

## WWI Guided Walk from the Parish Church of All Saints Boyne Hill

- Meet at **All Saints Church** where there are toilets in the Parish Centre.
- Look at the WWI Board in the **North Porch**. Talk about my Research starting with the Dovey brothers: **Harold W. Dovey** and **Leonard Mullard Dovey** to discover names and addresses and some photographs – the names have become ‘real people’. Show the information on Boards and in Folders. ‘Seymour J. is **Terris Seymour**’ – explain!
- **William Howe Bissley** – look at the **font cover** given in his memory. Tell information, his father was Churchwarden and show photograph. He was 2nd Lieutenant of RBR 8<sup>th</sup> Battalion. 6 Soldiers on our Board served as Privates in this Battalion: Ronald Jack Bates, William Henry Jones, George Shepherd, William James Taylor, William Henry Turner & Arthur Edward White.
- **Stone Masons** – empty stones – trenches.
- Go back into the North Porch to look at the Board again – I hope some of those ‘names’ become ‘real people’ for you during our Walk today. Tell them about **George Bird** (RBR died April 1918) and **Henry William Bird** (Machine Gun Corps died March 1918) were brothers. The family lived in Boyn Hill Road. The parents toured the country with swing boats – so Henry was born in Shepherd’s Bush! Henry and his wife Rose lived at **23 The Croft** and had a daughter named Gladys Rose born in 1910.
- Two other soldiers lived in The Croft. They were:  
Private **John Taft**, R B R, **19 The Croft** died Aug 1916 Thiepval Memorial  
Private **George William White**, Somerset Light Infantry **21 The Croft** died Sept 1917 aged 23.
- 95 of these names are also on the War Memorial at Maidenhead Town Hall.
- 11 of them are on the Bray War Memorial: Albert Edward Allen, Fred Henry Allen, Fred William Bartlett, Francis David Brown, Thomas George Dale, William James Dale, Archibald Grove, Brian Lightly Lawrence, Roger Ludovic Moore, Austin Joseph Walton and George Ward. Charles Eggleton is also on the Braywood Memorial Plaque.
- 48 of our Soldiers were in the Royal Berkshire Regiment.
- I have discovered Maidenhead addresses for most of them now and included something coloured on each A4 page.
- I have tried to find the lost Board from St Paul's Church, because those names should now be at All Saints. St Paul's was a daughter Church in our Parish that was demolished in the early 1960s when the dual-carriageway near was built at the bottom of High Town Road.

I have discovered 7 extra names that should be on our Board but are not yet there:

- **Walter James Bannister** whose family lived in the Parish
- **Charles Edward Cox** and **Joseph Henry Edwards** - graves are in Churchyard
- **Edward Cutler** - his name was on the War Memorial at St Paul's Church.
- **William Lipscombe** who lived in North Star Lane with his brother Oliver.
- **William Henry Roadnight** - In the Parish Magazine of October 1917 William H. Roadnight is listed in the Roll of Honour as 'William H. Roadnight RIP' - he may have been on the St Paul's Church Board.
- **Charles Stevens** who may have been on the St Paul's Board and his brother Frederick James Stevens is on our Board and buried in All Saints Churchyard.

There is one repeated name (Pope R.J. and Pope J.) and some wrong initials for Brown, the 2 Greens and others explained on their A4 sheets.

My updated research is on All Saints Church website and my information is being uploaded onto the fkac website.

Wait outside by the War Memorial while I lock the Church.

Look across to **Rutland Road** where **Cyril Christopher Mason** lived at 'Beechleigh' he was in the Army and died of sickness at Maily Maillet, France in Jan 1917 aged 26.

Walk to the top of **Clare Road**. Talk about **4 Arthur John Thatcher** (died Aug 1917 aged 30 Royal Field Artillery) & his brother **Walter Thatcher** (RBR died Aug 1917 aged 23) How sad for their parents Walter and Sophia Thatcher, of 4, Clare Rd.

**12 Robert Owen** (a Corporal in the Guards Machine Gun Regiment died April 1918 aged 25)

**83 Frederick G.W. Groves** (Army, died Feb 1918)

Talk about the 3 brothers from **12 King's Grove** sadly missed by their parents John Theophilus and Mary Jane Scott:

**Alfred Keith Scott** (died Oct 1916 aged 25 at Somme given The Distinguished Conduct Medal)

**Douglas John Scott** London Regiment of the Army he died April 1918 aged 32.

**Henry James Scott** died Jan 1916 in France aged 27.

**18 Douglas Joynson** (died March 1918 in Royal Army Medical Corps)

**20 Herbert Hedges Barford** (he died at Gallipoli on 21<sup>st</sup> August 1915)

Walk to **North Star Lane**. Tell them about **Oliver Percy Lipscombe** who lived here at **4** with his parents Charles & Sarah and brother his **William Lipscombe** (RBR died Dec 1915) and **Charles Ernest Attwood** from **12** North Star Lane (RN HMS Hampshire. 05/06/1916 Killed by explosion of vessel at Sea, off the Orkney Islands, when ship struck a mine in heavy sea's whilst taking Lord Kitchener to Russia.)

Walk to **Westborough Road** – tell them about names, house numbers etc here: **Harold Roland Bradley** (died Oct 1918, Wife: Elizabeth Bradley of 31 Belle Cottages) **Sydney Fletcher** ('East View' Canadian Army - Canadian Infantry, died April 1917). **Sidney Bertie Dean** (98 Garden Cottages, Westborough Rd, RBR died July 1916 at The Somme. Show photograph, explain 'Herbert Sidney Dean' mystery –being a detective!). **Charles Bruce Dormer** (he lived at 'Avelon', Westborough Rd, RN May 1916 HMS "Invincible"). **George Joseph Harris** (Coronation Cottages, Westborough Rd died 6<sup>th</sup> Nov 1918 in the Army Royal Hampshire Regiment) Garden Cottages & Belle Cottages were near where 'The Crooked Billet' car park is now.

**115 Robert Henry Porter** RBR died of wounds in France on 11<sup>th</sup> May 1915. 'Porter H.R.'

**129 Alfred Carter** (RBR died March 1917)

**137 Oliver Percy Lipscombe** (RBR died Oct 1916 he lived here with his wife Agnes)

Walk up Westborough Road noticing homes where the dreaded telegrams arrived. **71**

**Joseph Frederick James Whitehead** died March 1918 Royal Field Artillery Killed in Action at Arras, France, Husband of Margaret Elizabeth Whitehead

Cross the A4 to **Powney Road** and talk about the 7 from here who lived at:

**13 William Henry Simmance** (lived with his parents and worked as a Fruiterer's Assistant, then in the British Army, died Oct 1918)

**58 George J. Devonshire** (RBR he died 12<sup>th</sup> Nov 1918 he is buried in our Churchyard).

**62 Albert Stanley Gilder** (in the Army died March 1916 aged 18)

**81 Walter Harry Ward** (lived there with his wife Ethel Ward, he was a Private in the Machine Gun Corps & died July 1918)

**99 Joseph Keely** (RBR died Feb 1915 aged 24)

**113 Charles Wakeling** (he was a Sapper in the Royal Engineers. He died of illness at Dier El Belah, Palestine & Israel on 17<sup>th</sup> Nov 1918)

**117 Oliver Reed** (RN Able Seaman on HMS Good Hope died near Chilean Coast Nov 1914 aged 28)

Walk to the crossroads with **Penyston Road**, turn left and then turn right into

**Portlock Road**. Talk about the 13 names and twelve house numbers here:

**68 Francis Edward Steele** (RBR Killed in Action at La Mets Ferme, France. He was 'the first parishioner' of All Saints, Boyne Hill, 'to give his life for his King and Country'. He died on 20<sup>th</sup> September 1914.)

**66 James C. Beesley** he died 14<sup>th</sup> Nov 1914 at Ypres, King's (Liverpool Regiment)

**62 William Stephen Newport** (Army Devonshire Regiment Oct 1918 aged 18)

**58 Ronald Victor Smith** (in RAF Aeroplane Repair Depot, died 28<sup>th</sup> Nov 1918, buried in Churchyard)

**50 Godfrey Arthur Dyke** - a builder, painter and decorator RBR died Aug 1916

**45 James Henry Golding** (RBR wife Elizabeth, died Jan 1919 aged 43, grave in Ch'yard

**44 Cecil George Palmer Priest** (lived here with wife Grace Priest, Cecil was an Air Mechanic in the newly formed RAF, died Feb 1919, buried in our Churchyard)

**43 Jack O. Albert White** who was killed in Action at Peizieres, France Nov 1917 a Lance Corporal in RBR) and his brother **Arthur Edward White** RBR died Aug 1918, Killed in Action at Becourt Chateau, France. How terribly sad for their mother Mrs Emily White.

**31 Francis David Brown** lived (veterinary corps died 16<sup>th</sup> Jan 1918, he was a gardener in 1911 Census, married to Maude Louis Brown, had 3 children);

**26 Albert Stanley Gilder**

**24 John Taft** (also in The Croft and Penyston Road)

**13 Charles Henry Eggleton** (died May 1915 at of wounds at General Hospital, Boulogne) A family in our Church now live there and were interested to hear a WWI soldier lived there.

Walk back into **Penyston Road**. Talk about the name and house number here: **65**

**Sydney Nightingale** (Army Service Corps, died May 1918 at Base Hospital, Boulogne)

**39** This is one of the houses where soldiers were billeted in Maidenhead for training on local farmland, Maidenhead Thicket and at Cliveden. They had Parade Services at All Saints Church on Sundays. **13 John Taft** (also in The Croft and Portlock Road)

Walk along Penyston Road to **All Saints Avenue**.

**Walter Thatcher** from **Clare Rd** also lived at **119 All Saints Avenue Maidenhead**

Talk more about **William Howe Bissley** who lived in **All Saints Avenue**:

**Berkshire Chronicle 1/9/1916** - Lt. Bissley, played cricket with the Boyne Hill C.C. and Football and Hockey with the Maidenhead Hockey Club, a few seasons ago. At Maidenhead Art School, Modern School and at St Mark's College Chelsea he won many prizes and Diplomas. At the outbreak of war he was about to sit for his final examinations for the degree of B.Sc. London University. For many years he was a member of the choir of All Saints Church, Boyne Hill and a teacher at the Sunday School, he being an earnest church worker.

**Reading Standard 2/9/1916** - Killed on August 19th 1916, Age 28. He was the fourth son of the late Mr Frank Bissley and Mrs Bissley of All Saints Avenue, Maidenhead, and husband of Mrs Ethel Muriel Bissley. Lt. Bissley who fell in action while leading an attack on the German trenches. He was a member of a much respected Maidenhead Family. He was a Master at the Essendine School. Paddington. On the outbreak of war he joined the London University O.T.C. and in March 1915 he obtained a Commission in the Royal Berkshire Regiment. He went to the front in August of the same year and was made Brigade Bombing Officer....He leaves a widow and a daughter a week old. His Colonel wrote "...by his death the Regiment has lost a plucky and very popular officer and his work during the fighting deserved high praise".

- Walk into the Churchyard. Look at the Shelton grave and tell them about **John William Shelton**.

### **John William Shelton**

John died in the district of St George, Hanover Square, London in June 1916. It is possible that he was in a Military Hospital at the time. His father wrote to the Army after his death in June 1916 stating that his son had died from heart failure as a result of the "shock" in the trenches during 1915/16. John was probably suffering from shell shock. We honour this soldier from our Parish who fought in the War until February 1916 and died as a result of his War Service.

John Shelton was listed on the Roll of Honour at All Saints Church. He was buried in the Churchyard at All Saints, Boyne Hill on 12th June 1916. On the family grave is written: 'In loving Memory of William Benjamin Shelton died 11th August 1937 aged 73 'at rest' and Lucy Anna his wife died 29th May 1949 aged 93 And John William Shelton Son of the above died 8th June 1916 aged 24'

Parents were William Benjamin and Lucy Anna Shelton. 1911 census has the family living in 44 Albert Street, Maidenhead. John worked, briefly, for the Great Western Railway from 1908 -1909 as a parcels clerk and then gained employment as a coal clerk, probably at Maidenhead Station. He served with the Army from February 1911-February 1916. The 1st/4th Battalion landed in France on 31/3/1915 and John would have been with them. In February the Battalion was in the trenches at Hebuterne, Somme, in France and whilst it was a fairly quiet sector, it was cold, wet and miserable and they had been there for 5 months under constant shelling. He was Honourably Discharged 22/2/1916 under Kings Regulations 392 he had served his term in the Army and allowed to go home.

- Go in to see the site of the Bissley grave – read out inscription:

Grave 102 in the Churchyard is where his parents are buried: 'In loving memory of Frank Bissley who fell asleep on 7th November 1910 aged 59 And In most dear memory of Elizabeth Bissley his wife died 1933 aged 77. And their son William Howe Bissley killed in action in France 1916 aged 28'.

- Look at the white CWGC graves and find the eleven WWI graves.