

War Memorial Register

A group of us (Pat Baker, George Collings, Richard Harris, Mark Hifle & Mike Stott) has embarked on a project to identify as many Stoke Gabriel people as possible who served in recent wars and to name them in a War Memorial Register.

Those identified will have resided in the parish of Stoke Gabriel at the time of their enlistment or have had a significant association with it. In contrast to the names on the War Memorial, it matters not how they died, whether it was a result of the conflict or some natural cause; or where they died, whether it was at home or abroad; or when they died, whether it was during the time of the conflict or later. It matters only that they served their country, usually (but not exclusively) as a member of one of the armed services. The wars include WW1 and WW2, and more recent wars.

The aim is to produce a reference book with as much detail as possible about each person and their service and then from that book to produce the Memorial Register with key information, probably little more than their full name, regiment, war and date of their death. The register would be permanently displayed with the pages turned on a weekly basis whereas the reference book would be kept in a cupboard for consultation should more information be required. Where known and with their agreement, the reference book would also identify direct relatives of the memorialised persons. The reference book would enable a short presentation about the service of one or more persons each year on or around the time of Remembrance Day, much as they do at Ypres and elsewhere.

The War Memorial Register would be displayed on a shelf with a glass top in a bespoke wooden unit made by a professional joiner, as befits its purpose. The entries for the Register would be made by a professional calligrapher. Both the reference book and the Register would be designed to be updated as new information became available. The Parish Council has generously agreed to fund the construction of the wooden display unit, memorial book and calligraphy.

The location for the display unit would be in the parish church but its precise location is still to be determined. Digital versions of the reference book and the memorial register could also be made available on-line via the Parish Council and Parish Church web sites. It is hoped that the display unit containing the Memorial Register could be installed by Remembrance Day 2024. In the meantime, if you have an ancestor who served in one of the wars, especially WW2, and who has a significant association with the parish, then please let one of us know if you would like them to be remembered in this way, providing us with their full name, regiment, war and the date of their death as a minimum.