

Our War Memorial

100 years ago

Private James Herbert Williams born abt. 1892 in Hempsted lived at Gas Works Cottages, Hempsted – James age 19 a "Carpenter for Undertaker". James joined the Gloucestershire Regiment 7th Battalion Service no. 11136 in August 1914 but was drafted to the Welsh Regiment 8th Battalion Service no. 27210 and went to Gallipoli in June 1915. He died of wounds on board HMS Lefranc on 26 November 1915 (age 23) CWGC - "Remembered with Honour at Helles Memorial, Turkey"

Private Harold Victor Cook born on 09 November 1897 / baptised 17 June 1898 Hempsted lived at 3 High Orchard Street & 9 Sudmeadow Road, Hempsted - Harold originally enlisted the Gloucestershire Regiment 10th Battalion they were reinforcements for the "battle of Loos". He then transferred to the Gloucestershire Regiment 8th Battalion Service no. 21304. He died on 18 April 1918 not in action but probably from results of being gassed at some time (age 20) CWGC - "Remembered with Honour at Tyne Cot Memorial, Belgium"

Private Hubert Marchal Goddard born abt. 1894 in St Luke's Parish, Llanthony lived at 1 Hemmingsdale Road, Llanthony, Hempsted - Hubert age 16 an "Apprentice Brass Molding". Hubert enlisted at Bristol in the Gloucestershire Regiment 7th Battalion Service no. 11514. He was wounded in the Trenches 12 August & died 15 December 1916 (age 22) CWGC - "Remembered with Honour at Basra Memorial, Iraq"

Private Thomas Charles Monk born abt. 1891 in Worcester lived at 19 Llanthony Road, Llanthony, Hempsted - Thomas age 20 a "Sheet Repairing Great Western Railways". Thomas originally enlisted the Gloucestershire Regiment 3/5th Battalion (Glosters Training Corps) Service no. 4318, transferring to the Gloucestershire Regiment Private Labour Corps 167th Coy Service no. 635911. He died on 27 October 1918 (having worked as a labourer in the Trenches possibly) (age 27) CWGC - "Remembered with Honour at Grevillers British Cemetery, France"

Private Sidney Smith born abt. 1886 in Birmingham, Warwickshire lived at Merchant Road & 38 Llanthony Road - Sidney age 15 a "Tram Conductor" Sidney enlisted the Gloucestershire Regiment 2/5th Battalion and at some point transferred to the Gloucestershire Regiment 8th Battalion Service no. 19034. He died on 18 November 1916 "Last day Battle of the Somme" (age 28). CWGC - "Remembered with Honour at Grandcourt Road Cemetery, Grandcourt, France"

Private William George Uzzell born abt. 1899 in Swindon, Wiltshire lived the Brick House, Brick Lane, Llanthony, Hempsted. William enlisted 49th Machine Gun Corps (Light Infantry) Service no. 107355 - formerly Service no. 3479 of the Berkshire Regiment. He died on 25 April 1918 (age 19) CWGC - "Remembered with Honour at Tyne Cot Memorial, Belgium"



**This is the story of how the people of
Hempsted & Llanthony came together
to place a lasting memorial to those who made
the ultimate sacrifice in the Great War**

“Our War Memorial – How Hempsted War Memorial came into being”

“Subscriptions by whom and how much”

“Dedication Service on Sunday 11th April 1920”

“Men of Hempsted & Llanthony”

Research & compiled by Debbie Hotchkins

The following information held at the Gloucestershire Archives St Swithun Hempsted Parish Magazines from January 1919 to February 1920 states:

In his New Year letter January 1919, Rector of the Parish of Hempsted Rev. The Hon. Charles A Sinclair wrote "*By early winter the great armistice was signed. And so it is with thankful hearts that we look forward to the coming year. The heavy clouds of war have rolled away, & the sunshine of a lasting peace will soon be with us*". He continued to reflect on the current day and concluded "*We are all proud of the men from this parish who for so long have taken their part in the great fight for freedom in France and Italy, Salonica, Palestine, & Mesopotamia, and gladly and gratefully will we welcome them home when the time comes. Meanwhile we think of those who have made the great sacrifice and will never return. To these we hope to raise a worthy memorial & I ask you to come to a meeting of parishioners, which will be held in the Schoolroom on Tuesday, January 14th, at 8pm, when we shall discuss the matter & appoint a committee*".

There were 4 parishioners at the meeting on January 14th, 1919. The Rector later wrote "*The weather & other engagements may have had something to do with the small attendance, & probably many failed to realize the necessity of attending the meeting, though fully in sympathy with its object. It must, however, be remembered that, if this is to be a Parish Memorial, it is necessary that parishioners should consult together as to the form the memorial is to take & appoint a committee to carry the matter through*". A further meeting was set for Monday February 10th at 8pm in the Schoolroom.

On 10th February 1919 there was a good attendance. The Rector presided & it was unanimously decided to raise a memorial. Several proposals were discussed. By unanimous vote it was agreed to adopt the suggestion of Mr Roberts "*that a Cross, with a suitable inscription, be placed in the Churchyard at the junction of the paths & facing the entrance gate*". A committee was elected to carry out this proposal & to arrange for the collection of donations etc. - Mrs F Carter, Mrs Compton, Mrs Spencer, Mr A E Hurry, Mr A Gardener, Mr P Evans with the Rector (C A Sinclair) & Churchwardens (ex-officio Mr W Roberts & Mr W H Tew). The cost of a fitting memorial would probably be about £100, & sums were promised. It was also hoped that every parishioner would contribute "*so that the memorial may be representative of the whole parish*". The memorial was not to be erected until after Peace was signed, plans & designs were to be submitted to parishioners before being decided upon.

A meeting of the Committee was held on Monday evening March 10th. Designs were considered which had been received from Messrs. Martyn Cheltenham & Messrs. Green Gloucester. 2 committee members resigned - Mr AE Hurry & Mr P Evans & were replaced by Mr B Davies & Mr H Ford.

Captain Basil Vassar Bruton born on 15 September 1878 in Gloucester lived at Field Head, Hempsted Lane, Hempsted. Occupation Surveyor & Estate Agent for the Family Firm Bruton Knowles. Basil was commissioned on 11 May 1915 into the Gloucestershire Regiment 1/5th Battalion. He died in action at the Battle of Piave on 15 June 1918 (age 39)
CWGC - "Remembered with Honour at Boscon British Cemetery, Italy"

Private John Harries Davies born abt. 1894 in Carmarthenshire, Wales lived at Newark Farm, Hempsted, Gloucester. John age 17 a "Waggoner working on Farm". John joined the Royal Fusiliers 20th Battalion Service no. 8887. He died on 20 July 1916 in the battle of the Somme (age 21)
CWGC - "Remembered with Honour at Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France"

Private Charles Hieron born on 26 January 1893 / baptised 12 March 1893 in Hempsted lived in Prospect Terrace, Hempsted. Charles employed by Mr E Scanlon Avenue Hotel. Charles enlisted on 08 July 1915 the Gloucestershire Regiment 7th Battalion Service no. 23456. He died of pneumonia following a bad winter on 07 December 1915 (buried at sea) (age 22)
CWGC - "Remembered with Honour at Helles Memorial, Turkey"

Rifleman Leslie Yockney Lane born on 31 March 1896 / baptised 23 April 1896 in Hempsted lived at Fern Bank, Hempsted Lane, Hempsted. Leslie was the youngest child in the family. Leslie joined the Kings Royal Rifle Corps (KRRC) 2nd Battalion Rifleman R/41818. He died on 25 September 1918 (age 22)
CWGC - "Remembered with Honour at Bellicourt British Cemetery, France"

Private Alfred Priday born on 04 May 1885 / baptised 24 May 1885 in Hempsted lived at Severn Dale, Rea Lane, Hempsted. Alfred age 15 a "Bricklayers Labourer"
Alfred enlisted the Gloucestershire Regiment 1st Battalion Service no. 16129 (abroad 19 July 1915). He was wounded 3 times and died in action at Contalmaison on 19 July 1916 (age 31)
CWGC - "Remembered with Honour at Contalmaison Chateau Cemetery, France"

Private Harold George Spencer born on 1 November 1895 / baptised 12 January 1896 in Hempsted lived at 32 Church Cottage, St Swithuns Road, Hempsted. Harold age 15 a Page Boy at Club. Harold enlisted 1916 the Herefordshire Regiment 1/1st Battalion Service no. 236545 (formerly 3991). He was killed in action at the Battle of Marne Bois De Reugny on 23 July 1918 (age 22).
CWGC - "Remembered with Honour at Raperie British Cemetery, Villemontoire, France"

Private Harry Williams born abt. 1894 in Hempsted lived at Gas Works Cottages, Hempsted. Harry age 17 a "Mill Hand Rivetter". Harry enlisted the Grenadier Guards (GDSN) 1st Battalion Service no. 16623.
Died on 07 November 1914 (age 20)
CWGC - "Remembered with Honour at Zantvoorde British Cemetery, Belgium"

The dedication of our Memorial Cross, in memory of the men from Hempsted & Llanthony who gave their lives in the war, took place under most favourable circumstances on Sunday evening, April 11th, 1920. After a day of rain the sun shone brightly during our Memorial Service in Church, at which the Dean of Gloucester gave a most impressive address on Josh. iv. 7 : "These stones shall be for a memorial". His allusion to the men of olden times who went forth from Hempsted to do battle for their country, was listened to with the greatest interest. The anthem, "Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on Thee" (Lee Williams), was beautifully sung by the Choir unaccompanied, & the very large congregation joined with great feeling in the singing of the well-known hymns. The scene at the Dedication which afterwards took place in the Churchyard was a very beautiful one in the glow of the sunset, & the short service was accompanied by the glad singing of a thrush in the trees close by. Prayers were said by the Rector, & the words of the Dedication were spoken by the Dean, who read the names of those in thankful memory of whom the Cross had been erected. Before the Dedication the Memorial was unveiled by Sergt. Drummer GE Compton, the returned soldier of senior rank, & after the Dedication wreaths were deposited by relatives & friends. The hymn, "Abide with me", was sung by the very large assembly, & a most impressive service closed with the sounding of the "Last post", by Sergts Jennings & Brees. The Hempsted Company of Girl Guides was in attendance, the Church bells rung half-muffled before & after Service.

(Notes on Hempsted by the late Mr GE Compton" sourced from Gloucestershire Archives Ref no. P173 MI 12)

Corporal Ernest Victor Beale born on 29 July 1897 / baptised 29 August 1897 in Hempsted lived at Newark Cottage. Ernest age 13 a "Carters Boy" & brother to Able Seaman Frederick. Ernest enlisted on 20 September 1915 the Gloucestershire Regiment 9th Battalion Service no. 13139. Wounded probably in 1916 and died on 25 April 1917 (age 19) CWGC - "Remembered with Honour at Doiran Military Cemetery, Greece"

Able Seaman Frederick Harold Beale born on 23 May 1899 / baptised 25 June 1899 in Hempsted lived at Newark Cottage. Frederick was the younger brother of Corporal Ernest. Frederick joined the Royal Naval Service no. J.33346 (DEV) on HMS Seagull. He died on 30 September 1918 (age 19) HMS Seagull torpedo boat was in a collision CWGC - "Remembered with Honour at Plymouth Naval Memorial"

Private Sydney Charles Bennett born abt. 1896 in Hiams Lane, Hartpury, Gloucestershire Lived at Tythrop Cottage, Hempsted. Sydney age 15 a "Servant / Agricultural Labourer at Elmore". Sydney probably enlisted in 1914 the Gloucestershire Regiment 2/5th Battalion Service no. 241229. He died of his wounds on 25 April 1918 (age 22) CWGC - "Remembered with Honour at Aire Communal Cemetery, France"

Mrs Spencer and Mrs Compton (Village), Mrs J Carter (Rea) and Mr H Ford (Gas Works) undertook to collect subscriptions.

At a meeting of parishioners on March 24th 1919, the War Memorial designs were considered. It was unanimously decided to accept the design (with slight alterations) by Messrs. J Green & Son, Gloucester - A handsome Iona cross (a copy of the ancient St. Martin's Cross at Iona), made of Aberdeen granite axed, with the base sanded (where the names were to be cut) and of 10 feet 8 inches in height. The order was placed and it was hoped the memorial would be ready for erection in August. The approximate cost for the cross was to be £110. To cover the expense of kerbing the total was expected to be £130. A drawing of the Cross was placed in the Church porch.

The War Memorial was not ready for August, and the September 1919 Parish Magazine states *"It is hoped that the memorial will be ready for erection in the beginning of October"*. By October the Iona cross of granite was ready for despatch by sea from Aberdeen and the Magazine states *"it will, however, be some weeks before it can be erected, as considerable work will have to be done on it after it reaches Gloucester"*.

In December 1919 the Parish Magazine states *"We regret to say that delay has been caused in the delivery of the War Memorial Cross. It has been lying at Bristol for some weeks, since its arrival there by sea from Aberdeen, but up to the present the Railway Company has refused to handle it, as well as several others which are waiting despatch. Under the circumstances we cannot expect it to be ready for erection before January. Due notice will be given of the arrangements for the Dedication"*.

In his New Year letter of January 1920, The Rector writes *"We have all been somewhat disappointed at the delay in the erection of our Memorial to those of our men who gave their lives in the war. This has been unavoidable but I hope that early in the year we shall be able to hold the Dedication Service, and I am sure that we shall then have a very large gathering of parishioners and friends to honour our "glorious dead"*.

The St Swithun's Hempsted Parish Magazine deposited at the Gloucestershire Archives in 1920 is the February edition and therefore it was not possible to resource any further information pertaining to the war memorial and its dedication. I therefore continued to research other sources and came across *"Notes on Hempsted by the late Mr G E Compton"* and he had an extract from a parish magazine entitled *"Dedication of the War Memorial"* and we see finally Our War Memorial was erected and it's dedication took place on Sunday 11th April 1920 and we will always remember them - *"When you go home tell them of us and say for your tomorrow we gave our today"*.

(Gloucestershire Archives ref: P173 MI 20/1 & Jan-Dec 1919 & P173 MI 20/2 Hempsted Parish Magazine Jan & Feb 1920)

War Memorial Subscriptions	£	s	d	War Memorial Subscriptions	£	s	d	War Memorial Subscriptions	£	s	d
The Parish Allotment Trustees	10			Mr A Bewick (Hill Cottages)		2	6	Mrs Arnold (Hemmingdale Rd)		2	6
The Rector Charles Sinclair	10			Mr & Mrs H Harris (Upper Rea)		2	6	Mrs Uzzell (Hemmingdale Rd)		2	6
Hon. Mrs Sinclair (The Rectory)	5			Mrs Hieron (St Swithuns)		2	6	Mrs T C Monk (Llanthony Rd)		2	6
Mr & Mrs Hurry (Hempsted Court)	10			Mrs Gabb		2		Mrs Harrison (Hemmingdale Rd)		2	6
Mr & Mrs J Carter	5			Mr Townsend (Prospect Terrace)		2		Mrs A Smith & children (Sudmeadow Rd)		2	6
Mr & Mrs Davies (Newark Farm)	5	5		Mrs Curley		2		Mrs Humpherson		2	6
Hempsted Pig Club	5	5		Mr W Jennings		2		Mrs Bassett		2	6
Messrs. E Carter & Son	5			Mr & Mrs Tyler		2		Mr G F Hill		2	6
Mr & Mrs F P Carter (Netheridge Farm)	5			Miss Perryman (Lower Rea)		1		A Friend		2	6
Mr J Matthews (Manor Farm)	5			Mrs Brint		1		Mrs Aston		2	
Mr & Mrs Tew (Manorwood)	3	3		Mrs T Clarke (Lower Rea)		1		Mr J Uzzell		2	
Mr W Roberts (Hill Farm)	2	2		Mrs G Farmer (Lower Rea)		1		Mrs Collick		2	
Mr A Lewis (Milocroft)	1	1		Miss Butler & Mr Butler (Upper Rea)		2		Mr J Hamblin & Mr H Hamblin		4	
Mr C G Smith (? Willow Lawn)	1	1		Mr G Rea		1		Mrs Cook (Sudmeadow Rd)		2	
Mr & Mrs P Evans (White House)	1	1		Mrs Bisco		1		Mr & Mrs Jeffries		1	6
Mr & Mrs A Gardner (Yew Tree Cottage)	1	1		Mrs R Butler (Upper Rea)		1		Mr Cook (Sudmeadow Rd)		1	
Mrs Ferguson	1			Mrs C Priday (The Rea)		1		Mr W Spry		1	
Mr & Mrs T Spencer (32 St Swithun)	1			Mrs A Priday (The Rea)		1		Mrs H Hook (Hemmingdale Rd)		1	
Mrs & Mrs Workman		15		Mrs Carpenter		1		Mr C Uzzell (Hemmingdale Rd)		1	
Mrs Roberts (Hill Farm)		10		Mrs Snow (Hempsted Lane)		1		Mr W Hill (Sudmeadow Rd)		1	
Mrs Taylor (30 St Swithun)		10		Mr Harries (Upper Rea)		1		Mrs Cripp (Sudmeadow Rd)		1	
Mrs Coldrick & Family (Church Farm)		10		A Friend		1		Mrs Herbert		1	
Miss Lewis (Milocroft)		10		The sums under 1 s		6	5	Sums under 1s		1	
Mr & Mrs Albert Spencer (32 St Swithun)		10		Sum to date May 1919 = £82 9s 5d				Mr H Ford (Gas Works) £2 12s from:			
Mr L Smith (? Willow Lawn)		10		Miss Hicks (Willow Lodge)	5			Mr & Mrs Williams (Gas Works)		10	
Mr E C Townsend (Prospect Terrace)		10		Mr & Mrs Willmott (School House)		10		Mr & Mrs Ford & Family (Gas Works)		10	
Mr & Mrs J Ashbee		10		Mr W E Constable		10		Miss Mary Williams (Gas Works)		5	
Mr & Mrs G E Compton (Prospect Terrace)		10		Mr & Mrs Ware		5		Miss Hannah Williams (Gas Works)		5	
A Friend		10		Mrs F Gardner (Upper Rea)		3		Mr & Mrs Cann		5	
Miss G Roberts & Miss A Roberts		10		Mrs Trigell		2	6	Mr & Mrs Hudson		5	
Workman Children (Hempsted Village)		5		Mr J Ker, junr (Prospect Terrace)		2	6	Mr W S Morland		5	
Mrs Eldridge (Hempsted Village)		5		Mrs P Bolton (Lodge Canal Bridge)		2		Mrs Bolton, senr.		2	6
Mr Read & Mrs Read		10		Sum to date June 1919 = £89 14s 5s				Mr & Mrs Bolton		2	6
Miss Ker (Prospect Terrace)		5		Mr & Mrs Moore	1	1		Mr & Mrs Giblin		2	
Mr Limbrick		5		Miss Rideout	1			Sum to date July 1919 = £98 11s 5s			
Mr & Mrs Boxall (The Laurels)		5		Mr W Judd		10		Collection at Flower Service		18	3
Anon.		5		Mr T Arnold (Llanthony) £3 14s from:				Mr & Mrs Llewellyn	2		
Mr & Mrs Bennett (Tythrop Cottages)		3	6	Mr T Arnold (Hemmingdale Rd)		5		Mr & Mrs Thomas (Llanthony)		10	
Mrs Cornock		3		Mr & Mrs Critchley (Hemmingdale Rd)		5		Mr J Jones		2	6
Mrs Seaman (Prospect Terrace)		2	5	Mr & Mrs Allen (?Lower Rea)		5		Sum to date Sept 1919 = £102 2s 2s			
Mr Ker (Prospect Terrace)		2	6	Mr & Mrs Whiley & family (Sudmeadow)		5		Mr Blakeway		2	6
Mr W Ker (Prospect Terrace)		2	6	Mr G Welshman		5		Francis Blakeway		1	
Mrs Rolls		2	6	Mr F W Welshman		5		Sum to date October 1919 = £102 5s 8s			