
THE RAWLINGS MEMORIAL ROOD SCREEN



The Rawlings were a well known local family and worshipped at Saint Martin's for many years, living in Wyndham Road and having a substantial retail furniture shop in Salisbury. Sadly the family lost their son at Ypres, he died on 15th February 1915 whilst serving with the 12th Battalion of the London Rangers during the First World War. Most visitors are struck by this current

finely carved rood screen. Apart from the usual 'Calvary' or 'rood', the gallery shows an array of figures associated with the ecclesiastical history of the Salisbury Diocese. The screen was dedicated by Dr Frederick Ridgeway, Bishop of Salisbury (1911-1921), on 17th October 1918 as a memorial to Cecil George Rawlings.

I had reason to visit Ypres in October to lay a wreath at the Last Post Association ceremony held every day at the Menin Gate, Ypres. This was in memory of my own grandfather, John Gardner Hayes, who died from his wounds 100 years ago on 4th October 1917. John was a gunner serving with the 90th Heavy Battery, Royal Garrison Artillery and is buried in a Commonwealth War Graves cemetery in

Voormezele just a few kilometres south of Ypres.

Knowing that Lance Corporal Cecil.G.S Rawlings is buried in Sanctuary Wood Cemetery, not far from Voormezele, I decided to find where he is laid to rest, luckily his headstone was easy to find as it is sited at the front row, first from left, right group.

In memory of this brave soldier I left a poppy cross at the foot of the headstone and said a prayer on behalf of everyone who sits facing his memorial every Sunday and would like to ask you all to remember him the next time you face the Rood screen which was presented to St. Martins by the Rawlings family in 1918.



Bob Hayes