

GRAYLINGWELL CHAPEL

Stained Glass and WWI

by Katherine Slay



EAST END WINDOW

There are several stained glass windows in the chapel. The first one you notice as you step inside through the main entrance is the window at the far end – the east end. This window above the altar was originally plain glass, as were all the windows.

Assistant in January 1915. He had an accident while riding his motorcycle in February 1915, and died two weeks later. Dr Kidd, the Medical Superintendent in charge of the hospital, described Dr Stuart in the 18th Annual Report as ‘an invaluable officer, a kind-hearted doctor, and a true and trusted friend.’



There is text at the bottom of each section of stained glass. Reading from left to right:

“Walter Ochiltree Stuart / Lieutenant, Royal Inniskilling / Fusiliers killed in action / at Pieters Hill, South Africa / February 23rd 1900 aged 22.

Plain glass in the east end window. This photograph was taken before 1919. Image courtesy of West Sussex Record Office, Acc 18161

To the glory of God and in loving memory / of Arthur Knox Stuart for seven years / medical officer at Graylingwell Hospital / died from an accident March 9th 1915 aged 39 / and of his two brothers.

The stained glass was paid for by the Stuart family, in memory of their three sons, Walter, Arthur and Charles. Dr Arthur Stuart was appointed as Graylingwell’s Junior Assistant Medical Officer in October 1907, and promoted to Senior

Charles Erskine Stuart / Fellow of Trinity College/ Cambridge, Captain, Suffolk / Regiment died of wounds in / France March 15th 1917 aged 34.”

WEST END WINDOW

Above the main entrance to the chapel – at the west end – is another large stained glass window. This window commemorates Graylingwell's time as a war hospital from May 1915 to April 1919. The total cost of the window was £235 17s, all raised by private subscription.

The text at the bottom reads: *"To the glory of God and in honoured memory of the officers, N.C.O.'s and men who died at Graylingwell, and of the members of staff who fell in action; also in grateful record of the fortitude and cheerfulness of all those who occupied the wards in this Hospital during the Great War 1914-1919."*

Nearly 29,500 patients from Britain, Australia, New Zealand and Canada were treated at Graylingwell War Hospital. There were 142 deaths, some men being removed by their families, and the remainder being buried in a specially designated area in Chichester Cemetery. Flowers were sent weekly from the hospital grounds for the graves.

During World War 1, Holy Communion was celebrated three times each

week in the chapel, and there was a Sunday morning service with sermon. Confirmation services were held, with both staff and patients being confirmed, and there were occasional adult baptisms. At least two funeral services took place: for the 36 year old wife of the hospital's engineer, and for a 26 year old American airman who crashed at Slindon and died at Graylingwell.

The chapel was decorated at Easter, Harvest Festival and Christmas. On Christmas Eve the choir visited the wards, singing carols. On Good Friday 1916 an 'excellent programme of vocal and instrumental music' was enjoyed, including 'Oh for the wings of a dove'.

A special service of prayer and thanksgiving was held on the morning of 12 November 1918, the day after the Armistice was declared.

The large windows at the east and west end were dedicated by the Bishop of Lewes at a service in February 1919.



SOUTH CHANCEL WINDOW

There is a small stained glass window in the south wall of the chancel (to the right of the memorial window to the Stuart brothers). When war was declared in August 1914, 18 male nurses in the Army Reserve left for active service. In all, 38 male staff joined up. Twenty-three of them returned to Graylingwell after the war (three having been badly wounded, and one a prisoner of war); two left; four are presumed to have left; and nine died.

The inscription on the window says: "To the glory of God/ and in grateful memory of the members of /

the staff of this hospital who died 1914-1918." This is followed by the names and regiments of eight men. Their details are as follows, starting with the date of death:

30.10.1914 Francis Hurst, 2nd Bn Royal Sussex Regiment, killed in action (no known grave) at Ypres.

11.11.1914 James Batchelor, 1st Bn Scots Guards, killed in action (no known grave) at Ypres.

18.2.1915 Harry Barnett, 2nd Bn, Oxfordshire & Buckinghamshire Light Infantry, killed in action in France.

27.7.1915 Richard Chase, 122nd Heavy Bde, Royal Garrison Artillery, died of wounds in Belgium.

5.2.1917 Charles Bleach, 9th Bn Royal Sussex Regiment, died of wounds in France.

14.6.1917 Thomas Pursley, 8th Bn Northumberland Fusiliers, killed in action (no known grave) at Ypres.

17.6.1917 Arthur Hollist, 2/6th Kent Cyclists, killed in action (no known grave) at Ypres.

18.1.1918 Horace Bennett, 33rd Bty, 33rd Bde, Royal Field Artillery, killed in action in Belgium.

Herbert Dymott was omitted from the stained glass window, presumably because his death was not notified to Graylingwell. His details are:

6.8.1915, 2nd Bn Hampshire Regt, killed in action (no known grave) at Gallipoli.

The names of the nine men who died were recorded on a Roll of Honour. This was kept in the chapel, but its whereabouts in 2016 is not known.



Fire practice at the war hospital. Two of the men are orderlies, with a Red Cross on their right sleeve. Graylingwell had its own fire-fighting equipment. Image courtesy of West Sussex Record Office, Acc 18161



TO THE GLORY OF GOD
AND IN GRATEFUL MEMORY OF THE MEMBERS OF
THE STAFF OF THIS HOSPITAL WHO DIED 1914-1918.

| | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| PRIVATE JAMES BACHELOR. | SCOTS GUARDS. |
| GUNNER HORACE W. BENNETT. | ROYAL FIELD ARTILLERY. |
| SERGEANT HARRY BARNETT. | OXFORD & BUCKS LIGHT INFANTRY. |
| PRIVATE CHARLES BLEACH. | ROYAL SUSSEX REGIMENT. |
| GUNNER RICHARD S. CHASE. | ROYAL GARRISON ARTILLERY. |
| PRIVATE ARTHUR HOLLIST. | KENT CYCLIST BATTALION. |
| LANCE CORPORAL FRANCIS HURST. | ROYAL SUSSEX REGIMENT. |
| PRIVATE THOMAS E. PURSLEY. | NORTHUMBERLAND FUSILIERS. |

NORTH CHANCEL WINDOW

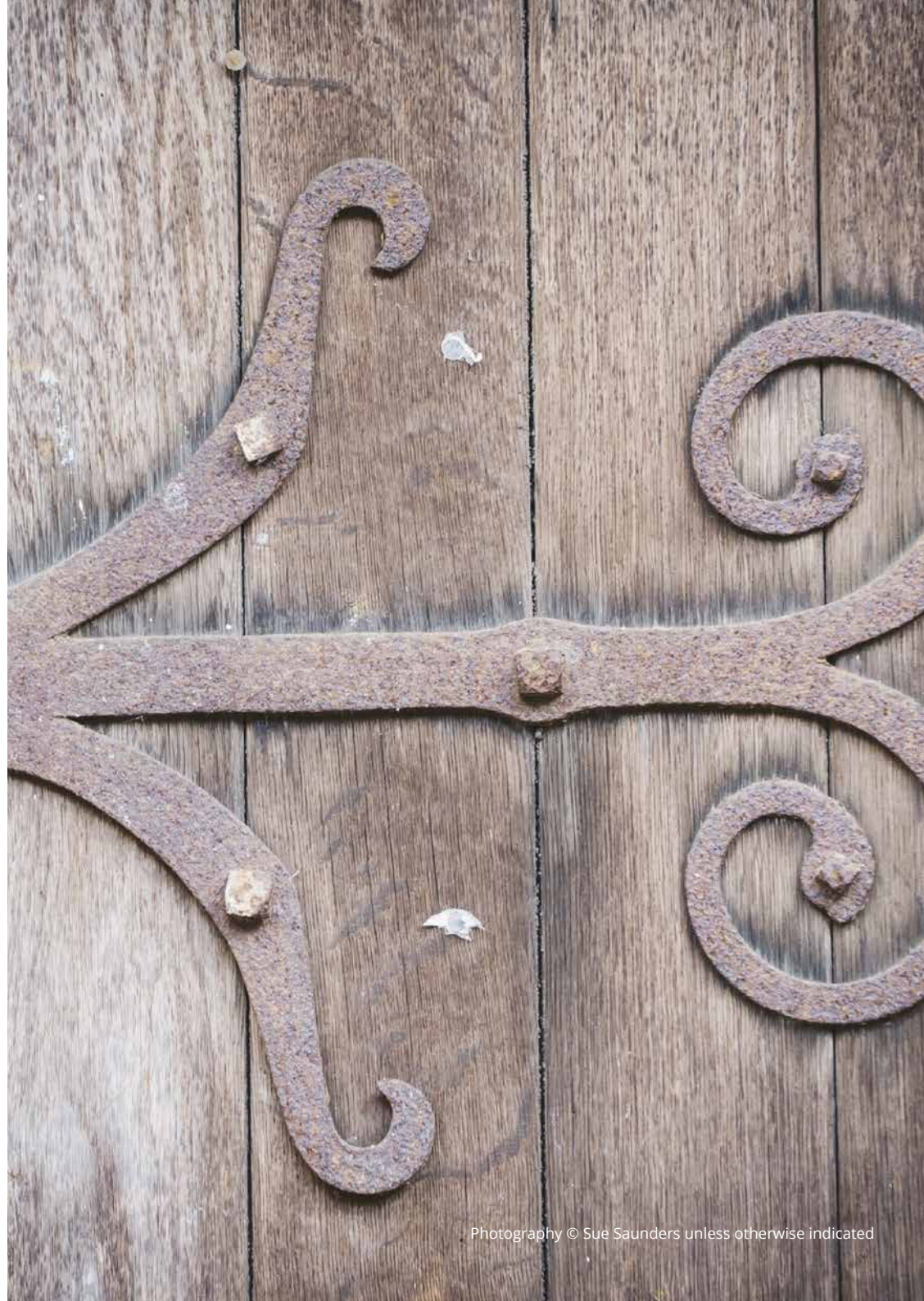
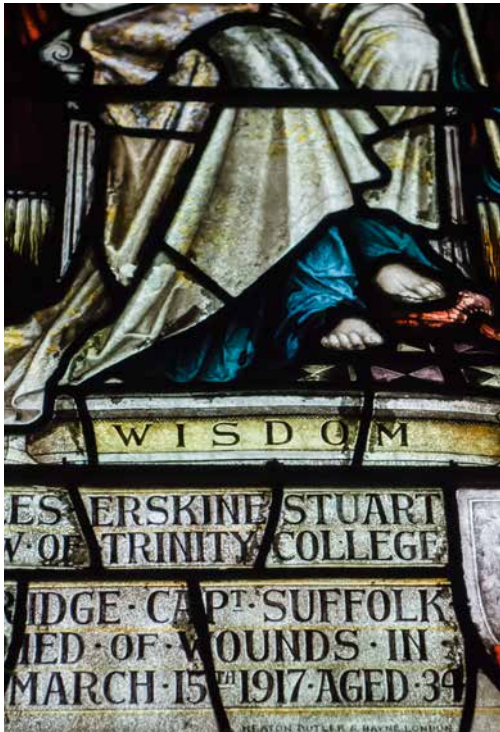



Dr Harold Kidd, Graylingwell's first Medical Superintendent. Image courtesy of West Sussex Record Office, Acc 10004

There is a small stained glass window in the north wall of the chancel (to the left of the memorial window to the Stuart brothers). This is to Dr Kidd, and reads "To the glory of God and in memory of / Harold Andrew Kidd C.B.E. the first medical / superintendent of this hospital 1896-1926."

Dr Kidd was just 32 when he was appointed as Medical Superintendent, in charge of the hospital. His first nine months were spent overseeing the fitting out of the hospital, before the first patient was admitted in July 1897. He had a detached house on site, where he and his wife (whom he married in 1903) had five children. A locum doctor in 1920 described him as 'beloved by patients and staff alike'. He retired in 1926, and died three years later, aged 65.







Chichester Community Development Trust

t: 01243 697072

e: info@chichestercdt.org.uk

w: www.chichestercdt.co.uk

c/o Marketing Suite, Connolly Way, Graylingwell Park, Chichester, PO19 6PQ

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