

## DAVID TREVOR KNOWLES CBE 1937 - 2012

David Knowles CBE, a veteran, having served with Royal Military Police and long time member of the Oxted & District Branch. David became National Chairman of the Royal British Legion in 1989, 1990 and 1991.

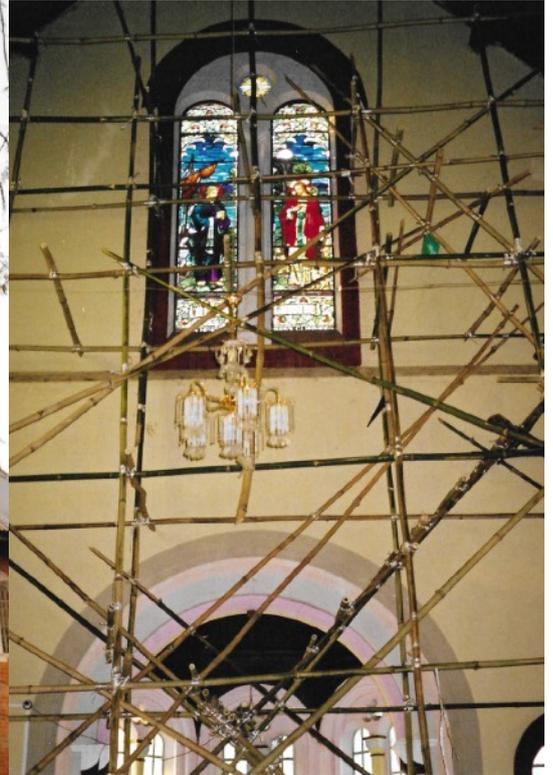
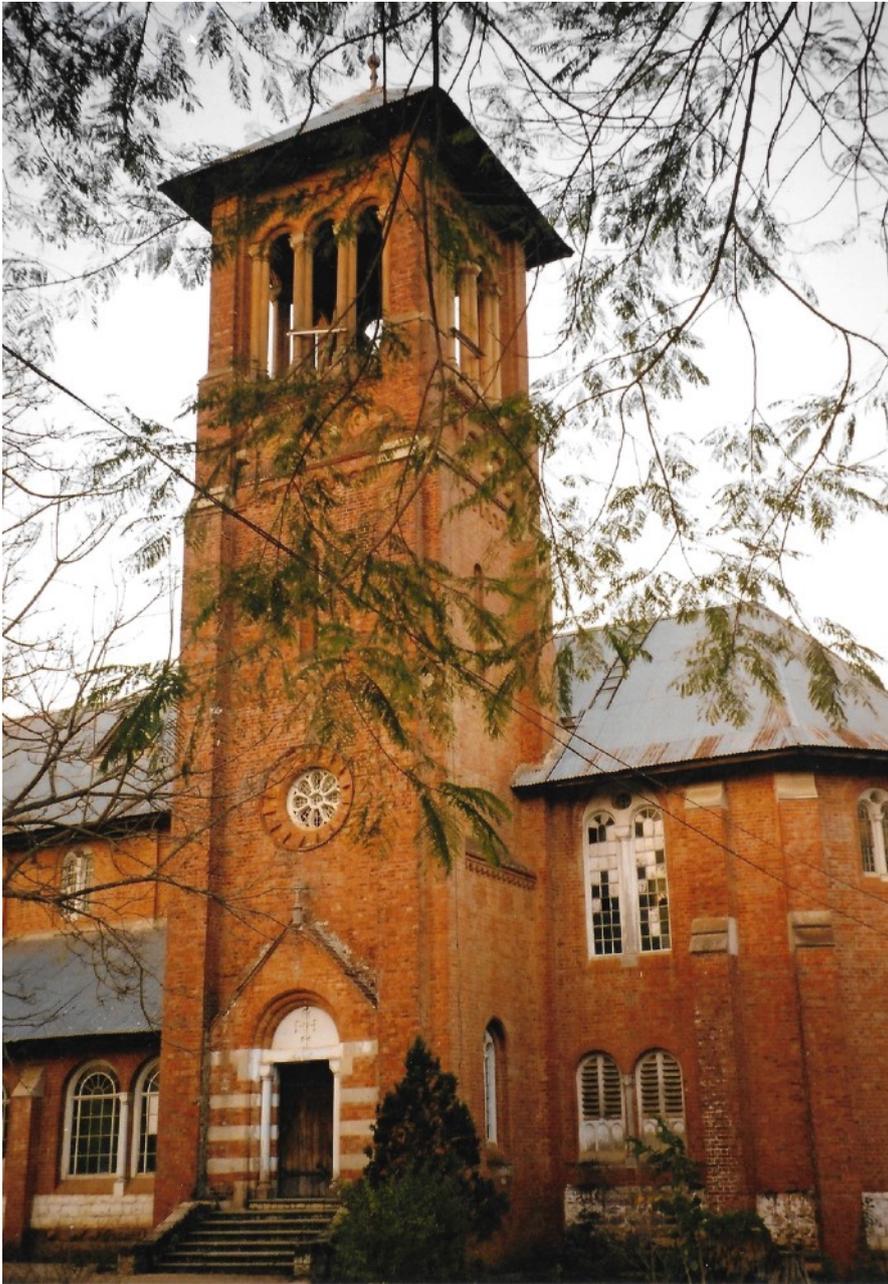
Awarded CBE in the 1992 New Years honours list.

David took on the role of Treasurer General of the World Veteran's Federation, The (WVF) is the world's largest international veteran organisation. The federation consists of 172 veterans organisations from 121 countries representing some 60 million veterans worldwide.



David receiving his CBE, awarded in the 1992 New Years Honours.

In 2004 being Company Director of Godstone Glass, led David to All Saints Anglican Church in Maymyo, Mandalay, Burma, where he personally organised fund raising and used his stained glass expertise to return in 2005 to repair and restore the stained-glass windows, climbing the bamboo scaffolding despite being in his 70s! ( 2 Photos attached of the church, the windows and the bamboo scaffolding.)



In 2009 he became a director of Blind Veterans UK (formerly known as St Dunstan's), a director of RBL Industries and Chairman of the RBL Poppy Factory in Richmond.

DAVID TREVOR KNOWLES CBE Passed away peacefully at [Greathed Manor Nursing Home](#), Dormansland on 29th September 2012. Loving husband of Maryrose Knowles and the late Sigrid Knowles and father of Sharon, Michelle and Andrea. He left 5 grandchildren.

David relaxing wearing his RBL tie.



More information on the Stained Glass windows.

## The Story of the Windows

In January 2004 my wife and I visited All Saints Church in Pyin Oo Lwin [formerly called Maymyo] hoping to see the Pre-Raphaelite stained glass windows that we knew were there. When we saw them we realised what a poor state of repair they were in, with damage visible from ground level.

The Vicar, Joseph Yin Oo, told us that without urgent action these fine examples of Pre-Raphaelite craft, which are such beautiful relics of an earlier era, will be lost forever. A recently conducted professional survey has predicted that they are likely to collapse completely within a matter of months

Normally the cost of repair & restoration would be prohibitive but fortunately David Knowles CBE [a leading UK stained glass window expert] has offered to undertake the work at cost.

There is therefore a wonderful but very limited opportunity to turn around the deterioration that time, the climate and the ravages of war have sadly made.

With your support we can make a difference and save the windows for the local Christian Community, for posterity and for art lovers the world over - who one day will be free to visit the Church again.

## History

The windows are extremely fine examples of Pre-Raphaelite stained glass and are believed to have come from either a William Morris or Burne-Jones studio.

There are 2 windows, each one is approximately 10' x 3' and is divided into 5 separate panels. They depict St Peter on the left and Jesus on the right with lambs at his feet, with the words "Feed my Lambs" beneath both windows.

The design contains highly painted foliage at the top and around the inscription. At the bottom strawberry plants, which have special significance to the area and its history, are depicted.

The windows were installed around 1927, in memory of Rodway C.J. Swinhoe who was a High Court Judge in Mandalay and who also designed the splendid ornamental gardens in Pyin Oo Lwin [Maymyo] which to this day attract visitors from all over the world.

### Budget

Our budget for the restoration project is £8,000

## Restoration

The work will be undertaken by David Knowles CBE. He has installed major Stained Glass Windows in Westminster Abbey & in St Alban's Cathedral.

In 2003 he repaired five Pre-Raphaelite stained glass windows in Holy Trinity Cathedral Yangon [Rangoon]. These windows dated from a similar period and were also in a very poor state of repair. David has done a site survey of the windows in All Saints & the repair work will entail the same procedures that were required for the windows in Yangon Cathedral. David was assisted in the work in Yangon by local craftsmen Joseph and Choi who are being asked to help again at All Saints Pyin Oo Lwin.

### Start Date

We plan to commence the repair work in **February 2005.**

The project has been sanctioned by the Most Reverend Samuel San Si Htay, Archbishop of Burma. However, he has directed that work cannot commence until the project is fully funded. Chris Harrison the Warden of All Saints led a local fund raising appeal which had only very limited success.

**Without our support the Restoration will not take place in time to save the windows.**



David Knowles at work

**Appeals Committee**

Patron: The Viscount Slim

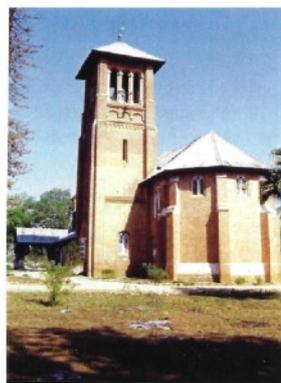
Chairman: Brigadier Colin van Orton

Rev Joseph Yin Oo, LLB, Vicar of All Saints Church, Pyin Oo Lwin [Maymyo]

Chris Harrison—Warden of All Saints Church, Pyin Oo Lwin [Maymyo]

Canon Robin Ewbank MA, BD - Rural Dean of Odiham & Vicar of St John's Hartley Wintney

Colonel Piers Storie-Pugh MBE, TD



All Saints Church, Pyin Oo Lwin, formerly Maymyo, Burma

**Making a Difference**

Will you please make a donation towards the cost of repairing these windows? They are an artistic treasure and will be lost forever unless they are urgently restored.

We MUST act NOW or the windows will not survive. Please help in any way that you can.

**Restoration Appeal**

**Pre-Raphaelite Stained Glass Windows**



Photos of David whilst on his many RBL Pilgrimages introducing Margaret Thatcher to veterans and with HM The Late Queen Elizabeth.



References:

[http://www.2ndroyalberkshire.co.uk/pic\\_maymyo.htm](http://www.2ndroyalberkshire.co.uk/pic_maymyo.htm)

With thanks to Mrs Laura Hayworth's personal archive.