

REGINALD DRURY HODGSON



REGINALD HODGSON was born in London in 1879, the youngest of the three sons of H J Hodgson, Master of the Supreme Court of Judicature who died in 1890, and his wife, Amy Josephine, née Drury. Reginald was educated at Radley College and University College, Oxford where he read classics. He represented Oxford at boxing and fencing in 1900 and took his finals in 1902. He became an underwriter at Lloyds and was called to the Bar in 1906 as a member of the Inner Temple.

At the time of the 1901 Census, while he was still up at Oxford, he and his widowed mother were living as boarders in Ebury Street in Westminster. In 1911 they were living in Earls Court Square, Kensington and his occupation was Barrister-at-Law. Later that year he left England for British Columbia, where he became a member of the Bar Association in Vancouver and practised as a barrister.

On the outbreak of war in 1914 Reginald enlisted in Vancouver and his Attestation papers, dated September 1914, gave his mother as next of kin and as living at 26 Banbury Road, Oxford. He identified himself as single and a member of the Church of England.

He was gazetted 2nd Lieut, Royal Field Artillery in October 1914, promoted Lieutenant in December and then Captain in early 1916. He served in Egypt, Serbia and Salonika and then was attached to the 82nd Brigade in France in November 1917. He was killed near Arras on the first day of the German spring offensive on the Somme on 21 March 1918 - his body was never found. He is commemorated on the Pozières Memorial. He was 38.

Reginald's connections with St Giles' are not very clear but it is likely that his mother, who was living in Oxford at various addresses near the church during

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and immediately after the war, was a member of the congregation. On 29 March 1918, there was a private death notice in *The Times* in which Mrs Hodgson's address was given as 6 Keble Road, and the Probate records of Reginald's will in June 1918 also give this address.

6 Keble Road had been part of the Engineering Science department of the university in 1914-15, although Mrs Hodgson seems to have moved there from 26 Banbury Road in 1915 or 1916. She is listed in *Kelly's Directories* as living there between 1916 and 1925. She died in London, aged 75 in 1925.