Patron: The Bishop of Stafford,
the Rt Revd Geoffrey Annas
Chairman: Mr Rick Nuth
Secretary: Mrs Jane Nuth
Treasurer: Mrs Sue Norris
Contact: info@twmpc.org.uk
01283 810 166
26 Hillcrest, Tutbury, DE13 9JD

Tutbury
War Memorials
Preservation
Committee

St. Mary's Priory Church – Tutbury

Faculty Application - Wreath Holders

Summary

This Faculty application is for the installation of two Wreath Holders in the closed churchyard at St. Mary's Priory Church, Tutbury, Staffordshire. The Wreath Holders will enable the policy of St. Mary's for the display of Remembrance Wreaths to be carried out whilst not damaging the War Memorial, following the recommendations of the War Memorials Trust.

They also mark the commemoration of the Centenary of WWI on behalf of the village.

The proposal has received the support of the Parochial Church Council and of the congregation, local organisations and members of the public.

Contents

Document List 3
Stone Cross War Memorial, Tutbury 4
Tutbury War Memorials Preservation Committee 5
Statement of Need 5
Possible Solutions 6
Selected Solution 7
Design 7
Location and Installation 9
Manufacture 10
Costs & Funding 10
Timescale 11
Appendix 1 – Supporters 12

Continued ➔

Document List

The following documents are supplied with and referenced in the petition:

Cover Letter

Cover Letter to the Diocesan Advisory Committee

Faculty Petition

Petition Forms

[FP-01] Form_1A Standard Information - signed

[FP-02] Form_3A Petition for Faculty – signed

Statement of Significance and Needs

[FP-03] WH-PE-041 Faculty Request - Tutbury St. Mary's Priory Church - Wreath Holders {this document}

Reference Documents

Drawings, Photographs and Quotation

[RD-01] Wreath Holder Design V9.pdf
containing the following diagrams:

- [1] Wreath Holder Layout
- [2] Wreath Panel Design
- [3] Wreath Holder Layout - with Wreaths
- [4] Wreath Holder Layout – Rear View

[RD-02] Location of Wreath Holders - Plan View V4.pdf

[RD-03] Location of Wreath Holders - Site View.pdf

[RD-04] 'Holmfirth' Poppy Design Photograph

[RD-05] Two pictures of Sample Poppy

[RD-06] Dragon Forge Tutbury Quote

Evidence of Consultation

[RD-09] St Mary's PCC Wreath Holder Resolution

[RD-10] Planning Enquiry Ref QU2015ENQ0620 - Installation of Wreath Holder - St. Mary's Priory Church Tutbury

Technical Descriptions

[RD-11] TWMP-MM-015 War Graves and Memorials Pamphlet (Tutbury Churchyard)

[RD-12] TWMP-MM-021 St Mary's Tutbury Churchyard Maps - Tree Protection Orders - V3 2015 07 14

[RD-13] Location Photographs (zip file)

Continued →

Stone Cross War Memorial, Tutbury

The Stone Cross War Memorial stands in the closed churchyard of St Mary's Priory Church, Tutbury, Staffordshire. Designed by Bodley and Hare, it was erected in 1920 by public subscription and has recently been conserved.

The conservation cost a total of £15,759 funded by the War Memorials Trust, the J&O Lloyd Trust (Burton-on-Trent), East Staffordshire Borough Council and St Mary's Parochial Church Council (in whose care the Memorial was left by the original *Parish War Memorial Committee* in 1920). This photograph, taken from near the south door, is the earliest known picture of the Memorial taken in September 1920.

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 Historic England to be in the Curtilage of a listed building – see *[RD-03] Location of Wreath Holders - Site View*.

It is one of 15 Memorials to the Fallen of varying types and formats (including plaques and stained glass windows) that were created in Tutbury during the 20th century in respect of the Boer War, World War I and World War II (two of these Memorials are now missing, presumed lost).

The Memorial was erected by public subscription[1]. 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[2].

Unfortunately, other than newspaper reports, 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 as the architects Bodley & Hare of Gray's Inn Square, London (1907-1942), 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[3].

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.'*

---

[1] Burton Chronicle, 19th Nov 1918

[2] An indication that the rules for inclusion on the memorial had not yet been agreed

[3] Pamphlet "The Priory Church of St. Mary the Virgin, Tutbury, Staffordshire" (Author T.J. Ganz, Vicar).

Continued ➔

Tutbury War Memorials Preservation Committee

The Tutbury War Memorials Preservation Committee (TWMPC) was set up in January 2013 to preserve the War Memorials in the village of Tutbury, East Staffordshire. The TWMPC's primary focus was the deteriorating condition of the Stone Cross War Memorial in the Closed Churchyard at St Mary's.

For much of the previous year, Rick and Jane Nuth had spent time trying to convince Tutbury Parish Council (TPC) to lead on the conservation of the Memorial but the Council continually declined the opportunity. The Council felt that their only responsibility was for public safety; as the Memorial was not in danger of falling down there was nothing that they needed to do or in which they wished to be involved. On that basis, the TWMPC was reluctantly formed.

The Committee of eight has representatives of the Civic Society, the Parochial Church Council (PCC) and the Royal British Legion amongst its members as well as members from longstanding village families.

Working in close cooperation with the PCC, we have now completed the preservation of the Memorial (October 2015).

Statement of Need

Part of the conservation work on the Memorial entailed removing moss and lichen from the plinths. The growth of moss and lichen on such a memorial is inevitable but it has been further encouraged by Remembrance Wreaths being left on the Memorial for long periods, causing water to collect and encouraging the unwelcome growth in Wreath shaped patterns around the plinths.

Two other problems occur. Water gathers in the centre of wreaths rendering them illegible over time and on windy days, the wreaths are blown around the churchyard. In 2015, due to the wind the wreaths had to be removed from the Memorial the day after the Remembrance Service and so far have not been able to be put on public display due to the continuing adverse weather.

In 2014 there were 17 Remembrance Wreaths laid at the memorial and in 2015 there were 18 – we anticipate this number will rise slightly, peaking in 2018/2019 and then gradually reduce.

The War Memorials Trust recommends that Remembrance Wreaths are not left on Memorials for any length of time because of the damage that can be done to the stonework. However, the policy at St. Mary's Priory Church is to leave the Remembrance Wreaths on public display until the 1st October the following year, leaving the Memorial without Wreaths for one month to highlight the laying of the new Wreaths.

The Church's policy and the War Memorials Trust's advice are in conflict and therefore a solution is required to satisfy both requirements.

Continued →

Possible Solutions

There are a number of possible solutions as follows:

a) Drastically reduce the time the Wreaths are left on public display – probably to as little as two weeks.

For:

- No damage to stonework or wreaths, simple, zero-cost

Against:

- The Wreaths are only briefly on public display (not acceptable to the PCC)
- The problem of the Wreaths being blown around the churchyard remains, albeit for a short time

b) Display the Wreaths inside St. Mary's

For:

- No damage to stonework or wreaths, simple, zero-cost

Against:

- The church is only open on Wednesday and Sunday mornings for services and Saturday mornings for coffee, meaning that the Wreaths are effectively hidden from public view
- The Wreaths are physically and visually disconnected from the Memorial where they were laid
- There is limited space. If they are to be displayed anywhere in the church, it would have to be in the Lady Chapel, where the Remembrance tablets are installed, but space is very restricted meaning that the Wreaths overlay each other and are not individually visible

c) Display the wreaths on a Wreath Holder

For:

- The Wreaths remain on display for as long as the PCC policy requires
- The stonework and Wreaths are not damaged
- The Wreaths are visually and physically connected the Memorial
- The Wreaths are not blown around the churchyard
- This approach is supported by the War Memorials Trust

Against:

- There is no standard Wreath Holder that can be purchased
- Cost – a bespoke Wreath Holder will be expensive
- Possibility of visual intrusion on the War Memorial

Continued ➔

Selected Solution

The TWMPC, in conjunction with the PCC, have decided to commission and install two bespoke Wreath Holders (option (c) above) at a cost of £3,000 funded by grants and donations. The design is a follow-on from a temporary experimental Wreath Holder created after the 2014 Remembrance Service. The lessons learned from the experiment, particularly on visual intrusion, have been included in the proposal.

The design considerations included:

a) The need to display 18 or more Remembrance Wreaths whilst recognising that in future years the numbers may reduce and hence the Wreath Holders must still look attractive and functional with a reduced number of Wreaths

b) Minimise height to reduce the amount of visual intrusion on the Memorial

c) Set away from the Memorial, ensuring that the Wreath holders are visually subservient to the Memorial and do not obscure it

d) Low maintenance while still enabling small paint repairs onsite (i.e. galvanised for protection and painted rather than powder coated)

e) The plastic structure of Remembrance Wreaths is fragile, requiring a full "tie" top and bottom around the Wreath – if the holes provided on the Wreath are used they break as soon as there is a slight wind

f) The Wreaths and Wreath Holders need to be kept distant from the grass cutting process, particularly strimmers

g) The Wreath Holders should be symbolic of Remembrance in their own right and should be considered the TWMPC's marking of the WWI Centenary Commemorations on behalf of the village

Design

The text below should be read in conjunction with the documents listed in *Document* on page 3.

Design Specifics

a) There will be two Wreath Holders, set to the east (rear) of the War Memorial, approximately 5 metres from the centre of the Memorial roughly in the area where two of the benches used to be near the Memorial – the exact location will be determined at the time of installation but the approximate location is shown in *[RD-02] Location of Wreath Holders - Plan View V4.pdf*. Superficially, the Wreath Holders can be considered as bespoke ornamental "wrought iron" fencing.

The decision was taken to have two Wreath Holders rather than one to break up the visual impact. One Wreath Holder capable of taking 18

Continued ➔

Wreaths would have been visually intrusive. The text below describes each Wreath Holder.

b) Each Wreath Holder will have two outer Wreath Panels, each capable of holding four standard sized Remembrance Wreaths (two above two) on each side (maximum of sixteen per Wreath Holder). The Wreath Panels are based on the design of St. Mary's gates. See drawings

[1] Wreath Holder Layout

[2] Wreath Panel Design

[3] Wreath Holder Layout - with Wreaths

[4] Wreath Holder Layout – Rear View

in document *[RD-01] Wreath Holder Design V9*

c) The key sizing points of the Wreath Panels are the centre spacing of the vertical bars, which are critical to the attachment of the Wreaths side by side (typically 16-17", 400-430mm, diameter), and the gaps between the horizontal railings to enable Wreaths to be placed one above another. See drawing *[2] Wreath Panel Design*

d) A central Poppy Panel based on the "Holmfirth" design – this will not have any Wreaths attached but will be visible at all times to invoke Remembrance.

Most ornamental poppies in fencing are standard catalogue components, manufactured in China, and of poor design quality. However, a bespoke poppy panel was seen in Holmfirth where each poppy, leaf, bud and seed head were individually created – see the picture *[RD-04] 'Holmfirth' Poppy Design Photograph*

Based on this design, a panel will be created but with a portrait aspect rather than landscape. Picture *[RD-05] Two pictures of Sample Poppy* shows a sample poppy created by *Dragon Forge Artistic Ironworks*, the selected contractor; the sample far exceeded the TWMPC's expectations of what could be achieved.

If needed, the sample poppy can be made available to the DAC for inspection.

e) The four supporting posts will have lugs to hold Remembrance Crosses

f) The two Wreath Panels will be articulated at their attachment to the inner posts of the Poppy Panel – the angle of articulation to be finalised during installation but is likely to be 15°. This is to enable the installation to reflect the hexagon shape of the Memorial (it also makes a structurally stronger installation).

g) The finish on the Wreath Holders must be durable with minimum maintenance requirement but equally must be repairable in situ for minor surface damage (i.e. galvanised for protection and painted, rather than powder coated).

h) The Wreath Holders will be set in concrete in a 600mm wide gravel bed to avoid contact with grass strimmers etc.

Continued ➔

i) Somewhere on one or both of the Poppy Panels, we will include a discrete British Gypsum logo (as a key funder of the panels – see Costs & Funding below) and possibly one other funder's name.

j) A small information panel, source and style unknown, may also be added to explain about the Memorial conservation and the Wreath Holders

---

Location and Installation

The location of the Wreath Holders is a compromise rather than the ideal. The factors affecting the location are as follows (refer to diagrams *"[RD-02] Location of Wreath Holders - Plan View V4*" and "*[RD-03] Location of Wreath Holders - Site View*"):

a) The Memorial is approached in a southerly direction from the churchyard east-west path. As the most common view of the Memorial is from the east-west path it would seem logical to have the Wreath Holders to the south of the Memorial, slightly to either side so that they can both be seen from the path at the same time.

   Unfortunately, there is a path to the west of the Memorial in a deep cutting. People approaching the church using this path would see the back one of the Wreath Holders, obscuring the Memorial

b) However, the approach from the east-west path is not to the actual front of the Memorial (as can be seen by the layout of the paving in the plan view[4]). The west face of the Memorial is the front, bearing the "In grateful memory..." plaque and a shield consisting of a crown and laurel wreath.

   This would suggest that technically, 'behind the Memorial' would put the Wreath Holders on the east side of the Memorial. This however, places the Wreath Holders too near to the east-west path and they are visually intrusive.

   The solution therefore is to place them to the south-east of the Memorial where they are not visually intrusive to either path.

   The area to the east of the Memorial is used by the standard-bearers during Remembrance Sunday service; to ensure there is no impact on the service, the Wreath Holders will be set a minimum of five metres from the Memorial to allow space for the Standard Bearers to display.

   This photograph, thought to be from the 1930s, shows that this area was once occupied by two benches (of a total of four) that were near the

[4] Why the access path is not arranged so that it approaches the front of the Memorial (maybe an "L" shape) is unknown and will probably remain so as the records of construction have not been located.

Continued ➔

Memorial (unknown when they were removed).

[RD-02] Location of Wreath Holders - Plan View V4 shows the proposed positioning which will be nearer to the left of the two benches shown. The Memorial remains the most dominant feature from all approaches

The posts will be set in concrete to ensure safety and ensure that the Wreath Holders cannot be easily removed. The area underneath each Wreath Holder will be a 600mm/24" wide area of gravel to minimise the risk of grass strimmers coming into contact with the Wreath Holders.

Manufacture

Five companies were approached for quotes leading to discussions with three of the companies. The Committee was of the view that most of the companies could manufacture the Wreath Panels satisfactorily but the manufacture of the Poppy Panel to a high standard was the critical factor.

Of the companies spoken to directly, only *Dragon Forge Artistic Ironworks* has a track record of creating individual bespoke items and they were unanimously selected by the Committee and confirmed as the contractors after producing an excellent sample of a poppy, poppy leaf and seed head (see *[RD-05] Two pictures of Sample Poppy*).

The production version will also include a poppy bud so that the panel symbolises the cycle of birth, life and death. If required, the sample poppy can be made available for inspection.

Costs & Funding

The quote from Dragon Forge (see *[RD-06] Dragon Forge Tutbury Quote*) is for £3,000 including installation (VAT not applicable).

Funding has been provided by two sources:

- British Gypsum - £1,250. British Gypsum (owners of the nearby Fauld mines) have a strong connection with the Tutbury War Memorial – of the 47 WWI Fallen listed on the memorial, 15 worked either at the Fauld mines or in the plaster mill.
- J&O Lloyd Trust - £1,750. J&O Lloyd Trust, a local Burton-on-Trent charity, gave the TWMPC £4,500 to use as we see fit within the overall conservation project.

The TWMPC will provide St. Mary's PCC with a small fund, expected to be in the order of £1,000, to be set aside for future maintenance needs of the Wreath Holders and the War Memorial[5] after the dissolution of the TWMPC.

[5] The bronze plaques should be cleaned and re-waxed every 5 years

Continued ➔

TIMESCALE

If the Petition for Faculty is granted, we would expect the Wreath Holders to be manufactured and installed in March-April 2016.

This will be followed on July 1st 2016, Centenary of the 1st Day of the Battle of the Somme[6], by the rededication of the Memorial by the Bishop of Stafford, whose predecessor dedicated the Memorial in 1920.

[6] Seven of the forty seven WWI Fallen on the Memorial died on that day at Gommecourt.

Continued →

Appendix 1 – Supporters

As mentioned above, a temporary experimental Wreath Holder was erected near to the War Memorial after the 2014 Remembrance Service. We engaged with many members of the public and the church congregation about the Wreath Holder before we removed it; the responses were positive with many suggestions for improvement which have been incorporated into the design guidelines.

We have also described what we are doing at presentations on the Memorial to a variety of local groups; at no time have we received anything other than positive support.

The two principal concerns were the size (a single Wreath Holder was too large and dominant) and its location (at that time set to the side but slightly in front of the Memorial).

Positive views were expressed on the concepts, particularly that the Wreaths were readily visible, tidy and respectful. We are aware of only one person who thought the Wreath Holder was not a good idea and he said the Wreaths should be left on the Memorial (unfortunately not an option).

A resolution on the Wreath Holders was put before St. Mary's Parochial Church Council where it was passed unanimously (see *[RD-09] St Mary's PCC Wreath Holder Resolution.pdf)*. We have engaged many members of St. Mary's congregation on the topic of the Wreath Holders and there is a display board in St. Mary's detailing the project – all responses have been positive.

We have also received support from four Borough Councillors (they changed at the last election) and prospective Borough Councillors.

Based on this we believe we have overwhelming support from the church, the general public and local groups for the installation of the Wreath Holders.

* * * Ends * * *