



October 2018

Hill Chapel Remembered WW1 'Lest We Forget'

As part of the celebrations to mark the centenary of the WW1 Armistice, the parish of St Francis', Hill Chapel, Goosnargh held a commemorative exhibition in the church on 19th & 20th October. Nine parishioners were killed fighting in the war; a very high number from this small rural parish. A number were employed as attendants at the nearby Whittingham Hospital, or Asylum as it was then known, but all worshiped at the church and some were baptised, attended the school and then married at The Hill. Eight of them are named on the war memorial which stands in the churchyard and has recently been repaired and renovated thanks to a grant of £1,500 from the War Memorials Trust.

Recent research was carried out to discover more about their lives and family backgrounds, where they fought and how they were killed. Prior to the war one man played semi-professional football for Preston North End, another was a clogger or shoe maker, a couple were professional soldiers, one a farmer and another a mosaic fixer.

Each soldier had a special themed display at the exhibition containing their biography, floral displays and artefacts linked to their former occupations. A period Expeditionary Force Canteen (EFC) café served hot drinks and food and the history of the conflict, war poems and WW1 artefacts were on display. On Thursday the school band gave a concert of WW1 tunes accompanied by the very enthusiastic choir. Other pupils had written poems and short pieces of drama illustrating the misery and pain of conflict on this scale.

Great War images, created by the congregation of Chester Cathedral, were brought together with the parish's own Stations of the Cross to recall the journey made by those who gave their lives for this country's freedom during the Great War.

Visitors were invited to 'spiritually' walk the way of the cross using The Hill's own Stations and the 12 WW1 photographs which were displayed under them on the church walls. The images brought to life the sacrifice and stories made by men and women a hundred years ago and help to identify with **Christ's suffering** in humanity at war today.

The exhibition helped to bring this lively vibrant parish community, church, school and village together as one caring family.

Mike Bryan Parish Archivist

