorial tablet which was destroyed in the church fire of 2007. 29 of these men are buried in the graveyard and their graves are maintained by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission. This includes a memorial screen for eight servicemen who’s graves cannot be located in the graveyard. The Erdington Historical Society have also identified a further 20 private stones where the families have remembered 20 of their loved ones who are buried abroad or lost at sea.

Interestingly the Commonwealth War Graves Commission use the memorial of the Wood’s family to indicate St Barnabas Church, Erdington on their website.


The booklet is in three sections

1. The 29 servicemen who are buried in the graveyard.

2. The 20 private graves commemorating loved ones who were lost and buried abroad

3. A selection of memories of local people whose grandfathers, great uncles and other family members who fought in WW1.

Looking back, it is extremely humbling to acknowledge the debt of gratitude which we owe to our past Erdington community and the efforts they made to maintain our values of honesty, generosity, fairness and pride. This booklet is not about celebrating war rather it is about learning from it and in doing so making the world a better place.

Looking forward, Erdington 100 years on is a very different place. Our community has changed greatly as people from all over the world seek to make a better life for themselves. The problems we face are wide ranging and complex and impact on all sectors of our community. We need to pull together if we are to challenge and fix these problems and no single institution or person can do this on their own.

The church stands proudly in the middle of a thriving and busy High St and is an oasis of peace and of hope. We wish to remember and learn from the lessons of the past. It is the future that should concern us more and in how we all contribute and change Erdington for the better.

Canon Revd Freda Evans
Vicar St Barnabas Church.
Parish Church of St Barnabas Erdington.

It must be remembered that in a story of Erdington Parish Church, nothing of historical or antiquarian interest can be said, for it was not until 1824 that Erdington, with a population of less than 2,000 possessed a church of its own. Originally it was part of the parish of Aston, which once contained 14,090 acres and covering such remote places as Deritend and Water Orton, Bordesley and Castle Bromwich, Duddeston and Erdington and was one of the largest parishes in England. But the continual increase of population necessitated divisions of this parish and new ecclesiastical districts were formed. The ancient hamlet of Erdington- as it once called - contains 3,600 acres, a good fourth of the mother parish.

At the end of the Napoleonic Wars in the year 1818, a sum of £1,000,000 was granted by Parliament of Commissioners for the erection of new churches in those places where the population was so rapidly increasing. In 1824 a further sum of £500,000 was added. Erdington was one of the parishes which benefited by this grant. A site was given by Earl Howe, who on June 11th 1822 laid the foundation stone of St Barnabas Chapel-of-Ease the remnant of which forms the nave of the present church. Great interest was shown in the ceremony. We are told that it took place “in the presence of the clergy, a considerable number of gentry and families of the neighbourhood and of a large concourse of spectators.” When his Lordship and party reached the stone, the Hundredth Psalm was sung by the charity children assembled. The inscription plate and medals were deposited, the stone lowered, and the ceremony of striking with the mallet and trying with the square, gone through. Then prayers were offered, and the whole concluded with the singing of the national anthem.
Roll of Honour

Roll of honour, To the Glory of God in Honoured Memory of men of this Parish who sacrificed Their lives through the Great War 1914-1918. This chapel has been dedicated 1920. The Peace of Heaven is theirs that lift Their swords in such a just and charitable war.

“Grant them O Lord eternal rest and let light perpetual shine upon them.”

FREDERICK L. BEACH
ALFRED P. BEDDOWS
HOWARD S. BERESFORD
LESLIE P. BRAGINTON
WILLIAM A. BICKNELL
JOHN BUTLER
GEORGE E. BERRY
ARTHUR R. BLACKMORE
FRANK BROWN
FRANK BEDDING
HORACE R. BANNING
SETON R. CARTER
FREDERICK H.D. COLLIER
FRED. T. CHAPMAN
ALFRED T. COULING
SYDNEY CRAVEN
ALBERT S. McCULLOUGH
THOMAS W. CHICK
PHILIP H. CHILD
WILLIAM H. CHILD
WILFRED COOMBE
WILLIAM J. CRAWFORD
THOMAS CHANCE
FREDERICK E. CHANCE
CHARLES N. CLAYTON
JOHN H. DAVIES
RALPH H. DAVIES
WILLIAM H. DEAKIN
WILLIAM R. EVERS
WILLIAM EDKINS
THOMAS F. F. FISHER
WILLIAM D. FEATHERSTONE
HOWARD FISHER
REGINALD H. FULFORD
WALTER H. GARLAND
PERCY W. GOODALL
HERBERT GREEN
LIONEL GREEN
FREDERICK C.H. GUEST
SIDIY HARRISON
FRED HOLLEY
HAROLD E. HOWES
ARTHUR G. HUTCHINSON
WILLIAM E. HARE
JOHN E. HARVEY
EDWIN W. JONES
SAMUEL JOHNSON
JAMES VI. JORDAN
JOSEPH KEELING
HARRY G. KEEN
FREDERICK R. KIRK
JOSEPH LAKIN
HAROLD LEE
ALEXANDER LEADBEATER
ALFRED B. MADSEN
JOHN F. MARYON
THOMAS H. MOYLE
WILLIAM H. MIDDLETON
ARTHUR V. MITCHELL
EDWARD MINAHAN
ERIC A. MOUSLEY
ALBERT H. MITCHELL
FRANCIS J. MURPHY
GEORGE L. MUSSON
HENRY A. MATTHEWS
MARK MILLS
FREDERICK W. NODDEN
GEORGE C. NORTON
EDGAR NOURSE
THOMAS J. W. OLIVER
FRANCIS G. OWEN
RONALD B. PIPER
HARRY PEARSON
HERBERT S. PRESTON
LESLIE G. PRESTON
ARTHUR W. PYATT
HAROLD E. PITT
THOMAS S. ROWLANDS
JOHN L. ROBERTS
GEORGE ROSCOE
ALBERT E. ROBINSON
CHARLES J. SHEARS
WILLIAM SKINNER
ALBERT L. SIMS
ALBERT E. SHARP
JACK SHARNER
CHARLES JOHN SHEARS
ARTHUR J. SMITH
HARRY B. SOUTHERN
GEORGE E. STEVENS
WALTER P. STOBART
FRANK SPENCER
HERBERT J. STREETER
THOMAS D. SMITH
WILLIAM STEPHENSON
JAMES W. TATTERSALL
CARL W. TOMEY
LEONARD TURTON
WILLIAM A. TOMLIN
DAVID TURNER
MARTIN B. TAYLOR
REGINALD TWILTON
GEORGE UPTON
CHARLES A. (ROGER) WALKER
WAMBLE J.G.A.L. WHITTALL
CYRIL WARMINGTON
HORACE WOOD
ALBERT J. WALKER
GEORGE WALKER
DANIEL E. WATNEY
ALBERT A. WILSON
ARTHUR E. WRIGHT
EDWARD C. WARREN
HOWARD E. WHITTALL
FREDERICK H. WALKER
ALBERT E. WALKER

HORACE A. ASTON
FRED. W. ATKINS
HENRY ALLEN
FRANK T. ASPINALL
BERTRAM G. ALLUM
JOHN F. BANNISTER
WALTER P. BARTLAM
CLIFFORD P.N. GUEST
WILLIAM GOLDSINGAY
NORMAN F. GREEN
HORACE H.W. GRAY
WILFRED L. HALES
WILLIAM A. HACKETT
WILLIAM G. HARRISON
CHARLES L. PERKINS
GEORGE F. PLUMB
STANLEY PLUMPTON
WILLIAM E. PEAKE
HENRY R. REYNOLDS
GEORGE H. ROGERS
ROWLAND ROWLANDS

07

www.stbarnabaserdington.org.uk

06
These posters as are others in the booklet were found at the back of a drawer at a printers. They were restored by David Smith who kindly allowed us to reproduce them.
Remembering the 29 servicemen who are buried in the graveyard

Most of the information in the following section was obtained from the Commonwealth War Graves Commission or the 1911 Census.

Interestingly the names of individuals and their addresses have been spelt in a number of ways and we have attempted to use what was recorded rather than attempt to correct these.

On the left of the above picture is Erwin Griffiths Unde of Chris Jukes, Chair of EHS.

George Leonard Musselle
Lance Serjeant 1st/ 8th Bn, Royal Warwickshire Regiment

Died 19th October 1915
Aged 22
Service Number 1554
St Barnabas grave index B124

The 1911 Census lists George as living with his parents George Clemens and Sily Musselle and his sister Leslie Roy at 4 St Switkins St, Worcester. His profession is listed as Commercial Clerk.

Grave Marker inscription reads

In loving memory of my dear son, GEORGE LEONARD MUSSEL. Who died of wounds received in action on the Somme, October 19th 1915, Aged 22 years. Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.

All though recorded, the grave marker is no longer in place.

www.stbarnabaserdington.org.uk
John Fisher

Gunner
Royal Garrison Artillery

Died 13th Dec. 1915
Aged 55 (on leave)
Service Number 280699
St Barnabas grave index A.234

Son of Thomas William and Ethel Gertrude Fisher, of Birmingham. The Census of 1901 shows that John resided at 23 Bell Lane, Erdington and was employed as a gas worker. He was married to his wife Mary and had three sons, John, William and Robert and a daughter, Mary. His sister in Law Kate Ivers and his nephew Dennis also resided with them.

The Census of 1911 shows John living with his second wife Florence and three sons John, William and James. At Parsens and Clerk Cottages, Streetly, Sutton Coldfield and his profession is listed as Waggoner.

He originally enlisted with the Oxford Light Infantry, aged 19 in 1882. “Fisher is an old soldier and comes of a fighting family, well known in the Erdington District. He served in the Boar War, and at the outset of the present war he enlisted in the Royal Garrison Artillery as a driver in the Heavy Battery.” Extract Birmingham Gazette 14th Dec 1915.

Grave Marker inscription reads

280699 Gunner
J FISHER
ROYAL GARRISON ARTILLERY
13th DECEMBER 1915

www.stbarnabaserdington.org.uk
In loving memory of ROBERT, youngest son of the late
JOSEPH PERKINS of Sudboro Lodge, Northamptonshire,
died March 1st 1905 aged 71. AMELIA ANNIE, the
beloved wife of the above named ROBERT PERKINS died
March 9th 1910 aged 71. / In loving memory of
CHARLES L. PERKINS R.W.R. who died September 11th
1916 of wounds received in action at the Battle of the
Somme, July 22nd 1916 aged 22 years. Loved by all. /
ROBERT C PERKINS who died March 9th 1929 Aged 64.
Also EMMA, the beloved wife of the late ROBERT
CHARLES PERKINS who died December 4th 1930.

Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down
his life for his friends. In loving memory of EDWARD
MINAHAN, R.W.R. younger son of JOHN E. and Clara
MINAHAN who died on Sept. 22nd 1916, from wounds
received on August 18th at the battle of the Somme,
France. Aged 21 years. Death doth hide but not divide.
Thou art but on Christ’s other side. ALBERT MINAHAN
who died January 2nd 1906, aged 20 years. Also CLARA,
wife of JOHN EDWARD, died Oct.4th 1952, Aged 91
years. JOHN EDWARD MINAHAN, who died January 8th
1925, Aged 71 years.
George Norton
Air Mechanic 2nd Class 28th Reserve
Sqd. Royal Flying Corp

Died 23rd October 1916
Aged 30
Service Number 19774
St Barnabas grave index B49

The Census of 1911 lists George as living with his parents George and Mary Ann and his sister Ida at 13 Anderson Road, Erdington. His profession is listed as Silver Spinner.

The British Royal Air Force, Airmen's service records 1912 - 1939 show he enlisted in South Farnborough on the 31st January 1916 and his address was given as 26 Norfolk Road, Erdington. He was married to Emma Elizabeth Baker on the 12th August 1916.

Grave Marker inscription reads:
In cherished memory of GEORGE, the tenderly loved husband of E. ELIZABETH NORTON, who fell asleep October 23rd 1916, Aged 30 years./ In Jesu’s Keeping./ Also of his dear wife, E. ELIZABETH NORTON, who entered into rest Sept. 14th 1948, Aged 66 years. Reunited.

James Webster Tattersall
Private, Army Pay Office (Warwick), Army Pay Corp

Died 13th February 1917
Aged 37
Service Number 8479
St Barnabas grave index C315

The Census of 1911 shows James living with his wife Blanche and a Sarah Alice Iriam a visitor. Their address was 26 Oval Road, Erdington.

Grave Marker inscription reads:
In loving memory of JAMES WEBSTER TATTERSALL, who died Feb. 13th 1917. Aged 38 years.

Grave Marker not found

Howard Alfred Palmer
Private, 33rd Btn. Training Reserve

Died 31st March 1917
Aged 18
Service Number 8/1511
St Barnabas grave index D386

CWG Marker
"until the day break"
Robert Bucknall Bowker

Major
Royal Engineers

Died 5th September 1917
Aged 37
Service Number N/K
St Barnabas grave index D152

The 1911 census identified that Robert resided with his parents with William and Anne Jean, his sister Margaret and brother Lincoln and a house hold servant at 27 Cambridge Road, Kings Heath, Birmingham.

Robert was aged 31 and his profession was Electrical Engineer.

He was married to GL Bowker of 9 Kingsbury Road, Erdington, Birmingham.

Grave Marker inscription reads

In loving memory of ROBERT BUCKNALL BOWKER
(Major R.E.) who died September 5th 1917
Aged 37 years.

Albert Edward Sharp

Private, 2nd/7th Bn.
Devonshire Regiment

Died on the 5th December 1917
Aged 40
Service Number 291375
St Barnabas grave index E238

Albert Edward Sharp was born in Bristol, Gloucestershire, in 1878 to parents William and Annie Sharp. He was followed a year later by a sister, Emily. In 1881 the family were living in the Stapleton area of Bristol with the father employed as a Gardener in Domestic Service.

By 1891 he had acquired a further three siblings, William born in 1882, Annie Martha born 1884, and Lilla born 1890 who were then followed by Florence Rose in 1892. It is known that Albert had 7 younger siblings.

Whilst the rest of the family continued to reside in the Fishponds area [of Bristol],1901 finds Albert lodging in High Street, Erdington, where he is in employment to an Auctioneer. In 1903 he married Caroline Annie Homer and their first child, Gladys Ada Emily, arrived the following year.

Subsequent children were named, Beatrice Alice in 1905, Bertha Annie in 1906, Elvina Lillian Alexandra in 1908, Albert Edward in 1910, Harry Leslie in 1912 and William James in 1914. Then finally, Florence Dora Sharp was born in 1917. Sadly, she was never to know her father.

In 1911 the family were living at 44 Gravelly Lane, Erdington, and Albert Edward was working as a Window Cleaner.

It is unclear when Albert began working for the Post Office but it may have been as late as 1915. His Military records appear not to have survived but from his Headstone it can be learnt that he served with the Devonshire Regiment and then the Labour Corps. On the way home from the War he contracted Spanish Flu and died in the Military Hospital, Out Risbygate, Bury St Edmunds in the summer of 1918, and his Funeral took place at St Barnabas Church, Erdington, on 5 December that year [22].

Extract from Birmingham History Forum. www.birminghamhistory.co.uk

Grave Marker inscription reads

500262
Alfred Thomas Couling

Private, 2nd Bn.
Royal Berkshire Regiment

Died 8th April 1918
Aged 33
Service Number 26848
St Barnabas grave index D.357

Son of William James Couling and Elizabeth Couling, of Erdington, Birmingham. Husband of Laura Couling of 4 Somerset Road, Erdington, Birmingham. In the Census of 2011 his address was recorded as 10 Somerset Road and his profession as Insurance Clerk. His daughter Marjorie is also recorded aged 1.

Grave Marker inscription reads
Alfred Thomas who died from wounds received in action 8th April 1918 Aged 33 years. May he rest in peace.

David Turner

Staff Serjeant. 6th Field Bakery
Army Service Corp

Died 26th May 1918
Aged 39
Service Number S/22171
St Barnabas grave index D 220

From the British Army Service records it suggests that David first enrolled in 1899 at the age of 20, 82nd Battery, Royal Field Artillery. The 1911 Census records him living with his wife Emily Louisa and his newly born daughter Edna May at 2 New St South, Erdington. His profession is given as Bread Deliverer.

Grave Marker inscription reads
In loving memory of STAFF SERGT. DAVID TURNER A.S.C. the beloved husband of EMILY TURNER who died through illness contracted on active service May 26th 1916 aged 39 years. Erected by his comrades of the SERGEANTS MESS FRANCE. Also EMILY LOUISA his beloved wife died March 9th 1964 aged 85 years. Reunion our abiding hope.

George Henry Stevens

Air Mechanic 3rd class
Reinforcement Wing, Royal Air Force

Died 18th September 1918
Aged 18
Service Number 291663
St Barnabas grave index E180

The 1911 Census records George residing with his parents John and Eliza Stevens and his sister Florence May at 44 Short Heath Rd, Erdington.

At the time of his death his parents had moved to 41 Hart Road Erdington.

Grave Marker inscription reads
18th September 1918. Aged 18
His profession was given as lamp lighter.

George is also remembered on the CWGC screen as one of the 8 servicemen's who's graves are unknown.

Per ardua ad astra ("Through adversity to the stars" or "Through struggle to the stars") is the motto of the Royal Air Force.
Leslie James Harrison

Private 2nd Class
Royal Air Force

Died 16th October 1918
Blandford, Dorset
Aged 17
Service Number 298753
St Barnabas grave index E53

The 1911 Census showed Leslie lived with his parents Percy and Sarah Gertrude Harrison, his brother Frank, his two sisters Millicent and Ida, and a lodger Elizabeth Cartwright at their home on 73 Fern Road, Erdington.

Grave Marker inscription reads

298753 2nd Private L.J. Harrison, Royal Air Force, 16th October 1918. Age 17.

Thomas John Oliver

Lance Corporal 16th Bn.
Worcestershire Regiment

Died 21st Oct 1918
Aged 20
Service Number 46587
St Barnabas grave index C 235

Grave Marker inscription reads

In loving memory of L/CPL. T. J.W. OLIVER, 16th Worcester Regt. Who died at Chisledon, October 31st 1918, Aged 20 years. Also of ALICE MAUD OLIVER who died March 25th 1914, Aged Three years. Also of JOHN the beloved husband of A. M. OLIVER and father of the above who died August 20th 1920, Aged 53 years. He giveth his beloved sleep. Also ALICE MAUD OLIVER, beloved wife of JOHN died 15th June 1958, Aged 88 years. Memory of my son HENRY STANLEY OLIVER who died May 1st 1946 aged 45 years, also his son John who died April 29th 1939, Aged 9 years. In loving memory of a dear husband and father WILLIAM HARECOURT OLIVER passed away Sept. 13th 1970, Aged 66 years. Rest in peace.

Charles Rabin

Private 3rd Bn
Royal Berkshire Regiment

Died 17th Oct 1918
Aged 26 of pneumonia
Service Number 43487
St Barnabas grave index D356

The 1911 Census lists Charles as living with his parents Thomas and Ann Rabin and his brother Joseph and sister Nellie at 253 Gravelly Lane, Erdington. His profession was Vanman. Later he was married to Elsie Beatrice Rabin of 9 Johnson Rd, Erdington.

Grave Marker inscription reads

Grave marker. In loving memory of CHARLES, the beloved husband of Elsie Rabin who died at Portabella Military Hospital, Ireland. October 17th 1918 aged 26 years. "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends"
William Whinyates
Private, Labour Coy
Devonshire Regiment

Died 1st November 1918
Aged 21
Service Number 59422
St Barnabas grave index
Screen Wall

The 1911 Census identifies that William lived with his parents William and Francis Fanny, his two brothers Alfred Edward and Harold and his two sisters Elsie and Ivy. The family resided at 70 Doidge Road, Erdington.

Unfortunately the location of William’s grave is not known and he is commemorated on the screen wall with seven other servicemen who died as a consequence of WW1.

Grave Marker inscription reads

William Millington
“G” Training Btn
Machine Gun Corps “Infantry”

Died 4th Nov 1918
Aged 29
Service Number 180047
St Barnabas grave index D.355

William was the son of Charles and Ann Millington of Marston, Northwich, Cheshire. The 1891 Census shows he was one of five sons and two daughters residing in Ollershaw Lane, Marston. The Census of 1911 records a further younger brother has being born and the family had moved to 6 Cross St Marston. At the time of his death he was married to Mary. J. Millington of 19 Kings Road. Erdington.

Grave Marker inscription reads

William Henry Lee
Private
Gloucester Regiment

Died 10th November 1918
Aged 28
Service Number 30307
St Barnabas grave index
Screen Wall

The 1911 Census indicates that William resided with his parents Henry and ME Lee, his two brothers Thomas and Leonard and his three sisters Emily, Morjorie and Doris at 46 Angelina St, Aston. CWCG records identify WILLIAM being the husband of CLARA ADAMS and residing at 279 Gravelly Lane, Erdington.

Unfortunately the location of William’s grave is not known and he is commemorated on the screen wall with seven other servicemen who died as a consequence of WW1.

Grave Marker inscription reads

To the honoured memory of those members of his majesty’s forces who gave their lives for their country in the Great War 1914 -1918 and who lie buried in this churchyard in unmarked graves.
Their name liveth for evermore.
**John Edward Harvey**

**Lance Bombardier “C” Bty. 330th Bde Royal Field Artillery**

Died 13th November 1918  
Aged 33  
Service Number 701622  
St Barnabas grave index D342

The 1911 Census lists John as residing with his wife Martha and his three sons Robert, Harry and Richard at 70 Holly Lane, Erdington and his profession as a Brick Carter. An elder son John H aged 4 is listed and then deleted from the census return.

**Grave Marker inscription reads**

In loving memory of JOHN EDWARD HARVEY who died in France Nov. 13th 1918 aged 33 years. Also MARTHA ANN CANNING who died July 16th 1927 aged 42 years. In loving memory of HENRY HARVEY who died March 26th 1937 aged 94 years. “He was weary and God gave him rest”. Never forgotten by her loving husband FRANK.  
Peace perfect peace.

**Frank George Owen**

**Private Worcestershire Regiment**

Died 29th Jan 1919  
Aged 30  
Service Number 25754  
St Barnabas grave index Screen Wall

The 1911 Census lists shows FRANK residing with his parents ALBERT EDWARD and IRENE ROSE and his sister AUDREY IRENE 69 Newman Road Erdington. His Profession is listed as office clerk.

**Grave Marker inscription reads**

CWG Screen Wall.  
To the honoured memory of those members of his majesty’s forces who gave their lives for their country in the Great War 1914 -1918 and who lie buried in this churchyard in unmarked graves. Their name liveth for evermore.

**Edwin Charles Warren**

**Private H.T. Supplies (Woodbridge) Royal Army Service Corp**

Died 10th February 1919  
Aged 29 of influenza  
Service Number T/294317  
St Barnabas grave index Screen Wall

The Census of 1911 shows that Edwin resided with his parents Henry Charles and Martha Louisa and his sister Winifred Maud in Holly Lane Erdington. His profession is listed as Wharf man. CWG record him being the husband of Louisa Warren and residing at 110 Garrison Street, Small Heath. Unfortunately the location of Edwin’s grave is not known and he is commemorated on the screen wall with seven other servicemen who died as a consequence of WW1.
Walter Harry Garland

Private, 17th, Bn Cheshire Regiment

Died 20th Feb 1919
Aged 21
Service Number 17/29992
St Barnabas grave index D 286

The 1911 Census indicated that Walter resided at 11 Mason Road Erdington with his parents Walter and Louisa, his brothers Thomas and Albert, his sisters Emily and Harriet Ann and his Grandmother Mary Ann. Walter was born in Erdington and at the time of the census aged 13 was attending school and had a part time job as a delivery boy. Walter served for three years in France before returning to the UK where he died of Pneumonia following influenza.

Grave Marker inscription reads

In loving memory of WALTER HARRY GARLAND 17TH Cheshire Regt. Who died February 20th 1919 from pneumonia after serving 3 years in France aged 21 years. Also Louisa beloved wife of WALTER GARLAND who died July 30th 1943 aged 72

Edwin Wager

Driver 35th D.A.C, Royal Field Artillery

Died 2nd March 1919
Aged 29
Service Number 269796
St Barnabas grave index D 640

In the 1911 Census Edwin was as residing with his parents Edwin and Hanna Wager, his two brothers, five sisters and another married couple with their two children. His profession was a rubber worker, Tyres.

At the time of his death he was married to Louisa Wager of 119, High St, Erdington.

Grave Marker inscription reads

In loving memory of DVR. E. Wager R.A.F dearly beloved husband of ETHEL WAGER who died suddenly while on leave from France March 2nd 1919 aged 29 years.

Unfortunately the grave marker has fallen into disrepair.
Thomas Harold Griffiths

Airman 2nd class
Royal Air Force

Died 18th July 1919
Aged 22
Service Number 89597
St Barnabas grave index D 615

Son of Thomas and Phoebe Griffiths of 76, Turf Pitts Lane, Shortheath, Erdington. The Census of 1911 shows that Harold was born in 1897 and at age 14 he was a cycle worker. At that time the family resided at 5 Woods Buildings Turfpit Lane Erdington. Along with his parents he shared the accommodation with his grandmother Jane Pane and his sister Doris Winifred.

Harold was killed during flying duties when his aircraft crashed.

Sidney Ernest Wills

Company Serjeant Major
Royal Engineers

Died 5th September 1919
Aged 45
Service Number 28076
St Barnabas grave index Screen Wall.

Son of Arthur and Margaret Wills of Cheltenham, husband of Mary. B. Wills of 93 Rosary Road, Erdington. In Army Form W5080 completed in 1920 by Mary she lists their six children Arthur, Cecil, Cecil, Mary, Fredrick and Muriel, born between 1902 and 1913. From the British army records Sidney enlisted with the Royal Engineers in 1894 aged 19.

Unfortunately the location of Sidney’s grave is not known and he is commemorated on the screen wall with seven other servicemen who died as a consequence of WW1.

Grave Marker inscription reads

In loving memory of HAROLD THOMAS GRIFFITHS, Aircraftman R.A.F. killed 18th July 1919 aged 22 years. He died for freedom & honour. Also of THOMAS GRIFFITHS father of the above who died Sept, 15th 1931 aged 70 years. Also PHOEBE Griffiths beloved wife of the above THOMAS GRIFFITHS who died March 31st 1939 aged 73 years. ‘Thy will be Done’.

Grave Marker inscription reads

CWG Screen Wall.
To the honoured memory of those members of his majesty’s forces who gave their lives for their country in the Great War 1914 -1918 and who lie buried in this churchyard in unmarked graves.
Their name liveth for evermore.
George James Nock

Private
Royal Army Medical Corps

Died 20th October 1919
Aged 27
Service Number 38086
St Barnabas grave index
Screen Wall

The Census of 1911 indicates that George resided with his widowed mother Beatrice Lizzie, his two brothers Ernest William and Arthur Edwin, his two sisters Edith Ann and Ada Evelyn and a boarder Harry Brown at 29 Priory Road Aston.

Unfortunately the location of George’s grave is not known and he is commemorated on the screen wall with seven other servicemen who died as a consequence of WW1.

Grave Marker inscription reads

To the honoured memory of those members of his majesty’s forces who gave their lives for their country in the Great War 1914-1918 and who lie buried in this churchyard in unmarked graves. Their name liveth for evermore.

Robert Hudson Longhurst

Sergeant, 18th Btn
Royal Warwickshire Regiment

Died 12th Jan 1920
Aged 37
Service Number 330889
St Barnabas grave index C261

The Census of 1891 shows that Robert lived with his parents, two brothers and three sisters in Dover St, Birmingham. The Census of 1911 shows Robert and his wife Elizabeth and Margaret Longhurst aged four (Niece) living with his Aunt Eleanor Longhurst of 30 Shipton Road, Old Stratford and his profession was a rubber mechanic.

Grave Marker inscription reads

Grave Marker inscription reads

5222 Q. Serjt. Major G.J. King. Royal Warwickshire Regiment 2nd Oct 1920 aged 44. "Thy will be done".

George James King

Company Sergeant Major
Royal Warwickshire Regiment

Died 2nd Oct 1920
Aged 44
Service Number 5222
St Barnabas grave index D.533

At the time of his death George was married to Alice Maud Mary King of 110 Alleyne Rd, Erdington. In 1911 George was already enlisted in the army and registered on military records recording his location at the time of the Census.

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**Percival Herbert Holmes**

**Private**  
**Gloucestershire Regiment**

Died 11th January 1921  
Aged 22  
Service Number 285255  
St Barnabas grave index  
Screen Wall

In the 1911 Census Percival resided with his parents Eli and Elizabeth, his two brothers Eli Albert and Samuel Lewis, his two sisters Florance Eveline, Voilet Lizzey and a boarder John Saires at 19 March Lane, Erdington. In the census his name is also spelt Percyvel and there are also variations on Florence and Violet.

Unfortunately the location of Percival’s grave is not known and he is commemorated on the screen wall with seven other servicemen who died as a consequence of WW1.

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**First World War Medals**

At the end of the First World War, campaign medals were issued to eligible military servicemen – as well as to some women and civilians – for active wartime service.

There were five British campaign medals: the 1914 Star, the 1914-15 Star, the British War Medal, the Victory Medal and the Territorial Force War Medal. An individual generally received a maximum of three.

The most commonly awarded were the 1914/1914-15 Star, British War Medal and Victory Medal. When worn together, they were affectionately known as ‘Pip, Squak and Wilfred’ after the characters in a popular cartoon strip published in the ‘Daily Mirror’ from 1919.

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**Grave Marker inscription reads**

CWG Screen Wall.  
To the honoured memory of those members of his majesty’s forces who gave their lives for their country in the Great War 1914 -1918 and who lie buried in this churchyard in unmarked graves. Their name liveth for evermore.
Instituted in September 1919, the Victory Medal was issued for service in an active theatre of military operations between 5 August 1914 and 11 November 1918. It was one of a number of First World War campaign medals awarded. The Victory Medal was issued to all those who received the 1914 Star or the 1914-15 star, and to most of those who were awarded the British War Medal. It was never awarded on its own. 5,725,000 or so recipients.

The medal is struck from yellow bronze. Its obverse has the standing figure of Victory holding aloft a palm branch in her right hand and stretching out her left hand. The reverse consists of a laurel wreath encircling a four-line inscription: ‘The Great War for Civilisation 1914-1919’.

The medal is suspended from a plain ring, and the ribbon colour features a double rainbow, from indigo at the edges, to red in the centre. The bronze oak leaf on the ribbon indicates that the wearer was ‘Mentioned in Despatches’ for an act of gallantry.

The basic design and ribbon was also adopted by most of the allied countries who fought together in the First World War in accordance with the decision of the Inter-Allied Peace Conference at Versailles in 1919.
The next section identifies who were buried abroad and who are commemorated on family grave markers.

**Wilfred Samson Allkins**

Lance Corporal, Plymouth Bn. R.N. Div. Royal Marine Light Infantry

- Died 4th March 1915
- Aged 24
- Service Number PLY387(S)
- St Barnabas grave index D. 114

Son of Samson and Marion Rodick Allkins of “Woodburn” 117 Gravelly Hill, Erdington.

**Grave Marker inscription reads**

In loving memory of ARCHIBALD THOMAS ALLKINS (of GRAVELLY HILL) who died 19th July 1917 aged 25 years. Also of WILFRED SAMSON ALLKINS Who was killed in action at the Dardanelles March 4th 1915. Aged 24 years. Waiting for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. Also Samson ALLKINS father of the above who died August 17th 1931 aged 81 years.

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**Drummer Alexander William Burr**

Died 1st July 1916
Aged 18 years
Grave ref F48

In loving memory of HARRY BURR, who died 28th Nov. 1918. Aged 33 years. Also RICHARD the beloved husband of EMMA PAYNE, died April 27th 1921. Aged 68 years.

**Serg’t Edwin Hastings**

Died May 16th 1915
Aged 29 years
Grave Ref E316

In loving memory of WILLIAM JAMES HASTINGS late Serg’t. 3rd. City Batt., dearly beloved husband of ELLEN, who died March 10th 1920. Aged 54 years. “Faithful until the end”. Also of ELLEN beloved wife of the above, who passed away October 8th 1939. Aged 74 years. Rest in peace. And of EDWIN, late Serg’t. R.F.W, dearly loved son of the above named, killed in action May 16th 1915. Aged 29 years. “Thy will be done”

**Lieut. Richard William Payne**

Died 19th August 1915
Aged 26 years
Grave ref E400

To the dear memory of WILFRED PERRY beloved son of RICHARD and EMMA PAYNE, he fell asleep Feb. 17th 1912. Aged 20 years. “He giveth his beloved sleep”. Also of RICHARD WILLIAM, Lieut. R.G.A. killed in action 19th Aug. 1915. Interred in France. Aged 26 years. Also of SIDNEY HERBERT, died 28th Nov. 1918. Aged 33 years. Also RICHARD the beloved husband of EMMA PAYNE, died April 27th 1921. Aged 68 years.

**Thomas Ernest Bailey**

Died 1916 in France
Aged 74 years
Grave Ref F119

In loving memory of my dear husband, THOMAS ADEY BAILEY, who passed away July 22nd 1924. Aged 74 years. At rest. Also of THOMAS ERNEST son of the above killed in France 1916.

**To the dear memory of**

**WILFRED PERRY**
Charles Howard Deakin
Died July 20th 1916
Aged 27 year
Grave ref J 18

Harold & Walter Flintham & Charles Haynes
Aged 20 years. Grave ref E205

SGT. Henry Palmer
Died 1916
Aged 34 years
Grave ref H406

William Alfred Bicknell
Died October 7th 1917
Aged 19 years
Grave ref E251

In loving memory of HOWARD DEAKIN who died March 19th 1931 aged 69 years. Also FLORENCE wife of the above who died Feb. 1st 1945 also his son CHARLES HOWARD DEAKIN killed in action July 20th 1916 aged 27 years.

In loving memory of HOWARD DEAKIN who died March 19th 1931 aged 69 years. Also FLORENCE wife of the above who died Feb. 1st 1945 also his son CHARLES HOWARD DEAKIN killed in action July 20th 1916 aged 27 years.


In loving memory of our dear parents EMILY HAVILAND who fell asleep Jan. 27th 1941 aged 62 years. WILLIAM HAVILAND killed in action July 1916.

In loving memory of DORA LYDIA COOPER fell asleep Feb. 9th 1933 aged 28 years. Also THOMAS COOPER father of the above named of the 2nd 10th London Regiment, fell in action Ypres Sep. 22nd 1917 aged 42 years. Also his wife ANNIE DAISY COOPER died Feb. 7th 1958 aged 79 years. Reunited.

In remembrance of Jane, the beloved wife of CHARLES GARNER who died 23rd Oct. 1924, Aged 57. Also of Charlie their beloved son, who died of wounds received in action 29th July 1917, aged 25 years. Also of WILLIAM their son, who died Oct. 30th 1926, Aged 31 years. Also of the above named CHARLES GARNER, who died April 7th 1932, Aged 76 years.

In loving memory of WILLIAM ALFRED BICKNELL, who died of wounds Oct. 7th 1917, Aged 19 years, buried at Dozinghem Cemetery, Nr. Papierinche, Belgium. Greater love hath no man, than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. Also of THOMAS HENRY, brother of the above named who passed peacefully away Oct 5th 1919, Aged 31 years. Bellringer and tower keeper of this Parish. His natural wish was life but God has given him more than his wish, Eternal life in heaven. Also of SARAH ANN, beloved wife of CHARLES BICKNELL, who peacefully fell asleep July 30th 1942, Aged 86 years. At rest. CHARLES, beloved husband of S.A. BICKNELL, died August 11th 1908. Peace perfect peace. ROSE ALICE, beloved wife of W.J. WARD died January 14th 1915. God gave her rest. Also EMILY J. BICKNELL, died May 19th 1960. Aged 79. Too good in life to be forgotten in death.

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Horace
Gray
Died February 28th 1917
Aged 19 years
Grave ref G 314

In loving remembrance of EMMIE LOUISE, dearly loved only daughter of THOMAS and LUCY ANN GRAY, passed away suddenly April 15th 1930. Aged 37 years. Also in proud and affectionate remembrance of their dear younger son HORACE H. V. Gray. Wireless Operator (1st Class) torpedoed Feb. 28th 1917, in his 19th year. "Whose grave is the sea, they shall be mine, saith the Lord of Hosts. In that day when I make up my jewels. Mal. 111. xvii. Also Thomas Gray, beloved husband of LUCY ANNIE GRAY, passed away May 10th 1941. Aged 76 years. For me to live is Christ, and to die is gain". Phil. 1. 21.

Archibald
Redwood
Died April 1st 1918
Aged 19 years
Grave ref E295

In unfading memory of WALTER JOHN REDWOOD who passed away Aug. 29th 1920. Aged 61 years. "Peace after pain". Also ELIZABETH REDWOOD, beloved wife of the above, who died Oct. 24th 1924. Aged 64 years. "She looked well to the ways of her household, and ate not the bread of idleness." Also of ARCHIBALD, son of the above, killed in action April 1st 1918. Aged 19 years. (Buried in France) He gave his life for those he loved.

Colin
Howard Smith
Died September 7th 1918
Aged 23 years
Grave ref D771

1914 Lest we Forget 1918. In loving memory of COLIN HOWARD SMITH of H.M. Navy died September 7th 1918 aged 23 years.

CPL Carl W.
Tomey
Died October 25th 1918
Aged 25 years
Grave ref D243

In loving memory of WALTER GORDON beloved second son of WALTER and ELIZABETH TOMEY who fell asleep January 26th 1914 aged 24 years. "God seeth all and knoweth best". Also CPL. CARL W. TOMEY R.E. their youngest son who died at Amiens France on October 25th 1918 aged 25 years. "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course." Also THOMAS WALTER the beloved husband of ANNIE ELIZABETH TOMEY who died June 25th 1936 aged 80 years. At rest. Also ANNIE ELIZABETH wife of the above THOMAS WALTER who died August 31st 1948 aged 92 years.

Lieut. Horace
Wood
Company Sergeant Major
Royal Warwickshire Regiment

Died August 24th 1918
Aged 23 years
Grave Ref D259

In sacred memory of LIEUT. HORACE WOOD 2nd, 10th. London Regt. Who died of wounds August 24th 1918 aged 23 years. Youngest son of LETITIA and EDWARD A. WOOD (of Erdington) A volunteer who gave his life for his Country, buried at Dive Copse Sailly-Le-Sec, Somme, France. LETITIA WOOD died 14th Dec. 1942 aged 78 years.
William Alfred Bicknell

Died October 7th 1917
Aged 19 years
Grave ref E251

Also of THOMAS HENRY, brother of the above named who passed peacefully away Oct 5th 1919, Aged 31 years. Bell ringer and tower keeper of this Parish. His natural wish was life but God has given him more than his wish, Eternal life in heaven.

Frederick Harry Hawkes

Died 18th April 1960
Aged 82 years

In loving memory of FREDERICK HARRY HAWKES, died 18th April 1960 Aged 82 years. Veteran of the first World War 1914 - 1918. R.H.L.I.

These pictures are part of the collection which hang in the bell tower of St Barnabas Church

Frederick Harry Hawkes strictly should not be included in this section as he returned from the war and lived to a ripe old age. The EHS in their research however uncovered his gravemarker and we felt it was appropriate to include him and recognise his contribution as a WW1 veteran.

Picture from the family collection of Jean Pierre Norman Webster

This section presents information regarding other local people who at some point lived in or around Erdington and who’s families are looking to preserve their memories. A few are also buried in the graveyard and others survived the conflict.
John Archibald Wade
Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve (RNVR)

Enlisted 2.12.15 in the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve (RNVR), part of the Royal Naval Division (RND). Trained in the infantry. Able Bodied Seaman Higher Grade (ABSHG) was a Lewis Gun NCO, served with 16th Platoon, Hawk Battalion, 63rd Royal Naval Division.

Went to France in 1916 and served on the Somme, River Ancre, Albert, Gavrelle, Arras, Delville Wood, Bapaume, Marmets Wood, 3rd Battle of Paschendale, Beaumont Hamel and Cambrai. Cambrai was captured by the Canadians. John Wade was involved in mopping up operations. It was at Cambrai he was gassed.

He was awarded the Victory Medal and Service medal.

He was married at St James the less church in Ashted Aston 31st July 1920.

The snippets of John Wade’s service history were parts of conversations he had with his great nephew Jean Pierre over the years.

Grave Marker inscription reads

In loving memory of MAY, the beloved wife of John A. Wade who died 24th February. 1954. Aged 57 years. Road accident. Gone from our home but not our hearts.

Contributor. Jean Pierre Norman Webster. John Wade was his Great Uncle.

A number of pictures of John Archibald Wade as a young soldier, a civilian and at his wedding in 1920
Howard Clifford
Berkshire Regiment & Royal Flying Corps / Royal Air Force

Howard was #31505 of the Royal Berkshire Regiment. He enlisted for General Service in Birmingham in the winter of 1915. He was called up for service by the Berkshire Regiment on the 8th May 1917 and examined in Birmingham. He then proceeded to Redding on the 12th May 1917 to begin training at which point he would have been issued his number. The date of the 28th April 1917 is shown on his RFC papers.

The RFC was at this time in constant need of trained ground crew to repair and maintain its aeroplanes (mechanics, fitters, carpenters etc.) With Howard being a mechanic by trade it is not surprising that whilst still at the Depot in Reading, Howard is transferred to the RFC as a 2nd class Air Mechanic on the 28th June 1917. His RFC papers are No 87642 show his children at the date he enlisted and a home address of 243 Lichfield Rd Aston.

His papers show that he went to France on the 15th of Nov 1917 which matches the date that 82nd Squadron deployed to France, so it appears he did his entire overseas qualifying service with 82nd Squadron. Howard’s name is in the daily orders and his discharge to the RAF reserve (The RFC became the RAF on the 1st April 1918) on the 28th of February 1919. He was discharged from the reserve on the 30th of April 1920 and his medals (a WW1 pair) were sent on the following year.

The family moved to Erdington, Court Farm Road around 1928. Howard died aged around 75.

Contributor Chris Smith and family.

Charles Francis Dyson
The Kings Royal Rifle Corp

Charles fought at Mons between 5th August and the 22nd November 1914. He then transferred to the Somerset Light Infantry and fought at the battle of the Somme in 1916. He was wounded in the thigh when advancing across "No-mans land" and sent back to Scotland to recuperate. He lived in Burlington Road Aston and Clandon Street Aston. He died in 1968.

The family story goes that as he went “over the top” his friend next to him was blown to bits and Charles not knowing what to do stopped and covered his body with his great coat. He then went forward and was wounded himself. In the chaos of the aftermath the army wrongly assumed Charles had been killed and his family informed.

Charles was evacuated to a field hospital and then sent by train to recuperate in Scotland. Ironically the train stopped in Birmingham on its journey to Scotland but Charles was not allowed to leave. In desperation he wrote a note to his wife on a cigarette packet and asked a passing stranger to take it to the address he had hastily scribbled. This was how his family came to know he was alive.

The young girl on the left of the above photo is the mother of the contributor John Jones.

Contributor John Jones, Erdington.
Grandson of Charles Francis Dyson.
Frederick Henry Payton

Private 1st Bn. Worcestershire Regiment

Died March 13th 1915
Aged 19 years
Service Number 8874

The son of William Payton of 47 Wilton Street, Lozells, Birmingham, he is commemorated at Le Touret Memorial, France.

The Memorial Plaque was issued after the First World War to the next-of-kin of all British and Empire service personnel who were killed as a result of the war. In excess of 1,000,000 plaques were issued.

Contributor: Michael Potter, the Great Nephew of Frederick Henry Payton
The Battle of Amiens in August 1918 is considered to be the point at which the tide of war changed in the Allies favour and was the start of the “last hundred days” until the Armistice in November 1918.

Allied forces steadily pushed back the Germans back, capturing Cambrai and breaching the Hindenburg Line as well as crossing the Canal Du Nord. By September the German forces had regrouped in the vicinity of Solesmes / St Python where the River Selle marked the front line. The town was overlooked by a railway embankment and other high ground where the German forces had dug in and were utilising the village for machinegun and sniper positions.

Hamilton Speirs was attached to the Left Flank Company of the 2nd Battalion Scots Guards. Their objective on the 18th October was to clear the southern part of the village and cross the river. In doing this the Company were presented with French civilians mixed up with German soldiers, trying to escape, resulting in hand to hand fighting as well as snipers and machine gunners firing from the higher ground.

In the confusion of battle a German disguised in civilian clothes shot and killed an Officer and another civilian. To protect himself and another group of Officers, he returned fire and killed the German. For this action, Hamilton was awarded the Military Medal.

The fighting along the river weakened owing to many of the enemy being killed or wounded, detachments from St Python, Solesmes kept moving during the afternoon in a N or NE direction across our front. The artillery and Vickers (machine gun) on high ground west of the river had exceptional targets. For instance the howitzers killed one party of over 30 of the enemy from W24D who scattered up the slopes pursued by shrapnel. All except 8 were accounted for. At least one case of a German dressed in civilian clothes shooting first the Frenchman who pointed him out, then one of our corporals (Corpl Lindekivist, Left Flank Company) was authenticated.

The man was shot by Sergt Speirs. Continual liaison was kept with battalions on each flank, the cable to brigade worked smoothly. The artillery 7.0.0s formed good observations with forward Battalion HQ and were always in good touch. Battalion was relieved by 3rd Grenadier Guards. Relief completed without further casualties by 22:45 and reached billets in St Hilaire by 22:55.

**Casualties**
- Capt WG Ferryman  
  Killed
- Capt CH Seymour  
  Wounded
- 2nd Lft Hon PC ****  
  Wounded

**Ordinary Ranks**
- 14 Killed
- 55 Wounded

Contributors: Angus Speirs, Christine Speirs and Susan Hazell
Arthur William Madge

157 Labour Company
Duke of Cornwall’s Light Infantry

Arthur William Madge was approaching 34 when he joined an Army Service Battalion of the Royal Warwickshire Regiment on the 6th September 1915 as a private. The Army Service Corp Battalion existed to support front line troops who were classified as “A1” fit. Arthur was classified as “C1” and being in the Army Service Corp meant Arthur was involved in the collection and loading of the Royal Warwick’s equipment in the UK on its way to France.

On the 24th March 1916, he was transferred to active service overseas to a Labour Battalion of the Duke of Cornwall’s Light Infantry. On the 7th May his unit moved to France. He was promoted to Lance Corporal.

In 1917 due to the losses of first line troops, the Army was reorganised and as part of this Labour Battalions were disbanded and reformed into their own larger Corps. The Labour Corp were considered to be second line troops and performed non-combatant duties under fire. The official records show that Company 157 to which Arthur belonged was part of the 3rd Army which participated in the Battle of Passchendaele between July and November 1917. Arthur would also have been at the battle of Amiens, which was the start of the “Last Hundred Days” campaign that ended the war in November 1918.

On 12th December 1919 he was transferred to the Reserve Class before being demobbed.

Arthur’s Short Service records shows him as residing at 176 Church Lane Aston at the time of signing up.

Henry was understood to have said that he had been at the battle of Gallipoli, but from their records the 14th Field Ambulance had spent all but a few months of the war stationed at various sites on the Western Front at Ypres and Vimy Ridge and the Battle of Passchendaele (3rd Battle of Ypres) which was fought between July and November 1917.

During the 1st and 2nd Battles of Ypres the ground between Ypres and Passchendaele changed hands a number of times and it is thought that one of the farms was renamed by Australian Troops as Gallipoli Farm. The farm was taken for the final time by the Allies between July and September 1917. It is here that Henry Madge served.

There are three references which appear on the 1:10,000 trench map for Zonnebeke.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Trench Name</th>
<th>Nearest Place</th>
<th>Map Sheet Number</th>
<th>Map Squares</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gallipoli Copse</td>
<td>Zonnebeke</td>
<td>28 NE1</td>
<td>D 14 c</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gallipoli (farm/pill box)</td>
<td>Zonnebeke</td>
<td>28 NE1</td>
<td>D 13 d</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hill 35 (east of Gallipoli Farm)</td>
<td>Zonnebeke</td>
<td>28 NE1</td>
<td>D 19 b</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Gallipoli and Iberian Farms together with Hill 35 were the sites of German strongpoints, assaulted 7 times before its capture and the 14th Field Ambulance would have been tasked to deal with the casualties.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Place</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Hour</th>
<th>Summary of Events and Information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Woodcote House</td>
<td>26.10.17</td>
<td></td>
<td>M.A.C. (no. XI) will have 6 cars attached here for duty. Germans over bombing a lot in the evening. Clear but at night clouds came up and very heavy rain. Attacked this morning – pouring rain and the ground a bog. Our objective was the Chateau at Polderhoek for 5.40 am. Could get no very definitive news except that we had taken the Chateau. Cases began to arrive about 9.00 am and walking and stretcher cases became quite numerous at midday, but we were able to cope with them. All cases were fed, dressed and given A.T.S. and all particulars taken</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

5th Division attack on Passchendaele. Extract from 14th Field Ambulance Diary
William Steadman was one of three brothers who enlisted in the British Expeditionary Force in August 1914. William and Charles were enlisted in the 1st Battalion Royal Warwickshire Regiment whilst Joseph had enlisted in No 1 Company 1st Battalion Coldstream Guards before the war.

Prior to WW1 William served in India and this is supported by a 1908 Medal Roll listing soldiers entitled to receive the Indian General Service Medal gained for the action he participated in (Matta Mughal Khel. 1908), going on to serve in Aden before being recalled to the colours in 1914.

After landing in France in August 1914 and taking part in the retreat from Mons he went on serving until he was killed in action on the 25th April 1915 during the 2nd Battle of Ypres in an action called "The Battle of St Juliaan". St Juliaan is about 2 miles north east of Ypres.

Williams remains must not have been found as men who were listed as "Missing in Action" meant that the body was never found. He is commemorated on the Menin Gate as nothing could be found to be buried.

Charles was advancing with the 1st Battalion and was involved with the liberation of Armentieres between 13th and 27th October 1914. They were originally billeted in the town but because of heavy shelling it was considered too dangerous to stay in the built up area so they moved a few miles north to rudimentary trenches at Houplines. Here, they were in open country and came under machinegun, shelling and sniper fire. It is likely that Charles was mortally wounded here.

He is buried close by at Strand Military Cemetery.

Joe died 1st November 1917
Aged 26, Son of Alfred Steadman of 115 Albert Road Handsworth

Excerpts of an email
Susan Hazell & Christine Spiers
Just to let you know that I have located Joseph. A helpful curator at one of the regimental museums identified the uniform and the cap badge from the photograph. This then enabled me to discover that he was in the Coldstream guards before the war, (based in London) and then fought in France and Flanders. Sadly he died on 1/11/1917, he must have been injured and brought to a hospital in England, as his place of death is recorded as Lambeth. He is buried in a cemetery in Bridgewater Somerset. He married Ethel May Tambling (presumably the lady in the photo) early in 1914 before the war.
Edward was born in Erdington and signed up with the Middlesex Regiment in Birmingham on the 16th November 1915. He was discharged due to no longer being physically fit for service on the 9th Feb 1918. His discharge papers show a scar recorded as GS Wd. Chest which is possibly shorthand for Gun Shot Wound to the Chest.

The family story goes that Edward was involved in the Battle of the Somme and was both Mustard Gassed and blown up in an explosion. The family were wrongly informed that he was "missing in action" and believed him to have been killed. 4-5 months later he arrive home from hospital in France to greet his wife Clara Jane at 16 Bridge Street Gravelly Hill, where Clara Jane was making a jelly at the time. On seeing her supposedly dead husband standing at the door and believing him to be a Ghost she threw the Jelly all over him! A fine welcome for a Hero!

Edward was eventually discharged due to his ill health. He never really recovered from his wounds and the family believed these contributed greatly to his death. The picture shows Edward wearing the Middlesex lapel badge and there are a selection of cap and lapel badges and a sweetheart badge in his collection. In addition he was awarded the Silver War Badge on 12th February 1918 shortly after his discharge. The badge was issued to service personal who had been honourably discharged due to wounds or sickness resulting from their military service. Along with this Edward received a certificate of the award. The badge was intended to be worn on civilian clothes to indicate the wearer had been on active service and had received an honourable discharged. This also helped to protect wounded servicemen in civilian dress from accusations of cowardice and shirking their duty.

Edward was eventually discharged due to his ill health. He never really recovered from his wounds and the family believed these contributed greatly to his death.

Contributor: Alec Bowden, Grandson
This project started off as a reasonably straightforward piece of research on the 29 war dead of World War 1 who are buried in St Barnabas. Day by day the information grew and grew and the volume of materials amassed was considerable.

The EHS in the course of their researches identified the names of a further 20 servicemen who are commemorated on other family gravestones. Clearly it was important to document this. Word also spread about the project and a further 6 contributors visited the church with tales of 11 of their relatives.

The task of editing and making sense of all of this material fell to me and it would never have happened without the daily help of the EHS, in particular Bob and Sandra Brown, Linda Barr and Chris & Ann Jukes.

The greatest frustrations were the amount of materials that had to be left out and materials which could not be published due to their poor quality or were non-attributable. We will make sure that this information is available.

There are also lots of other people to thank, those who volunteered to become trail guides, contributors to the booklet, additional photography from emtc as well as the booklet and web page designers. An especial big thank you to Kate and the team at St Barnabas who put up with us all. If you ever have time for coffee this is the place to be.

This booklet is not intended as a historical reference there are many fine books and websites which do that already but as an attempt to illuminate some of the local heritage that people pass every day as they walk through the churchyard.

In that regard I feel we have succeeded.

William Carslaw
Project leader and editor
Brief History of Erdington in early 20th century

Erdington at the turn of the 20th century was mainly an agricultural community

People and Buildings

- Pub Old Green Man Aka the Lad in the Lane late 14th century
- Rookery House Abraham Spooner, William Wilberforce 1727
- St Barnabas Church 1824 lynch gate 1924
- St Thomas & Edmund of Canterbury Abbey opened 1850 Charles Hanson finished in present form 1898
- Josiah Mason Orphanage 1860
- Railway Station, Station Road (Sheep Street) 1862
- Jaffray Hospital 1885
- Aston Union Workhouse 1869 Highcroft 1912 Hospital (Hall)
- The Grange Benjamin Stone Photographer 1838-1914
- Bank Williams York Rd 1907
- Library Andrew Carnegie 1907
- Trams 1907
- Acorn Pub 1907
- Brookvale Park 1909 Open air swimming pool
- Roller Rink, Now Fire Station 1909
- Erdington became part of Birmingham 1911
- Erdington Hall 1912 Demolished
- Fort Dunlop 1915
- Bagot family left Pype Hayes Hall 1920

1901 List of shops no's 93-113 in Erdington High St, then and now

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Then</th>
<th>Now</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>93 Butcher</td>
<td>Baguette du masion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>95 Confectioner and tobacconist</td>
<td>Mr Mobile Phone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>97 Butter stores</td>
<td>Glamour Hair and</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>99 Baker and confectioner</td>
<td>GREETINGS 2000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>101 Boot store</td>
<td>ROUND PAWNBROKERS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>103 Beer and porter store</td>
<td>KIZUM HAIR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>105 Boot maker</td>
<td>MAX SPIELMAN PHOTOS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>107 Cycle dealer and coal merchant</td>
<td>EMPTY SHOP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>109 Fancy repository</td>
<td>WELCOME CAFÉ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>111 Draper</td>
<td>IMMAN HAIR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>113 Wine and spirit merchant</td>
<td>KDB FASHIONS</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Written by Chris Jukes and the 'Now' material was researched by Sandra and Bob Brown.