

**ST JAMES CHURCH TAUNTON**  
**WORLD WAR 1 MEMORIAL PROJECT**

## **The Silent Cities**



When the war was over, the task of how to remember those who had fallen, could be started. Locally, nationally and internationally much thought was given. Many people were deeply affected by the vastness of the casualties incurred and the need to ensure that the fallen were not forgotten. One such person was **Fabian Ware**, who had been active in the Red Cross Movement and who turned his considerable drive and energy as head of the Commonwealth War Grave Commission.

Ware spearheaded an army of architects, garden designers, engineers, administrators and labourers and laid the foundations for the many beautiful, imposing and peaceful memorials that now exist through Europe and indeed the entire world. Many well known names, including Lutyens, Blomfield, Gertrude Jekyll and Rudyard Kipling are associated with this work. Others less known include a native of Taunton, Colonel Herbert (Bert) Tom Goodland, who was Deputy Controller of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission from 1919 to 1928 and was responsible for the organisation of 166 cemeteries in France and Flanders



**Herbert Tom Goodland**, was born in Taunton but emigrated to Canada, his mother's country of origin, in his late teens and became a successful business man. When Britain declared war in August 1914, he immediately enlisted. He served as a senior officer in Gallipoli, Salonica, Serbia and Macedonia and in the last two years of the war in France and Germany. Wartime honours granted to him included the Distinguished Service Order, the Serbian Order of the White Eagle and on three occasions he was mentioned in despatches.

In 1919 Herbert Goodland was appointed to the CWGC as Deputy Controller. While there he became friendly with Rudyard Kipling, also working for the commission. Goodland's initial responsibilities, with the Commission, were the organization of 166 military cemeteries located in France and Belgium. The work involved the relocation of remains from battlefield cemeteries, the supervision of artisans, carpenters, stone masons, memorial designers and sculptors. That he was a resourceful and energetic administrator is testified to in a mention in the Unending Vigil, the History of the CWGC. At the time of his retirement, in 1928, Herbert Goodland's responsibilities had risen to some 3,000 cemeteries indicative of the monumental loss of life during the First World War. He was made a Companion of the Order of the Bath (C.B.) in recognition of his services.