

Commemoration of WWI in the Parish of Witham-on-the-Hill

**Produced by Witham-on-the-Hill Historical Society
(Incorporating Manthorpe, Toft and Lound)
Registered Charity No. 1078244**



Introduction

The First World War saw 65 men and 1 woman from the area join the armed forces, mostly the Army but also the Navy and Royal Flying Corp. Of these, 15 died (23%). This booklet is a record of the war as seen by the parishioners at the time, in date order and in the language, grammar and sometimes spelling of the period. There is a heavy religious theme in all the entries by the Vicar, Canon Leonard Cooley, not surprising for a clergyman of the time. Entries are unedited, as it gives an interesting insight into the thinking of the time, from a social history viewpoint.

Canon Cooley was the vicar of Witham parish (including Manthorpe, Toft and Lound) from 1900 -1945. He lived in the vicarage at Witham, a large residence for one man, as he never married. He had a finger in nearly every pie in his time in the parish, with hardly any committee formed without him, and he was also a Rural District Councillor. He hosted tennis parties at his home, played cricket for the Parish Team, was a frequent visitor to "the Hall" and was a well-known local figure, although it must be said that those who were Church of England, and regular churchgoers, were much more likely to appear in these entries than Methodists and non-believers.

Historical Notes are given between entries

1914

June 28th	Francis Ferdinand assassinated at Sarajevo
July 5th	Kaiser Wilhelm II promised German support for Austria against Serbia
July 28th	Austria declared war on Serbia
August 1st	Germany declared war on Russia
August 3rd	Germany declared war on France and invaded Belgium. Germany implemented the Schlieffen Plan.
August 4th	Britain declared war on Germany
August 23rd	The BEF started its retreat from Mons. Germany invaded France.
August 26th	Russian army defeated at Tannenburg and Masurian Lakes.

The Sun.

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THE WEATHER FORECAST.
Fair to-day; warmer in interior;
to-morrow partly cloudy.
Detailed weather report will be found on page 12.

GREAT BRITAIN FORMALLY DECLARES WAR ON GERMANY; KAISER NOW BATTLES WITH FRANCE, RUSSIA AND BELGIUM; GERMAN CRUISERS SUNK BY FRENCH FLEET, PARIS HEARS

WARSHIP WITH \$8,000,000 GOLD TO AID TOURISTS

Small Cruiser Tennessee Will Start Tonight on Relief Voyage.

WILSON ASKS CONGRESS FOR \$2,500,000 MORE

European Countries Sound on Question of Cruiser Entering Ports.

NAVAL BATTLE OFF NEW YORK LIKELY

Three German Cruisers, Two British and Two French to American Waters.

The German cruiser is an armed vessel, but she is reported to be off this coast, it was to be seen of the British naval forces in the German sea. The British are in a position to intercept her, and it is expected that the British fleet will be in a position to intercept her. The British are in a position to intercept her, and it is expected that the British fleet will be in a position to intercept her.

LUSITANIA OFF; WARSHIPS WILL GUARD LINER

Fast Cunarder Sails This Morning Despite England's War Declaration.

OLYMPIC GETS IN WITH LIGHTS OUT

Rumor of Chase by German Cruisers Alarmed Her Passengers.

KAISER'S WARSHIPS OFF UNITED STATES COAST

NORFOLK, Aug. 4. Three German cruisers are reported tonight seventy miles off the coast waiting for passengers and coal being brought by passenger liners from New York.

NEWPORT, R. I., Aug. 4. Two German cruisers are reported to be off this port tonight. This afternoon one United States destroyer stood out to sea. Nothing can be expected as to their destination. A German destroyer left this port yesterday ostensibly for maneuvers off here.

PARIS HEARS FRENCH FLEET SANK 2 GERMAN CRUISERS

PARIS, Aug. 4. Two German cruisers have been sunk and one captured by a French fleet returning from Trieste, according to reports received here.

ALGERS, Aug. 4. French warships have captured the German cruisers Goeben and Breslau, according to an unofficial report here.

LONDON, Aug. 4. The German cruiser Panther, the warship which was sent to Agadir in the Franco-German-Morocco clash in 1911, has been sunk by a French fleet, it is rumored.

KING GEORGE IMMEDIATELY ORDERS BIG FLEET TO DESTROY OR CAPTURE THE GERMANS

Report Naval Battle Has Already Begun off Scottish Coast; Wounded Marines Being Brought Ashore

GERMAN ARMY IS INVADING FRANCE IN THREE DIVISIONS

Belgium Rushing Forces to Western Frontier to Oppose the German Advance

Austrians Defeated. Is Report.

WAR NEWS IN BRIEF

GREAT BRITAIN.—Great Britain declared war on Germany last night. Immediately this message was sent by the British Admiralty to the great British fleet in the North Sea: "Great Britain declares war on Germany. Capture or destroy the enemy." It was reported last night that a great naval battle was already in progress. King George had proclaimed the mobilization of the British army earlier in day and Parliament had voted \$525,000,000 for emergency purposes.

FRANCE.—Paris hears that a French fleet has met a German squadron in the Mediterranean, following the bombardment by the German ships of Bona, Algeria, and defeated the Germans in battle, sinking two of their cruisers and capturing one. French troops are concentrating on the border to oppose the German advance and many skirmishes between advance guards are reported.

GERMANY.—Germany declared war on Belgium and German artillery began shelling Liege and Namur, two of the important cities in Belgium, last night, according to London.

The following are the entries Rev. L. H. Cooley, vicar of Witham-on-the-Hill (1900-1945), made in the Parish Magazine regarding the War.

Relevant illustrations and press cuttings of the time are also included.

Denotes modern comment



SEPTEMBER 1914

The War. During the last month there has broken out the great European war, a war long foreseen and dreaded, and in which our own country has been involved. It is impossible at the present time to foresee how long this great and terrible conflict may last, but it behoves us all to be prepared for a gigantic and protracted struggle, in which the utmost might of England must be put forth in defence of our very existence as a nation. Never has this country fought with a clearer conscience or drawn her sword for a juster cause than she has now, and it behoves us all to do everything that lies in your power, and give the utmost that we can in this hour of our country's need. We must every one of us be true patriots.

How we can help. All of us can help in our several ways. Surely in the first place there are some young men among us who will hear and respond to the call which has gone out for MEN, who will join the colours and submit themselves to military training. As we write, a meeting has been arranged to call for recruits, and we trust that, for the honour of the manhood of our parish, that call will not be in vain. Next, we can help by our gifts to the **Prince of Wales' Relief Fund**, for the relief of the terrible distress which will arise in the

country in consequence of the war. A noble response was made to the Vicar's appeal, in church, on Sunday, August 16th, when the sum of £5/5/7 was collected for this fund. To those who did not then give, a further opportunity for subscribing will be offered in the parish collection which is being made. Another means of helping will be found in the Red Cross Society, whose work consists in the care of our wounded sailors and soldiers. We hope to enlist the help of ladies in the parish to make garments for the troops, and possibly to arrange for instruction in ambulance and first-aid work. Hospitals are being equipped by this society all over the country, and every preparation made for all emergencies in case of invasion. Last but not least, we must help by our PRAYERS. There must be a constant stream of intercession to Almighty God to give us the victory. We know our cause is just, therefore we must pray for that cause. Acting on the suggestion of the Archbishop of Canterbury we shall have a celebration of the Holy Eucharist every Sunday during the war, at 11-15, as a solemn parochial act of intercession, and each day a bell will be tolled at noon, calling for the prayers of all who hear it on behalf of our sailors and soldiers. The church will, of course, be open all day for private prayer, as it always is.

Press Cutting dated 5/9/14:

WITHAM-ON-THE-HILL

PRINCE OF WALES' FUND. *In addition to the large collection (£5 5s. 7d.) made in Church, an additional sum of £13. 18s. has been subscribed in the village, collected by Miss A. Holmes.*

THE WAR. *A meeting, which was very largely attended, was held after service on Sunday evening, in order to bring before the parishioners the grave need in which the nation stands of the help of all her sons, and to encourage recruiting. Colonel Birch-Reynardson occupied the chair, and, in the course of his opening speech, referred in feeling terms to the late squire, Mr. W. L. Fenwick, and to the action which he felt sure he would have taken in the present great national crisis had he lived. Lord Kesteven then addressed the meeting and made a stirring appeal to all the young men present to join the colours, and not shirk their duty to their country. Addresses followed by Major Bell, Mr. Thos. Pick, and Mr. F. Browett. The result of the meeting was in every way gratifying, as some twelve young men from the parish subsequently offered themselves for service, although several have, unfortunately, not been accepted.*

September 6th Battle of the Marne started

OCTOBER 1914

The War. The progress of our allied forces is slow though we trust sure. It is quite possible that a very long time may elapse before the cessation of hostilities and the final victory is won. Meanwhile we must not slacken our intercessions. Let everyone of us make a resolve to pray daily during the war for our brave sailors and soldiers, and the success of our arms. Twelve o'clock is the time suggested by the authorities for such intercessions, at which hour the "Peace Bell" is tolled, to remind us of this duty. Further, every Sunday the service at 11-15 is set apart as the special weekly act of intercession: let all who can attend it in preference to any other and make it a reality.

The Red Cross Society. Our parish has given most valuable help to this society's work by providing and equipping twelve kit-bags for the troops at the front. Each bag contains a shirt, pair of slippers, two pairs of socks, towel, handkerchiefs, comb, laces, boracic ointment, writing materials, pipe, tobacco and cigarettes. The last three items are the gift of Lady



Ancaster. The following are the donors of the bags – Mrs. Bradshaw, Mrs Brudenell, Mrs. Carr, Miss Christie, Mr. E.W. Cooley, Miss Lee, Miss Metcalfe, Mrs. Parkin, Mrs. Pick, Mrs. Redshaw, Mrs. Wallis and the Vicar. Shirts have been given by Mrs. Battram, Mrs. Francis, Mrs. Lambert, Mrs. Pick, Mrs. Fenwick 4, and the Vicar 4; the last eight being made by Miss Brudenell, Miss Christie, Mrs. Glenn, Mrs. Garner, Mrs. Holmes, Miss Osborn, Mrs. M. Pell and Mrs. Redshaw. Our grateful thanks to all.

The Rifle Range. We trust that by the time this magazine is published shooting may be recommenced at the miniature range, in the sand pits. We desire to thank Mr. Fenwick for providing this excellent opportunity for rifle practise and feel sure that many will avail themselves of it.

The Prince of Wales' (*National Distress*) Fund. In addition to the large collection made in church, which we recorded last month, a house-to-house collection in the civil parish of Witham – kindly undertaken by Miss A. Holmes – has resulted in a further sum of £3/18/0. Collections are to be made – so far as we know – in Manthorpe, and Toft-cum-Lound.

October 18th **First Battle of Ypres**

October 29th **Turkey entered the war on Germany's side. Trench warfare started to dominate the Western Front.**

NOVEMBER 1914

The Fallen. November – the month consecrated by ancient custom to the remembrance of the blessed dead – should this year have a special message for us. Prayer for those who have passed away is a universal Christian practice, and happily it finds its place in the intercessions ordered for use by the bishops in this time of war. The least we can do for those brave fellows who lay down their lives for us and perish to purchase our peace is to pray for them and ask GOD to receive their souls in peace and grant them His eternal rest. Let us then include them in our intercessions at the Holy Eucharist Sunday by Sunday. There will also be a Requiem Celebration each Monday in November, at 8-30.

With the Colours. We give below the names of those who have gone forth from our own parish and are now serving with the forces –

Walter Archer, Lincolnshire Regiment

William Birch, Lincolnshire Regiment

Lieut. K.R.G. Fenwick, Royal Horse Guards

Lieut. A.L. Fenwick, Lincolnshire Regiment

Arthur Hamling, Lincolnshire Regiment

William Holmes, Northumberland Fusiliers

Leslie W. Metcalfe, West Yorks. Regiment, Leeds Rifles

Frank Morris, Lincolnshire Regiment

Herbert Pell, Lincolnshire Regiment

Edgar Pick, Staffordshire Yeomanry

Albert Saunders, Lincolnshire Regiment

H. Thacker, East Yorkshire Regiment

Cecil Woolmer, Lincolnshire Regiment

Howard Woolmer, Lincolnshire Regiment

To all these we shall give special place in our thoughts and prayers and wish them a safe and happy return at the conclusion of the war.

Red Cross Work. Many of the elder girls in school have not only made useful, knitted articles for the troops, but have purchased the wool themselves. Their work is all the more welcome as it is entirely voluntary. May it be an incentive to others. Lady Ancaster appeals for cuffs, mittens, mufflers, and body-belts, which are urgently required at the Front at once. Who will help? Meanwhile Mrs. Metcalfe will gladly receive any small contributions in money to procure more wool for the girls in school to continue to make these articles.

The Lincolnshire Hut at Netley Hospital. (*Netley, part of the Royal Victoria Hospital at Southampton specialised in the treatment of shell shock see entry on page 72*) – This contains 20 beds, and is entirely supported by this county. The Vicar asks for monthly subscriptions of sixpence a month towards its maintenance. Thus - say - 20 subscribers would enable us to send ten shillings a month as our share.

DECEMBER 1914

Plum Puddings for the Soldiers. Mr. M. Fenwick wishes to thank all who have so kindly promised these for despatch to the troops at the front. Nearly a hundred have been offered.

Prince of Wales' Fund. Miss Lee has made 5/- for the fund by sale of penny bags of lavender.

Princess Mary's Fund. Two of our lads George Neale and Jack Weldon, made a collection in the village on Guy Fawkes' Day for this fund towards sending Christmas presents to the troops abroad. It was a kindly and thoughtful act, and they were able to send 10/- to her Royal Highness, and duly received a grateful acknowledgement from Buckingham Palace.

Princess Mary's 'Sailors & Soldiers Christmas Fund' provided a 'gift from the nation' inside – an embossed brass box, including some combination of a pipe, lighter, tobacco, cigarettes in yellow monogrammed wrappers, chocolate, and a Christmas card.



Lincolnshire Hut. Many have kindly responded to the appeal for monthly subscriptions during the war towards the working expenses of this Hospital. Over 10/- a month has been promised. Further monthly contributions will be gratefully accepted.



Knitting. Our young people have done well. Many busy fingers have been at work, and articles are still being made. Mrs. Metcalfe has received several subscriptions – one of a pound from a generous friend – for purchasing wool. The following articles have already been made and despatched – 23 body belts, 10 pairs of cuffs, 8 pairs of mittens.

On Service. To the fourteen names given last month of those from this parish who are serving with the forces we must add
Ernest Chapman, Northants. Regiment
Harold Gordon Cooper, Lancs. Regt. Kings Own.
Harold Cox, Lincolnshire Regiment
Arthur Kempe, Royal Navy

January 1915

1915 Our wish to all our readers on this occasion shall be for a happier New Year. The year that is gone has been one of the saddest in the annals of our parish, and the Christmas Festival has only served to remind us afresh of our loss. For Christmas was ever a season particularly dear to our late Squire (*Walter Lionel Fenwick died 13th August 1914*), and which he loved to mark by thoughtful acts of kindness to us all. His irreparable loss and the added gloom and anxiety of war have combined to make 1914 a year of sorrow which we shall never forget.

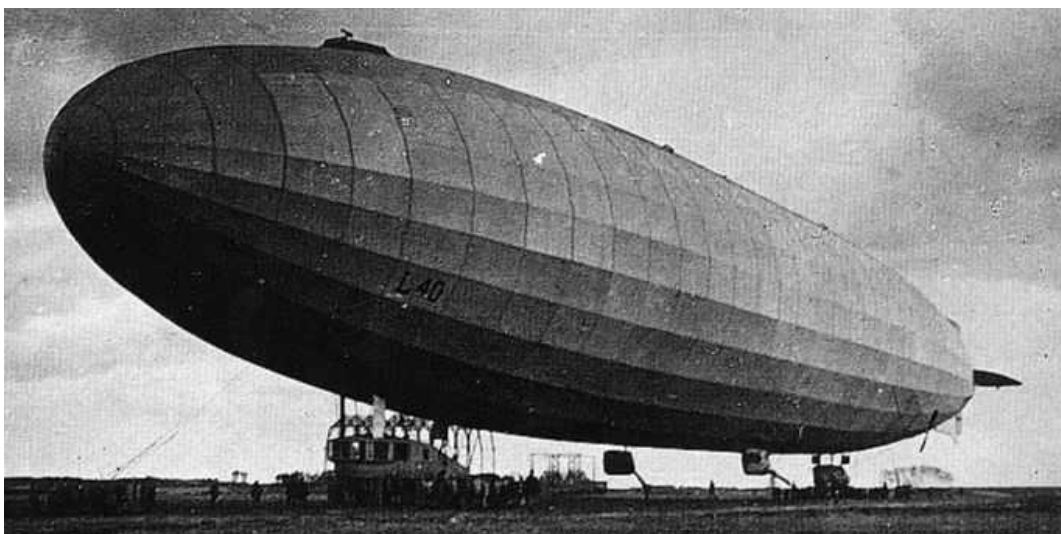
Germany Willing for Xmas Truce If--

A Berlin wireless, via Sayville, says: "Included in information given to the press from official sources is the following: 'Germany replied immediately to the pope's suggestion of a Christmas truce. The German reply is in the affirmative, under condition, of course, that all of the other belligerents—.'" A break in the wireless at this point occurred, but it is apparent sender intended to say if other powers would do likewise.

Day of Intercession. Sunday the 3rd of January, has by request of the King, been set apart as a day of solemn intercession for Divine guidance in the hour of national crisis. The day will be observed by every religious body in the kingdom and we trust that all the parishioners will take part in one or other of the special services in church, which will be held at 8-30, 11-15 and 6-30. Forms of service will be provided and special hymns will be used.

January 19th

The first Zeppelin raid on Britain took place



February 1915

Lent, a call from God. Year after year this precious season of grace comes to us and we pass it by. This year however, which is likely to prove the most momentous in our lives, the call of Lent is one to which we must listen. We must try and put away our indifference and our apathy, and turn to God, who alone can help us in this hour of our country's peril. Many of us seem to have lapsed into indifference, which in a small, scattered community like ours is the most deadly enemy which we have to fight. There has been a sad falling away lately of several who once were regular worshippers, regular communicants. Since the outbreak of war there have actually been more empty places in the House of God than before. Well then, let us all begin afresh this Lent. Let every reader of these words ask himself or herself: "how can I best answer God's call this Lent?" Make a resolution to pray daily, to come to church with regularity, to begin afresh to be a frequent communicant, to put our duty to God before our own convenience and inclination, and thus to help ourselves and others to serve God better.

Two further Recruits Alfred Pick and Richard Carr, Royal Field Artillery.

The Day of Intercession Last month was unfortunately very wet, preventing the attendance of many from a distance. Our offerings of £1 4s. 6d. were given to the Red Cross Society.

New-laid eggs for the wounded. - Several friends have kindly promised a few eggs weekly for the wounded sailors and soldiers in hospital. We hope later on that others will be able to spare some also. They will be sent to the receiving house at Stamford every Friday and should arrive at the Vicarage by Thursday. 200,000 are needed every week. Many hundreds have been already promised in the district.

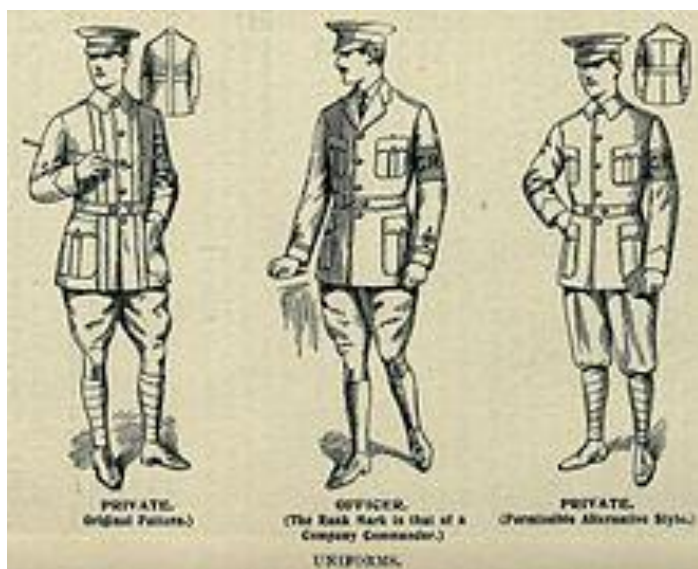


February 19th

British bombarded Turkish forts in the Dardanelles

March 1915

Volunteer Training Corps A well-attended meeting in support of this movement was held in the school, on the 15th February, and the first drill took place on the following Saturday. About 24 men signified their willingness to join. When the movement is better understood and appreciated, we hope that further numbers will come forward. It has certainly "taken on" in the country, and already numbers something approaching a million men. Volunteers must be outside the age for regular military service, that is under 19 or over 38, except in the case of those who have good and sufficient reasons for not joining the colours. The question of uniform and equipment need not deter any from joining, as the provision of these will be considered later. The main thing is for the greatest possible number of men to learn the rudiments of drill and musketry, so as to be of some service in defence of their homes and country in the event of invasion by the enemy, and not suffer the ignominy of being sent to a place of safety with the



women and children as helpless non-combatants. The movement should also serve as a powerful incentive to recruiting, for the veriest "shirker" must feel some compunction as he sees the "old guard" turning out to "do their bit" while he stands idly by.

V.T.C. Uniform - The War Office has sanctioned a special uniform for the corps of green-grey rainproof drill, light and inexpensive, loose enough to be worn over civilian clothing, with a board brassard or armlet.

With the Colours. The following names must be added to our Parish list of men on service - Harold Pell, Suffolk Regiment, Amos Buswell, Lincoln Regiment, William Archer, Motor Transport, Arthur Francis, R.A.M.C. ([Royal Army Medical Corps](#)).

Eggs for the Wounded. In four weeks, we have been enabled to send over 130 eggs for the use of our wounded soldiers in hospital. Now that they are becoming less scarce, perhaps other poultry keepers will send a few each Thursday to the Vicarage for this object. All eggs sent will be gratefully acknowledged.

Lent. On the 1st Sunday in Lent the Bishop's Pastoral Letter was read. It certainly contained subject for much reflection and was specially marked by vigorous advice on the question of Lenten self-denial. The ecclesiastical rule of abstinence from flesh meat however has been relaxed this Lent, owing to the war. We would especially plead for the support of the "Waifs and Strays" Society, whose needs owing to the war are more than usually urgent. Will you, dear reader, take a self-denial box or give a donation, however small, in support of this most deserving charity?

April 1915

V.T.C. Now that the evening for drill has been altered from Saturday to Friday, we look forward to a considerably increased attendance.

April 25th

Allied troops landed in Gallipoli

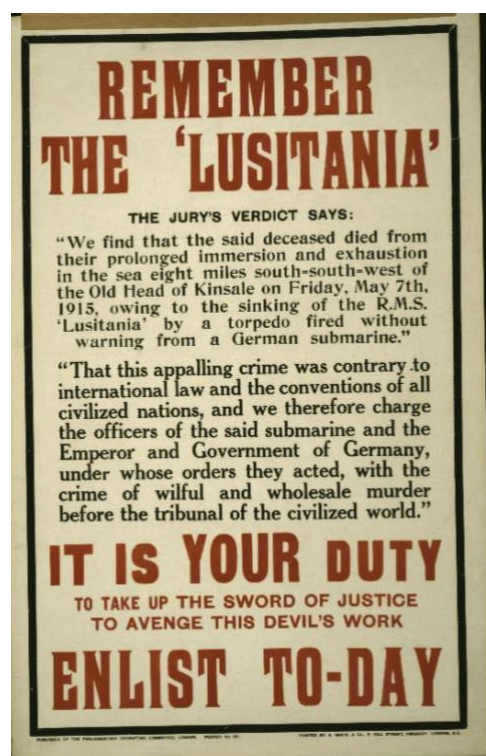
May 1915



Stamford Infirmary. The usual house-to-house collection will be made during May. We have many calls upon us at the present time, but we must endeavour not to allow this most deserving cause to suffer.

Our Roll of Honour. We hope soon to have a list of the names of those from this parish who are serving with the forces, to be hung up in the church, so that we may remember them individually in our intercessions, and those who are on active service will be commemorated by name at our weekly service of intercession every Sunday morning. Once again, we remind our readers that this service is at 11 o'clock, and that it is the great Act of Intercession which our Lord Jesus Christ has expressly commanded.

Eggs for the Wounded. We now send between 40 and 50 every week. Are there not still others who can spare a few? They should be sent to the Vicarage not later than each Thursday evening.



May 7th **The “Lusitania” was sunk by a German U-boat**

May 23rd **Italy declared war on Germany and Austria**

June 1915

Our School Roll of Honour. - Mr Metcalfe (*school teacher*) has supplied the following list of old scholars now serving with his Majesty's Forces.

Walter Archer, Lincs Regiment

* William Archer, Motor Transport

William Birch, Lincs Regiment

Leslie Brighton, Lincs Regiment

Richard Carr, R.F.A. (*Royal Field Artillery*)

William Carr, Army Remounts

Arthur Francis, R.A.M.C. (*Royal Army Medical Corps*)

Arthur Hamling, Lincs Regiment

William Holmes, Northumberland Fusiliers

Cyril Keefe, Lincs Regiment

Lancelot Lloyd, Lincs Yeomanry

Raymond Lloyd, Lincs Yeomanry

* Leslie Metcalfe, Leeds Rifles, West Yorks. Regiment

Harold Pell, Suffolk Regiment

Herbert Pell, Lincs Regiment

Alfred Pick, R.F.A.

Edgar Pick, Staffs Yeomanry

Alfred Weldon, Lincs Regiment

Harry Wilkinson, 5th Dragoon Guards

James Wilkinson, K.O.Y.L.I. (*King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry*)

* Walter Wilkinson, Royal Navy, H.M.S. "Sentinel"

Cecil Woolmer, Lincs Regiment

Horace Woolmer, Sherwood Foresters

*Howard Woolmer, 1st Lincs

*On Active Service.

Gifts for the Wounded. We have been asked by Mrs. Fenwick to publish the following appeal:
Vegetables, poultry, fruit and provisions will be gratefully received for wounded at Stamford Infirmary and other hospitals. The smallest gifts



are welcome. Anyone who desires to help is asked to communicate with Mrs. Fenwick. The gifts will be sent to Stamford weekly, on Fridays.

July 1915

Collections for the Stamford Infirmary. The house-to-house collections were very kindly made by Mrs. Hill in Witham and Manthorpe, and by Miss Lee in Toft and Lound. The amounts are: Witham £3/4/0, Manthorpe 11/4, Toft-cum-Lound 15/9. Total for the parish £4/11/7, which is an increase of 30/- upon last year's amount.

We beg to thank the subscribers most heartily for their increased support of this deserving cause, especially this year when the calls upon us all are so numerous.



Stamford Infirmary 1914

Stamford Red Cross Motor Ambulance. A house-house collection in aid of the above has been made in Witham, and the handsome sum of £8/16/4 has been realized and has been sent by Mrs. Fenwick to the Mayoress of Stamford.

The Lincolnshire Hut at Netley. This hospital is entirely supported by the monthly contributions from Lincolnshire villages. We collect here about 14/- per month. A few additional monthly subscribers of 6d. or 1/- would be most welcome. Lady Ancaster ([Grimsthorpe](#)) appeals also this month for towels and socks as the articles most required at present at the Front.

Overseas Club Penny Fund. A sum of 19/- has recently been collected and given by the schoolchildren towards this fund, which despatches gifts and comforts for the troops abroad. Postcards are enclosed in the parcels, to enable recipients to send their thanks to the donors.

(British schoolchildren contributed to the war effort in ways other than designing and painting fund raising postcards. For example, a few weeks before Christmas 1915, the 'Over-seas Club' launched an appeal aimed at the children of Britain. It invited each of them to take at least one penny to school, where their teachers would set up collection points. The money collected would go to providing

parcels of tobacco and cigarettes and other comforts, “so that everyone of our brave soldiers and sailors will be happy on Christmas day.” said a publicity leaflet. The appeal was a great success and each child was given a colourful certificate bearing his/her name – to show that they had contributed to the ‘Penny Fund’.)



August 1915

A Year of War. August the 4th will be the anniversary of the declaration of war with Germany. A whole year, and the end is not yet. A year ago, we wrote in the Magazine the following words, and events have fully justified their truth. "It behoves us all to be prepared for a gigantic and protracted struggle, in which the utmost might of England must be put forth in defence of our very existence as a nation. Never has this country fought with a clearer conscience or drawn her sword for a juster cause than she has now, and it behoves us all to do everything that lies in your power, and give the utmost that we can in this hour of our country's need. We must every one of us be true patriots".

What are we doing to help? Three great duties lie before us, prayer, service, sacrifice. As to prayer, we have grown slack and neglectful in our intercessions. Let us make a fresh start with the new year of the war. "Prayer moves the Hand which moves the World." As to service, what is our bit? Are we doing it? All honour to our brave fellows from Witham, Toft and Manthorpe who have answered the call of arms. They are a goodly number, and we are proud of them. But are we doing our best? Are they to make the great sacrifice, while we stand idly by? It is a question we all ought to face, and the National Register which is to be made this month will help us to face it. Lastly, *sacrifice*, a voluntary giving up of all which is

not necessary, a strict economy in our expenditure, no waste of any kind in our households. The nation has got to save £1,000,000,000 a year to pay for the war, and we must all help.

Red Cross Fete at Grimsthorpe. On Monday, August the 2nd, a Fete is to be held in Grimsthorpe Park, in aid of the British Red Cross Society. We trust that all who possibly can will go and support this good and noble cause. Tickets (6d. each) can be had of the Vicar.

Obituary. Just as we are writing for the press comes the sad news of the death of Mr. Ernest Carr, fourth son of Mr. R. W. Carr, late of Witham, and now living at Fletland Mill. He had recently joined the Motor Transport Service, was expecting to go to the front in the course of a few days, when he was taken ill in Hertfordshire where he was stationed, and died in Hospital at St. Albans, on July the 24th. Ernest Carr was for years a member of our choir and also a ringer. His genial and kindly nature won him many friends, and his early death will come as a great shock to us all. We venture to express our deepest sympathy with his stricken parents and family. He and Ernest Jackson were always the closest of friends, and now he has followed him to rest, only one year later in life, for he was 26 years of age.

Burial. - 27th July, Ernest Carr, aged 26 years.

In Memory of

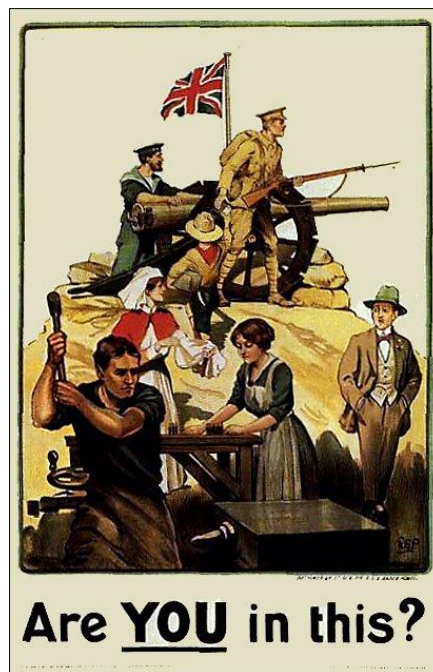
Pte **Ernest Carr**

DM2/102457, M.T. 307th Coy., Army Service Corps who died on 24 July 1915 Age 26

Remembered with Honour

Witham-On-The-Hill (St. Andrew) Churchyard

Courtesy of the War Graves Commission.



August 5th

The Germans captured Warsaw from the Russians

September 1915

Sunday, August 15th will ever be memorable as the date when the National Register was taken. In the event of compulsory service, which in the opinion of many is not far distant, the register will prove an inestimable help to the Government. The remarkable point about this vast undertaking is that the whole of the work is being done voluntarily, and tens of thousands have willingly given their services in distributing and collecting the papers, and in tabulating the results.



Our Intercession Services. We most earnestly appeal to those who seldom or never attend the special intercession services on Sunday mornings, to re-consider the matter, and make an effort to use and value this solemn service during the time of war. A heavy responsibility lies on those of us who are not using the power of prayer to the utmost for our beloved country in this time of peril and trouble. "But why have it in the morning?" some may ask. Because that is the time when we may offer to GOD the Intercession which He has *commanded*, by shewing forth before Him the Sacrifice of the death of Christ. That is the highest form of prayer, and avails beyond all other forms of intercession. Sunday after Sunday, with hardly an exception since the war began, the Vicar has been at great pains to prepare and deliver a suitable address on some subject connected with the war, and so to centre and focus our thoughts during that one service on the one all-absorbing topic. He has thus studiously refrained from dealing with the subject again at the evening service, in conformity with the expressed desire of the Bishop, who has requested the clergy not to preach on war topics too frequently.

September 25th Start of the Battle of Loos

October 1915

The Harvest Thanksgiving was held on Sunday, 19th of September. The church was beautifully adorned with corn and flowers and we heartily thank those who so kindly helped to make it so, as well as those who sent gifts of decorations. The congregations were perhaps less in point of numbers than in former



years, but this is a very general experience due to the war. The restlessness and suspense of this terrible time has had two opposite effects as regards religion, those who before were practising Christians have become more definitely religious, while on the other hand the careless and neglectful have become more neglectful still. This latter is a strange and sad result of our trouble, but one which has been very generally noticed everywhere.

The offerings at the Harvest Thanksgiving were in aid of the British Red Cross Society and amounted to **£2/6/9** a goodly sum in these days of increased expenses. Indeed, all the collections for many months have shown a very marked increase, and particularly is this the case with the morning collections.

2nd Lieut. A. L. Fenwick has been invalided home from the Dardanelles and is at the time of writing in hospital in London. He has been through a very "hot" time at the Front with the 6th Lincolns, and was recently transferred to the Borderers who were short of officers. We all most earnestly wish him a speedy recovery.

November 1915

Lincolnshire Hut at Netley (*During World War I, a large Red Cross hutted hospital was built at the back of the site, which expanded Netley Hospital to accommodate around 2,500 beds.*



Many of the staff were Red Cross volunteers, as most of the regular staff were overseas. Some 50,000 patients were treated at Netley during the war.) We appeal to the monthly subscribers to continue their support of the above, and will greatly welcome any further subscriptions of 1/- or 6d. per month.

The Hospital during WWI, showing the huts behind.

December 1915

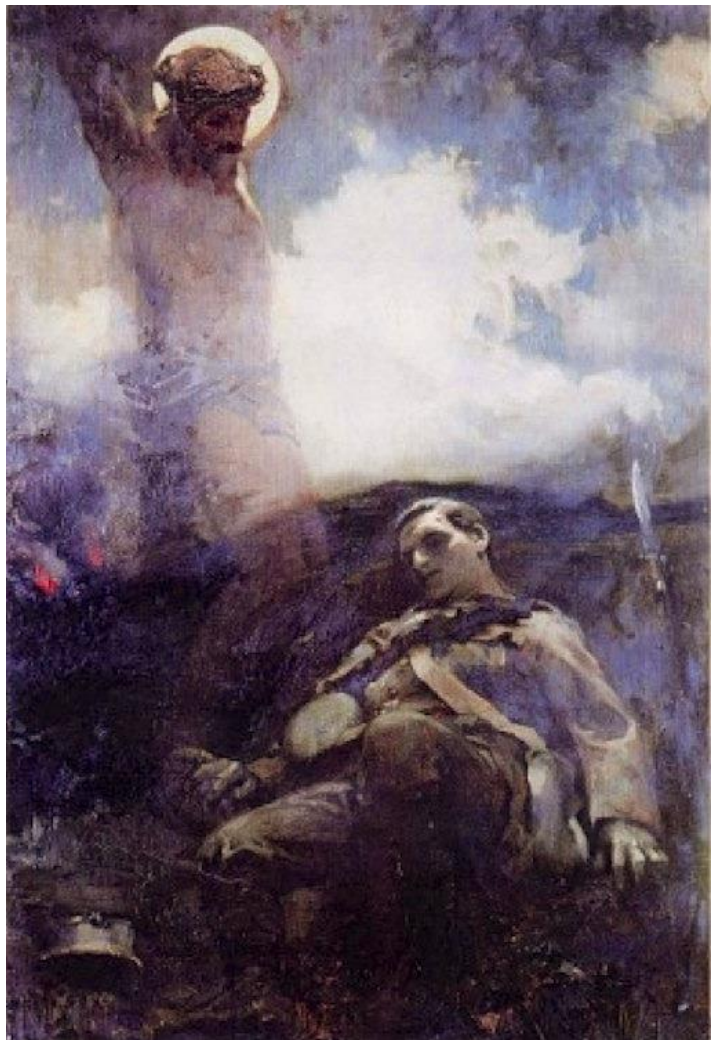
Christmas For the second time the great Festival comes amid the sufferings and horrors of war. It cannot be a day of light-hearted merriment - that is impossible, but it can be one of unspeakable joy and comfort if we come and learn its sacred message aright and keep it as what it is, the Birthday of our Redeemer. On Christmas day there will be Celebrations at 7.30 and 9, Choral Eucharist at 11, short evening service and address at 3.

Comforts for the Troops. Mrs Fenwick is collecting gifts for the 6th Lincolns - now in the Dardanelles, and asks us to insert an appeal in the Magazine to all in the parish who will help her, by making socks, mufflers, shirts, &c. She will be glad to know the names of any who will contribute articles. They will be collected and dispatched monthly, at the commencement of each month.

Day of Intercession. The first Sunday in the new year, January 2nd, is again to be observed throughout the kingdom as a day of solemn intercession. Particulars will be announced later.

"The Great Sacrifice." The Vicar has procured a copy of this famous picture and has presented it to the church, where it will hang as a memorial of the great European War. It is a picture which has stirred the feelings of English people almost more than any other picture of the war and is one of consummate pathos and beauty. The young soldier is represented as lying at the feet of the Crucified Saviour, who with bowed head and loving glance accepts the great sacrifice, a sacrifice like unto His own. To appreciate the picture and read its inner meaning, it should be studied closely and leisurely, and in a good light.

Missing. At the time of writing Mr. and Mrs. Matt. Pell are still without news of their son Private H. Pell of the 8th Lincolns. We need hardly assure them that they have the deepest sympathy of us all in their long and anxious suspense, and we fervently hope that ere long they may have tidings of his safety.



James Clark - The Great Sacrifice

December 19th

The Allies started the evacuation of Gallipoli

January 1916

The New Year. Will it bring peace? Has it further sorrows in store for us? Who knows? At least we can wish our readers a *happier* year than the one that is gone.

The Day of Intercession. - Once again, the first Sunday in the New Year is to be consecrated to prayer. It is to be a national day of intercession. If the magazine reaches our readers in time we earnestly urge that everyone will make the fullest use of this solemn day by attending the special services. Let none be wanting in this great effort. God knows our country needs the prayers of us all in this time of great national peril. The authorities have also asked that, where possible, Friday (New Year's Eve) shall be spent in solemn intercession and penitence. The Vicar earnestly hopes that many more may be led to attend our weekly solemn act of intercession every Sunday morning at 11, to offer the one all-availing Sacrifice for our country's needs, in the way God has commanded us. The weekly addresses on the war, hitherto given only at this service, will for the future be alternately in the morning and evening.

Our Roll of Honour. This roll, containing the names of all parishioners who are serving in the Forces, will be placed (and kept permanently) in the church. If any name is accidentally omitted, it will be added at once if relatives will notify the omission.

January 27th

Conscription introduced in Britain

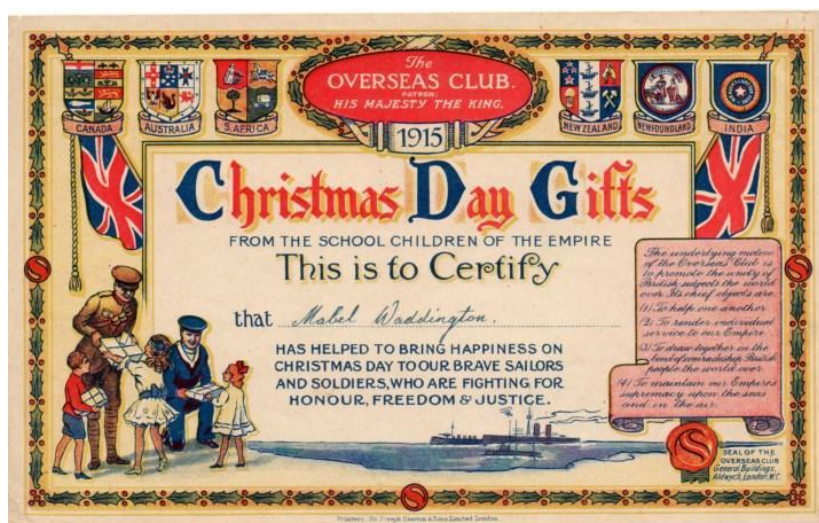
February 1916

Evensong at 3 o'clock. The new Lighting Regulations were published too late to enable us to give notice in last month's Magazine of the discontinuance of the Evening Service. Hence the Vicar circulated his printed letter on the subject throughout the Parish, explaining the necessity of the change, and hoping that none would on any account permit it to affect their customary rule of worship.

Another Whist Drive. It has been arranged to hold a whist Drive and Dance in aid of the Nursing Association (by desire of Mrs. Fenwick), on Thursday, the 10th of February. Will all our readers note the date, and support this deserving cause.

Children's Gifts. The school children recently subscribed among themselves the sum of £1/3/6, which was sent to the Over Seas Club for providing gifts of tobacco and cigarettes for the troops abroad. No less than fourteen postcards of thanks have been received in acknowledgment, all from men in the Royal Engineers.

Mentioned for Distinguished Service. In Gen. Sir Ian Hamilton's Despatch in connection with the operations in Gallipoli, we are pleased and proud to see the name of Second-Lieut. A. L. Fenwick, of the 6th Lincolns.



February 21st

Start of the Battle of Verdun

March 1916

A gratifying success. The recent Whist Drive and Dance on the 10th of February for the Nursing Institution proved the largest gathering of the kind that we ever remember in Witham. The net proceeds amounted to £6/16/8, which was handed to Mrs. Fenwick for the above named cause.



Eggs for the Wounded. Miss Hill has very kindly undertaken the collection of eggs for the hospitals and obtained no fewer than 70 the very first week. We are exceedingly grateful to the donors for this liberal response, and venture to appeal for a continuance of their kindness.

Welcome Home. A warm and hearty greeting was accorded to Mr. Tony Fenwick (*Squire's brother*) on his return home on February 23rd. In spite of the inclement weather, the villagers and schoolchildren turned out to give him a cheer, and a merry peal was rung on the bells. As we recorded last month, he has been "mentioned in despatches" for gallantry.

"When the men come home". Under this heading the Bishop of Birmingham has recently written a most interesting and suggestive letter to the press from which we quote the following remark:- "There must be in our churches a recognition of the one great central Service, which should be the rule as it is on the Continent. The Holy Eucharist must replace Matins and Evensong as the central offering to God of each day in church. Our soldiers have learnt that in France, the Service instituted by the Lord Himself takes precedence over anything else, however admirable."

The Netley Hut. This hospital is still being maintained from contributions of Lincolnshire people. The Vicar sends about 15/- monthly from Witham. We appeal for continued help.



April 1916

An Insurance against damage from air-craft has been affected upon the Church, and as an additional precaution the chimes are silenced at night.



The National Egg Collection. Miss Hill has collected and despatched the following numbers of eggs for the Hospitals during March: March 3rd, 100 (2 weeks) ; 10th, 45 ; 17th, 45 ; 24th, 48. We again thank all the generous donors. Mr Woolley very kindly conveys the eggs to Stamford every Friday.

Shove-tide Social Evening. This was the second Whist Drive and Dance organised by Miss Sybil Tiptaft, to provide gifts for our local soldiers on service. Thanks to the untiring efforts of her and a most hard-working Committee, it was every bit as successful as the former occasion. In fact, the number of those present was even larger. The prizes for whist which were all given, were presented by Mr. Tony Fenwick, who by the bye has received his second "star," and is now promoted to Lieutenant, on which we all heartily congratulate him.

An Easter Dance. Mrs. Fenwick is anxious to arrange a Whist Drive and Dance after Easter, in order to provide funds for purchasing material for soldiers' comforts, in particular for making socks, vests and shirts for her monthly parcel sent to the 6th Lincolns. No date however has yet been fixed.

Sickness. Never do we remember such an epidemic of sickness, chiefly influenza, as that which has recently overtaken the parish. Happily, it is now passing away. In particular are we thankful for Mrs. Glenn's recovery from her serious illness, and also that of Mrs. Garner, in each of which cases the value of the help of a trained nurse was abundantly proved. It should be an incentive to others to join the Nursing Association.

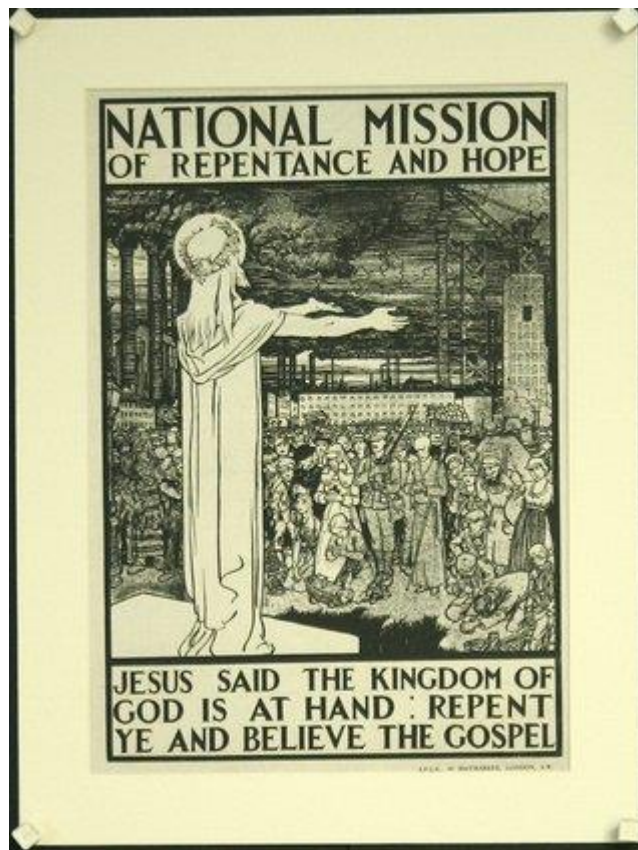


April 29th

British forces surrendered to Turkish forces at Kut in Mesopotamia

May 1916

A National Mission. A great call has gone out to the Church in this land to prepare for and to make in the Autumn of this year a mighty spiritual effort, an effort which will reach and influence every parish in the land. It is to be called "The National Mission of Repentance and Hope." It has been found that generally speaking, so far from the war having brought us nearer to God it has had the exactly opposite result, and this Mission is an effort to arouse the national conscience, and to bring our beloved country back to God and His holy religion. It is a great spiritual adventure, mighty in possibilities, and we shall be preparing for it during the coming months. An apostate country cannot expect the Divine blessing. France has turned to God in her trouble, Russia has done even more, and please God we shall ere long do so too.



Eggs. Last month's consignments sent from this parish for the wounded in Hospital were: 31st March, 45 ; 7th April, 75 ; 14th, 67 ; 21st, 65 ; 28th, 45.

The Vicarage Garden. - The Vicar hopes that all who wish will come and use it when they like. The tennis court will be ready shortly. There can surely be no impropriety in playing a game of tennis in war time for exercise and recreation. Even in the middle of the recent Cabinet crisis we read that Ministers sought relaxation in a game of lawn tennis!

May 31st

Battle of Jutland

June 1916

Daylight Saving. The Summer Time Act came into force on Sunday, May 21st. Last year it got no further than the second reading and failed to reach the Statute Book, this year, however, it has been passed in two-fold; - National economy, saving some millions of pounds on fuel and lighting, and national health, enabling the people to enjoy an additional hour of daylight after the day's work is done. Unfortunately, those engaged in agriculture are unable to take full advantage of the Act owing to the early morning dew, and those of us who are thus affected must console ourselves for the trouble and confusion of the altered time by thinking of the immense boon which it renders to the toiling millions of the industrial population.



The Social Evening in Easter Week, held for sending comforts to the 6th Lincolns, realized £4/15/0. Mrs. Fenwick desires us to state that she has despatched the following articles : 300 cakes of Wright's Coal Tar Soap, £4/11/8 ; ½ cwt. (*a hundredweight, cwt = 112 pounds so half is 56lbs or 25.4 kilos*) of Sweets, £1/10/0 ; and Beef Tea, £1/4/0.

The Stamford Infirmary. We are asked once more to have a house-to-house collection for this deserving cause. The collection will be made during June. We appeal for liberal support.

Netley Hospital Subscriptions. The Vicar would be greatly obliged if the subscribers will let him have their monthly contributions with regularity. This most necessary fund must be continued until the conclusion of the war.

The Egg Collection has suffered during May from Miss Hill's serious illness. The following are the numbers sent to date: May 5th, 65; 19th, 37; 26th, 59.

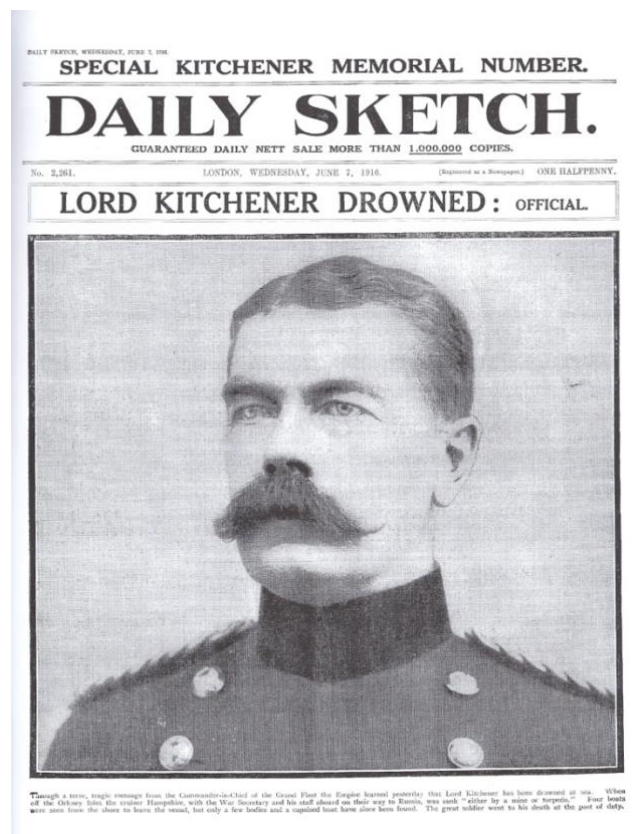
June 4th

Start of the Brusilov Offensive

July 1916

The Naval Battle, on Ascension Day, will ever live in history as one of the proudest achievements of our glorious British Navy, though unhappily, it was a triumph won at terrible cost. We respectfully wish to record our deep sympathy with Colonel and Mrs. Birch-Reynardson in the loss of their gallant young grandson, Midshipman Charles Acland-Hood of the "Invincible," who, had he lived, was destined to succeed to the Holywell Estates. Both his grandparents and mother are such old and close friends of Witham that their loss and sorrow we feel to be ours. We also record with sincere regret the death of Seaman Arthur Knipe, who went down in the "Queen Mary," and who was not unknown to many of us. R I P.

The late Lord Kitchener. Nothing perhaps, has stirred the Country to its depths so much as the tragic death of this great soldier-statesman. Every one of us felt almost a sense of personal bereavement. He seems to have met that appalling death as nobly as he lived. A national monument is to be raised to his memory, though it requires no monument to keep green the memory of the man who by his personality and great name drew all England's youth to arms. Under God he was the saviour of England. R I P.



Kitchener drowned on 5 June 1916 when HMS Hampshire sank west of the Orkney's in Scotland. He was making his way to Russia in order to attend negotiations when the ship struck a German mine. He was one of more than 600 killed on board the ship.

July 1st

Start of the Battle of the Somme

August 1916

Casualties. The recent British advance in Picardy, glorious as it is, has not been achieved without very serious and saddening losses. Pte. William Holmes, who received a bullet wound in the thigh on the 9th of July, is, we are thankful to know, progressing well in hospital. In a letter to the Vicar he writes: "I was lucky, as it just missed the spine. I was hit at 9 o'clock and had to lie in a shell hole till 8 o'clock at night, until it became dark. It was raining most of the time. I crawled to the dressing station on hands and knees and landed there about 12 o'clock." Considerable anxiety is felt for Pte. Harold Pell, although no official news has yet been received about him. We sympathize deeply with his parents in their terrible suspense, and trust that ere long they may hear of his safety.

Church Parade. The Bourne Volunteer Corps visited us on Sunday, 23rd July. On arrival, they sat down to a substantial tea served by Mr. and Mrs. Collins, in the Vicarage garden, and afterwards attended Evensong at the church. Their smart bearing and equipment were most noticeable. The collection on this occasion, amounting to £1/3/3, was given to the Lincolnshire "Star and Garter" fund ([see page 74](#)), a fund for endowing a County Ward in this famous Hospital at Richmond.



As War raged in Europe, Britain's military hospitals became overwhelmed with wounded troops. When Queen Mary expressed concern for the future of these disabled servicemen, an independent charity was set up and, in 1916, The Royal Star & Garter Home on Richmond Hill opened its doors to 65 residents, providing a "permanent haven for paralysed and severely disabled men of the King's Forces." The average age of residents was 22.

Residents on the Terrace in 1916, at The Royal Star & Garter Home, Richmond
(*Now luxury Penthouse Apartments, with a one bed Apartment priced at 1.3 million!*)

Eggs for the Wounded, collected by Miss Hill. During the month of June, the number sent was 197 (omitted last month). For July: the 7th, 31; 14th, 47; 21st, 38.

Stamford Infirmary Collection. The amount given in Witham (collected by Miss Hill) is £4/3/, an increase on last year of over £1, and in Toft and Lound (collected by Miss Lee) 16/2, as against 15/9 last year. The Manthorpe collection is not yet complete; the amount will be stated next month. This increased generosity is particularly gratifying when one considers the many additional calls made upon us all in consequence of the War.

August 10th

End of the Brusilov Offensive

September 1916

Killed in Action. We deeply regret that Pte. Harold Pell (Suffolk Regt.) fell in action on the 1st of July. After some weeks of acute anxiety his parents have now received definite information of his death from the War Office, enclosing an expression of sympathy from their Majesties the King and Queen. *(following is taken from the War Graves Commission entry)*

In Memory of
Private
Harold Pell

17029, 11th Bn., Suffolk Regiment who died on 01 July 1916 Age 24

Son of David and Elizabeth Ann Pell, of Witham on the Hill, Bourne, Lincs.

Remembered with Honour
Thiepval Memorial

A letter has also been received from his Company Quartermaster-Sergeant who writes: "he was killed while taking part in the great advance. He was a good soldier and loved by everyone, and much valued by his officers. His loss is greatly felt in the Company. I had known him personally since he first joined. He was very keen on his work, especially as a machine gunner, which he was lately, and was fighting until the end. He died a British soldier's death in harness. Please accept my deepest sympathy in your great bereavement, also that of the dear old boy's officers and mates. We miss him much, poor lad." Louis Harold *(Pell)* was 25 years of age, and was the youngest of the six sons of Mr. and Mrs. David Pell. We would assure his parents and relatives that they have the deep sympathy of us all. R I P.

Pte. Herbert Pell. It is now over eleven months since Mr. and Mrs. Matthew Pell have had any news of their son, and we greatly fear after this length of time that he may have fallen in the Battle of Loos, last September, in which his Battalion (8th Lincolns) was engaged, and suffered heavy casualties. Should this be the case, then it is a strange and sad coincidence that two of the same name and living next door to one another should be the first in our parish to give their lives in the great cause. Our sympathy with Mr. and Mrs. Pell is all the deeper on account of their anxious strain during all these months of silence as regards their only son.

In Memory of
Private
Herbert Pell

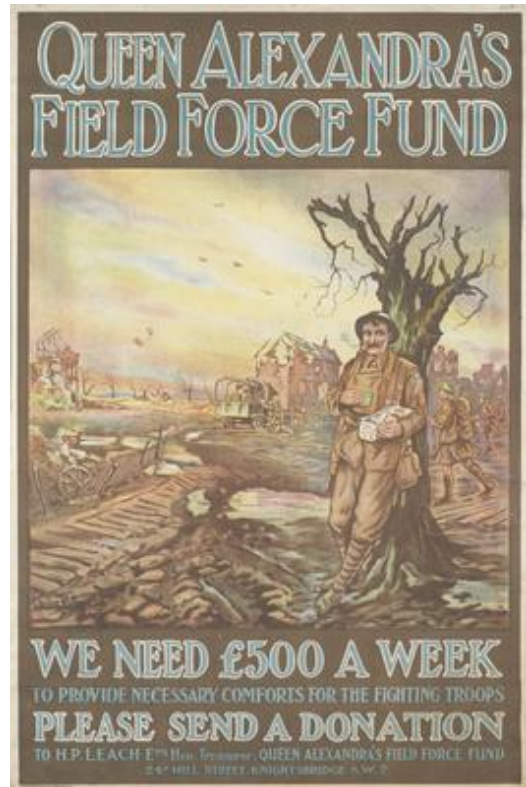
11119, "B" Coy. 8th Bn., Lincolnshire Regiment who died on 26 September 1915 Age 28

Son of Matthew and Eliza Pell, of Witham-on-the Hill, Bourne, Lincs.

Remembered with Honour
Loos Memorial

Loos-en-Gohelle is a village about five kilometres north-west of Lens. The Loos Memorial forms the side and back of Dud Corner Cemetery where over 1700 officers and men were buried, the great majority of whom fell in the battle of Loos. Dud Corner Cemetery stands almost on the site of a German strong point, the Lens Road redoubt, which was captured by the 15th (Scottish) Division on the first day of the battle. It is located about one kilometre west of the village.

Notice. Private parcels to men in the Lincolnshire Regiments can now be sent **free** through Queen Alexandra's Field Force Fund. For particulars apply to Mrs. Fenwick or the Vicar.



Eggs for the Wounded. Collected last month: July 28th, 26; August 11th, 56 ; 18th, 33.

September 15th

First use en masse of tanks at the Somme

October 1916

Harvest Thanksgiving Services were held on Sunday, September 24th. The sermon at Evensong was preached by Rev. A E Ayre, Rector of Careby. At the same service Pte. H. Hobson (Royal Scots Regt.) gave us a very beautiful rendering of the solo "It is enough" from the "Elijah." The collections, which amounted to £2/8/10, were given to the British Red Cross Society.

The great Sacrifice. Another of our soldiers has given his life in the great cause. Pte. James Jordan, who died on September 5th. He was seriously injured by a fall of trench on the 4th, and died the next day without recovering consciousness. Last month we alluded to the strange coincidence of the first two of our boys to fall coming from next door houses, and now it is the *third* house of the same row which is bereaved. We feel deeply for Mrs Sentence to whom Pte. Jordan was practically a son in everything but name. A memorial service will be held in his memory on Sunday morning, October 1st.

James Jordan

Rank: Private

Service No: 5040

Date of Death: 05/09/1916

Age: 41

Regiment/Service: West Yorkshire Regiment (Prince of Wales's Own) 1st/5th Bn.

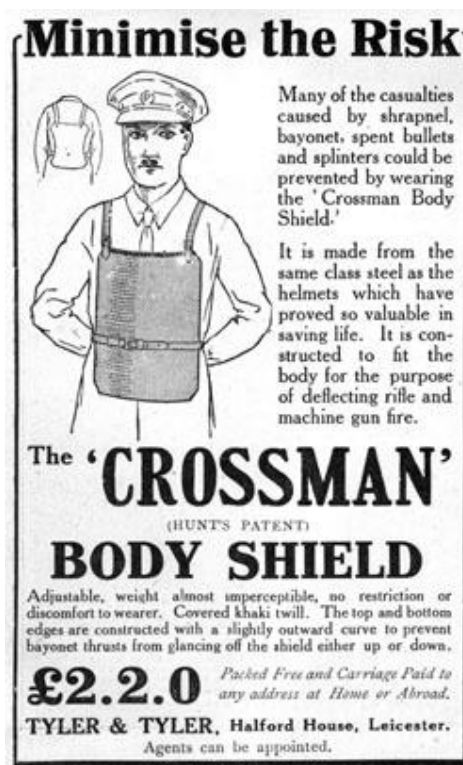
Grave Reference: IV. A. 19.

Cemetery: **PUCHEVILLERS BRITISH CEMETERY**

Additional Information: Son of William and Mary Jordan, of Wennington, Hunts.

Eggs for the Wounded Collected last month: August 25th, 33; September 1st, 36; 8th, 22; 15th, 22;. There will be no further collection made for the present.

The Squire, Keld Fenwick married Gladys Mary Nelson, daughter of Sir William Nelson Bt. on 2nd October 1916.



Minimise the Risk

Many of the casualties caused by shrapnel, bayonet, spent bullets and splinters could be prevented by wearing the 'Crossman Body Shield.'

It is made from the same class steel as the helmets which have proved so valuable in saving life. It is constructed to fit the body for the purpose of deflecting rifle and machine gun fire.

The **'CROSSMAN'**
(HUNT'S PATENT)
BODY SHIELD

Adjustable, weight almost imperceptible, no restriction or discomfort to wearer. Covered khaki twill. The top and bottom edges are constructed with a slightly outward curve to prevent bayonet thrusts from glancing off the shield either up or down.

£2.2.0 Packed Free and Carriage Paid to any address at Home or Abroad.

TYLER & TYLER, Halford House, Leicester.
Agents can be appointed.

November 1916

A Whist Drive and Dance will be held on Wednesday, November 8th, in the Hall garage (by kind permission of Mrs. Fenwick) to raise further funds for Christmas presents to the soldiers who are serving from this parish. Miss Tiptaft is kindly organising this second effort. The net proceeds of the last whist drive on September 26th, were £4/5/10.

Pte. F. Wells Mr. Jas. Wells has received news of the death of his son. Pte. Frank Wells, of the Durham Light Infantry, who was killed in action in October. To all the family we venture to offer our most sincere and respectful sympathy. *(his full name was Henry Frank Wells)*

Henry Frank Wells

Rank: Private

Service No: 35228

Date of Death: 07/10/1916

Age: 34

Regiment/Service: King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry 7th Bn.

Grave Reference: XXVIII. H. 9.

Cemetery: **CATERPILLAR VALLEY CEMETERY, LONGUEVAL**

Additional Information: Son of James and Mary Ann Wells, of Manthorpe, Bourne, Lincs.

Caterpillar Valley Cemetery lies a short distance west of Longueval on the south side of the road to Contalmaison. Caterpillar Valley was the name given by the army to the long valley that rises eastwards, past Caterpillar Wood, to the high ground at Guillemont. The majority of the soldiers buried here fell in the Battle of the Somme in the Autumn of 1916.

Sec- Lieut. M.J. Fenwick, R.F.C. It will be a grief to us all to hear of Mr. Monty Fenwick's flying accident in France, and we sincerely hope that he will shortly recover from his injuries.

December 1916

Christmas. For the third, and we fervently hope the last time, the joys of the great Festival will be overshadowed for us by the sorrows and suffering of war, though, for that very reason, its message may bring to us the greater comfort. May it be in the truest sense a "happy" Christmas. There will be early Celebrations of the Holy Communion at 7.30 and 9 o'clock, sung Service with Sermon at 11, and Children's Service, to which others are also invited, at 3. Festal Christmas Evensong will be sung on Christmas Eve (Sunday) at 3.

The Whist Drive and Dance, on November 8th, in the Hall garage proved a record both in numbers and proceeds. The affair was most admirably managed by Miss Tiptaft and her hard-working committee and was much enjoyed. The proceeds amounted to £10/10/0, which sum, with the addition of the proceeds of the preceding whist drive in September, will be spent upon Christmas parcels, to be sent to all who are serving from the parish in H.M. Forces.

War Savings Association. The attention of our readers is directed to the leaflet enclosed in this number of the magazine. It is hoped to form one or more associations at Witham, and to arrange for a meeting at which the scheme may be explained.



December 7th

Lloyd George becomes British Prime Minister

January 1917

1917. The opening year will, in all probability, be the most momentous in the world's history. May it bring the long looked-for peace, that is the one burning hope of us all. It certainly will bring further calls to sacrifice beyond all that have gone before, as the nation braces itself for the supreme effort which, under God, will bring us victory. Meanwhile there will be further suffering and sorrow for many. Let us face it bravely and resolutely. But we can only do this with the help of God. And so, for ourselves, let us begin afresh to draw nearer to Him, to come Sunday by Sunday, and remember our dear ones in peril as we offer our solemn intercession before Him. "How shall we not prevail with God when this awful Sacrifice lies displayed." said St. Augustine, in speaking of prayer at the Holy Eucharist. Our great sailors set us a noble example. Ever since the beginning of the war Admiral Jellicoe has had a daily celebration of the Holy Eucharist on board his Flagship the *Iron Duke*, and Admiral Beatty, his successor in command of the Fleet, has stated that "when England looks out with humbler eyes *and prayer on her lips* then she can begin to count the days towards the end."

Christmas Presents to our Soldiers. - Miss Tiptaft has kindly furnished us with a list of all the men to whom she has sent parcels for Christmas, and as it forms a guide to the names of those who have gone from the parish (with a few exceptions) we print it below.

*Pte. G Appleyard	20th Notts. & Derbys	
* Pte. T. W. Archer	A.S.C., M.T.	<i>(William) (Army Service Corps Motor Transport)</i>
* Pte. Walter Archer	13th Leicesters	
*Signaller W. Birch	7th Lincolns	
* Sergt. C. Birch	Northumberland Fusiliers	
* Pte. R. C. Bent	5th Leicesters	
* Pte. J. H. Bent	9th Leicesters	
* Lce.-Cpl. J. C. Breathwick	M.G.C.	<i>(Machine Gun Corps)</i>
* Pte. H. G. Cooper	Loyal North Lancs.	
Cpl. Cross	Norfolk Yeomanry	
* Sergt. A. Francis	R.A.M.C.	<i>(Royal Army Medical Corps)</i>
Pte. H. A. Harmston	18th Hussars	
* Pte. A. Head	1st Lincolns	
* Pte. J. Haddon	Sherwood Foresters	
* Pte. A. L. Holmes	R.N.A.S.	<i>(Royal Naval Air Service)</i>
Pte. E. Holmes	4th Yorks. and Lancs.	
* Pte. F. Holmes	A.S.C., M.T.	<i>(Army Service Corps, Motor Transport)</i>
Pte. H. Holmes	A.S.C.	<i>(Army Service Corps)</i>
*Pte. W. Holmes	Northumberland Fusiliers	
Pte. J. Kettle	13th West Yorks	
Lce.-Cpl. L. W. Metcalfe	7th West Yorks	<i>(Leslie)</i>
* Lce.-Cpl. E. Newham	3rd Lincolns	
Driver C. Pell	R.F.A.	<i>(Royal Field Artillery)</i>
Pte. J. Panter	A.S.C.	<i>(Army Service Corps)</i>
*Gunner A. Pick	R.F.A.	<i>(Royal Field Artillery)</i>
*Trooper E. Pick	Staffs Yeomanry	<i>(Ernest)</i>
*Pte. C. Ramm	M.G.C.	<i>(Machine Gun Corps)</i>
Pte. Smith	A.S.C.	<i>(Army Service Corps)</i>
Pte. W. Warnes	A.S.C.	<i>(Army Service Corps)</i>
* Pte. A. Weldon	4th Lincolns	<i>(Alfred)</i>
* Pte. C. E. Wells	8th North Staffords.	
Lce.-Cpl. C. Woolmer	10th Lincolns	
* Cpl. Horace Woolmer	Sherwood Foresters	
Cpl. Howard Woolmer	1st Lincolns	

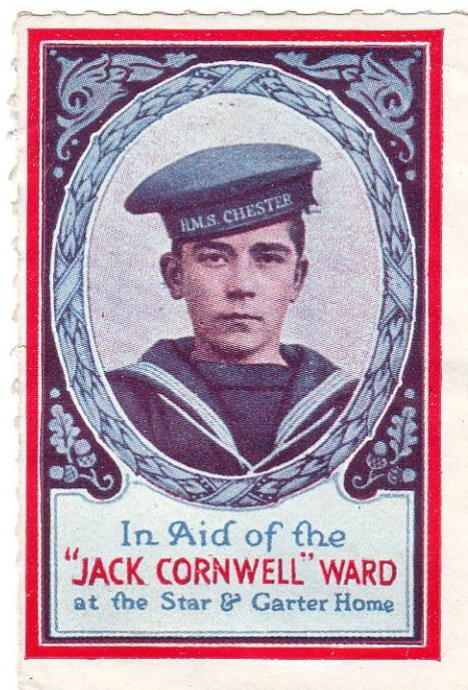
* Those marked thus are on Foreign Service.

February 1917

The School Children's Gifts. The Children in the School have not been backward in their generosity. Through Mr. Metcalfe they recently subscribed and sent £1/3/6 to the Over-seas Club for Christmas Gifts to Sailors and Soldiers. This makes a total of £3/8/6 subscribed by the children to the funds of this Club. In addition, they have sent £1 to the "Jack Cornwall" Memorial Ward in the "Star and Garter" Hospital. (*See August 1916 and pages 71-72.*)

For Soldier's Comforts. On the 11th January another very successful Whist Drive and Dance was organised by Miss Tiptaft. Though the night was most inclement, there were a large number of patrons, and a thoroughly enjoyable evening was spent. The result was a substantial addition to the above-named deserving cause.

Netley Hut. The local subscriptions to this most necessitous fund have fallen to 12/- a month, given by 16 subscribers. We make an earnest appeal for further contributors, who will be willing to give say, 6d. per month during the continuation of the War.



February 1st

Germany's unrestricted submarine warfare campaign started

March 1917

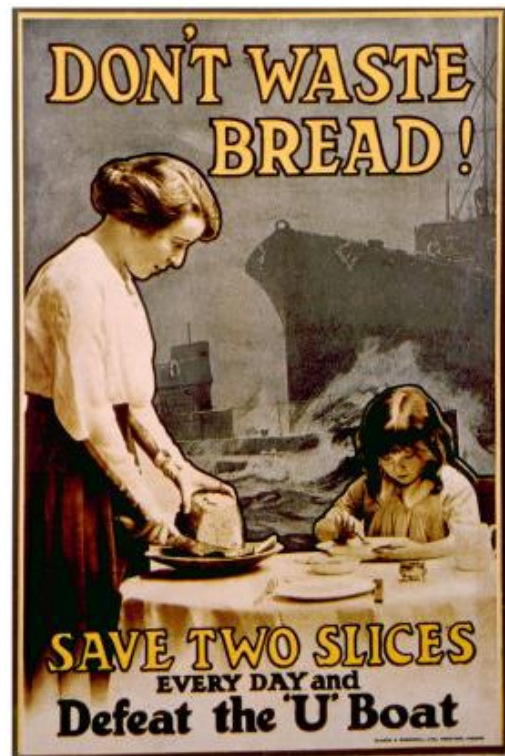
Lent. Never before has it been more difficult to keep this sacred season in the way which the Christian Church intends. Owing to the lighting restrictions we are deprived of the use of the church both on Sunday as well as week-day evenings, which is the only time, when some are free to come. Then there is the absence of all those who are called to the colours, involving as it does, additional toil on those who remain. The recent bitter weather too, is the cause of much sickness and depression, while overall is the ever-present shadow of the war, rendering us all anxious and pre-occupied, and taking us entirely out of the ordinary routine of our lives. And yet on the other hand, never did we *need* more the help and comfort and strength which the season of Lent, rightly used, can give us. We earnestly suggest that we all try and carry out the following simple rules during Lent:

1. Make a *real* repentance for the past.
2. Say our daily prayers with greater care and devotion.
3. Attend public worship without fail every Lord's Day, giving preference where possible to the Intercession Service at 11 o'clock.
4. After careful preparation, make our Communion at least once in Lent.
5. Practise some definite act of self-denial.

The Prime Minister recently referred to this sacred season by bidding us keep a "National Lent." "The nation," he said, "will be better for it, and stronger mentally, morally and physically. It will strengthen its fibre, it will ennoble its spirit."

The Squire and Mrs. Fenwick (*the young newlyweds*) have come into residence at the Hall, though we shall see but little of him at present as he is shortly going out again to the Front, this time as an airman, where he will be engaged in the hazardous task of night-flying. We shall fervently wish him a safe return home and shall feel for Mrs. Fenwick during the anxious time of his absence.

A Tea Party on the Ice. We consider that so rare an event should be recorded. On the 7th February, through the kindness of the Squire, tea was served on the fish-pond to all who cared to avail themselves of so novel an experience as that of having tea on the ice. Many years have passed since there was such a long spell of severe frost, and it may be many years again before it becomes possible to sit down to a tea table above 18 feet of water! It is something at least to be able to say that one has done it.



Shrove-tide Party. On Shrove Tuesday another very successful Whist Drive and Dance took place in the school in aid of the local soldiers' comforts fund. The affair was promoted and managed by Miss Tiptaft. A great number of visitors were present in spite of the weather, and the proceeds will result in a very substantial sum.

Gunner A. Pick has recently been home after about 18 months' service abroad with the R.F.A. (*Royal Field Artillery*) Needless to say he received the heartiest of welcomes from all his friends, who were much gratified to see him looking fit and well.

National Service. The Vicar has signified to the Bishop his willingness to undertake either ministerial work elsewhere or manual work of a national character. Whether or not this will affect the usual services at our own church will depend upon the Bishop's decision.

Newspaper cutting inserted into scrapbook at this point gives an account of an Easter Social organised by Misses G. and L. Creasey, Miss A. Holmes, and Miss M. Redshaw, ably assisted by men of the Tyne Squadron, Messrs. E. Battram, J.W. Redshaw and T. Holmes. Total receipt amounted to £6. 18s. 6d., towards funds for disabled soldiers and sailors in Lincolnshire, in connection with the Lord Roberts' Memorial Workshops.

Will you give a little to help those who gave so much for you?

MONEY IS URGENTLY NEEDED to acquire more Workshops and Machinery at
The Lord Roberts Memorial Workshops
 THE
NATIONAL TRIBUTE TO LORD ROBERTS.

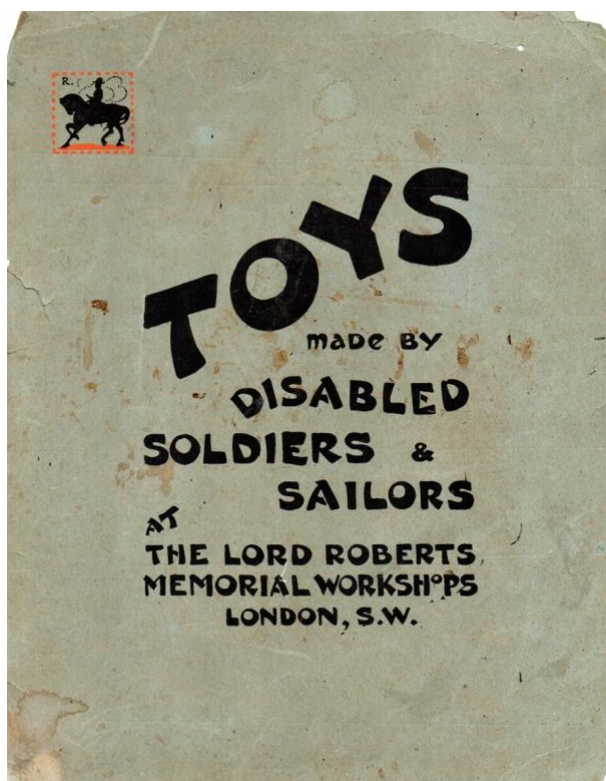
Permanently disabled on Active Service—Soldiers and Sailors find immediate work at our Workshops. A man starts at £1 per week and earns standard rate of wages quickly. No red tape. No delay. The National way and the only practical way to find work for our disabled men.

We find work NOW—and after the War

SEND A SUBSCRIPTION TO-DAY, PLEASE, TO—
Major-Gen. The Lord Cheylesmore, K.C.V.O.
122 Brompton Road, London, S.W.



The Soldiers' and Sailors' Help Society. Patrons: H.M. The King, H.M. The Queen.



April 1917

Eggs for the Wounded. It is hoped to resume the weekly collection after Easter. Will all who keep fowls kindly give what they can, for the need is urgent.

April 6th **USA declared war on Germany**

April 16th **France launched an unsuccessful offensive on the Western Front**

May 1917

Lieut. M.J. Fenwick. We were greatly distressed at hearing that Mr. Monty Fenwick (*Squire's brother*) had met with another and even more serious flying accident. Engaged in "ferrying" aeroplanes from England to France he was caught in a snow-storm and obliged to descend. In doing so his machine came in contact with a tree and overturned. He now lies in hospital with compound fractures of the thigh and leg, and other serious injuries, though hopes are entertained of a complete recovery. We most earnestly hope that this may be the case.

The Easter Social held on Easter Monday was a great success in every way. The receipts reached the handsome total of £6/18/6, and the committee decided to devote the balance to the Lincolnshire fund of the "Lord Roberts Memorial," which consists of training disabled soldiers and sailors in special workshops. An appeal for this most deserving fund was recently issued to all the villages in the Bourne district, and this will be our contribution.

ROYAL FLYING CORPS
MILITARY WING

VACANCIES EXIST
FOR

Men aged 18 to 30 of various mechanical trades, and others of good education.

They should apply to the nearest Recruiting Officer, or write for particulars to Headquarters, Royal Flying Corps. (M.W.), South Farnborough, Hants.

PAY.

2nd Class Air Mechanic	2/- per day.
1st " "	4/- " "
Corporal	5/- " "
Sergeant	6/- " "
Flight Sergeant	7/- " "
Warrant Officer	9/- " "

Men selected to be trained as Flyers will receive in addition 2/- or 4/- per diem.

Free Clothing and necessities, quarters, rations, fuel and light, and medical attendance.

One month's furlough per annum on full pay.

When transferred to the Army Reserve a soldier of the Corps will receive an annual gratuity of £10 in lieu of Reserve Pay.

If, while serving in the Reserve, he is placed on the first Reserve as a flyer, he receives a further £10 per annum, subject to his performing a Quarterly Flying Test.

Men of the following trades and professions are specially required:

Blacksmiths, Coppermiths, Acetylene Welders, Instrument Repairers, Motor Fitters, and Aeroplane Mechanics.

GOD SAVE THE KING



Waifs and Strays. The sum of £1 was collected in Lent savings and forwarded to the Society.

Eggs. The first week that the collections were resumed we sent 35 and the second 50. Many thanks to the kind donors.

June 1917

Our Roll of Honour. To our list of those who have laid down their lives for King and Country there is now added another name, that of Signaller J. W. *(John William)* Birch, who died of wounds in France on April 29th. William Birch was among the very first of our men to volunteer for service at the outbreak of the war, and enlisted in the Lincolnshire Regt. in September 1914. He had seen active service since July 1915 and been previously wounded. A memorial service was held in the church on Sunday, May 13th, which was largely attended by friends and sympathizers. In his address the Vicar alluded to the fact that he was among the first candidates for Confirmation whom he has prepared here, and that, boy and man, he had sung in the choir. He was a good cricketer and took part in several amateur theatricals and was widely popular in the parish. Our deep sympathies go out to his parents, his young widow, and his family. R.I.P.

William Birch

Rank: Private

Service No: 12767

Date of Death: 29/04/1917

Age: 28

Regiment/Service: Lincolnshire Regiment 7th Bn.

Grave Reference: XVIII. II 2A.

Cemetery: **ETAPLES MILITARY CEMETERY**

Additional Information: Husband of Lily Birch, of 32, Henry St., Leicester.

A Memorial to the Fallen. When the war is over, the memory of our heroes must be perpetuated by some enduring memorial, to tell to all future generations the story of their sacrifice. A great Cross - the symbol of sacrifice - standing where all can see it, is the suggestion we venture to make. A beautiful memorial of this nature has recently been erected at Barholm in memory of the late Capt. Lord Kesteven, at the dedication of which the Vicar was present. Such a memorial we should like to see here, to proclaim to our children's children the glorious story of our heroes.

(Plaque in Barholm church reads: To the beloved memory of Thomas Carew Trollope Bart. 3rd. Baron Kesteven Captain 1/1 Lincolnshire Yeomanry of Casewick Crowcombe and Carew who was born 1st May 1891 and died 5th November 1915 in the French military hospital, Oran, Algiers, from wounds received during the shelling of the transport Mercian by a German submarine in the Mediterranean on 3rd November. The cross in the churchyard is erected by his mother and sister and this memorial by his aunt Geraldine Eleanor Moore. 'For Thine is the kingdom the power and the glory' Audio Sed Taceo)



Barholm "Trollope" War Memorial

Stamford Infirmary. The usual house-to-house collection will be made in June.

Eggs. During the month of May Miss Hill has collected and despatched exactly 200 eggs for the hospitals, a splendid record.

Social Evening. We have no space to report this very successful affair on May 7th, except to say that from the proceeds £5 was given to the Red Cross Society and £1/18/4 to the Netley Hut.

Lieut. M. J. Fenwick. When in London recently the Vicar went to see Mr. Monty Fenwick in hospital and found him wonderfully bright and cheerful but it is feared that a further operation will be necessary on the fractures in the leg.

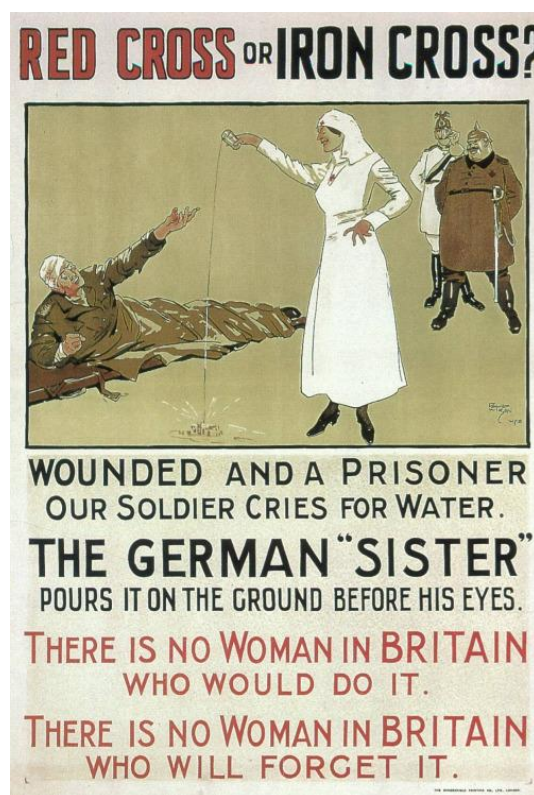
July 1917

Stamford Infirmary Collection. The result of the house-to-house collection in June for the Infirmary was gratifying in the extreme, and we beg to thank most heartily all who subscribed, as well as the ladies who so kindly collected. The sums are as follows: Witham (collector Mrs. Wilcox) £4/5/9; Manthorpe (collector Mrs. Ash) 14/-; Toft-cum-Lound (collector Miss Lee) 12/3 - total £5/12/0. This is in excess of last year's collection, and in all probability we shall keep our reputation of sending the largest amount of any parish in proportion to the population. Considering the numerous calls upon us of late, we are doubly grateful for the generous response to this deserving appeal.

Netley Hut. Some of our monthly subscribers are somewhat behind with their contributions. May we venture to ask them to continue their regular help of this most necessary fund. Also, we earnestly beg for further subscribers who will contribute either 1/- or 6d. monthly. Our district by this means maintains ten beds at Netley (see balance sheet of the Red Cross Society on the church notice board).

Trooper E. Pick. Everyone will rejoice to know the re-assuring news that Trooper Edgar Pick is now going on satisfactorily. After receiving a telegram from Cairo stating that he was "dangerously wounded," his parents passed through a period of acute anxiety, which was fully shared by his many friends, but which, we are thankful to say, is now at an end. We earnestly trust that the satisfactory progress he is making will be sustained.

Eggs for the Wounded. The number collected and despatched in June was 146.



July 31st

Start of the Third Battle at Ypres

August 1917

Three Years of War. The 4th of August will be the third anniversary of the outbreak of war. Sunday, the 5th of August, is to be observed throughout the Kingdom as a day of National prayer and intercession. At all our services the special forms of prayer, issued by authority, will be used. The Vicar appeals for the presence of all in church on this solemn and momentous occasion.

War Weariness. We are all longing with ever-increasing intensity for the end, but meanwhile we must guard against the danger of "war weariness" in regard to our intercessions. It is a sad and significant fact that many of us have long since become weary and careless as regards these. Our place in God's House is empty week after week. Some of us have never been present at our Intercession service since the War began. In God's Name let us put this right and strive to make a new beginning now that the third anniversary of this frightful struggle for right has come. God is waiting for our prayers, come and ask Him. Here is His Promise: *"Ask and ye shall have"*.

"Missing." Our deep sympathy goes out to Mrs. Weldon, who has received official notice that her son Pte. Alfred Weldon has been posted as missing since the assault on Messines Ridge in May. We fervently hope that news may yet be heard of him, though the Chaplain who has been communicated with is unable to trace him.

On Leave. We were pleased to see Pte. William Archer (A.S.C. Motor Transport) ([Army Service Corp](#)) who was recently home again on leave looking so fit and well. He has now returned to the front, taking with him the good wishes of us all.



Pure Bread for the Holy Communion.

In issuing their regulations as to flour ingredients, the Government have rightly taken into account the requirements of the Church, and licences for the supply of pure wheaten flour for the Eucharist are issued by the Ministry of Food. The wafer bread used in this church is made wholly of this pure flour, and we notice it stated that similar wafer bread is used almost universally by Army Chaplains. Ordinary bread, at all times unsuitable, is now totally unfitted for this sacred use.

September 1917

Sunday, August 5th, was kept by us, in common with the whole of the country, as a solemn commemoration of the completion of three years of war. At the early Eucharist we remembered by name those who have laid down their lives, at all the Services we used the special forms of prayer authorized for the occasion. Though our numbers were larger than usual, we were grieved that many failed to make use of this great opportunity for united intercession. In this fourth year of war let us consecrate ourselves afresh to the duty of prayer. Let us call to mind once more what Admiral Beatty said last year in reference to his duty - "When England looks out with humbler eyes and prayer upon her lips, then she can begin to count the days towards the end." Or we might remember the well-known words of that great and far-seeing soldier, Lord Roberts, who said: "that for her salvation England must become a nation on its knees."

Darkening the Church. The vicar and churchwardens are anxious, if possible, to continue evening service throughout the winter, if the lights can be sufficiently screened to satisfy the legal requirements. Though the scheme may be somewhat costly and difficult owing to the number and size of the church windows, yet they are of opinion that it should be attempted, rather than face a third winter with no evening service, with the consequent serious spiritual loss of our people.

October 1917

Screening the Church Windows. This difficult matter has, we hope, been successfully done, so that we shall be able to have evening services throughout the winter. The task proved one of considerable difficulty, owing to the great size and number of the windows. Some are coated with dark distemper, and others have been provided with curtains. The subdued light in the daytime reveals our beautiful church under quite a new aspect and incidentally throws into relief architectural features previously unnoticed. The effect is very striking and not at all displeasing. In speaking of the church windows, attention may be called to the very strange contrast afforded by the two in the west end. We have an incomparably grand Perpendicular window of some ten feet in breadth, and more than twice that in height, while by its side there in the tiny Early English window of 5 inches! What is the reason for this extraordinary disparity in size? Simply this, that the one was erected before, and the other after the invention of glass. The date of the small window is about 200 years earlier than the large one.

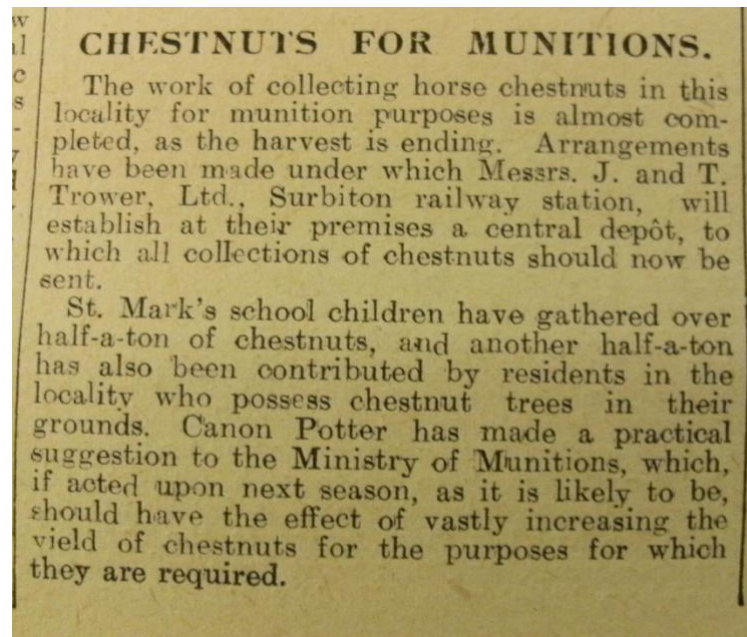


A Witham Lieutenant. Mr. Leslie W. Metcalfe has obtained his Commission, and has been gazetted Second-Lieut. in his old regiment, the W. Yorks. He enlisted in the 7th Batt. (the Leeds Rifles) in 1914, and has gone through many months fighting in Flanders, being one of the few survivors of his original company. The offer of a commission came quite unsought and is therefore all the more gratifying. We wish him our heartiest congratulations and best wishes.

Trooper Edgar Pick is safely back in England, in hospital at Birkenhead. It is hoped that before long he will be allowed to return home. We are glad to know that he is well and cheerful.

Chestnuts. The children are busily engaged in collecting chestnuts, in accordance with the Government's request. Though not used for human food, they replace for essential purposes material which can otherwise be utilized for food. Each pound of chestnuts collected is said to save one pound of food-stuffs for the nation. ([see page 70](#))

Home on Leave. Pte. John J. Haddon (M.G.C.) has arrived home on leave after 15 months service. We were exceedingly pleased to welcome him, and to see him looking so fit and well.



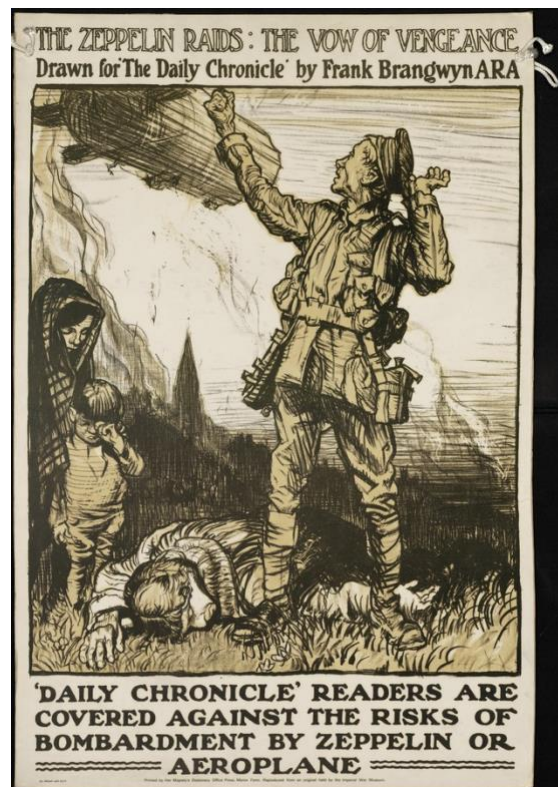
October 24th **Battle of Caporetto – the Italian Army was heavily defeated**

November 1917

The Darkened Church. In addition to screening the windows we have now shaded all the lights, so that no rays fall upon any of the windows. We wish to remind the congregation of the step *in the porch*, also of the iron door stop in the centre, and to exercise caution in entering the church. These will be whitened for greater safety. The four steps below the level of the ground, one of which is *outside* the door, and three *inside*.

No Bells may be rung after dark, so we must rely on our own clocks and watches to be in time for the evening service. The organist will commence to play a few minutes before the service begins, as a guide to those outside.

Wounded. We deeply regret to hear of several casualties to our lads during the past month. Pte. J. W. Haddon (Sherwood Foresters) has received a shrapnel wound in the left shoulder and is now in hospital in England. Mercifully no bones are broken, and he is going on well. Pte. Walter Archer as been slightly wounded again, in the face, but not badly enough to "get a Blighty." There's a report too that Pte. Harold Holmes (attached to the R. Fusiliers) is wounded, but at the time of writing his parents have received no official intimation. Enquiries are being made, and we earnestly hope that reassuring news may soon arrive of his whereabouts and condition. Mr Tony Fenwick has recently also been slightly wounded in the left leg, from a shell which exploded only two yards from him. The wet condition of the ground undoubtedly saved his life, we hear. Had the ground been less water-logged, he must have been killed. As for Mr. Monty, he is to continue in splints for another month, and then to be put in plaster. Except for his leg, he is well and cheery. We all sympathize with him in his long and wearisome detention in hospital.



Captain W.D. Johnson, only surviving son of the late Squire Johnson, who was wounded and taken prisoner in 1915, has now been released and is in England. About a year ago he was fortunate enough to be sent to Switzerland from Germany, where he was interned at Murren as a prisoner of war, and now under arrangement made with the German Government for mutual exchange of prisoners he has obtained his release. He writes to say he is well but thin and hopes to pay us a visit ere long.

November 6th Britain launched a major offensive on the Western Front

November 20th British tanks won a victory at Cambrai

December 1917

Sunday, January 6th, being the first Sunday in the new year, is to be kept throughout the country as a day of solemn united intercession for the Divine blessing on our arms, in accordance with the King's Proclamation.

Paraffin. We have to contend with many difficulties in these sad and anxious times, and to others is now added a threatened famine in oil. That this will seriously affect our evening services is obvious, but we hope that with great care and economy in lights we shall be able to carry on through the winter, even if we are obliged to reduce the lighting of the church to the barest minimum. In that case we must content ourselves with well-known hymns, in which we can join, if need be, without the books.



The Social Evening. On Wednesday, November 21st, a whist drive and dance was arranged to raise money for Christmas presents to our soldier boys. The event can only be described as a magnificent success. Never has there been a larger gathering at any similar function, in fact we were literally crowded out. During the evening many gifts were sold by auction, some of the articles being sold again and again. The proceeds of the evening amounted to over £34, and it is proposed that every one of the lads serving with the colours from this parish shall receive a gift of not less than £1. For the kind thought which prompted this splendid effort we are chiefly indebted to Mr. Wallis, Mr. and Mrs. Parkin, Mr and Mrs. Brudenell, Mr. and Mrs. Creasey, and Mr. and Mrs. Gourley. The result will be gratifying to them in the extreme.

The death of Harold Holmes. It is with great sorrow that we have to report the death of still another of our soldier lads, Pte Harold Holmes, of the Royal Fusiliers,

who was killed in France on September 22nd, through the bursting of a shell behind the lines, while returning to billets with a night working party. His platoon officer, in a letter to the Vicar, asking him to convey to his parents the very sincere condolences of the officers of his company, states that his loss is very keenly felt. It is the same with us here at home, for Harold Holmes was a favourite with everybody. For a very long time he was a member of our choir, and latterly also a ringer (*bells*). Had it been possible to ring the bells, the ringers had wished to ring a muffled peal in his memory. On Sunday, November 11th, a special memorial service was held, at which his relatives and many friends were present. We wish to express our deepest sympathy with his parents and family in the sacrifice of his young life (he was but 24) so full of hope and promise. R.I.P.

Harold Holmes

Rank: Private

Service No: 53203

Date of Death: 24/09/1917

Regiment/Service: Royal Fusiliers 20th Bn.

Panel Reference: Panel 28 to 30 and 162 to 162A and 163A.

Memorial: **TYNE COT MEMORIAL**

A Christmas Social Evening. - The members of the Reading room (*current Parish Hall*) propose to organize a whist drive and dance on Thursday in Christmas week (December 27th), the proceeds to be divided between the Netley Hospital Fund and the expenses of the Reading room.

December 5th **Armistice between Germany and Russia signed**
December 9th **Britain captured Jerusalem from the Turks**

January 1918

1918. As we stand upon the threshold of the new year, one thought fills our hearts: may it bring the long-deferred and looked-for peace. It would be idle to pretend that we can look forward with much joy to the early days, at any rate, of 1918, in all probability there are even greater sacrifices and anxieties in store for us than we have yet experienced. Still the darkest hour is usually that which comes before the dawn, and it may well be so during the year that is coming. The one thing needful for us is a brave and resolute endurance, a steadiness of head and heart, facing the future with courage and confidence. And so, in the belief and hope that this is to be the year of victory and peace, we wish our readers a "happy new year."

Chestnuts. The winners of the prizes offered for the largest collection of horse chestnuts were Vera Wilcox (1st), and Effie Warnes (2nd).

The Netley Hut. Miss Ida Brudenell has been kind enough to take over the monthly collection of subscriptions, in the Vicar's place. We appeal most earnestly to former subscribers to renew their support, and to others to give month by month a small donation - 1/-, 6d. or 3d. - which Miss Brudenell will call for each month. Our parish contribution to this important fund has fallen away sadly.



February 1918

The Day of Intercession was on the whole, well observed here. Unwontedly large congregations were present, and the special forms of service issued by authority were used throughout the day. The services, we are told, made a deep impression on many. The collections (£1/6/6) were sent to the Red Cross Society. This solemn day must be the key-note for the year. We should try to make a far greater use of our weekly Intercession every Sunday at 11, and if it really is the case that we can come to one service only, let it be rather than in the evening.

In an article about Mr Thomas Pick of Elderwood, who has made a complete recovery after his long and critical illness, the following was included. "We feel also that we speak for all in saying how heartily we welcome Mr. Edgar Pick's return home, which happily coincided with the commencement of his father's improvement in health, and probably even contributed to it."

The Social Evening, organized by the Committee of the Reading Room (*Parish Hall*) on December 27th, realized a net profit of £9, £3 of which has been sent already to the Netley Hut Fund, to be followed by a further contribution at the end of the season, if the funds allow.

March 1918

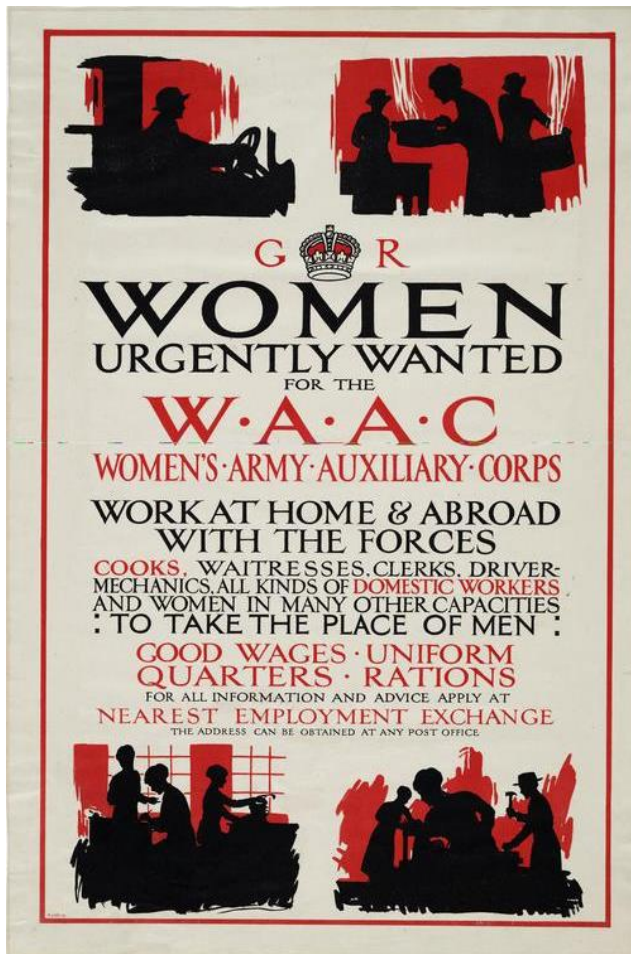
"Missing." Just as we write for the press comes the intelligence that Capt. A. L. Fenwick is reported "missing, believed killed." The news will be received by us all with grief and dismay, for "Mr. Tony" was so widely beloved, and popular with everyone. We shall all of us feel the deepest sympathy with his mother and family in their anxiety and earnestly hope that better news may follow shortly.



The Bells. It is a great pleasure to hear the bells rung up every Sunday, and we are grateful to the ringers for their regularity and keenness. In a very short time now it will be possible to ring for the evening service and we shall especially welcome the evening bells after the long interval of silence.

The Netley Hut collection. Since Miss I. Brudenell has taken over this collection the amount given has been more than doubled. We are deeply grateful to her and to the new subscribers whom she has persuaded to support this deserving fund.

On Leave. Several of our boys have recently been home on leave from the front, including Sergt. C. Birch, Ptes. Walter and William Archer, and Gunner A. Pick, all we are glad to say, looking well and fit. Pte. J. W. Haddon, wounded last year, has also been home lately, before going abroad again.



Mentioned in Despatches L.-Corpl

William Holmes, who is now in Italy, has been recently "mentioned in despatches" for "conspicuous bravery." We are proud indeed of one of our former servers.

Miss Clara Holmes, his sister, is the first of our girls to don khaki, she has enlisted in the W.A.A.C., and is already in France.

Shrove-tide Social. This was once again a most successful affair. The management was in the hands of Mr. Lawley and a Committee, who are to be congratulated on the result. The sum of £6/6/0 was handed over to the funds of the Nursing Association.

A Working Party will be held every fortnight on Tuesdays at the Hall ([Witham Hall](#)) from 2 till 4, to make garments and comforts for the troops. The first meeting will be on Tuesday, March 12th. It is earnestly hoped that a large number will come and help us. All materials will be provided.

March 3rd The Treaty of Brest-Litovsk was signed between Russia and Germany

March 21st Germany broke through on the Somme

March 29th Marshall Foch was appointed Allied Commander on the Western Front

21 March – 5 April 1918: *the First Battles of the Somme, 1918. After transferring very large forces from the now-collapsed Eastern Front, the German Army commits to a series of large-scale offensives. The first, Operation Michael, strikes the British Fifth and Third Armies. A deep advance is made and inflicts large losses, although the second phase, Operation Mars, at Arras on 28 March, is soon held. In the crisis, the Allies decide at Doullens to appoint French General Foch as co-ordinator, and soon enough, as Generalissimo.*

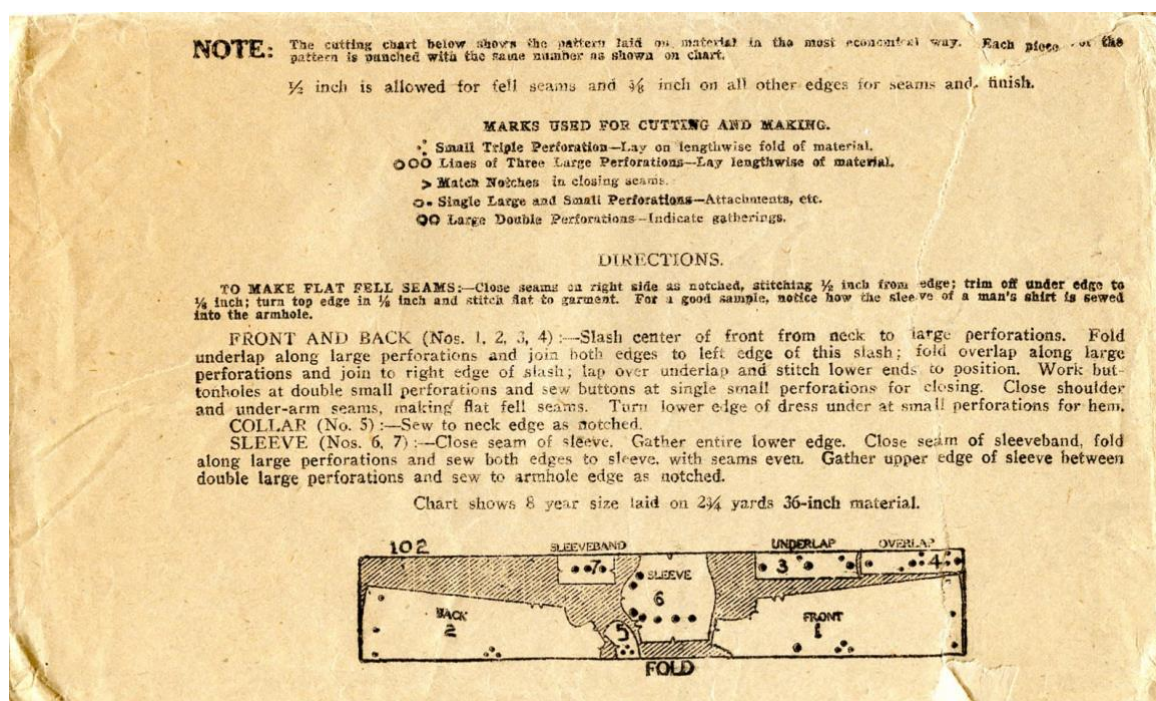
From article in The Long, Long Trail

April 1918

More Light in Church. Now that the dark evenings are over, we propose to remove the distemper from a portion of the West window, which will let in much additional light. Should it unhappily be necessary to screen the windows next winter, which please God may not be the case, we shall provide a curtain in its place.

Easter Offerings. The Churchwardens, unknown to the Vicar, decided in accordance with ancient custom, to give the collection on Easter Day to the Incumbent. He is deeply conscious of their kindness, but whatever the amount may be, he will accept it only on condition that he may devote it towards a fund for providing a memorial to our fallen soldiers. We hope, after the war, to erect some standing monument to commemorate their names for ever, and the Easter offerings shall form the first instalment of this fund.

Lieut. Fenwick has been recently appointed as General Staff Officer on the Defence of London. We congratulate him on this appointment, which is a gratifying tribute to his military ability. As a consequence, we shall see but little of him here, and the Hall will be closed.



Sewing Meetings. In consequence of the above, the proposed fortnightly Red Cross Sewing Meetings at the Hall will have to be abandoned, but the Vicar has suggested that they might be held at the Vicarage, if there is a further supply of material to be made up. Due notice will be given should this be arranged, and we hope to enrol many fresh helpers. An Easter Social is to be held on Easter Monday, the proceeds to be given towards presents for our soldiers.

April 9th **Germany started an offensive in Flanders**

May 1918

Easter. No sadder Easter surely ever dawned for us before, for it came just at the time of our greatest national anxiety. For that very reason its message must have brought infinite comfort to many a soul in deep distress. The church was, as usual, beautifully decorated, and we thank all our kind helpers and the donors of flowers. The Easter offerings amounted to £1/18/6, which the Vicar proposes to give towards the memorial to our fallen soldiers.

Second-Lieut. Leslie Metcalfe. On the morning of Easter Day Mr. and Mrs. Metcalfe received news that their son was reported missing since March 21st, the first day of the recent great enemy offensive. The tidings threw a gloom of sorrow and anxiety over us all, and the deepest sympathy was felt for all Mr. Metcalfe's family, to whom the news came, tragically enough, shortly after returning from the early celebration. After nearly a fortnight of suspense, it became known that he was a prisoner of war and unwounded. Particulars at the time we write are still lacking, but it is supposed that under cover of a ground mist his detachment was cut off and enveloped by the enemy and captured bodily. In any case, we are more thankful than we can say for the news that he is alive and well, even though a prisoner.

L.-Cpl. Jack Haddon, we grieve to say, died on March 25th from diphtheria. He was taken to a clearing station in France on the previous Saturday, and lived only two days. The news of his death was not received by his family until Easter Eve, and cast still another shadow over the Easter Festival. We venture to express our heart-felt sympathy with his parents and family. Born at Manthorpe in 1896, Jack Haddon had lived all his life in the parish, and was closely associated with us as chorister and ringer. With his sunny and engaging disposition, he was a general favourite, and his loss will be mourned by many beyond his family. By a tragic coincidence his sister's marriage was arranged to take place on Easter Monday, and had to be carried through, as the bridegroom was home on leave from Italy, but a gloom was naturally cast over the ceremony. (*Sydney Raymond Tunnicliffe married Jane Ann Haddon April 1st 1918*)

John Joseph Haddon

Rank: Lance Corporal

Service No: 25353

Date of Death: 25/03/1918

Age: 22

Regiment/Service: Machine Gun Corps (Infantry) 35th Bn.

Grave Reference: VI. B. 18.

Cemetery: **MENDINGHEM MILITARY CEMETERY**

Additional Information: Son of Mr. and Mrs. J. Haddon, of Toft, Bourne, Lincs.

Pte. Alfred Weldon, who has been missing since last June, is now presumed dead, and official notice to that effect was received by his mother last month. It is supposed that he was killed in action on June 7th, 1917, when the Lincolns covered themselves with glory at the storming of the Messines Ridge. We all deeply sympathize with Mrs. Weldon and her family, who have had to bear this cruel anxiety for all these months.

Alfred Weldon

Rank: Private

Service No: 201410

Date of Death: 08/06/1917

Regiment/Service: Lincolnshire Regiment 2nd/4th Bn.

Panel Reference: Pier and Face 1 C.

Memorial: **THIEPVAL MEMORIAL**

A Memorial Service in memory of both the above lads was held on Sunday, April 14th, and was largely attended. Both were baptised in our church, both had been choristers in the past, and they were confirmed together eight years ago. - R.I.P.



Capt. A. L. Fenwick. We deeply regret to state that the report of Capt. Tony Fenwick's death, on February 16th, has been confirmed. His body was found and was buried in a cemetery near the lines.

Anthony Fenwick

Rank: Captain

Date of Death: 16/02/1918

Age: 24

Regiment/Service: Lincolnshire Regiment 6th Bn.

Awards: Mentioned in Despatches

Grave Reference: III. C. 20.

Cemetery: **PHILOSOPHE BRITISH CEMETERY, MAZINGARBE**

Additional Information: Son of Walter Lionel and Millicent Fenwick, of Witham Hall, Bourne, Lincs.

The Social Evening which had been arranged for Easter Monday was rightly cancelled, in view of the widespread grief and anxiety.

Second-Lieut. C. Haslam, son-in-law of Mr. Groves, has been missing since March 21st, and his relatives are anxiously awaiting tidings of him, which, up to time of writing, they have not received. It is hoped that he, like Mr. Metcalfe, may be a prisoner of war, as they were attached to the same Division.

June 1918

Prisoners of War. On the eve of Whitsun Day (18th of May) after eight weeks of suspense Mrs. Haslam received news of her husband, 2nd Lieut. C. Haslam, who as we stated last month, had been missing since the German offensive on March the 21st. It appears that he was taken prisoner on that day, after having been severely wounded. We are thankful indeed to record this good news, and to know that he is progressing favourably. He testifies to the skilful treatment of the German surgeons who operated upon him, and says that he has received every care, and hopes soon to have quite recovered from his wounds. Mr. and Mrs. Metcalfe have also heard direct from their son, 2nd Lieut. L. Metcalfe, who is well and comfortable. Both these letters took six weeks in coming from Germany, though in Mr. Metcalfe's case a telegram from Geneva was received a full month before the arrival of the letter, to relieve his parents' anxiety.



Killed in Action. We deeply regret to have to record the death in action last month of Pte. Charles Wells, the second of Mr. James Wells' sons to make the great Sacrifice. He has thus lost three sons within two years, and not long previously his wife. We venture to extend to him and his family our deep sympathies in their bereavement. Pte. Wells leaves a widow, who is living at Huddersfield. R.I.P.

Charles E Wells

Rank: Private

Service No: 26285

Date of Death: 10/04/1918

Age: 34

Regiment/Service: North Staffordshire Regiment 8th Bn.

Panel Reference: Panel 124 to 125 and 162 to 162A.

Memorial: **TYNE COT MEMORIAL**

Additional Information:

Son of James Wells, of Cross Rd. Cottage, Manthorpe, Bourne, Lincs.; husband of Nellie Wells, of 19, Thornhill Rd., Marsh, Huddersfield



Flags in Church. British flags flanked by those of France and the United States have been placed in position over the high altar. Thus they typify our prayers for God's blessing upon our arms and those of our Allies when we offer the Holy Sacrifice Sunday by Sunday, at our solemn service of Intercession.

Y.M.C.A. A collection was made in the parish last month by Miss Evelyn Rawlins and Miss Lily Smith in connection with the Bourne Y.M.C.A. Week, which resulted in a sum of £2/2/3. In addition the school children subscribed 5/-.

We have also received an urgent appeal for help from the Church Army, which has lost over 100 of its huts in the recent offensive on the Western Front. The Vicar has promised, subject to the consent of churchwardens, to have a special collection for this object during this year.



July 1918

Pte. Arthur Crowson, who was at one time an under-gardener at the Hall, is, we grieve to say, reported killed through gas poisoning. All of us who remember him will hear of his death with great sorrow, for Arthur Crowson was a capital fellow, one of those lads whose influence was entirely for good. The Vicar used to hear from him from time to time, and he always wrote with a cheerfulness and courage which was splendid. Some of these letters he has still kept, and the following quotations will show how strong and firm was his faith. "We still keep smiling," he writes, "and know that God will hear our prayers, and do the best for us. Dear sir, I myself and all of us have more need of God than ever we had before, and we know it too." In another letter he writes; "Well, dear sir, I see no fear when in danger, as I have always God on my side, and if it is His good will to take me to a better place where there is no pain and no enemies, He will do so." Well, He *has* done so, to his great gain, no doubt, but to our very great loss, for fine manly young lives such as his are the very salt of the earth - R.I.P.



Joined up. We have recently lost a very useful helper in John Lound, who has now joined the colours. We owe him much gratitude for his valuable help in the belfry, and his unfailing attendance there to ring for all services. We trust that his example may be followed by those of our young ringers who still remain, so that we may be able to assure him that we are still "carrying on," as he hoped we would.

The Stamford Infirmary. We are asked once again to have a house-to-house collection for the Infirmary during the present month. In spite of the numerous appeals for help which are made to us in consequence of the War, we must not forget this deserving cause, even if we can only give a little. Last year we collected £5/12/0, which was the largest sum but one raised in any parish in the district. We may not perhaps send quite so much this year but let us do what we can.

There is a newspaper cutting in the scrapbook, which is re-printed from the "London Gazette". Military Cross. - 16th July 1918 "Lieut. C B. Cooley, R.E., awarded the Military Cross, for conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. He pushed forward during an attack and started the construction of two strong points and laid out a track for pack animals up to the captured position. Later, during an enemy attack, he held and organised the defences of a strong point, and, though without rations, held for two days and nights, under heavy fire, until relieved. He set a splendid example of determined leadership and courage." Lieut. Cooley is a brother of the Rev. L. N. Cooley.

15th July Second Battle of the Marne started. The start of the collapse of the German army.

August 1918

Sunday, August the 4th, being the fourth anniversary of the outbreak of war, is to be kept throughout the Empire as a solemn day of prayer and thanksgiving, with special commemoration of the fallen. The King and Queen will join with the Members of Parliament in a special service at St. Margaret's, Westminster, and every parish in the land is asked to unite with them in prayer on this solemn day. I venture to ask that all parishioners will make a special endeavour to attend our services at Witham on this Sunday, and as far as possible in the morning, when the Holy Sacrifice will be offered to Almighty God as the central act of intercession on this great day. Copies of the special form of service will be provided in the church.

Recent events give us increasing cause for thanksgiving, but the need of our prayers is great and urgent. Let none of us fail to take our part in the great stream of prayer that will ascend up to God on this day, for our dear ones, for our country, for our homes. We can all help in this way to hasten the day of victory and peace. - L. H. C. (*Canon Cooley*)

On Leave. We were pleased to see and welcome three of our soldier boys who were home on leave last month. Sgt. Charles Birch and Pte. Walter Archer who have both suffered from gas poisoning, are now quite recovered, and have re-joined their units. Sergt. Arthur Francis, who has been out in Mesopotamia, has not previously been home for more than two years. While there, he has been seriously ill, and at one time his condition was critical. We were all the more thankful, therefore, to see him back once more, looking wonderfully well considering what he has been through. We have also had a visit from Clara Holmes, our "W.A.A.C." (or more properly Q.M.A.A.C.) home from France on fortnight's leave, and looking so smart in her becoming military uniform. By the way, several thousand recruits for this Corps are needed, both for home service and service overseas. If any of our girls are desirous of joining, the Vicar will furnish them with all particulars and necessary information. Applicants must be over 18.



Flax. Many of us have never before seen a field of flax, and the growth of it in our parish has been interesting to us all. Flax, which provides us with both linen and linseed, was once extensively grown in England, and our old church account book refers to it as grown in the parish in 1548. Now, when our supplies from Central Europe are cut off, flax has once more to be grown in England, where the cultivation of it had practically disappeared, owing to foreign competition.

Personal. The Vicar wishes his parishioners to know that, after consultation with the Bishop as to military service, he has received orders from his Lordship to remain at Witham.

8th August The advance of the Allies was successful



September 1918

Remembrance Day. The fourth anniversary of the war was well observed, and the increased numbers at all our services were inspiring, particularly at both Eucharists. The collections were morning £2/2/0, evening £1/3/6, total £3/5/6, which sum was sent to the local Prisoners of War fund.

The Stamford Infirmary. Most grateful thanks to all subscribers towards the house-to-house collection. Nearly everyone helped, and many of the contributions were on a most liberal scale. Witham (exclusive of the Hall) gave £2/12/2, Manthorpe 13/9, Toft and Lound 15/5. Mrs. Wilcox, Mrs. Ash and Miss Lee again kindly acted as collectors.

Boy Scouts. It was a pleasure to welcome the scouts from the flax camp at Hale House to our service on Sunday morning. The Commandant stated how pleased he was to find a church in the neighbourhood where they could attend the choral Eucharist, as that was the service he wanted most of all for all his boys.

Local Prisoners of War Fund. Miss Ida Brudenell has received the following letter from the Countess of Ancaster (*of Grimsthorpe Castle*), President of the Bourne branch of the British Red Cross Society:- "Dear Miss Brudenell. - There are now 63 Prisoners of War whose homes are in Bourne Red Cross district, exclusive of Bourne Parish. (those whose homes are in Bourne Parish are being dealt with separately). A 15lb parcel of meat, biscuits, tea, sugar, jam, margarine, tobacco, etc., is sent to each of them every week, and in addition, 9lbs of bread once a fortnight. The cost is 19/- week for each man, or about £240 a month for the 63. Netley Hut funds being sufficient for immediate needs, it was agreed to suspend the Netley monthly collections in favour of this more urgent call for our Prisoners, and I shall be grateful if you will kindly undertake the new collection in your area. Yours truly, E. L. Ancaster."

We venture to ask all the monthly subscribers to Netley Hut to continue their donations to the new fund instead, and that many fresh subscribers also will come forward. The sum collected at present is £1/1/6 per month; cannot we endeavour largely to increase it? At present we have, fortunately, no prisoners from the parish to help (2nd-Lieut. Metcalfe, being a commissioned officer, is not included), but we may have. Meanwhile, let our sympathy go out to those poor fellows from the parishes around us who would starve but for the food sent them in their harsh captivity.



19th September Turkish forces collapsed at Megiddo

October 1918

War Aims. A public meeting will be held in the school on Tuesday, 1st October at 7 p.m. by the local War Aims Committee, which is likely to prove most interesting and helpful. We need to understand with utmost clearness *why* we are fighting.

The National War Aims Committee (NWAC), a cross-party parliamentary organisation established to conduct propaganda within Britain, aimed at maintaining civilian morale in the last and most draining months of the First World War. British civilians had endured years of disruption to their lives. Alongside anxiety for relatives and friends in the armed forces or other dangerous occupations, civilians had to contend with more intense pressures of work (not only longer hours or changing practices but also ideological associations of all work with the war effort); restrictions or curtailments

NATIONAL WAR AIMS COMMITTEE.

SPEAKER'S DAILY REPORT.

Constituency S. W. Ham, Essex

Town E. London - District

Place of Meeting Mr. Boleyn, Plaistow, Essex

Date and Time 8.0 pm. July 22/18 (Monday)

Name of Speaker E. Smith

Chairman _____

Other Speakers Mr. Harper

Organised by Mr. Birch

Attendance about 250 to 275

Report to be written on reverse side.

(P.T.O.)

of leisure; shortages of supplies of all kinds, economic pressure; and, for the first time in a Continental war, a credible prospect of wartime death or injury at home from enemy action. The new prime minister, David Lloyd George, was convinced by December 1916 that more was required to bolster civilian morale than 'autonomous propaganda' undertaken by the press and voluntary organisations. By the time the NWAC began operations in July 1917, Russia had experienced the first of two revolutions and Britain had witnessed several strikes over working conditions and the advocacy, at a socialist 'convention' at Leeds, of the creation of workers' and soldiers' councils, making the establishment of such an organisation appear all the more urgent. Over the last 15 months of the war, the NWAC held thousands of meetings and distributed over one hundred million publications, propagating a wide-ranging and flexible patriotic message reflective of the total-war environment in which civilians found themselves.

L.-Cpl William Holmes is home after a long spell of hospital treatment and an operation. We are unfeignedly glad to see him. It is some two years since he was last home.

Gunner A. Pick (*Alfred*) is (we have just heard) in hospital in Scotland, suffering a slight wound received in France. We shall look forward therefore to seeing him home before long.

4th October Germany asked the Allies for an armistice

29th October Germany's navy mutinied

30th October Turkey made peace

November 1918

"The Turning of the Tide." On August 4th we prayed for victory and peace. The nation was on its knees in a united effort of prayer greater and more universal than ever before. Since that day we have never looked back, our armies have gone from victory to victory. Can any thinking man fail to see the hand of God in all this? Our prayers have been answered, answered so wonderfully that we are filled with awe and gratitude. The great day is coming at last. Praise be to God! But we must not slacken effort, rather re-double it. We are asked not to talk or think too much of peace, lest, in that very way, we even hinder its coming.

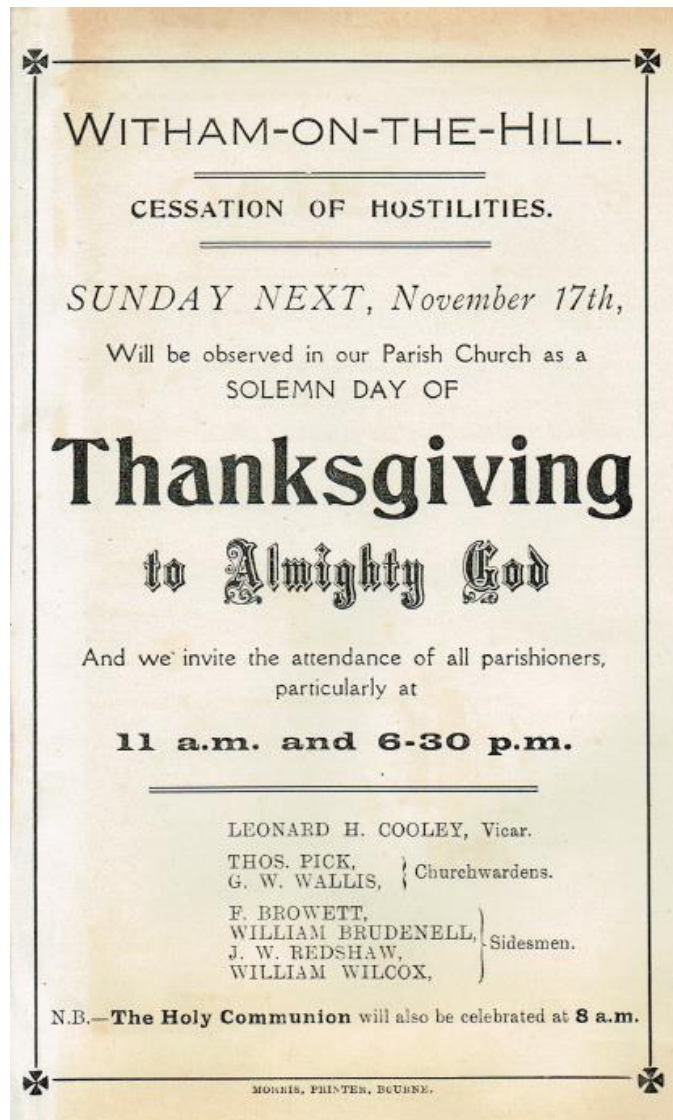
The "Boys" A large number of our soldier boys have recently been home on leave, among them have been J. Lound, F. Rawlings, W. Dalby, W. Archer, G. Archer, A. Pick, A. Francis, W. Haddon, and L. Harmston. It has been a real pleasure to see them, and to wish them God-speed and a safe and speedy return. By-the-bye, Christmas is on its way. Before long we shall begin to think of those gifts which hitherto we have never failed to send them all at this festive season.



November 3rd **Austria made peace**

November 9th **Kaiser William II abdicated**

November 11th **Germany signed an armistice with the Allies - the official date of the end of World War One.**



December 1918

Thanks be to God. With unspeakable joy and gratitude we ascribe the praise to Almighty God. Even now it is difficult to realize how mighty is the victory which we have won, with what sweeping completeness we have attained every single object for which we drew the sword. Almost as suddenly as it began, so did it end "the cruellest and most terrible war which has ever scourged man-kind." The agony of these four awful years is over, and we are free. We *know* it is the Lord's doing, the whole nation knows it and has acknowledged it in one great spontaneous outburst of thanksgiving, as inspiring as it was wonderful.

Our own Thanksgiving Services were inspired by the greatest heartiness and fervour. The flags and wreaths of laurel with which the church was hung fittingly emphasized the great occasion and never were more heart-felt praises sung within its ancient walls. The special form of thanksgiving issued by the two Primates was used, and the *Te Deum* was solemnly sung before the principal Eucharist, and after Evensong.

The Fallen. Amidst all our rejoicing our thoughts have turned instinctively to our gallant dead who have given their lives for us. Let us raise a worthy memorial in their honour. Our offerings on Thanksgiving Sunday have already been set apart for this purpose.

The Children had a great day on November 12th. Arrayed in the weirdest of fancy costumes they paraded the parish in procession, in company with all the teachers, bearing flags and banners. It was a happy idea of Mrs. Metcalfe's thus to impress upon their minds the greatness of the occasion, which they will never forget. A collection was made on the round, which totalled £7, and was given towards the soldiers' Christmas gifts.

Social. The farmers' committee organized a most successful whist drive and dance on November 20th for the Boys' Christmas gifts fund. The proceeds amounted to £12, and further subscriptions brought the total up to £53. It is proposed to send £1 to every soldier whose home is in the parish, as was done last year.

The Prisoners of War Fund is now closed. We tender our heartiest thanks to the many monthly subscribers, and to Miss I. Brudenell for acting as collector.

A Prophecy Fulfilled. The Vicar's prediction of the end of the War, which was widely known for many months past, has now become a matter of such curious interest that he ventures to add a word on the subject. It was in February last that, late one evening, when using the war intercessions and thinking when the end might be, a sudden premonition came into his mind with such extraordinary clearness that he took down his diary then and there, to record the date before it should pass from his memory. It was no mere guess, but a vivid suggestion from without. The impression which it made upon him was so great that he consistently maintained his belief, of which he made no secret, that in spite of all appearances to the contrary, the war would be over on or about November 10th. Why he, of all people, should have been vouchsafed this revelation (if revelation it be), or what is the explanation of this phenomenon, are questions which he is unable to answer. Nevertheless, the facts are exactly as stated.

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END OF THE WAR

GERMANY SIGNS OUR TERMS & FIGHTING STOPPED AT 11 O'CLOCK TO-DAY.

ALLIES TRIUMPHANT. FULL ARMISTICE TERMS FOCH AND LLOYD GEORGE TELL NEWS THAT SENT THE WORLD REJOICING. BRITISH BACK AT MONS! The following historic announcement, which means that the world war has come to an end at last, was issued by Mr. Lloyd George to the nation at 10.20 this morning:— "THE ARMISTICE WAS SIGNED AT 5 a.m. THIS MORNING, AND HOSTILITIES ARE TO CEASE ON ALL FRONTS AT 11 a.m. TO-DAY." The following message was sent out to-day through the wireless stations of the French Government.	EVACUATION TO THE RHINE AND BRIDGEHEADS FOR ALLIES. U-BOATS TO SURRENDER. GUNS HANDED OVER AND BATTLE SHIPS DISARMED. REPATRIATING PRISONERS. The armistice was signed by the German plenipotentiaries with the Allies at Compiègne this afternoon by Mr. Lloyd George. The armistice includes evacuation of invaded territory, Belgium,
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January 1919

A year ago. In the Magazine for January 1918, we wrote the following words: "In all probability there are even greater sacrifices and anxieties in store for us than any we have yet experienced. Still, the darkest hour is that which comes before the dawn, and it is our belief and hope that this is to be the year of victory and peace." Those words of ours have come strangely and wonderfully true. There was first of all the terrible set-back in the spring, the blackest and most anxious period of the whole war, and then the glimmering of the dawn in July, growing ever brighter until the glorious noon-day of victory was reached in November. For the year that is coming, now that the clouds which have oppressed us for long are lifted, we wish every happiness to all our readers.

January Peace Conference met at Paris

February 1919

Letters of Thanks have been received from all the boys to whom the Committee sent the Christmas gift of a sovereign. (*a gold coin with the nominal value of £1*) We quote a few extracts from these letters. "It is very nice to know that we are not forgotten by our old friends at Witham." "I cannot tell you how much I appreciate your kindness." "Thank you very much for such a handsome gift to the lads who represent the dear little parish." "I have been in several parishes, and I don't think I have found any to beat Witham for patriotism, and for what they have done for the benefit and welfare of the boys who went and did their little bit to help to bring the war to such a glorious end." And this from our W.A.A.C.: "There is little need to explain how it helps one along to know our friends are thinking of us at home. It is the greatest compliment you could pay me when you treat me in the same way as the boys who have done such splendid work to bring us such fine victory." The above quotations are typical of all the letters received.

Proposed Memorial to the fallen. A public meeting will be held in the school on Tuesday, February 11th, at 7.30, to consider this subject, and to decide what form the memorial should take. We hope that all who are interested will attend.

The Church Windows are now divested of their screening, and the church once more resumes its old appearance. This and the striking of chimes throughout the night bring home to us as much as anything else the glorious truth of the end of the war. In reference to the latter, we quote a few lines from *Punch* which exactly express our feelings. They are called "Peace in the Village":-

The old church clock, long silent in its tower,
Awakes to tell the time,
And cheer us at the quarter and the hour,
With its melodious chime,
Gone are the days when only sleep could break,
War's grim and tyrannous spells;
Now it is rest and joy to lie awake,
And listen to the bells!

Miss Lee has handed to the Vicar the sum of 8/- from the sale of lavender bags last year. As the Red Cross Fund is now closed, she kindly wishes it to be devoted to the Memorial Fund.

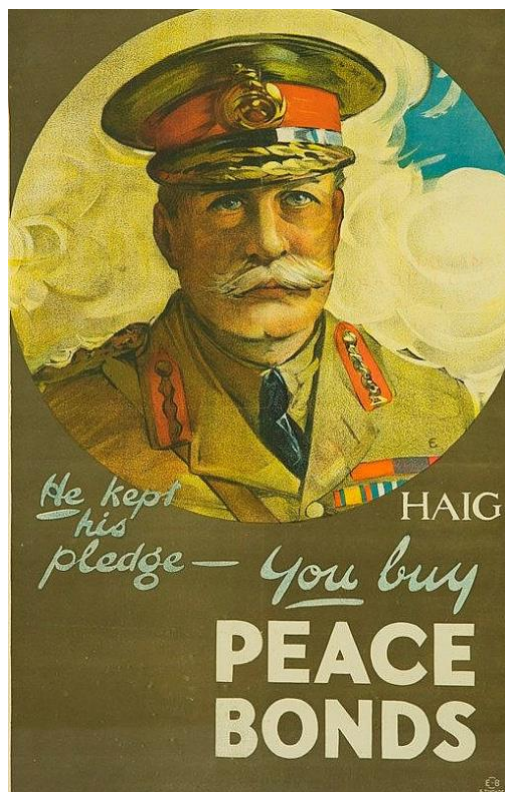
March 1919

Proposed Memorial. The Public Meeting called to consider this, was held on February 11th, at the Hall, by kind invitation of Capt. Fenwick, as there was no fuel at the school. There was a good attendance, and all parts of the parish were represented. It was unanimously decided to erect a tall cross in some conspicuous position, preferably in the churchyard, between the church porch and the road. A design for the cross will be prepared in the near future by Mr. A. N. Prentice, who designed the church pews. Capt. Fenwick has offered the ancient stone which stands at present in the Park, as a base for the cross, if it can be utilized. This old stone, on which a portion of the shaft is still in position, is said to have been brought from Lound many years ago, where it once formed the village cross, standing beside the ancient chapel, demolished in the reign of Henry VIII. It would thus be restored to its original sacred use. The farmers' committee have kindly offered the whole of their remaining funds (some £29) for the purpose, and the Vicar has in hand about £5, while the balance would be met by subscriptions.

Social Evening. On February 21st, a Whist Drive and Dance was held in aid of the Soldiers' and Sailors' help Society (the King's Fund). In spite of the most inclement weather the affair was a great success and was very largely patronized. Our congratulations and thanks are due to Mrs. Creasey and Mrs. Gourley who were chief organizers, assisted by other willing helpers. The proceeds amounted to over £10, a splendid result. Mrs. Fenwick kindly presented the prizes.

April 1919

The Memorial. Mr. Prentice has designed a Cross of unusual dignity and beauty, to commemorate those who have fallen in the War, and the Committee have decided that it shall stand on the village green, at the bend of the road between the Church and the old stocks. No more commanding position could possibly have been chosen, for there it will arrest the attention of every passer-by. (Note. - Since writing the above, the site has been modified, Ed.) The ancient base to which we referred last month will be mounted on three steps and will support a graceful and slender shaft terminating in a hooded cross. It is an almost exact copy of the famous cross at Somersby. The total height will be 16 and a half feet. The cost is estimated at something over £100, and every parishioner will be offered the opportunity and privilege of contributing.



May 1919

The Memorial. Since writing last month the Committee's plans for the site have undergone a change. This is in consequence of the decision of the Church Estate Trustees to sanction the demolition of the old school, ([Parish Hall](#)) in order that the stone and other materials of the building may be used in the construction of the village Hall. It was then unanimously agreed that the site of the school would be an ideal one for the Memorial Cross, close to the road and to the church, and standing on consecrated ground, as this corner was at one time actually part of the churchyard. A grass-plot and flower beds will complete the picture, making a little beauty spot in the heart of the village.

The old School. As for this building, endeared to us by old associations, it will but re-appear in new guise upon the green as the village Hall, while its familiar bell cot and windows will go to Toft, to be used there in re-modelling the Mission Room. Incidentally its removal will open up a fine view of the church from the South-east.

June 1919

June 21st The surrendered German naval fleet at Scapa Flow was scuttled.

June 28th The Treaty of Versailles was signed by the Germans.

August 1919

Thanksgiving for Peace. In accordance with the Royal Proclamation, Sunday, July 6th, was solemnly observed as the Nation's day of thanksgiving to Almighty God for Peace, and our own services were beautiful and inspiring, though it is difficult to account for the frame of mind which could keep anyone from the House of God on this historic day.

Peace rejoicings. The secular rejoicings took place on Saturday, July, 19th. A sumptuous meat tea for all our soldiers, old people and children was provided at the expense of the committee and ably managed by many willing and kind helpers. After tea came the rain, which however proved quite unavailing to damp our enjoyment, and the Squire opened the music room at the Hall for dancing during the showers. Sports followed, and the programme concluded with a fine display of fireworks and a gigantic bonfire, which must have been plainly visible even from distant Peterborough and almost as conspicuous as our recent searchlight, which used to flash skywards from the same spot.

In Memoriam, John R. Lound. The sad intelligence of the death of Private John Lound, came as a great shock to us all. Little did we think that we should have to mourn the death of still another of our soldier boys, now that the war is over. It appears that in crossing a recent battlefield in France he was instantaneously killed by the bursting of a live shell which lay on the ground. Although his home was at Caythorpe, we have looked upon John Lound quite as one of our own boys ever since he came to live with Mr. Wilcox as his assistant more than 4 years ago. He attached himself from the very first to the church, where he was an ardent and devoted ringer. Here he was confirmed in 1916, and here he has ever since been a regular worshipper and communicant. Since he was called up for military service, the Vicar used to hear from him continually, his last letter came only a few days before his death. In every letter he expressed his intense longing to be back at Witham and exhorted us to "carry on" with the bells until his return. On the Sunday following the Vicar spoke of his death and the sorrow and sympathy which it had called forth, and a muffled peal was rung in his memory. His parents have now lost three sons through this cruel war. R.I.P. *(He was the last to join up in summer 1918)*

John Lound

Rank: Private

Service No: 52163

Date of Death: 07/07/1919

Regiment/Service: Leicestershire Regiment 6th Bn.

Grave Reference: IV. B. 30.

Cemetery: **ADANAC MILITARY CEMETERY, MIRAUMONT**

September 1919

In Memoriam, Graham Holmes. We offer our deepest sympathy to Mr. and Mrs. James Holmes in the tragic loss of their eldest son. Mr Graham Holmes, recently demobilized, came home for a visit on Saturday, August 2nd, to meet his two brothers, and was taken ill on the following day. On the Monday, the doctor advised his removal to the Butterfield Hospital (*in North Street, Bourne*), where he died on the Friday. His death was undoubtedly hastened by the effects of gas-poisoning, which he had experienced whilst on foreign service. When a boy, Graham Holmes was a most valued member of the choir, and also a server at the Altar. It was therefore eminently fitting that his body should rest in the church where he had so often ministered, and that the burial office should be choral, R.I.P. Mr and Mrs. Holmes beg to thank all the many friends who have shown such kindness and sympathy with them in their sad bereavement.

Burial. - 12th August, Graham Holmes, aged 32 years.

Graham Holmes

Rank: Private

Service No: 204226

Date of Death: 08/08/1919

Age: 32

Regiment/Service: Lincolnshire Regiment 8th Bn.

Grave Reference: Cemetery:

WITHAM-ON-THE-HILL (ST. ANDREW) CHURCHYARD

Additional Information: Son of Rachel Holmes, of Witham-on-the-Hill, Lincs., and the late James Holmes.



October 1919

Our War Memorial. The reason for the long delay is that this Memorial is to stand on the site of the old school, which in its turn cannot be removed till the village hall scheme is put in hand. Had another site been chosen we might have had it finished and erected by this time. *(In the end lack of money, lack of interest and the inability of Squire Fenwick to freely give the "village green" to the parish, but only give it on loan, meant this scheme was abandoned, which means the lovely little Parish Hall has served many generations and was refurbished several times, with a complete makeover for the Millennium!)*

December 1919

The Memorial. A request. A list of the fallen hangs in the church, near the font. Should there be any omission or error, we ask the relatives to notify the Vicar *before the new year*, as the names will shortly be cast in bronze for fixing to the memorial, and it is most important that the list should be absolutely correct.



March 1920

The Memorial Cross. As it was found that some considerable time must elapse before the old school can be removed, the Memorial Committee recently met and decided that the erection of the Cross must not be any longer delayed, and a new site must therefore be chosen. The place finally agreed upon was the churchyard, where it will stand at all events for the time being. In this position it will be a conspicuous object to all passers-by, for the total height from the level of the ground to the summit of the soldiers' Cross of Sacrifice will be over sixteen feet, or some twenty feet above the roadway. Upon the base of the monument will be placed the following inscription:- "In glorious memory of the men of this parish who fought and died in the Great War, 1914-1919." A Bronze tablet bearing the name, regiment, and the place and date of death of each soldier, will be placed on the east wall of the porch, as it has been found that there is not sufficient space for this upon the Cross itself.

The Dedication of the Memorial by the Bishop will take place on Monday, March 29th, at 3 pm. It is hoped that all who can will make a point of being present at this solemn ceremony, and will bring a wreath or bunch of flowers to place beside it as a tribute to the memory of the gallant dead.

The cost including erection will be about £135. Towards this sum the people of Witham have given £30, Toft-with-Lound £14/6/0, and Manthorpe is expected to give about £8. The Farmers' Committee have kindly given the balance of their soldiers' gifts fund amounting to over £27, Captain Fenwick, Mrs. Walter Fenwick and Mr. Monty Fenwick £40; church collection £4/17/4; other contributions £3/11/0. Total £127/14/4. The bronze tablet is likely to cost a further thirty or forty pounds, and just as we write the Trustees of the Church Estate have most kindly voted a grant of £40, wherewith to provide this.

A "welcome" to our Soldiers. It is proposed after Easter to give a supper to all the men from the parish who served in the forces during the war. We feel sure that this will be readily

supported by all, and we will all be asked to contribute either in money or in kind towards it. A committee will be formed to make the necessary arrangements.

April 1920

The War Memorial. As we write the Cross is in the course of erection, and promises to be very striking and beautiful. We hope to describe the ceremony of consecration next month. The hour was altered to 7 o'clock, to enable a larger number of parishioners to attend.

May 1920

Bishop Hine's Visit. March 29th was a memorable day for us, with the Confirmation in the afternoon and the dedication of the War Memorial in the evening. Both ceremonies were very reverently and solemnly rendered, and our thanks are due to the choir who so largely helped to make them so.

The Memorial Cross is even more effective and striking than we had dared hope. Its elevated position helps to make it conspicuous, as any such Memorial should be. We are more than ever convinced that we have been happy in our choice, for we have erected a memorial which all can see, a thing of exquisite beauty in itself, and above all, one which is simply and solely a tribute of our love to our gallant dead and an emblem of their self-sacrifice. It is surely not right to exploit, as is sometimes done, the memory of the dead in order to serve the purposes of the living. And further, the funds have been freely given, and not "raised."

The Ancient Base. There are possibly some who think that the old weather beaten base detracts from the beauty of the new work. But in a few years time, the new will tone down to the old, and in utilizing this 500 year old stone, we are restoring it once more to its original use. We would direct attention to the small "consecration cross" plainly to be seen on the western side, which marks the place where the Bishop blessed it over 500 years ago.

The Figures on either side are those usually to be found on crosses of this type, and they symbolize respectively the two great Mysteries of the Incarnation and the Atonement.

December 1920

Distributed with the Dec. (1920) number of the Magazine.

Witham-on-the-Hill War Memorial Fund.

BALANCE SHEET.

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
To Subscriptions ...	111	10	0	By Messrs. M. Tuttle & Son, for Churchyard Cross ...	136	12	3
„ Grant by the Church Estate Trustees ...	40	0	0	„ Mr. J. Wright, preparing Concrete Foundation ...	7	4	2
„ The Farmers' Committee (per Mr. W. Bradenall) ...	29	5	6	„ Messrs. Watts & Co., Bronze Memorial Tablet ...	56	0	0
„ Church Collection ...	4	17	4	„ Faculty Fees ...	3	3	0
				„ Balance (to cover Carriage and Fixing of Bronze Tablet, Printing and Postages) ...	2	13	5
	£185	12	10		£185	12	10

LIST OF SUBSCRIBERS.

£ s. d.		£ s. d.		£ s. d.	
Capt. K. R. G. Fenwick	20 0 0	Brought forward	103 4 0	Brought forward	109 0 0
Mrs. W. Fenwick	10 0 0	Mr. A. H. Lawley	10 0	Mr. J. Ellingsworth	2 6
Mr. M. J. Fenwick	10 0 0	Mr. T. Musson	10 0	Mrs. Kettle	2 6
The Rev. L. H. Cooley	10 0 0	Mr. B. Rawlins	10 0	Mr. C. Knipe	2 6
Mr. W. Henderson	5 0 0	Mr. A. Walpole	10 0	Mrs. F. Pawlett	2 6
Nurse Collison	5 0 0	Mr. J. Haddon and family	6 0	Mr. Cyril Pell	2 6
Mr. W. Cressley	5 0 0	Mr. & Mrs. T. Birch	5 0	Mr. D. Pell	2 6
Mr. W. B. Motesilo and family	5 0 0	Mr. J. T. Cross	5 0	Mr. M. Pell	2 6
Mr. Theo. Pick	5 0 0	Mr. & Mrs. J. T. Francis	5 0	Mr. J. Robinson	2 6
Mr. G. W. Wallis	5 0 0	Mr. A. Princeis	5 0	Mr. C. Rodgers	2 6
Anonymous	2 10 0	Mr. & Mrs. Gilbert	5 0	Mrs. Weldon	2 6
The Rev. J. T. Halland	2 2 0	Miss Goodwin	5 0	Mr. J. H. Boddy	2 0
Mrs. Frank Harris	2 1 0	Mr. H. Hurstson	5 0	Mr. E. Glenn	2 0
Mr. A. M. Bent	2 0 0	Mr. G. Lambert	5 0	Mr. G. Griffen	2 0
Mr. & Mrs. F. Browett	2 0 0	Mr. J. W. Reishaw	5 0	Mr. W. Judson	2 0
Mr. F. Parkin	2 0 0	Mr. H. Stibley	5 0	Mr. R. Lee	2 0
Mr. & Mrs. W. T. Hall	1 10 0	Mr. A. Sutton	5 0	Mrs. Smith (Witham)	2 0
Mr. H. Groves	1 1 0	Mr. H. Wand	5 0	Miss Smith	2 0
Mr. Bird	1 0 0	Mr. Jas. Wells	5 0	Miss Sentance	1 6
Mr. G. Covell	1 0 0	Mr. & Mrs. Dennis	4 0	Mrs. Allam	1 0
Mr. W. Plaskitt	1 0 0	Mr. & Mrs. Jas. Holmes (Witham)	4 0	Mr. W. Archer	1 0
Mr. W. R. Wilcox	1 0 0	Mr. W. Warnes	3 6	Mr. G. Chamberlain	1 0
Mr. W. Ash	10 0	Mr. W. Cooper	3 0	Mr. F. Garner	1 0
Mr. A. A. Bradshaw	10 0	Mrs. John Holmes	3 0	Mr. E. Holland	1 0
Mr. W. Hayes	10 0	Mr. J. Cooper	2 6	Mrs. Smith (Tosh)	1 0
Mr. T. Holland	10 0	Mr. R. Dalby	2 6	Mr. T. Wallace	1 0
Mr. Jas. Holmes (Mantiborpe)	10 0	Mr. J. Davson	2 6	5 Subscriptions of G.I.	2 6
Mr. Chas. Horn	10 0				
Carried forward	£103 4 0	Carried forward	£109 0 0	Carried forward	£111 10 0

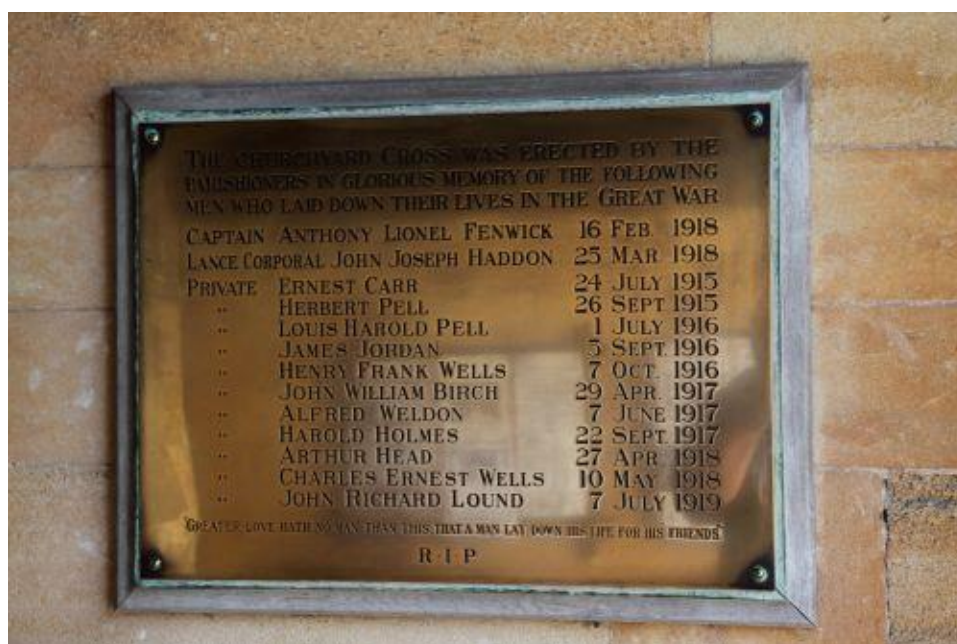
H. B. Green & Co., Ltd., Printers, West Street, Bournemouth.

The bronze Tablet will very shortly be ready for erection. It will be remembered that the War Memorial Committee decided that, instead of fixing this on the Cross, the steps of which are too narrow to give the space required for it, it should be placed in the porch, where it will be in a most conspicuous position, and in close proximity to the Cross. It was then agreed that the present inscription should be cut on the steps, which indicates the object of the Memorial. This plan has been adopted in many cases of churchyard memorials, when the names are perpetuated upon the more enduring metal tablet, for it is thus protected from the weather, whereas, if fixed to the stone out-of-doors, it stains the stone and renders it unsightly.

January 1921

The Memorial tablet containing the names of the fallen, will be ready for erection about the end of this month. The firm in London who are making it, in apologising for the delay, state that owing to numerous orders they could not execute ours sooner.





February 1921

The Bronze Tablet is now fixed in the church porch, an enduring record of our valiant dead. **The Testimonials** to those men of the Parish who served in the War will, it is hoped, be ready for distribution at Easter, when we suggest that they be publicly presented at a social gathering. They are handsomely framed in oak and record the gratitude and esteem of the parishioners. An opportunity will be given to all to subscribe to the cost of the testimonials, as we feel sure that everyone will desire to associate themselves with the gift.

March 1921

The testimonials to demobilized soldiers. A general meeting was called on February 22nd, to discuss how and when to present these, but the attendance was so small that the meeting had to be abandoned. As the gift is "from the parishioners," we hope that everyone will give a small donation. *(No further mention was made of this subject so it is unknown if they were ever presented)*

NOTES

All those who served.

A combined list of all the men from the parish who signed up. Some of these are listed one year then not another, maybe this is because being a farming area, families often move away. Also, the list of gifts for the "lads" did not include the Squire and his brothers, so maybe other wealthy families did not feature.

denotes on brass plaque. * denotes others who died.

Pte. G Appleyard	20th Notts. & Derbys	
Pte. T. W. Archer	A.S.C., M.T.	<i>(William) (Army Service Corps Motor Transport)</i>
Pte. Walter Archer	13th Leicesters	
#Signaller W. Birch	7th Lincolns	<i>(John William)</i>
Sergt. C. Birch	Northumberland Fusiliers	
Pte. R. C. Bent	5th Leicesters	
Pte. J. H. Bent	9th Leicesters	
Lce.-Cpl. J. C. Breathwick	M.G.C.	<i>(Machine Gun Corps)</i>
Leslie Brighton	Lincs Regiment	
Amos Buswell	Lincoln Regiment	
# Ernest Carr	Motor Transport	
Richard Carr	Royal Field Artillery	
William Carr	Army Remounts	
Pte. Harold Gordon Cooper	Loyal North Lancs. Kings Own	
Harold Cox,	Lincolnshire Regiment	
Ernest Chapman	Northants. Regiment	
Cpl. Cross	Norfolk Yeomanry	
* Pte. Arthur Crowson		<i>(under gardener at Hall killed by gas 1918)</i>
W Dalby		<i>(mentioned as our soldiers on leave November 1918)</i>
Lieut. K.R.G. Fenwick	Royal Horse Guards	<i>(Keld - the Squire)</i>
# Lieut. Anthony .L. Fenwick	Lincolnshire Regiment	<i>(Tony, Keld's brother, later Capt.)</i>
Montagu. J. Fenwick	Royal Flying Corps	<i>(Monty, Keld's brother)</i>
Sergt. Arthur Francis	R.A.M.C.	<i>(Royal Army Medical Corps)</i>
Arthur Hamling	Lincs Regiment	
2nd Lieut. C. Haslam		<i>(Missing or prisoner 1918, son-in-law of Mr Groves)</i>
Pte. H. A. Harmston	18th Hussars	
# Pte. A. Head	1st Lincolns	<i>(Arthur)</i>
# Pte. J. Haddon	Sherwood Foresters	
Pte. A. L. Holmes	R.N.A.S.	<i>(Royal Naval Air Service)</i>
Miss Clara Holmes	W.A.A.C.	<i>(Women's Army Auxiliary Corps)</i>
Pte. E. Holmes	4th Yorks. and Lancs.	
Pte. F. Holmes	A.S.C., M.T.	<i>(Army Service Corps Motor Transport)</i>
Pte Graham Holmes	Lincs Regt.	

# Pte. H. Holmes	A.S.C.	<i>(Army Service Corps, Harold)</i>
Pte. William Holmes	Northumberland Fusiliers	
# James Jordan	West Yorkshire Regiment	<i>(Prince of Wales's Own)</i>
Cyril Keefe	Lincs Regiment	
*Arthur Kempe	Royal Navy	<i>(went down in "Queen Mary" 1916)</i>
Pte. J. Kettle	13th West Yorks	<i>(Joseph)</i>
Lancelot Lloyd	Lincs Yeomanry	
Raymond Lloyd	Lincs Yeomanry	
#John Richard Lound	Leicestershire Regiment 6th Bn.	
Lce.-Cpl. Leslie W. Metcalfe	7th Leeds Rifles, West Yorks. Regiment	
Frank Morris	Lincolnshire Regiment	
Lce.-Cpl. E. Newham	3rd Lincolns	
Driver C. Pell	R.F.A.	<i>(Royal Field Artillery)</i>
# Harold Pell	Suffolk Regiment	<i>(Louis Harold)</i>
# Herbert Pell	Lincs Regiment	
Pte. J. Panter	A.S.C.	<i>(Army Service Corps)</i>
Gunner Alfred Pick	R.F.A.	<i>(Royal Field Artillery)</i>
Trooper Edgar Pick	Staffs Yeomanry	<i>(Ernest)</i>
Pte. C. Ramm	M.G.C.	<i>(Machine Gun Corps)</i>
F. Rawlins		<i>(mentioned as our soldiers on leave 1918)</i>
Albert Saunders	Lincolnshire Regiment	
Pte. Smith	A.S.C.	<i>(Army Service Corps)</i>
H. Thacker	East Yorkshire Regiment	
Pte. W. Warnes	A.S.C.	<i>(Army Service Corps)</i>
# Pte. Alfred Weldon	4th Lincolns	<i>(Alfred)</i>
# Pte. C. E. Wells	8th North Staffords.	<i>(Charles Ernest)</i>
# Henry Frank Wells	King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry 7th Bn.	<i>(Frank)</i>
Harry Wilkinson	5th Dragoon Guards	
James Wilkinson	K.O.Y.L.I. (King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry)	
Walter Wilkinson	Royal Navy, H.M.S. "Sentinel"	
Lce.-Cpl. Cecil Woolmer	10th Lincolns	
Cpl. Horace Woolmer	Sherwood Foresters	
Cpl. Howard Woolmer	1st Lincolns	

The First Cemeteries

In 1921 the War Graves Commission built three experimental cemeteries. Forceville in France was considered the most successful. Garden designer Gertrude Jekyll advised on the planting and the architects created a walled cemetery with uniform headstones in a garden setting. Blomfield's Cross of Sacrifice and Lutyens' Stone of Remembrance were the formal features. After some adjustments, Forceville became the template for the Commission's building programme. Over the course of the decade over 2400 cemeteries were constructed in France and Belgium, while work progressed in Italy, Egypt, Palestine, Macedonia, Mesopotamia (Iraq) and on the Gallipoli Peninsula. The pace of building was

extraordinary and the energy brought by the individual architects gave character and often great beauty to the cemeteries they built.

Memorials to the Missing

***"He is not missing, he is here."* Field Marshal Lord Plumer at the unveiling of the Menin Gate Memorial, July 1927**

The memorials to the Missing gave the individual architects scope to try to express the enormity of the human sacrifice made. The first to be commissioned and completed was Blomfield's magnificent memorial in Ypres, The Menin Gate Memorial, which commemorates the names of more than 55,000 men on 1200 panels. Other memorials followed: Tyne Cot in Belgium designed by Sir Herbert Baker; the Helles Memorial on Gallipoli designed by Sir John Burnet; the Thiepval Memorial on the Somme is the work of Sir Edwin Lutyens while the Missing in Salonika are commemorated at Lake Doiran on a monument by Sir Robert Lorimer. Later, individual member states erected memorials to their own country's dead: the Canadians at Vimy Ridge, the Australians at Villers Bretonneux and the South Africans at Delville Wood.

With Thanks to the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.



Menin Gate in 1927

Influenza

A world-wide epidemic caused by influenza viruses led to between 50 and 100 million deaths in 1918 and 1919 (as much as 1 in every 18 people). Because neutral Spain was not censoring news it became associated with Spain but its origins are more likely to be the USA or France. It came in three waves (Spring 1918, Autumn 1918, and Winter 1919) and the second wave was unusually deadly. And unlike typical flu pandemics it disproportionately killed young healthy adults. Many researchers have suggested that the conditions of the war significantly aided the spread of the disease.

Searchlight

The Army established a searchlight station on the rise across the road from The Six Bells public house; the seven soldiers who operated it were billeted in houses in the village.

Chestnuts

In the autumn of 1917, a notice appeared on the walls of classrooms and scout huts across Britain: "Groups of scholars and boy scouts are being organised to collect conkers... This collection is invaluable war work and is very urgent. Please encourage it."

It was never explained to schoolchildren exactly how conkers could help the war effort. Nor did they care. They were more interested in the War Office's bounty of 7s 6d (37.5p) for every hundred weight they handed in, and for weeks they scoured woods and lanes for the shiny brown objects they usually destroyed in the playground game.

The children's efforts were so successful that they collected more conkers than there were trains to transport them, and piles were seen rotting at railway stations. But a total of 3,000 tonnes of conkers did reach their destination – the Synthetic Products Company at King's Lynn – where they were used to make acetone, a vital component of the smokeless propellant for shells and bullets known as cordite.



Cordite had been used by the British military since 1889, when it first replaced black gunpowder. It consisted chiefly of the high-explosives nitro-glycerine and nitrocellulose (gun-cotton), with acetone playing the key role of solvent in the manufacturing process.

Prior to the First World War, the acetone used in British munitions was made almost entirely from the dry distillation (pyrolysis) of wood. As it required almost a hundred tonnes of birch, beech or maple to produce a tonne of acetone, the great timber-growing countries were the biggest producers of this vital commodity, and Britain was forced to import the vast majority of its acetone from the United States.

An attempt to produce our own acetone was made in 1913 when a modern factory was built in the Forest of Dean. But by the outbreak of war in 1914, the stocks for military use were just 3,200 tonnes, and it was soon obvious that an alternative domestic supply would be needed. This became even more pressing during the spring of 1915 when an acute shortage of shells – the so-called 'shell crisis' – reduced some British guns to firing just four times a day.

The government was determined not to reveal the real reason for the great chestnut hunt of 1917 in case the blockaded Germans copied their methods. The only official statement was printed in The Times on 26 July 1917.

It read: "Chestnut seeds, not the green husks, are required by the Government for the Ministry of Munitions. The nuts will replace cereals which have been necessary for the production of an article of great importance in the prosecution of the War."

From article in History Extra by Saul David

Jack Cornwell Day

Jack Cornwall, age 16 was awarded the V. C. (Victoria Cross) posthumously, in 1916.

September 30th 1916 was declared 'Jack Cornwell Day' and the Navy League (an independent organisation set-up to raise awareness of naval issues) was given permission to sell a specially designed stamp or 'flag' through the nation's Elementary Schools. Over 12,000 schools sold more than one pound's worth of flags and they were rewarded with the Frank Salisbury print of the painting of Jack Cornwell standing by his gun. Seven million children bought these flags, which was an unprecedented response by the youth of the nation to a single fund-raising campaign. It was this money that was used to fund the original Jack Cornwell Ward at the Star and Garter Home, as well as many other charitable works.



The captain of HMS Chester wrote to Jack's parents saying:

"I know you would wish to hear of the splendid fortitude and courage shown by your son during the action of May 31. His devotion to duty was an example for all of us. The wounds which resulted in his death within a short time were received in the first few minutes of the action. He remained steady at his most exposed post at the gun, waiting for orders. His gun would not bear on the enemy: all but two of the ten crew were killed or wounded and he was the only one who was in such an exposed position. But he felt he might be needed and, indeed, he might have been; so he stayed there, standing and waiting, under heavy fire, with just his own brave heart and God's help to support him. I cannot express to you my admiration of the son you have lost from this world. No other comfort would I attempt to give to the mother of so brave a lad, but to assure her of what he was and what he did, and what an example he gave.

I hope to place in the boys' mess a plate with his name on and the date and the words *Faithful unto Death*. I hope some day you may be able to come and see it there."

Netley Hospital



The **Royal Victoria Hospital**, or **Netley Hospital** was a large military hospital in Netley, near Southampton, Hampshire. Construction started in 1856 at the suggestion of Queen Victoria but its design caused some controversy, chiefly from Florence Nightingale. The hospital was extensively used during the First World War. It became the 28th US General Hospital from 1944 to 1945 during the Invasion of Europe. The main building - the world's longest building when it was completed - was entirely demolished in 1966, except for the chapel and former YMCA building which still survive. The extensive outbuildings, which once occupied a vast acreage of land to the rear of the main building, finally succumbed in 1978. The site of the hospital can be seen and explored in Royal Victoria Country Park.

The chapel is all that remains of the hospital today

History

During the Crimean War (1854 to 1856), news of dreadful conditions in military hospitals in the Crimea caused political concern in England and contributed to the fall of the government in 1855 due to "Mismanagement of the War". Encouraged by Queen Victoria and aided by the friendship between Florence Nightingale and the new Prime Minister, Lord Palmerston, the fresh political climate allowed a large military hospital to be planned and constructed.

Netley on the shore of Southampton Water was purchased from Netley Grange Estate on 3 January 1856. Queen Victoria laid the foundation stone on 19 May 1856, The hospital eventually opened for patients on 11 March 1863. It was a quarter of a mile (435 m) long, had 138 wards and approximately 1,000 beds, and was Britain's largest

military hospital. It cost £350,000 to build and was late and over budget. Supporting infrastructure was also built, including a reservoir at Hound Grove and a Gasworks. A cast iron pier was extended into Southampton Water in 1865, restricted to 560 ft (170 m) in length and not reaching deep water. A railway line connected Netley to Southampton docks on 5 March 1866. At the suggestion of Queen Victoria, the line was extended into the grounds of the hospital on 18 April 1900. In 1903, an electricity generating station was built. In 1864 a Portland stone memorial was erected, dedicated to the members of the Army Medical Department who died in the Crimean War.

Early use

The building was enormous, grand, and visually attractive, but was neither convenient nor practical. Corridors were on the sea-facing front of the building, leaving the wards facing the inner courtyard with little light and air. Ventilation in general was poor, with unpleasant smells lingering around the vast building.

World Wars

During World War I, a large Red Cross hutted hospital was built at the back of the site, which expanded Netley Hospital to accommodate around 2,500 beds. Many of the staff were Red Cross volunteers, as most of the regular staff were overseas. Some 50,000 patients were treated at Netley during the war.

Similar usage was seen during World War II, when around 68,000 casualties were treated. In 1944, US Forces took over the hospital prior to D-Day.



The interior of the chapel today, acting as a visitor centre.

After the war, the hospital continued to care for some casualties returning from overseas service. It also accommodated some Hungarian refugees in 1956, but due to its high cost of maintenance, it gradually fell into disuse, and the main site closed in 1958.

In 1963, a large fire damaged much of the building, and it was demolished in 1966, with only the chapel retained.

Today, only the hospital chapel remains of the main building. The chapel was originally scheduled for demolition but was saved at the last moment as a monument to the hospital. The site is now open as the Royal Victoria Country Park. The chapel is open as a visitor centre, presenting history of the hospital, and the tower provides views of the surrounding area.

Edited from Wikipedia

The Star and Garter Hospital



them.

1916 open ward

The Auctioneers & Estate Agents Institute raised funds to purchase the old Star & Garter Hotel on Richmond Hill, handing the deeds to Queen Mary, who entrusted the building to the British Red Cross Society.

It soon became apparent that the hotel was not suitable for the planned development. The solution was to demolish the hotel and build a purpose-built Home, for which funds were raised by the British Women's Hospital Committee. Consequently, when the Home opened its doors to the first ten residents on 14 January 1916, temporary accommodation was provided in the pavilion annexe.

The Squire - Fenwick



The Star & Garter Home in Richmond opened its doors to the first residents on 14 January 1916, under the auspices of the British Red Cross Society, to care for the severely disabled young men returning from the battlegrounds of the First World War.

In 1915, Queen Mary expressed concern for the future of these men and charged the British Red Cross Society with the task of finding a 'permanent haven' for



Cooley often refers to the Squire, who as the owner of Witham Hall is lord of the manor, owning most of the local land, farms, cottages etc.

At the start of the Great War the Squire is Mr Keld Robert George Fenwick, a young 22 year old who had only very recently inherited the Estate from his father, Mr Walter Lionel Fenwick who died age 55, in July 1914, after undergoing an emergency appendectomy on the Hall's kitchen table!

Walter had purchased the Witham Estate in 1902, and much improved the Hall and Village, with many new buildings and buying up of other farms and property. He had inherited most of his wealth from his father, who had interests in the Younger Brewery, Consett Steel and the Fenwick Lambton Bank. Walter left a widow, Millicent. Mrs Fenwick is often mentioned in the Parish Magazine helping the war effort, but as Keld married in October 1916, sometimes it is unclear which Mrs Fenwick is meant, although Keld's mother moved to Tixover Grange sometime in early 1917.

Keld was the oldest of three brothers, the second was Antony Lionel Fenwick (or Mr Tony) who was killed in 1918, and the third was Montagu John Fenwick (or Mr Monty).

Keld had gone into the Army in 1910, and in 1914 was a serving officer in The Royal Horse Guards (The Blues) cavalry regiment. His younger brother, Tony, volunteered for the Lincolnshire Regiment on the outbreak of the war and received his commission as 2nd Lieutenant. Montagu (Monty) the youngest brother went into the Royal Flying Corps. Keld was wounded in November 1914. In 1916, he transferred to the Royal Flying Corps, and later the RAF when it was established in 1918.

Thanks to:

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission

The History Learning site

Google

Wikipedia

<http://www.walthamstowmemories.net>

History Extra

The Long, Long Trail

Abbreviations

Pte.	Private.
Sergt.	Sergeant
Cpl.	Corporal
Lce.Cpl.	Lance Corporal
Regt.	Regiment
VTC	Volunteer Training Corps
RFA	Royal Field Artillery
ASC	Army Service Corps
MGC	Machine Gun Corps
RNAS	Royal Naval Air Service

Money

It is difficult to calculate the value of a pound during the Great War in comparison to modern times. It depends on whether you compare wages, value of goods or by proportion to GDP. But estimates vary from £50 to £420 depending on which indices are used.

£/s/d = Pounds Shillings and Pence. There were notes for pounds and 10s (ten bob notes). Coins came in 2s/6d (halfcrown), 2s (florin), 1s (shilling), 6d (tanner), 3d (threepence), 1d (penny), $\frac{1}{2}$ d (halfpenny) and $\frac{1}{4}$ d (farthing)

There was also a Guinea which was £1/1s.

£ 1 = 20 Shillings, a Shilling = 12d (12 pennies).

£1/10/0 therefore equals £1.50. 5s (5/-) equals 25p. 12d equals 5p.

Weights and measures

A hundredweight, cwt = 112 pounds = just over 50 kilos

1lb or pound or 16oz = 0.45 kilos

1oz or ounce = 28 grams

Some statistics for the Year 1915:

The average life expectancy for men was 47 years.

Fuel for cars was sold in chemists only.

Only 14 percent of the homes had a bath.

Only 8 percent of the homes had a telephone.

The maximum speed limit in most cities was 10 mph.

The tallest structure in the world was the Eiffel Tower.

The average British wage in 1915 was £15 per year!

A competent accountant could expect to earn £800 per year.

A dentist £900 per year.

A vet between £600 and £900 per year.

And, a mechanical engineer about £2000 per year.

More than 95 percent of all births took place at home.

Ninety percent of all Doctors had no university education! Instead, they attended so-called medical schools, many of which were condemned in the press AND the government as "substandard."

Sugar cost two pence a pound.

Eggs were 10 pence a dozen.

Coffee was five pence a pound.

Most women only washed their hair once a month, and, used Borax or egg yolks for shampoo.

The Five leading causes of death were:

1. Pneumonia and influenza
2. Tuberculosis
3. Diarrhoea
4. Heart disease
5. Stroke

Crossword puzzles, canned beer, and iced tea hadn't been invented yet.

Two out of every 10 adults couldn't read or write and, only 6 percent of all British pupils went to university.

Marijuana, heroin, and morphine were all available over the counter at local corner chemists.

Back then chemists said, "Heroin clears the complexion, gives buoyancy to the mind, regulates the stomach, bowels, and is, in fact, a perfect guardian of health!" (Shocking?)

Eighteen percent of households had at least one full-time servant or domestic help...

In the UK the murder rate in 1915 was 1420. In 2015 it was 537.

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Every effort has been made to provide true information in this Publication; the Witham-on-the-Hill Historical Society accepts no responsibility for any errors.