



**Order of Service for**  
**The Blessing and Dedication**  
**of**  
**The New Ypres League**  
**Standard and Memorial Plaque**

**October 15<sup>th</sup> 2024**  
**St George's Memorial Church,**  
**Ypres**

*Remember to Help us Remember Them.*

## *Introducing the New Ypres League.*

You may be familiar with the original Ypres League, the First World War remembrance society which was founded in 1920 and which grew rapidly to be the first remembrance organisation of its kind in Ypres. Totalling around 35,000 members, the Ypres League published a journal, the Ypres Times, as well as guidebooks and maps to the Ypres Salient. Besides acting as a brotherhood for those who fought there, the Ypres League wanted to perpetuate the historical and symbolical significance of Ypres to the British Empire and believed it their sacred duty to maintain the memory of those who fought and fell in its defence.

Remembrance in the Ypres Salient of today presents us with a whole new set of unique challenges. The last veterans of the Great War left us a few years ago but remembering the fallen in the Salient is still as relevant today as it was in the 1920s and 30s. The remains of over 135,000 missing soldiers lay in the cold clay of Flanders, and although the Great War ended over 100 years ago, the Salient still regularly gives up its terrible harvest. Once the recovered remains have gone through the identification process, they are reburied with full honours in one of the many military cemeteries in the area.

These ceremonies and the sacrifice made by these soldiers require official recognition in the form of wreath laying and the attendance of a standard bearer. In addition to the burials there are many other ceremonies which require official attendance. However, as time

marches on, there are fewer and fewer people and organisations available to perform these tasks.

**Therefore, more than 80 years after the demise of its predecessor, it has been decided to found a New Ypres League.** The founding members are British and Belgian residents of Ypres supported by regular British visitors to the city, all with a track record of promoting interest in the First World War and preserving the memory of the fallen in the Ypres Salient. The New Ypres League is a registered 'VZW', a not-for-profit association according to Belgian Law, with Luitenant-Kolonel Isabelle Lahaye, Militair Commandant van de Provincie West - Vlaanderen graciously agreeing to become Patron in Chief of the organisation.

The aims of the New Ypres League are based on the core values of the original Ypres League:

1. To continue our commitment and obligation to the fallen by commemorating all soldiers who lost their lives in the Ypres Salient during the Great War, by attending burial, rededication and memorial services.
2. To restore the historic relationship between the Ypres League and St George's Memorial Church in Ypres.
3. To reinstate Ypres Day, October 31<sup>st</sup>, as a commemoration day in the city of Ypres.
4. To monitor the condition and status of the Demarcation Stones funded by the Ypres League in the 1920s, and consider funding any restoration needed.
5. To foster good relations between the people of Ypres and visitors from the Commonwealth.
6. To build relationships with the city of Ypres, its surrounding towns and all our fellow remembrance organisations in the area.

Thank You for your support.

Kind Regards

*Roger Steward/Dominiek Dendooven*  
*Founders of the New Ypres League*

This is an inclusive service for those of faith and non-faith. It's up to you which parts you wish to participate in.

**Welcome by the Reverend Richard Clement**  
Chaplain to the New Ypres League & St Georges  
Memorial Church.

### **Hymn: I Vow to Thee My Country**

I vow to thee, my country, all earthly things above,  
Entire and whole and perfect, the service of my love;  
The love that asks no question, the love that stands the test,  
That lays upon the altar the dearest and the best;  
The love that never falters, the love that pays the price,  
The love that makes undaunted the final sacrifice.

I heard my country calling, away across the sea,  
Across the waste of waters she calls and calls to me.  
Her sword is girded at her side, her helmet on her head,  
And round her feet are lying the dying and the dead.  
I hear the noise of battle, the thunder of her guns,  
I haste to thee my mother, a son among thy sons.

And there's another country, I've heard of long ago,  
Most dear to them that love her, most great to them that know;  
We may not count her armies, we may not see her King;  
Her fortress is a faithful heart, her pride is suffering;  
And soul by soul and silently her shining bounds  
increase,  
And her ways are ways of gentleness, and all her paths  
are peace.

**Introduction:**

Brothers and sisters, we meet together in the presence of God to take part in this service of the blessing and dedication of the New Ypres League Standard and dedication of the Memorial Plaque to the Ypres League.

Almighty God, whose will is for all of humanity to live together in peace and harmony, may we ever be mindful of the service and sacrifice of those who have gone before us and especially those who served in the Ypres League in the years following the First World War. Help us to be willing always to serve without counting the cost, save that of knowing that we do your will, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

**Reading: John Chapter 15 v 12-17**

Read by Rosie Barron

Membership Secretary of the New Ypres League

**Address**

*The Standard-bearer moves to stand in front of the Chaplain.*

### **Dedication and Blessing of the Standard**

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, we do dedicate and set apart this Standard, that it may be a sign of our duty towards our Kings and Countries and a symbol of the service that the New Ypres League is called upon to render. May Almighty God bless this Standard, that it would inspire and encourage those who serve in the New Ypres League in the years to come.

**Amen.**

*The Chaplain places the Standard by the altar.*

### **Prayers**

Grant we pray, O God, that all we who here do honour the memory of our brethren's loyal service and sacrifice in years past, may be filled with the spirit of their love, dedication and courage, and putting away all selfish and unworthy aims, may live together to the glory of your Holy Name and in the service of our fellow humanity, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

### **The Lord's Prayer**

**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name;  
thy kingdom come;  
thy will be done;  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation;  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
the power and the glory,  
for ever and ever.  
Amen.**

*The Chaplain, Churchwardens and New Ypres  
League representatives move to the church porch.*

### **The Dedication of the Memorial**

In the faith of Jesus Christ, we offer and dedicate this Memorial to the glory of God and in memory of those who served in the Ypres League.

**Amen.**

May it be a symbol of their courage, dedication and service, given in the hope of peace and a better world to come.

**Amen.**

May all who read it pause in silence and give thanks.

**Amen.**



*The Chaplain, Churchwardens and New Ypres League representatives return to their places in the church.*

## **Act of Remembrance**

### **The Exhortation**

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.

**We will remember them.**

The Last Post

The Silence

The Reveille

### **The Kohima Epitaph**

'When you go home, tell them of us and say:  
For your tomorrow we gave our today.'

### **Hymn: Onward Christian Soldiers**

Onward, Christian soldiers! marching as to war,  
with the cross of Jesus going on before.  
Christ, the royal master, leads his armies on:  
forward into battle till the fight is won!

*Onward, Christian soldiers, marching as to war,  
with the cross of Jesus going on before.*

At the name of Jesus, Satan's armies flee:  
on then, Christian soldiers, on to victory!  
Hell's foundations tremble at the shout of praise  
sing the song of triumph! loud your voices raise!

*Onward, ...*

Like a mighty army moves the church of God:  
we are humbly treading where the saints have trod;  
Christ is not divided all one body we,  
one in hope and calling, one in charity.

*Onward, ...*

Crowns and thrones may perish, kingdoms rise and  
wane,  
but the church of Jesus ever shall remain;  
death and hell and Satan never shall prevail  
we have Christ's own promise and that cannot fail.

*Onward, ...*

Onward then, you people! march in faith, be strong!  
blend with ours your voices in the triumph song:  
Glory, praise and honour be to Christ the king!  
this through countless ages we with angels sing.

*Onward, ..*

**The National Anthem of the United Kingdom.**

**The National Anthem of Belgium.**

### **The Blessing**

As we go from this sacred place, may God grant to the living, grace; to the departed, rest; to the church, The King, the Commonwealth and to all peoples, unity, peace and harmony; and to us all, eternal life: And the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be amongst you and remain with you, now and always.  
**Amen.**

***The Patrons and Members of the New Ypres League would be delighted if you would join us for a short refreshment break in the church hall before attendance at the Last Post Ceremony.***

If you wish to find out more about the New Ypres League or financially support us by becoming a member or by donating, please visit our website:

**[www.newypresleague.com](http://www.newypresleague.com)**

or

email us at:

**[newypresleague@gmail.com](mailto:newypresleague@gmail.com)**