



# **CHRIST CHURCH WAR MEMORIALS**

**PENNANT REPRINTS N<sup>o</sup> 15**

**NAILSEA**

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## CHRIST CHURCH WAR MEMORIALS

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**T**here are three war memorials in the church, two in the form of tablets, and the third as windows.

The main memorial to those of the parish who died in the Great war, containing 41 names, was dedicated on Sunday 12th June 1921 at a moving ceremony. The tablet was thoughtfully chosen to be made of bronze in a dignified simple style. The church magazine for 1921 records "With the exception of a beaded border, and a symbolic device of a cross, crossed swords and laurel wreath, the tablet has no so-called ornament, such merit as it will possess lying in the character and beauty of its lettering"

"There is cast bronze work of great merit being turned out today, and as our tablet will be a good example of it, it should stand the test of time and speak to future generations of the fact that we, of this generation, realised that we should never succeed in saying more than that those men of Nailsea whom

we desire to honour and whose names we wish to remember died for their country. The more simply this were said the better, that is why this tablet will bear the inscription "This tablet is set for a memorial of the men of Nailsea who died for their country in the Great war 1914 - 1918".

The cost of the memorial was about £100.

At the Dedication Service, the Archdeacon of Bath told the congregation how such memorials should serve as reminders to the living, and commended to their thoughts the words of the hymn they sang "Lest we forget".

"Organist and choir had a hard part to play, for hearts are touched at such a service. We were all able to feel in the inner depths of our feeling, the great purpose for which we were all gathered together. The presence at the service in large numbers of every organisation in Nailsea afforded proof that the memory of those who fell is a treasured one. We were helped by the presence of the Clevedon Band, and by the men's march, so admirably organised by the officials of the various bodies taking part in the march, and to Mr Jakeways, the Secretary of the Comrades of the Great war, who kindly acted as Secretary. The Nailsea Boy Scouts sounded the "Last Post" and "Reveille", and we may be sure that the lessons of the day were not lost upon them."

The Memorial for those who died in the 1939 - 1945 War was dedicated in 1947 (date unknown). Parochial Church Council minutes for 1947 record: "The Vicar said the existing memorial was in bronze, so it pointed to the new one being of the same material. He showed a design made at Birmingham of the proposed size and form, and described its suggested position in church. We must not discriminate between the heroes of both wars, and the situation would best be met by having a small tablet on either side of the existing one to tie the whole together in one memorial. There

are 18 names. The same material is available; the cost would be about £60."

The new memorial was paid for by people giving donations as a thank offering for the safe return of relatives, by relatives of the fallen, and by collecting boxes in shops as organised by Mrs Lister and Mrs Norman.

In addition to these memorials, new windows were given in 1925, paid for anonymously on the understanding that the work was given to Mr Arnold Robinson who had designed the Founders Window at Bristol University and other important work. The renewal was in memory of the fallen in the War, and in gratitude for the return of the living.

The windows had the following text at their foot, Joel 1 verse 3:

"These windows are humbly offered 1925. Tell ye your children of it and let your children tell their children, and their children another generation."

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