

**THE RAF WINDOW AT TRINITY CHURCH, BRIDLINGTON:
A MEMORIAL TO CHARLES STANLEY READ, OB**



The RAF window at Trinity Church was installed after the Great War as a memorial to Charles Stanley Read, 2nd Lieutenant in the Royal Flying Corps. He made his last flight on 6th December 1917 and was reported missing in action. He was only 19, and although he had no known grave, he is remembered on the Arras Flying Services memorial at Fauborg d'Amiens cemetery in France. He left £213 and his medals were given to his father.

The window was fitted by Heaton, Butler and Bayne. As the Royal Flying Corps had merged with the Royal Naval Air Service on 1st April 1918 to form the RAF, they have incorporated this onto the Flying Corps badge at the top of the window.

The window, which has recently been restored, is exquisitely beautiful, especially the red and blue stained glass which are deep and intense. The saints George, Michael and Nicholas are portrayed. It is said that St Michael bears a resemblance to Charles Read. They are surrounded by a wealth of intricate detail: flowers, shields and even a small dragon, perched on St George's helmet.

The Read family lived at 2 Park Avenue, and Charles's parents served on the PCC. There are no family members living in Bridlington but a few years ago eleven relations travelled from London to view the window: they said that his parents were so proud of him and that after his death were never the same again.

Charles Read attended Bridlington School, coming from Hymers College and going on later to Rossall School. His years at Bridlington School are not known, but are likely to have been in the period 1909 to 1913.

He has an entry in the OBC RAF Register, which is available to view at the OB Club website.