

Trentham War Memorial

A timeline



Why a Memorial?

During and after World War One repatriation of the dead was forbidden.

Local memorials were “locally funded and locally decided projects”.

Their main aims were to:

- Perpetuate the memory of those who died
- Express gratitude for their sacrifice
- Show sympathy to the bereaved

In recognition of the centenary of the unveiling of Trentham War Memorial on 2nd October 1921, this timeline charts the story of its development and the people involved...



9 March 1919 – It began with a letter

Letter to Mr F Todd,
Agent for the Trentham Estate,
from Ernest Cornforth,
Church Warden,
about a Trentham Parish
Memorial to fallen heroes
From Staffs Archives

20
Trentham
March 9 1919

F Todd Esq Trentham
Dear Mr Todd
Trentham Parish
Memorial to fallen heroes

I reported your suggestion to the Vicar
this morning, which was that you considered
it high time to take action

The vicar entirely agrees & suggests that
a preliminary meeting be held at the
Institute the week after this coming one.
He offers to attend with you at a meeting
either

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Dear Mr Todd
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The vicar entirely agrees & suggests that
a preliminary meeting be held at the
Institute the week after this coming one.
He offers to attend with you at a meeting
either

Monday, March 18 or Friday March 21
Will you please see how these dates
suit your convenience, and advise
the Vicar direct at the Vicarage, because
meanwhile he holds these dates open
He expects to go to London tomorrow Monday
but your envelope could be marked to be
forwarded.

My own view is that a Friday night is
good for meetings
The vicar proposes that it be a meeting
of Trentham people as distinct from
a meeting of church members
He mentions the names of

"I reported your suggestion to the Vicar this morning,
which was that you considered it high time to take action.

The vicar entirely agrees & suggests that a preliminary meeting
be held at the Institute"

Letter suggests initial ideas about the form of the memorial

"The Institute offers a centre and its many facilities.

A wing added to the Institute with a porch or entrance would be a fitting chamber for any form of memorial tablets or the like.

A common room of good dimensions with a billiard table therein, or a separate billiard room.

The new wing to be dedicated to the memory of heroes and for the use of returned Trentham soldiers and for visiting soldiers from other places..."

...in a parish one
to the parish church
...as a centre and
...
...the Institute
...entrance which
...chambers for any
...tablets or the like
...of good dimensions
...table therein, or a
...room
...to be dedicated to the
...for the use of
...returned soldiers and
...visiting soldiers from other
...centres

Letter also suggests a source of funds

Trentham Institute Committee will
have to retain their own separate
seeing that "Comrades" would do
to be free themselves

- 1 The Secretary of Trentham & Hanford
Sewing party is my wife.
She has funds in hand which will
probably amount to £170
She is of opinion that her Committee
would consider it appropriate to
allocate the balance in hand - to the
Trentham Memorial to and for soldiers

She would need to find agreement with
whomever may have a possible claim
on the funds in hand.

The money is in the bank in the name
Emma C Cornforth
re Trentham & Hanford Sewing Socy
the money was raised to buy material
or what to work to produce garments
for soldiers
It would be open to the Committee
to contribute to make garments
they see chose.

"My wife, Emma Cornforth, is the
Secretary of Trentham and Hanford
Sewing Party.

She has funds in hand which will
probably amount to £170

She is of the opinion that her committee
would consider it appropriate to allocate
the balance in hand to the Trentham
memorial to and for soldiers."

Ernest Cornforth

21 March 1919 – Public meeting to discuss the proposals

- The well attended meeting at the Institute was chaired by the vicar, Archdeacon Graham.
- They wanted to decide that night what form the memorial should take.
- Several suggestions were made, with Mr J M Power urging that the dependents of the fallen soldiers should be cared for and that a memorial cross should be erected bearing the names of the men who served.
- Ultimately, it was unanimously decided that a fund should be raised to assist the dependents of men from the village who had fallen in action and to render help to the wounded and disabled; **also that a cross be erected to commemorate the war service of the villagers.**

...scheme for a war memorial for Trent-
...was held on Friday evening. On the
...proposal of Mr E. J. Pidduck, the Ven. Arch-
...Graham was voted to the chair.
...Chairman said they all felt that they
...not allow the services of the men from
...who had fought for them, and in
...given lives for them, ever to be
...So they had met together to try to
...best means of keeping those names
...membrance, by making a suitable
...particularly to those who had made
...great sacrifice. That meeting was held on
...particularly appropriate day, for on March
...of last year the Germans began their great
...offensive, and, possibly, men from that village
...tried to stem the tide, and, possibly, too,
...one fell in doing their duty in that
...fateful battle. A great war memorial
...is now being made in the Potteries,
...He felt that every parish and village
...should have the names of their soldier sons
...recorded, so that they might stand before the
...eyes of all who came after. The victory over
...Germany was won through the tremendous
...bravery of our soldiers and the self sac. of
...the men who died for their country.
...entirely belonged to that village and they
...should never be forgotten. They were there to
...stand on a suitable memorial, and, because
...there were divergent opinions, they wanted to
...decide that night what form the memorial
...should take. When that was done they could
...then raise funds
...and suggestions were then made, Mr J.
...urging that the dependents of



Archdeacon Graham



Mr A Fielding



Mr W B Hackney



Mr J M Power

Committee elected to carry out the plan

Committee Members:

- The Venerable Archdeacon Graham - Vicar of Trentham
- Mr E Cornforth – Railway rolling stock contractor
- Mr E J Pidduck - Manager of jewellers
- Mr A Fielding - Pottery manufacturer
- Mr W B Hackney – China and earthenware manufacturer
- Mr J M Power - Wine and spirit merchant
- Mr G A Mitcheson - Mining engineer
- Mr F Todd – Agent for the Trentham estate

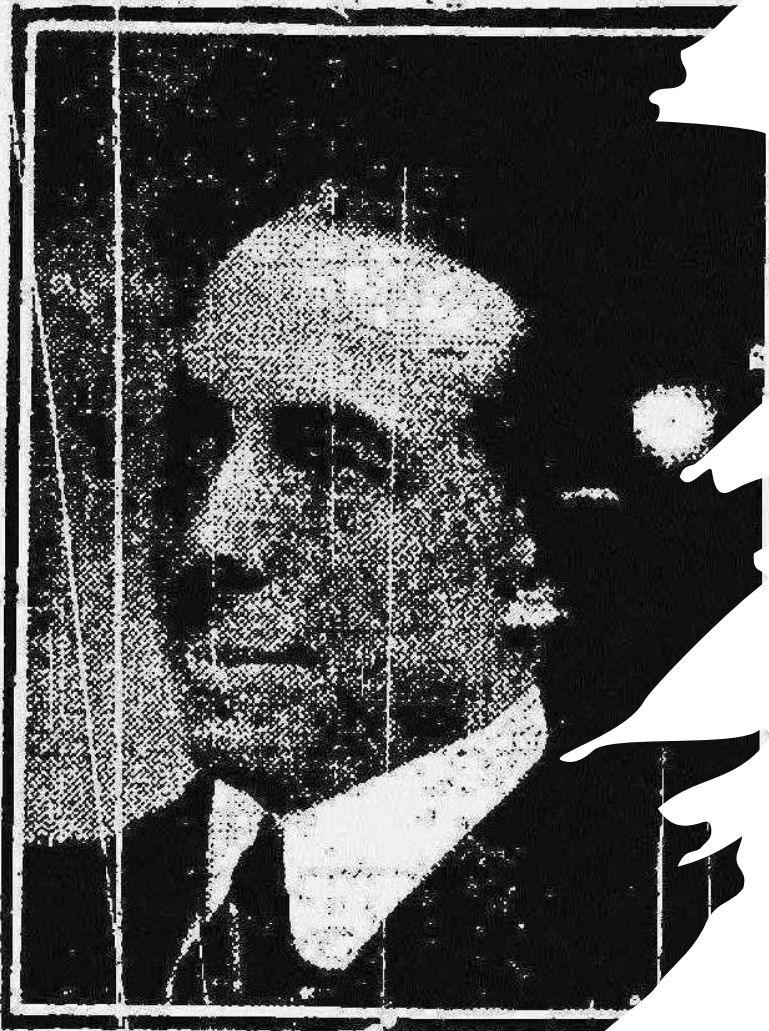
One of the committee members

Mr J M Power played a prominent role at the public meeting.

He was previously known as Hans Carl Pauer, a prominent freemason and head of the firm of Messrs Pauer & Co. Ltd, wholesale wine, spirit and tobacco merchants, in Piccadilly Hanley. He lived in Albert Road.

Of German descent he was convicted, fined and imprisoned for an offence under the Defence of the Realm Act in 1918, largely due to widespread anti-German feeling at the time.

On release he anglicised his name to John Mortimer Power and was elected to the memorial committee, but he left Trentham the following year and moved to London.



MR. H. C. PAUER

joined the Menturia Lodge
not been a regular attender
the awkward train service

of St. Michael's Lodge, St
joined the Lodge in 1896, w
ing was W.M. He has b
regular attendant, being an
of and believer in Freemasonry. In

19 July 1919 - National Peace Day

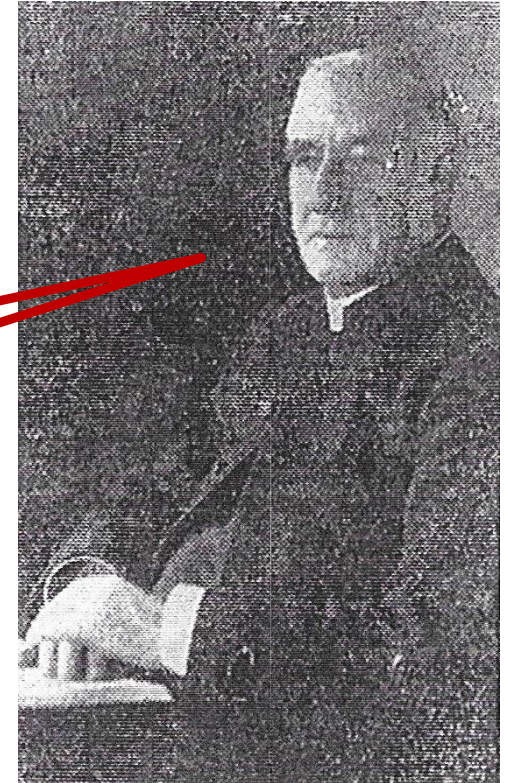
No rejoicing in Trentham to mark the end of WW1

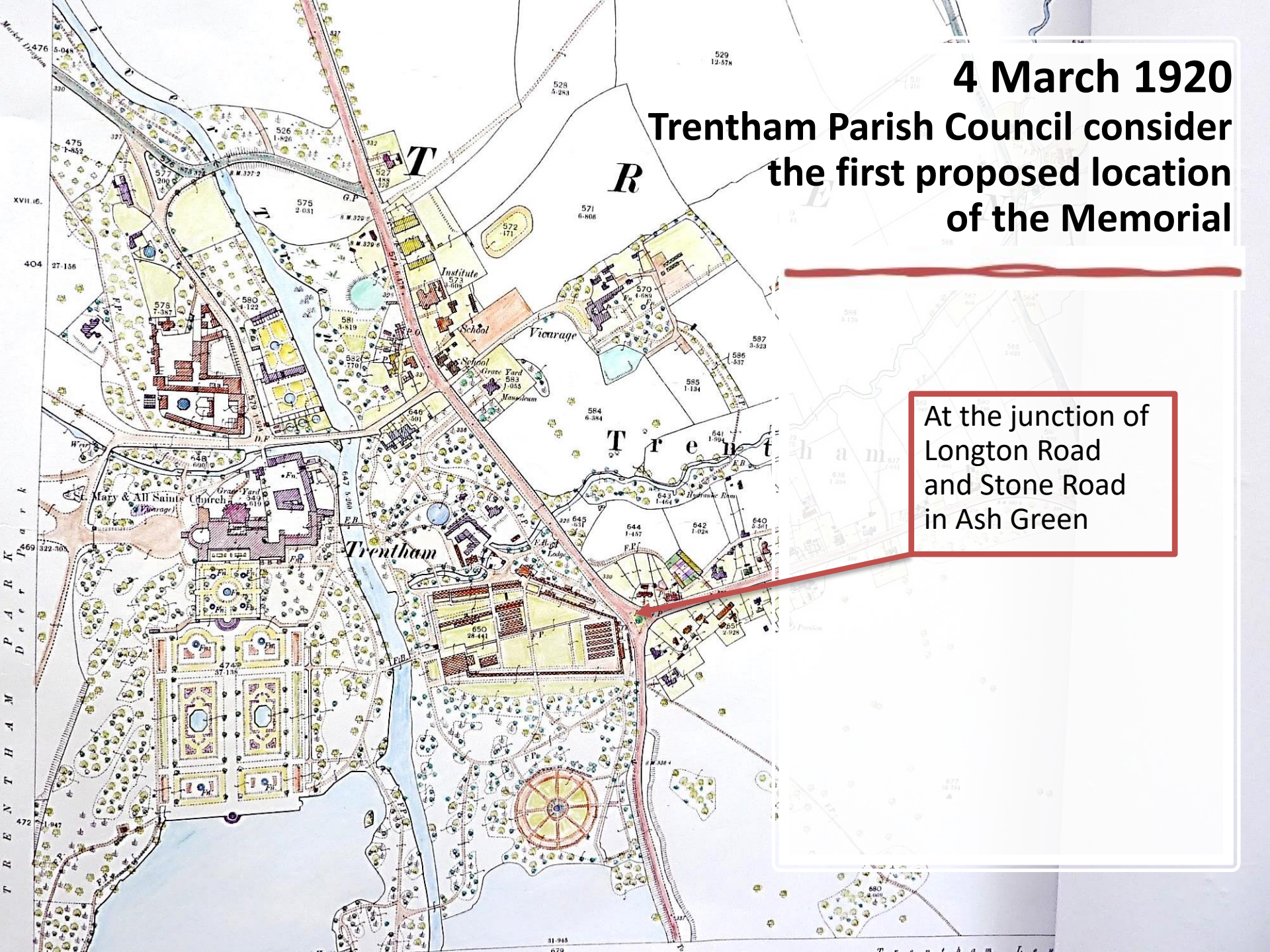
In March 1919, estate tenants had been served notice of the sale of their houses in an auction to take place in October that year.

In June the vicar reported that local morale was poor:

“...the prospects of the impending Estate sales are acting as a wet blanket and the people are quite apathetic on any other subject...”

On 11 July it was announced that Trustees of the Trentham Estate would entertain Trentham and Hanchurch children in the Gardens for the Peace Celebrations.





4 March 1920
Trenttham Parish Council consider
the first proposed location
of the Memorial

At the junction of
Longton Road
and Stone Road
in Ash Green

Memorial Trentham War Memorial: the following letter
County Council was read.

County Building
30th June

Dear Sir,

My committees have now very carefully considered
the proposal to erect a War Memorial on the corner of
the Stone and Longton main roads at Trentham, but they cannot see their way to do so.
Although there is at the present time a tree at
the spot where it is proposed to place the Memorial,
committees feel that having regard to the size of the
Memorial and the traffic on the main road,
the place indicated would not be for the public benefit.
of such Memorial at the place indicated would not be for the public benefit.

Yours faithfully,
E. W. ...

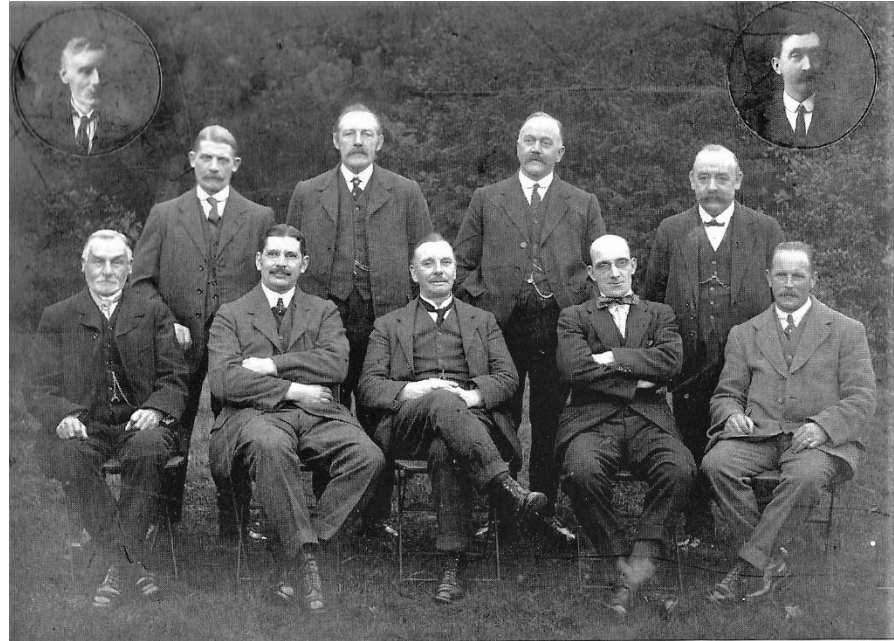
30 June 1920 Rejection of original site by County Council

...although there is a tree planted at the spot, the committee feel that having regard to the size of the memorial and the traffic on the main road...the place indicated would not be for the public benefit...

11 October 1920

Tensions arise
between the
Memorial
Committee
and the Parish
Council

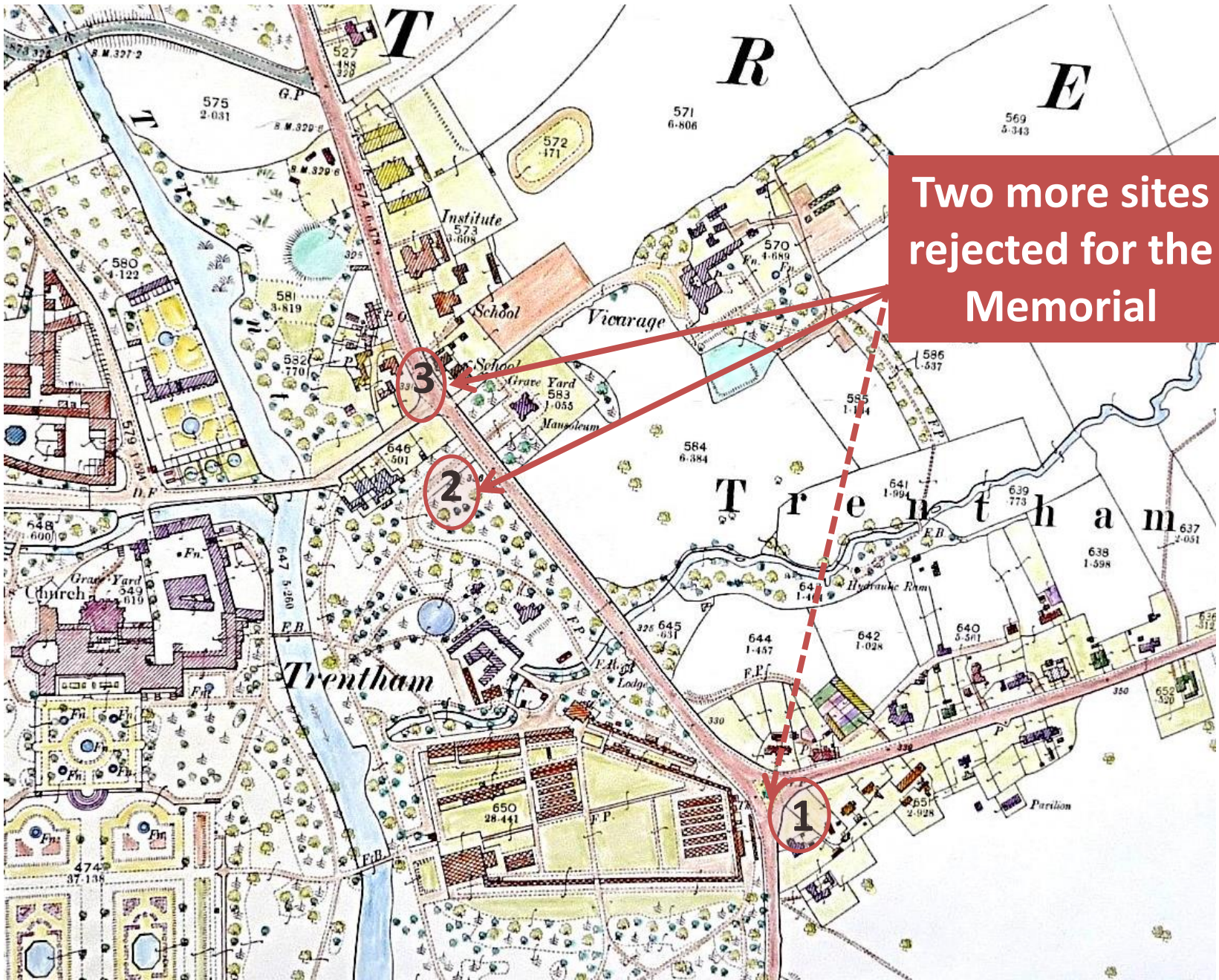
At a meeting of Trentham Parish Council, it was reported that Mr Cornforth still wanted the cross erected at Ash Green Corner.



Trentham Parish Council 1922. *Courtesy Mrs T. Shanahan*
Seated back: H. Selwood, J. Sant, A.V. Reynolds, P. Chadwick.
Front: T. Holdcroft, A.H.C. Wenger, W.H. Stevens, J.E. Hood, E. Lancaster.
Inset: Left, E.J. Pidduck JP. Right, J. Brooks.

The clerk was instructed to write to Mr Cornforth saying that the Ash Green site was totally unsuitable and suggest either the churchyard or cemetery were more appropriate.

Two more sites rejected for the Memorial



Fourth site proposal from Mr F Todd, of the Memorial Committee, to Mr Prowse, the Trentham Estate's London Agent

As a convenient site for the erection of the Trentham War Memorial may I suggest some of the large area of unoccupied and unconsecrated ground at the front end of the cemetery and which has not yet been formally conveyed to the Vicar and Church Wardens of Trentham.



4th and final choice...
large area of unconsecrated ground
at the front end of the cemetery,
offered by the Trentham Estate

Reasons for site suitability

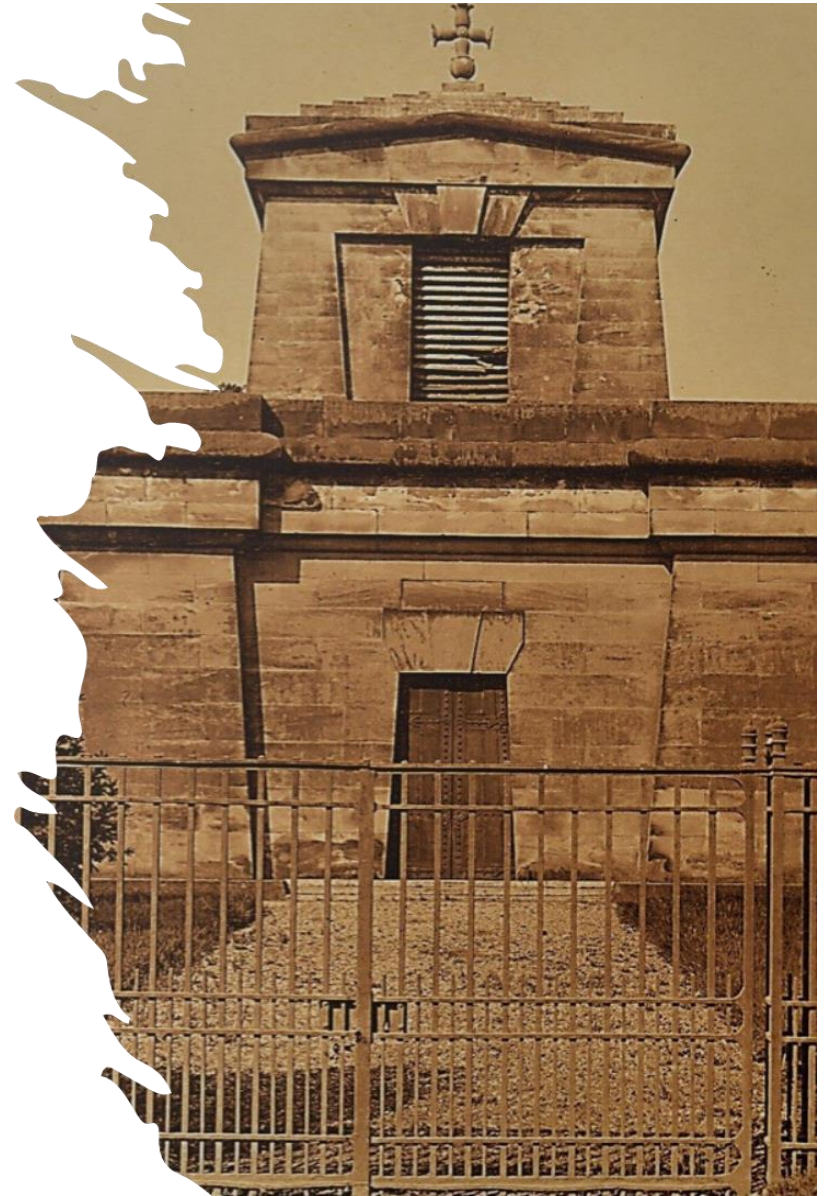
*Central
location*

*Fitting
background*

*Suitable
surroundings*

*Convenient
access*

*“The site is greatly improved
by its proximity to
the plain and massive
building...”*



Opposition from the Architect

In a further letter to the Estate's London Agent, Mr. Todd confides about the conflict between the architect and the committee:

I am to add that the Committee are having difficulty with their architect who holds very strong views on the placing of their Latin cross - which has a Christian significance - in close juxtaposition to a building whose architecture he maintains is a mixture of Egyptian and Greek styles and therefore belongs to a Pagan period.

The Committee differ very strongly indeed from their architect.



The architect objected to the juxtaposition of a Christian cross and a building from a pagan period. The committee did not agree.



Architect and Builder

Designed by Ernest Tellwright Watkin and John Brittain Adams, who were architects based in Burslem.

Erected by Thomas Godwin, a builder and contractor of Raymond Street in Hanley.

It was in the perpendicular style with a Latin cross and carved from Darley Dale stone, specially chosen for its pleasing colour, durability and permanence.

Last minute shortage of funds

The problem

“The committee are practically without funds, apart for the memorial itself, and are greatly concerned as to how they shall get the money together for the fencing.”

The solution

The Trustees of the late Duke gave permission for the gates and railings, now in front of the memorial, to be removed by the residents of Trentham ... to leave the whole space ... open to the public.

This resolution allowed the project to be completed and the unveiling ceremony to be planned

2nd October 1921

The service and procession

The short service at the Church opened with the singing of the Te Deum and concluded with the hymn "Oh God our help in ages past".

Afterwards a procession with the choir and clergy at the head, followed by Sir Hill Child, Mr Herbert Coates and the relatives of the fallen.

A path was taken through the gardens to the memorial, around which many people had already gathered.

The families of the fallen soldiers were accommodated within the railings.



The Order of Service

TRENTHAM PARISH.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 2nd, 1921,

Unveiling and Dedication of Memorial Cross,

Given by the Women of Trentham, in memory of those
who fell in the Great War.

Service in Church at 3 o'clock, followed by
Unveiling by

Brig. Gen. Sir Hill Child,

BART., M.P., D.S.O.

LIST OF THE FALLEN.

Joseph Bassett.	Sydney Charles Jones.
William Edward Brandrick.	Leonard Johnson.
William Clarke.	William Jones.
William Challinor.	George William Paget.
Claud Ramon Forse.	Harold Smith.
Stanley Fidler.	Harry Thorley.
Thomas Hemmings.	Arthur Thorley.
Allan Stuart Hughes.	

Evans & Walker, Printers, The Picochilly Press, Hanley.

Memorial Service.

TE DEUM.

Let us pray.

Lord, have mercy upon us.
Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.

LORD'S PRAYER.

PSALM XXIII.

LESSON. Rev. 22, 1-5.

HYMN 165.

O GOD our help in ages past,
Our hope for years to come,
Our shelter from the stormy blast,
And our eternal home.
Beneath the shadow of Thy throne
Thy Saints have dwelt secure;
Sufficient is Thine Arm alone,
And our defence in war.
Before the hills in order stood,
Or earth received her frame,
From everlasting Thou art God,
To endless years the Same.

Proceed to Cross.

HYMN 108.

WHEN I survey the wondrous Cross
On which the Prince of glory died,
My richest gain I count but loss,
And pour contempt on all my pride.
Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast
Save in the Cross of Christ my God;
All the vain things that charm me most,
I sacrifice them to His blood.

Vicar calls on Sir Hill Child to Unveil the Cross.

The names of the fallen will then be read, and the relatives will
place their flowers on the Memorial.

SIR HILL CHILD'S ADDRESS.

Let us pray.

ALMIGHTY God, our heavenly Father, we are here to thank Thee
for the loyalty and courage of those who counted not their lives
dear unto themselves, but willingly gave them up at their country's
call. We hand over these men of Trentham to Thy Fatherly keep-
ing in reliance upon Thy loving kindness and tender mercy—per-
suaded that Thou doest all things well—knowing Thou art too wise
to make mistakes, and too good to be unkind. In this assurance
we are about to dedicate to Thy glory and their memory this Cross,
the eternal symbol of Thy never dying love—through Jesus Christ
our Lord.

The Dedication.

IN the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ, who is the Resurrection and
the Life, we hallow and dedicate this Cross to the Glory of God and
the memory of the men of this parish, who laid down their lives for
their country; in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of
the Holy Ghost. Amen.

SHORT ADDRESS.

Let us pray.

FATHER of Light, from whence cometh every good and perfect
gift, we dedicate to Thy glory this memorial of the faithfulness and
valour of those whose names are here recorded; beseeching Thee to
grant that their self-sacrifice may be had in lasting remembrance,
and that they themselves may be remembered with those whose
names are written in heaven; and as in the service and defence of
their Country they have been faithful unto death, so by the abund-
ant grace of Thy dear Son, they may receive the Crown of everlast-
ing life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

"Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life
for his friends."

HYMN 499.

ON the resurrection morning
Soul and body meet again;
No more sorrow, no more weeping,
no more pain!
Here awhile they must be parted,
And the flesh six Sabbath keep,
Waiting in a holy stillness,
wrist in sleep.
For a while the tired body
Lies with feet toward the morn;
Till the last and brightest Easter
day be born.
But the soul in contemplation
Utters earnest prayer and strong,
Bursting at the Resurrection
into song.

Soul and body reunited
Thenceforth nothing shall divide,
Waking up in Christ's own likeness,
satisfied.

Oh! the beauty, Oh! the gladness
Of that Resurrection day,
Which shall not through endless ages
pass away!

On that happy Easter morning
All the graves their dead restore;
Father, sister, child, and mother,
meet once more.

To that brightest of all meetings
Bring us, Jesus Christ, at last;
By Thy Cross, through death and
judgment, holding fast. Amen.

NATIONAL ANTHEM.

GOD save our gracious King,
Long live our noble King,
God save the King!
Send him victorious,
Happy and glorious,
Long to reign over us;
God save the King!

BLESSING.

THE LAST POST.





The Unveiling

The hymn “When I survey the wondrous cross” was sung, following which Sir Hill Child unveiled the memorial.

In doing so, he said he considered it a great honour to have been asked to perform that duty.

“As a soldier and particularly as a Staffordshire soldier who has been privileged throughout the war to command Staffordshire men, I very heartily welcomed that opportunity of paying a small tribute to my fallen comrades.”

Sir Hill Child

Sir Hill Child was a natural choice to perform the unveiling.

He was the local MP in 1921.

Already a commissioned Army Officer, during the war, he rose to the rank of Brigadier General.

He commanded the 46th Midland Division of the Royal Field Artillery, which included the North Staffordshire Regiment.

Under his command the men of the North Staffordshire Regiment were involved in the Battle for the St Quentin Canal, on 29 September 1918, where their role has been described as “their finest hour”.



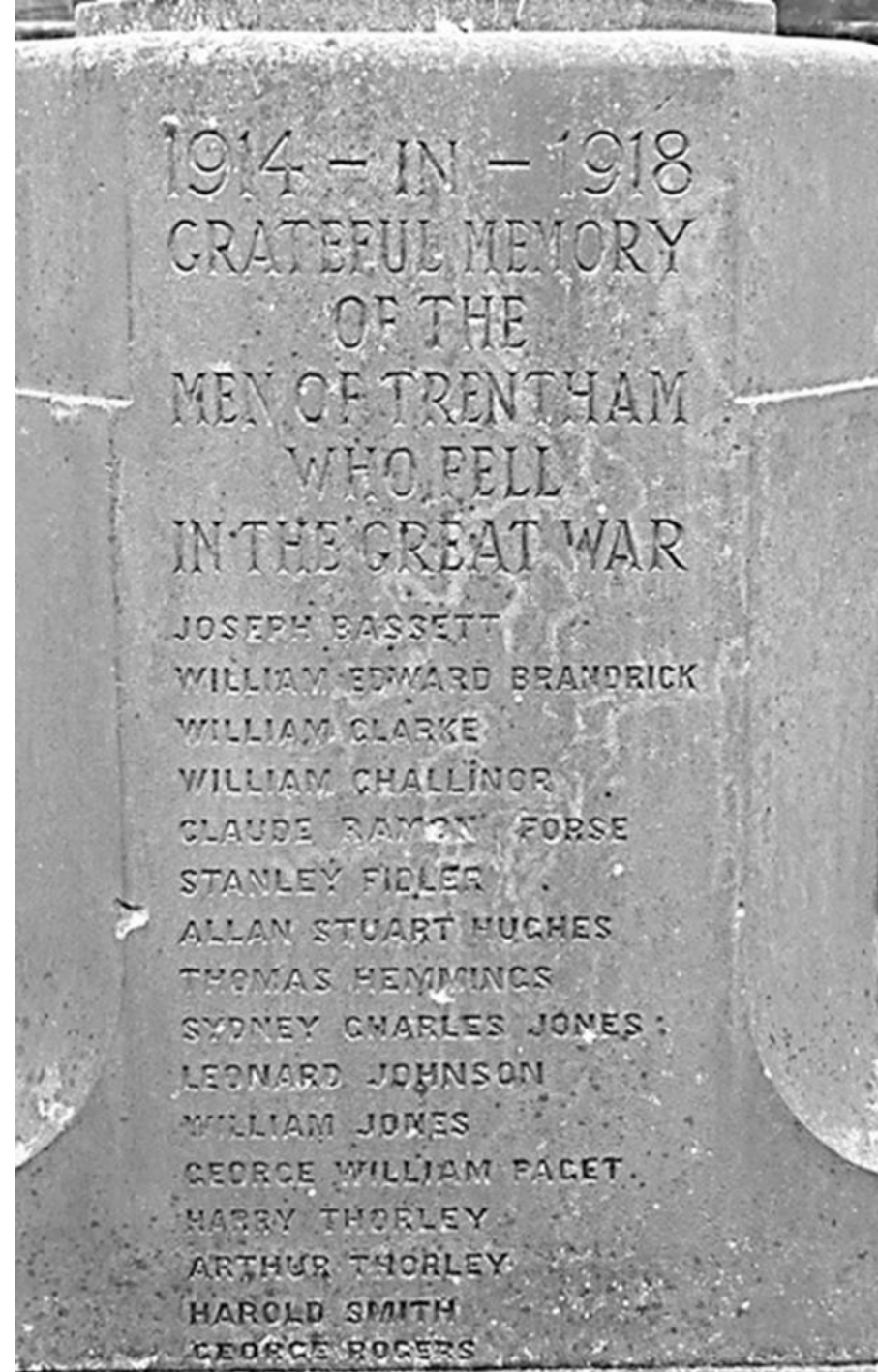
The Dedication

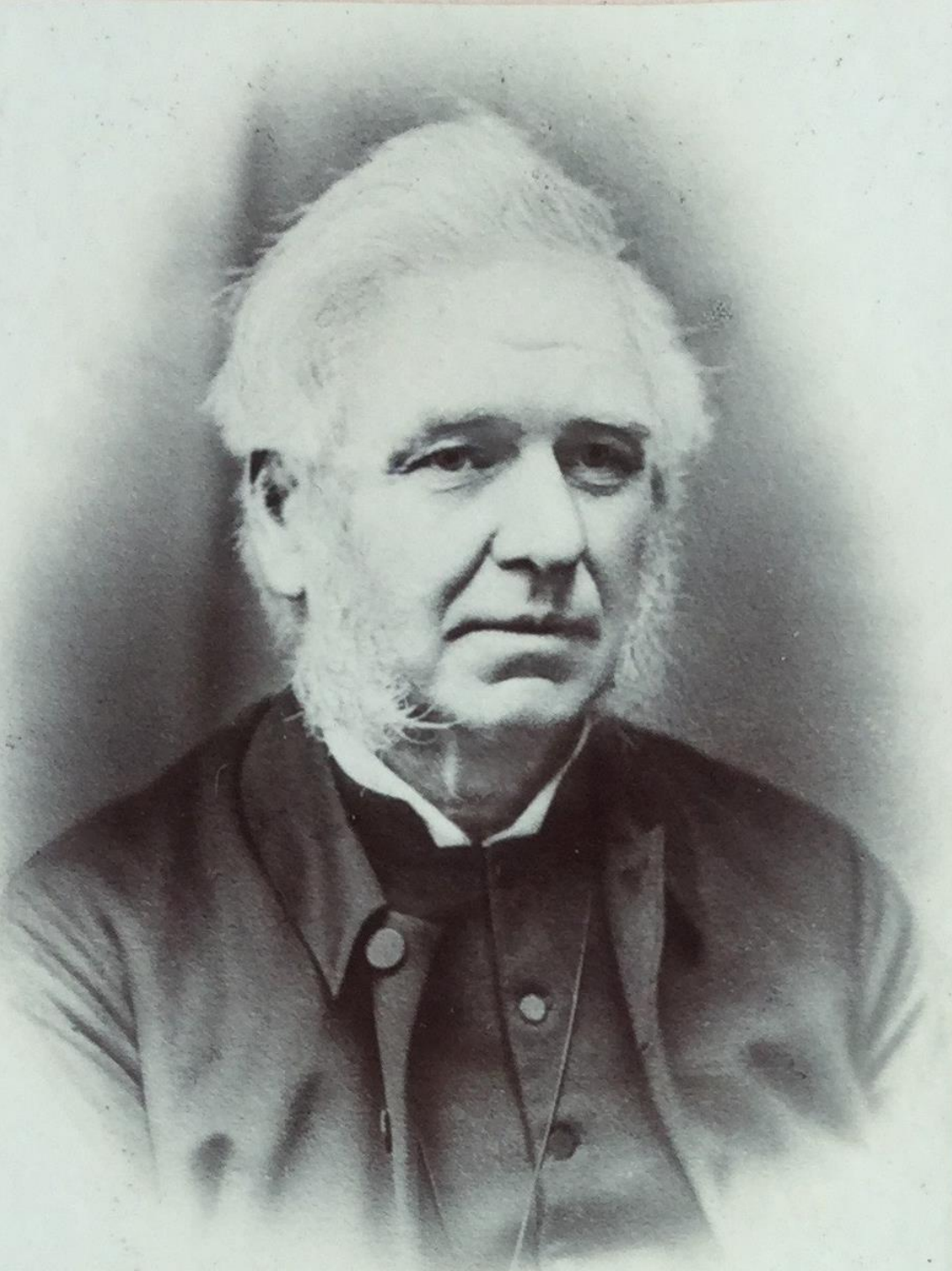
The cross was dedicated by the vicar, Archdeacon Malcolm Graham.

He said he wanted to draw attention to the names engraved on the cross.

“When those names were inscribed, the one and only fact they wanted to set before the eyes of the world was that these men died for their country.

Therefore no regiment or rank was added, because it was thought that all those who had fallen were on a level in making that one great sacrifice.”





Archdeacon Malcolm Graham

Archdeacon Graham had been Vicar of Trentham since 1908.

He was involved with the planning of the memorial from the very beginning.

Most of the men named on the memorial were known to him and some were from his own congregation at Trentham Parish Church.

The Laying of Wreaths



The hymn “On the resurrection morning” was sung, followed by the National Anthem and after the Benediction had been pronounced the Last Post was sounded by three buglers.

At the calling of the names of the fallen, the leading choir boy placed a beautiful wreath of roses at the foot of the cross on behalf of the women of Trentham. Another choirboy placed posies of roses as each of the names was read.

A large number of beautiful floral tributes were laid around the base of the cross by relatives of the fallen heroes.

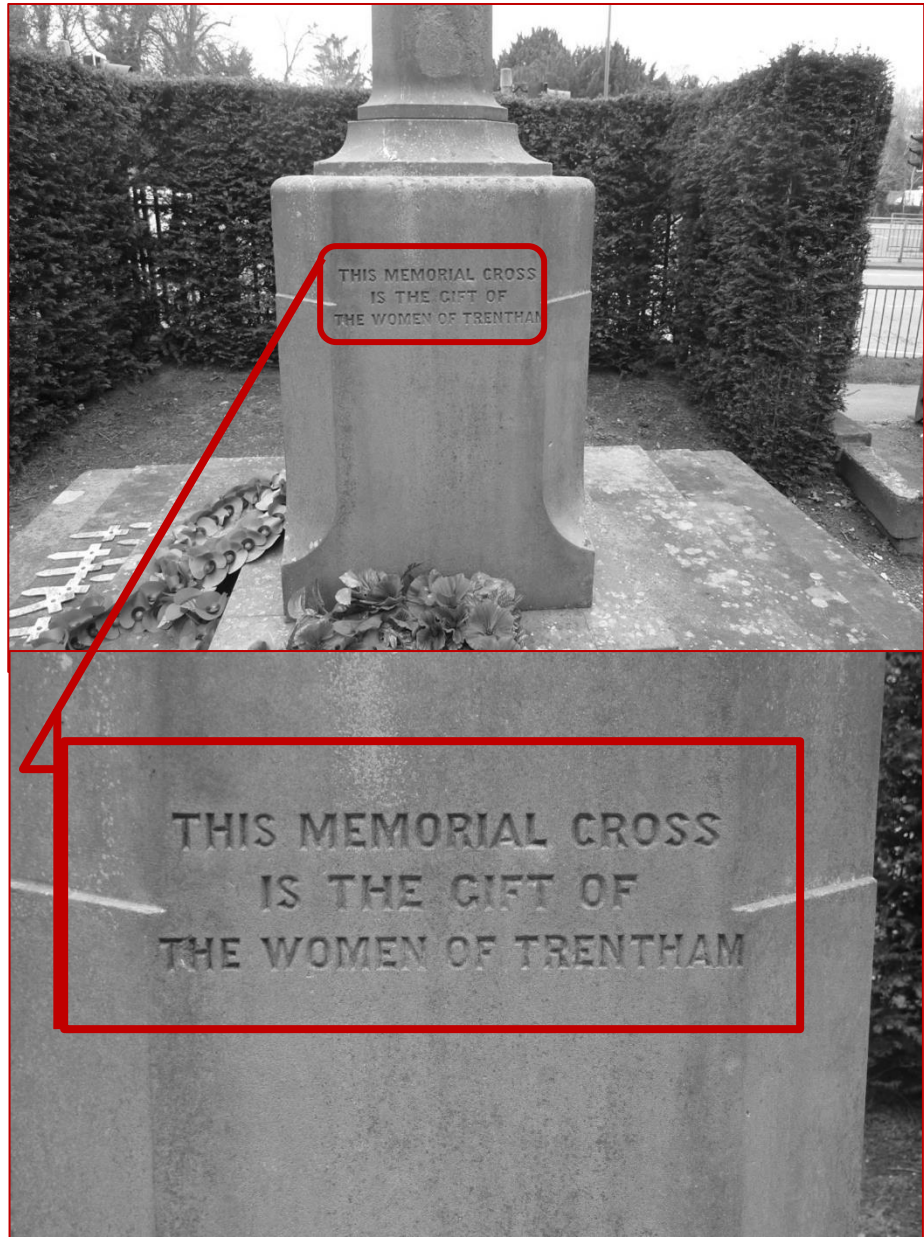
The Inscription

**THIS MEMORIAL CROSS
IS THE GIFT OF
THE WOMEN OF TRENTHAM**

“The women of Trentham who worked so hard during the War [knitting and sewing and raising funds for comforts for the soldiers], desired to crown their work by the gift of a memorial cross, and so to fill that particular part of the village remembrance programme.

Their gratitude to the men who gave their lives for their country has found expression in a dignified memorial.”

***Evening Sentinel* 4 October 1921**



The Names

World War One

Joseph Bassett
William Brandrick
William Challinor
William Clarke
Claude Ramon Forse
Stanley Fidler
Alan Stuart Hughes
Thomas Hemmings
John Pearson Howson
Leonard Johnson
Sydney Charles Jones
William Jones
George William Paget
George Rogers
Harold Smith
Arthur Thorley
Harry Thorley



World War Two

Michael Beswick
John Gordon Brassington
Donald Aubrey Chatham
Thomas Deakin
Eric Heath Hughes
Eric William Lakin
Michael Joseph O'Ryan
Hugh Sharpley
Roger Sharpley
Albert Joseph Wilson



Trentham Remembers



Grateful thanks to the men
of Trentham who gave their lives
in the two world wars

We will remember them





War Memorials and Remembrance

War memorials act as historical touchstones, linking the past and the present in acknowledgment and remembrance of the sacrifice of those who served, fought and died in conflict, especially on Remembrance Sunday.

Remembrance in Trentham continues 100 years later





Trentham Heritage Project



Produced by the Trentham Heritage Project 2021

Website: trenthamheritage.org.uk

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/c/TrenthamHeritage>

Facebook: Trentham 100 Years Ago

Email: trenthamheritage@gmail.com

Thank you for watching