

Everyone is invited to stay for refreshments in the church. Do please do look at the display about Arthur Charles Argent.

Karen Dennis writes ...

My grateful thanks to all those who contributed towards the cost of the headstone - a list can be found on the display boards - and especially to the following for their help and support in making today possible.

- The Royal Leicestershire Regiment Association.
- Revd Paul A. Carr for his support.
- Roy Farrer of F E Farrer for all his help.
- Bradfords of Great Baddow and in particular Myles Scripps for the engraving of the headstone.
- Len Hale.
- The Royal British Legion Billericay Branch.
- Steve Hopper, Bugler.
- Members of the 10th Essex Living History Group.
- Mr Robert Norris, Organist.
- David Bowles, Verger and the congregation of St Mary the Virgin.
- Mrs Brenda Rees.
- Simon Houlton.
- Andy Maddocks.
- Christine Wade Editor of The Resident.

The Billericay & Little Burstead Team Ministry

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A Service of Commemoration
and Dedication of the Headstone
in Memory of

Arthur Charles Argent

A Soldier of the Great War
1887 - 1920

The Leicestershire Regiment



Saint Mary the Virgin, Little Burstead

Saturday 22 June 2019 at 10.15 am

Conducted by Revd Paul A. Carr

Team Rector, Billericay & Little Burstead Team Ministry

Music As We Gather
Sanctus from “The Armed Man, A Mass for Peace”
by Sir Karl Jenkins

Entry of The Royal British Legion Billericay Branch Standard and
The Royal Leicestershire Regiment Standard

Welcome

Remembering Arthur Charles Argent
Karen Dennis

Hymn

The day thou gavest, Lord, is ended
The darkness falls at Thy behest
To Thee our morning hymns ascended
Thy praise shall sanctify our rest.

We thank Thee that Thy church unsleeping
While earth rolls onward into light
Through all the world her watch is keeping
And rests not now by day or night.

As o’er each continent and island
The dawn leads on another day
The voice of prayer is never silent
Nor dies the strain of praise away.

The sun that bids us rest is waking
Our brethren ‘neath the western sky
And hour by hour fresh lips are making
Thy wondrous doings heard on high.

So be it Lord, Thy throne shall never
Like earth’s proud empires pass away
Thy kingdom stands and grows forever
Till all Thy creatures own Thy sway.

C Scholefield

The Dedication of the Headstone

The congregation gathers facing the headstone. Standard Bearers will stand one on each side of the headstone, Royal Leicestershire Regiment on the left and Royal British Legion on the right.

Those laying wreaths gather to the right of the headstone behind the Standard Bearer of the Royal British Legion

A Guard of Honour round the headstone made up of members of the 10th Essex Living History Group.

Unveiling of the Headstone
Len Hale

Blessing of the Headstone

The Exhortation
Len Hale

*They shall grow not old, as we who 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

Two Minutes Silence will be observed

The Reveille

The Laying of Wreaths

Closing Prayer and Blessing

Poem

“Aftermath” written by Siegfried Sassoon in March 1919

Read by Andy Maddocks, Chairman of Billericay Reading Rooms
and of Billericay & District Residents Association.

“Have you forgotten yet? ...

For the world’s events have rumbled on since those gagged days,
Like traffic checked while at the crossing of city-ways;
And the haunted gap in your mind has filled with thoughts that flow
Like clouds in the lit heaven of life; and you’re a man reprieved to go,
Taking your peaceful share of Time, with joy to spare.
But the past is just the same - and War’s a bloody game...

Have your forgotten yet? ...

Look down, and swear by the slain of the War that you’ll never forget.
Do you remember the dark months you held the sector at Mametz -
The nights you watched and wired and dug and piled sandbags on parapets?
Do you remember the rats; and the stench
Of corpses rotting in front of the front-line trench -
And dawn coming, dirty-white, and chill with a hopeless rain?
Do you ever stop and ask, ‘Is it all going to happen again?’

Do you remember that hour of din before the attack -
And the anger, the blind compassion that seized and shook you then
As you peered at the doomed and haggard faces of your men?
Do you remember the stretcher-cases lurching back
With dying eyes and lolling heads - those ashen-grey
Masks of the lads who once were keen and kind and gay?

Have you forgotten yet? ...

Look up, and swear by the green of the spring that you’ll never forget.

Music As We Leave
The Benedictus from “The Armed Man, A Mass For Peace”
by Sir Karl Jenkins.

Standards are returned and we make our way to the graveside for the dedication of the
headstone.

The funeral service of Arthur Charles Argent was conducted on 11 May 1920 by Revd
Clement Payne, the Rector of Little Burstead and Revd W S Smith, Vicar of Billericay.
Revd Barnabas Shin of the United Reformed Church of Billericay is unable to be with us
today. On his behalf Mrs Brenda Rees, a member of the URC, will read from the King
James Bible.

John 14:1-4, 6, 27 and 15:12-13

Let not your heart be troubled; ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my
Father’s house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go
to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come
again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also. And
whither I go ye know, and the way ye know. Jesus saith unto him, I am the way,
the truth, and the life; no man cometh unto the Father, but by me. Peace I leave
with you, my peace I give unto you; not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let
not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.

This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you. Great-
er love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.

Simon Houlton was also unable to be with us today but has kindly recorded a hymn very
much associated with The Great War.

Solo

Oh valiant hearts who to your glory came
Through dust of conflict and through battle flame;
Tranquil you lie, your knightly virtue proved,
Your memory hallowed in the land you loved.

Proudly you gathered, rank on rank, to war
As who had heard God’s message from afar;
All you had hoped for, all you had, you gave,
To save mankind - yourselves you scorned to save.

Oh risen Lord, Oh Shepherd of our dead,
Whose cross has bought them and whose staff has led,
In glorious hope their proud and sorrowing land
Commits her children to Thy gracious hand.

Words: Sir John Stanhope Arkwright,. Music: Rev. Dr. Charles Harris

Address

Revd Paul A. Carr

Hymn

Oh God, our help in ages past,
Our hope for years to come,
Our shelter from the stormy blast,
And out eternal home.

Beneath the shadow of Thy throne
Thy saints have dwelt secure;
Sufficient is Thine arm alone,
And our defence is sure.

Before the hills in order stood,
Or earth received her frame,
From everlasting Thou art God,
To endless years the same.

A thousand ages in Thy sight
Are like an evening gone;
Short as the watch that ends the night
Before the rising sun.

Time, like an ever rolling stream,
Bears all its sons away;
They fly, forgotten, as a dream
Dies at the opening day.

Oh God, our help in ages past,
Our hope for years to come,
Be Thou our guard while troubles last,
And our eternal home.

Isaac Watts

Prayers

The Collect of the Royal Leicestershire Regiment

Oh God of the spirits of all flesh, we praise and magnify Thy Holy name for all Thy servants who have finished their course in Thy faith and fear, especially for Thy servants of The Royal Leicestershire Regiment; and we beseech Thee that, encouraged by their examples, and strengthened by their examples, be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light; through the merits of Thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Strengthen, Oh Lord Jesus Christ, the hearts of those who have served in the Royal Leicestershire Regiment, that all that is best in them may rise to meet the challenge of each coming day, that they may worthily maintain the traditions of those who have lived, fought and died under the Colours of the Regiment, for Thy tender mercies' sake. Amen.

Oh God, who art slow to anger, and of great kindness, have mercy on Thy servants of The Royal Leicestershire Regiment, who put on the boldness of the tiger in the day of battle, that we may never let the sun go down upon our wrath; and that, though victory be turned into mourning, we may remember that Thou wilt wipe away all tears, for the love of 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.**