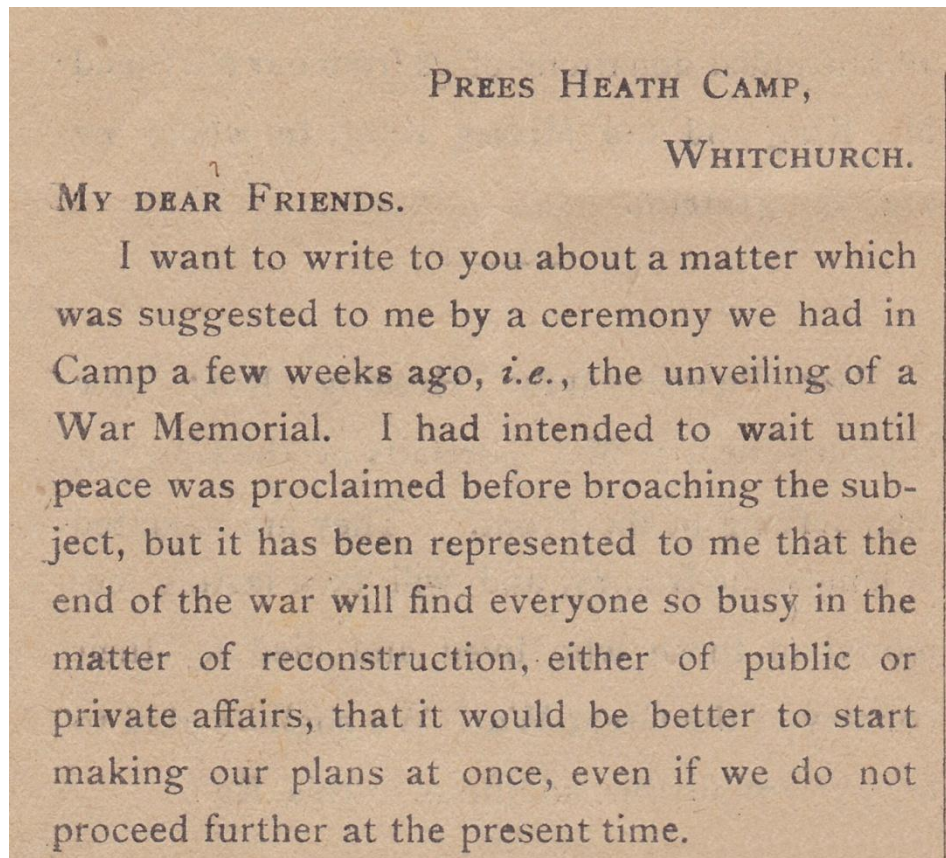


Kildwick War Memorial

Rev Hodge's early proposals

The Rev. Christopher Hodge arrived to take up the vacant position at St. Andrew's Kildwick in January 1917 and, almost immediately, left the village to become an Army chaplain.

In July 1918, in a letter published in the parish magazine and subsequently in a sermon delivered on the 21st, while he was visiting Kildwick prior to his departure for France, the vicar outlined his ideas for a war memorial.



My own ideas of the matter run along two lines. First, the enlarging of the churchyard, and the erection of a churchyard Cross, according to the old style before churchyards were spoilt by the great massive tombs and various monuments such as we see to-day. Secondly, the erection of some smaller memorial in the Church itself; and then the completion of such memorial by the building or equipping of some new S. Andrew's Church in the colonies, that those of our race and nation who in future days make their homes in other lands may still have with them the source of that same spirit of devotion and self-sacrifice which their comrades, or fathers, have so nobly shown in our times.

A "non-utilitarian" memorial

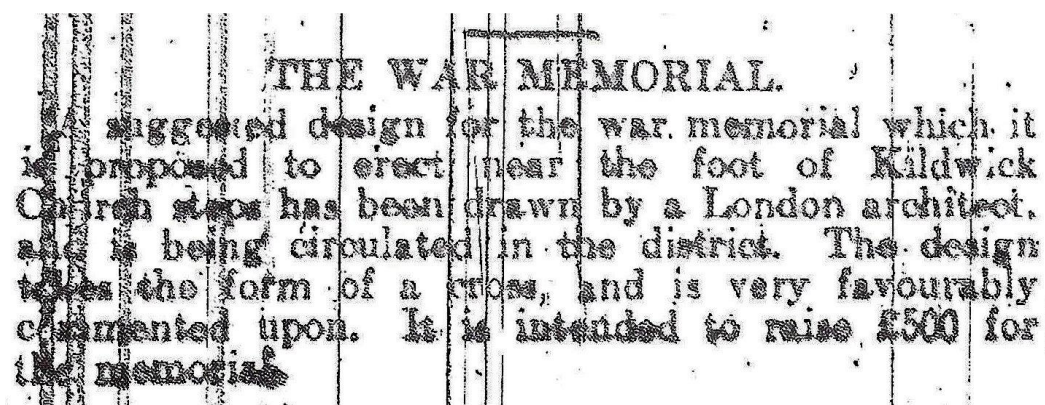
Rev. Hodge's initial proposals do not appear to have gained much acceptance and a year later – with the war over and a peace treaty signed – the matter was raised again.

Proposed War Memorial.—A meeting convened by the Rev. E. E. V. Hodge, Vicar of Kildwick, was held in the school on Friday last to consider a war memorial. There were present the Rev. A. J. Bromwich, representing the Crosshills Wesleyan Chapel; the Rev. F. H. J. Thornton, representing the Crosshills Primitive Methodist Chapel; and representatives from the Rural District Council and the Parish Council. The Vicar outlined proposals for a memorial for the fallen to be of a Christian character and non-utilitarian. Mr. Hodge was supported by Mr. Thornton and others, and after some discussion it was resolved to hold a further meeting at Crosshills on Friday next.

From the Craven Herald – 11/7/1919

It is clear that, by this time, the plan had evolved somewhat and the intention was to create a memorial for all denominations covering the whole of Kildwick parish.

These meetings led to the design that was finally accepted – a stone cross to be erected just outside the main gates of the church. It would cost £500.



From the Keighley News – 1/11/1919

Collecting the names

"There's a man going 'round taking names" – African-American spiritual

Once the design had been agreed, the big question was "whose names would be included?". It was a problem common to all the memorials that listed the names of the fallen.

In March 1920 the following advertisement appeared in the local press.

A newspaper advertisement with the text: "Relatives of all men from Glusburn, Cross Hills, Junction, Kildwick, and Parishill fallen in the war are requested to forward the names for inscription on the Kildwick Memorial, to Mr. T. Appleby, Kildwick.—Advt." The text is in a bold, serif font and is centered on the page.

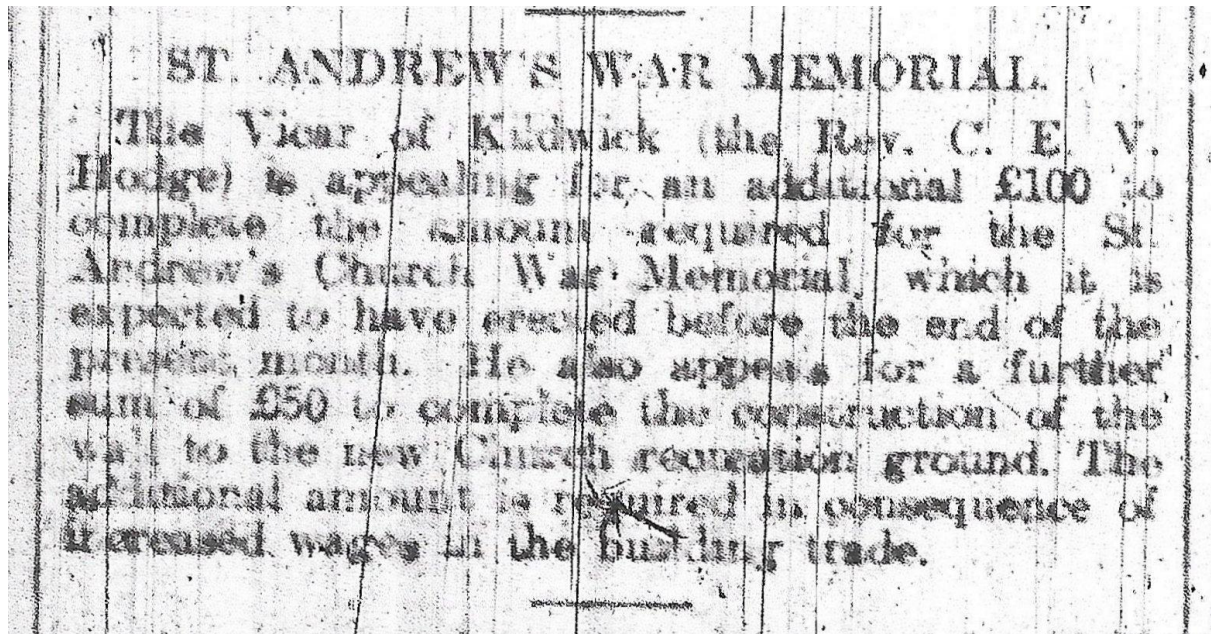
This approach neatly side-stepped the question of whose name would be included, but it did lead to some rather strange anomalies. For example:

- The memorial contains the names of at least two men who died of illness after the war was over. James Pollard and his brother John both died of pneumonia in October and November 1919, respectively. The Versailles treaty, which formally ended the war, was signed on 28th of June.
- The name William Lister Slack does not appear on the memorial. He served in the Mercantile Marine throughout the war period, until he died in March 1919.
- The name Thomas Denton Harker is included on the memorial even though he had emigrated to Australia before the start of the war and changed his name. (It is likely that his name was included because his parents lived in Glusburn.)

Another interesting anomaly is that although the memorial is situated in Kildwick, the village itself was "thankful" – that is to say, all of the men who went from the village to serve in the forces returned home at the end of the war (see [Article - Kildwick a thankful village](#) for details).

The plan goes over-budget

Everything seemed to be going well when it was realised that the plan would cost significantly more than the original £500 planned.



The final bill for the memorial came to slightly under £650.

Sizeable contributions towards this were made by the local great and good, including:

- £150 from the Brigg brothers, of Kildwick Hall
- £50 from James Bairstow
- £85 from the Horsfall family
- £25 from John Riddihough, of Farnhill Hall

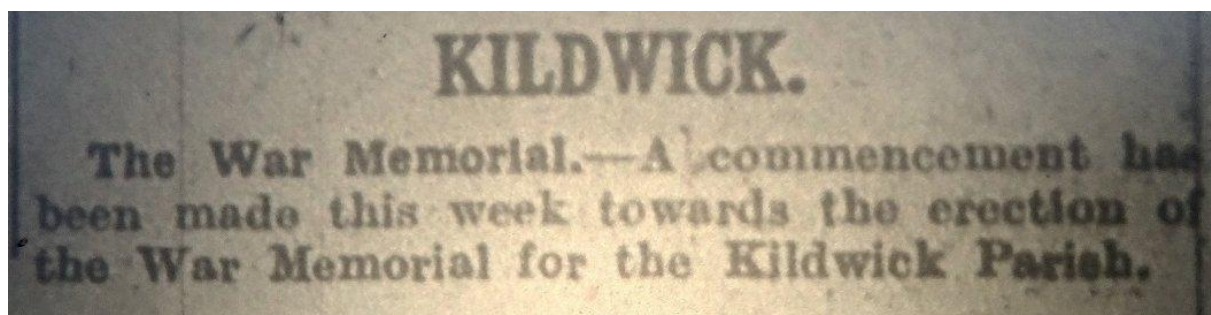
Smaller individual donations were made by the people of the parish, totalling over £200

Other collections also raised £200, including £10 collected by Thomas Appleby from former pupils of Kildwick School.

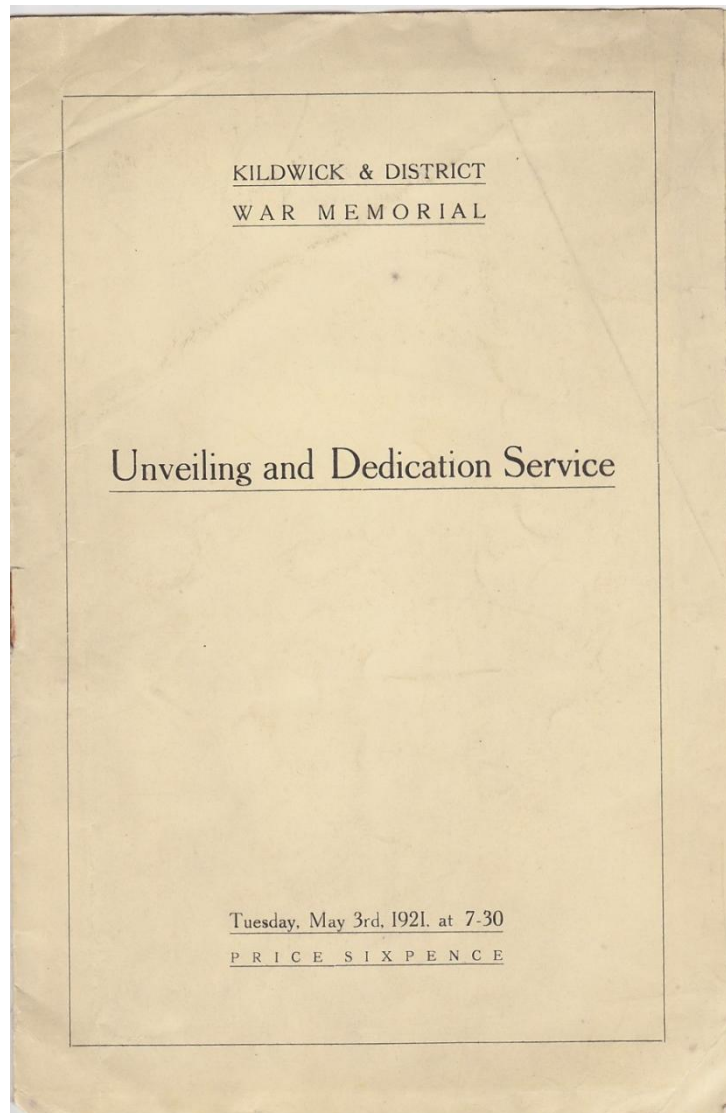
Altogether a sum of £717-3s-4d was raised, with the balance being invested in a fund for the maintenance of the monument.

Building and unveiling

With all the delay involved in raising additional funds, it was March 1921 before the following announcement appeared in the Keighley News.



The memorial was unveiled on 3rd May 1921 by the dowager Lady Horsfall, whose son Cedric was named on the memorial.



A large number of wreaths were laid.



KILDWICK & NEIGHBOURHOOD
WAR MEMORIAL, No. 1

Appendix – two photographs

The archive of Farnhill and Kildwick History Group includes two contrasting photographs of the approach to St. Andrew's church.



The approach to St. Andrew's church – c. 1910



The approach to St. Andrew's church – c. 1922

One can only wonder whether the names of any of the young men shown in the upper photograph, hanging around on the church steps, ended up being included on the newly-erected war memorial, shown in the lower image ?

