

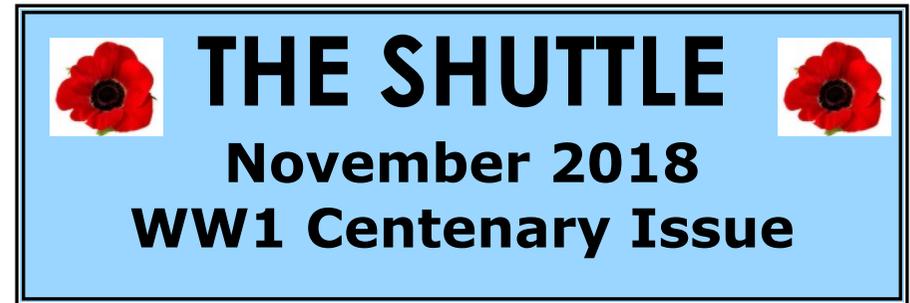
Who's Who @ MARCHMONT ST GILES'

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Church Centre Office
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Email : office@marchmontstgiles.org.uk

Marchmont St Giles' Parish, Church of Scotland
 is a registered Scottish Charity SCO09338



Meeting Matters

Every Saturday

10 - 12pm Morning Coffee

Every Tuesday

10.00 Prayers & Reflection South Transept

Every Wednesday

12.00 Butterflies Plus - Lunch for the over 60's

November

- 11 09.50 Family Service
10.30 Service of Remembrance
18 09.50 Family Service
10.30 Morning Service
20 7.30 Guild - Let's talk about....Unexpected Journeys
25 9.45 High-Lites Teen Group
9.50 Family Service
10.30 Morning Service

December

- 2 09.50 Family Service followed by St Andrew's Lunch
Articles for the Christmas/Winter Issue must be with the Editors by today to ensure inclusion.
10.30 Morning Service
3 7.30 Kirk Session
4 7.00 Presbytery Meeting at MSG
5 9.30 Advent Toddler Church
9 09.50 Family Service
10.30 Morning Service
11 7.30 Guild - Christmas in the Air
13 7.00 Induction of Barry Hughes at St Mark's Stirling

Front Page

The display of poppies in Marchmont St Giles' which have been knitted by members of the congregation and the local community to help us commemorate the centenary of the end of WW1

And absolutely finally.....

A Packet of Cookies

A young lady was waiting for her flight in the boarding room of a big airport. As she would need to wait many hours, she decided to buy a book to spend her time. She also bought a packet of cookies. She sat down in an armchair, in the VIP room of the airport, to rest and read in peace. Besides the armchair where the packet of cookies lay, a man sat down in the next seat, opened his magazine and started reading.

When she took out the first cookie, the man took one also. She felt irritated but said nothing. She just thought: "What a nerve! If I was in the mood I would punch him for daring!". For each cookie she took, the man took one too. This was infuriating her but she didn't want to cause a scene. When only one cookie remained, she thought: "Ah.. What will this abusive man do now?". Then, the man, taking the last cookie, divided it into half, giving her one half. Ah! That was too much! She was too angry now! In a huff, she took her book, her things and stormed to the boarding place.

When she sat down in her seat, inside the plane, she looked into her purse to take her eyeglasses, and, to her surprise, her packet of cookies was there, untouched, unopened! She felt so ashamed!! She realized that she was wrong....She had forgotten that her cookies were kept in her purse. The man divided his cookies with her, without feeling angered or bitter....While she had been angry, thinking that she was dividing her cookies with him. And now there was no chance to explain herself ..nor to apologize.

There are FOUR things that you cannot recover.

The Stone... ..after the throw!

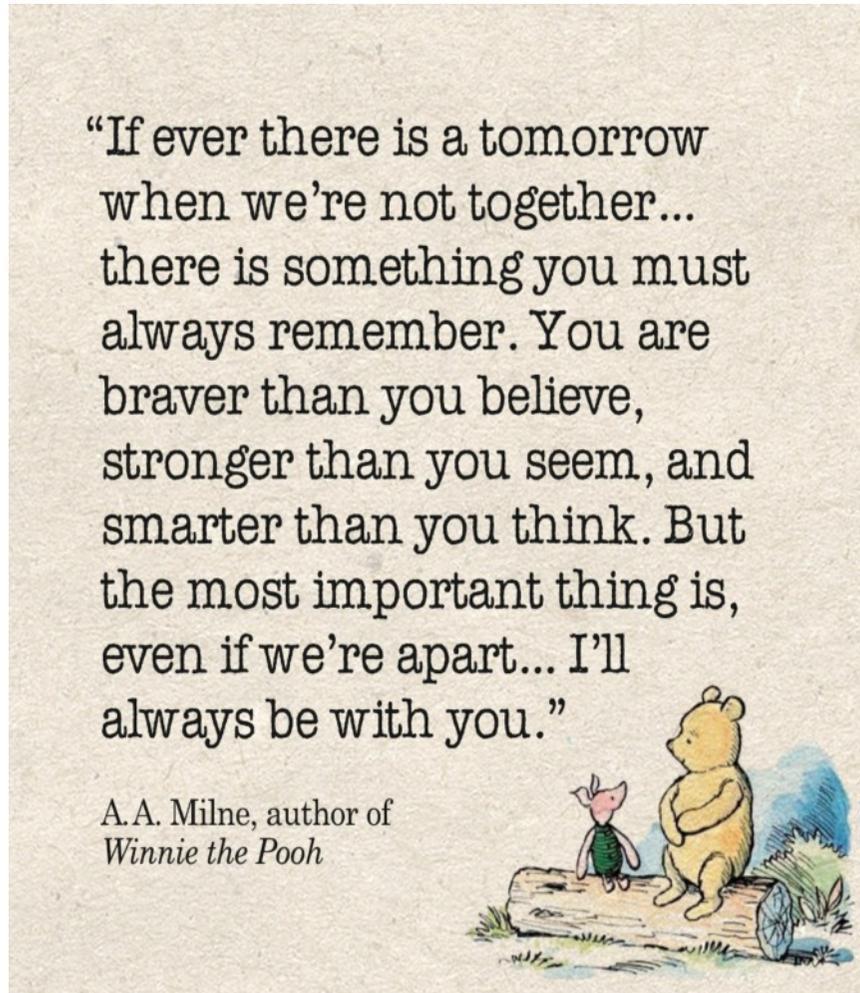
The Word... ..after it's said!

The Occasion... ..after the loss!

The Time... ..after it's gone!

And Finally.....

.....Words which are still as memorable today



Reflections



The Centenary of the First World War is being accompanied with many events and documentaries about ordinary peoples' experiences of how the War affected them and their loved ones. There were fiancées, wives, parents and children who not only faced the consequences of the death or wounding of a loved one; but also had to live with the War coming into their own homes when their men were abroad. Then there were the soldiers, sailors and flyers who faced the unimaginable horrors of trench, air and sea warfare. As they returned, they did so in company with the spectre of the Spanish Flu, a land not fit for heroes without employment and in financial peril.

As we come to the Centenary of the First World War, we know that different generations experience and remember very differently because of their experience and background.

If you are older, then you may well have memories of men, who if they heard a car backfire thought that it was incoming mortar fire and would hit the ground for fear of what they thought was coming. There will also be memories of parents of grandparents and the living consequences of trying to re-establish living in the aftermath of the death. Then there was also another death; when a husband returned with war experiences which significantly changed them and trying to work out how to accommodate and respond appropriately to their wounds, seen and unseen.



If you are younger, you may have heard stories, but not seen and heard and experienced the reality of day to day living in the aftermath of war. You may be one of those schoolchildren who have been fortunate to visit the war graves and see the immensity of the loss and sacrifice and hear the stories of some of those whose

lives were extinguished in time of war.

The churches had an important role to play and the care which they provided post war was very important. That care is still our responsibility today and we still have an important part in promoting peace and respect with our communities.

Remembrance comes from the Greek Word which means to bring to present significance. We are not meant to live in the past; but in honouring those who paid the ultimate sacrifice, particularly those we never knew; their stories, the aspects of their characters and their service, we are called to stand in solidarity and be committed to try and work for a world without war.

Karen K Campbell

Why are different colours of Poppies hanging in the church?

The red poppy is the most famous symbol used to commemorate those who sacrificed their lives in World War One and conflicts that followed and this year's poppy has "2018" printed on it in gold. Wearing a poppy was inspired by the fields of poppies that grew where many of the battles were fought and the poem, In Flanders Fields written by John McRae in 1915 really connected with those left behind. The poppy was adopted as a symbol by Field Marshall Douglas Haig who was a founder of the Royal British Legion. The red poppy represents remembrance and hope.

Some people feel that the red poppy glorifies war and conflict so instead they might choose to wear a white poppy. The white poppy is handed out by a charity called Peace Pledge Union, which promotes peace. The white poppy commemorates people who died in conflict, but focuses on achieving peace and challenging the way we look at war.

The purple poppy is often worn to remember animals that have been victims of war. Animals like horses, dogs and pigeons were often drafted into the war effort, and those that wear the purple poppy feel their service should be seen as equal to that of human service. (See page 12)

These other poppies can be worn alongside the red poppy.

The French use a blue cornflower instead of the poppy as it is a national symbol in France

AROUND THE AISLES

A huge Thank You to everyone who contributed in any way to producing our wonderful display of Poppies which is shown on the front page of this Issue.

The Nativity will take place on Sunday 23rd December and Bettina would be very grateful if you could let her know your availability to help her plan scripts, parts and costumes.

Our neighbours at St Catherine's Argyle are hosting a nation-wide Quiz Night in aid of Tear Fund on Saturday 18th November at 7pm. They would be delighted if you would like to join them.

Butterflies Plus will be offering its annual Christmas Lunch at 12.30pm on Wednesday 19th December. Bookings will be open soon and we would be delighted if you bring a friend.

The Flower Convenors will be available with the flower calendar on Sundays 11th and 18th November if you would like to donate flowers on a special date or volunteer to join the flower arranging rota.

A Roll of Remembrance photographic exhibition of Warrender Church will be on show in the Church Centre. Thanks to Chris Stewart for allowing us to use one of his university projects.



You may have noticed a perspex silhouette of a "Tommy" soldier in one of the pews on All Saints Sunday. "There But Not There" is the 2018 Armistice project for the Charity "Remembered". These statues aim to help us remember those who gave the ultimate sacrifice, educate future generations as to why they did and heal those who are still suffering from wounds that have not healed, both mentally and physically. Profits are being shared among several charities who support our troops past and present

THERE BUT NOT THERE

THE SPIRIT
OF
CHRISTMAS

PLEASE HELP IF YOU CAN

Christmas advent calendars might be the last thing on your mind just two weeks into November but there is one type of calendar you can start thinking about right now.



The Reverse Advent Calendar. Last year this idea was launched urging us to put away an item a day in a box, (you could cover it in Christmas paper) to create an "Advent Calendar Box" to help those who are less fortunate than ourselves often through unforeseen circumstances in life.

Rather than getting a treat every day in the run up to Christmas, please put one essential item, such as canned or dried goods, pet food, nappies or personal hygiene products, into a box every day for 25 days instead. **The cost of a small bar of chocolate will buy a tin of soup and a large latte would buy enough pasta and sauce to provide a meal for a family of four.** One or two treats wouldn't go amiss but the emphasis is on providing necessary items.

Starting in November means the box will be ready for delivery in mid December and can be donated ahead of the festive period allowing the recipients the relief of knowing that they will have supplies. Though the idea of delivering a box on Christmas Eve has a Yuletide romanticism attached, it's not very practical for the people who need the emergency supplies, so collecting during November and handing everything over in early December is really important. Of course, food poverty doesn't just occur at Christmas, so donations are very welcome in the New Year (and the whole of 2019).

Marchmont St Giles' has been supporting Richmond Craigmillar Church for the last couple of years and this would be very much appreciated by them. If you just want to contribute a couple of items then we will still have the donation box available in the Church Centre and all items are gratefully received.

CHURCH FAMILY & PARISH NEWS



Many congratulations to Barry Hughes, one of our former students, who has been called to St Marks's Church, Drip Road, Raploch, Stirling as his first charge. His induction will take place on Thursday 13th December at 7pm. If you would like to go then please let the office know so that numbers can be given to St Mark's.

Barry was also the leader of our Beavers' Pack and his departure to Stirling leaves a huge gap. A new leader is in the pipeline but help is required on the Executive Committee along with some general support so please consider whether you could help.



Congratulations also go to three of our Meadows Explorers Scouts Leaders who were recently awarded the following:

- Alison Gamble - Award for Merit
- Judith Wood - Award for Merit
- Colin Anderson - Chief Scouts's Commendation for Good Service

Katherine Taylor, another of our previous students, is enjoying her probationary placement with Rev Neil Gardiner at Canongate Kirk.



We give thanks for the life and service of :
Margaret Thomson, a member of the congregation, who died on the 2nd of November.

Helping to make MSG tick

November	Flowers	Coffee	Beadle
11 th	Judith Stewart	Helen Bennett	Jessica McCraw
18 th	Joan Ellam	Eileen Dickson	M Affolter/A Laing
25 th	Mhairi Wilson	Joan Wareham	Jessica McCraw
December			
2 nd		Ann McGhie	Charles Stewart
9 th		Liz Mack	M Affolter/A Laing

YEAR OF YOUNG PEOPLE

WILLIAM WATT - OUR STUDENT PLACEMENT



I was born and brought up in Port Seton and started going to church at the age of 5 with my Grandmother, and church life has been a huge part of my life ever since. My family were all quite musical and I learned to play the accordion from a wee boy.

Eventually I started playing the organ at my home church, Cockenzie Old parish, and well the rest is history. I spent 35 years teaching music, and as a church organist. I became organist at South Leith Parish church, in 1993 and spent 25 years there helping in the ministry of music, and leading the choir.

I did a theology degree at New College, and a Masters at St Andrews in theology and church music. This led me to go to Zambia in 2016 where I taught the history and theology of the reformed church's hymnody, to the candidates for the ministry of the United Church of Zambia. However I felt that God was calling me to a change in direction, and that it was time for me to give service to the church as a minister of word and sacrament, God seemed to be showing me a new way forward, and telling me that I could have something worthwhile to give to ministry.

So here I am with you at Marchmont St Giles', on what is now my third placement. Previously I was at Longniddry and Gladsmuir, and over the summer I did a full time placement in NHS Fife, where I was based at Queen Margaret hospital, working in the department of spiritual care and I also spent 10 weeks on chaplaincy work in and around Fife. I've now been at Marchmont for nearly four weeks, and I'm really enjoying being with you, and learning about all the wonderful things going on in and around the church, and I'm already starting to feel at home.

I know I will learn a lot from my time with you at Marchmont St Giles, a church which is striving to be at the heart of its community. I am looking forward to the next few months with you and, if I've not spoken to you already, I'll speak to you soon!

During the recent Presbytery meeting, the World Mission Convenor asked us to share some of their materials with the wider community.

The following prayers come from young people from around the modern world but would be just as relevant to young people 100 years ago:

Areeb is 12 years old, an asylum seeker from Pakistan living in Glasgow.

"Thank you for the love and support of family and friends and for a place to stay and food to eat. We remember the people that don't have food and shelter, and the people of the world who are suffering because of terrorism."

Lydia Mwale Kaluwa is a midwife and a nursing tutor in Malawi.

"God be with all the youth facing disease, war and natural disasters. Lord Jesus give them your love and peace that they may find solace in you alone. May you be their light as they face their challenges."

Ruben Pradeep Rajendran is studying theology in Sri Lanka.

"God of life, we thank you for the gift of life. As we are living in a post-war situation we remember and pray for every youth and child who has undergone hardships and trouble during and after war. Help your children to experience your grace and to renew their lives."

Rahbot is 9 years old from Eritrea and attends St Andrews Refugee Service based in Cairo which seeks to improve the lives of refugees.

"Dear God, I pray that the children of the world are not alone. I pray that the children will not be angry with their friends. I pray that the children will be happy."

Karabo Mamabolo II is a graphic designer in South Africa.

"Lord I pray that you raise young people who will be bold and courageous in contesting injustice and partake in healing the world."

FAMILY FOCUS - NOVEMBER 2018

The theme of our recent Kids club for primary aged children was 'Grow, Grow, Grow!' where we engaged with the parables of the sower and the mustard seed.



We made lovely "soil" cakes (chocolate cornflakes), leaf keyrings and cress crops, as well as games, challenges (including a representation of a growing plant that turned into a giraffe!) and an extra version of the story via Lego!

We came away remembering that we are all growing with and into God no matter how old or well used to God we are. We are all growing as ourselves too; something that maybe as adults we can forget sometimes in the busy-ness of everyday life. It has certainly prompted me and other adults in the team to think about what 'weeds' or 'stony ground' we have to deal with in our lives to draw nearer to God.

Growing together and growing near to God is central to the work we do here with children and families, so I would like to take this opportunity to thank those that are involved in groups like Kids Club, Sunday mornings etc that support and nurture them. There is always room for more of you!

Toddler Group is enjoying its 'new' time slot of 9.30-11.30am each Thursday and we are delighted that one of the Grandma's is taking the cupboard in hand for us ready for some new-to-us toys waiting in another Grandma's house! If you or someone you know has small children, come along and meet the lovely families of all shapes and sizes that come along each week.

And in other news, we would like to congratulate some of our younger flock for their various achievements recently:

Holly Anderson has been elected Digital Leader of her P7 year group in school, championing all things digital following her presentation and voting process and Joel Hather achieved 2 personal bests in his first official swim gala. Elizabeth Beattie has made her Brownie promise and Amelia Hather her Beaver promise, so we look forward to seeing them in their official kit for the first time this Remembrance Sunday. Well done to all!

Bettina

Fundraising for the New Development



Your Church
Needs You!

CAN YOU HELP?



Cornerstone are now working on raising a large sum of money on our behalf BUT there is still lots of work for us to do.

We need some volunteers to help fill in applications for some medium level fundraising

We need volunteers to help plan and deliver specific fundraising events, including The Meadows Festival, a luxury Fashion and Pamper Event, a Gardening/Plant Event, Musical Evening, a Church Sale and a "Bake-Off". All suggestions are very welcome.

We need your support !

Fundraising continues to grow apace with over £900.00 raised by the sale of home-made goodies. Production is underway to produce small Christmas gift hampers, individual Christmas Cakes, Reindeer Hot Chocolate and lots more. Items will be available at the **St Andrews Lunch which will be held on Sunday 2nd December** after the service.

The menu will have a Scottish twist and we ask you to donate the cost of Sunday Lunch towards our fundraising efforts.

Our personalised pens have arrived in a variety of colours and have a very useful stylo on the end. They are available to buy from the Office and the Cafe and are very reasonably priced at £1.99. Already selling well so don't miss out. All profits go to our fundraising efforts - everyone needs a nice pen!!



GUILD TILL JANUARY 2019!

In October, we enjoyed hearing about Sleep Scotland and The Yard, and look forward to a visit from Rock Trust's Nightstop on November 6th.



Please join us on **November 20th and December 11th at 7.30** when we have meetings entitled, respectively, Let's talk about ... Unexpected journeys, and, Christmas in the air...! (with a Christmas lunch in between!)

Our first meeting of 2019 will be on **January 15th, at 2.30 p.m.** in the St. Giles Room, (**note change of time and room**) when we will be hearing from our local Community policing team.

Early Christmas greetings from all Guild members, to all old friends - and indeed a warm welcome awaits any newcomers!

Christmas Gifts

Due to our Nativity & Gift Service being so close to Christmas it will be to late to distribute the gifts to the schools in Niddrie and Craigmillar as we did last year. **Everyone** is invited to bring a gift and they need to be with us by December 16th at the latest as the schools close on the 21st December. Therefore please bring in a **NEW** gift for a child and mark whether it is for a boy or girl and for which age group it is suitable. The Head Teachers from these schools were so grateful and delighted at your generosity.

Last year several bikes were donated to the schools for the children and, to demonstrate the difficulties which the schools face, they were handed out at a public assembly as parents had been known to sell the children's presents to get drugs and alcohol and pretend the children had not been given the bikes - this way everyone knew who got what and it ensured the children got their Christmas present

KIRSTY NOBLE is holding a Christmas Craft Sale selling Christmas Cards and Tree decorations in the Church Centre after the Service on the 25th November. Kirsty is one of only 10 young people selected from across Scotland through the Girl Guide International Opportunities Scheme to travel to Mexico in the summer of 2019. The Funds she raises will support a Girl Guide Education Project for young girls in Mexico. She would really appreciate your support.

Who is Scotland's Skating Minister? And what is his connection with the slave trade?

The Reverend Robert Walker is the answer to the first question. From 1784 until his death in 1808, Robert was minister of Edinburgh's Canongate church. As a young boy Robert had learned to skate on the frozen canals of the Netherlands where his father had been minister at the Scots Kirk in Rotterdam. Robert became a member of the Edinburgh Skating Club. The Club met on Duddingston Loch and Robert's skating elegance was captured by the artist, Henry Raeburn.

To answer the second question, Robert's connection with the slave trade, let me take you to Elmina Castle on Ghana's Gold Coast. For the better part of three hundred years, Elmina Castle was one of the principle points of departure for the slave trade. Hundreds of thousands of young African men, women and children were captured, shackled together in the castle's dungeons, herded onto specially built slave ships, and taken across the Atlantic. Like Auschwitz or Srebrenica, Elmina Castle reeks of unimaginable human horror.

At Elmina Castle Robert Walker is honoured as one of the people who campaigned against the trade in human misery. Robert Walker was the epitome of an establishment figure and yet against the vested interests of many in Edinburgh and beyond, in 1788 Walker persuaded the Presbytery of Edinburgh to petition Parliament to end the slave trade but it wasn't until 1807 and 1833 the Slave Trade and the Slave Abolition Acts were passed outlawing slavery throughout the British Empire.

On one of the dungeons at Elmina Castle where difficult prisoners were left to starve to death there is a plaque which includes these words;

May humanity never again perpetrate such injustice against humanity. We the living vow to uphold this.

Seeking to resolve the horrors of the slave trade of his day Robert Walker took that vow seriously.

As we become aware of the horrors of human trafficking today, will we take it seriously too?)

(Taken from an article written by the Very Rev Russell Barr)

MORE FORGOTTEN HEROES

During the war, millions of animals were used in many different roles to help soldiers in battle and those at home. Before 1914, wars had mainly been fought by cavalries but both sides soon realised men on horses could not win the war in the trenches, so they were used for transportation instead. Ambulance horses carried wounded soldiers and artillery horses carried weapons, ammunition and other heavy loads and they had to be strong.

Allied cavalry troops' horses are being lowered down in a sling onto the quayside as they arrive in Salonika. One million horses were sent to war - only 62,000 returned.



Dogs were some of the hardest and most trusted workers in World War One. The most popular dogs were medium-sized - Doberman Pinschers and German Shepherds. Sentry dogs stayed with one soldier or guard and were taught to give a warning sound such as growling or barking when they sensed a stranger in the area or close to camp. Many Dobermans were also used as sentry dogs. Casualty dogs were trained to find wounded or dying soldiers on the battlefield. They carried medical equipment so an injured soldier could treat himself and they would also stay beside a dying soldier to keep him company.

Animals were also often the most reliable way to carry messages. 100,000 carrier pigeons were used as messengers during the war. Pigeons always flew home when released, so the troops made sure the pigeons' nests were in places they needed to send messages. Records say pigeons delivered 95% of their messages correctly. Pigeons were kept at military bases and even in old London buses, which were brought over from England.

There are many stories of animals who became companions to soldiers during World War One. Winnipeg, known as Winnie for short, was an American black bear who was a mascot to Canadian soldiers. The Canadians gave Winnie to London Zoo in 1914. The writer AA Milne took his son Christopher Robin to see Winnie at the zoo and Christopher liked Winnie so much, it inspired his father to write the famous series of stories about Winnie the Pooh.

A Lasting Legacy from the Home Front

THE FORGOTTEN HEROES

The First World War saw a marked shift in the role of women within society as the demands of the War Effort helped advance women's rights and opened the door to opportunities that were previously seen as traditionally male. One of those areas was in munitions factories, like HM Factory Gretna, which was also known as 'The Devil's Porridge'. It produced more cordite than every other munitions factory in Great Britain put together.

Built in 1915, the largest of all the UK's munition factories it stretched 12 miles from Mossband, in Cumbria, to Gretna and Eastriggs, in Dumfries and Galloway. The factory required its own power source, water supply and narrow gauge railway to move materials and supplies.

By 1917, 11,576 women worked at The Devil's Porridge.

Hundreds of chemists, explosive experts and engineers were recruited from across the Commonwealth to organise and manage the production of RDB cordite, which was an alternative to the gunpowder British forces used at the time.

The vast majority of the work-force was made up of young women who travelled from across Britain. They mixed this devil's porridge and in doing so got their own nickname - 'Canary Girls' - as their skin would turn yellow from the sulphur. Sadly, many of the Canary Girls would make the ultimate sacrifice as they supported the War Effort.

They said you could see them coming for miles, out of the factories, down the streets and getting on buses. Their hair bright ginger with faces that glowed in the dark and skin a lurid shade of yellow. These were the 'Canary Girls' - women whose skin and hair was dyed from working with the sulphur and packing ammo in the munitions factories. Sadly, the colour change wasn't just cosmetic.

The toxic chemicals penetrated deeper, which caused some of the women to give birth to babies with toxic, sallow skin. They were literally giving their lives to the cause and for just half the salary of their male counterparts. The Canary Girls suffered from burns, nausea, skin rashes, coughs and chest infections all caused from sulphur and TNT poisoning. With the risk of explosion and toxic atmosphere many brave women lost their lives working in munitions factories like The Devil's Porridge.

THE UNKNOWN WARRIOR



On November 7th 1920, in strictest secrecy four unidentified British bodies were exhumed from temporary battlefield cemeteries at Ypres, Arras, the Asine and the Somme. None of the soldiers who did the digging were told why.

The bodies were taken by field ambulance to GHQ at St-Pol-Sur-Ter Noise. There the bodies were draped with the union flag. Sentries were posted and Brigadier-General Wyatt and a Colonel Gell selected one body at random. A French honour guard was selected, and stood by the coffin overnight. On the morning of the 8th a specially designed coffin made of oak from the grounds of Hampton Court, was brought and the unknown warrior placed inside. On top was placed a crusaders sword and a shield on which was inscribed 'a British Warrior who fell in the GREAT WAR 1914-1918 for king and country'.

On The 9th of November the unknown warrior was taken by horse drawn carriage through guards of honour and the sound of tolling bells and bugle Calls to the quayside. There it was saluted by Marechal Foche and loaded onto HMS Vernon bound for Dover..... the coffin stood on the deck covered in wreaths and surrounded by the French honour guard. On arrival at Dover the the unknown warrior was greeted with a 19 gun salute, normally only reserved for field marshals. He then travelled by special train to Victoria Station London. He stayed there overnight and on the morning of the 11th of November he was taken to Westminster Abbey. The idea of the unknown warrior was thought of by a Padre called David Railton who had served at the front during the great war and it was the union flag he used as an altar cloth at the front, that had been draped over the coffin. It was his intention that all relatives of the 517,773 combatants whose bodies had not been identified could believe that the unknown warrior could very well be their lost husband, Father, brother or son.... every year on the 11th of November Remember the unknown warrior....At the going down of the sun, and in the morning, we will remember them.

WE WILL REMEMBER THEM



*Lines of grey, muttering faces, masked with fear,
They leave their trenches, going over the top,
While time ticks blank and busy on their wrists,
And hope, with furtive eyes and grappling fists,
Flounders in the mud. O Jesus, make it stop!*



In a field surrounding an old house sits a grave stone commemorating the death of a horse. What was so special about this? This horse belonged to the son of the owners of this house - he had been killed in action in France in 1917. The parents managed to find the horse and bring him home to Glenurquhart where they built a stable for him and employed a man to look after him. This he did for 20 years and was paid £1 per month (equivalent to £150.00). The horse was the last connection they had with their son and kept him alive in their hearts.

Rudyard Kipling lost his only son at Loos in 1915, and his body was not recovered in his father's lifetime. His death affected the rest of his father's life, and part of his way of coming to terms with the death was his involvement with the Imperial War Graves Commission which was to become the Commonwealth War Graves Commission in 1960. As one of Britain's most famous authors, Kipling was involved in thinking about the symbolism and wording which was given to memorials, gravestones and the whole set-up of graveyards abroad after the Great War. Kipling was a committed Christian and his biggest contribution to the Imperial War Graves Commission was his suggestions that the Stones of Remembrance in the graveyards should have the biblical phrase from Ecclesiasticus 44:14, 'Their Name Liveth Forevermore' inscribed on them; and the gravestones of unknown soldiers should read, 'Known Unto God'.

Harry Lauder was another father affected by the death of his son. He was the most famous Scottish entertainer of the time, who wrote of the loss that he knew he had suffered and his inability to open the telegram on New Year's Day 1917. In Lauder's book, "A Minstrel in France", he talks about visiting his son's grave: "*I thought of him as a baby, and as a wee laddie beginning to run around and talk to us. I thought of him in every phase and bit of his life, and of the friends that we had been, he and I! Such chums we were, always! I wanted to reach my arms down into that dark grave, and clasp my boy tightly to my breast, and kiss him. And I wanted to thank him for what he had done for his country, and his mother, and for me.*"