

## **Rededication Service of the Mecco Factory Bombing Plaque**

On 3 October 1940, the Mecco Factory in St John's was bombed by a Luftwaffe plane. Seven men were killed, and a woman lost her sight. It was the only bombing in Worcester during World War II which led to civilian casualties.

On the seventh anniversary of the attack, in 1947, a plaque was dedicated at the Mecco Factory to commemorate the victims. The announcement in 2022 that the factory would be closing led to a search for a new home for that plaque. It was felt that the Lady Chapel in St John-in-Bedwardine church was an appropriate place. It fits well with the other memorials, primarily from World War I, which were already in the chapel. Moreover, it means it is now in a church at the centre of this community, which is open daily so that people can visit to see the plaque. It is an important part of our local story, still within living memory, and we at St John's church are very pleased to be able to give it a home where it can be seen by everyone.

On the afternoon of 11 June, a service was held in church to rededicate the plaque which has been relocated from the old Mecco Factory. Before the service, the bells were rung. More than a hundred people attended, including some seventy relatives of those named on the plaque, several of whom had travelled some distance to be present. Along with members of the Team congregations and members of the local community, the service was also attended by the Deputy Lieutenant of Worcestershire, Major General Mark Armstrong, and the Mayor of Worcester, Louis Stephen. Along with a former member of staff from Mecco, they laid wreaths at the monument before an act of remembrance. After the service, nearly everyone stayed to enjoy the refreshments which members of the congregation kindly worked to prepare and serve.

The memorial remembers the following who lost their lives during the attack:

- Louis Clement Defaye
- William Hulme
- George William Lee
- James William Perry
- William George Ricketts
- Thomas Charles Santler
- Albert Edward Williams

Also remembered by name is Doris Tindall who lost her sight in the attack and all the other, unnamed people who were injured during the attack.

Our thanks go to the following who generously gave time or money to help with the installation of the plaque and the service of rededication:

- Sandra Taylor, from Remember the Fallen ([www.rememberthefallen.co.uk](http://www.rememberthefallen.co.uk))
- Komatsu
- Councillor Richard Udall
- Tesco

The following photos were taken during the service, copies of which can be obtained from Colin Nash ([colinnash528@btinternet.com](mailto:colinnash528@btinternet.com))



Rev Phil Bradford welcomes the congregation



Rev Phil Bradford leading the prayers



Rev Sarah Cottrill reads the Bible passage



Gathered around the Memorial for the wreath laying



Mayor of Worcester, Louis Stephen, laying a wreath



One of the Meco Old Boys laying a wreath



Rev Sarah Cottrill reading the list of remembered names



The Last Post is played



Major General Armstrong gives his address



Councillor Louis Stephen gives his address



Main people involved with the service around the plaque