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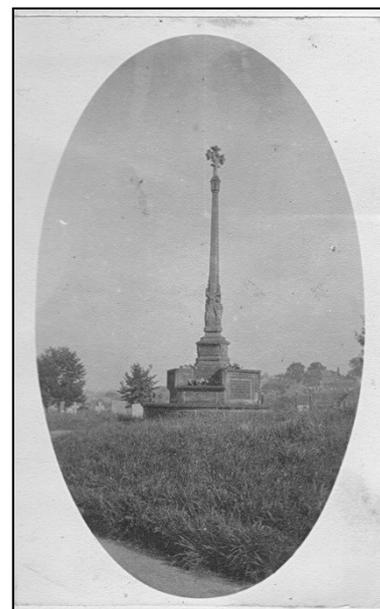
## Petition for Faculty Tutbury St. Mary's Priory Church War Memorial Statement of Significance

### Introduction

This Statement of Significance relates to the Stone Cross War Memorial (shortened to Memorial hereafter) at St. Mary's Priory Church, Tutbury, Staffordshire and is written in support of the Faculty for the work to preserve and conserve the Memorial. No reference is made to the church itself, as no works are being proposed for either the interior or exterior of any church building.

This photograph is the earliest known picture of the Memorial. It is a postcard sent from Tutbury, 26th September 1920, published by DT Tavener, the Tutbury Postmaster. Part of the card reads "The photo is of the War Memorial for the chaps who fell in the War".

The significance of the Memorial is based on both what it is, a Memorial to the Fallen, and the timing of the proposed work.



The Memorial in 1920

### War Memorials in Society

The following extract from the War Memorials Trust website explains the significance of all Memorials to the Fallen:

*Each memorial is unique. It represents that community's chosen method of remembrance whether it be a cenotaph, plaque or more utilitarian example such as a bus shelter or hospital.*

*The names of those recorded on a memorial may only be remembered on that monument, making it important to preserve it to commemorate that individual's sacrifice.*

# TUTBURY WAR MEMORIALS PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

*These memorials are important because they act as historical touchstones. They link the past to the present and enable people to remember and respect the sacrifice of those who died, fought, participated or were affected by conflict(s). Memorials can be an important source of information for young people in understanding the sacrifices made by past generations. This will in turn ensure memorials are cared for in the future. Who is recorded varies with communities making their own decisions. Often local memorials will contain the names of families still living within that community or as communities change offer an insight into the history of an area.*

*Memorials represent a focal point for remembrance both individual and collective particularly on occasions such as Remembrance Sunday or anniversary events. The sacrifices made by so many for freedom needs to be remembered and war memorials play a vital role in ensuring that continues.*

*Additionally many war memorials are important to the country's architectural and artistic heritage. After the First World War, many commissions for the design of war memorials went to established practitioners and architects like Sir Edwin Lutyens, Sir Reginald Blomfield, and sculptors like William Reid Dick, Sir George Frampton and Albert Toft. Some younger architects and sculptors also came to the fore and excelled like Lionel Budden, Walter Marsden, Gilbert Ledward, Tyson Smith and C S Jagger, laying the foundations for successful and distinguished post-war careers. This huge public art project remains a unique event as towns and villages across the UK expressed their emotions at the end of war, relief, sorrow or celebration of victory, in a public sculpture and art project of huge diversity.*

The Memorial is, of course, the focal point of remembrance during the village's annual Remembrance Day parade and similarly the focal point of the biennial Remembrance Service for local WWII hero Sgt CW Bull (in intervening years the service is held in Gavere, Belgium, where Sgt Bull was killed in 1944). Many visitors to St. Mary's pause to read the plaques on the Memorial.

Remembrance crosses are still laid on the Memorial by people from the village with family connections to individuals who are commemorated on the Memorial, even for the First World War.

In terms of the significance of the timing, the centenary commemorations for WWI represent a unique moment of public goodwill towards preservation of Memorials and hence improve the opportunities for funding.

## **Design**

The Memorial is approximately 30 ft. (9 metres) south of the south wall of the Grade I listed St. Mary's, 45 ft. (13.5 metres) south east of St Mary's south door and hence considered by English Heritage to be in the Curtilage of a listed building. It is one of 15 Memorials of varying types and formats (from plaques to stained glass windows) to the Fallen that were created in Tutbury during the 20<sup>th</sup> century in respect of the Boer War, World War I and World War II (two of these are now missing, presumed lost).

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The Memorial was erected by public subscription<sup>1</sup>. The *Parish War Memorial Committee* first met on Monday 16th December 1918 in the Oddfellows Hall in Tutbury High Street, chaired by Major H.L. Newton, DSO. At the time the number of Fallen was estimated at 42<sup>2</sup>.

Unfortunately, no documentary record of the *Parish War Memorial Committee* has ever been found either in individual estate papers or in the Staffordshire Records Office (SRO). Searches of the Tutbury Parish Council minutes at the Staffordshire Records Office do not mention the existence of the committee or a War Memorial – we can only assume that there were differences of opinion in the village at the time.

The Committee chose Bodley & Hare (Gray's Inn Square, London – 1907-1942) as the architects (specialists in War Memorials and ecclesiastical modifications). The War Memorial was designed by Cecil Hare, executed by Bridgemans of Lichfield and dated as 1920, a Renaissance design<sup>3</sup>.

The description of the War Memorial on the UK National Inventory of War Memorials (Ref: 13421) is '*Foliated sandstone cross on six faceted tapering pillar. Shields in relief. Three figures: female angel, St. George and St. Michael.*'

## History

From the Burton Chronicle, 19 December 1918:

### Memorial to the Fallen

*The first meeting of the above Committee concerned with this matter was held at the Oddfellows Hall on Monday evening when Major H L Newton, DSO, presided. A collection committee was appointed and a district allocated to each collector. The following sub-committee were chosen to estimate the appropriate cost, to select the site and to decide on the form of memorial:*

*Major H L Newton, Chairman*

*Mrs H Newton*

*Mrs S Walker*

*Rev H Bennett*

*Rev J Charles*

*Mr F A Ashton (?)*

*Mr G L White*

*Mr S A Lester as secretary.*

*It was mentioned that the number of fallen from the parish was 42 and already a donation of £20 had been promised.*

We have not been able to find any record of the criteria for inclusion of men on the Memorial and some men do appear on more than one local War Memorial, showing the close nature of villages in this area.

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<sup>1</sup> Burton Chronicle, 19<sup>th</sup> Nov 1918

<sup>2</sup> An indication that the rules for inclusion on the memorial had not yet been agreed

<sup>3</sup> Pamphlet "The Priory Church of St. Mary the Virgin, Tutbury, Staffordshire" (Author T.J. Ganz, Vicar).

# TUTBURY WAR MEMORIALS PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

The names are recorded on the Memorial in order of the date of their death and no rank, unit or decorations are shown, symbolising the equality of sacrifice of all casualties, a very egalitarian decision by the committee for its time.

Less than eighteen months after the first meeting of the committee, the Burton Chronicle of 6<sup>th</sup> May 1920 recorded the dedication of the Memorial:

## **Dedication of War Memorials**

*A large congregation assembled at the Parish Church on Sunday<sup>4</sup> afternoon to witness the dedication of the war memorials. The first part of the service was held in the church, where the Bishop of Stafford dedicated a beautiful stained glass window, erected in the south aisle, and a tablet containing the names of the forty-seven Tutbury men who fell in the great war.*

*The congregation then moved into the churchyard, where another large assembly had gathered on the southern side of the church to witness the dedication of the new parish memorial, a handsome stone cross beautifully carved in Hollington<sup>5</sup> stone by Messrs. Bridgeman and Son, of Lichfield to the design of Messrs. {sic} Bodley and Hare of London. Amongst those waiting were a large company of ex-soldiers, members, of the local branch of N.F.D and D.S. and S.<sup>6</sup> who were in charge of Captain B. Newton; members of the parish council; the police; the scholars and teachers of the Wesleyan S.S.*

*The ex-Service men had paraded from the town to the church, and had formed up on the back {sic} ground of the site, making a most impressive scene. Preceding the Bishop from the church were the choir, the churchwardens (Messrs. W.E. Guest and D. Rutherford) while the vicar of Tutbury (the Rev. H. Bennett) undertook the duties of chaplain. Most impressive was the singing of "O God, our help in ages past," the first hymn sung outside.*

*The Rev. J. Charles, pastor of the Congregational church, read the lesson, which was taken from Wisdom iii., and the following names of the fallen were read: William E. Priestly, John J. Kidd, Ernest Woodall, Ernest Plumb, Robert Radford, William Gent, Charles Bull, James Worrall, George E. Bentley, Wilfren {sic} Powell, Frederick Bannister, W. Trafford Newton, George F. Bennett, Charles Bond,*

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<sup>4</sup> The dedication was on Sunday 2nd May 1920

<sup>5</sup> Hollington Stone: available in Red, Mottled, Cream from Hollington, Staffordshire ST10 4HQ

<sup>6</sup> N.F.D and D.S and S.: The National Federation of Discharged and Demobilized Sailors and Soldiers was founded in January 1917 by London-based veterans opposed to the Review of Exceptions Act by which men invalided out of the armed forces could be re-conscripted. It adopted the slogans "Every man once before any man twice". Senior military figures refused to attend its meetings, and the Federation's politics became broadly liberal. The Earl of Derby founded "Comrades of the Great War" as a right-wing alternative. In 1920 the Federation invited the National Association of Discharged Sailors and Soldiers (NADSS), "Comrades of the Great War" and the Officers' Association to a meeting to discuss merging, and this was achieved in 1921, establishing the Royal British Legion. {Source: [www.en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National\\_Federation\\_of\\_Discharged\\_and\\_Demobilized\\_Sailors\\_and\\_Soldiers](http://www.en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Federation_of_Discharged_and_Demobilized_Sailors_and_Soldiers) }

## TUTBURY WAR MEMORIALS PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

*Tom Merrey, Thomas Coates, James Nash, Arthur Treadwell, Edwin Powell, William Cook, Joseph Talbot, William Bentley, Frederick Bennett, Samuel Woodal {sic}, George Causer, Abraham Farmer, Eric Dunicliffe, Stephen Leedham, William Hinds, James Hand, William Smith, Edwin Broughton, William Wheeldon, Albert Timmins, Ernest A. Perkins, George Fearn, Joseph Pegg, Jack Leadbetter, Alfred Brettell, Samuel Wheat, William H. Parker, Harry Allsop, David Bond, Frederick Smith, Ogden Pateman, E. Frank Hadland, Alfred J. Parker.*

*The ceremony of the unveiling of the memorial was then performed by Major H. L. Newton, D.S.O. Under the figure of Peace, a bronze tablet was shown, bearing the inscription, "In grateful memory of Tutbury men who gave their lives in their country's defence, 1914-1918," and under the figures of St. Michael and St. George were shown the tablets bearing the names of the fallen. In an impressive manner the "Last Post" was sounded by Mr. Harry Bell, ex-sergeant K.R.R7.*

*After the Bishop had dedicated the memorial, the reveille was sounded by Mr. Bell, followed by the singing of "The King of Love my Shepherd {sic} is." From the text "God forbid that I should glory save in the cross of Jesus Christ." his Lordship gave a splendid address, in which he spoke most touchingly of the noble sacrifice of the men. He asked his hearers to ever remember their brave deeds, and spoke of the value of memorials to keep these men and their unselfish acts fresh in our memories. The Hymn "They whose course is o'er" was then sung, and after the Bishop had pronounced the Benediction, the National Anthem was sung as a conclusion to the service. The singing for the service was led by the choir, under Mr. C. Owen, organist and choirmaster.*

*A large number of floral tributes was placed on the memorial at the conclusion and on the front was placed a large laurel wreath. Amongst those who placed tributes were relatives and friends of the fallen.*

Further searches at the Staffordshire Records Office produced the following from the minutes of the Parochial Church Council for Tutbury meeting of 7th March 1921:

### **War Shrines**

*It was decided that the one on the church remain, as proper care is being taken of it.*

*That the shrine on the Institute be moved to the Boys School and the Council to pay for the removal and overhauling.*

*It was reported that the final meeting of the Parish War Memorial Committee, it was agreed to place the Parish War Memorial Cross under the care of the Church Parochial Council.*

*After some discussion, it was agreed (on the proposition of Mr. Guest, seconded by Mr. Walkerdine) to have the matter of care of the same in the hands of the vicar to arrange.*

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<sup>7</sup> K.R.R: King's Royal Rifle Corps

## TUTBURY WAR MEMORIALS PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

This would appear to put the responsibility for the upkeep and maintenance of this Memorial in the hands of the Parochial Church Council (the War Memorial Committee had presumably been dissolved), a responsibility that seems to have faded from memory of over time.

In the winter of 1982 the cross on the top of the Memorial fell off<sup>8</sup>. The request to the Parish Council for repair came from the Revd Ganz; the repair was initiated and paid for (£794.60<sup>9</sup>) by the Parish Council<sup>10</sup> after much delay due to deliberation about the cost. There is no record of a Faculty for this repair at the Staffordshire Records Office<sup>11</sup>.

The area the Memorial stands in is the closed churchyard for which the Parish Council provides basic maintenance and it is also in a conservation area controlled by East Staffordshire Borough Council.

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<sup>8</sup> Parish Council Minutes (Staffordshire Records Office - Staffordshire Records Office) 1981-83

<sup>9</sup> £2,650 at 2014 values ("This is Money" Historic Inflation Calculator)

<sup>10</sup> Revd T. J. Ganz

<sup>11</sup> Nor is there any record of a Faculty for the original build of the Stone Cross War Memorial.