

Honouring the Fallen



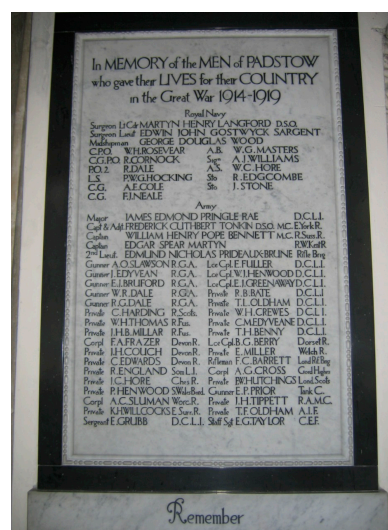
IN the Twenties towns and villages throughout Britain began unveiling memorials in honour of local men who had lost their lives in the Great War. Commemorating the Fallen was a relatively new thing. The rank-and-file dead at Waterloo were simply shoveled into mass, unmarked graves, and later dug up by those in search of valuables. Some of those killed in the Second Boer War at the turn of the 19th Century suffered a kinder fate with a few towns raising memorials in their memory. But it was not until the horrors of the First World War that Remembrance became the force it is today.

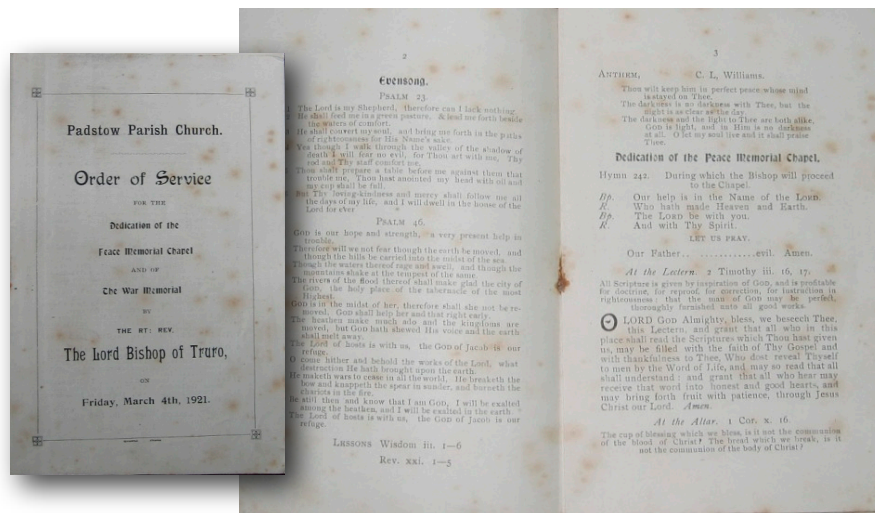
An estimated 100,000 memorials were built in Britain in the years following the conflict, the vast majority of them paid for by public donations. Each one was a community's individual response to a national cataclysm and as such the design of the memorials varied from brass-adorned edifice to simple stone cross. It is this individualism, particularly in some of the inscriptions, that makes many Great War memorials so poignant. Now nearly a century old, some monuments are in a state of sad neglect and a national campaign has recently been launched to safeguard them for the future. Fortunately for Padstonians their memorial has never been in want of loving attention and its immaculate appearance does them great credit.

The town actually has two war memorials. Eighteen months before the main monument was unveiled on 27th September 1922 a commemorative tablet was dedicated in the specially-built Peace Memorial Chapel in St Petroc's Parish Church. The story of how both came to be built can be found in two contemporary sources, the St Petroc's church magazine and the minutes of the local Urban District Council. During the Great War around 300 men of Padstow fought for their country and 56 made the ultimate sacrifice. The town was determined never to forget. Nor has it.

Reports from St Petroc church magazine (1919-1922)

- Jan 1919: A meeting of the congregation decides to convert the south-east corner of the church into a chapel to honour the dead of the Great War. A monument to the Fallen will be sited at the entrance. A committee is formed to oversee the work. Its members are the Patron (Col. C.R. Prideaux-Brune), the Vicar (Rev. T.H. Skinner), Churchwardens, and the following elected: John Hawken, R. Binny, Caryle Mitchell, E. Henwood, H. Champion, W. Brown, the Hon. Mrs Prideaux-Brune, Mrs Hicks, Mrs Rae, Mrs W.S. Allport, and Miss Roach.
- May 1919: The new chapel is now officially named the Peace Memorial Chapel and funds will be raised to cover costs. The vicar announces that every man who died in the Great War, regardless of creed, will to be named.
- July 1919: Nearly half the necessary funds have been raised. There is some opposition to the decision to include all creeds on the new memorial and it is suggested that only relatives of the congregation be included.
- Sept 1919: Considerable progress has been made on the fund-raising for both chapel and its memorial tablet. A list of names is included (original spellings): Hocking, Williams, Dale R., Edgcumbe, Sargent, Langford, Prideaux- Brune, Benny, Slawson, Bate, Henwood W., Henwood P., Crewes, Edyvean, Hutching, Couch J.H., England, Thomas, Dale W.R., Greenaway, Frazer, Tonkin, Berry, Grubb, Prior, Fuller, Sluman, Barrett F.C., Millar, Rae, Taylor. Total names: 31.
- Oct 1919: A new list of names is published. They are: Hocking, Williams, Dale R., Edgcumbe, Sargent, Langford, Prideaux-Brune, Benny, Slawson, Henwood W., Henwood P., Bate, Crewes, Edyvean, Hutching, Couch J.H., England, Thomas, Dale W.R., Greenaway, Frazer, Tonkin, Berry, Grubb, Prior, Fuller, Sluman, Barrett F.C., Millar, Rae, Taylor, Oldham T.L., Martyn, Miller, Stone. Total names: 35.
- Nov 1919: There is an appeal for more funds. There is also a new list of names. They are: Hocking, Williams, Dale R., Edgcumbe, Sargent, Langford, Cornick, Neale, Cole, Hore W., Rosevear, Prideaux-Brune, Benny, Slawson, Bate, Henwood W., Henwood P., Crewes, Edyvean, Hutching, Couch J.H., England, Thomas, Dale W.R., Greenaway, Frazer, Tonkin, Berry, Grubb, Prior, Fuller, Sluman, Barrett F.C., Millar, Rae, Taylor, Oldham T.L., Martyn, Miller, Stone, Hore J., Edyveane. Total names: 42.



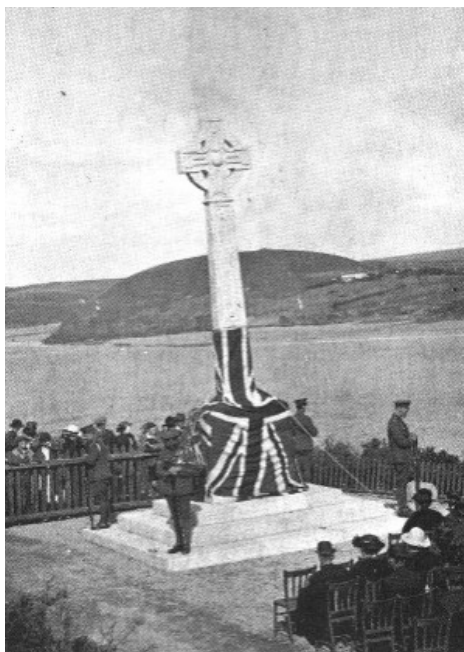


- Feb 1920: The memorial designer submits plans for black and white marble.
- July 1920: Revised drawings for memorial tablet are expected soon.
- Aug 1920: It is hoped that the new drawings will soon be with the craftsmen.
- Sept 1920: Order for the carving goes to Andrews of Ivybridge, whose tender was lowest.
- Dec 1920: Delays caused by lack of correct marble. No date yet for dedication service.
- Jan 1920: Memorial ready by February. Bishop of Truro to conduct dedication service.
- Mar 1921: Dedication set for 7pm on Friday 4th March, 1921. Relatives were issued with tickets as many people were expected to attend the service

THE dedication service went ahead as planned. This was Padstow's first act of commemoration for their Great War dead and it was well attended. As well as all the congregation and many others from the town there was also official representation from the local Urban and Rural District Councils, the Comrades of the Great War and the Coastguard.

After hymns several lesson were read, one of them by Colonel Denys Prideaux-Brune, the much-decorated elder brother of Edmund, one of the Fallen. His father Col. C.R. Prideaux-Brune then unveiled the memorial. Buglers from the RGA in Plymouth then sounded The Last Post. The Bishop of Truro Dedicated the Chapel and read out the names of all fifty-three men on the memorial, which were as follows: Langford, Sargent, Wood, Rosevear, Cornock, Dale R., Hocking, Cole, Neale, Masters, Williams, Hore, Edgcombe, Stone, Rae, Tonkin, Bennett, Martyn, Prideaux-Brune, Slawson, Edyvean, Bruford, Dale W., Dale R.G., Harding, Thomas, Millar, Frazer, Couch J.H., Edwards, England, Hore J., Henwood P., Sluman, Willcocks, Grubb, Fuller, Henwood W., Greenaway, Bate, Oldham T.L., Crewes, Edyveane, Benny, Berry, Miller, Barrett F.C., Cross, Hutchings, Prior, Tippet, Oldham T.F. Taylor. The buglers then sounded The Reveille.

Several gifts were presented. These included an altar cross from Miss Dresser, an lectern from Dr and Mrs Sargent, candlesticks from Mrs Stentiford (probably Stuttaford), a prayer desk from Mrs Greenaway, a Bible from the Hon. Mrs Prideaux-Brune, a linen cloth worked by Miss H. Stribley , a book rest from Mr Jended, an altar book from Mrs Hicks and altar vases from Mrs Langford.



Minutes from Padstow Urban District Council (1918-1922)

WHILST we obviously know *why* Padstow War Memorial was built, we do not as yet have a complete understanding as to *how* it came to be built. It has always been known that the land on which the memorial was erected at St Saviour's was given to the town by the Prideaux-Brune family, who themselves lost a son in the Great War. But how the funds were found to complete the task is not at this moment clear.

As has been previously mentioned, most villages, towns and communities around the country found the necessary money through public donations, and this is thought to be the case in Padstow, though at the moment we have no evidence for this. There may have been donations from the Prideaux-Brunes and also the British Legion, but again we have no documentary proof of this.

In order to find some answers, a search was undertaken through various documents held at Cornwall Record Office. The CRO holds thousands of documents relating to the town, and these include Padstow Urban District Council minutes 1911-1923, Padstow Rural District Council minutes 1894-1934, and Burial Board and Miscellaneous Papers 1894-1966. Mention of the memorial was only found in Urban District Council records. The entries found were:

- 10th Dec 1918: A decision is taken to arrange Padstow Roll of Honour and war memorial to honour all those who fell.
- 28th Jan 1919: The council decides to call a public meeting to discuss the matter.
- 25th Feb 1919: The council decide to invite the 'Parish Council' (*presumably Padstow Rural Parish Council which comprised those areas of the ancient parish of Padstow which weren't in the area of the Urban District Council*) to join the Urban Council in the matter of the memorial.
- 22nd Feb 1921: St Petroc's invites council to attend the dedication of their Peace Chapel.

- 25th Oct 1921: Council members are told that the Local British Legion had called their attention to the absence of a war memorial. The council told the Legion that the matter was taken out of their hands by a public meeting in June 1919. (*This meeting objected to council plans to site the memorial in the centre of the town. It appears Padstow townsfolk preferred it to be located at a favourite beauty spot at Stile*).
- 29th Nov 1921: Council chairman met with British Legion who asked that a memorial be put in a public place in the town. (*It appears the Legion did not favour the site at Stile, though the townsfolk got their way in the end*). It was agreed that every member of the council be on the War Memorial Committee.
- 17th Jan 1922: The Council proposed to advertise for designs, Colonel Prideaux Brune having signified his approval of the scheme and site and promised his help.
- 21st April 1922: After a meeting with Col. Prideaux-Brune it is agreed that the memorial will be designed by Mr T.H. Northam and carved by monumental masons Freeman and Sons. The granite will come from the Cheesewring Quarries near Bodmin. Mr W. Johnson is appointed chairman of the War Memorial Committee, with Mr J. Tom as Treasurer and Mr F. Williams as secretary.
- 30th May 1922: Committee inspected the proposed memorial site at St Saviour's (*Stile*).
- 29th Aug 1922: Council members agree to meet at the new memorial at 6pm on Tuesday the 26th September, the eve of the unveiling.
- 16th Sept 1922: The Council holds a discussion about the site and proposes to adjourn until the draft conveyance is available. They approve the proposed order of procession and order of service.
- 28th Nov 1922: The Council agrees to affix their seal to the War Memorial Agreement. (*The minutes note when cheques are drawn or payments are made, but there is no mention of any kind of money transactions in connection with either the land on which the memorial is sited or the memorial's construction.*)

Note: The "War Memorial Agreement" was signed in December 1922 and exists in the Prideaux-Brune archive at Cornwall Record Office. A copy of this has been requested. It is a conveyancing document signed by Charles Prideaux-Brune, Charles Harding, Edward Sanford, and Padstow Urban District Council.

We shall update you on the document referred to above when we receive it. If it does not include details about funding for the memorial there are still some files to be searched through at Cornwall Record Office. However, the most likely source for this information is the local newspaper of the time, *The Cornish Guardian* (Bodmin) edition. These usually reported on Urban District Council meetings and should certainly have reported on the public meeting held in June 1919. These may take some time to sift through, but we hope to find the answers in due course.

NOT FORGOTTEN.

PADSTOW'S HEROES HONOURED.

WAR MEMORIAL UNVEILED.

"O valiant hearts, who to your glory came
Through dust and conflict and through
battle-flame
Tranquil you lie, your knightly virtue
proved,
Your memory hallowed in the Land you
loved."

To the proud memory of the 55 gallant
lads of Padstow who laid down their lives
in the Great War a magnificent granite
cross was unveiled on Wednesday after-
noon. The site selected was a most suit-
able one at St. Saviour's, commanding fine
views both of the town and entrance to
the harbour. Standing over 21 feet in
height, with a base 14 feet by 12 feet,
the cross is of carved granite with a
masonic rustic die and three steps. It is
from a design by Mr. T. H. Northam.
from whose direction it was carved by
Messrs. Freeman and Sons, of the famous
Chesewring Quarries.

All those participating in the proceed-
ings assembled in the Market Square, and
the procession marched off, headed by a
big Union Jack, carried by a soldier, in
the following order: Buglers, the united
choirs, local clergy and ministers, two
policemen who had seen service in the
war, members of the local Urban Council,
the Comrades' Band, a Naval contingent,
several officers in uniform, a company of
Territorials, ex-Service men, members of
the Women's Section of the British Legion,
Girl Guides, school children, a large
number of the general public bringing up
the rear.

At the four corners of the memorial, the
base of which was shrouded in the Union
Jack, were four Territorials standing with
arms reversed, and seating accommodation
was made for the relatives and friends of
the men whose names were inscribed on
the tablets. As soon as the procession
reached the site the Vicar (Rev. T. H.
Skinner) announced the hymn, "O God,
our help in ages past," sung with great
favour with band accompaniment, under
the direction of Mr. S. M. Ravenhill,
A.R.C.O. Following prayers by the Vicar,
the Revs. Francis Jones (United Metho-
dist) and Herbert J. Jenkins (Wesleyan)
read portions of Psalm 23 and Revelations
21. This was followed by the hymn, "The
supreme sacrifice," the opening verse of
which is given above. Further prayers
having been said, the Hon. Mrs. Prideaux-
Brune, Mrs. Bate, Miss Mitchell and Miss
Miller unveiled the memorial, which bore
in prominent letters on the front panel the
following:

"To the Glory of God. In honoured
memory of the men of Padstow, whose
names are recorded hereon, who gave
their lives in the Great War; and in
grateful appreciation of the services of
those who returned."

THE DEDICATION.

Then the plaintive notes of "Last Post"
were sounded by Buglers Ingram, Richards
and Williams from Bodmin Depot, and the
Vicar dedicated the memorial: "In the
Faith of Jesus Christ we dedicate this Cross
to the memory of

Arthur Barret, Frederick Charles Barrett,
Richard Brenton Bate, William Henry
Pope Bennett, Thomas Henry Benny, Bertram
Gilbert Berry, Edward Joseph Bruford,
Albert Edward Cole, Ralph Cornick, James
Henry Couch, Arthur George Cross, William
Richard Crewes, Richard Dale, William
Richard Dale, Richard George Dale, Richard
Edgcombe, Charles Edwards, Charles Mit-
chell Edyveane, John Edyveane, Robert Eng-
land, Frank Alban Frazer, Edgar Fuller,
Edward John Greenaway, Edwin Grubb,
Collin Harding, Percy Henwood, William
John Henwood, Preston Wallace Gumma
Hocking, John Courtenay Hore, Wil-
liam Courtenay Hore, Frank Walton
Hutchings, Martyn Henry Langford,
Edgar Spear Martyn, William George
Masters, James Henry Bright Millar, Ernest
Miller, Francis James Neale, Thomas Francis
Oldham, Thomas Lovering Oldham, Edmund
Nicholas Prideaux-Brune, Edward Percy
Prior, James Edmond Pringle Raft, Wil-
liam Henry Rosevear, Edwin John
Coutyryck Sargent, George Skinner,
Arthur Oswald Slawson, Arthur Clarence
Sluman, John Stone, Edward Glanville
Taylor, William Henry Thomas, James
Horswell Tippet, Frederick Outbert Tonkin,

Kenneth Harding Willcock, Alfred James
Williams, George Douglas Wood, who died
for their Country in the Great War; In the
Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of
the Holy Ghost. God grant that those who
look upon this Memorial may realize the joy
of faithful service, the shortness of earthly
glory, and the power of an endless life, to
which may He vouchsafe to bring us all,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

"READY! AYE! READY."

The Very Rev. Major Vincent Scully,
D.S.O., remarked that the war was over;
the victory was won; but the pangs of
victory were seldom heard and the voice of
exultation was strangely hushed. Men
were weary, almost worn out, but the fati-
gue was not as it was in the days of war,
a physical fatigue; it was a moral fatigue.
Faced at home with a sorry wretchedness,
disappointed by broken pledges and unful-
filled desires, looking abroad and seeing
there only suffering, discontent, the chaotic
condition of political and economic life,
threatened with stark starvation and red
revolution, bewildered by hearing of
nothing but wars and rumours of wars,
was it strange that men looked at one
another doubtfully and questioned: "After
all, was it worth while?" "But, com-
rades," continued the speaker, "let us not
make the fatal error of forgetting so soon
the realities of 1914 and the years that fol-
lowed. Had they so soon forgotten? Could
they so soon forget?" Why was it that
Padstow was lying so peacefully and un-
scathed to-day. Let them make no mis-
take. What happened to Belgium and
France would have happened to Padstow
had not those fifty-five men, whose names
were engraven on that cross and others ex-
posed themselves in order to deliver their
people. It would be the greatest folly on
their part for the sake of their own future
to forget. It would be the basest ingrati-
tude to those men who died to deliver
them. Referring to the happy knack the
men had during the war of making light
of all that they did and suffered, or regard-
ing the whole grim tragedy of the war as
a vast joke, the speaker remarked that the
idea of obtaining glory and undying fame
probably had very little influence as a
driving force with their light-hearted lads,
but deep down in their hearts there was
a conviction and consciousness that they
were fighting, and were, if needs be, ready
to die for something nearer and dearer
than life itself—the freedom of their native
land. "Those brave men died for their
country. Let us see that we live for it. Let
us keep alive in our hearts, and in the
hearts of our children the spirit that ani-
mated them, so that if again in our time
—and God forbid—the call comes to us even
again to expose ourselves to deliver our
people, the answer may burst from us as
it burst from them. Ready. Aye, Ready!"
Trumpeters having sounded "Reveille,"
that soul-stirring hymn, "Fight the good
fight," to the well-known tune, was joined
in by the choir and the assembled com-
pany, the band again accompanying.

"LEST WE FORGET."

Captain the Rev. Frank Edwards (superin-
tendent of the North Cornwall Mission)
said "in honoured memory of brave men"
was the spiritual keynote of that memorial
service. To-day every parish had its war
memorial. Why? Because every parish
had shared in the great sacrifice and had
felt something of its splendour and of its
pain. Every parish had its war memorial
because all England and all the Empire
had passed under a cloud into the fellow-
ship of suffering. They had been re-
minded that afternoon that the war had
passed, Thank God it had and might it
never recur. But the memories of the
wounds, the scars and the sacrifices of the
war had not passed. That memorial was a
testimony not only of victory but of sacri-
fice. What was the price of victory? Sacri-
fice. And to-day after the horrors and
strife of war they were assembled in the
stillness of solemn remembrance of loved
ones. In "Last Post" and "Reveille" were
blended the notes of their remembrance.
"Last Post"—the soldiers' farewell, "Re-
veille"—the new call to arise. That service
to them was a mingled lament and a
hallelujah. They must realise and resolve
to do better and be better, loyal to the
ideals and faithful to the spirit of the men
who went forth from that place never to
return. If they did that they would attain
something that would lead to a better En-
gland. They must never forget what that
monument stood for. But England

27th Sept 1922: The unveiling of Padstow

*Today every parish has its war
memorial. Why? Because every
parish has shared in the great
sacrifice and has felt something of
its splendour and of its pain.
Every parish has its war
memorial because all England
and all the Empire has passed
under a cloud into the fellowship
of suffering. We have been
reminded this afternoon that the
war has passed. Thank God it has
and might it never recur. We must
realise and resolve to be loyal to
the ideals and faithful to the spirit
of the men who went forth from
this place never to return. If we do
that we will attain something that
will lead to a better England. We
must never forget what this
monument stands for. But let it not
only be a memorial to the dead,
but a memorial of their deeds.*

Capt. the Reverend Frank Edwards at
the unveiling on 27th September 1922

was already in danger of forgetting.
Would to God they could keep the spirit
of the war after the war. If they could
England would be a grander country. He
was glad their memorial was a cross—a
solemn, sublime and eloquent testimony.
He hoped they would not regard it only
as a memorial to their dead, but a
memorial of their deeds. Would to God
their land to-day was proud of the ideals
for which their men fought. Sometimes he
thought that England had forgotten not
only the services of those who died but
also of those who returned. In the war
days they placed the men on a pinnacle;
to-day some of the people of the country
would persecute them. Let that day be to
them the beginning of a grand resolve to
be true to the motto of the lads of En-
gland: "Carry on."

The final hymn was "Abide with me,"
and a very memorable and touching ser-
vice concluded with prayers by the Vicar

and the singing of the National Anthem.

Some magnificent wreaths from relatives
and friends and ex-Service men, with suit-
able inscriptions, were placed at the base
of the memorial which will stand for
generations to come as a solemn tribute to
the brave men whose names are engraven
thereon.

The general arrangements were in the
capable hands of Mr. F. A. Williams, who
acted as hon. secretary of the committee,
and he was assisted in the day's arrange-
ments by Sergt.-Major Johnstone, R.E., and
Mr. E. C. Williams.