

World War One Remembered

in flowers and family memorabilia



Saturday 8 November from 10 - 4

Sunday 9 November from 12 - 4

St Mary's Church, Ashbury

Welcome to our exhibition

We hope the following notes may help you as you explore our lovely church. Do please stay to have some tea or coffee and enjoy the peaceful atmosphere as you remember the men and women from this area who served in the Great War

Porch

These simple but poignant arrangements set the mood for the displays inside; roses at the foot of each cross speak of both love and sacrifice

Font

Hope is made visible as new life springs from the mud and weeds to nourish both body and soul

Entrance

The flowers and letters on the entrance table remind us of those important links between those serving overseas and their families at home

Good Shepherd Window (*on your left*)

A copy of *The Soldier* by Rupert Brooke reminds us of the many corners of foreign fields that are forever England because of the sacrifices made by so many young men

Craven Chapel

Even in those dark days, couples still fell in love and got married; the display shows a village wedding in Longcot from 1918

Chancel steps

Two arrangements on the steps lead us into the Chancel, where the lines of poppies in front of the choir stalls point towards the high altar

Chancel windows

The display on the north side of the Chancel represents Conflict. The poems *Before Action*, by WN Hodgson, *Attack*, by Siegfried Sassoon and *Break of day in the trenches* by Isaac Rosenberg create a vivid picture of what it was like to serve in the trenches

On the south wall, 40 roses commemorate each of the men from the village who died serving their country

On a table against the north wall of the Chancel is a photograph of Lewis and Edith Barnett's wedding in 1916. Please read the tribute to Lewis, written by his son Tom, together with information about Lewis and his brothers Harry and Sidney, who also served in the Great War

Sanctuary

In front of the Altar *We will remember them* is an arrangement of flowers with prayers written by the children of Ashbury with Compton Beauchamp CE(A) Primary School; it is a reminder of innocence and a statement of hope for the future

Around and behind the altar, arrangements of white lilies symbolise Peace

To the right of the altar can be found a pair of RFC/RAF uniforms along with memorabilia, including trench art, military ceramics, pictures and magazines; these have been kindly provided by Robin and Genevieve Mitchell

Lady Chapel (*behind the organ*)

Please take time to sit and contemplate the images of Sacrifice, especially the cross, the chalk and charcoal representation of the moments *After the battle* and the painting of poppies on the west wall.

Hagioscope (Squint)

A copy of John McCrae's poem *In Flanders Fields* sits in the hagioscope (squint) window above the chest in the Lady Chapel; behind it is a copy of Wilfred Gibson's poem, *Back*

South Door & Pews

We have created an exhibition space with background information about the Great War: in particular notes about the Ashbury WW1 Project undertaken by Diane McLaren to research, via on-line service records, the brave Ashbury men who served in the War. The results may be viewed on the 40 cards placed on pews throughout the Church. Stories about soldiers who fought in the War were kindly contributed to the Ashbury Project by family members, or discovered via the Web, or found, with Leonie Knott's kind permission, within Peter Knott's collection of historic Ashbury records.

East Window

This window is in honour of Thomas Disbury (uncle of the late Tom Disbury) who was killed in action in Belgium, and also of Ernest Henry Dowling (uncle of Violet Disbury), William Nobes (father of Violet Disbury) and James Withers (son of William and Dorcas Withers)

Behind you, please note the memorial to L/Cpl Peter Higgs, killed in action in June 1982 and say a prayer for the members of our armed forces who continue to serve their country

*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.*

Many thanks to

**Ashbury School, Elizabeth Boyd, Judy Clarke, Shirley Dalton Morris,
Ann Disbury, Leonie Knott, Eileen Law, Peggy Leon, Diane McLaren,
Robin & Genevive Mitchell, Sue Reade, Maggie Simons, Margaret Smith
and Karine Winfield**

**and everyone who was worked so hard to make this exhibition possible
– not just the flower arrangers and those who have shared precious family
memorabilia with us,
but also those who cleaned the church, moved the furniture and gave their time to act
as stewards over the weekend**

**Entry to this exhibition is free
but, if you would like to make a donation in the jar by the north door,
that would be very much appreciated**

Tea and coffee are available in the Vestry at the rear of the Church