

Fawkham War Memorial

The Fawkham War Memorial, which is situated on Fawkham Green some 2 miles south of the church, was unveiled on 21st November 1920 by T B Hohler Esq and the service was conducted by Rev T Matchett, Rector of Fawkham. It has remained in the same place since the unveiling. Many local war memorials were rededicated after the last war on Sunday 6th November 1949 but no records appear to exist to include Fawkham. A wooden tablet was erected on the south wall of the nave in the church after the Second World War with one additional name included (F N S Taylor).

During 1971 and 1972, Mr Leslie J Martin of 9 Fairview, Fawkham Green and Miss E S M Morphew of Forge Cottage, Fawkham Green collected biographical notes on those commemorated. Other sources consulted include the Commonwealth War Graves Commission web site, "Soldiers died in the Great War" C D Rom, Fawkham Parish and School registers, Dartford Times, family members and the 1901 census.

1914 – 1918

Private Albert J Banks, 254528, 3rd Battalion, London Regiment, Royal Fusiliers

He was the son of Mr Walter and Mrs L Banks of Fawkham Green. Albert Banks was born on 1st March 1899 in Betsham, and went to Fawkham Village School from 20th April 1903 to 1st July 1908. The biographical notes describe him as a big strong agricultural worker. He worked in the grocer's shop and drove a horse and cart taking deliveries to surrounding districts. He lived in one of the two cottages near to the former Beaconsfield Terrace at Fawkham Green. He enlisted at Woolwich and was killed in action on Thursday 8th August 1918, aged 18 years (sic) and is buried at Beacon Cemetery, Sailly-Laurette, Somme, France, (Reference III.E.6)

Lieutenant-Colonel Henry Roscoe Beddoes, 4th Battalion attached to 9th Battalion, Royal Dublin Fusiliers

On 12 October 1886, H R Beddoes became a lieutenant in the 7th Hussars after training as a gentleman cadet at the Royal Military College. He contested several general elections as a Liberal Party candidate before the war. His wife was Marie P Beddoes and with their 3 children, they lived at the White House, Fawkham. He died on 15th January 1919, drowned at sea when the S S Chonia was mined near Messina, and is commemorated on the Hollybrook Memorial, Southampton, England. His widow left the White House shortly afterwards.

Rifleman Horace Adam Clark, S/17530, 12th Battalion, Rifle Brigade

He was born in Kemsing, and was still living there at the time of the 1901 Census aged 8 years. Subsequently, he lived in one of the two old cottages which stood on the left hand side at the entrance to Small Grains at Fawkham Green. He enlisted at Woolwich and was killed in action on Friday 22nd March 1918. He is commemorated on the Pozieres Memorial, Somme, France (Panel 81 to 84) and left a young widow and a son born after his father was killed.

Lieutenant -Colonel William Vicris Dickinson C M G, Assistant Adjutant-General, 3rd Echelon of General Headquarters, late commanding 2nd Battalion Welsh Regiment

He passed his army entrance examination in January 1876 and became a lieutenant in the 69th foot in September 1878. He was appointed assistant adjutant-general on 22 August 1914. He lived at the Hillside House, Fawkham and died suddenly on Sunday 28th October 1917 aged 61 years. He left a widow, Mary and is buried at St Sever Cemetery, Rouen (Reference Officers B 8 7).

Corporal Charles Haygreen, 54143, 22nd Heavy Battery, Royal Garrison Artillery

He was the third son of Charles and Emma Haygreen who had moved from Cowling in Suffolk to Brasted in Kent and then to Hartley Green and to Wickhams in Fawkham. Wickhams, an old thatched cottage which stood in Woodsall Lane (now called Manor Lane) was the family home and has since been replaced by the present Wickhams. At the time of World War One, they lived at 7 Park Road, Dartford. Charles was born on 24th November 1889 in Hartley, went to Fawkham Village School from 25th March 1901 to June 1902 and had worked for Mr Humphries of the Small Owners Company in Hartley. He enlisted in November 1914 at Deptford, went to France in August 1915 and died of wounds on Wednesday 10th October 1917 aged 28 years. He is commemorated at Godewaersvelde British Cemetery, Nord, France. He is also commemorated on the Dartford War Memorial and appears in the Dartford Chronicle of 2nd November 1917. His brother is also commemorated on the Fawkham memorial.

Rifleman Ernest Harry Haygreen, R/28896, attached 2nd /16th Battalion, London Regiment (Queen's Westminster Rifles)

He was born at Hartley Green on 3rd June 1897, the youngest son of Charles and Emma Haygreen. He went to Fawkham Village School from 8th June 1903 to 10th November 1911 and enlisted at Woolwich. He was wounded on the advance to Messine Ridge, sent to First Aid Post and was not seen again. He died of wounds on Saturday 28th September 1918 aged 20 years. He is commemorated at Tyne Cot Memorial, Zonnebeke, West Vlaanderen, Belgium. Like his brother he is also commemorated on Dartford War Memorial and appears in the Dartford Chronicle on 14th March 1919.

Private Francis Newman Samuel Taylor, 68595, "A" company, 8th Battalion, the Queen's Royal West Surrey Regiment

He was a son of Samuel and Elizabeth Taylor of 6, Brown's Cottages, Hayes End, Middlesex and a native of East Peckham, Kent. He enlisted at Ealing and was killed in action on Friday 11th October 1918 aged 19 years. He is commemorated at St Aubert British Cemetery, Nord, France (Reference III A 7). The "Soldiers died in the Great War" records him living at Hanwell, Middlesex and the biographical notes mention that that he lived for a while next to the Baker's Shop at Fawkham Green.

Private E Young, 1636, 15th Battalion, Australian Infantry, Australian Imperial Force

Edward Charles Young was the fifth son of William and Elizabeth Young and was born in Fawkham on 21 December 1878. He went to Fawkham Village School from 4 May 1883 to 24 April 1891. The Young family had lived at Green Farm near Fawkham Green since the 1860's. In the 1901 census he is shown as a baker's assistant aged 22 years. The biographical notes states that he went to Australia with his brother Jim in 1912. Official Australian records show that he joined up at Claremount in Tasmania on 22 December 1914. He went to Gallipoli on 13 April 1915 and was killed in action there on 9 August 1915. He was an uncle of Mr Leslie J Martin of Fawkham who compiled the biographical notes.

1939 – 1945

Private George William Booker, 5343754, 5th Battalion, Wiltshire Regiment

He was the son of George William and Clara Booker later of Rose Cottage, Fawkham Green, and the husband of Maud Alice Booker of Ash. He was born on 28th August 1915 and went to Fawkham Village School between 4th October 1920 and 26th July (no year given). George worked at the grocer's shop which was also the village post office. He died on Monday 14th August 1944 aged 28 years and is commemorated at Tilly Sur Seulles War Cemetery, Calvados, France (Reference V D 10).

Gerald Cramp
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