

WEST LAVINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

WAR MEMORIAL HISTORY

The following potential sources of information have been used to establish a history of the war memorial. Whilst there has been some success in the short term, enquiries are continuing and this log will be updated as new information is received.

- UK National Inventory of War Memorials – existing entry - log ref: 24247;
- Public Monument and Sculpture Association - nil;
- British History Online – nil;
- National Archives - nil;
- Local newspaper - nil;
- Wiltshire Regiment Museum – no response to email to date;
- Wiltshire Council Conservation dept – advice and permission received;
- Church Rector, and long-standing Churchwarden – no information to hand;
- Village historian L Dyson – photograph and caption [see below] of inaugural ceremony, 1921 from private collection of Hooper family [principal landowners] collated locally by Walter Burt and now held by Parish Church benefice.
- Wiltshire & Swindon History Centre [County Archives]: Parish Council Minutes & Accounts, Vestry/Parochial Church Council Minutes & Accounts. – EXTRACTS AS BELOW:

Vestry Minutes 1837-1922

23 April 1919

“It was proposed by Mr F Garton, seconded by Mr Mead, that a memorial of some description should be put up in the Church to those men who have died in the war. The vicar [Rev H Margesson] explained the scheme for obtaining self-procurement for the Church and also the necessity of members of the Church supporting the Central Church Fund”

Parish Council Minutes 1920

12 March 1920

“The Clerk was instructed to write [sic] Mr H T Holloway re the war memorial”

[note: Mr H Holloway was a principal landowner in and around the village at the time]

Vestry Minutes 1921

1 April 1921

“Mr J Evans proposed and Mr F Garton seconded that the design for the war memorial be accepted and that it should be erected in the south-east corner of the churchyard after a faculty had been obtained, this was carried unanimously”. [last entry to the Book]

[note: attached to this paper are b/w copies of the faculty application and its grant as registered in the archives of Salisbury Diocese, lodged with the Wiltshire & Swindon History Centre. These include a copy of architect/designer’s original handpainted watercolour sketch (F J Eden MA FSA, 6 Grays Inn Square, London, March 1921) submitted with the application. There is no mention of the stonemason/erecator.]

The following post-World War II records may refer either to additional inscriptions or separate Rolls of Honour inside the church – no evidence, other than eleven additional names that are actually inscribed, to suggest the exact purpose of the financial collection discussed below:

Parish Council Minutes 1947

29 October 1947

Meeting in the Schoolroom, attended by Mr Lambert (Chairman) Miss Holliday, Messrs. Bull, Challinor, Cox and Vear.

“Mr Challinor stated that he had received a letter from Mr Trapp regarding the provision of a Wiltshire Regiment War Memorial and asking for the support of this Parish. The matter was considered and the Clerk was instructed to forward the appeal to the Secretary of the local branch of the British Legion, as it was agreed that this was a matter better dealt with by them”.

10 December 1947

“The Clerk read a letter from the Secretary of the local branch of the British Legion stating that the British Legion considered the question was a matter for the Parish to decide, and it was thereupon agreed to call a Parish Meeting to discuss the matter for Tuesday 13 January 1948 at 7.30pm”.

13 January 1948

Parish Meeting – Mr Lambert (Chairman) and 8 parishioners.

“A letter from the British Legion was read to the meeting by the Chairman, and upon the proposition of Major Knight-Bruce, seconded by Mr Vear, it was agreed that an effort to raise money should be made. A house-to-house collection was agreed”

16 March 1948

Annual Parish Meeting – 11 members of the British Legion volunteered to do a house-to-house collection.

6 October 1948

Parish Meeting. 9 parishioners present, of whom 7 were councillors.

£37-1-3d raised in the village. Money was to be forwarded to the Treasurer of the Fund.

10 November 1948

Receipt received from the Infantry Depot, The Wiltshire Regiment Le Marchant Barracks, Devizes, thanking “the good Lavingtonians for their generosity”.

2 February 1955

Letter received from the PCC commencing the process by which maintenance of the closed burial ground/churchyard was passed on by the PCC, under Regulations available.

No further records in Minutes up to 1961 (last entry).

Last updated 9 September 2010.



The Unveiling of the War Memorial. Thursday 21st July 1921 by the Archdeacon of Wiltshire, Ven E. J. Bodington.

The **Band** is back by the church wall and in front of them are the **Army Buglers**.

Four Boy Scouts form the Guard of Honour round the steps of the Memorial. **Mr Margesson** is the clergyman with his head slightly bowed.

By the railings from right to left; **Margaret, Faith and Dolly Allsopp** (all in white), **Mrs Lye, George** – her son, **Mrs Harry Mead, Mrs Godden, Mrs Noyes** and daughter, **Mrs Moore**, Unknown, **Mrs Stow** (Sexton's wife) and her son **Alf, Miss Park, Miss Greenham, Monica Balchin** and **Mary Margesson**.

In Surplices L. to R. **Ted Balchin, Arthur Sealey, Mr Balchin, The Rev. Margesson** and in black, the Wesleyan Minister.

