

ParishMonthly

Our Lady & All Saints Catholic Church, Otley

www.olasotley.org

November 2016



We will remember them

In Flanders fields the poppies blow

Between the crosses, row on row . . .

Remembrance Day provides the opportunity for communities across the country to remember the sacrifices made by their own families in the two World Wars, and of course in more recent conflicts.

We show overleaf the full Roll of Honour for our own Parish and as a congregation will honour all of those who died at our own Remembrance Day service. And we'll be very proud to do so.

Chris Power compiled a wonderful biographical tribute to them all some few years ago and this will shortly be available on the Parish website.

A few years ago, too, Martin Connor and his son Tom undertook to locate the last resting places of the parishioners recorded on the parish War Memorial and Roll of Honour. Of the 19 men lost in the Great War of 1914 - 1918, 16 have graves or memorials in France and Belgium, 2 in Otley and one in Malta.

Martin recalls "We took the ferry to France and headed to Picardy. Over the next two days we visited places such as Albert, Thiepval, Arras, Ypres and more. Along the way we saw great contrasts. For example Thomas Brogan is commemorated at Thiepval, the largest British military monument in the world, which records the names of 72,000 men who fell at the Somme and will have no known grave. John Finnegan lies at rest in perfect silence among fields of swaying wheat in Queens Cemetery along with only 179 other identified souls.

We returned to England and ended our journey by revisiting Otley Cemetery to find Egbert Corry. Earlier in the trip we had visited his brother's memorial at Arras. Egbert had enlisted as a private with the Bradford "Pals" that were so devastated on the first day of the battle of the Somme in 1916. I doubt if he ever served with the "Pals" as he received a commission to the rank of lieutenant

and was transferred to the Prince of Wales Own West Yorkshire Regiment. However I am sure he would have learned that the "Pals" suffered close to 1000 casualties on the first day of the battle, with the total Commonwealth casualties on that first day alone numbering over 60,000 men. Just over two weeks later Egbert was seriously injured, returned to England but later died of his injuries.

Like many others I've always felt a great personal debt of gratitude for the sacrifices so many of my countrymen and women made to protect my freedom."

I echo those sentiments, Martin. So many lives lost. And yes, we will remember them.

Joe McGuinness

For the full account of Martin and Tom's journey to the World War 1 battlefields, please visit the Parish website www.olasotley.org

Prophets in the Old Testament

When we celebrate the Liturgy of the Word at Mass we usually have an Old Testament reading and often this is from one of the Prophets. Who were these men, what did they say & why are they so important even today?

Moses is generally held to be the first & greatest of them & we see Elijah & Elisha following in his footsteps. Subsequently we have the Prophets who have books named after them divided into Major & Minor, the former being Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel & Daniel. They are not in any chronological order but broadly in order of length.

What did they say? The Prophet is a mouthpiece. He has no doubt that the `word of God` has come to him and must be passed on. One of the many definitions of a Prophet is that `he speaks truth to power`. He sees present & future through God's eyes & reminds Rulers, Nations, Religious Leaders & Societies of their duty to God & the consequences of their failure to heed God's message. That message can be one of warning, one of admonishment, one of encouragement, one of love. No subject is beyond the word of God. It can be expressed by speaking or by symbolic action. Nothing is outside God's view of his people.

What is the importance of the Prophetic word today? It is stating the obvious to say that sinfulness, wrongdoing & corruption is as prevalent today as it was in Old Testament times. We have to ask ourselves where are the Prophets who will `speak truth to power` in present day circumstances. Perhaps we should reflect on this when we hear the voice of Prophecy coming to us down the ages at our Sunday Liturgy.

Just a word about false prophets. They figure a lot in the Old Testament & the gift of Discernment is needed to expose them. More of this in future articles. Hopefully I can continue the series with pen-pictures of the individual Prophets & their lives & ministries starting with Isaiah.

Frank Bowe

Recommended Reading

The Shed That Fed a Million Children by Magnus MacFarlane-Barrow

This book tells the extraordinary story of a fish farmer from Scotland and his idea that would improve the lives of over a million children worldwide.

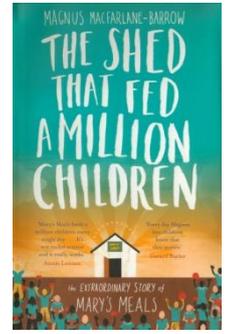
It all started when, after watching a news bulletin in war torn Bosnia in the 90's Magnus MacFarlane-Barrow and his brother decided they would collect aid and deliver it to the war torn country. On returning home Magnus discovered the public had carried on donating, filling his father's old shed with goods. His next trip was to Malawi where he met 14 year old Edward on a visit to his family's shack. Edward was the eldest of six children, his father had died and his mother was dying of Aids. When Magnus asked the boy what he wished for his future the boy answered " I would like to have enough food to eat and go to school one day." This simple wish led to the idea that would change the lives of millions of children worldwide!

Magnus created a programme called Mary's Meals, which provides meals for children that attend school. Millions of children cannot attend school due to starvation or have to work to help pay for food. Even if they attend school they are so hungry and malnourished that learning becomes impossible.

Magnus realised that the way out of poverty was education and that if schools could

provide a child with a meal, it would be a great incentive for poor parents to send their children to school and therefore breaking the destructive cycle of hunger, poverty, disease and illiteracy. It costs as little as £12.50 to feed a child for a whole year. Most of the donations come from ordinary people around the world. Magnus says the reason Mary's Meals works is because it is the community who owns it, they are in charge of providing volunteers to cook the food and also to guard it from thieves! The Headquarters for Mary's Meals is still the old shed which holds a picture of Edward, the boy who inspired Magnus, reminding him of why and how this remarkable work began. The book is a first hand journey of how Mary's Meals started its powerful message of such a simple idea. It contains humour and little anecdotes that made me laugh and cry. And it educated me. I loved the idea that if these children can get an education then poverty and reliance on overseas aid, may become a thing of the past.

Miriam Reynolds



A message to all the elderly from Pope Francis

The Church regards the elderly with affection, gratitude and high esteem. They are an essential part of the Christian community and of society: in particular they represent the roots and the memory of a people. You are an important presence because your experience is a precious treasure which is essential if we are to look to the future with hope and responsibility. Your maturity and wisdom, accumulated over the years, can help younger people in search of their own way, supporting them on the path of growth and openness to the future

The elderly show that in the most difficult trials we must never lose confidence in God and in a better future. Many elderly people generously spend their time and the talents that God has bestowed upon them by helping and supporting others. How many grandparents care for grandchildren simply by passing on to them the experience of life, and the spiritual and cultural values of a community and a people? Your mission is to bear witness to the values that really matter and that last for ever, because they are engraved on the heart of every human being and are guaranteed by the word of God. The future requires the encounter between young and old: young people are the vitality of a people "on the way", and the elderly reinforce this vitality with memory and wisdom.

Extract: Holy Father's address on Vatican Radio. See Parish website for full text.

My Reflections on India with Sylvia Wright

Earlier this year I was privileged to be able to visit the Rangammal Memorial School in South India, a school for hearing impaired children, founded and run by Sylvia Wright.

Before going, I was somewhat nervous as I am not a teacher and have never filled the role of classroom assistant. I had no experience, no qualifications, only a little knowledge of sign language, and knew nothing of their own language. I was also uneasy about the thought of spending so much time away from home.

My fears about everything quickly vanished as the children in the School literally swamped us with the warmth of their welcome! They were so excited and throughout the entire stay filled our lives with their smiles, their joyfulness, and their overwhelming sense of simply wanting to be around us. If you were talking to some children to your left, a child on your right would put her hand on your cheek and turn your face towards hers. It was so moving.

The teachers too were so kind, even cooking meals at home which they would bring into school for us.

It's hard to imagine but all the children really did seem happy all the time. They were enthusiastic to learn, always interested to know about us, and always pleased to see us as we visited the different class groups. Most mornings they would bring us a flower for us to wear in our hair.

One day I was sitting on the ground in the sun watching the boys play cricket. Without saying a word, one boy came across, went into the School, brought out a chair, and placed it in the shade for me. I thought about how he had communicated his care for me without using any language at all. I was struck by the fact that caring for each other doesn't need language, whether you are hearing or not.



I was able to spend some time with Sylvia herself who was pleased to talk about the changes that had been made over the years. I found her very unassuming, but I felt quite honoured to be in her presence.

There is a lovely new Centre being built for the severely disabled children but meanwhile the volunteers have made the existing, slightly dilapidated, premises very attractive with paint and posters on the walls. The children there were full of smiles and really enjoying playing together.

I felt very sad to leave those children as I had felt so privileged to have been part of their lives for the past 8 weeks. And they a part of mine. I worried about what would become of them when they have to leave school. For some they will have known nothing else from the age of about 4 to 18. They will leave the care and security of that wonderful environment to go into the outside world that is largely a "hearing world", and I worried about how they would cope. When I returned to Otley everything was just the same. For a few days that troubled me. But then I realised that to everyone else, nothing has changed. But have I? I'm still asking myself that question. I went partly because it was important for me to have time just for me. That sounds strange when I was immersed totally in a school of 200 children, but it meant I wanted as few distractions as possible. I was able to properly see and fully appreciate how happy those children are with what they have... their very few material things and all of them with a disability too.

If anyone is thinking of volunteering to go out there as I did, I would say you have to be prepared to throw yourself into it. Just accept things for what they are. You have to make do. And don't worry if you're not academic. The children there, just like the disabled at Lourdes, don't care one bit! It's far more about how much love and laughter you can bring. And with children like I experienced in India, you can be sure they'll bring loads too! [Emma Nicholson](#)



“ My fears about everything quickly vanished as the children in the School literally swamped us with the warmth of their welcome! ”

ROLL of HONOUR Our Lady & All Saints WAR MEMORIAL NAMES

For the Fallen

WORLD WAR I

Edgar Barrett
John S Barrett
Joseph Bona
Thomas Brogan
Egbert Corry
Norbert Corry
John Currie
William Currie
Joseph Currie
Thomas E Duffissey
William Duffissey
John Finnegan
James McSorley
Thomas E Mann
Michael Nangle
Norman Pawson
Thomas Pearson
Charles Shaw
John Walsh

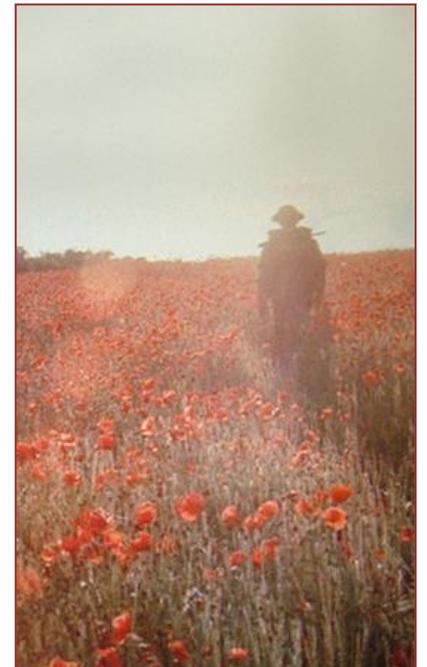
With proud thanksgiving, a mother for her children,
England mourns for her dead across the sea.
Flesh of her flesh, they were, spirit of her spirit,
Fallen in the cause of the free.
They went with songs to the battle. They were young,
Straight of limb, true of eye, steady and aglow.
They were staunch to the end against odds uncounted;
They fell with their faces to the foe.
They shall not grow 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 (1869-1943)

In Flanders Fields

In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky,
The larks, still bravely singing, fly,
Scarce heard amid the guns below.
We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders fields.
Major John McCrae (1872 -1918)

WORLD WAR II

Herbert Bona
Bernard Brayshaw
Bernard Brogan
John Brennan
James Duffissey
Anthony Hutton
Bertram Kaye
Hugh McNeice
James Welsh



Baptisms

Adaline Margaret Hall
Isaac James Lawson
Declan James Renolds

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Recently Deceased

Joe Hughes

Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him. May he rest in peace. Amen.