

The Ely Memorials Saga from the newspapers (dates are publication dates – Fridays):

17/1/1919

Both **St Marys and Holy Trinity Churches** have determined what form their memorials to the Fallen will take, and have started appeals for subscriptions.

31/1/1919

The first meeting of the Post of the **Ely Comrades of the Great War** takes place in the Public Rooms. Since soldiers began to be demobilised, about 50 men have joined. They are to have a strong interest in the form the Ely memorial will take, and consistently put forward schemes which will be of practical benefit to the surviving ex-servicemen.

7/3/1919

A public meeting is called about the **city's war memorial**; the most popular suggestion is a cottage hospital. The Dean of Ely wants a memorial for the whole district **in the cathedral**.

A committee is formed which is to consist of: the Bishop and Mrs Chase; all clergy in the area whether parochial or Free Church – namely Rev'ds S Addleshaw, A C Hair, H R Campion, T J Kirkland, G Vipond Byles, W Timms -; Lieutenant Colonel Goodwyn L Archer (Chair of the Comrades of the Great War Post); the Chairman of the Urban District Council; Dr Curl; and local leaders / employers Messers C Bidwell, A Hall, F L Harlock, W Cutlack, W Lincoln, J F Markiville, E S Harvey, W Bailey, J F Burrows, P S Allen. Invitations were also to be sent to other local institutions to send a nominee.

18/4/1919

The Vicar of **St Mary's** asks his parishioners to check the three framed lists of casualties posted in the church's chancel arch to make sure that names, ranks and regiments are correct.

2/5/1919

Professor A C Seward, Master of Downing College, Cambridge, suggests that the memorial in the cathedral should be for the **whole county**, not just Ely District.

6/6/1919

Dean Kirkpatrick (who has not yet consulted with the Cathedral Chapter) suggests that the "little chapel next to St Edmund's Chapel" (*the current St George's Chapel*) should be the site of the **Cambridgeshire Memorial** which is expected to include about 4,000 names.

Meanwhile the Ely City Memorial sub-committee is looking at the possibility of a memorial cottage hospital.

The Comrades of the Great War now number about 170 and want their own club room – a room at the White Hart is set aside for them to read newspapers.

15/8/1919

The memorial in the **Ely Methodist Church** is unveiled and carries eight names of congregational members who have died. A roll of honour lists over one hundred men who served. It is noted that four of the church's members are still serving abroad: W E Mc Fall; Sydney Sykes, A B Fenn, F W Nash.

22/8/1919

The cost of the cottage hospital memorial project is estimated at £5,000, but this assumes that a suitable site will be *donated*. Thereafter £1,000 a year will be required to keep it running. Doubts as to the feasibility of the project begin to surface.

Ely Cathedral "old boys" meet to discuss a memorial to the fallen choristers. Over one hundred former choristers volunteered to fight in the Great War, and more must have been called up later.

26/9/1919

The Ely Ratepayers Committee asks the War Memorial Committee to consider building permanent lavatory accommodation for both men and women on the Market Square as the city's memorial. The idea is dismissed out of hand as "a disgraceful scandal".

3/10/1919

The Comrades of the Great War ask for the memorial to take the form of a swimming bath with hot and cold baths.

The War Memorial Committee is trying to find grants for the cottage hospital memorial.

7/11/1919

The Ely cottage hospital memorial scheme is abandoned as only £600 in Red Cross grants could be relied upon. Another public meeting is to be called to determine whether Ely wants a memorial at all, as the local churches are all active creating their own memorials. There is rumoured to be general apathy for a public memorial. Cambridgeshire as a whole is also collecting for the county memorial which is to be an extension to **Addenbrookes Hospital**.

14/11/1919

There is some unrest in **Prickwillow** as the non-conformists want a public village memorial to the Fallen, rather than the proposed memorial in the parish church.

5/12/1919

A well-attended public meeting on the Ely Memorial takes place. Two definite proposals are put forward – one for a simple monument and the other for a **clubhouse**. The clubhouse proposal receives support from about 75% of those present (there is later a great deal of opposition to this decision in the city as a whole).

The Precentor of the Cathedral, Rev'd J H Crosby, suggests **a monument should be built next to the present war shrine**. A letter from Dean Kirkpatrick is read out about the Cambridgeshire Memorial which will probably be placed under the West Tower on the large blank wall of the former **North West Transept** where the original Ely Roll of Honour was placed 1914 -15. About £4,000 has been raised so far throughout the county for a Cambridgeshire cum Isle of Ely memorial – this is for both Addenbrooke Hospital and Ely Cathedral.

It was generally agreed that the war shrine was an important focus and comfort for the bereaved and that whatever form the memorial took it should be to the dead, and for all of Ely Urban Area, not just the city. The Ely Urban Area list of names currently stood at 218. It was agreed to proceed with the **memorial clubhouse proposal, if possible including a baths complex**.

12/12/1919

Holy Trinity Church posts its Roll of Honour (about 70 names) for checking.

19/12/1919

The new **City of Ely Red Book** is printed. Eight pages are printed in gold and carry the names of the fallen. The 218 names consist of: 89 for Holy Trinity; 81 for St Mary's; 30 for Prickwillow; 6 for Queen Adelaide; 12 for Stuntney.

26/12/1919

From the **correspondence** page of the Ely Standard on the recent list of names for the War Memorial: "... there were five mistakes in the first two names I looked for..."

2/1/1920

St Mary's Church Committee has agreed the form of their memorial. It is to be a stained glass window with the verse "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends". (*A Biblical verse frequently used by the Forces Chaplains when they wrote to bereaved families, and which was already used on Ely's war shrine.*) The window included a scene of the crucifixion of Jesus with St George on the left and the body of Brythnoth, (hero of the Battle of Maldon against the Danes) being brought back to Ely on the right. The message of the whole window was intended to be one of courage and sacrifice. The 81 names of the Fallen were to be inscribed on brass plates which would be fixed beneath the window. It was noted that not all the funding was yet in place for this memorial.

30/1/1920

About fifty **Comrades of the Great War** turn out for their AGM (there were actually 340 men registered and the list was still growing). Colonel Archer is again elected President. They hope to get a grant to open a **memorial clubhouse**.

12/3/1920

The Ely War Memorial Committee meets with Major J C Luddington in the Chair. They discuss the clubhouse proposal in the light of a grant of £250 which may be acquired from the **National Services**

Fund. (The Fund was offering grants to organisations of 5 shillings per head for all those who served in the War in their locality.) There was now the need to start gathering subscriptions from ex-servicemen and a “buy a brick” scheme, which made the men shareholders in the club for one shilling, was proposed. Total cost was estimated at £3,000-£4,000. It was noted there were many objections to the scheme around Ely because this was to be an ex-servicemen’s club and not one for general use (although eventually it would become simply a men’s club in many years’ time).

No final decision was made.

Bishop Chase dedicates the memorial window at St Mary’s which is now in place. The whole £300 for the scheme was raised by voluntary contributions. Drummer Jonathan A Tingey sounds the Last Post – a role he was to take on at many similar occasions over the years.

26/3/1920

The Ely Standard reports that **the war shrine** has become a dumping ground and is not properly cared for. Relatives of the deceased are still leaving flowers there and “universal disgust is prevalent at the absence of that attention which the memorial demands.”

As no funding has been found, the War Memorial sub-committee looking at the clubhouse proposal has **decided not to proceed further** and has dissolved itself. The general feeling amongst the populace was that there was no need to try to keep the ex-soldiers together in this way and subscriptions were not forthcoming. (There were already three other clubs in town that the men were using.) Rev’d T Thompson speaks up that a war memorial is still wanted. **Another general meeting** is to be called by the Urban District Council to decide next steps.

9/4/1920

Mrs Claud Crosby writes to the Ely Standard to say that the **Girl Guides** will take over the care of the war shrine as “part of their duty as good citizens”.

7/5/1920

Ely Comrades of the Great War persist in looking for a clubhouse. They are offered rooms in Oxford House on Forehill and were looking at using the National Services Fund £250 grant for that purpose. At this stage only 55 of the Comrades’ 338 members had paid their annual subscription and it was felt that they could not ask for the rest of the subscriptions to be paid without a clubhouse.

The Cambridgeshire and Isle of Ely War Memorial Committee allocates £6,000 to Addenbrookes Hospital. A sub-committee is then formed to consider the allocation of funding for monuments in Cambridge and Ely; **£3,140 is set aside for the memorial in Ely Cathedral.** By this stage most villages in the county had already got memorials in place, so the committee did not expect much more to be donated to the general fund.

25/6/1920

Major W J C Luddington calls a meeting on the Barracks Square for all ex-servicemen to take place on 4th July. This is to discuss the future of the Ely Memorial.

2/7/1920

The Comrades are shown photographs of work on other war memorials carried out by Mr Stow Barber of Leominster which consist principally of figures of soldiers in marble, it was agreed "as the design is of no use at present the matter was held in abeyance".

Miss Frances Allen, Staff Captain of the **1st Ely Company of Guides**, appeals for donations of flowers for the war shrine.

9/7/1920

The meeting on the Barracks Square takes place with Colonel Archer chairing it in the absence of Major Luddington. Less than fifty of the potential 1,000 men attended. Mr W Rickwood, Secretary of the United Services Fund Committee, is in attendance. Only three proposals are put forward – all for a clubhouse – and the meeting votes for obtaining the house recently vacated by the RAF in Silver Street. It is confirmed that the United Services Fund can provide £200 (five shillings for each of the serving men in Ely District). The house has been offered at £450 and about £200 would be needed to fit it up. The proposal is now left with the Comrades Committee to consider and report back on.

16/7/1920

St Mary's Church uses the residue of the money from its war memorial fund to buy a new altar cross.

6/8/1920

A memorial stained glass window has been placed in **St Etheldreda's Roman Catholic Church**. A Roll of Honour is being purchased which will be framed and displayed.

The price of the possible clubhouse in Silver Street has risen to £500. The United Services Fund is handling the matter and an appeal is issued to all ex-servicemen in the Ely Urban Area to donate a minimum of ten shillings each. No subscriptions are to be sought from civilians. The Comrades volunteer to distribute the fundraising leaflets. Subscribing to the new club would guarantee membership for 3-5 years.

20/8/1920

The appeal for the United Service Men's Club is underway "but judging from the attitude of the vast majority of discharged and demobilised men in Ely, little hope can be entertained that the scheme will meet with success". (Ely Standard). The Town Crier was sent round publicising a **general meeting at the King's Arms Hotel** which attracted less than ten attendees; the scheme is assumed to have foundered.

22/10/1920

The Cambridgeshire and Isle of Ely War Memorial Committee discusses the **Ely Cathedral plans** which are now to cost £3500. The Dean and Chapter have agreed that the county memorial will be in the chapel in the North Transept and have interviewed Mr Guy Dawber who has been

recommended to them by the President of the Royal Academy. The scheme proposed costs £3300 and the Cambridgeshire Regiment will pay for a stained glass window. It is decided that the 4,000 names will be on folding panels, as if all the panels were attached to the walls the higher ones would be unreadable. Each oak panel will contain approximately 250 names. The scheme includes the raising of the chapel floor by about 7 inches and the creation of a grille across the entrance so that the boards can be seen from the transept. At this point the Dean and Chapter ask for the grille to be redesigned and comment that the boards must always be kept shut. (In fact the Dean admits he would prefer a book to the panels.) It is agreed that names of all who died as a result of the conflict should be included, with a cut-off date of 28th June 1919.

29/10/1920

The Comrades have now realised that their clubhouse is not going to be the memorial due to lack of support. However, they decide to go ahead and claim the grant money from the United Services Fund and put it into an interest account until they can raise enough money for the clubhouse. Another public meeting will be called. It is proposed that if the clubhouse does not happen then the grant money will be sent to St Dunstan's Hospital for blinded servicemen. Lieutenant R H Plumb takes the proposal to the next county meeting of the Comrades Association.

5/11/1920

Holy Trinity's plans for a memorial tablet and new altar are deemed unsatisfactory and are sent back to the architect.

3/12/1920

Mr C H Trimmer announces to the **Ely Urban District Council** that he has inaugurated a new scheme to erect a permanent memorial in place of the war shrine and as near as possible on the same spot. The scheme would require some intrusion into what is currently Canon Randolph's garden and the whole memorial would be 10 feet high, 9 feet wide and between 6 and 8 feet deep. The Cathedral had offered the West End / North West Transept wall for the site, but it had been decided to instead select a citizens' site for a citizens' memorial. Mr Forsyth had embarked upon a design which would cost £700-£900. There was hearty support from the Council for this positive move.

10/12/1920

The Bishop dedicates the **(Queen) Adelaide memorial window** in the village's St Etheldreda's Church. The window shows the Ascension of Jesus on a plain background and cost £65. It is by Messers William Morris and Co of Westminster. £19 for the window had been raised by the parishioners and this had been supplemented by the generosity, in particular, of former members of Ely Theological College. In addition there was a framed Roll of Honour bearing twelve names and the message : "In memory of the above the East Window was dedicated by Frederick Henry, Lord Bishop of Ely, December 5th 1920."

The Countess of Huntingdon Church's memorial is unveiled as part of a general church renovation project. It takes the form of an oak tablet fixed by the choir stalls and was made by Mr J Henry of Lynn Road. It includes a framed scroll surmounted by crossed swords, a crown and laurel leaves and the names of thirty-seven other men who served with the Forces. The names of the ten fallen who

attended the church were on a brass memorial plaque. The Ely Standard notes that at the unveiling a particularly large wreath was hanging near the memorial which had been sent by the Barwick family with the message: "In loving memory of our dear boys Rex and Charlie and all who gave their lives. Mum and Dad, Ted, Doreen and Jack."

7/1/1921

Sketches of the proposed Ely memorial have been received by Mr Trimmer and submitted for approval to the Dean and Chapter. (*note: Charles Hall Trimmer was a Council member and the local brewery manager*). The sketches were prepared by Mr Forsyth (FRIBA) of London who was also working on the proposed choristers' memorial. Promises of subscriptions to the memorial had already been received from several leading citizens. A new memorial committee was formed consisting of the magistrates, county and urban councillors, the Poor Law Guardians, Friendly Society representatives, school masters and school mistresses, clergy and ministers, ex-servicemen's representatives, military officials and others. The larger committee would nominate a small sub-committee to work on raising the necessary finance.

Two designs were put forward. It was agreed the memorial should be Gothic in character because of where it was to be placed against the cathedral boundary wall; it was to be polygonal in shape with waterproof roofing and protrude into Canon Randolph's garden (the Almonry). The recess was to be 12 feet wide, 4 feet deep and 6 feet deep with a ribbed stone vault, the heraldic shields of the city and the county, and a tiled gable on the garden side. The rejected design was more expensive - although it was closer to the original brief. It had a different apse design, with a dome and windows.

14/1/1921

The design for the **Ely Choristers Memorial** had been approved by the Dean and Chapter and the work placed in the hands of Rattee and Kett. The memorial was to be placed close to the door of the choir vestry in the south aisle. It was described as "a handsome structure surmounted by a sculptural chorister with the arms of the Diocese and the Dean and Chapter on either side of the figure." To date £160 had been raised by former choristers for the memorial, but more was required.

21/1/1921

The Ely Comrades of the Great War again discussed the war memorial – in particular the use to be made of the £250 from the United Services Fund which they had hoped to use for a memorial clubroom. They had been using the Victoria Hall as a clubroom in the interim, but this had not been a success and had been given up. Only about 25 of a potential 150 members attended this meeting.

The design for the Market Place Memorial was on display beside the war shrine.

11/2/1921

The architect for the **Market Square Memorial** had visited the city and was now preparing costings.

The final plans for the **county memorial in the cathedral** have been approved. The architect is to be Mr E Guy Dawber. About 5,500 names are to be included on the memorial. The chapel will be enclosed by a screen to make it feel more like a shrine. A list of names of the fallen of the Isle of Ely

will be printed in the Ely Standard for checking. The cost of the project will be £3,500 and any donations in excess of this will be used to further decorate the chapel.

4/3/1921

Rattee and Kett have estimated the **cost of the Ely Memorial** at £850. The costings have been placed before the committee.

It is announced that the **Choristers' Memorial** will be unveiled on Easter Sunday by Sir Hugh P Allen, President of the Royal College of Music, who was organist at Ely Cathedral 1893-1901.

1/4/1921

About a hundred former choristers and their families attended the dedication of the **Choristers' Memorial**. The total cost of the memorial was £110. It is described as a stone tablet in 15th century Gothic style with a singing chorister on the upper part of the memorial, a crest of oak leaves and the shields of the See and the Chapter. The memorial reads: "Remember before God the choristers of this cathedral who gave their lives for their country 1914-18." The names of the fallen are on a sunken panel. The Last Post was sounded by J A and J S Tingey.

8/4/1921

The **war shrine** was covered with flowers for Easter.

15/4/1921

An application for a faculty for the **Holy Trinity memorial** is being made. The architect is T.D Atkinson of Cambridge. It is to be made of alabaster and placed on a surround of Hopton Wood Stone with a plinth and brackets of Derbyshire Marble. The total cost of the scheme, which includes a significant re-ordering of the church, is £600.

29/4/1921

The Dean and Chapter have accepted the Market Place Memorial design. It is hoped that townsfolk will subscribe to the memorial fund, which is still growing.

6/5/1921

The Grand Committee for the Ely War Memorial meet at Chequers Hall and overwhelmingly approve the memorial plans. Costs are estimated at £885. Generous subscriptions of £100 each have been made by A & B Hall Ltd and Mr F L Harlock (the two Ely breweries). The Chairman of the Urban District Council, Mr Henry Downie, is elected chair of the memorial committee for this final phase. It is hoped that this will be a "citizens' memorial for the citizens who fell" and that subscriptions of "sixpences and shillings" would be sought from the urban population. Landowners Mr Cole Ambrose, for Stuntney, and Mr Fred Hiam, for Prickwillow, encourage the inclusion of soldiers from the urban area on the memorial (most of whom would have been their own workers).

The executive committee's task is to oversee the work and the **raising of subscriptions**. This is made up of Mrs Helen Mc Kelvie, Mrs Christina Fyfe, Mr Henry Downie, (*interestingly all three were Scots*), Mr Joseph Markille, Mr C Hall Trimmer, Mr F Tucker, Rev'd H R Campion with Colonel Goodwyn

Archer as Honorary Secretary. *(The only locally born person on this list, and the only combatant, was Colonel Archer.)* The committee begins by investigating now dormant funds, such as those for the Peace celebrations and the POWS, to see what can now be utilised for the memorial. Fundraising concerts and whist drives begin to be organised.

An issue has arisen regarding **the Holy Trinity memorial** as it is not certain whether Holy Trinity should be regarded as an ordinary parish church or as part of the cathedral. If it is a parish church a faculty is required; if it is part of the cathedral it is the permission of the Dean and Chapter which is needed to erect the memorial. This can only be determined by reference to the original grant of the use of the Lady Chapel by Holy Trinity Church, and the matter will need to be referred to the Chancellor of the Diocese for adjudication.

20/5/1921

The rising total of subscriptions to the Ely Memorial Fund was recorded weekly in the Ely Standard from this point, with donors and size of donations being shown. By this stage the total stood at £392 15s 0d. Donors included both local companies such as Cutlack and Harlock (£25), local community leaders such as Dr S C Harris (1 guinea), and bereaved families such as the Stockdales (5 guineas).

Not everyone in the city was happy to hear that a memorial project was at last underway. In the **correspondence pages of the Ely Standard** a letter appeared from Mr C T Moore of St Mary's Street who wrote that the proposed memorial would be redundant, as each man would then be named in three places in the city (a church, the cathedral and the market square). Also "Not only would the proposed memorial be an eyesore in itself, but placed where it is suggested it would be a receptacle for all the dust and waste paper blowing around the market place. There may not always be a company of Girl Guides ready to undertake the work of keeping it tidy and it might easily get to be a disgrace to the city."

3/6/1921

The Memorial Fund has reached £449 12s 7d. In this paper we read **Bishop Chase** donated £20 (about £850 at today's rates) and that Miss Allen's fundraising concert had brought in £12 10s 7d.

24/6/1921

The Memorial Fund now stands at £564 0s 7d. The donations from **the Dean and Chapter** are recorded with the Dean giving 6 guineas and the rest of the Chapter 3 guineas each.

1/7/1921

Notice is given that **the list of names for the county memorial in the cathedral closes on 9th July**. 5,320 names have been put forward so far, 1,864 are men from the Isle of Ely.

5/8/1921

There was still no decision from the Church authorities as to whether a faculty was needed for the erection of the **Holy Trinity Memorial**.

19/8/1921

It is hoped that the Ely Memorial will be unveiled on Armistice Day. £600 has been raised and the final £250 would need to be raised by **house to house collections**. Mrs Fyfe and Mrs McKelvie are given the role of organising the collections, which need to take place in the next fortnight.

The contract for the memorial has been given to Rattee and Kett who will be working under the supervision of the architects Messers Forsyth and Moore of London. A typewritten list of 222 names will be placed on the War Shrine which relatives and friends should check these and send any final corrections to Mr W S Kempton or Rev'd H R Campion. *(Two more names must have been given in at this point, as the final total of names is 224.)* The names are to be inscribed on bronze tablets. It is promised that the populace will soon begin to see work on the site.

30/9/1921

Subscriptions for the memorial now stand at £666 16s 7d.

Mr Rattee visits to see the work underway and leaves his car parked by the site at the top of Fore Hill – the handbrake slips and the car careers down the hill and crashes into the front of Mr Sykes' poultry shop!

21/10/1921

The cost of the memorial has risen to £934 (modern equivalent almost £40,000), as an extra £50 is required to make safe the Almonry wall now it has been cut through. The total raised now stands at £747, and a decision is made to start collecting around the hamlets (Prickwillow, Stuntney, Chettisham) which will be represented on the memorial. It is now clear that the memorial will not be ready for Armistice Day.

4/11/1921

The British Legion decides to **postpone the Armistice Day Parade** until the day the memorial is unveiled (which they expect to be 27th November). The Great Silence and the Last Post will take place as usual.

11/11/1921

This is the first year that Poppies are sold for Lord Haig's Scheme, known as Remembrance Day. Mrs PUNCHARD, as Commandant of the VAD supervises the sales, with the assistance of the British Legion. Stalls are set up near the new shrine and on the Lamb Corner. Proceeds of the sales go to the British Legion Unity Relief Fund.

18/11/1921

On **Armistice Day** (a Friday) a large service is held at the cathedral; during the two minutes silence the Last Post can be heard from the war shrine where another large crowd is gathered.

25/11/1921

Ely Peace Celebrations Committee has donated £92 14s 8d from the funds left over from the 1919 event. Small donations from the poorer families of the city have raised £20 11s. The total now stands at £830 19s 7d.

2/12/1921

The city is shocked by the sudden death of **Lieutenant Colonel William James Cropley Luddington** of Egremont House, who had been promoted from Major just five weeks previously. Amongst his many different roles on Ely and Isle of Ely committees, Major Luddington had organised the Peace Day celebrations and for a time chaired the War Memorial Committee. He had a particular concern for supporting ex-servicemen. He died of a heart condition which had resulted from his injuries in the Gallipoli Campaign.

20/1/1922

The former Comrades of the Great War – now the **British Legion** – are informed by Mr A Votier, organiser for the East Anglia Region, that they cannot receive the Interim Welfare Scheme grant that they have been expecting until they come up with a suggestion for its use which is approved by the Fund's local committee. *(They had been expecting to bank the money and make a decision later about a clubhouse.)* The British Legion has six months to put forward a proper application.

10/2/1922

Colonel Archer believes the memorial will be finished by the end of March. There has been a delay caused by the inscribing of the names on the bronze plaques.

28/2/1922

The War Memorial Executive Committee has now raised £901 18s 11d and hopes to raise the rest by the time the memorial is unveiled. Colonel Archer is told to investigate names for a suitable person to perform the unveiling ceremony.

17/3/1922

Members of the Ely Ratepayers Association discuss the news that the Cathedral memorial will be unveiled on a Thursday, which is Ely market day. They decide not to change market day that week, although it is realised the market will have to close for an hour. A large influx of visitors from Cambridge is expected and it is recognised that the day has been chosen because Thursday is half-day closing in Cambridge.

The **British Legion** finally decides not to use their £197 grant from the United Services Fund for a clubhouse and instead purchases new musical instruments which it will lend to the City of Ely Band. *(All but one of the pre-War Band fought in the Great War.)*

31/3/1922

The unveiling of the War Memorial will now take place on 30th April (originally intended for St George's Day – 23rd April). The guest of honour is to be **Sir Steuart W Hare K.C.M.G. C.B.** the

General Officer Commanding the East Anglian Division. (He had already unveiled the Soham Memorial.)

Final touches are being made to the memorial – it has been decided to provide vases for the use of the public. Meanwhile the cathedral organist, Neil Ponsonby, has been contacted to provide the music for the event and is in consultation with the musicians in the Ely churches and chapels.

14/4/1922

The War Memorial Committee is making final arrangements for the dedication and has invited: the Urban District Council; Friendly Societies; a Detachment of the 1st Cambridgeshire Regiment to form a guard of honour; the British Legion; all ex-servicemen; Dean and Chapter; clergy and ministers of all denominations. Bishop Chase has been invited to perform the final dedication of the memorial. Space will be allocated on the marketplace for relatives of the dead – two people for each name on the memorial. The Dean of Ely along with the vicars of St Mary's and Holy Trinity, and Dr T Stephenson are preparing the service and on the day the service sheets will be distributed by the Girl Guides. The official decoration of the shrine will be left to Mrs Fyfe and Mrs McKelvie. Neil Ponsonby has brought together the City and GER Bands along with the massed choirs of all the local churches and chapels to lead the worship. The service will begin at 3.00 p.m.

The **Holy Trinity Memorial Tablet** has been fixed in place, although a date has yet to be arranged with the Bishop for a formal unveiling. The tablet cost £50, but the total refurbishment of the church will cost approx. £285 (alteration of seating, new communion rails, altar hangings, and architect fees). £267 17s 10d has been raised.

21/4/1922

The Ely Standard carries an advertisement and an article on **the unveiling of the county memorial in Ely Cathedral which is to take place on 11th May**. The service will be for the dedication of the Cambridgeshire and Isle of Ely Memorial, the dedication of the Cambridgeshire Regiment Memorial (the stained glass window), and the depositing of Colours of the 11th (Cambridgeshire) Battalion of the Suffolk Regiment. There are 5,320 names on the oak screens of the county memorial; they have been arranged by village, irrespective of rank or regiment.

28/4/1922

It is agreed that as part of the Market Square memorial unveiling there will be a formal handing over of the memorial and its upkeep to the Ely Urban District Council. The Chairman of the Council, Mr Downie, is nominated to ceremonially accept the memorial on behalf of the Council. The final subscription – a generous donation from A & B Hall Limited – means that the memorial is to be handed over free from debt.

THE UNVEILING AND DEDICATION OF ELY'S WAR MEMORIAL – 30TH APRIL 1922

- Approx. 5,000 people are present. Buses and charabancs bring in the crowds.
- The weather is described as "almost summer".
- The shrine is covered by curtains and a Union Flag.

- Sentries are posted to each side of the shrine and about 60 members of the 1st Cambridgeshires are stationed in the roadway opposite the shrine as a guard of honour under the command of **Captain C Warren**, and **Lieutenants R H Plumb and J H Laxton**.
- 80 ex-servicemen under **ex- Sergeant-Major Parr** form up on either side of the shrine.
- The massed City of Ely and GER Bands under bandmasters **J J Smith and Crabtree**, along with the combined choirs of all the places of worship, are formed up in the vicinity of the fountain. *(Note this is the Jubilee Fountain which has since been relocated to Archery Crescent.)*
- The central position in the square is reserved for relatives of the Fallen and immediately to their left are the robed clergy and then the members of the Urban District Council. Also in the reserved enclosure are representatives of the Friendly Societies, officers of the Hospital Parade Committee, the Chief Constable, the Lord Mayor, the Stationmaster and other local dignitaries.
- The Girl Guides under **Miss F M Allen** distribute service sheets. Ten stewards have been appointed from the British Legion and the police are in attendance.
- At 3.00 p.m. silence falls.
- Captain Warren calls the guard to the salute as **General Sir Steuart Hare arrives with Mr Lancelot H Luddington and escorted by Lieutenant Colonel Goodwyn Archer, Lieutenants George Pledger, J K Smith, Thomas Guyatt, and Captain Francis Stockdale**.
- The assembly sings the hymn "O God, our help in ages past". Men bare their heads as if in church.
- General Hare, using a small platform placed in the roadway, gives his address about the memorial. His message is that the bravest and best have been taken from us and that the names on the memorial are the pick of the country, which as a result is suffering today. The memorial will be a constant reminder to us to learn the lessons of war. We should not mourn for the fallen, because we believe they are better off; instead we should mourn for their relatives and friends, and their country, which has lost them.
- General Hare releases the curtain and Union Flag which have shielded the shrine – for most people this is their first glimpse of the completed memorial. **Sergeant G F Kent and Bugler J S Kent** (father and son from Cambridge) sound the Last Post.
- **Messers C Hall Trimmer and J F Markille** from the War memorial Committee formally release the memorial into the care and guardianship of the Ely Urban District Council with the words: "We entrust this memorial to the guardianship and care of the Urban District Council that they may tend it and keep it on behalf of the citizens of Ely, in memory of our glorious Dead." **Mr Downie** accepts the charge on behalf of the Council.
- The **Bishop of Ely** dedicates the memorial and this is followed by prayers and the Lord's Prayer.
- All sing the hymn "Fight the Good Fight".
- The Blessing is pronounced by the Bishop
- The trumpeters play Reveille.
- The National Anthem closes the event. The whole thing has lasted about 25 minutes.
- St Mary's Church bell-ringers ring a muffled peel at the conclusion of the service.
- General Hare inspects the guard of honour and the ex-servicemen and then departs.

- The relatives of the Fallen are now allowed forward to deposit their flowers on the shrine. Many stayed on to take a closer look at the shrine, and a steady stream of visitors to the place went on into the evening.

5/5/1922

It is announced that the unveiling of the Holy Trinity Memorial will take place next Sunday at 3.00 p.m., even although the refurbishment of the church has not been completed. Lieutenant Colonel Goodwyn Archer will perform the unveiling and the Bishop will dedicate the memorial.

Some of the British Legion's band instruments have arrived and been handed over to the City of Ely Band for testing.

It is revealed that there were 785 subscribers to the Ely Market Square Memorial, with donations ranging from 2d to £100. A total of £917 was raised, the POW Committee granted £12 from their closing balance, and A & B Hall Ltd had promised to defray the final costs in order for the memorial to be handed over free from debt. The Dean and Chapter have presented the site of the memorial to the city in perpetuity. To bring this about, the Memorial Executive Committee had met a total of eleven times with much additional work being carried out, particularly by the lady collectors organising the house to house collections.

THE UNVEILING AND DEDICATION OF THE CAMBRIDGESHIRE MEMORIAL IN ST GEORGE'S CHAPEL, ELY CATHEDRAL – 11TH MAY 1922

The County Memorial Committee had been working for two years on schemes for county memorials. It had been chaired by the Lord Lieutenant of the County, Mr Charles Robert Whorwood Adeane C.B. The committee had raised £6,000 for Addenbrooke's Hospital, £4,000 for the Ely Cathedral Memorial Chapel and a further £4,000 was destined to erect a bronze monument in Cambridge to commemorate the Cambridgeshire Infantry (this was due to be unveiled by the Duke of York in July).

The Cathedral memorial was eighteen months in construction. There are 24 panels, each with three columns of names (approximately 250 names per panel – arranged by village). Each panel was made from a single piece of oak 2 feet 8 inches wide and more than 7 feet high.

The stained glass window is by the famous Whitefriars Glass Works and shows Christ as King of Glory, St George and St Martin of Tours (St Martin was a former soldier and his feast day falls on 11th November, the date of the Armistice). The lower part of the window depicts the crucifixion of Jesus and two local soldier heroes – Hereward the Wake and the battle in the reeds at Aldreth against William the Conqueror, and Brythnoth exhorting his troops before the Battle of Maldon.

The East End reredos and altar table are made of oak and the screen was redesigned so as to be level with the base of the memorial panels. The cross on the altar was presented in memory of Lieutenant Eric M Hopkinson MC. All these elements were designed by the architect so as to fit with the other work in the chapel.

On 11th May-

- Nearly 2,000 people journeyed to Ely and the cathedral by rail from all parts of the county. A large number also arrived by charabanc.
- The final number of names on the memorial is 5,320. The Cambridgeshire Regiment stained glass window commemorates 864 men, many of whom are named on the memorial boards and all of whom are included in a book. This Roll of Honour for the regiment was bound in English leather with the badge of the regiment and a Celtic knotwork design in silver symbolising eternity.
- The Western part of the Octagon and Nave was reserved for relatives of the Fallen with allocated tickets. The North Transept and Triforium was for the Guard of Honour and military representatives. Representatives of various bodies were in the Eastern Octagon. The South Transept and Triforium was for subscribers and ticket holders. Seating in the cathedral extended almost as far as the West Door and many people were left standing in the aisles or in the Triforiums – this was certainly the largest congregation the cathedral had to that date (and probably will ever have).
- The Civic Retinue processed from the Porta along the Gallery to the Cathedral, headed by the Cambridge Borough mace bearers. In order this was made up of: Cambridge Town Council; Wisbech Town Council; Cambridgeshire County Council; Isle of Ely County Council; Ely Urban District Council.
- A Guard of Honour of 230 soldiers from the 1st Cambridgeshire Regiment (most wearing medals) formed up on Palace Green to await the arrival of the Lord Lieutenant, General Lord Horne, the High Sherriff and the Vice Chancellors, Beadles and Proctors of Cambridge University. The weather was described as a “light drizzle”. General Horne took the salute and the Honour Guard then marched single file down the Nave to their places in the North Transept. The Band marched to the extreme East End of the Cathedral and all others went to the North Triforium.
- The procession was so long it had to be in three parts. It was headed by the processional cross, with the clergy at the rear following the Etheldreda Banner.
- Hymn: “O God our help in ages past”.
- The Honour Guard formed up to make two sides of a square outside St George’s Chapel.
- Psalm 46 is sung (“God is our help and strength”)
- Rev’d Dr T Stephenson, the Superintendent of the Ely Methodist Circuit, reads Romans chapter 8 verses 28 -39
- General Horne delivers a eulogy on the record of the Cambridgeshire based regiments: “... its successes were many, its failures few.....these men did their duty in face of discomfort, privation, danger and death....”
- The unveiling party moves to the North Transept. The Guard of Honour presents arms and the memorial is unveiled by General Horne. The Bishop and his Chaplain enter the chapel and dedicate the window. The Chaplain presents the book form of the Roll of Honour to the Dean. Lieutenant Colonel G L J Tuck hands the Colours of the 11th Suffolk Regiment to the Dean to be laid up in the Chapel “as a token of faithful service and duty well-performed”.
- The choir sing the canticle “Give Rest, O Christ”.
- Bishop Chase gives the address. He speaks of how the tablets of the memorial say to us “be worthy of what we did, be worthy of what we gave”.

- Silence followed by prayers.
- Hymn "Praise my soul the King of Heaven"
- The Bishop gives the Blessing
- The National Anthem
- The Last Post followed by Reveille.

It is reported hundreds stayed on after the service to visit the chapel.

12/5/1922

The unveiling of the **Holy Trinity Memorial** at last takes place:

- The memorial is made of alabaster with a Hopton Wood surround – it has been placed on the southern wall of Holy Trinity Church (i.e. now better known as the Cathedral's Lady Chapel) and is close to the pulpit. It has 80 names.
- The service is attended by the Bishop, Dean and Chapter and other local clergy as well as the Holy Trinity congregation. The churchwardens are C H Gilbert and William Shepperson. The GER Silver Band play along with the organ.
- Opening hymn "O God our help in ages past"
- Prayers
- Psalm 23 sung
- Revelation chp 21 vss 1-7 read by Reverend Bywaters (he had been a Chaplain to the Forces)
- Colonel Archer unveils the memorial which has been covered by a Union Jack
- Dedication prayer by Bishop Chase
- The Bishop gives an address on war memorials, urging the congregation to live worthily of the great offering made by their husbands, sons and brothers
- Hymn "God of the Living in Whose Eyes"
- Blessing
- National Anthem
- Chopin's Funeral March "impressively interpreted by the GER Band".

The newspaper notes that four impressive wreaths were on the memorial – two of these were general, but the other two were from the families of St Arnand Creak and James Hamey.

The memorial tablet was just one piece of a significant re-ordering of Holy Trinity Church, along with the replacement of the communion rails with oak kneelers and rails in one, the cost had been £165. The church still had just over £100 in hand, but still wanted to (1) set back the choir stalls to give greater space at the East End (2) replace the existing altar with one 16 feet in length to match the length of the ancient reredos and (3) provide new hangings for the sanctuary and choir. The unveiling of the memorial was an opportunity to appeal for further donations for these works.

7/7/1922

The Duke of York unveils the **Cambridge Memorial** on a day of pouring rain. The bronze statue he was to unveil had not yet been cast, and so the event went ahead using the full size model from which it was to be cast. The figure on the memorial shows an infantry soldier returning home and the memorial is not just for the fallen of Cambridgeshire and the Isle of Ely but a thanksgiving for all who served, including the medical teams and women who worked on the home front. The memorial is specifically stated to be for Cambridgeshire, the Isle of Ely, and the University of Cambridge. Local Ely officers Colonel Archer and Lieutenant Colonel W P Cutlack were presented to the Duke of York on this occasion.

8/10/1922

Churchwarden William Shepperson donates an "oak stool" to **Holy Trinity Church**; this has been made by a member of the Church Council, Mr T M Barley. The stool is placed before the memorial tablet and four vases have also been donated for flowers.