

The War Memorial

All Saints in the 1920s

The church that staged 'The Love Potion' in 1914 was the centre of social life for the young families that had moved into the area. We can also see another legacy of this young church in the windows at the back of the chancel.

Oswald, Martin, George and Alban are the men looking at you from behind the High Altar. They are the soldier saints and what you are looking at is a memorial to those lost in the First World War. The windows were installed in 1919. The cost for the stained glass and the war memorial, which is now at the back of the church, was £385.

Some of the names come with stories. James Bradley died just days before the armistice.





Others are only names, reminders of shattered families. Eric and Benjamin Frost, Cecil and Eric Clarke, Lionel and Harold Hawkins, the congregation of the early 1900s was filled with young families.

The boys born in the county roads in the 1890s were the generation of Kitchener's volunteers. What struck me looking through the PCC minutes was a list of names on the electoral roll from 1921 and seeing how many of them begin with the title Miss.

The names of their brothers or future husbands were inscribed on the memorial.

This then was the setting for the arrival of a former army chaplain and the ensuing conflict.



