

Explore what's inside St James' Church



This article features the World War 1 memorial plaque on the north wall and the men from the parish who fought and died in the Great War.

Private Edward Kenneth Leslie Cross was born in Weddington on 8 April 1898 and lived at Wood Farm with his mother, Emily and father Edward. *Weddington at that time was a hamlet of 106 people, although neighbouring Caldecote was larger at 136.* Educated at King Edward VI Grammar School he became a farm manager. He enlisted in January 1917 in the Royal Warwickshire Regiment and died aged 19 on 4 October 1917 from wounds received in action near Ypres. He is buried in the Godewaersvelde British Cemetery.



The next three names belong to the Shakerley brothers, Geoffrey Charles, Eric Piers and Arthur Cecil. The family lived at Weddington Hall (Castle) having previously lived at Grove Park Mansion, Budbroke near Warwick.

Lieutenant Colonel Geoffrey Charles Shakerley, was born around 1870, and during the war was in the King's Royal Rifle Corps. Decorated with the Distinguished Service Order (DSO) he was killed in action at Ypres on 15th May 1915 aged 46. He is buried in Rue Petillon Military Cemetery in Fleurbaix, France.

Captain Eric Piers Shakerley was born on 8th March 1885 and educated at Clifton College and Cooper's Hill Royal Indian Engineering College. From 1906 he worked with the Sudan Irrigation Service being in charge of works in the Sudd region of the Upper Nile.



Captain Shakerley was in the King's Royal Rifle Corps and on 10th March 1915 he led an assault party in an attack upon the enemy trenches at Givenchy. The party came under heavy fire, but reached the wire entanglements where Captain Shakerley was shot dead, 5 yards from the enemy's trench. He died aged 30, 2 months before his brother Geoffrey was killed. Captain Shakerley was mentioned in despatches for gallant and distinguished conduct and he is commemorated on Le Touret Memorial at Pas de Calais.

2nd Lieutenant Arthur Cecil Shakerley was the middle brother, born around 1880 and he was in the Royal Horse Artillery and Royal Field Artillery. Killed in action on 22 April 1917 he was 37 and the last of the three Shakerley brothers to die. His grave is in Bailleul Road East Cemetery, St Laurent – Blangy, France.

Private Percy Wainde was born around 1899 and was the younger son of Arthur Wainde, coachman to the Shakerley family. Percy Wainde was in the Royal Berkshire Regiment and was killed in action aged around 18 on 24 November 1917, the last of the Weddington men to fall in the war. He is commemorated on the Cambrai Memorial, Louverval, France. His elder brother Arthur William Wainde (born around 1896) was in the Royal Regiment of Artillery and he survived the war.