

# FACULTY REQUEST FOR NEW WAR MEMORIAL IN ST PETER'S CHURCHYARD, ROPLEY

## BACKGROUND

1. In early 2023 a retired member of the Navy, David Ottley, resident in the village, initiated a long held desire to make the case to instal an external War Memorial somewhere in the village. No external war memorial has ever been located in Ropley and we do not know why. There is, though, a full list of those lost in the two world wars displayed in the church. Shortly after his initial discussions he was taken ill and had to relocate to a care home from where he was unable to pursue his long held dream. A number of retired military members in the village agreed to take on the task.

## LOCATION AND DESIGN

2. The initial discussion concerned the Monument's potential location in the village and its design. As far as location is concerned, and after much discussion, it was felt that somewhere in St Peter's churchyard would be suitable. This would give the advantage of a classic position, visible from the road in the middle of the village yet safely located. It would also be conveniently located for memorial services in the church. As far as design is concerned the committee unanimously chose a simple design which would not only meet our finance target but also mirror other St Peter's churchyard monuments. A memorial cross located some miles from Ropley, picture included with the final design (enclosure A) was considered a good example and was given to the stonemasons for estimates. A height of about 9 feet was agreed. The design has subsequently been slightly modified to allow sufficient space for a brass plaque on its base layer should this be needed in future.

## INSCRIPTION

3. The inscription to be proposed for the monument also caused much discussion. The church houses a full record of those from the village who gave their lives in the two world wars. In view of the complexity and cost of inscribing these names, 59 in all, on the memorial it was decided that the names would not be so inscribed though a separate inscription would note that the names were recorded in the church. It was also felt that the memorial should recognise all in the village who have given and will give their lives in conflict rather than restricted to those remembered in the two world wars. The two inscriptions proposed are:

Main Inscription to be located on the front of the top layer (see design at Annex A): "We remember with thanks and pride those who give their lives serving this country in conflict".

Inscription on back of top layer: "The names of those who fell in the two world wars are recorded in the Church".

Should there subsequently be a desire in the village to have the names inscribed on the monument, as some of our discussions have indicated, provision of spare space, 2<sup>nd</sup> base from top, has been provided in the monument's design to allow a brass plate inscribed with all the names and regiments to be attached to it.

## VILLAGE APPROVAL AND DISCUSSION

4. The proposal was put to both the Parish Council and the Parochial Church Council in November 2023 with both agreeing the proposed location and inscriptions. The minutes of the appropriate Parish Council meeting is attached for information, Annex B. The PCC approve location and design via this Faculty request. The Parish Council kindly agreed to provide some funding (see separate funding paragraph) and also agreed to buy the memorial thus avoiding the need to pay VAT. The Parish Council would thus take ownership of the memorial which we understand is the case with most memorials. The Parish Council agreed to include the memorial in the list of Parish assets and to cover its future insurance. The case for a War Memorial in the village was then put to the village via our local magazine (copy of insert attached Annex C) which goes to all houses in the village and surrounding villages. All 5 responses were positive in support and are copied at Annex D.

## COSTING

5. 3 quotes were initially obtained:  
Blackwell and Moody: £13,500 + VAT  
Artcraft Memorials: £5,644 + VAT  
Stonecrest Stonemasons: £5,624+ VAT
6. The latest quote, attached (Annex E), from Stonecrest is £4,755 + VAT though no VAT will be payable.

## LOCATION IN CHURCHYARD AND CHOICE OF STONE

7. The precise location of the memorial in the churchyard to be presented to the PCC for approval was agreed during a meeting of the committee in the churchyard at which a Church Warden was present and also a representative of the selected stonemason, Stonecrest. The location, shown on the attached maps (one memorial position (Annex F) and one of whole churchyard (Annex G)), is located near the flagpole which is the current centre for Remembrance services. The location is clear of any gravestones and, even if there are unmarked grave sites close to, it no disturbance should be caused as the foundation is only some 8 inches deep. The congregation would stand in the same position as in past outside Remembrance services. A photo of the proposed position is attached (Annex G). It includes, in the foreground, the path outside the church and shows the precise location marked by a cross which can be seen just to the left of the flagpole. The road runs between the houses shown and the wall just beyond the cross. The choice of stone was also discussed and, after examining examples in the churchyard, Honed Silver Grey Granite was chosen. This stone is long lasting and should resist the accumulation of moss on its surface. The PCC subsequently approved the choice of stone and location, minutes attached at Annex I.

## CONSULTATION WITH THE WAR MEMORIALS TRUST

8. Following DAC advice we have consulted with the War Memorials Trust (WMT) who advise that no consultation is required. However they would be very interested in receiving details and photographs once the Memorial is installed and this will be done. A confirmatory message from the War Memorials Trust is attached at Annex J.

## FINANCE

8. When David Ottley sold his house on leaving the village he very kindly gave the income from the associated contents sale towards the War Memorial. The sale amounted to some £1,000. The Parish Council has generously given £3,000 and our County Councillor has kindly donated £1,000 in all amounting to £5,000. This sum covers all the estimated costs.

Keith Monkhouse  
St Peter's, Ropley PCC  
26 Sep 2024

Annexes:

- A. Final Design
- B. Parish Council approval minutes.
- C. Insert in local magazine
- D. Responses to magazine article.
- E. Estimate
- F. Memorial position map
- G. Map of whole churchyard
- H. Photo of proposed memorial position
- I. PCC approval minutes.
- J. War Memorials Trust message