

## ***The Amersham War Memorial Cross***



In early 1919, the people of Amersham (like communities all around the country) were considering how best to provide a permanent memorial to those who had died in the 1914/18 war. A Committee was formed and, after considering various alternatives, a recommendation was made in April 1919 to build a Memorial Hall. This proposal, however, did not receive universal approval, and further meetings and a lively correspondence in the local papers ensued.

The response to an appeal for funds was disappointing and it proved difficult to find a suitable site for the hall, so it was decided not to proceed with this plan. Meanwhile a group at the church had recommended that a cross be erected in the parish church-yard. Sufficient funds had been made available, and by January 1920 a provisional site for the cross had been proposed and Mr Philip M. Johnson, an architect living in Tulse Hill, was approached to submit designs which were eventually adopted. Construction of the cross commenced in November 1920. The cross was built of Portland stone, 16 foot high in a market-cross style with floral and gothic tracery, and situated in the south-east corner of the churchyard. The names of 81 Amersham servicemen who died are inscribed at the base of the cross. (The Roll of Honour in St Mary's Church includes a further 17 names).

The cross was consecrated and unveiled in sunny weather on 10 July 1921. Before the ceremony, there was a parade through the town and the ringing of a muffled peal of bells. The service was well-attended and must have been very moving. Relatives of those who died had pride-of-place, as well as various troops of soldiers, a band from the Royal Air Force camp at Halton, the local British Legion, boy-scouts and local dignitaries. The Right Rev. Lord Bishop of Buckingham dedicated the cross, Brigadier-General R.J.Cooper C.V.O., C.B. unveiled the cross and Lt E.Tyrwhitt-Drake read the names on the *Roll of Honour*. The Rector, the Rev C.E.Briggs, gave a brief address, and The Last Post was sounded.



Amateur photograph of the inauguration of the War memorial in 1921  
(Courtesy of Amersham Museum)

After the 1939/45 World War, the Amersham Parish Council decided to lay out a Garden of Remembrance between the churchyard and Broadway; in 1949 the cross was relocated to this new site, where it stands today. The war memorial was awarded a Grade 2 listing by English Heritage in 2010, together with the nearby bronze plaque commemorating the men killed during the Second World War.



Garden of Remembrance





“TO THE GLORY OF  
GOD AND IN  
MEMORY OF THE  
MEN OF AMERSHAM  
WHO GAVE THEIR  
LIVES IN THE GREAT  
WAR FOR  
FREEDOM”

THREE FACES OF  
THE  
MEMORIAL





## Amersham WW1 Memorial – 2014



The Memorial on Sunday 9 November 2014



Remembrance Garden with flower beds designed in Regimental colours – Summer 2014





The Parish Church of St Mary the Virgin, Amersham, View from the South.  
Photograph: Hazel Garas

Amersham Parish					
Roll of Honour					
In Memoriam					
+					
1914 - 18					
Allen, M.R.W.	Clark, J.	Quin, S.	Gane, S.P.	Kedding, A.A.	
Atkins, C.W.	Clark, E.	Snice, E.S.	Gane, W.C.	Kegons, J.	
Barns, W.J.	Clarke, A.	Snice, M.	Lawrence, W.	Kegons, J.	
Bates, J.	Clarke, S.	Snice, C.S.	Lee, A.A.	Scott, W.	
Beeson, R.	Cooper, S.	Snice, J.E.	Lee, W.	Seutchings, C.	
Birch, S.	Cooper, J.S.	Srist, R.	Line, B.	Slade, W.J.	
Birch, J.	Cox, S.R.	Stance, S.J.	Loflo, B.	Strennell, W.	
Biggott, R.A.	Cox, W.S.	Stannis, M.	Loflo, W.	Sutherland, H.W.	
Bollen, S.	Crawford-Crow, A.J.	Stagoff, B.	Marshall, C.W.	Troy, K.	
Bollen, J.	Cropper, H.E.S.	Stagoff, S.J.R.	Mathews, C.J.	Spraditt-Dale, J.W.	
Bowler, R.	Crook, E.H.	Stance, J.A.	Mitchell, H.	Walt, R.	
Briff, J.	Darwell, A.	Stance, W.S.	Mead, A.S.	Warren, J.H.	
Bryan, W.	Dover, A.J.	Stance, C.J.	Motion, S.S.	Wellings, J.	
Bryant, W.	Dover, J.	Stance, J.A.	North, W.H.	West, M.	
Bunce, A.J.	Dumbarton, W.C.	Stannis, J.	O'Neely, E.W.	White, H.A.R.	
Cattle, S.J.	Dyer, C.	Stannis, S.	Parlow, J.S.	Williams, J.	
Caudery, J.	Eatherstone, D.F.	Stance, J.H.	Reich, F.W.	Willis, C.H.	
Caudery, J.	Forthum, R.A.M.	Stance, W.J.	Robb, S.S.	Wilkins, S.	
Chandler, S.R.	Sibbs, C.	Stance, A.S.	Redding, J.	Wingrove, S.	
		Wingrove, J.			

St Mary's Church, Amersham, Roll of Honour.  
Photograph: Hazel Garas