St Mark’s Church South Farnborough. stmarksfbro@outlook.com

St Mark’s Church stands on the corner of Alexandra Road and Reading Road South Farnborough.

The foundation stone was laid by the Duchess of Connaught and Strathearn on the 26th of April 1880, her husband the Duke being one of Queen Victoria’s sons.

In its early life it was a “Daughter Church” from St Peter’s Parish Church but became a Parish in its own right in 1906 as part of the Winchester Diocese. It was built to house the needs of the growing military presence in the North Camp area.

A priest at St Mark’s from the First World War era Revd. Basil Phillips, was said to have had some influence in the formation of the RFC and RAF, hence the Church being known as the “Flying Church”.

A Memorial Chapel was founded in the “Lady Chapel” in 1921 with oak panelled walls bearing the names of 196 men and women who gave their lives in the conflicts of World War One and is dedicated to the “men of the RFC and RAF”.

There are a number of names on the panels of those who were associated with the Royal Flying Corps (RFC) later to become the Royal Air Force (RAF in April 1918). Most notable amongst these, are Keith Lucas, Edward Teshmaker Busk, Derek Lutyens, Frank Goodden, and David Pinsent.

One lady commemorated there is Lily Veness, she worked at the Royal Aircraft Factory (RAF) later to become the Royal Aircraft Establishment (RAE). Her job was to paint the dope on the fabric of the wings and fuselage of the aircraft. Her death was due to her prolonged exposure to the chemicals used in this process.

The Memorial Chapel was completely renovated in 2018 in time for the 100th anniversary of the Armistice, and re-dedicated to the RFC and RAF.

The Church is open most Friday mornings from 9 am to 11 am if you would like to visit the Memorial Chapel.