



Thame Remembers



Viscount Francis Leveson Bertie

Francis Leveson Bertie, 1st Viscount Bertie of Thame GCB, GCMG, GCVO, (17 August 1844 – 26 September 1919).

He was the second son of Montagu Bertie, 6th Earl of Abingdon, and Elizabeth Harcourt, daughter of George Harcourt. He was educated at Eton.

Bertie entered the Foreign Office in 1863. From 1874 to 1880 he served as Private Secretary to Robert Bourke, the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs. In 1903, Bertie was appointed a Privy Counsellor and made Ambassador to Italy between 1903 and 1905, and then in 1905 became Ambassador to France. Bertie would hold the Paris embassy for the next thirteen years and through out the first World War. In his time at Paris Bertie was able to play a substantial role in strengthening the *Entente Cordiale* between France and Britain into a genuine alliance.

He died in London on 26th September 1919 and buried in St Mary's Churchyard Thame only four days later, although his only memorial is a plaque on the interior wall of the Chancel.



The Thame Remembers Cross was delivered to his niece's grave on 3rd August 2014 by Cllr Anne Purse, Chairman of Oxfordshire County Council

