

intouch

NEWSLETTER

Benefice of Clothall, Rushden, Sandon,
Wallington, and Weston



Welcome to this issue of In Touch,

I had hoped to have photos of the two Remembrance Day services that had been due to take place at Sandon and Weston this Sunday and to be sharing our memories. So much work and preparation had gone into making them Covid safe and to adapting the services to the latest guidance. So, I want to thank all those who worked so hard on these services – you and your efforts are not forgotten. Alas, we are going, once again, into a national lockdown situation and the churches are being closed for anything but funerals and private prayers.

Will that stop us – well no, but it did halt us for a moment whilst we made some decisions. The most important thing was that the names of the fallen were read out and remembered – this was our priority. Not on our collective watch as a benefice was this going to happen. So, on Sunday morning at 10am there will be a zoom service of Remembrance with the reading out of the names from the Rolls of Honour (please contact your churchwarden for a link if you have not been before). This service will finish at 10.45 to allow people to join with the nation at the Cenotaph via TV for 11am.

The names are printed here as well so that you can read them at home and also remember. We will also put the Roll of Honour onto our Facebook site. So please do join us Sunday morning if you can – we would love to see you and share this important national and local honouring of those who fought to keep us safe.

With blessings and stay safe- Fiona



Stanley Spencer: The Resurrection of the Soldiers (1928/9)

The Sandham Memorial Chapel in Burghclere, Hampshire was created as a home for a scheme of paintings Stanley Spencer conceived following the Great War. He had served as a hospital orderly near Bristol tending casualties, then with field ambulances and as a front-line soldier in Macedonia. He knew first-hand the fragility of the human body when at the mercy of the machinery of war and he was profoundly marked by all he experienced.

The chapel walls are covered by some 19 large paintings, entirely overpowering when first encountered. The Resurrection of the Soldiers fills the every inch of the furthest wall. Spencer thought of his 'holy box' as 'a Symphony, and at the East End a Requiem'. Through the chapel's paintings to left and right we trace a kind of symbolic diary of Stanley Spencer's war, culminating in this all-embracing vision at the far end.

Spencer was not bitter about the war, and refused to brood upon the bleak futility and sense of despair evoked by others, and this painting is one of hope. White crosses tumble down through the centre of the painting ending as a series of frames for the faces of soldiers at its foot. Soldiers gently wake from death as if from sleep; there is a feeling of a world 'coming round' in a new morning after a night of ill dreams. Friendships are re-established, calm and peace pervades, 'a feeling of being at home' as Spencer put it. The soldiers are in fact 'handing in their crosses' he said, much as a soldier might hand in his rifle once the conflict is done. The cross as an instrument of pain and death is of

no further use to them and higher up the painting soldiers give them to the white-robed figure of Christ. An intense serenity pervades all, yet as our eye moves higher up, so the grim smoky darkness of destruction has not fully dissolved.

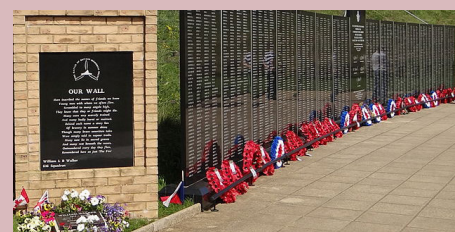
Spencer's unconventional faith was defiantly inclusive. Right at the centre of the composition are two big pink mules, creatures of which Spencer became very fond in Macedonia, despite their intractable stubbornness. They turn and gaze, bemused perhaps, at the sight of the destroyed wagon they were pulling at the moment of their death. Spencer thought that 'even mules come in for some sort of redemption'. They too share in this putting aside of death, exchanging it for a life which has transcended the brutal manner of their destruction. Spencer acknowledges the cruel barbarity of war and its cargo of death but his symphony of art reaches undaunted for exaltation and final happiness, an unassailable heaven.

OUR WALL

by Flt Lt William Walker who flew with
616 Sqdn during the Battle of Britain.
this poem is inscribed on the wall of the
Battle of Britain memorial at
Capel le Ferne.

*Here inscribed the names of friends we
knew,
Young men with whom we often flew.
Scrambled to many angels high,
They knew that they or friends might die.
Many were very scarcely trained,
And many badly burnt or maimed.
Behind each name a story lies
Of bravery in summer skies;
Though many brave unwritten tales
Were simply told in vapour trails.
Many now lie in sacred graves
And many rest beneath the waves.
Outnumbered every day they flew,*

*Remembered here as just 'The Few'.
Read by John Hutchinson*





THE ROLL OF HONOUR FOR THE PARISHES of CLOTHALL, RUSHDEN, SANDON, WALLINGTON & WESTON

WALLINGTON

ERNEST EDWARD AMBROSE
GEORGE HAGGAR
JOHN BERTRAM SCOOTE
ARTHUR WARD
TOM WALTER WARD

RUSHDEN

ALBERT CHAPMAN
FREDERICK CHAPMAN
THOMAS DOWLER
WALTER DOWLER
DAVID GRAVES
THOMAS STEVENS
WILFRED TOFTS

CLOTHALL

MAURICE BARNES
ALBERT PRESLAND
HARRY HOLLINSWORTH
WILLIAM LACEY

ALSO REMEMBERED IN
CLOTHALL
SAMUEL CASTLE
FRANK PAGE
WILLIAM HOPKINS
FREDERICK TOWNSEND
ALFIE TURNER

SANDON

CARLES BIGGS
AROLD CLARK
AMUEL CLARK
WILLIAM DAVIS
CHARLES DOWLER
ARCHIBALD GODFREY
WALLACE GOSS
ARTHUR KENT
ALBERT KING
WALLACE KING
WILLIAM MOODY
ERIC PALMER
GEORGE SOUTH
WILLIAM WRIGHT
HARRY HAGGAR WOOD
ROGER BURTON
HARRY IZZARD
WILLIAM CHURCH
EDWARD WARD
CECIL BROWN

AND FIRE FIGHTER JEFFERY
WORNHAM

WESTON

FRANCIS BRADBEER
WALTER AMBROSE
WILLIAM ANDERSON
SIDNEY AYLOTT
RONALD AUSTIN
HERBERT CLEMENTS

ALBERT COLLINS
CHARLES COLLIS
WALTER ELLIS
OLIVER FIELD
HAROLD GAME
JOHN GAME
WILFRED LEWIS
HERBERT SADGROVE
HERBERT SHADBOLT
ALFRED SWAIN
JAMES TURNER
WALTER TURNER
JAMES WALLIS
WILLIAM COLLINS
ERNEST HARRIS
ALFRED AUSTIN
THOMAS OAKLEY
VICTOR HOLMES
WILFRED IVES
FRANK SMITH
JOHN CLEMENTS
ALBERT TURNER
FRANK WALDOCK
JOSEPH BLAXILL
JOHN SWAIN
CYRIL BELL
ARTHUR COX
JACK CHALKLEY
JETHRO HAYWARD
LEONARD CLEMENTS
JOHN DAVIS
PERCY GINN
WILLIAM MILLS
JOHN SWAIN

THE KOHIMA EPITAPH

*When you go home
tell them of us and say,
for your tomorrow
we gave our today.*

A prayer for all those affected by coronavirus

*Keep us, good Lord,
under the shadow of your mercy.
Sustain and support the anxious,
be with those who care for the sick,
and lift up all who are brought low;
that we may find comfort
knowing that nothing can separate us
from your love in Christ Jesus our Lord.
Amen.*

If you would like to donate to any of our
churches in the current crisis - details are
below. We would be very grateful in your help
to keep our churches going.

Thank you.

PCC OF RUSHDEN
LLOYDS BANK: 30-94-30 A/C 01845350

SANDON PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL
BARCLAYS BANK: 20-73-26 A/C 53610802

PCC ST MARYS CHURCH WALLINGTON
LLOYDS BANK: 30-94-30 A/C 01845466

WESTON PCC
BARCLAYS BANK: 20-41-12 A/C 40946850

PCC OF CLOTHALL
LLOYDS BANK: 30-94-30 A/C 01845245

FOR THE FALLEN

*They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old;
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning
We will remember them.*

Laurence Binyon