



Hagley
A VILLAGE AT WAR
1914 - 1918
Researched and Written
By
Pat Dunn
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**A Diary of Hagley activities in World War I
as recorded in**

~ The Hagley Parish Magazine ~

And other resources

1914 – 1918

Pat Dunn

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I have tried to preserve the spirit of the *Hagley Parish Magazine* in my writing and have often used words, phrases and capitalisation quoted from the magazine which today's reader may now find outdated.

Pat Dunn
2014

Front Cover (From top left):

Samuel Thomas Eley, Hagley Hall, Townsend Memorial Screen at St. John's church, Revd. James Phelips, Maurice Murray Pearson, St. Saviour's church, St. John's church, Charles Tudor Bennett, The Parish Room and Hall Barn.

HAGLEY PARISH MAGAZINE

FOR AUGUST, 1914.

CLERGY AND OFFICERS OF THE CHURCH:

Clergy.

Rector—REV. PHEB. J. PHELIPS. REV. J. D. THOMAS, Station Road, Lower Hagley.

Churchwardens.

E. A. LUNT and H. ROUND.

Sidesmen

MESSRS. D. R. DIXON, T. EDWARDS, D. P. FELLOWS, J. H. HEYWOOD, J. F. JACKSON, A. V. MOORE,
A. A. TATE.

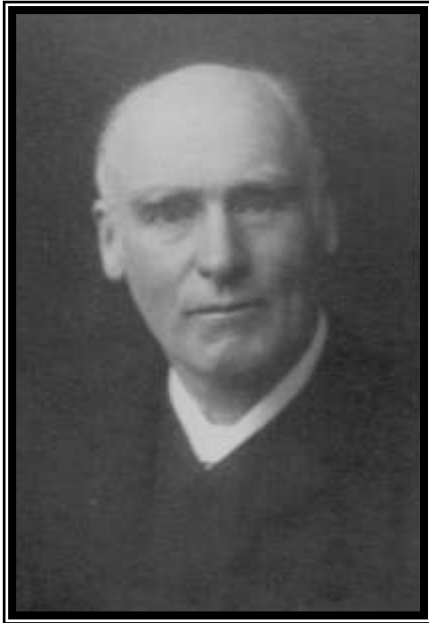
St. Saviour's Church Council.

MESSRS. A. ANSELL, T. BATEMAN, J. W. BARKER, G. E. BISSELL, H. E. FOLKES, W. H. HOMER,
W. WICKHAM-KING, W. NOCK (Treasurer), J. PHILLIPS, W. R. SELLECK.

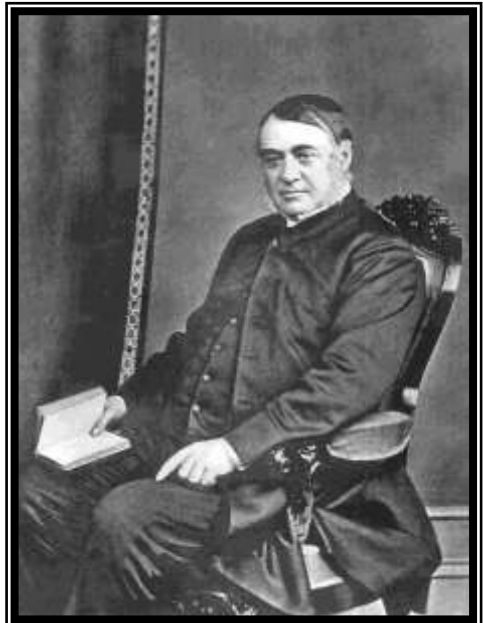
Parish Clerk:

A. TANDY, Obelisk View.

Editors of the Hagley Parish Magazine



Revd. James Phelps
Rector of Hagley 1911 - 1916



Revd. Lewis Westmacott
Rector of Hagley 1916 - 1923

Introduction

At the beginning of the twentieth century the balance of power in Europe was upset by the rise of a united and ambitious Germany after the Franco-Prussian War (1870-71). Generally too, European countries were competing for supremacy in industry, trade and empire. Two opposing camps developed as a result: the Triple Alliance of Austria-Hungary, Germany and Italy and a similar arrangement, the Entente Cordiale, between France, Russia and Britain. The assassination at Sarajevo of Archduke Franz Ferdinand, heir to the Austro-Hungarian Empire, by Gavrilo Princip, a Serbian Nationalist, on June 28th 1914 was the catalyst which plunged the two alliances into a terrible war.

Much has been written and indeed is still being written about the military aspects of the war but considerably less about civilian conditions. Therefore documents such as the monthly *Hagley Parish Magazine* published throughout the conflict provide a useful source of information on the Home Front. Certainly in Hagley, skilfully guided by their Rector, the Reverend James Phelips and the Lyttelton family of Hagley Hall, the villagers both young and old were doing their bit for the war effort. Each edition featured news of projected activities, followed by a report of the same in the next edition and the sacrifices made to achieve them. However, interestingly enough, the first mention of local involvement appeared to happen in 1913, suggesting that the government was already preparing for war – so this is where my findings begin.

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January 1914

The Hagley Parish Magazine for January 1914, edited by the Rector, the Revd. Prebendary James Phelips, is interesting on two accounts.

Firstly, because it reports the outcome of a managers' meeting at the school on December 6th 1913. His Majesty's Inspector had visited the school to consider a plan that had been forwarded to his department (presumably by the government believing that war might be imminent) and the alterations necessary for education provision which would amount to £280.

Secondly, it reports a meeting the same evening of the National Service League (NSL) which took place in the Hall Barn at 7.30pm to discuss the plan. Members were disappointed that few young people attended. The Chairman spoke of the need for evening continuation schools for all young men leaving the elementary schools. One night per week for 8 to 9 months would be devoted to physical drill, the teaching of tactics and the topography of the country. These would be a helpful beginning.

Lieutenant Colonel Bottomley spoke of the value of physical training in the open air and that all young men should be compelled to attend cadet corps from 14 to 18^½ years old and that 19 to 21 year

olds should join the Territorial Force. Those up to 30 should be called out for whole training with pay at army rates. The League was not anti Territorial Forces but, in case of danger or war, six months training was necessary. Would there be six months' warning? There was a 66,000 shortage in Territorial numbers and 64,000 never went to camp. That meant, that the United Kingdom is not safe. Experts say invasion is possible. Compulsory conscription would require three years in barracks. The NSL idea is better because of its strengthening of the manhood of the race by Physical Training.

A resolution at the end was unanimously carried in supporting the objects of the League. Interesting also is the fact that in April of the previous year it was suggested that a local Boy Scout group should be formed and on May 29th 1912 this was done at the Hall Barn and was to prove very useful to the war effort.

August 1914

The magazine then records happy accounts of normal July activities at both churches including the Sunday School treat at the Rectory, the senior choir outing to Hartlebury, the Teme Valley, Bromyard and Upton-on-Severn and St. Saviour's Bible class trip to Stourport and Worcester. There was also a Church Choir Festival.

Then stark horror strikes with the sentence:

War broke out on August 4th and in all succeeding editions of the

The above was sent to print before this terrible war had broken out.

Magazine this '*terrible war*' dominates the pages.

About the Author:

Lye born, Pat Dunn was formerly head of History at Perryfields High School, Oldbury.

Now retired, she has produced a series of books on '*Lye and Wollescote in Old Photographs*' and founded the Lye and Wollescote Historical Society in 2003.

She now lives in Hagley, where she is a member of both its Historical Society and the Historical Research Group.

2014