

CAPTAIN THE REV WILLIAM MANSTEAD BENTON (1885-91)

Date of Birth	11 July 1873 in Chelsea, London
School Information	Prefect. Gooch Medal for Elocution 1887, 1888. Mantle Essay Prize 1890. Cricket XI 1888, 1889, 1890. Football XI 1888-9 & 1889-90.
Career Information	<p>Initially became a Stockbroker.</p> <p>He then enlisted in the Royal Marines, but deserted and went to Australia. He served in the South African War in Australian Artillery (Cape Mounted Rifles). Afterwards he took up work in the leper settlement on Robben Island (later to be Nelson Mandela's "home" for over 25 years). Then gave himself up and received the King's Pardon.</p> <p>He spent 2 years at Lichfield Theological College before being ordained Deacon in 1907 and Priest in 1909. He became Curate of St Peter Walsall, where he was known as "The Fighting Parson". Returned to South Africa where he became Chaplain at Robben Island. Then returned to England and became Curate of Bearsted.</p> <p>In 1913 he twice played for Middlesex at cricket, scoring a total of 25 runs.</p>
Date Of Death	17 August 1916
Cause of Death	Killed in action.
Location	Somme, France
Cemetery	Heilly Station Cemetery, Mericourt-L'Abbe, Somme, France
Rank	Captain/Army Chaplain
Branch of Service	Manchester Regiment, 12 th Battalion

