

The Fitzwygram's & St. Crispin's Church

In response to the article in the January edition of "Faith Matters" from Stephen Craven, Administrator to the Pastoral Department, Diocese of Southwark, Ann Griffiths, our local historian, sent me the following:

"Dear Colin,

The Fitzwygram family tree is in Burke's Peerage under WIGRAM. Towards the end of the entry you come to Sir Robert (2nd Baronet), who changed the name to Fitzwygram in 1832. His sons were Sir Robert Fitzwygram (3rd Bart) who died in 1873; Sir Frederick Wellington John (4th Bart); Rev. John Fitzroy (1827-1881) vicar of New Hampton Middlesex and Loftus (1832 to 1904). The three surviving brothers were major subscribers towards the building of St Crispin's church and parsonage, Bermondsey, in 1879.

There is an article about the consecration of St Crispin's in the Ipswich Journal 13.7.1880, which states that the Fitzwygram's contributed £11,500 of the £15,870 building costs. If you have a library card you can read the article by accessing 19th century newspapers online via Hantsweb.

Leigh Park estate, at Havant, was bought in 1874 by Lt. General Sir Frederick Wellington John Fitzwygram, Bt, after inheriting the baronetcy on the death of his unmarried brother, Sir Robert Fitzwygram (above). Sir Frederick married in 1882 and was elected as Conservative MP in the 1884 election. He sat for the Fareham Borough of Hampshire and South Hants until shortly before his death in 1904. Sir Frederick's only son was Sir Frederick Loftus Francis Fitzwygram 5th Bart (1884-1920). Sir Frederick Fitzwygram's obituary is recorded in "The Times" on Friday 7 May 1920 and his funeral which took place in Havant on 10 May 1920 is recorded in "The Times" on Tuesday 11 May 1920.

I can find no reference to St Crispin's being called the Fitzwygram Memorial Church but I hope this adds a few more pieces to the puzzle.

Ann"

Here is an extract from the Ipswich Journal on Tuesday 13 July 1880 under the heading "The Church".

"On Wednesday the Bishop of Rochester consecrated St. Crispin's Church, Southwark Park Road. The cost of the building, together with the parsonage, amounts to £15,870. Towards this no less than £11,500 has been given by the following members of the Fitzwygram family: Major-General Sir F Fitzwygram, Miss Fitzwygram, Lady Bake, Rev. J. Fitzwygram, and Mr Loftus Fitzwygram. The Church Building Society has subscribed £225, and the Rochester Diocesan Society £500, leaving but the very small deficiency of £395. The building is in the Gothic style, with red bricks and stone facings. The tower and spire remain to be completed, at an estimated cost of £900."

Stephen Craven says that St. Crispin's Church was originally known as the "Fitzwygram Memorial Church". I suspect this may have been because of the £11,500 – a lot of money in 1879 – which the Fitzwygram family put into the building of the church.

The west stained glass window in St. Faith's commemorates Major-General Sir Frederick Fitzwygram. Sir Frederick's sister, Selina Frances Fitzwygram is remembered in the chancel,

and his son in the Lady Chapel.

Ann Griffiths

Dear Colin Carter

I thought you would be interested to know that I responded to the query about the "*Fitzwygram Memorial Church*" in Bermondsey (*"Faith Matters"* January 2009).

About 10 years ago I researched the life of Sir Frederick Fitzwygram who lived at Leigh Park House from 1875 until his death in 1904. I recorded my research in a booklet published by the Friends of Havant Museum and is still obtainable at the Museum. His son Frederick did indeed die in 1920 from septicaemia following a cut on his finger sustained whilst hedging on the estate. He had no children and following his death Lady Fitzwygram and her daughter Angela lived very reclusive lives at Leigh Park House until Lady Fitzwygram died in 1934 and Angela went to live with relatives in the West Country.

Yours sincerely,

Betty Marshall