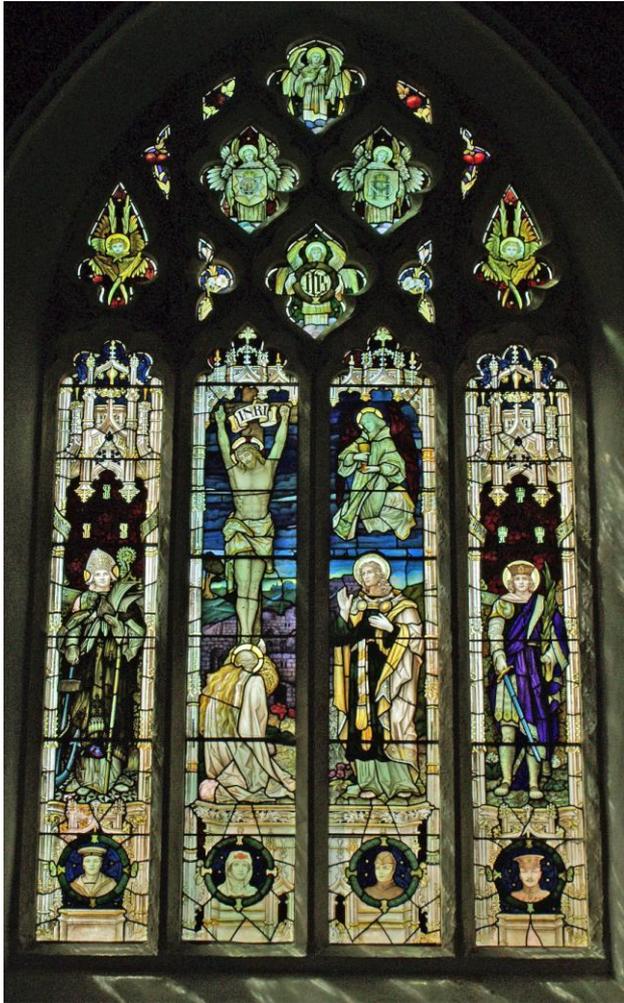


from North Devon Journal, Thursday 27th May 1920

PILTON CHURCH, BARNSTAPLE.

UNVEILING OF MEMORIAL WINDOW TO THE FALLEN



Pilton's memorial to those of the parish (thirty nine in number) who fell in the Great War takes the form a handsome stained glass window and tablet placed in the west end of the Parish Church. By general consent, the memorial a worthy tribute to the fallen, whilst by its erection the appearance of the fine old church has been greatly enhanced, the bareness and coldness which has hitherto characterised the west end of the sacred edifice being now entirely removed.

The window is perpendicular and consists of four lights and tracery, the subject illustrated being -- in the centre lights, that of the Crucifixion, with Mary kneeling the foot of the Cross, the figure well depicting her grief and anguish; in the opposite light the figure of St. John, looking up to the Christ, whilst in the head of the light is a figure of an angel holding the Chalice. In the background, with a fine effect of distance is shown Jerusalem. In the extreme left hand light is the figure of St. Nicholas (Patron Saint of the Sea) holding in one hand a ship and the other resting on an anchor. In extreme right hand light the figure of St Alban (Soldier, Warrior, Saint), holding a palm in one hand, and a sword in the other (Peace and Victory). In the tracery are angels

holding shields bearing the arms of the Devon Regiment and the North Devon Hussars, and emblems of the Passion, whilst at the apex is an angel bearing the Crown and Palm "Victory over Death." The figures are surrounded with rich canopies and bases, in the latter of which are medallions, with busts depicting the four branches of the service, Navy, Army, Nursing, and Air Service. The window is well conceived, the colours being beautifully blended and pleasing. The window and tablet were designed and completed at the studio of Mr. H. Blanchford, Northernhay Place, Exeter.

On a finely executed brass tablet; mounted on oak, appears the inscription:

This window is placed here to the glory of God and in memory of the men from this parish who lost their lives in Great War 1914-1918: E. G. Ackland, E. Alford, W Ashton, F. L. A. Baker, W. Barlow, F. H. Braddon, W. Darch, senr., W. Darch, junr., W. C. Darch, S. E. Dennis, W. Ellis, R. T. J. Frayne, W. J. Garnish, W. T. Goss, E. M. Gould, W. L. Gratton, F. W. Harris, W. A. Hedden. J. Hill, R. Hill, W. Hill. A. Jewell, W. H. Knill, W. Loosemore, F. Norman, W. Norman, H. T. Perrin, W. E. Radford, S. P. Sanders. N. H. Shapland. A. Steer, E. C. Squire, F. Tossell, J. W. Turner. H. Fry-Vicary, F. Wickham, C. Wickham. B. R. Williams. W. R. Yeo."

In the church porch there has also been erected an oak tablet bearing names of the men the parish who served in the war, the list being surmounted by a lily and the words "Pilton, St. Mary the Virgin. Pro Deo et Patria. These served in the Great War 1914-1918." The total cost of the two memorials was practically £400, the whole which, it is gratifying to be able to state, has been subscribed, Mr. and Mrs. William Fisher, of Pottington, heading the funds with a splendid donation of £100.

Before a large congregation the memorial was dedicated at a service of Holy Communion on Sunday morning by the Archdeacon of Barnstaple—Dr. Trefusis, Lord Bishop of Crediton. The actual ceremony of unveiling was performed, at the invitation of the Bishop by the Vicar's Warden, Mr. C Pearce J.P., Mayor of Barnstaple, being accompanied by his fellow warden (Mr. J. S. Holmes), and the members of the choir, in addition to the Bishop and the Vicar (Rev. W. H. M. Bagley), who officiated at the service. The hymn immediately following the dedication of the memorial was "The Supreme Sacrifice," and in addition special Whitsuntide music was well rendered by the choir during the service, Mr. G. W. Lee presiding at the organ. In the course of an eloquent sermon, the Lord Bishop paid a high tribute to the memory of the fallen, and the lessons to be drawn from their heroic service and the Great War.

There was interesting children's service in the afternoon, at which the Vicar gave a suitable address. At the evening service the Bishop of Crediton again occupied the pulpit, his lordship's fine sermon being much appreciated. The offertories for day, which were devoted the debt existing on the church organ, amounted to £9 7s.