

Provincial Grand Lodge of Somerset – Great War Dead

	Lodge	Royal Cumberland No. 41	Death	16/10/1915	Reference
Name	Doudney . Charles "Charlie" Edmund		Title	Rev'd	
Birth	13/03/1871	Birthplace	Carlisle		
Parents	Rev. David Alfred and Mrs. Georgina Doudney				CWGC
Wife	Joanna Clara Schroder-Poulden; m 16/6/1899, Portman Chapel, London (1877-1958)				
Education	Carlisle School, Hastings Grammar School. Corpus Christi, Cambridge 1889-96 Ridley Hall				
Residences	1871: St James Parsonage, Caldewgate, Carlisle 1881/91: The Rectory, Ore, Hastings, Sussex. 1896-1906: South Australia 1907/15: St Luke's Vicarage, Hatfield Rd, Bath.				
Career	Ordained Deacon 1894, Priest 1895 at Rochester. Curate of Penge 1894-6; Vicar of Orroroo Mission, South Australia, 1896-8; Rector, St Augustines, Port Augusta, South Australia, 1898-1901. Due to ill health became Curate, Christ Church, North Adelaide, 1902-4; Rector, Gawler St George, S. Australia, 1904-6. C. of West Hampstead, 1906-7. V. of St Luke's, South Lyncombe, Somerset, 1907-15.				Cambridge Alumni
Qual'ns	BA 1892, MA 1896				
Military	Enlistment				
	Initial Rank	Chaplain 4 th Class.			CWGC
	Promotions	-			
	Service	Army – 18 th Brigade, 6 th Division			
	Regiment / Unit	Army Chaplains Department			
	Theatre of War	France - Loos			
	Awards	War Medal. Victory Medal, 1914-15 Star.			
Death	16/10/1915	Died of Wounds			
Buried	Lijssenthoek Military Cemetery, Poperinge, Belgium. Grave 1.A.31				CWGC
Memorial	Bath War Memorial, Victoria Park.				
Next of Kin	Wife : Joanna Clara (Zoe) Schroder Poulden (m 16/6/1889 Portman Chapel, London by his father)(1876-1958)				CWGC
Descendants	Daughters: Esther Eirene D (1900-80), Noelle Mary D (1904-7) Joy Poulden D (1908-2001), Desiree Gawler D (1913-2003)				

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Masonic	Lodge	Orroroo		No.	49	
	Location	South Australia				
	Proposer	n/k	Seconder	n/k		
	Initiated	c1896-7	Passed	c1896-7		
	Raised	c1896-7	WM	-		
Notes from Lodge Records	<p>c1897 - 1898 Chaplain, Orroroo Lodge No. 49, Orroroo, S Australia</p> <p>1898 -1901 Chaplain & Organist, Flinders Lodge No. 25, Port Augusta, S Australia. 1902 - 04 ? lodge at North Adelaide. 1904-6 Chaplain, Lodge of Fidelity No. 5, Gawler S Australia.</p> <p>Joined Royal Cumberland Lodge No. 41 6th March 1913 from S Australian Const'n.</p>					Local Newspaper
Other details	<p>At Cambridge, developed a keen interest in rowing and shooting. Also a member of the Cambridge Volunteers. Orroroo was an extensive Mission in the harsh outback.</p> <p>1901 Chaplain to the Commonwealth Troops, South Australia. Oct. 1904, Port Adelaide, South Australia National Rifle Association annual match, won the aggregate trophy in the King's Cup. 1902-4 Coach of the South Adelaide Men's Rowing 8. Became known as the most intrepid kangaroo hunter and yachtsman in S Australia.</p> <p>Having moved to Bath his ministry attracted a huge following. He set up an amateur radio station with an aerial in the church tower. Formed the Bath Volunteers of the Somerset Regiment.</p> <p>Note: the Foundation Stone of the extension of St Luke's Church, Bath was laid by the PGM on 18/10/1912 in the presence of the Bishop of Bath & Wells, W Bro Dr Kennion PGChap. Dr Kennion was Bishop of Adelaide 1883-94.</p> <p>A biography: Best of Good Fellows: the Diaries and Memoirs of the Rev. Charles Edmund Doudney, M.A., C.F. (1871-1915), has been written by a Grandson, Jonathan K Horne MBE (1940-2010), whose father the entertainer Kenneth Horne married Joy Poulden Doudney.</p>					UGLE

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The Late Rev Edmund Doudney - A Friend's Tribute.

At 9 o'clock on a Saturday night, in a casualty clearing hospital in: a little town in Belgium, there passed away Charles Edmund Doudney, vicar of St Luke's, Bath, who was acting as chaplain to the forces serving in the British Expeditionary, Force in France. Doudney was a man to make himself beloved anywhere; a born optimist, he thought it wrong to 'grouse,' and the bright side was ever the best side to him, whether at work or sport. Everything he did was done with zest, and he was one of the most versatile of men. A good musician, and athlete from the days when he was captain of the Corpus boat at Cambridge; a first-class shot both in Australia and at Bisley, where he was a successful competitor in many contests. Though he never shot for the Australians at Bisley, he would have been welcomed in the team. He was a natural mechanic, and one of his latest hobbies was wireless telegraphy. His station at St. Luke's Vicarage, Bath, with aerial on the church steeple, has been mentioned in innumerable papers, though the statement of some irresponsible writer that he was wont to hold converse with outgoing and incoming missionaries in the Bay of Biscay nearly caused the apparatus to be commandeered. A ready writer with great descriptive powers, his articles on scenes he has witnessed at the front have been read with the utmost interest.

—In South Australia.—

In a short appreciation of one who has given his life for his country as a chaplain as truly as any soldier serving in the trenches it is only possible to give a few particulars of his career. He took his degree at Cambridge in 1894, his first curacy being at St. John's, Penge. At the call of his former tutor at Corpus, Dr. Harmer, the present Bishop of Rochester, he went out to Australia, where, in connection with the Orroroo Mission, and later as Incumbent of Port Augusta, he had an experience of 'roughing it' which (though he always laughed over it) would have spoilt a less cheery temperament. His last post in Australia was that of rector of Gawler, named, it is of interest to state, after Gen. Gawler, of South Australia, the grandfather of Mr. Doudney's wife. The communion plate at Gawler Church was itself an offering made by the late Gen. Gawler.

Returning to England in 1906, Mr. Doudney was persuaded to remain at home, and after serving as one of the assistant clergy at Emmanuel, West Hampstead, he was appointed Vicar of St. Luke's, South Lyncombe, Bath. Here his energies found full scope. In his rapidly growing parish, with the church already too small for the population. Mr. Doudney set to work at once. Organizing the Parish Council he carried every one along with him, and the result has been a church practically rebuilt, capable of seating 700 people. He infused people with the idea that nothing could be too good for their church, with the result that from the beams and the pews to the carvings on the arches nothing is cheap, common, or tawdry. At the services at St. Luke's the number of men present grew to proportions almost beyond belief. As showing the enterprising spirit of the man, it may be mentioned that just before the war he conceived the idea of a motoring tour in the Austral Tyrol, a scheme which he carried out, passing over localities now world famous in the history of the war, only to return home under most difficult and trying conditions without the car, which had to be left behind. Later he became one of the chief organizers of the Belgian Relief Committee in Bath, a work which will never be forgotten. And then what all who knew Charles Doudney had expected and almost feared came to pass, and at the request of Bishop Taylor-Smith he joined the ranks of army chaplains.

—'The Man for the Job.'—

Truly he was the man for the job, right', soon he proved it. At the base hospital in France to which he was first appointed he not only did his chaplain's work, but, finding a shortage in the medical staff, he acted as X-ray operator and anaesthetist. Then to the actual front, and to many stirring scenes which he has described with graphic pen. He formed the idea that a motor cycle would enable him to perform his visits with greater celerity and less danger, and the need had only to be mentioned for his congregation at St. Luke's to supply it at once. How he got it out perhaps no one will ever know, but what it is safe to say no other chaplain has done or probably could do, he did.

— End of a Great Life. —

And then came the end of a great life, an almost tragic end. He obtained leave to go home for a few days, and it so happened that his leave would have fallen on St. Luke's Day, when the Bishop of Bath and Wells was preaching at St. Luke's Church. He wrote so cheerily, eagerly anticipating his short holiday, and saying that in two days he would be with us, that he had his pass in his pocket, and all he had to do was to go up to the trenches to take some funerals before he actually started for home. He went, as he did everything else, with cheery face and smiling lips into the detestable shellfire zone at about 10 p.m. He was sitting in the front of the ambulance car when a shell burst close by, hitting him and another, missing entirely a third, and wounding also a driver of another car just behind. He was taken to the clearing hospital, and at first it was thought that an operation might not be necessary; but an X-ray inspection showed it to be imperative. He had the best attention, the finest medical skill, and the operation was, as far as could be seen, successful; but complications ensued, and the end came on Saturday night. The news reached Bath just before the Sunday evening service, and it is only possible to say that the service that night will never be forgotten by those who were present. In many and many a heart a cry went up, 'What can I do without him?' It would be impossible to quote the letters received in the few days since his death, telling of the love that was borne to him, and of the influence he had exerted on those who never mentioned it in his life, but the testimony of one who was best fitted to know the value of his work at the front must be given. He was laid to rest on Monday morning, at 9 o'clock, in the beautiful military cemetery near the hospital. A chaplain writes: 'We had a full funeral service; it was a beautiful, sunny morning, all was peace, except the roar of the guns. I wish you could have heard what all said about him - the officers and the doctors, and his fellow-chaplains. Just before he started out on the night he was wounded he said to one of the chaplains, 'Whatever happens to-night, is best. He seemed to have a sort of pre-sentiment of coming troubles, so they think. Dear soldier of Christ, he is beyond all trouble now.

— Farewell—

And to me who pen these lines of love and remembrance the days seem darker and the world more dreary for the loss of that bright optimist, that man who carried his religion and his convictions not hidden in some darkened chamber, but on his smiling, breezy face. In the words of David, "I am distressed for you, my brother; very pleasant hast thou been unto me; thy love to me was wonderful". And so Charles Doudney, my friend and brother, a long farewell till we meet again, remembering always to carry on as you taught by your example in rain or shine; to think the best of men and things at all times, to do a kindly action when we can, and to deem it our duty to make men better, purer, happier for our presence among them. C. Ashton Bullock, in London Record. (The Register, Adelaide 1st January 1916).