



John 15:13 New International Version (NIV)

'Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends.'



Editor's note: If you recognise any names please do get in touch with me or any of the Church officers - we would love to have more information on these local families. Parish Magazine Editor: email emmanuelbridge@hotmail.com

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Emmanuel Parish Church War Chapel



**Extracts from the Parish Magazine
from 1914 to 1920
Centenary of the end of the WWI in 1918**



From the Parish Magazine issue for: September 1914

WORK FOR SICK AND WOUNDED

A band of needle workers, started by Mrs Townley, has been very busy during the past week or two in connection with garments for our sailors and soldiers who may be coming back from the War, wounded. Earnest workers have come forward with money to buy the necessary materials. A large room was kindly lent by Mrs Farrer Morgan for cutting purposes, and many parcels of flannel have been distributed and made up into various useful garments and returned to the Vicarage. The whole of the money received, some £12, has now been spent, and we invite further contributions to enable us to purchase more material. Money may be sent to [The Vicarage] 55, Cambridge Road.

‘A Christian is not a work of opinion; but of greatness of mind’ *Epistle of Ignatius to the Romans*

A Prayer

Give me a healthy body, Lord;
Give me the sense to keep it so.
Also a heart that is not bored
Whatever work I should do.

Give me a healthy mind, good Lord;
That finds the good that dodges sight,
And, seeing sin, is not appalled,
But seeks a way to put it right.

Give me a point of view, good Lord;
Let me know what it is, and why –
Don’t let me worry overmuch
About the thing that’s known as ‘I’.

Give me a sense of humour, Lord,
Give me the power to see a joke,
To get some happiness from life,
And pass it on to other folk.

T.H.B.W.



Photo: tapestry pew kneeler



From the magazine for: Dec 1918

‘How glorious are the heavens that Armistice Day! The moon and the stars that night I shall never forget. On the tower of Emmanuel, when taking down the flag for the night, the heavens did seem to declare the glory of God, and oh “all my heart how it praised Him.” We could not help praying and praising that night. Thank you all for gathering together spontaneously. Thank you for knowing that “of course” there would be a service at Emmanuel.’



‘I look forward to an evening of great joy on January 2nd [1919]. Please keep the evening free for The Annual ‘At Home’ of our worshipers. It will be quite a reunion, for already some men are home, and some prisoners have returned. Great joy!’

Rev Dwelly

NOVEMBER ELEVENTH

On the mighty day in history a midsummer sun toned every heart to a readiness for the great news.

Boom Boom “What is that?” asked the Bride just about to sign the wedding book.

“The Armistice is signed.”

“Thank God.”

“Ring the bells! Hoist the flag! Prepare a service of thanksgiving! Tell everyone you meet that we will praise God together at 6.30pm!”

Young ladies (who had been practising the bells in preparation for Peace Day) were soon running up the church tower, and a few minutes later the bells of Emmanuel were crashing joyous welcomes to the cessation of hostilities. The flags of the Allies were flown, and from the top of the massive tower to the base the flags of all the Dominions of the Empire were set for them in their glory. At the church door the standards of the Patron Saints of the Imperial Nation were set to welcome the stream of worshippers, who all day long poured in to return thanks. Three services were held during the day. At 6.30pm the service was choral. It was conducted by the Vicar (the Rev F W Dwelly), Canon Cronshaw, and the Rev W V Walmsley.

Rev Dwelly's letter:

Dear Friends

We rejoice with one another that the War is over, but we do not forget the sacrifice.

.... Let us hoist the flags on Sunday. With whole-hearted thankfulness for the honourable cessation of hostilities.

I am,

Your friend and Vicar,

Federick W Dwelly

A message from Jean Lee, The Reader

It's impossible to exaggerate the importance of a Parish Magazine during World War I. At a time before radio and TV broadcasting, when telephones were still a rarity, communication in Southport (as elsewhere) was slow. Local newspapers, including the *Southport Visiter* and *Southport Guardian*, helped to spread news of what was happening at the Front. As families and friends waited anxiously for letters from their loved ones or for telegrams bearing good or bad news, Emmanuel's Parish Magazine spoke to the Marshside community, describing day-by-day events in an area accustomed to farming or shrimping – but including news of a world the vast majority of its readers would never see, a world now at war. It was a time when the community as a whole pulled together – welcoming troops billeted in town and worshipping in the church – sewing and knitting clothes for troops in trenches or sailors at sea – raising funds to support injured men as they returned home – supporting widows and children – and, above all, praying for peace and a safe return home for their menfolk. During this time of turmoil, Emmanuel's south transept became a place of silent prayer. Pews were removed and regimental badges represented the men fighting in them. Flowers began to appear, in memory of men who would never return. After the war was over, the transept was converted into a permanent memorial chapel, the names on the boards a mixture – of members of the congregation, choir or Sunday School – of men from the parish who attended other churches but were dear to Emmanuel folk - of men who had moved away from Southport but whose families still worshipped here - of men with hardly any connection with Emmanuel at all - whose loved ones came here to pray and to remember husbands, brothers, sons, nephews, uncles, friends, classmates, workmates, fellow members of sporting teams – **whom we remember still, 100 years after they made the 'final sacrifice'.**

Yet another two men connected with us have given their lives for their country.

Taylor, Chase Heys, had been wounded four times, and we had hoped that this last might not prove fatal. Alas!

The Vicar offered a thanksgiving to God for his 'sacrifice for us', as with full military honours

he was laid to rest in the Southport Cemetery on August 25th. We give our deepest sympathy to the widow and the father and family; it is scarcely a year ago that we laid Mrs Taylor to rest.

On Thursday, August 24th, Mrs Wright, of 8 Mill Lane, heard the sad news that her husband was killed by a shell. The letter which the Lieutenant wrote was kind and sympathetic to the full; the Major of his Battery also wrote an appreciative letter.

Our sympathy is with the widow and her two little ones, as also with the mother – for 'he was the only son of his mother and she is a widow'.

The wife of our ever-bright choir man,
Mr R Baker, will miss her good brother.



From the magazine for: October 1918

FUNERALS

The Funeral of Mr Halton, at one time a choir boy of Emmanuel, took place on September 24th. The Vicar officiated. Full military honours were sounded at the graveside.

Mr William Duckworth was laid to rest with full military honours on the 21st of September. Many friends in our parish have watched his life from the early days when, with his father, he had his share in the privileges of Emmanuel, throughout the time when he held office in our church to the days of sacrifice in the war. As a sidesman and Sunday school teacher at Poulton he was much esteemed.

Miss Singleton has received news of the death from wounds of her much loved nephew. Private W H Singleton was a great favourite with us at Emmanuel.

We here record the deep sympathy that is felt, throughout our parish, with the mourners.

From the magazine for: November 1918

A RECORD OF THE OBSERVANCE BEFORE GOD OF OUR THAT THANKFULNESS FOR THE CESSATION OF HOSTILITIES



Sunday morning, November 10, a solemn Thanksgiving was held for the dethroning of the representative of militarism.

From the magazine for: September 1918

AUGUST 4

A record must be made of the services of August 4th. A reverent spirit of awe marked the inauguration of the annual Day of Remembrance. People everywhere seemed to realise that a great precedent was being set. The day was a sacrament of the national body.....

With such thoughts it seemed fitting that the Flag of our Empire should sentinel the Altar and on its fold should stand the Cross, the Paten for the Sacramental Bread, and the Chalice.

Thanks to Dr Harker, we can print an account of Remembrance Day on the field of battle:

‘It was held in the grounds of an old chateau. A wonderful sight! All units in this army has sent representatives; also some French, American and Portugese soldiers; all drawn up in a solid mass, with a big band in the centre on a raised platform. The General first made a speech (and excellent it was – short and to the point), then the service began, the band playing for the hymns, and a Bishop preached the sermon. Several of

our aeroplanes circled round all the time to keep any Bosche from bombing us. A very wise precaution! After the service all the troops marched past the General. It was a wonderful sight! There were several bands and the Americans has their own with them and their men looked very business-like – young and healthy. To my mind the New Zealanders were the pick of the bunch of the Flying Corps – looked very smart and marched well; and, needless to say, the Scotch troops were top hole. All the men looked so fit and smart, and mostly drawn from the different divisions in the front line.’

Photo: back screen & cenotaph



From the issue for: October 1914



and see, is terrible. Let us put our whole trust and confidence in God, remembering that He can over-rule everything, and pray that He will so bring it about that peace may be restored, a peace that shall be satisfactory and lasting. In our intercessory prayers at church we are not forgetting those who have gone forth from our parish to serve their King and Country. I am very anxious to have a complete list of all those who are thus serving, and I shall be very grateful if parishioners will send me without delay, the names of those who have gone or are so going.’

Photos: Memorial Chapel Cross top section, Memorial Chapel Cenotaph stand

EXTRACT FROM THE VICAR REVD STUART TOWNLEY'S LETTER

‘Mr dear Friends,

The great War is naturally the chief topic of conversation. How eagerly we all scan the daily newspapers for items of cheering and hopeful interest. These have been forthcoming recently, for the enemy has been driven back in France and the Allied Forces have made progress. The Russians have also made a further advance towards Berlin. These are indeed stirring times, but loss of life, both on land



WAR WORK

Through the individual effort of many, a large trunk has been sent to the head office in Southport of useful garments for wounded and convalescent men in the various hospitals and homes. We have also received further contributions to enable the workers to purchase more materials, and it is hoped that before long a second consignment of comforts can be forwarded to the right quarter.



Photo: Emmanuel Church Memorial Chapel

Extracts from: October 1917

‘Tis hard to be bright in these days, and yet it is a duty – only so shall we win victory. We must not allow the spirit of our homes to grow discouraging – what was it the Blessed Lord said?

‘In days of tribulation

Be of good cheer,

I have overcome the world’.

For the sake of the little ones and of the New Creation we must be of good cheer.

We are glad Lieutenant Dandy (son of Mr Dandy our sidesman) is recovering a little from his very severe wounds.

FROM THE MAGAZINE FOR: July 1918

PRISONER OF WAR

Miss Alice Johnson has heard from her brother, Dan Johnson. He is now a prisoner in Germany. The suspense of no news for weeks is so terrible (and there are several of our people now suffering this anxiety) that the information ‘prisoner of war’ is really a great relief. We never forget the prisoners of war in our daily intercessions at church.

CONGRATULATIONS

To Major Fred Ball, whose military decoration has been enhanced with an additional bar.

Photo:
Carved
screens



FROM THE MAGAZINE FOR: August 1918

DAY OF REMEMBRANCE

In the letter from the Vicarage.

I beg to call upon you to observe August 4th [1918] as a Day of Remembrance. Let the Day of Remembrance also blazon forth the banner which we raised that day [in] 1914 – the banner of chivalry.

MILITARY CROSS & PROMOTION

The King has graciously conferred the honour of the Military Cross upon Lieut Sulman. We heartily congratulate Mrs Sulman, also Mr and Mrs Rees upon this well deserved honour.

Heartiest congratulations to Mrs and Miss Graves upon the promotion to which Captain Graves is gazetted.

**FROM THE MAGAZINE FOR:
June 1918**

A PRAYER IN WAR TIME

**(Found in the pocket of a
Lieut-Colonel of the
Royal Artillery when he
was killed in action on
October 11th, 1917 at
4.30pm in Flanders).**



Father of all, Helper of the free, we pray with anxious hearts for all who fight on sea or land and in the air to guard our homes and liberty. Make clear the vision of our leaders and their counsels wise.

Into Thy care our ships and seamen we commend, guard them from chance-sown mines and all the dangers of this war at sea, make true their aim in mist or battle smoke by night or day, and as of old, give them the victory.

To men on watch give vigilance, to those below calm sleep.

Make strong our soldiers' hearts and brace their nerves against the bursting shrapnel and the unseen fire that lays the next man low.

In pity blind them from the sight of fallen comrades left upon the field.

May Christ Himself in Paradise receive the souls of those who pass through death.

Let not our soldiers ever doubt that they shall overcome the forces of that king who seeks to 'wade through slaughter to a throne and shut the gate

of mercy on mankind'.

O God of Love and Pity, have compassion on the wounded, make bearable their pain, or send unconsciousness.

To surgeons and to dressers give strength that knows no failing, and skill that suffers not from desperate haste.

For tired men give time for rest.

Pity the poor beasts of service who suffer for men's wrong.

For us at home, let not that open shame be ours that we forget to ease the sufferings of the near and dear of brave men in the fighting line.

O Thou who makest human hearts the channel of Thy answers to our prayers, let loose a flood of sympathy and help for children and their mothers and all who wander desolate and suffering.

With Thee who sufferest more than all, may we in reverence Thy burden share, for all are Thine and in Thine image made, they too are thine who caused the wrong.

O Father, may this war be mankind's last appeal to force.

Grant us that from the stricken earth, sown with Thy dead, an everlasting bower of peace shall spring, and all Thy world become a garden where this flower of Christ shall grow.

And this we beg of our dear Elder Brother's sake, Who gave Himself for those He loved, Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

The letters from the front this month are strangely full of a craving for peace, and such letters mean a lot when they are re-read after the lads have entered Eternal Peace, brave, noble-hearted lads.

The Vicar well remembers having the last few words with John Aughton, and now John, who was so good to his Mother, is where no distance can separate.

Some can remember Reg Howard singing in Emmanuel Choir, the love of singing never left him for he often wrote of his communion service on the field of battle. Everybody who knows the genial master at Churchtown station can feel for him.

Our Sunday School Teacher, Mrs Rimmer, has some beautiful letters about her husband Gilbert (son of Mr and Mrs J Rimmer, Cambridge Road). He mentions little services held by men on their own in the dug-outs – a sort of CO, there are over a million of such in the Army and Navy.

We are thankful Mrs Barrowclough is bearing the loss of her lad bravely despite her serious illness.

So we count up the price of the wonderful long continued run of victories.



**'Give Victory, and
Peace, in our time, O
Lord. Strengthen,
Comfort, and uphold
the mourners, O
Lord.'**

FROM THE MAGAZINE FOR: January 1918

HONOUR BY FRENCH GOVERNMENT



Congratulations to Dr Edmiston on the honour bestowed on him by the French Government. Dr Edmiston has been awarded the Croix de Guerre for his devoted work in succouring French civilians on July 29th. Many will remember that when war broke out the doctor was in camp (or on the way to camp) with his Territorial battalion, and with it was at once summoned back for immediate mobilisation. One common remark is that no one deserved the honour more than Dr Edmiston. We are very proud of this distinction, it adds one more to the number gained by members of our congregation.

FROM THE MAGAZINE FOR: February 1918

BACK FOR A CHRISTENING/ GOING BACK/ WAR SHRINE

Mr Bennet was back from the submarine service for the christening of his child. (But we had not intended to mention names).

The going back again is the most trying, but when we saw Mrs – the day before – was returning, she just was as brave as – as – the mothers and wives of England in war time. And yet we think of the sweethearts who also deserve a word. You see a wife, a mother, is recognised at her grief, but our hearts often ache for the girls who love and pray while nobody knows of their secret love. God bless and sustain them all.

Now a word about the War Shrine. It is being renovated. Anyone can put flowers there any time, but the days which are anniversaries are reserved sacred to the relatives of the fallen, little services will be held on those days at 6.30. So far we only know of one anniversary falling in February. After Evening Prayer on February 3, we shall remember Thomas Cadwell who died at Cleary from wounds in the head and right side. He was the first married man in Marshside to lay down his life. A member of the Bible Class.

FROM THE MAGAZINE FOR: March 1918

The Vicar is fulfilling a number of mission engagements this Lent. He writes that in no church has he seen a shrine to the honour of our heroes that for symbolic beauty can be compared to the one at Emmanuel.

FROM THE MAGAZINE FOR: April 1918

SYMPATHY

‘I believe in the Resurrection of the Body’

Very deep and universal is the sympathy accorded to Mrs Rice-Jones in the loss of her noble-hearted son. He died of wounds.

The war shrine will receive especial attention on April 10th and April 21st. The palms have been re-arranged to make room for more flowers. Anyone may place flowers on the shrine except on the above mentioned dates which are sacred to the relatives of John Morton and Percy Allen, who have given their lives for us. To all who mourn there is strength in the Uplifted. ‘I believe in the Life Everlasting’.

In your name let me congratulate Mrs Royale upon the honour conferred by the King upon her son, Mr Thomas W Royale, who has received the Order of the British Empire.



Photo: Carved Cenotaph showing a Red Cross Nurse, a Sailor and Soldier