


1. The stories of some of the Fallen from the Parish of All Saints Boyne Hill, Maidenhead in the First World War

Our Parish magazines list the names of 761 from this Parish who 'answered the **call** to arms' in WW1 and in most months of the War more names were added to the 'Roll of Honour'. (1914:257, 1915: 132) Large numbers from this Parish left to **serve** 'their King and Country' in **active service**. When they were boys many would have gone to the School in the building where our Parish Centre is today. **2.** 127 names on Board. **3.** Some would have sung in the choir and served at the Altar. I have discovered **133** Fallen from the Parish of All Saints, Boyne Hill. 6 were in the Navy, 124 were in the Army, 1 in the Royal Marines and 2 in the newly-formed Royal Air Force at the end of the First World War.

4.  In September my husband and I had a wonderful visit to WW1 Battlefields, Cemeteries and Memorials in Belgium and Northern France. We saw the battlefields **5.** **6.** where Soldiers from this Parish fought and died. We saw the wide, flat, open countryside where 100 years ago the land was scarred with trenches thick with Flanders mud. We were in those places where Boyne Hill young men: all beloved sons, some of them husbands and fathers, **sacrificed** their lives and died in the cause of peace. I took with me lists with grave references and Memorial panel numbers and I found **45** of our Soldiers: 5 graves and 40 on Memorials with no graves. We stayed at Ypres for one night visiting Tyne Cot and Menin Gate and we stayed 3 nights at the Somme. We went to Thiepval where 14 of our Soldiers are listed and to some smaller Cemeteries and Memorials. I photographed all of our 45 names. 22 of them were in the RBR. I have also photographed the eleven WW1 Graves in our Churchyard.


My Grandfathers I went with our Soldiers from our Church family here on my heart, rather than looking for the Fallen from my own family.

In Belgium and France we found 'our soldiers' at Tyne Cot, Menin Gate, Loos St Patrick, Loos, Vimy, Arras & Ploegsteert Memorials, Noeux-les- Mines, Rocquigny-Equancourt Road and Finns Cemeteries, Cambrian Churchyard Extension, Cambrai Memorial at Louveral & Thiepval Memorial. It was a very moving and special time. I was moved and



shocked to see how many of our soldiers and thousands more are recorded on panels and memorials, because their bodies were not able to be recovered, identified and buried in a grave. They may be buried in one of the many graves in Cemeteries like these for **7.** 'A Soldier of the Great War Known unto God' with beautiful red 'Remembrance Roses' growing in the well-kept flower borders. **8.** One of our RBR Soldiers remembered on a Panel may be buried in this grave: The peace and tranquillity of the CWGC Cemeteries is very special. Our soldiers are 'resting in peace' in those beautiful gardens, cared for so well to honour our fallen heroes who gave



their lives 'For King and Country'. I am so pleased to have visited those Graves and Memorials to remember those Soldiers. They may not have had other visitors from All Saints Boyne Hill before - I am so glad that I was there to remember them. When I read and photographed their names I recalled some addresses and information some of which I shared on the Guided Walks, which some of you came on in August. 9. 

- 104 of our 133 names are also on the War Memorial at Maidenhead Town Hall.
- 11 of them are on the Bray War Memorial.
- 48 of our Soldiers were in the Royal Berkshire Regiment.

10. I have discovered 7 extra names that should be on our Board but are not yet there.

There is 1 repeated name and some wrong initials. 11. One of the wrong initials is 'Seymour J.' There is no 'J. Seymour' from Maidenhead but there is a 'Seymour T.' Another *For King and Country* researcher, helped me with this detective work, as he sent me a copy of the 1911 Census Records for this family. We can see the name at the bottom of the list where the 'T' looks like a 'J'. If his father completed the census records and sent his son's name in writing to All Saints Church, then we can see why the wrong initial was put on the Board! Terris lived at 'White Ness' Alwyn Road with his parents Francis and Maria Seymour. **Terris Seymour's** civilian occupation was a munitions worker. He was a Rifleman in the South Lancashire Regiment of the British Army. On 11th April 1918 he died of wounds from multiple gun shot wounds at the No 58 West Riding Casualty Clearing Station at Lillers, in France. 12. Remembrance Board.

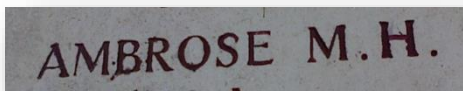
My updated research is on the All Saints Church website if you go to 'About Us', 'History', 'WW I' and my information is on the RBWM *For King and Country* website.

My research began in February 2014 with finding out about **Leonard and Harold Dovey**, because an elderly member of our congregation had noticed these names on the Board, after my Sermon on Remembrance Sunday 2012, and she realised they were her cousin's uncles! Their parents lived at 9 South Road, Maidenhead. **Leonard Mullard Dovey** was a Sapper in the Royal Engineers 13. and he died on 6th July 1916 aged 20. His brother 14. **Harold Dovey** served in the British Army in the Argyll And Sutherland Highlanders. He was killed in action on 11th August 1918 aged 29, leaving his wife Irene Laura Dovey. Since February 2014 it has been wonderful to discover more about all the 133 brave heroes from our Parish who went off to fight in the First World War to serve their King and Country. This evening I will now tell some stories about some of these courageous men from this Parish. I will tell you about 29 of them: 24 in the Army, 3 in the Navy and one in the RAF and one in the Royal Marines.



ARMY 15. Mark Harold Ambrose lived at 26 Boyn Valley Road. Mark Ambrose was listed in the Parish Magazine in September 1914: 'A large number of men have been called up for active service from this parish. For these and

for all the others our prayers are offered before the Throne.' He was married to Dorothy Beatrice. Mark Ambrose was a Private in Princess Charlotte of Wales's (Royal Berkshire Regiment) 1st Battalion D Company, where his Service number was 6509. He served in France and Flanders and then sadly on 31st October 1914 he was killed in Action while taking ammunition to the trenches, for which he volunteered. He was aged 28 when he died. **16.** His name is on Panel 45 of The Menin Gate Memorial, which I photographed.



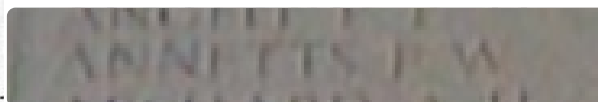
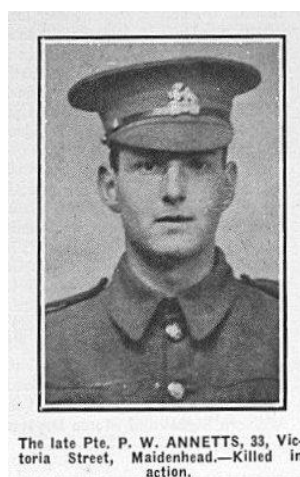
Every evening at 8pm there is the very moving Last Post Ceremony at the Menin Gate to honour the 53,000 soldiers who are remembered on the Panels. **17.**



18.



19. Percival William Annetts lived at 33 Victoria Street, now called South Road, Maidenhead, in the Parish of All Saints, Boyne Hill. He was in the RBR in the 1st & 4th Battalions, serving in France and Flanders. He was Killed in Action on the Somme Salient on 27th August 1916, in the Battle of the Somme. His name along with 73,000 soldiers including 14 from All Saints, Boyne Hill, is on the Theipval Memorial.



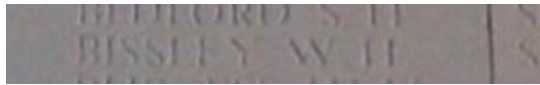
20.



21. 22. William Howe Bissley lived in All Saints Avenue. His father was Churchwarden at All Saints, Boyne Hill. He served as a Second Lieutenant in the 8th Battalion of RBR. The October 1916 All Saints Church Parish Magazine reported the death of Mr William Howe Bissley the 'son of an



honoured father and of a family so well known in the Parish, we venture to mention him particularly. He had a good promise before him in the life he had chosen before the war called him to offer himself for his Country's Service.' He was killed in Action at Bazentin le Petit, Somme on 18th August 1916 and his name is on the Thiepval Memorial on Pier and Face 11D: **23.**



24.



Berkshire Chronicle 1/9/1916 - Lt. Bissley, played cricket with the Boyne Hill C.C. and Football and Hockey with the Maidenhead Hockey Club, a few seasons ago. At Maidenhead Art School, Modern School and at St Mark's College Chelsea he won many prizes and Diplomas. At the outbreak of war he was about to sit for his final examinations for the degree of B.Sc. London University. For many years he was a member of the choir of All Saints Church, Boyne Hill and a teacher at the Sunday School, he being an earnest church worker.

Reading Standard 2/9/1916 - Killed on August 19th 1916, Age 28. He was the fourth son of the late Mr Frank Bissley and Mrs Bissley of All Saints Avenue, Maidenhead, and husband of Mrs Ethel Muriel Bissley. Lt. Bissley fell in action while leading an attack on the German trenches. He was a member of a much respected Maidenhead Family. He was a Master at the Essendine School. Paddington. On the outbreak of war he joined the London University O.T.C. and in March 1915 he obtained a Commission in the Royal Berkshire Regiment. He went to the front in August of the same year and was made Brigade Bombing Officer....He leaves a widow and a daughter a week old. His Colonel wrote "...by his death the Regiment



has lost a plucky and very popular officer and his work during the fighting deserved high praise". **25.** His family gave the ornate font cover at All saints Church in memory of William Howe Bissley.

Members of the Bradley family and many of the Soldiers and their families were baptised in this font.

Harold Roland Bradley lived with his wife Mrs Elizabeth Bradley at 31 Belle Cottages, Westborough Rd, Boyne Hill, Maidenhead, which is where the car-park of the Crooked Billet Pub is now. His Father was Ernest Albert Bradley of 72 Point End Terrace Boyne Hill Road Boyne Hill Maidenhead. Harold Roland Bradley served in the Army in the 2nd &

4th Battalions of the Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry in France and Flanders. On 28th October 1918, so close to the end of the War he died of Wounds and was buried at the Somme in France. **26.** His **Grave Reference is** XIV. B. 8 at ROCQUIGNY-EQUANCOURT ROAD BRITISH CEMETERY, MANANCOURT Cemetery. It was very moving to visit his Grave. We left a poppy cross



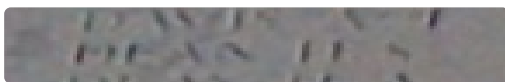
and said the 'Remembrance' words. Unlike many of the Soldiers who died he left a family and has descendants. I have sent photographs of his Grave and the Cemetery to his grandchildren and great-granddaughter.

27. Here is the beautiful and peaceful Cemetery where he is buried and 'resting in peace'.



28. Sidney Bertie Dean was in the RBR. **29.** I had to be a 'detective' to find out about him! **30.** The family called him 'Sidney Bertie' so on our Board of names he is 'Dean S. B.' However his full name was 'Herbert Sidney', so the forces website and CWGC list him with that name! He lived at 98 Garden Cottages, Westborough Rd, Maidenhead before joining the RBR where he served as a Lance Corporal in the 1st and 4th Battalions. He was killed in action on 23/7/1916 at La Boisselle, Somme. His name is recorded on the Thiepval Memorial.

Panel Reference: Pier and Face 11 D. **Memorial:** THIEPVAL MEMORIAL (CWGC) **31.**



Sydney Fletcher lived at 4 East View, Westborough Road. He joined the 73rd Battalion of Princess Patricia's Canadian Infantry. He died on 9th April 1917 in the Battle of Vimy Ridge. His name is on the huge Vimy Memorial Pas de Calais:



32.



33.



34.

35. William Lipscombe lived at 4 North Star Lane, which those of you who came



on the WW1 Guided Walks will remember. His parents were Mr. and Mrs. Charles Lipscombe, of 4 North Star Lane, Maidenhead; his mother's name was Sarah. Corporal **Oliver Percy Lipscombe** was his brother who

also joined the RBR and he was in the 6th Battalion. Oliver married Agnes and they lived at 137 Westborough Rd. He died of Wounds at 83rd General Hospital, Boulogne, France on



26th October 1916 and his grave is at BOULOGNE EASTERN CEMETERY.

William was in the the 1st Battalion and was in the battle of Cambrai, where he died on 16th December 1915. I was glad to visit his grave and send the photograph to his great-nieces. **36.**

Here you can see the Cemetery where William Lipscombe is buried: **37. 38.**

39. John William Shelton's parents were William Benjamin and Lucy Anna Shelton. The



1911 census has the family living in 44 Albert Street, Maidenhead. John worked, briefly, for the Great Western Railway from 1908 -1909 as a parcels clerk and then gained employment as a coal clerk, probably at Maidenhead Station. He served with the Army in RBR 1st / 4th Battalions

from February 1911- February 1916. The RBR landed in France on 31/3/1915 and John would have been with them. In February the Battalion was in the trenches at Hebuterne, Somme, in France and whilst it was a fairly quiet sector, it was cold, wet and miserable and they had been there for 5 months under constant shelling. He was Honourably Discharged 22/2/1916 under Kings Regulations 392 he had served his term in the Army and allowed to go home. John died in the district of St George, Hanover Square, London in June 1916. It is possible that he was in a Military Hospital at the time. His father wrote to the Army after his death in June 1916 stating that his son had died from heart failure as a result of the "shock" in the trenches during 1915/16. John was probably suffering from shell shock.

We honour this soldier from our Parish who fought in the War until February 1916 and died as a result of his War Service. John Shelton was listed on the Roll of Honour at All



Saints Church. **40.** He was buried in the Churchyard at All Saints, Boyne Hill on 12th June 1916, but not in a CWGC grave, because he had left the Army at the time of his death. On the family grave is written: 'In loving Memory of William Benjamin Shelton died 11th August 1937 aged 73 'at rest' and Lucy Anna his wife died 29th May

1949 aged 93 And John William Shelton Son of the above died 8th June 1916 aged 24' On Remembrance Sunday I put a wooden cross with a poppy on his grave to honour and remember him.



41.

Henry James Scott I feel very sad for Mr. J. T. and Mrs. M. J. Scott, of 12, King's Grove, Maidenhead, Berks. because they had 3 sons who died in WW1. Sergeant Henry James Scott was in the London Regiment, service number 1613. On 16th January 1916 aged 27 he died of wounds at 7th Casualty Clearing Station, Noeux-les-Mines, France. 42. He is buried at NOEUX-LES-MINES COMMUNAL CEMETERY between Bethune and Arras in France *Grave Reference: I. E. 29.*



His brother **Douglas John Scott** died on 30th April 1918 aged 32. He is buried in a Cemetery in Jerusalem as he served with the London Regiment in the Egyptian Expeditionary Force.

Their brother **Alfred Keith Scott** was Regimental Serjeant Major in the British Army in the Cameron Highlanders in the 7th Battalion when he served in France and Flanders he was awarded 43. The **Distinguished Conduct Medal**, which was regarded as second only to the Victoria Cross in prestige. The D.C.M. was awarded to Alfred Keith Scott for gallantry in the field in the face of the enemy. He was also given the Victory Medal and the British War Medal that were awarded to all the Soldiers in the Army that I am telling you about this evening. He died aged 25 on 13th October 1916 at the Somme and he is buried at the Somme Salient, France ADANAC MILITARY CEMETERY, at MIRAUMONT.

The Victory Medal



British War Medal

Gunner **Arthur John Thatcher** and Corporal **Walter Thatcher** lived at 4 Clare Road with their parents as boys. Later Walter lived at 119 All Saints Avenue, possibly after he was married. Walter served in the Army in 2nd Battalion of RBR in France and Flanders. He was killed in Action at Sailly Labourse, France on 16th August 1917 aged 23. His name is on : Panel 105 at TYNE COT MEMORIAL. 44.



How terrible for his parents that 2 weeks later their son Arthur was Killed in Action at Ypres Salient, Belgium on 30th Aug 1917 serving with Royal Field Artillery. His name is on the Tyne Cot Memorial: **45.**



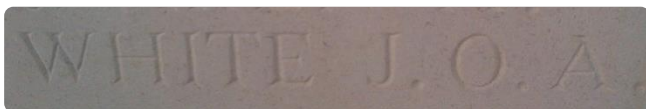
46. Here is a photograph of the Cemetery at Tyne Cot where Arthur and Walter Thatcher's names with 5 others from All Saints, Boyne Hill are on Panels behind where I took this photograph. There are 35,000 names on the Panels and 12,000 graves in this largest CWGC Cemetery.



47.



Lance Corporal **Jack O. Albert White** lived 43 Portlock Rd, the road where 13 of our Fallen lived. He was in the 5th Battalion of RBR and he died on 20th Nov 1917 in the battle of Cambrai when he was killed in Action at Peizieres, France. His name is on Panel 8 of **the CAMBRAI MEMORIAL, LOUVERVAL.** **48.**



We visited this memorial on the Sunday morning of our Battlefields and Cemeteries Tour, where we had a very moving



Communion Service and sang 'Abide with me'. **49. 50.**

51.

John Taft had 3 different addresses in Maidenhead, which I told you about on the Guided Walks: 19 The Croft, 24 Powney Road and 13 Penyston Road. He joined the RBR and died at the Battle of the Somme on 14th August 1916 when he was killed in action at Ovillers, France. His name is on the Thiepval Memorial. When I saw and photographed his name there, I was moved to think that after having 3 addresses here; he does not have a Grave, but only his name on Memorials: **52.**



53.



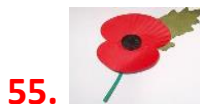
Now I will tell you about two more brothers from this Parish who served in the Army and died in the cause of peace 'for King and Country'. On our Remembrance Board we have Bird G. and Bird H.W. In my research I discovered that they were **George Bird** and **Henry William Bird**. They had a younger brother called Sidney who was born in 1901. Sidney's granddaughter Pauline recently told me that Henry and George were brothers. The family lived at Boyne Hill but Henry was born at Shepherd's Bush. This is because his parents were touring the country with swing boats at the time of Henry's birth and happened to be in Shepherd's Bush when Mrs Bird gave birth to her son! Their parents were William Henry and Lucy Ann Bird of Boyne Hill, Maidenhead. Their address was 1 Sunny Headington Cottages, Boyne Hill Road Boyne Hill Maidenhead.

Henry William Bird was baptised in 1884 at Bray Church and he would have come to School here in our Parish Centre. Henry married Rose Hannah Hubbard in 1906 in Poplar. Henry and Rose lived at 23 The Croft, Boyne Hill, Maidenhead. They had a daughter named Gladys Rose who was born in 1910. Henry joined 42nd Battalion of the Machine Gun Corps, where he was a Private with the service number 46071. Henry was killed in action on 30th March 1918 at Gommecourt, France. His **Grave Reference:** II. J. 16.

George Bird was born in Boyne Hill. He was baptised at Bray Church in 1893. George married Agnes L. White in 1915 in Maidenhead. George was a Corporal in the **54.** RBR 2nd and 4th Battalions when they were in France and Flanders. He was killed in Action on 3rd April 1918 at Maissemy, France **Grave Reference:** III. C. 38 at the VADENCOURT BRITISH CEMETERY, MAISSEMY



How sad for the family that Henry and George died 4 days apart. What a tragic time for the family with the news of the two deaths.



55. On our Remembrance Board we have '**Button W.E.**' I took a long time to discover about this Soldier, as there is no W.E.Button on the CWGC or the Forces Website. Then I found '**Ernest Edwin Button**' who is the only WWI soldier from Maidenhead with this surname so here is our Soldier known to some as '**Win Ernest**'. The September 1920 Parish magazine lists 'Button E.' in the original list of names for the War Memorial, so I think 'Ernest Edwin' is our soldier. His address in Maidenhead was Firs Road Cannon Street Maidenhead at Maidenhead Thicket. Ernest Edwin or Win Ernie's father was Edwin BUTTON and his was Mother Jane BUTTON. His Civilian Occupation was a Jewellers Errand Boy. He was a driver in the Army Service Corps when

his Service number was T4/248802. On 2nd December 1917, aged 20, he was killed in action in France at Sorel. I was very pleased to find his grave at FINS NEW BRITISH CEMETERY, SOREL-LE-GRAND.

56.



NAVY Able Seaman Charles **Ernest Attwood** from 12 North Star Lane served **57.** in the Navy on *HMS Hampshire* with Boy 1st Class **Fred Allen** from 2 Ivy Cottages, Cox Green, which was in this Parish then. Fred was 17 and Charles was 20 when they were killed by an explosion of the vessel at Sea at Brough of Birsay, Orkney Islands, when ship struck a mine in heavy seas whilst taking Lord Kitchener to Russia. Some of the bodies were recovered from the water and here **58.** We can see Fred Allen's grave on The Isle of Hoy, Orkney at the Lyness Royal Navy Cemetery. A *For King and Country* Researcher who has been working on the Bray War Memorial



photographed this and sent it to me. Charles Attwood's name is on Panel 12 of the PORTSMOUTH NAVAL MEMORIAL. **59.** (Medal) Fred's brother Boy 1st Class **Albert Edward Allen** was also in the Navy serving on HMS Goliath at the Dardanelles. He was given this 1914 / 15 Star medal along with the others who served early in the War. Albert Allen died when the ship was torpedoed near Dardanelles. He died as a direct result of enemy action at Morto Bay, Gallipoli, Turkey. His name is on Panel 8 at the PORTSMOUTH NAVAL MEMORIAL.



60. RAF Cecil George Palmer Priest was married to Grace Priest and they lived at 44 Portlock Road. At the end of WW1 he was in the RAF as an Air Mechanic 2nd Class in 'A' Squadron. He died in 21st February 1919 and he has a **61.** CWGC grave in our Churchyard because he died as a result of injuries in the War and he had not been discharged from the RAF at the time of his death. Here is a photograph of his grave.

62. If you would like to discover more of 'The stories of the Fallen of All Saints' Boyne Hill' then you will find my Research on the Church Website under 'About us' and 'History'. It has been moving and fascinating to discover their full names, where they lived in Maidenhead and their regiments; so these 'names' have become real people. **63.** All of them were much loved sons, with hopes and dreams for their lives. Many had brothers, sisters and wives; some had young children.





I keep thinking that I have finished my Research and then I discover more information! I have recently been looking through a CD of photographs from local newspapers at the time of the 1st World War and I found this photograph of **Frederick James Stevens. 64.** Frederick was in RBR 1st Battalion C Company. He was wounded near Ypres and taken to Nottingham General Hospital, where he died of wounds on 12th January 1915, aged 20. The February 1915 Parish Magazine tells us that 'Frdrk. Stevens, who was wounded near Ypres, passed away in England and was accorded a military funeral in the Churchyard. His grave is in the Churchyard at All Saints, Boyne Hill, towards the end on the left near the fence. This was the first Maidenhead Funeral of a soldier who died in WW1.



65. Here is a photograph of Private Frederick James Stevens's grave in the Churchyard at All Saints' Boyne Hill. His brother Charles is remembered on this grave as he is buried in France at

MOEUVRES COMMUNAL CEMETERY EXTENSION. Their mother was Mrs. Elizabeth S. Stevens, of 3, Hope Cottages, High Town Rd., Maidenhead, in the Parish of All Saints, Boyne Hill. **66. Charles Stevens** was a Lance Serjeant in RBR 1st Battalion. Charles was awarded the Level 3 Gallantry Medal for acts of gallantry. It was announced in the London Gazette Issue 29731: 'His Majesty The KING has been graciously pleased to award The Military Medal to Charles Stevens for bravery in the field. 1 / 9 /1916'. Sadly Lance Serjeant Charles Stevens was killed in action on 17th November 1917. Charles Steven's brother Frederick is on the original Board at the Parish Church of All Saints, but not his brother Charles. I think Charles Stevens was on the original Board from St Paul's Church, as he lived in Hightown Road, close to where St Paul's Church used to be. The Board from St Paul's Church is lost and so Charles Stevens will be honoured on the new All Saints Board.

On 31st May 2016 we will remember the Battle of Jutland 100 years ago in 1916. **Charles Bruce Dormer** lived in a house called 'Avelon' in Westborough Road. He was a Private in the **Royal Marines** on **67.** HMS *Invincible* in 1916 with the Royal Navy with the Grand Fleet in the North Sea, under the command of Admiral John Jellicoe. HMS *Invincible* was the flagship of the 3rd Battlecruiser Squadron during the Battle of Jutland. The squadron had been detached from Admiral Beatty's Battlecruiser Fleet a

few days before the battle for gunnery practice with the Grand Fleet and acted as its heavy scouting force during the battle. She was destroyed by a magazine explosion during the battle, when 'shells tore into the battle cruiser.' Sadly Charles Bruce Dormer died aged 19 and his name is on our Church Board and on Panel 22 at the Portsmouth Naval Memorial. As it is now the centenary of the Battle of Jutland, I have included Charles Bruce Dormer as the last soldier whose story I tell you this evening.

This afternoon / this evening I have told you about **24** who were in the Army, **3** who served in the **Navy** and **one** in the **RAF** and **one** in the **Royal Marines**. Here in Maidenhead there was a great sense of patriotism, adventure and excitement as young men left this Parish of Boyne Hill to go off to fight to help those in need and to bring peace.

Soon we will honour and remember the Fallen from this Parish better because the Remembrance Board is going to be restored with the names in gold, which will show up well on the English Oak Board that has darkened in the 96 years since 1920. We are going to have a new Board for the 7 missing names so that we can read and remember the **133** from the 1st World War and also the **14** from the 2nd World War who died and those from subsequent actions. **68**. Here is the plan and design of the restored old Board and the new Board, which the PCC have agreed will be in the North Porch, with the poppy from The Tower that I would like to donate. I feel this will be a fitting and honouring memorial to the Fallen from the Parish of All Saints Boyne Hill. This will enable us to 'remember them', as we will be able to clearly read their names.

Please will you stand: **69**. List of names

*They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old;
age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.*

At the going down of the sun and in the morning

We will remember them.

We will remember them.

Time of Silence

When you go home, tell them of us and say, "For your tomorrow, we gave our today."

70.



***Elizabeth Grace Bryson
September and October 2015***

Remembrance Sunday 2015 and December 2015, January and April 2016