

HTSM First World War Monthly Journal

August 1915

First anniversary

The Rector's letter focussed on Hope. A special service was held on August 4th, for the anniversary of the outbreak of war.

The Bishop wanted churches to be open all day, as on the continent, so that people could come at any time. He asked for prayers for prisoners-of-war.

The Girls' Friendly Society held its annual festival which included the story of a woman's escape from the *Lusitania*, torpedoed in May that year by the Germans.

Parish groups could not forget the war. The choir boys from St. Luke's (the chapel in Charlotteville) had visited London Zoo where they saw a tortoise with an appeal for recruits on its back. (In fact, it had a punning appeal for donations to buy shells.) The HTSM choir boys had seen aeroplanes flying at Weybridge – presumably from Brooklands. The Church of England Mens' Society had helped with the YMCA tent for troops at Whitmoor and Bullswater Camp. They had taken an interest in Corp. Lewis of the 1st Welsh Regiment in the County Hospital with shrapnel wounds, who was to be taken on drives.

A thank-offering had been given for the preservation of a son.

Six deaths were recorded: Albert Lansley, James Bookham, Walter Collier, Richard Stirling, Francis Lowth and Frederick Brown, four at Gallipoli and two on the Western Front.

Pte Lansley was a musician with the 3rd Battalion Worcestershire Regiment before the war, but was with the 4th Bn when he was killed at Gallipoli. Pte Bookham was in the 2/4 Bn Queen's when he was killed in action at Suvla Bay. He had been a general labourer before the war, and had lived with his widowed mother in Millmead, before marrying Minnie and living at 7, Tunsgate. Sgt. Collier of the 6th East Lancs Regiment was one of three brothers killed in the war. He had been a bricklayer's labourer, presumably working for his father who was a bricklayer. He was killed in action at Gallipoli. Lt. Stirling of the 5th Bn Royal Fusiliers was killed in action in the trenches at Hooge on the western Front and was buried at Ypres. He had been to Oxford and the Middle Temple, and volunteered straight away. His mother lived in Warren Road. Capt. Lowth of the Lancashire Fusiliers was a career soldier, of Irish origin, the son of a colonel who retired to Epsom Road, Guildford. Capt. Lowth died at Suvla Bay. Rifleman Brown of the 3th Bn Rifle Brigade died on the Western Front, near Armentières. He was baptised in Holy Trinity, and had worked for Filmer & Mason, iron-founders.

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