



St Mary's  
Harrow on the Hill



# MONUMENTAL CONNECTIONS

St Mary's Church in association with Harrow 450



HARROW  
SCHOOL

St Marys Church and Harrow School have enjoyed a close relationship since the earliest days of the School. The connections are visible in the form of memorials and monuments not just inside the church but also in the churchyard and on Church Hill. Commemorating the Founder of the School as well as Governors, Masters, boys and Vicars, they give testimony to the lasting association between the two landmark institutions of the Hill.

Visitors to St Mary's are invited to locate the memorials featured in this booklet and read the associated stories – stories that range from charters to choirs, fraud to the FA, paupers to Piccadilly, riots to reforms. Many are surprising and all are illuminating. They are stories that make the Hill such a remarkable and special place.



**John Lyon**  
**William Gerard and early Governors**  
**Lord Shaftesbury**  
**Allegra Byron**  
**Dr Joseph Drury**  
**Dr George Butler**  
**Dr Henry Montagu Butler**  
**Ralph Westwood Moore**  
**Edward Ernest Bowen**  
**The Revd Geoffrey Woolley VC**



Suggested donation £1. All proceeds go to the *Save the Spire* fund.

This booklet was compiled by Judith Shepherd for the 450th anniversary of the presentation of the Harrow School Foundation Charter by Queen Elizabeth I to John Lyon of Preston in 1572. The text was edited by Julia Walton, OSRG Curator and former Chair of Spirewatch, Friends of St Mary's.

The author acknowledges the following sources:

*Harrow School and its Surroundings*. Percy M Thornton, 1885. Published by W H Allen & Co

*The Most Visible Church*. Don Walter, 1994. Published by Baron Birch

*The Book of Harrow*. E D W Chaplin, 1948. Published by Staples Press Ltd

*The Timeline History of Harrow School*. Dale Vargas, 2010. Published by Word Press Ltd

*Handbook to Harrow*. Edited by Thomas Smith, 1850. Published by W N Wright

<http://www.speel.me.uk/chlondon/harrowch.htm>--Harrow. Bob Speel. Parish Church Monuments

The Harrow Gunpowder Plot, 1805 - Harrow Online. Harry Turner

ebljarticle42021.pdf The Papers of Edward Scott, Keeper of Manuscripts at the British Museum 1888-1904, C J Wright

For material relating to the Head Masters' graves in the churchyard, the author thanks Father James Power, Vicar of St Mary's Church and Chaplain to Harrow School.

The author is indebted to Michael Chandler, St Mary's Steeple Keeper, who provided the information about Edward Bowen, Master of Harrow School.

## JOHN LYON

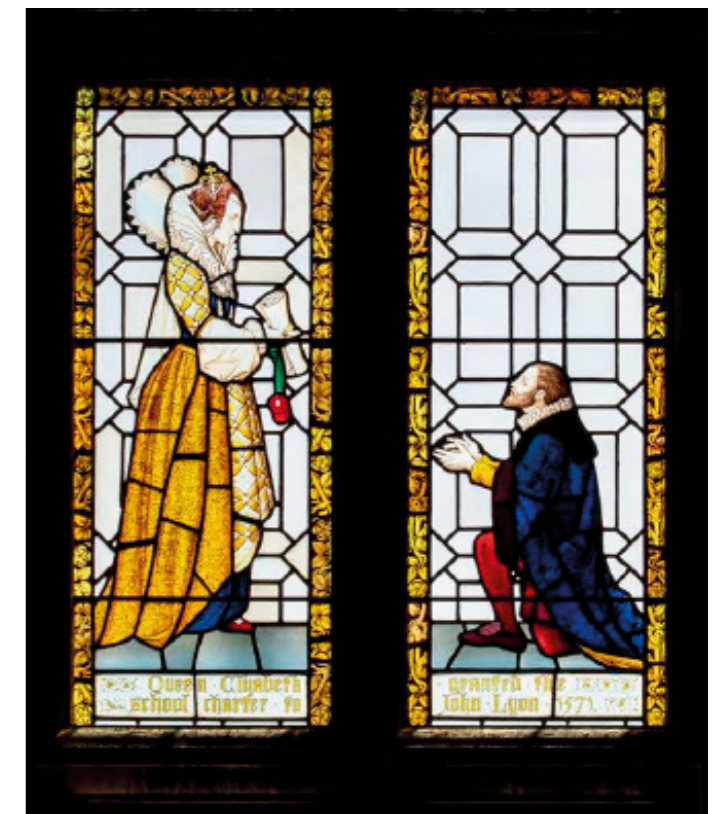
John Lyon (1514-92) is one of the major figures in the history of Harrow. Residing in Preston, a nearby village, he and his wife, Joan, worshipped at St Mary's throughout their lifetime. His tombstone lies in front of the main lectern. It is honoured every year in February for Founder's Day and the anniversary of the signing of the Charter, as well as on 3 October, the date of his death. Both Harrow School and John Lyon School participate in the services.

John Lyon was an educated, wealthy farmer and was related to the Lord Mayor of London. He owned land in three counties. During his lifetime, he supported the education of poor children in Harrow. His ambition was to endow a school on the lines of Eton (1440) or Merchant Taylors' (1561). He wanted to put his Harrow School on an equally strong footing with a substantial endowment, professional management and well-considered rules. Enlisting the help of his neighbour, the Attorney General Sir Gilbert Gerard (who owned an estate in Sudbury), Lyon was successful in his suit and was presented with the Charter for the Foundation of the School by Elizabeth I on 19 February 1572. The School could not be created until after both Lyon and his wife had died, after which their assets could be managed by their executors. Lyon had set down in detail his Statutes listing how he wished the School to be governed and defining the boys' daily tasks. The first thing to be done every morning and the last in the evening was for the boys 'to be upon their knees and with reverence to say prayers'.

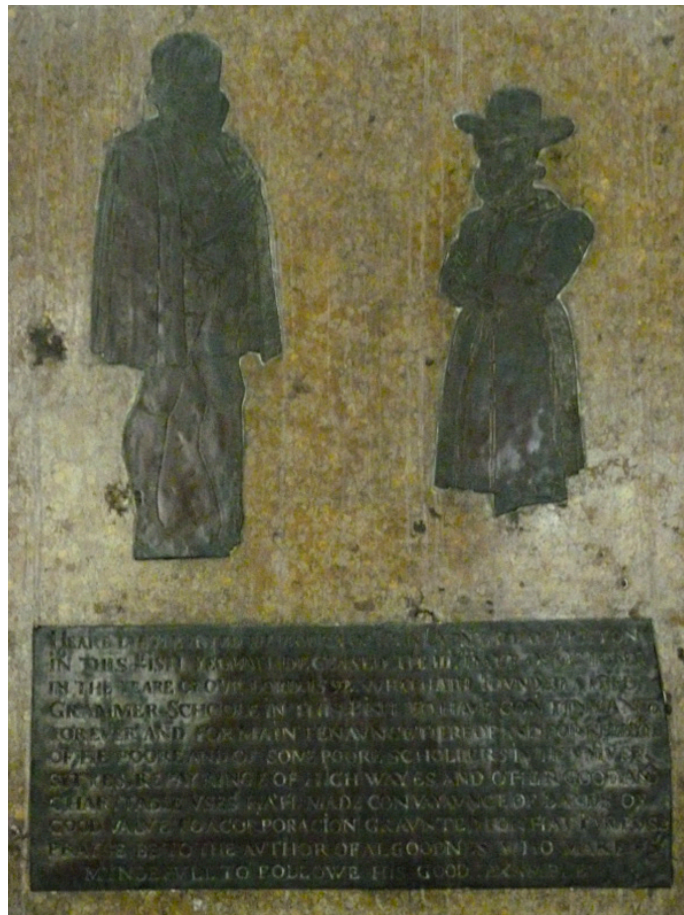
It was therefore after the death of Joan Lyon in 1608 that building work could begin on the chosen site for the School, just below St Mary's on Church Hill. The first boy to benefit from John Lyon's benefaction in 1615 was Macharie Wildblud, son of Humphrey Wildblud, a vicar of Harrow in 1601.



Window in St Mary's Church showing the granting of the Foundation Charter to John Lyon.



Window in the Alex Fitch Room, Harrow School, showing John Lyon kneeling before his Queen as he receives the Charter.



Brass depicting John and Joan Lyon



Flaxman's Memorial to John Lyon, 1812

Mounted high on the pillar closest to the lectern is a brass commemorating John and Joan Lyon. They stand in three-quarter view facing towards one another. Lyon wears a short cloak with hose and soft shoes. Joan wears a large-brimmed hat and wide, Elizabethan ruff. Originally, the brass was set in the floor above their tomb but was moved to its present position in 1847. The damage that occurred during this process resulted in losses to Joan's lower legs and feet.

The inscription beneath the brass reads: 'Heare lyeth buried the bodye of John Lyon, late of Preston, in this parish, yeoman, decd. the III day of Octr. in the year of our Lord 1592, who hath founded a Free Grammar School in the Parish, to have continuance for ever and for maintenance thereof and for relief of the poor and of some poor scholars in the universities repairing of highways and other good and charitable uses have made conveyance of lands of good value to a corporation granted for that purpose. praise be to the author of all goodness who make us mindful to follow his good example.'

Above the brass is a stone memorial to John Lyon by John Flaxman (1755-1826), a sculptor most famous for his funerary works. It shows a Master wearing a gown and holding a book. He sits facing three Harrow boys. They are in uniform, with tall collars and buttoned shirts tucked into loose trousers. Their books are by Homer and Cicero - reflecting the School curriculum. Above them are the emblems of Harrow School - a laurel wreath with bow and arrows, all surmounted by a heraldic lion (for 'Lyon') with oak leaves.

## WILLIAM GERARD AND EARLY GOVERNORS

The Gerard monuments are in the north transept. The first Governor of the School was William Gerard II, whose home was Flambards, a fine house located in Harrow on the Hill. He was the brother of Sir Gilbert Gerard, the Attorney General, who had helped Lyon gain assent for the Charter. Archive records suggest that, while Lyon's school was being developed, a free school was operating from Flambards.

An MP for Wigan, William Gerard II was living in London in March 1552 when Lord North sold him some 160 acres of land at Harrow on the Hill. A philanthropic man, he enlarged the town well, erecting a pump house to provide water for all his tenants, as well as laying pipes to provide water at Flambards. Although William Gerard II did not live to see Lyon's school built, his son William Gerard III did, and was a member of the governing body when the School opened in 1615. The house now called Flambards is close to the original site of the Gerards' estate.

William Gerard II is remembered on a wall plaque alongside the painted alabaster monument to William Gerard III.



William Gerard III and his wife at prayer

## DR GRAHAM AND FAMILY

Set on the south wall are yet more monuments to early School Governors. Both Thomas Graham (1666–1733), apothecary to George I and George II, and his son Daniel Graham (c.1695–1788), apothecary to George II and George III, were Governors, respectively in 1727 and 1738. (Hogarth painted a portrait of Daniel Graham's children in 1742. It was popularly reproduced as an illustration of childhood.)



William Hogarth's portrait of the Graham children

## LORD SHAFTESBURY

The plaque to Lord Shaftesbury (1801–85) – set into the wall of Old Schools just a few yards down from St Mary's lych gate – commemorates the occasion in his schooldays when Anthony Ashley Cooper (later Lord Shaftesbury) witnessed a pauper's funeral. The boy had come out of Old Schools to hear sounds of raucous singing and saw two men carrying the coffin up the Hill. They had collected it from the workhouse on West Street. The bearers were drunken and completely disrespectful of their duty, and there were no mourners following the coffin.



Commemorative plaque for Lord Shaftesbury

Shaftesbury burned with 'shame and indignation' at the sight. He knew what it was like to be lonely and neglected; his early childhood had been miserable, being bullied and even starved by his father, and he identified with the sadness of the scene. It was a life-changing experience for him and he determined from that moment to devote his life to helping the poor. Indeed, as a politician in later life he strove to improve the conditions of working children, to reform lunacy laws and to set up Ragged Schools to educate the poorest. He became known as the 'poor man's earl'. After his death in 1885, the statue of Anteros, the Angel of Christian Charity, was erected in his memory at the centre of Piccadilly Circus, and Shaftesbury Avenue was named in his honour.

Today, Harrow School's Shaftesbury Enterprise programme works to improve the educational outcomes and life opportunities for young people, particularly those who face significant barriers to progress. Its ethos is based on the charitable principles of Lord Shaftesbury.

Shaftesbury's second son, Francis Henry Ashley Cooper, died at Harrow School in 1849. He had contracted a fever and died peacefully in the house where West Acre now stands. Harrow boys wanted to create a memorial for him and contributed £600 towards the establishment of Roxeth School, which flourishes today as a primary school on Byron Hill Road and remains closely connected to the Shaftesbury family.

## ALLEGRA BYRON

Clara Allegra Byron (1817–22) was the illegitimate daughter of Lord Byron and Claire Clairmont. Byron, who had attended Harrow between 1801 and 1805, had an affair with Mary Shelley's half-sister while they were travelling in Switzerland in 1816. Their baby, named 'Alba' by her mother, lived at first with her mother in the Shelley household but, when she was 15 months old, was given into Byron's care. He changed her name to Allegra and placed her with foster families and then a Roman Catholic convent in Bagnacavallo in Italy, where she died of typhus. Byron wished Allegra to be buried in St Mary's Church. Neither the Church nor the School would permit a memorial for an illegitimate child. Allegra was consequently buried in an unmarked grave outside the church. It was the Byron Society that eventually erected a commemorative stone to the little girl in 1980.



Allegra Byron's memorial stone near the south porch



Painting of Allegra

## DR JOSEPH DRURY

At the age of 19, Joseph Drury (1750–1834) found himself unable to continue at Cambridge through lack of means so obtained an Assistant Mastership at Harrow. On the resignation of Dr Heath in 1785, Drury, who was by then 36, was elected to succeed him. School numbers increased rapidly under his 20-year tenure so that, by 1803, 345 boys were on the register, including many sons of the nobility. Not only was Drury a good teacher but he also insisted on scholarship and taught his boys to appreciate classical literature. He encouraged Latin and English composition both in prose and verse as well as the practice of public recitation. He was a disciplinarian but the boys considered him a kind Master; they knew that he was sincerely supportive of their welfare. They admired his dignified manners and easy address.

The monument to Dr Joseph Drury, sculpted by Richard Westmacott (Professor of Sculpture at the Royal Academy), is in the south transept. It represents two boys contemplating the bust of their Master (the boys could well be Byron and Robert Peel who were both his pupils). Books and scrolls are arrayed at the base of the plinth. Above are two crossed arrows carved in low relief on a curved pediment. The inscription below translates:

*For 20 years Harrow schoolmaster, buried in Exeter, this is the cenotaph in grateful and pious spirit, order of students, in the year 1835.*



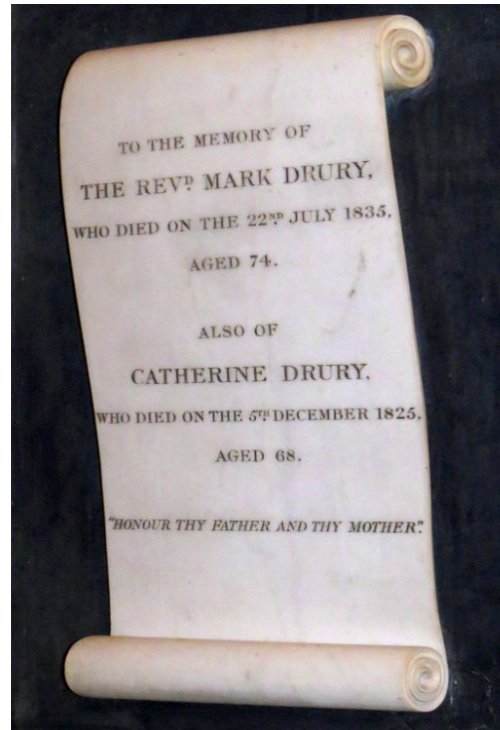
Memorial to Dr Joseph Drury by Westmacott

## MARK DRURY

Mark Drury (1760–1835) was the brother of Joseph Drury. He was Second Master at Harrow and married Catherine Angelo, daughter of a fencing master who taught at Eton. They had one son. After the death of his wife in 1829, Mark and his son absconded to Brussels, leaving debts to local traders on the Hill equivalent to £40,000 today. He died a bankrupt in 1835.

The simple memorial panel to the husband and wife, in the style of an unfurling scroll, was sculpted by Thomas Gaffin, who worked at his father's firm of monument makers in Regent Street.

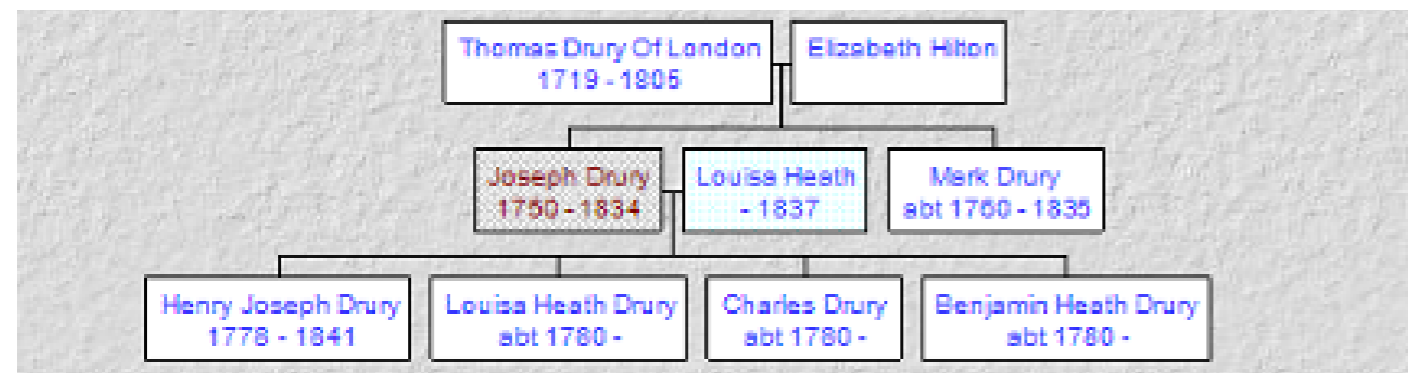
Note: The School boarding House called The Abbey was opened towards the end of the 18th century. In 1818, it was enlarged by its House Master, the Revd Henry Drury, son of Joseph Drury. In turn, he was succeeded by his son, the Revd Benjamin Drury, who also made considerable improvements and whose boys became known as Ben-ites. Since the Drury family had done so much to improve the House, its next House Master, Mr Holmes, renamed it Druries in their honour in 1863.



Memorial to the Revd Mark Drury by Thomas Gaffin



Druries today, at the foot of Church Hill



The Drury family tree

## DR GEORGE BUTLER

Dr George Butler (1774–1853) was Head Master of Harrow School from 1805 to 1829. In 1805, he was the cause of a rebellion when a campaign against his appointment, of which the young Byron was one of the ringleaders, caused a revolt among the boys, who favoured the promotion of the Second Master, Mark Drury (see previous entry). According to Thornton, Harrow pupils succeeded in blockading the road to London so that 'for several days the paralysis of authority was complete'.

The memorial to Dr George Butler is in the south transept. The inscribed panel is flanked by two women dressed in classical style. One reads a parchment, and the other holds a scroll and callipers with a set square lying at her feet: they represent the Muses of Literature and Architecture (Clio and Thalia). Above are arrayed books, scrolls, a mortar board and a portrait of the deceased looking directly at The Holy Bible. At the base, between carved panels with crosses and ivy-clad brackets, is a panel commemorating Butler's wife, Sara Maria Butler (d.1872).

Sara Butler's grave is in the lower churchyard, close to the footpath that leads to Church Fields. Its inscription includes reference to George and his later appointment 'D D' - Dean of Divinity - at Peterborough Cathedral. This is the reason why the lower section of the High Street at Harrow, the section leading to Harrow Town Centre, is named Peterborough Road. Sara's grave is next to her son's, Henry Montagu Butler (see entry below).



Dr George Butler's Memorial

## DR HENRY MONTAGU BUTLER

Dr H M Butler (1833–1918) was educated at Trinity College, Cambridge, and became Head Master of Harrow in 1859 following the resignation of Charles Vaughan. He is depicted along with the Prince and Princess of Wales in the church window commemorating the School's third centenary in 1871.

Butler took up Dr Vaughan's mantle and moved the School forward in response to the challenges of the Victorian era. School numbers increased, new buildings such as the Vaughan Library, Science Schools, Music School and Speech Room were built, and two new boarding Houses were created. As Head Master, he cast his influence over generations of Harrovians including Stanley Baldwin (prime minister), Lord Davidson (Archbishop of Canterbury), John Galsworthy (author of *The Forsyte Saga*), ten bishops, 17 judges, four viceroys, 12 governors, 12 ambassadors, 33 privy councillors and 64 generals. On his retirement from Harrow in 1885, he was made Dean of Gloucester. In 1889, he was appointed Vice Chancellor of Cambridge University.



Dr Butler's grave in St Mary's churchyard

The year 2022 commemorates the 450th anniversary of Queen Elizabeth I signing the Charter for the Foundation of Harrow School; in 1883, Dr Butler was instrumental in rescuing that same Charter and accompanying deeds from harmful storage. Butler was acquainted with Edward John Long Scott, Keeper of Manuscripts at the British Museum, who lived on the Hill and whose father had attended the School. At Butler's behest, Scott undertook a survey of the School muniments i.e. its title documents and records, and "discovered" the Charter in damp surroundings. His expertise ensured the valuable documents were accommodated thereafter in suitable conditions. Scott was actively involved with both the School and St Mary's: he presented nine windows describing the history of the School in the clerestory; he gave the John Lyon window in the belfry; and he donated new altar rails and a marble gravestone for John Lyon himself.

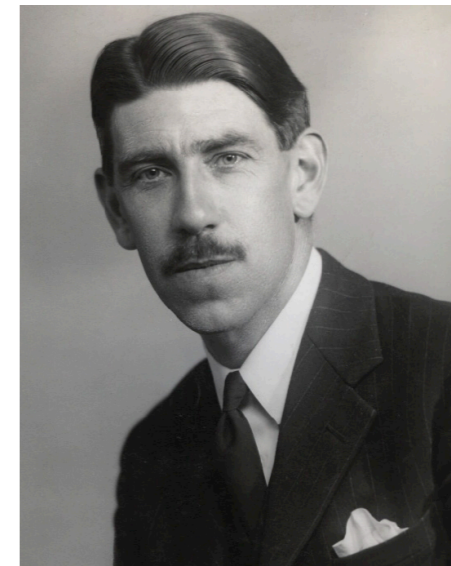
## RALPH WESTWOOD MOORE

Ralph Westwood Moore (1906–1953) was Head Master from 1942 to 1953. From a relatively modest background in Wolverhampton, he won a scholarship to Christ Church College, Oxford. After graduation, he went straight into teaching and by the age of 32 was already Head Master of Bristol Grammar School. Just four years later, he was appointed Head Master of Harrow.

Moore's story is extraordinary and poignant. Early in 1952, keen to set a good example to the boys of Harrow, he underwent an x-ray examination. Chest x-rays for adolescents were being encouraged in order to provide early diagnosis of tuberculosis. A newspaper reported that all the pupils were 'free from chest troubles'. Dr Moore was not, however. He underwent several operations during 1952 but died at Harrow from lung cancer on 10 January 1953. Ralph Westwood Moore's headstone is strikingly simple. It is located close to the pathway through the upper churchyard.



Ralph Westwood Moore's grave in St Mary's churchyard



Ralph Westwood Moore, Portrait by Bassano Ltd, NPG Collection



Ralph Westwood Moore at Harrow Songs, alongside Sir Winston Churchill in 1942

## EDWARD ERNEST BOWEN

Edward Ernest Bowen (1836–1901) is buried in the upper churchyard near the Good Samaritan window. He taught at Harrow for 42 years, mostly under the headship of Dr H M Butler, and is credited with authorship of the words to the Harrow School song *Forty Years On*.

As a Master, Bowen believed that boys must be interested in his lessons and at ease with him. This was in contrast with the grave formality more typical of Victorian era. He was the founder of the 'Modern Side' at Harrow, which gave prominence to subjects other than Latin and Greek. As a Cambridge undergraduate, he walked the 90 miles from Cambridge to Oxford in 26 hours. At Harrow, he was the first Master to identify himself thoroughly with sports and games; he was involved in establishing the English Football Association, playing in and winning the first FA Cup Final at the Oval in 1872 and winning the trophy again in 1873 with Wanderers FC. He was also an accomplished skater and a skilful mountaineer.

Apart from writing the words of the iconic School song, Bowen wrote many other School songs with John Farmer, the Master-in-Charge of Music, many of which are still sung today at major School occasions. In 1881 Bowen became House Master of The Grove, the boarding House next to St Mary's. In 1900, he purchased The Grove from its owners and, on his death, bequeathed it, along with the bulk of his estate, to Harrow School. He had previously added two acres to the playing fields at his own expense.



Portrait of E E Bowen

## THE REVD GEOFFREY WOOLLEY VC

In the early years of Harrow School, the boys worshipped in St Mary's (there was a special gallery to accommodate them) and the Vicar was one of the appointed 'preachers', the other being the Head Master. A succession of Vicars served on the School's Board of Governors. At the end of the 1830s, as the parish grew and tensions developed between the church and School, it was decided to build a separate School Chapel under the leadership of the Head Master, Dr Christopher Wordsworth.

One Vicar in the last century had a particularly close association with the School. He was the Revd Geoffrey Woolley VC, OBE, MC (1892–1968), Vicar from 1944 to 1952. He served as Chaplain at Harrow and saw action again in the Second World War as an Army Chaplain. The citation for the Victoria Cross he was awarded in the First World War reads:

*For most conspicuous bravery on 'Hill 60' during the night of 20th–21st April 1915. Although the only Officer on the hill at the time, and with very few men, he successfully resisted all attacks on his trench, and continued throwing bombs and encouraging his men till relieved. His trench during all this time was being heavily shelled and bombed and was subjected to heavy machine gun fire by the enemy.*

Woolley's son Rollo was killed in action as a Spitfire pilot over North Africa in 1942 and it is in his memory that the Woolley Medal is awarded to a member of the St Mary's Choir.

The current Vicar, Father James Power, also serves as Chaplain to Harrow School. After 450 years, the links between St Mary's Church and Harrow School, John Lyon School and other members of the 'Lyon family', including John Lyon's Charity, are as strong as ever. Indeed, although it is no longer a stipulation that Harrow School boys are required to say prayers on their knees first thing every morning and last thing in the evening, it is since the arrival of the latest Head Master, Alastair Land, that Harrow boys have returned to regular weekly worship at St Mary's for the first time since the 19th century.

All St Mary's Vicars are listed on plaques behind the choir stalls.



Portrait of the Revd G Woolley



## **The Parish and Borough Church of St Mary**

The spiritual home and burial place of John Lyon,  
founder of Harrow School.

For hundreds of years before the birth of John Lyon and for hundreds of years since, St Mary's Church has been, and still is, a lively Christian place of worship ministering to the needs of the local community.

If you would like to know more about St Mary's and the opportunities it offers for worship, study, fellowship, music-making, community involvement, gardening and much more, please speak to one of the stewards or contact the Parish Office on 020 8423 4014 or at [stmarys.harrow@btinternet.com](mailto:stmarys.harrow@btinternet.com) or see the website [www.stmarysharrow.org.uk](http://www.stmarysharrow.org.uk).

A structural survey of the spire was recently carried out, showing that major renovation work is needed. The work will involve stripping the lead tiles from the spire, checking the condition of the wooden frame and replacing as required. New lead tiles will then be fitted. The work will require significant scaffolding, which accounts for a major part of the cost. A donation to the fundraising campaign can be made via [www.justgiving.com/campaign/savethespire](http://www.justgiving.com/campaign/savethespire) or by bank transfer to Metrobank: account number 34505241 sort code 23-05-80

This QR code will take you the JustGiving page  
for the *Save the Spire* campaign.

