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Rededication Ceremony Notes

The following are early thoughts about the Rededication ceremony/event for consideration and debate by the committee:

Rededication of the Stone Cross War Memorial at St. Mary's Priory Church, Tutbury, following conservation work.

To dedicate the new Wreath Holders.

In the presence of their relatives, to rededicate the Memorial to the men of Tutbury who Fell in the two World Wars.

The ceremony is for the Fallen, their relatives and those who helped with the conservation of the Memorial.

The date chosen is the centenary of the First Day of the Battle of the Somme – when 7 men on the Memorial died.

Attendees

Guests of Honour

- Relatives of the Fallen from both World Wars (record the relationship and to whom)
- The TWMPC
- Anyone in the village currently serving in the Armed Forces
- Anyone in the village who has served in the Armed Forces
- Anyone else the Committee believes should be in this category

Guests

- TWMPC Supporters – some, not others
- People and organisations who have donated (WI, Flower club, Firemen, etc.)
- PCC
  - Other clerical incl Ven John Hall, Rev Alan Wheale, Rev Les Rees, Rev Pip Short, Kristina Williamson (DAC)
- Richard Wakefield children to lay 47 WWI + 13 WWII named crosses?
- Goodnight George children (if they can be found)
- Malcom Goode
- Ros Darlington (supporter via the Book of Remembrance)
- Kaz (from the Leopard)
- Smith & Roper
- Contractors who worked on the Memorial incl. Aucuba
- WMT, J&O Lloyd Trust
- Anyone else the Committee believes should be in this category

- *Named vacant pew &/or chair for the late Pat Harvey (who was a great supporter) – her niece Christine*

Officials

- Roger Sharp – organist
- Bishop of Stafford to preside
- Rev Ian Whitehead
- Standard bearers
- Bugler

Addendum

- No invited "great & good" – any that want to come, including the Parish Council, can stand in the public area, outside the 'rope'
- Named individuals can bring a +1 and children – need

Ceremony

- No parade (there was a parade at original dedication) – all to assemble at the church
- Do we want re-enactors? Personally prefer not.
- Legion standard bearers & bugler
- Bishop of Stafford to preside as original
- Clergy
- Choir?
- WMT have sample ceremony – are there others? Does CoE have its own?
- Based on original ceremony (see Appendix – Original Ceremony on page 3)? But modern hymns?
- Read out names of the Fallen - children and relatives lay Remembrance Crosses as each name is read out
- Dedicate Wreath Holders?
- Lay a laurel wreath (as in the original Service)
- Need reconciliation between the Bishop of Stafford and St. Mary's – the service is about the fallen and their relatives – not current sensibilities
- Rededicate Oddfellows plaque at the same time?

Afterwards

- Light buffet in church/Village Hall
- WI to do the food? Food set out in Priory Suite with one direction walk through – seated in church

Operational

- Need First Aider(s) – ask Sheila

Draft

- "Invitees list" issued to all invitees in advance of the ceremony so everyone knows who is coming, who to look out for
- Everyone to be labelled/badged
- Need stewards and clear instructions in the service sheet/running order
- Do a rehearsal
- Need decent PA system in church with speakers miked up – not hand microphone
- Marquees for if it rains or many spare brollies?
- Block East/West path off from public – not a public right of way – notices a week before warning of closure – info in local news & BM – check with ESBC/Staffs Highways/police

Record of the Day

- Burton Mail for coverage
- Rededication stone & tablet with details as per Hilton stone (Art Stone Memorials?)? If so, what cost and how funded?
- Somebody else to video & photograph – Bob & Pol are part of the service
- Video/photos on website

Appendix – Original Ceremony

Burton Chronicle, 6th May 1920 – Page 8. Original spelling has been retained (marked by {sic}) but paragraphs have been added to increase readability – there were no paragraphs in the original. Notes are at the end.

Dedication of War Memorials

A large congregation assembled at the Parish Church on Sunday 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 stone by Messrs. Brideman and Son, of Lichfield to the design of Mesrts. {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. 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 bacv {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. Rutherfoord) 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, 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.R.

After the Bishop had dedicated the memorial, the reveille was sounded by Mr. Bell, followed by the singing of "The King of Love my Shpeherd {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 lead 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.

Notes:

1. Dedication was on Sunday 2nd May 1920
2. The unnamed Bishop of Stafford was The Rt. Revd. Lionel Crawfurd
3. Hollington Stone: available in Red, Mottled, Cream from Hollington, Staffordshire ST10 4HQ
4. K.R.R: King's Royal Rifle Corps
5. 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: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Federation_of_Discharged_and_Demobilized_Sailors_and_Soldiers }
6. The tablet containing forty seven names from the great war now contains 48 – Private Walker (who died in 1923) must have been added later (where the inter-regiment space would have been on the tablet)