

RODBOROUGH WAR MEMORIAL

An Impressive Dedication Ceremony.

There was a large congregation at Rodborough Church on Thursday evening in last week, when a memorial to the men of the parish who fell in the Great War was unveiled and dedicated. The memorial consists of a stone tablet erected on the north wall of the church. The inscription reads as follows:—

"Pro patria. 1914—1918. In grateful and loving memory of the gallant men who made the supreme sacrifice for liberty and freedom in the Great War. G. Allen, A. L. Apperly, J. Barker, W. Beard, H. S. Bennett, T. J. Bennett, R. Bick, W. J. Bishop, D. C. Brown, W. Brown, A. Browning, E. W. Chandler, F. T. Close, W. P. Carter, E. A. Cockett, F. C. Cordwell, A. Cawthorne, F. J. Greenslade, L. Hake, H. J. Hall, W. Harman, A. H. Harris, H. P. Hooper, H. Hooper, E. D. Howell, R. C. Jackson, H. E. James, W. Jarvis, J. E. Jennings, H. C. Lane, P. W. Lucas, H. G. Lusty, G. A. Mills, H. C. Nicholls, H. Owen, H. E. Packer, L. Phipps, L. Pile, D. W. Parker, F. A. Shilham, A. E. H. Spencer, N. Steel, W. Stevens, A. E. Summers, F. Townsend B. Turvey, F. E. Wake, A. Watkins, S. A. Whaley, E. White, G. White, G. Williams, W. H. S. Warren, A. S. Wright. They were a wall unto us, both by night and by day."

The memorial tablet was executed by Messrs. Freebury and Hillman, of London Road, Stroud.

The service, which was of an impressive character and was conducted by the Rev. Walter Waring, rector, commenced with the singing of the hymn "Soldiers who are Christ's below." The Rev. C. E. Watson, minister at Rodborough Tabernacle, read the lesson, which was taken from Rev. 21. The choir and clergy then proceeded to the memorial, followed by a large number of relatives of the fallen, and Mrs. Waring unveiled the tablet. The Archdeacon of Gloucester pronounced the dedicatory prayer, after which a large number of wreaths were placed on a platform erected at the foot of the memorial.

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The Archdeacon then delivered an appropriate address, basing his remarks upon the words "I believe in God the Father Almighty. I believe in the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting." He said that human life looked at from the standpoint of time, bounded by their own finite ideas of space, was a remarkably depressing experience. For most of them life might be said to resemble the effect produced upon nature by the autumn, with its chill winds, stripped trees, damp fogs and mists, and the gradual entrance of the dark night of winter, when nature seemed wrapt in the sleep of death. Advancing years revealed in them signs of decay, such as grey hairs, diminished powers and dwindling vitality. They were conscious of approaching and inevitable break-up, if they were spared even to reach old age. Their interests changed, and those things which used to delight them lost their charm and fascination. There was the mark of sorrow upon the lives of most of them, he supposed. Death was very busy carrying off those whom they loved and leaving them sadder and poorer men and women. To-day they thought of their bravest and strongest whose earthly lives were over; those lives so full of bright promise, so rich with fair hopes, and they could not help feeling the transiency of life. If the world had no spring of revival and renewal corresponding with the world of nature, they would indeed be of all men most miserable. There would be no way out of their depression. It was just here that the Christian religion came in with its revival of hope. The risen Christ came back as a victor returning from the conflict. He threw a new meaning on the doctrine of immortality. He lighted

ponding with the world of nature, they would indeed be of all men most miserable. There would be no way out of their depression. It was just here that the Christian religion came in with its revival of hope. The risen Christ came back as a victor returning from the conflict. He threw a new meaning on the old doctrine of immortality. He lighted up the grave with hope, joy and life. He had abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the Gospel. They thought of those who had passed as being with Christ. What a world of thought was summed up in that little phrase "with Christ!" To-day when they were gathered together to do honour to their brave brothers who had made Jesus Christ's teaching their own, and to pay their tribute to those who died for the freedom and security of the world in the generations yet to come, they thought of them not wrapt in unconscious sleep but with Christ. They thought of them as still learning and still serving. New avenues of service had opened to them, and they looked forward to meeting them again, just because they were all bound together in Christ, who declared "Because I live you shall live also." Their text from the Apostles' Creed contained, he thought, all the philosophy of religion, the beginning and end of their Christian faith. It pointed them back to their origin—"I believe in God the Father Almighty." After all, they came from God. It pointed them on to their destiny, bringing to them a revival of hopes—"I believe in the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting." They were going back to God, who was their home.

The service concluded with the singing of the hymn "Ten thousand times ten thousand," the pronouncement of the benediction, and the sounding of the "Last Post" by four buglers.

The inscriptions on the wreaths were as follow:—

Spinnans Road.

In loving memory of a dear husband, Pte. George Mills, from his Wife and little Son.

In loving remembrance of a dear son and brother, Pte. George Mills—Mother, Brother and Sister.

In loving memory of my dear son, Walter, from Mother, Dad, Sisters and Brothers.

In loving memory of Pte. Frank Shilham, from his Mother, Dad and family.

In loving memory and deep gratitude of all Rodborough men who took part in the Great War, 1914-1918, from a prisoner of war and sister, Rodborough Post Office.

In loving memory of Corpl. L. Pile, from his loving Brother and Sister, Nephews and Niece at Rodborough.

In proud and loving memory of H. G. Heaven, Pte. Cawthorne, from his little son Wally.

In loving memory of Corpl. B. J. Turvey, from Mother, Father, Sisters and Brother.

Mrs. Burroughs and family.

In honour to all and undying love of our dear Donald, from Mother, Dad and Sister.

From all at the Rectory in grateful and everlasting memory.

In proud and loving memory of H. G. Lusty from his loving niece Maggie.

In loving memory of dear Clifford, from his sorrowing Parents, Brother and Sister.

In loving memory of Frederick Close from his dear Mother, Brothers and Sisters.

From Mr. and Mrs. Browning and family.

In affectionate remembrance of Pte. P. W. Lucas from his loving Father, Sister, Brother-in-law Tom and children.

In loving memory of our dear father, Pte. L. Phipps, from Rosie, Mabs and Tom.

In loving memory of my dear boys, Harold and Theo.

In remembrance of dear Percy from Jack Summers.

In ever loving memory of our only son.

In proud memory of my dear daddy in Heaven, Pte. Alfred Cawthorne, from his little son Alfe.

In grateful memory of the men of Rodborough who died for us, from the Rodborough Girls' Club.

In affectionate remembrance of the late Sergt. A. Watkins from Mr. and Mrs. Stockwell and family.

To the memory of Leonard W. Parker, from Welleroft.

In fond memory of Frank Norman Townsend, from his sorrowing Mother, Father and brother Ted.

In loving memory of our dear son, Pte. Arthur Harris.

In loving memory of our dear son, Pte. R. Bick, from his loving Father, Mother and Brother.

In loving memory of our dear Ewart from all at home, 22, Bath Road, Stroud.

In loving memory of Sergt. Harry James, from Father, Mother, Sister and Brothers.

In loving memory of our dear son and brother, Pte. Percy Carter, from Mother, Dad and Brothers.

In grateful and everlasting remembrance from Mrs. and Miss Eltringham.

In unfailing memory of my beloved son, Arthur Launcelot Apperly, who fell while doing his duty for King and country, August 17th, 1916.

In loving memory of our brave hero, Lance-Corpl. Frederick Critchley Cordwell, from Mother and Dad, Sisters and Brothers.

In affectionate remembrance of my husband, Pte. W. W. Beard.

In loving memory of our dear son Ernest, from his loving Mother and Dad, Sister and Brother.

In affectionate remembrance of W. Winn from Mother, Sister and Brother, Fred and Flo.

In proud and loving memory of Harry G. Lusty, from Mother, Father and family.

In grateful remembrance of the fallen dead from the Church Council.

To the memory of our dear brother, Harry John Hall, from his loving Sisters and Brothers.

In loving memory of our dear son, Harry John Hall, from his ever sorrowing Mother and Dad.

To the honoured memory of one of the bravest, Sergt. R. C. Jackson, from Miss L. Price.

In loving memory of our dear son, Wm. Stevens, from his loving Mother and Father.

In loving memory of a dear son, from Mother.

In loving memory of Donald, from Father, Mother, Brother and Sisters.