

HTSM First World War Monthly Journal

October 1914

The Rector's letter for October contained a muted appeal for volunteers. He perhaps saw a conflict between the need for soldiers and the idea of supporting war. However, he was very much involved with the Territorials and was torn between joining them and staying in the parish. He told his parishioners that he would not go overseas with the Territorials to Malta, for example, but he would go to the western front if asked. He mentioned that French priests were fighting, but that the Archbishop of Canterbury felt that the clergy should stick to their spiritual work.

He was anxious to collect the names of all those from the parish who were serving. F. Dean was one of the first to return, wounded, to Netley Hospital near Southampton. He is not on the War Memorial in Holy Trinity so perhaps survived. Sergeant Warlock and Private G. Lucas, who were wounded at Mons, had been Holy Trinity choirboys.

£100 had been collected for the War Distress Fund, and magazines had been sent to the men in camp on Whitmoor Common. Volunteers were requested to do washing for the Territorials in camp.

Forms of prayer were recommended and a suitable hymn was printed, beginning:

Eternal Father, God supreme
Who didst in love the world redeem ...

Three men from the parish were killed in October 1914. William Grinstead was killed in 29th October, aged 26. He was born in 1888 and joined the 2nd Battalion the Manchester Regiment. He was killed at Festubert on the Western Front, and is remembered on the Le Tourel Memorial. He was born in Shalford. He became a printer's labourer at 13 when the family were living in Stoughton. He married Lillian Goodeve in 1907 at St. Nicholas and by 1911 they were living in Ludlow Road with two children. William was working at the Friary Brewery.

Alfred Kemp was killed the day after William, in the Ypres Salient of the Western Front. He too was a private, in the 2nd Battalion of the Queen's Regiment. He was 20. His body was not found and he is remembered on the Menin Gate. He joined the Army before the war and had been stationed at Stoughton Barracks. In 1912 he and his wife Alice lived in Addison Road. Their son George was baptised in St. Luke's chapel. They moved to Merrow before the war, and he is also on the Merrow War Memorial, and the Addison Road memorial, but probably his widowed mother in Cline Road wanted him remembered at Holy Trinity.

The next day, 31st October, Arthur Wyatt was killed on the Western Front. He too is listed on the Menin Gate. He was 31, and a private in the 1st Battalion the Queen's Regiment. He had been a brewer's drayman, living at 4, Milkhouse Gate, which must have been a very small cottage. He had married Alberta Hillyer at Holy Trinity. She did not marry again, either through choice, or because of the lack of men to marry after the war. She was 38 when Arthur died.

Mary Alexander November 2014