



All Saints Church, Barling with the porch bedecked with flowers for a wedding

When people see a church from outside, it can appear lifeless and forbidding. When going into a church, things often don't get much better. With luck, there might be a couple of attractive flower arrangements, but all of this is a long way from what the builders of our church had intended when they built the church.

In fact when our churches were first built, they were the centre of village life, where meetings would be held, as well as the local court, and plays, even markets and, of course parties and all sorts of celebrations and naturally church services.

Similarly with Churchyards, gravestones were not introduced until the 17th Century and Churchyards were used for archery practice, outdoors parties called 'alis', wrestling, dancing and as a market place. Prior to Queen Elizabeth I introducing the Poor Law, the Church Ale, sold to support the poor, was brewed in the Churchyard. Queen Elizabeth became concerned about the drunken revelry taking place in churches and that is why the Poor Law was introduced!

It is quite a challenge to find a definitive meaning of Barling. Some say it means 'The people of the boar', others that it means 'meadow of the boar'. However, boars are shy creatures, so I doubt that a boar would have been happy in a meadow. During the Saxon period the area was extremely wooded as was most of the country and boars favour wooded areas.

Dr Reaney in 'Place Names of Essex' states that Wakering was an early 5th Century settlement and means The settlement of the sons of the people of Wacor.

The first documentary evidence of the existence of All Saints is in the year 998 during the reign of Aethelred II (Ethelred the Unready, however unfair this soubriquet may be), Barling was left in the will of a Saxon Thegn Leofwine to his Lord, Bishop Wulfstan of London. It is quite interesting to note that Leofwine was father to Leofric, the cruel husband of Lady Godiva who made her ride naked through the streets of Coventry—obviously we have no such goings on here!

Edward the Confessor (1042-1066) confirmed his gift of the Parish of Barling to the Cathedral Church of St. Paul's in London. The charter, in Latin, ends with some words of warning to any who should try to break his decree

"If anyone at all, which we do not wish, should try to break this our decree or in any other way should presume to vary what has been laid down by us, let him be cut off from the fellowship of our Lord Jesus Christ and let him be counted with thieves and with that most wicked Judas who betrayed Christ and suffers infernal torments for ever, unless he shall come to satisfaction and amendment of his ways."

However, nobody is sure what the original church would have looked like—it would probably have been made of wood, although no remains have been located.

In 653 and 654 St Cedd founded the church at Bradwell and set about converting the people of Essex into a Christian community,

Both churches are built of Kentish Ragstone and both buildings were built in the 12th Century.

The pews

The church pews that you see about you in both churches are a relatively modern innovation, starting during the Tudor period. Before that people would stand, kneel or sit on the floor. Those who were ailing would be allowed to lean against the wall. It is from here that we take our saying about 'The weak going to the wall'. However, you could, of course, bring your milking stool with you, or the really rich might get someone to bring a chair to the church for them.

The pine pews in All Saints were installed in 1863-64 through a grant of £30 from the Incorporated Society for Building Churches, providing 142 seats reserved for the use of the poor. Some have already been removed to make space for other activity.

The pews at St. Mary's are made of oak!

The rood stairs

Both All Saints and St Mary's have their rood stairs open. Rood is an Old English word for the cross. These rood stairs took the priest to the top of the rood screen which was a screen which divided the holy part of the Church from the communal part. The rood screen had the cross of the crucifixion on it and the priest would arrive there, as if by magic, probably to read the bible or give his sermon.



The Church Towers

Both churches have church towers made of Kentish Ragstone, with darker stones forming an attractive pattern.. St Mary's tower is used as their vestry, whereas All Saints has a vestry next to the chancel (where the altar is). Above St. Mary's vestry there are two further rooms.

St. Mary's tower is beautifully decorated with stone and flint chequer work and a west doorway with the arms of a bishop and the Countess of Stafford. There are niches over and to the sides of the doorway containing figures, the age of which is unknown. It is understood that the tower was built by the Countess of Stafford and John Wakering, Bishop of Norwich as thanks to God for his safe return from the Battle of Agincourt.

The tower of St. Mary's houses three bells by John Waylett.

When viewing the tower of All Saints' from the gate, it can be noticed that crosses have been designed into the front buttresses. There are also similar crosses in the front boundary walls,. The tower was added in the early 15th Century. There are 3 niches in the wall of the tower facing the road. It is not known when the figures were made, although it would appear that they are more recent than the tower.

The tower of All Saints also houses three bells. Although sources have varied over time as to how many bells were at All Saints. Philip Morant in his History of Essex states that there were four. Another source, John Dier (late 16th Century) states that there were two bells as does John Hodson (1666). Benton (History of the Rochford Hundred) says "There were formerly three bells, one is gone, another cracked and bound with an iron hoop which conceals the name of the maker. It has upon it 'W.S. and J.S. 1666 Churchwardens'. The remaining one states 'John Dier made me'."



Carols by Candlelight at All Saints, Barling

However, in 1902 the bells were recast from the originals as a gift to the Parish from Revd. Gace. The bells were named after his three daughters Marion, Elizabeth and Mildred..

Also located in the tower, mounted on the wall are the remains of the old Parish Chest of Renaissance design with four panels, three of which have motifs of leaves and pods (often in carving of this age, meaning wealth or referring to the need to donate) and the fourth panel has a book on it. It has been suggested that the panel is Dutch.

The Fonts

The stone octagonal font in All Saints dates from the 15th Century. Four sides are panelled with blank shields in squares, three have quatrefoils in circles and one is blank.

The oak cover was given in memory of the wife of Henry Read.

A stone font was present in the early medieval period. Dean Baudake, in 1297, travelled from London to conduct a visitation inspecting the condition of All Saints. It was commented that the stone font was locked, indicating that the font had a canopy with closed doors. The Archbishop of Canterbury, in 1236, had ordered all fonts to be covered and locked to prevent the superstitious from stealing the Holy Water.

There is also a stone font with a wooden cover at St. Mary's.



The Font at All Saints, Barling ready for a wedding

The Pulpits

The pulpit in St. Mary's is particularly interesting as stone pulpits are particularly rare, with only 66 surviving throughout the country. There is a further stone pulpit at St. Nicholas, Great Wakering. These stone pulpits are known to date from the late 14th Century onwards.

In All Saints there is a 17th Century hexagonal oak pulpit with a sounding board to carry the preacher's voice. The sounding board is a fine example of Jacobean workmanship, it is decorated with what appear to be Tudor roses..

On the matter of roofs

When many of our churches were built in the medieval period, the countryside was extremely wooded, so many were built of wood. However, later stone buildings started to replace the wooden ones, but there was still sufficient wood around and in St. Mary's there is a fine King-post supported roof, which, again, is rare, but there is the same style of roof in St. Nicholas', Great Wakering.

All Saints has a barrel internal roof, which is what gives such superb acoustics in the church.



A charming pedestal at All Saints

The Church Plate

St Mary's possesses two very ancient and beautiful communion chalices. One is inscribed 1568 and is contained within a black leather case, donated by their original Patrons St. Bartholomew's Hospital. There is a further vessel dated 1566, mentioned in an Edwardian list. According to that statement one chalice dated 1549 was "stollen by c'ten p'sons unknown"

All Saints has a chalice which is engraved 'Barling' 1562; a paten and cover to accompany the chalice which is engraved 1566; a flagon and two alms basons dated 1864.

These beautiful old silver chalices are no longer used as, with age and usage, the edge thins and becomes quite sharp. All Saints uses chalices and patens given in 1867 by the Revd. Samuel Buxton Smyth in memory of his wife. He had been curate and then vicar of Barling for 20 years.

Music at the two Churches

Although All Saints and St. Mary's were became a Joint Benefice in 1933 and a Joint Parish in 2008, there must have been a previous connection between them.

Organs are relatively new instruments to churches and in 1792 concern was expressed about the state of Church music and an arrangement arrived at when a bass viol and subsequently a clarionet were purchased and declared to be the joint property of the two churches.

However, in 1799 there was still dissatisfaction with the singing at All Saints and a blind man from Prittlewell was engaged to assist with the singing!

Towards the end of the 19th Century, in All Saints, singing was lead by a barrel organ. The Revd. Alfred Webb sold the barrel organ to raise funds to buy the positive organ which was pumped manually by a choirboy who received a small amount of money for his efforts.

During the time of Revd H Sanderson (1968 to 1973) an electric blower was fitted and a complete restoration took place in 1974. However, during Sunday services, notes still stuck, maybe due to the damp and probably helped along by voracious field mice chewing on the leathers!

The current organ was offered to All Saints as a gift when the Methodist Church, Little Wakering closed, on the understanding that the Church raised the funds to cover the cost of removal and tuning.

St. Mary's purchased a positive organ at the end of the 19th Century which still leads the singing today. helped along by voracious field mice chewing on the leathers!

The ledgers at All Saints

In this case, the word 'ledger' refers to the large flat stones in the church, which commemorate the deaths of worthy and wealthy citizens.

There are three ledgers close to the altar, all belonging to the Asser family. The grandest has a Coat of Arms and belongs to George Asser and his wife Elizabeth and is in the centre. On one side lies their daughter Elizabeth, wife of The Reverend John Davies, Vicar of Barling and Asser, son of Thomas Drew, aged 2 years. On the other side lie the parents of George Asser, George and Abigail.

Adjacent to the pulpit is a further slab (ledger) dedicated to the Reverend James Salt, a Minor Canon of St. Paul's, who was resident vicar of Barling from 1793 to 1824. He was an enthusiastic herbalist and had a little surgery in the Vicarage (Glebe Farm was Barling's vicarage at that time). He dispensed his own potions and emetics to the parishioners. He is noted for the large quantities of dandelions he consumed and his usual beverage was peppermint tea.

According to Phillip Benton, The Reverend James Salt owned Rutkins and Burton's Farm (where our butcher is now located). On his death he left the properties to his relatives, plus £200 to his groom, £100 to his bailiff, John Winterflood, and £100 to be divided amongst 20 families in the Parish!

There is a story of James Salt, that he decided to plant mustard seed at night with the aid of lamps to avoid the ravages of the ravages of the turnip fly. Alerted by a well intentioned villager, a number of people arrived to assist in putting out the fire! Apparently, the Reverend Salt was not amused and sent them off home calling them a set of idiots!

Also close to the altar is the black marble ledger of Richard Bateman, Esq, a citizen and merchant of London who died in 1688, the eldest son of Robert Bateman, Esq., sometime Chamberlain and Alderman of London.

Phillip Benton says that at the time of the Victorian Restoration, this ledger was situated in the Chancel. Bateman's ledger and that of Elizabeth Davies were removed and placed further down the church in the Nave. Benton and others made representations in protest and both slabs were returned to the Chancel. However, the resting places of the ledgers exchanged places!

The most ancient of the ledgers is in the north aisle (the opposite side, when entering the church). This stone slab dates from the late 13th/early 14th century. Barely visible now is the cusped cross at the east end, apparently quite a rare example in this county.

It is doubtful whether all these slabs actually represent where the bones of those to whom they are dedicated actually are. Regardless of where their bones lie, the details on the slabs remind us of past inhabitants who once played a part in the life of our church.

Also close to the altar is the black marble ledger of Richard Bateman, Esq, a citizen and merchant of London who died in 1688, the eldest son of Robert Bateman, Esq., sometime Chamberlain and Alderman of London.

The most ancient of the ledgers is in the north aisle (the opposite side, when entering the church). This stone slab dates from the late 13th/early 14th century. Barely visible now is the cusped cross at the east end, apparently quite a rare example in this county.

It is doubtful whether all these slabs actually represent where the bones of those to whom they are dedicated actually are. Regardless of where their bones lie, the details on the slabs remind us of past inhabitants who once played a part in the life of our church.

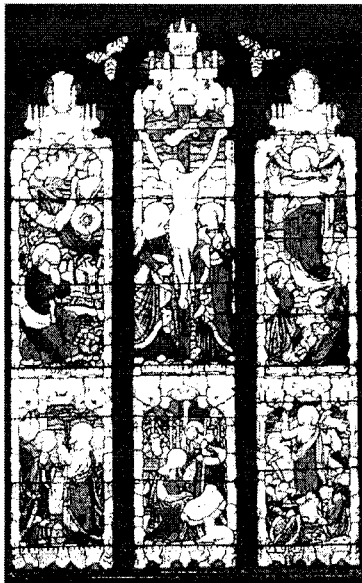
Perhaps the most moving of all the ledgers is the one on your left as you come in through the porch. This ledger is dedicated to Eleanor, wife of Robert Hust, died aged 17, buried with her was their son, George, aged 3 months.

The windows

St Mary's has the oldest glass of the two churches. The windows on the south side of the church (on the right as you stand looking at the altar), the window panels depict the four evangelists (the saints Matthew, Mark, Luke and John) and were formerly in the window behind the altar. More recently the Wix Memorial window was put over the altar and in the choir the Vallenge Darvell windows.

In All Saints the beautiful stained glass window over the altar is divided into six sections, five showing scenes from Christ's life: His nativity, His trial before Caiaphas, His crucifixion, His resurrection and His Ascension. The remaining panel shows the Old Testament story of Elisha, the servant, watching Elijah, his master, ascending by chariot into heaven.

Also, on your left as you come into the church through the porch is a lovely window showing Christ, The Good Shepherd and Christ, The True Vine with a small inset of the Virgin and Child at the apex. This window is in memory of Revd. Frederic Aubert Gace, vicar of the parish for 39 years. Revd. Gace was quite a character and disagreed with the catechism and wrote his own. There was much discussion, nationally, and headlines in Punch about Revd. Gace.



The East Window at All Saints, Barling

Regarding the Parish Records

The earliest records from All Saints date from 1555. These were kept on loose sheets and record baptisms, probably following the law implemented during the reign of Elizabeth I requiring records to be kept..

The first Register was bought by The Reverend John Baptist Rosemund in 1685.

Only the current records of baptisms, marriages and burials are held in the church, all other record books now reside in Chelmsford, where they can be looked after and protected from fire, flood, insects and the mice!



Other items of interest at All Saints

The reading light on the pulpit, given by Peter Smith (now, unfortunately, in the new churchyard himself) of Barling House to the memory of his parents, John and Margaret, includes the lovely inscription "Loves last gift is Remembrance".

The two tall chairs either side of the altar are in memory of the wife of the Reverend Alfred Webb, Mary Ann.

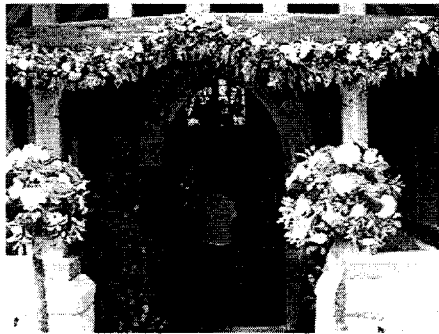
The Litany desk, still in use by our current vicar, was dedicated To the Glory of God and in loving memory of Sarah Theresa Read, widow of Henry George Read.

There is a model of Barling windmill made by Harry Manning, a former chorister. As a boy, Harry had lived at the mill when his father was miller there. The smock mill built around 1762 was finally demolished in 1946.

The brass lectern, known to us as "Eddie the Eagle" supports a Bible presented on All Saints' Day, 1905 to the Reverend Webb, a gift from Mrs. Hudson, in memory of her late husband, Thomas. This brass 'eagle' lectern was also donated by Mrs Hudson in memory of her late husband, Thomas.

The oak cover on the font was given in memory of the wife of Henry Read, this was at the same time as the Litany Desk.

The brass jug at the base of the font was presented to the church by Henry Read, Churchwarden, 1899.



The porch at St. Mary the Virgin prepared for a Flower Festival

The tower screen is in memory of Thomas Hudson, his wife Charlotte and their daughter Charlotte Elizabeth. Thomas Hudson was Churchwarden at some stage, one presumes prior to his son Thomas Beaumont Hudson taking on the role.

Just a little side note: Mrs Read was first married to Thomas Beaumont Hudson, late of Barling House. Many of the Victorian furnishings were donated in memory of these three people in the church at that time. Their graves are to be found in the central part of the old south west graveyard. Thomas Beaumont Hudson was Parishioners Warden for 35 years (1854-1889), and Henry Read was for some years Vicar's Warden

Other items of interest at St. Mary the Virgin

As you enter the church from the porch, in the timber porch which was constructed during the reign of Elizabeth I, on either side of the door are monastic heads of carved stone, suggesting a real link with both a mediaeval hospital, St. Bartholomew's, and the Priory of Stokes near Clare Suffolk.

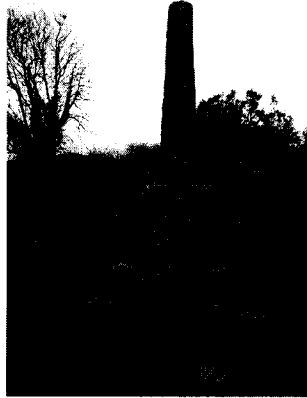
On your right, as you go through the door, is the 'Stoop', which, in earlier Catholic times and the beginning of the Church of England, was filled with Holy Water to be used by the congregations. This 'Stoop' is of the 12th century.

The Bishop's chair (1929) is a memorial to Churchwarden W. H. Brodie Lilley and is a replica of St. Augustine's Chair in Canterbury Cathedral.

The Credence Table in the Sanctuary is a memorial to the Reverend B. S. Mercer, MA, Vicar at St. Mary's from 1924-33.

It is said that a vestry once adjoined the north wall; evidence of which is seen from the inside by an archway that was once a doorway, but is now blocked in. This was probably built at the same time as the tower, but was removed in 1574 by a local farmer—Thomas Rawlings—who used the stonework himself, and so became charged with theft before the Patrons.

The church also keeps the Village Whipping Post and handcuffs which used to be near the Old Castle Inn site. Also there is the Little Wakering Constable's truncheon dated 1783. The Chittock family donated a George III coat of Arms, which is still visible in the tower.



The War Memorial in All Saints Churchyard

In Remembrance

Earlier in the section “Items of Interest at All Saints”, it is noted that Peter Smith used the words “Love’s last gift is remembrance” to commemorate his parents. Every Remembrance Day we say “WE WILL REMEMBER THEM”. At All Saints on freezing and wet Remembrance Sundays we go out to the Churchyard and read out the names of the Fallen from both wars. How they sacrificed their lives is known.

Here is how they made their most generous of sacrifices:

All Saints

“TO THE GLORY OF GOD AND IN HONOURED MEMORY OF THE MEN OF THIS PARISH WHO FELL IN THE GREAT WAR 1914-18”

Charles William Everett—Private 24201, 35th Battalion , Machine Gun Corps (Infantry). Died of wounds received 26th April, 1918, aged 27. Formerly R/10609, King’s Royal Rifle Corps, when he enlisted, but he went to France in July 1917 where he was transferred to the Machine Gun Corps. Private Everett went to France in July 1917. In the following September he was wounded in the head, but returned to France 4th April, 1918 and was seriously wounded thirteen days later. He was again invalided home, dying of his wounds in hospital at Edgbaston, Birmingham on 26 April, 1918. He was 27 years old.

William Clarence Haken—Gunner 701438, 'A' Battery, 330th Brigade, Territorial Force, Royal Field Artillery. Gunner Haken was killed in action on 27th July, 1917 in France and Flanders. He was born in Boxford, Essex and enlisted in Cardiff. He was a son of William Haken of Barling. He is buried in Coxyde Military Cemetery, Koksijde, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium, Grave I. F. 18..

William (Edward) Himpett—Private 204480, 7th Battalion, Bedfordshire Regiment. He was born in Sittingbourne in Kent, resident in Thundersley, Essex. He was the son of Mrs A Himpett. He was reported 'Missing in Action' and later confirmed to have died of his wounds in France on 22nd March, 1918, aged 31. He left a widow. He is commemorated on Pozieres Memorial, Somme, France, Panel 29 and 29

Ernest Reginald Leonard Snow - Wireman 2nd Class, HMS Invincible. Fought at the Battle of the Falkland Islands and was lost on HMS Invincible at Jutland on 31st May 1916 aged 21. Ernest is also commemorated on the Portsmouth Naval Memorial, Hampshire, Panel 20.

Stanley Langstone —Air Mechanic, No 112904, Rcruits Depot, Royal Flying Corps. Stanley Langstone was the son of Mr and Mrs Frederick Langstone of Bolt's Farm, Barling. He enlisted on 27th December, 1917 and immediately developed a cold which further developed into pneumonia. He died at Woking Military Hospital on 13th January 1918, aged 24, leaving a widow, Elsie. He is buried beneath a marble cross by the church porch.

Herbert Linge—Able Seaman J/7597, HMS Queen Mary, Royal Navy. Herbert Linge was a regular sailor, already in the Navy at the outbreak of war. He died on 31st May, 1916, age 22 (same day as Ernest Snow, above) at the Battle of Jutland, when the Queen Mary was sunk. He is also commemorated on the Portsmouth Naval Memorial, Hampshire, Panel 13.

Bert(ram George) Murrell—Private 82763, posted to 2nd/2nd London Battalion, Royal Fusiliers (City of London Regiment), Formerly 5689 . 1st Battalion Middlesex Regiment. Son of George and Annie Murrell of York Road, Southend-on-Sea.. He was taken prisoner, dying of dysentery on 31st July , 1918, aged 22.. He is buried at Misery near Chaulnes, behind enemy lines. A resident of Barking, he is also commemorated on the St. Erkenwald's War Memorial as well.

George Perry—Private 26778, 10th Battalion , Essex Regiment. Killed in action 4th March, 1917 in France and Flanders, aged 28. Born Little Wakering, Essex, enlisted Southend-on-Sea, resident Barling. Son of James Perry (and possibly brother of above). Buried in Regina Trench Cemetery, Grandcourt, Somme, France, Grave IV, D, II.

George Perry was the first Barling man to be killed. At the time, one brother was serving in France and another was still in training.

James Perry—Private 26875, 10th Battalion, Essex Regiment. Killed in action 26th August 1918, aged 24. Born Great Wakering, Essex, enlisted Southend-on-Sea, resident Barling. Buried in Danzig Alley, British Cemetery, Mametz, Somme, France, Grave IX, N.7.

Joseph George Smith—Private 40404, 1st/5th Battalion (Territorial Force), Lancashire Fusiliers. Killed in action at Ypres, 6th September aged 25. Son of Mrs. S C Smith of Pantile Cottages, Barling, he also left a twin sister. Formerly 39803, Bedfordshire & Hertfordshire Regiment. Buried in Tyne Cot Cemetery, Zonnebeke, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. Grave X. B. &

Arthur Snow—Private , Mp 40132, 1st Battalion, Princess of Wales's (North Staffordshire) Regiment. Died of blood poisoning (Septicaemia) at Southampton on 14th April 1918, following wounds received in France, aged 29. He is buried in All Saints Churchyard. He left a widow and two children at The Falklands, Barling.

Ernest Reggie Snow—Wireman 2nd Class, HMS Invincible. Died 31st May aged 21. He fought at the Battle of the Falkland Islands and was lost on HMS Invincible at Jutland on 31st May, 1916.

Both of the above were sons to Mr George Snow and Mrs Jane Snow, postmistress of Barling.



Memorial to A H Snow (see at start of this section) at All Saints, Barling

**TO THE GLORY OF GOD AND IN HONOURED MEMORY OF
THE MEN OF THIS PARISH WHO FELL IN THE SECOND
WORLD WAR 1939-45**

Sergeant William Alfred Collins (Wireless Operator/Air Gunner) 903486, 49 Squadron, Royal Air Force. Died 10th April, 1942, aged 26. Son of William and Agnes Collins of Barling. Buried in Reichswald Forest War Cemetery, Kleve, Nordrhein-Westfalen, Germany, Grave 19. B. 1.

Sapper Lawrence Kinsella—1944812, 585 Corps Field Park Company, Royal Engineers. Died 7th January, 1943. Son of Mr and Mrs Lawrence Kinsella, husband of Eva Iris Kinsella of Barling. Commemorated on Brookwood Memorial, Surrey. Panel 6, Column 2.

Leslie E. Pledger—currently there is no information available from the War Graves Commission.

Sergeant Stanley William John Taylor— Air Gunner, 15 Squadron, Royal Air Force, Volunteer Reserve. Died 4th December, 1944, aged 20. Son of Ellen Emma Victoria Taylor. Buried in Reichswald Forest War Cemetery, Kleve, Nordrhein-Westfalen, Germany. Grave 25. A. 9.

Little Waking

THE TWO GREAT WARS

Acting Sergeant (Thomas) William Bailey was born at Lt. Waking where he was educated. He lived at 'Erewhon', Alexandra Road, Great Waking. He was employed at the Southend Waterworks until he enlisted in November 1915. After serving some time he was transferred to Private Charles Henry Hills, lived at Ferndale Cottage, Little Waking and was serving at the outbreak. Son of Mrs Alice Jane Hills of Ferndale Cottages. He was killed in action near Guedecourt on 18th October, 1916, aged 24. He had served in Gallipoli, Mauritius and Ireland. He is commemorated on Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France Pier and Face 10D.

Gunner Bennewith, Z Battery, 5th Brigade, Royal Horse Artillery. Lived at the Castle Inn. Son of Mr H Bennewith, wheelwright and builder of Little Waking. Gunner Bennewith worked for Messrs Beharrel & Sons of Barking and before that at the Southend Rates Office. He had only been in France for one month when he died of his wounds on 1st June, 1916. He had recently been married, was 27 years old and was buried in Bailleul.

Lance Corporal Leslie (Charles) Burgess, 32nd Battalion, Royal Fusiliers (City of London Regiment). He was employed with his father at Bullers Farm, Little Wakering. Enlisted at Shoeburyness in September 1914 and went to France in May 1915 where he was wounded in the head on 20th November. He was invalided to England and upon recovery returned to France in April 1916. He was again wounded on 15th September 1916 and lay on the battlefield for five days and six nights. He died as a result of his wounds and exposure on 26th October 1918. He was 25.

Air Mechanic Frank Kine Clark, son of John and Sarah Ann Clark of "May Blossom", Little Wakering. Born in Southend, but moved to Little Wakering with his parents in 1912, attending the Council Schools. He had only been in the RAF four weeks when he contracted influenza (there was a severe outbreak of influenza during the First World War, which killed 280,000 people in England—known as the Spanish Flu), dying in .

Rifleman John Corder, 9th Battalion, Rifle Brigade (The Prince Consort's Own). Lived at the Bungalow, Barrow Hall, Southchurch, son of Mrs Corder of Great Wakering where he was born. He enlisted in February 1915 and was killed in action on 25th August, 1917, aged 29. His Officer wrote that he was "a splendid soldier. His death is a severe loss to the company and the battalion."

Private Charles Henry Hills—1st Battalion Essex Regiment. Private Hills, son of Mrs Alice Jane Hills, lived at Ferndale Cottage and was serving at the outbreak of war. He was killed in action near Guedecourt on 18th October 1916, aged 24. He had also served at Gallipoli, Mauritius and Ireland. He is commemorated on Thiepval Memorial.

Sergeant Walter James Hills, 1st Battalion, Essex Regiment. Born Southchurch to Mr John and Mrs Alice Jane Hills of Ferndale Cottages, Little Wakering. Killed in action 6th August 1915 at Gallipoli age 27. Commemorated on Helles Memorial, Turkey. Panel 144 to 150 or 229 to 233. Sergeant Alfred (John) Maynard was born at Bletchingley, Surrey, was the son of Mrs. A. Maynard and had lived in Southend and Great Wakering for 12 years, latterly at Primrose Cottage, Eastwood, employed as a Market Gardener. He enlisted in August 1914 and was sent to the Dardenelles July 1915.

He had just gone up to a Sniping Plate on 7th October when he was shot in the head, dying instantly. He was buried NNE of Anzac Cove. He was much admired by his Officer and men and there is a very moving letter on the internet, under his name, under Little Wakering (www.roll-of-honour.com/Essex/LittleWakering).

Private Arthur Pye, 7th City of London Regiment. Private Pye fought in both Flanders and France. He was killed in action at Warlencourt on 7th October 1916 and was buried at the New British Cemetary, Warlencourt, Eaucourt.

1939-1945

Leading Aircraftsman Eric Garrad, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve. Died 8th April, 1945 at age 23. He was the son of Mr and Mrs F. J. Garrad of Little Waking, Essex. Commemorated on Singapore Memorial, Kranji War Cemetery, Singapore. Column 453.

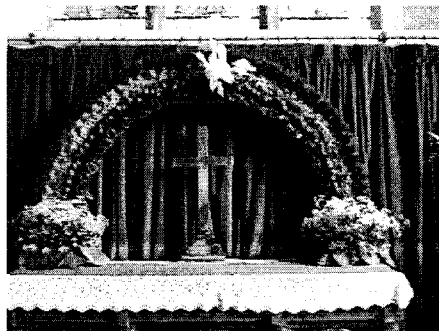
Private Lionel Garrad, 2nd/5th Battalion Essex Regiment. Died 1st July 1942, aged 25. Son of Mr and Mrs F J Garrad of Little Waking, Essex. Buried in El Alamein War Cemetery, Egypt. Grave XX C 15

Private William (James) Holmstead, 7th Battalion, Somerset Light Infantry. Died 7th August 1944, aged 19. Son of William and Annie Naomi Holmstead of Little Waking. Commemorated on Bayeux Memorial, Calvados, France. Panel 13, Column 3.

Sergeant (Observer) Eric Seymour of 7 Squadron, Royal Air Force, died 24th March, 1941, aged 23. Son of Richard and Emily Seymour of Little Waking. Buried in Sutton Road Cemetery, Southend-on-Sea. Plot R, grave 12264.

Buried in the Churchyard

Flt Sergeant (Pilot) Noel George Edward Ladbroke of Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve. Died 26th November 1944, aged 21. Son of George Stanley and Sarah Isobel Keziah Ladbroke of Southchurch. Buried in St. Mary the Virgin Churchyard, Little Waking.



If anyone has any further information on the above, please let us know and we will be happy to include it in the next edition

A final, happier, note: Not all our heroes died. In fact, Peter Robinson of the Grenadier Guards, returned decorated with the Distinguished Service Medal and destined to become famous. He continued to take his tank onto the bridge at Nijmegen (A Bridge too Far) which was known to be mined and under 88mm anti-tank fire as well as bazookas. The bridge was 700 m long and known to be impossible for tanks. On the other side of the bridge he carried on for 1500 m on his own and knocked out the self-propelled gun whilst still under 88mm and bazooka fire, showing great bravery. To see the full citation go to barlingwakingvillages.co.uk/barling/prcitation



Peter Robinson in his Grenadier Guard's uniform

Peter and Dorrie Robinson with Sean Connery during the filming of A Bridge Too Far



Written by: Jill Bulman with thanks to Valerie Smith and Rev. Ronald Woolven