



Burbage Parish Council  
&  
Burbage Heritage Group

# A VILLAGE PAYS TRIBUTE

11th November 2018

100 Years of Remembrance



## INTRODUCTION

On 11th November 2018, the United Kingdom and its friends overseas will mark the day 100 years ago when the guns fell silent at the end of the First World War. Burbage has considered how to play its respectful part in these commemorations and has organised some supporting events during Sunday 11th November 2018, in addition to the annual Remembrance Day service at the War Memorial. On the following page is a list of the activities which will be carried out during the day.

## BURBAGE WAR MEMORIAL

After a peace day parade held in July 1919, Charles Higham, the local headmaster suggested a committee should be formed to raise funding for a permanent war memorial.

By the middle of 1920 enough publicly subscribed money had been collected and after much concern about the location, the village green was settled upon as the site of the monument and the unveiling took place on 26th February 1921, the scene shown in the photograph below.

The contemporary record of the unveiling notes: *“For the purpose of the memorial the village green is being laid out as a garden, surrounded by a holly fence. In the centre is a monument consisting of a massive pedestal resting on a heavy base of Bishopgate reconstructed stone, and surmounted by the life-sized figure of a British ‘Tommy’ with arms reversed, cut in white Sicilian marble. The height of the monument is 14 feet, 2 inches and a more strikingly beautiful piece of work which was executed at Carrara (Italy) would probably not be found in the whole of Leicestershire.”*



## *Programme of Events*

### **Saturday 10th November**

*St Catherine's Church*

*18.00 Choral evensong of remembrance, commemoration and thanksgiving*

### **Sunday 11th November**

#### **Remembrance Parade**

9.30 Parade assembly Grove Road

10.00 Parade to the War Memorial Church Street

10.20 Service at War Memorial

11.00 Two Minute Silence

11.05 Quarter Peal of Bells - St Catherine's Church

*Millennium Hall*

#### **Concert**

Songs of the Great War

14.00 1st Performance

15.10 2nd Performance

#### **Exhibition**

13.30-16.30 Burbage Fallen

*Sketchley Hill Farm Recreation Ground*

#### **WW1 Beacons of Light**

18.45 Gathering for beacon

19.00 Lighting of beacon

#### **Church Memorial Services**

*St Catherine's Church*

*08.00 BCP Holy Communion*

*18.00 BCP Holy Communion*

*Higham Way Baptist*

*Church*

*10.00 WW1 Service*

*(10.15 start, including live video of memorial service)*

*Burbage Congregational*

*Church*

*Display of hand crocheted poppies for each of the fallen of the church on external railings*

*Burbage Methodist Church*

*10.00 Morning Service*

*(including live video of memorial service)*

*16.00 Refresh – Worship presentation with remembrance theme*

*18.00 Memorial Service*

*Burbage Pentecostal*

*Church*

*18.00 Special Memorial Service*

*followed by procession to beacon*

*19.15 Teas, coffee & soft drinks, all welcome*



## PRE-GREAT WAR BURBAGE

In the 1911 census 566 premises were surveyed, with a total population for Burbage was recorded as 2,504. Of this total population, 575 were men or boys who during the period 1914-1918 would be between the ages of 18 and 41. Of the 795 men between the ages of 12 and 64 in 1911, 232 worked in the hosiery industry and 130 were associated with farming. Twenty-three properties in the census had more than 10 people living at the property. The photograph below shows the village green in the early years of the 20th century.



Burbage Village Green c1910

## 100 YEARS ON

Along with the rest of the country, this year of 2018 concludes four years of special events and commemorations. This has been delivered by a partnership of Burbage Parish Council and Burbage Heritage Group with an enthusiastic level of support from local schools.

A key theme to the events has been the engagement of school children, as an excellent way of passing on the knowledge of sacrifices made by earlier generations, in thanks, recognition and the hope of lessons carried forward. These events commenced with a concert by school children at the Millennium Hall in November 2014. Over the past four years 56 candles have been lit at the Burbage War Memorial, acknowledging the 100-year anniversary of each

soldier's death. At these simple ceremonies, children from the three Burbage primary schools have attended, continuing the engagement. At Hastings High School, a poppy trail was designed and implemented and is a lasting legacy of this commemorative period. During this period a School Remembrance Service has been introduced, held in Pughe's Paddock. The service will be held this year on Friday 9th November 2018, at 10.30.

Many of the fallen have been researched by Burbage Heritage Group and biographies produced, which allow all ages to reflect on the family heartache and sacrifices made.

## **BURBAGE ROLL OF HONOUR**

As part of the commemorations, investigations have also been made to document the many Burbage residents who gave service or died during the Great War. Unfortunately, as many records from the period have been lost over the last century this is not a complete list but will for the first time formally bring together a list of Burbage soldiers both who fought and returned, together with those who sadly died as a result of the conflict. For those who died, the list records their year of death.

*Adkin, Edith (Miss)*

*Adkin, Edmund Alan*

*Adkin, John Douglas (1918)*

*Adkin, Joseph Williamson (1916)*

*Aldridge, Joseph Leonard (1918)*

*Allen, James Trevor MM (1917)*

*Allsop, Joseph*

*Alsop, Jack (1916)*

*Arnold, Alec Renolds William*

*Arnold, John Rudkin (1918)*

*Asbury, John Henry (1916)*

*Baker, John Herbert*

*Baker, William*

*Barnes, Arthur MM*

*Barnes, Charles (1917)*

*Barnes, Frank (1916)*

*Bass, Horace (1918)*

*Bates, Bob (1918)*

*Bates, Harry*

*Bates, Jack*

*Bates, Leonard*

*Baum, William*

*Bishop, Arthur*

*Bradbury, Charles Richard Wain (1915)*

*Bradshaw, Walter (1918)*

*Branson, Wilfred*

*Bright, Joseph Bent*

*Brown, Bernard*

*Burton, Benjamin Francis (1915)*

*Burton, Joseph*

*Buswell, John*

*Caldwell, Samuel (1914)*

*Campton, Thomas (1918)*

*Chamberlain, Cyril James (1918)*

*Chamberlain, F*

*Chamberlain, John Saddington Edmund*

*Chamberlain, Thomas*

*Charles, Cyril*

*Charles, Frederick Daniel (1918)*

*Charles, Joseph Horace (1916)*

*Clarke, J*

*Colkin, John William*

*Collins, Samuel*

*Cook, Joseph (1917)*

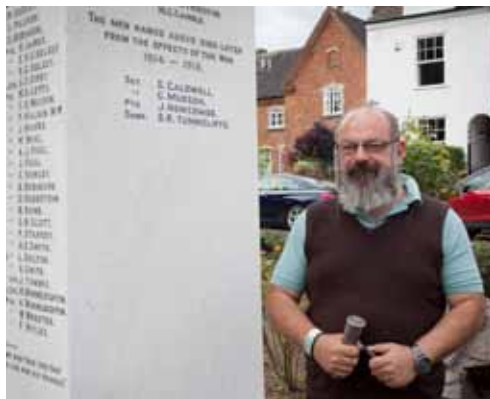
*Cooke, George Arthur (1918)*

*Cox, Charles*

*Cox, Thomas (1916)*  
*Cox, William*  
*Cross, Arthur*  
*Crump, Edward Harold*  
*Dawson, William Herbert*  
*Dudley, Arthur Walter (1918)*  
*Dudley, Walter*  
*Eady, Harry*  
*Everton, John Tansey*  
*Farmer, Ned*  
*Fletcher, Philip*  
*Forryan, Frank (1917)*  
*Forryan, Harry*  
*Foxon, Ernest Edward (1920)*  
*Foxon, Frank*  
*Foxon, Sidney Charles (1918)*  
*Foxon, William James*  
*Gamble, Maurice George (1923)*  
*Gamble, William*  
*Garner, John*  
*Garner, John Thomas*  
*Gent, John*  
*Ghent, Arthur Horace (1917)*  
*Greenway, Walter*  
*Grimes, James Holder (1917)*  
*Haddon, James*  
*Haddon, Maurice*  
*Haddon, Walter*  
*Hamlet, Thomas Henry (1918)*  
*Higham, Stanley*  
*Hill, Harry*  
*Hill, Jack (1918)*  
*Hill, Jim*  
*Hill, Thomas*  
*Hinton, Charles*  
*Hinton, Walter (1918)*  
*Hollier, Walter Reginald*  
*Hurst, Charles Chamberlain*  
*James, Harry (1916)*  
*Jones, Percy William*  
*Keen, Henry MM*  
*Keen, Herbert*  
*Kelsey, Ernest Henry Coltman (1916)*  
*Kelsey, Reuben George (1917)*  
*Kennell, Albert (1920)*  
*Kirby, George Stanley (1917)*  
*Lees, Frank*  
*Letts, William Henry (1918)*  
*Lord, Percy*  
*Malkin, Percy MM (1918)*  
*Mason, George*  
*Mawby, George*  
*Mayne, Arthur*  
*Mellor, Frank*  
*Moore, Harry*  
*Moore, James (1916)*  
*Musson, George (1916)*  
*Musson, Sidney Herbert (1916)*  
*Neal, William James Thomas (1918)*  
*Newcombe, John (1914)*  
*Newman, Fred (1915)*  
*Nicholls, Thomas Perkins*  
*Parker, George*  
*Paul, Albert John (1915)*  
*Paul, Joseph (1917)*  
*Payne, Thomas Edward*  
*Perkins, William CDG (Fr)*  
*Picken, Charles*  
*Pilgrim, Harold Stephen (1919)*  
*Porter, Albert*  
*Powell, Harry*  
*Powers, Harry CDG (Bel)*  
*Preston, Richard*  
*Prouse, Sydney Walter MM*  
*Rivett, Sydney*  
*Robertson, David (1916)*  
*Robinson, Ben (1918)*  
*Robinson, Edward*  
*Robinson, Jeremiah*  
*Robinson, Percy William*  
*Robinson, William George (1917)*  
*Rowe, Bernard Isaiah (1918)*  
*Rowe, John Percy*  
*Rowley, George William (1917)*  
*Scott, George Nicol (1918)*  
*Scott, James McIntosh*

*Shaw, Sidney Harry*  
*Shilton, Frank*  
*Shilton, Leslie (1918)*  
*Smith, Albert*  
*Smith, Albert Arthur (1918)*  
*Smith, Albert Edward (1917)*  
*Smith, John James*  
*Smith, Edwin*  
*Starkey, Percy (1918)*  
*Stevens, Harry*  
*Swan, Cyril*  
*Swan, Fredrick George*  
*Taylor, Herbert*  
*Thompson, Cecil Frederick*  
*Thorne, G*  
*Towers, Joseph (1917)*  
*Truslove, William John*  
*Tunncliffe, Sydney Raymond (1919)*  
*Waring, John CDG (Bel)*  
*Webster, William (1916)*  
*Wileman, George Harry*  
*Wormington, Thomas*

*Wormleighton, Daniel*  
*Wormleighton, Horace Edward (1916)*  
*Wormleighton, Percy*  
*Wormleighton, Wilfred (1917)*  
*Worthington, Sidney (1914)*  
*Wyles, Cecil Joseph*  
*Wyles, Frederick (1916)*  
*Wyles, John William*



Letter carver David Heppingstall

## WAR MEMORIAL MISSING NAMES

The names of four First World War heroes have been added to Burbage War Memorial thanks to investigations made by Burbage Heritage Group and the support of Burbage Co-operative Funeralcare who have generously covered the cost of this work, skilfully added by Burbage born letter carver David Heppingstall. The names have been added to the east face of the War Memorial.

## FALLEN PLAQUES

In special recognition of the sacrifice our soldiers made during the Great War in this centenary commemoration, 30 plaques are being installed on the homes of the fallen around the village where these homes still stand. Over the coming months, we hope people will take the opportunity to walk around the village and reflect upon the families who would have received the sad news of their loved ones on each home around the village. Over the years some road names have changed and housing numbers updated as the village has grown.

***Ball's Lane*** is now known as ***Britannia Road***  
***Three Pots Road*** is now known as ***Coventry Road***

### **Britannia Road**

Pt. Charles Richard Wain Bradbury

Pt. Harry James

Pt. Bernard Isaiah Rowe

Pt. Leslie Shilton

### **Church Street**

Pt. Jack Alsop

Pt. John Rudkin Arnold

Sgt. Samuel Caldwell

Pt. George Nicol Scott

Gnr. Sydney Raymond Tunnicliffe

### **Coventry Road**

Pt. James Holder Grimes

2nd Lt. Arthur Walter Dudley

### **Crossways**

Pt. Frank Barnes / Pt. Charles Barnes

### **Freemans Lane**

Pt. Ernest Henry Coltman Kelsey

### **Grove Road**

Pt. George Arthur Cooke

### **Hinckley Road**

Spr. Horace Bass

Pt. Arthur Horace Ghent

Pt. James Moore

Pt. Albert John Paul

Pt. David Robertson

### **Horsepool**

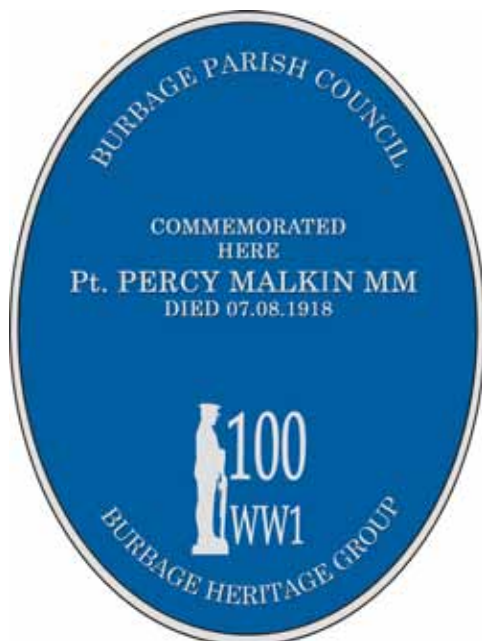
2nd Lt. Harold Stephen Pilgrim

### **Salem Road**

L/Cpl. George Stanley Kirby

Gdsm. William Henry Letts

*Those soldiers for whom no individual plaque is installed are recognised on a joint plaque at the Millennium Hall*



An example of the plaques being installed around the village

*Percy Malkin was one of a handful of Burbage soliders who were awarded the Military Medal in recognition of their brave actions during the war.*

### **Sketchley Road**

Pt. John Douglas Adkin

Pt. Sidney Charles Foxon /

Spr. Ernest Edward Foxon

Pt. Thomas Henry Hamlet

L/Cpl. Wilfred Wormleighton

### **Strutt Road**

Pt. Jack Hill

### **Victoria Road**

Pt. Percy Malkin MM

### **Windsor Street**

Pt. Joseph Paul

L/Cpl. Albert Arthur Smith

## THE BURBAGE OLD COMRADES & COMRADES LAND

After the end of WW1, the surviving local veterans formed an association, The Burbage Comrades. Newspaper reports and photographs in the local press during the 1920s mention the Comrades at local events but there is no surviving documentation of this group. They appear to be a fore-runner of an association, which probably became the Burbage British Legion. Led by Major Charles Chamberlain Hurst, they held sports meetings, garden shows and other social events. Every Remembrance Day they would lead the parade to the war memorial. P R Hardy was Chairman and Charles Hands a committee member.

A newspaper report from 1926 states: 'There are over 100 members who for a small annual subscription enjoy remarkable privileges. If a member should fall upon evil times the Association makes a substantial weekly grant, or in times of illness and other misfortune is always ready to offer a helping hand. By The Comrades efforts in connection with the United Services Fund many a needy case in the village has been given assistance. Membership is not restricted to the village itself, and the Association includes several ex-service men from Hinckley.'

An annual dinner was held every November. At the seventh annual dinner in 1926, 90 members sat down to a dinner provided by the Co-op in their hall. Reports were given followed by toasts and musical entertainments.

Hurst left the village by the mid-1920s to further his genetic research in Cambridge and by the early 1930s the family firm, the Burbage Nurseries, had been sold. Perhaps by this time the Burbage British Legion was established and there was no need for an Old Comrades Association.

In 1919, Charles Chamberlain Hurst, owner of the Burbage Nurseries and Chairman of the Burbage Old Comrades Association, allocated some of his land to be let out to the former soldiers returning from the War.

Six acres of land between Workhouse Lane and the Lutterworth Road was divided up into narrow strips of land. About 20 of these allotments of 1,000sq yards were rented out at a nominal charge to the association members to use as allotments for growing produce and rearing poultry and small livestock. There was a great demand for these allotments and a long waiting list was formed in the hope of acquiring one. The Burbage Show held annually often featured much of the produce grown on the land.

The system of renting the land worked well until 1930 when C C Hurst had to sell the land as he had lost all his money in the Wall Street Stock Market crash.

The tenants of the land were given first refusal to purchase their piece, which many did.

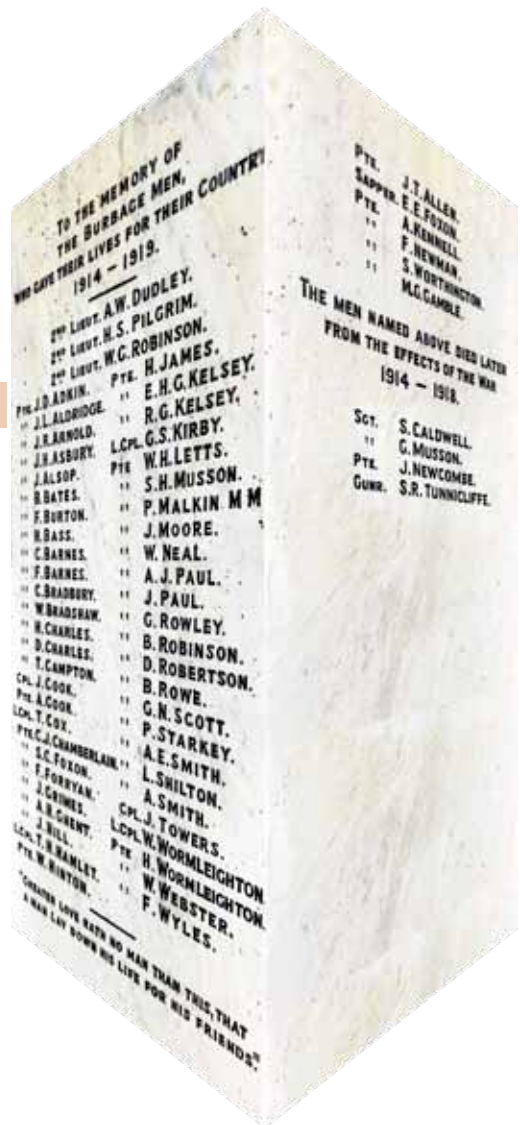
Much of the land has been kept in the original family ownership, passing from parent to child. There have been many unsuccessful attempts over the years for planning permission to build but as of yet the Comrades Land is still used for its original purpose.

## ROSE GARDEN

Shortly after the War Memorial was unveiled families of the fallen each planted a rose in memory of their loved one in the garden surrounding the Memorial. A small plaque was added to each rose with the name of the soldier.

The creation of the rose garden was the idea of Major Charles Chamberlain Hurst, managing director of the Burbage Nurseries. In 1921, Hurst had recently retired from the Territorial Army in which he had served for over 20 years including active service in WW1. Hurst provided the roses and promised he, his heirs and successors would keep and maintain the garden for all time.

Following the closure of Burbage Nurseries, the garden became the responsibility of the local authority and finally Burbage Parish Council when it was reformed in 1986. In 1996 an appeal for roses to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the Royal British Legion was made and in 1999 gates were erected to complete a fitting frame to our beautiful War Memorial. In November 2016 the rose garden was replanted with as many original named roses as could be sourced.



Burbage War Memorial, south and east faces showing the 64 WW1 fallen

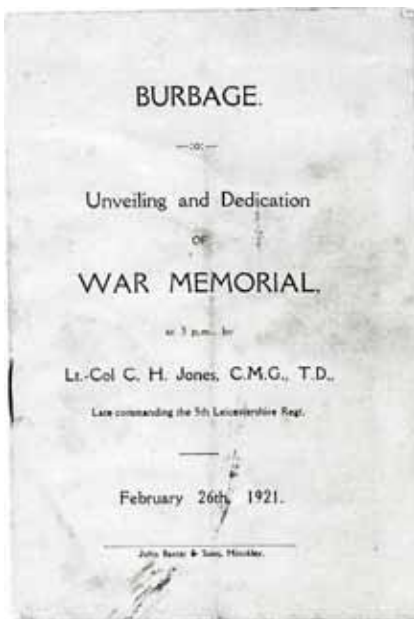


*The War Memorial was erected and unveiled on 26th February 1921 as shown in the photograph above and commemoration booklet on the left.*

*The War Memorial originally listed the names of 54 men who died during the conflict. Subsequently 6 additional names were added representing both those men who died later from the effects of the conflict and others not included in the original inscription.*

*The four additional names added in 2018 to the east face of the memorial bring the total of 64 Burbage fallen commemorated here.*

*Following the Second World War the names of a further 31 men were added to commemorate those who died during that conflict.*



## REMEMBRANCE DAY SERVICE - BURBAGE WAR MEMORIAL

In this special year the annual service at the War Memorial has been expanded to reflect the considerations of the 100 years which have elapsed between the guns of the First World War falling silent and today.

The village is brought together not in celebration, but truly in commemoration and reflection of the sacrifice of our forebears. Obviously, our thoughts turn to those who gave their lives. At the service this year the names of each of the 64 known fallen of the village will be read out in solemn remembrance.

The service this year will be led by Rev. Andrew D Hall.

### Parade to War Memorial

*In Procession*

**Hymn: 'O Valiant Hearts'**

### Service

#### The Gathering

Short Reading

Prayer

#### Unveiling added War Memorial names

*S Caldwell*

*G Musson*

*J Newcombe*

*SR Tunnickliffe*

**Hymn: 'Abide With Me'**

#### Act of Penitence

**Hymn: 'O God, Our Help In Ages Past'**

*Reading*

#### Act of Remembrance

*Reading of the names of WW1 fallen*

*Prayers, followed by*

*The Lord's Prayer*

*Responding in Hope and Commitment:*

*Remembering:*

*Wreaths are laid*

#### The Last Post

#### The Two Minute Silence

#### The Reveille

*The Kohima Epitaph is said*

*The Act of Commitment is made:*

*Prayer*

#### The National Anthem

*Blessing*



## RINGING OF BELLS - ST CATHERINE'S CHURCH

The Memorial Bell - When the original ring of five bells were recast in 1925, three more were added to form a ring of eight. Of these new bells, the seventh bell was cast in memory of the fallen in WW1 and include the inscriptions;

***“To the glory of God”***

***“In memory of the men who worshipped in this Church who fell in the Great War 1914-1918”***

It is therefore fitting that as part of the 100-year commemorations a quarter peal of 1,260 changes will be attempted of Plain Bob Triples. The bells will be rung immediately after the service at the War Memorial and will continue for about 45 minutes.



*As the armistice was announced to the country, that hostilities were to cease at 11.00 on the 11th November 1918, the bells at St Catherine's were rung, muffled, in celebration. Two years later, the bells were removed for re-casting, as shown in the picture above. It would be five more years before the bells would be heard again in Burbage in 1925.*

**CONCERT – MILLENNIUM HALL** (14.00 and 15.10 Sunday 11th November)

Harmonic Voices came together in 2014 to learn to sing using the “Natural Voice” method under their Musical Director Steve Johnson.



With a membership of over 50 people they have performed in a number of events including the Community Choirs Festival, Leicester Sing for Water and the Winter Warmer in Burbage Parish Church.

We are very pleased they have developed a special programme of songs and readings specifically for this 100-year commemoration.

***Programme***

*to include*

*"Your country needs you" - A ladies recruiting song.*

*"Pack up your troubles"*

*"Roses of Picardy"*

*"Flanders Poppies" - A poem by L/Br L.H.Davis*

*"It's a long way to Tipperary"*

*"Peace" – A poem by Rupert Brooke*



## WW1 BEACONS OF LIGHT – SKETCHLEY HILL FARM RECREATION GROUND

**18.00 Pentecostal Church** A special memorial service will be held in the church which will be timed to allow the congregation to join a procession to the beacon in the adjoining park.

**18.45 Procession to the Field** The Pentecostal Church congregation will move to the recreation ground to join others for the ceremony to light the beacon in tribute to those who gave their lives during World War 1.

### **19.00 Battle's Over – WW1 Beacons of Light**

As darkness falls, more than 1,000 Beacons of Light will be lit throughout the United Kingdom, Channel Islands, Isle of Man and UK Overseas Territories, together with our beacon in Burbage.

This is a commemoration inspired by a comment made on 3rd August 1914 by Britain's Foreign Minister, Sir Edward Grey. He was looking out of his office window at dusk as gas lights were being lit along London's Mall when he remarked to a friend, "The lamps are going out all over Europe; we shall not see them lit again in our lifetime."

Our country was about to be plunged into the darkness of the First World War, and it would be four long years before Britain and Europe would again experience the light of peace.



### **19.15 Pentecostal Church**

The Rev Solomon Bentu of the Pentecostal Church invites everybody to visit the church after the beacon lighting ceremony for teas, coffees and soft drinks, generously provided by the The Co-operative Food store.



IN ASSOCIATION WITH:

# BATTLE'S

# O V E R



A NATION'S TRIBUTE

11TH NOVEMBER 2018

100 YEARS OF REMEMBRANCE

THE ROYAL BRITISH  
LEGION



The **co-operative** funeralcare  
Central England Co-operative



*This booklet is dedicated to the memory of Patrick (Pat) Armstrong (1942-2018), who as Parish Council Project Officer laid the foundations for these commemorations.*