

# HTSM First World War Monthly Journal

## November 1914

The Rector's letter gave the sudden news that the Battalion were going to India. The Bishop of Winchester would not give him permission to go, and he realised that he could not go unless he resigned his parish. However, he did go with them from Maidstone to Canterbury. The men marched to a popular song, changing the words to 'It's a long way to CanterbAry' and giving a great shout when they saw the tower of the Cathedral. There was a Parade Service with 2,600 Territorials. The Archbishop said it was the most impressive service he had attended in the Cathedral. Kirwan, as Chaplain, preached three times while in Canterbury.

He noted the approach of Advent and remarked that they could scarcely look forward to a 'merry' festival. Celebrating Harvest festival had been questioned but Mr. Kirwan pointed out that they should not forget God's blessing of the harvest 'while thinking of the blackened fields in Belgium and France'. After the service the children had sent a wreath of fruit and flowers to the Military Hospitals in Aldershot.

The League of Honour, for war, had been founded, nationally, to encourage women and girls to uphold women's duty and honour in wartime. It aimed to combat social and moral dangers and to deepen a sense of responsibility for the honour of the nation. It was disbanded in 1917 because other societies were doing the work.

Only one man on the parish memorial died in November 1914. He was Eric Dolphin, a career soldier who had joined up in 1906. He was a captain in the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion of the Hampshire Regiment when he was killed on 17<sup>th</sup> November at Ploegsteert Wood. He was buried in the nearby churchyard. His father had retired as Lt. Colonel from the Royal Artillery, and the family lived in London Road, in Boxgrove. He was the only son, with two older sisters.

Mary Alexander, November 2014