

# The heartbreak and the healing

*Suffolk churches  
commemorate  
World War 1*



**New life from  
shattered ground**





*Poppies growing wild in fields at Uggheshall, near Southwold, Suffolk*

**Welcome** to this snapshot of what churches across Suffolk are doing to commemorate the outbreak of World War 1. The content is based on what parish clergy and PCC secretaries have submitted and, I think you'll agree, the responses are remarkable and, in many cases, very moving.

Above is a picture of my own grandmother, Martha Lister, filling a soldier's water bottle in 1916 from the pump behind her house in Chelsworth the day 60 mounted soldiers went through the village on their way to the railway station.

Churches are right at the heart of the WW1 commemorations and can play a key role in helping people to grasp the enormity of what happened - the death toll of soldiers was 6,873 from the Suffolk Regiment alone.

Even those churches usually locked during the week are aiming to do their bit by opening on Monday 4 August - the day war was declared - to enable visitors to enter freely for prayer and contemplation or simply to stand and read the names on the memorials.

Where churches have confirmed they are open daily, I have included this. Please let me know if your church is not included and should be. This is an online publication which can be updated as we go through to the centenary of Armistice Day on 11 November 2018.

The entries are broadly, but not always, in alphabetical order. If your church would like to make a contribution, please e-mail it to me and I'll do my best to accommodate it, pictures too. Thank you to everyone who contributed this time round.

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## 'The lamps are going out all over Europe'

This haunting quote from Edward Grey, Foreign Secretary, on the eve of Britain going to war, conjures up the darkness of that terrible hour and sets the scene for the many candlelit vigils that will take place across the diocese.

The British Legion is encouraging everyone in the UK to turn off their lights between 10pm and 11pm on 4 August - leaving only a single light or candle for this symbolic act of reflection and hope, 100 years after war was declared. It could be one of the largest participatory events of its kind ever seen in the UK, and will complement the candlelit vigil held at Westminster Abbey on 4 August.

Vigils are just one way that churches will commemorate World War 1. Special remembrance services are being held in which the names of the fallen will be read out in villages all over Suffolk.

The villagers of Gazeley, as in so many other places, have taken the trouble to find out all they can about the local men who died.

As PCC Secretary Lynne Francis writes: 'Now the names that we read out every year have much more meaning because we can identify with the men themselves and their families.'

Prayers and poems help us to reflect on how it must have been; the nightmare of the trenches and the grief for the loss of those who never returned or sustained life-changing injuries. Nine poems for peace have been written by local poets for a commemorative weekend in Halesworth and composer living in Wissett has written a special piece of music for a WW1 concert in the church.



*The grave of Lt Noel Hodgson, son of the first diocesan Bishop, who died on the first day of the Somme 1 July 1916 and won the MC.*

Heartbreaking stories of personal tragedies abound.

'Most moving for me', writes Margaret Preston of Metfield, 'was a small bunch of nearly-dead flowers left on the war memorial this year from the son of a man who died in WW2 with the words: 'I miss you always, and long to be with you again.' He was three when his father died, and we have no idea where he lives, although we know his name. We have asked the postman and he has made enquiries locally, but nothing.'

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**'We walked for a mile and a half, stepping all the time on dead horses and dead men'**





Graves of the Suffolk Regiment with an 'unknown serjeant' to the left of the photograph but 'Known to God'

Part of a full programme at Barrow is the annual blessing of animals service which this year will be dedicated to the bravery of animals in conflict.

A local Metfield man remembers his father talking about the Somme: 'we walked for a mile and a half, stepping all the time on dead horses and dead men'.

Some villages embarked on WW1 research projects well ahead of this year and 43 Barnham parishioners have already taken a coach journey to Ypres which will make their major exhibition in the church all the more meaningful.

'So many people are involved from the community that it has become something of a mission field with opportunities for friendship and fun with people we have not known before, writes the Revd Sue Nutt.

It seems there may be a kind of 'healing' in the warmth and friendship of community activity as Jan Bunday of Halesworth indicates.

'Talking with local people, it seems that mark-

ing the centenary is important. It allows so much that wasn't spoken about by returning soldiers to be aired and shared,' she says.

Even those churches that normally stay locked for fear of theft or damage, or the lack of someone to lock and unlock, are opening their doors on 4 August for prayer and reflection.

Prayer boards for peace, Psalms from the trenches, Poppy altar frontals, flower festivals, half-muffled quarter peals, vintage sing-songs, plays and WW1 walks reflect the thought and energy that has gone into commemorating the centenary of the outbreak of World War 1

Few parishes in England and Wales saw all their men return home safely and two of these are in Suffolk.

Culpho and St Michael South Elmham St Michael will both be unveiling plaques presented by two motor cyclists from South Wales who visited all 53 'Thankful Villages' in 2013 while raising money for the Royal British Legion.

## Barrow Benefice poppy frontal

A Requiem Eucharist with special music and poetry readings will take place at Little Saxham St Nicholas on 3 August at 6pm. The next day all the churches will be open and the Revd Barbara Sherlock has prepared a Vigil Service for all the parishioners to use at home on the 4 August.

On the 9 August, there will be a dedication of a "Fields of Poppies" altar frontal - now in progress, see right - at Barrow All Saints Church. The Parish Council gave £500 to support the project and all the villagers and school pupils have been invited to make poppies. The frontal will be used at all future Remembrance services.

On Sunday, 10 August, there is an Open-air Animal Service at Barrow in which the congregation will be invited to bring animals and picnics and remember the bravery of animals in conflict. Village children have been invited to contribute and may also take part.

On Sunday evening, 10 August, The Galaxy Big Band will conclude the weekend with a concert and will feature some music that was popular at that time. The focus of this weekend at Barrow All Saints will be the Flower Festival in which all the village clubs and groups are participating.



Fields of Poppies altar frontal taking shape at Barrow

## Battisford St Mary – open daily

The village history club is holding a two-day event in the church 9-10 August, to remember the lives of the 13 men of the village who lost their lives in the Great War and are named on a plaque in the Church. The exhibition will be open between 11am-4pm. The church is open 4 August for anyone wanting to spend time in quiet reflection and prayer.

## Beccles St Michael – open daily

A community history project is under way at St Michael's, collecting pictures, letters and stories from WW1 at home and abroad, displayed at the church in co-operation with Beccles Museum.

An 'all age' service will take place at 3pm on 3 August which will include 'Voices of the Great War' using extracts from the Imperial War Museum's WW1 podcasts with a simple narration.

The names of all those who died in WW1 in 2014 will be read out at the Sunday Remembrance services.

Beccles will continue to commemorate WW1 with an exhibition of Suffolk Regiment WW1 pictures

into 2015/16 as they are believed to have the largest collection in existence. Other events will be planned for 2016-18.

## Blythburgh Holy Trinity – open daily

A candlelit Vigil service will be held at the church on Sunday 3 August at 6pm with readings, poems and songs by the Blythburgh Singers.

## Boxford St Mary

A WW1 exhibition takes place on the first weekend in August with a commemoration service at 11am on the Sunday 3 August.

## Buxhall, Great Finborough, Little Finborough

Vigils will take place at Buxhall, Great Finborough, Little Finborough on 4 August with the churches open all evening until the vigils end at 11pm.

**'The centenary.. allows so much that wasn't spoken about by returning soldiers to be aired and shared'**



Great Finborough is planning a village outing to see the film 'Warhorse' in September. From 3 August, displays in both Buxhall and Great Finborough churches will show research into village life and war dead from WW1.

Buxhall's exhibition will take place over the Summer Fete weekend, showing how the relatives of today's villagers were involved in WW1.

A candlelit service will take place in the church on Monday 4 August 10.45-11.30pm to coincide with the moment war was declared.

Brief acts of remembrance will also take place on the Sundays closest to the dates of the deaths of the 15 Buxhall men who died in the war.

**John Biles writes:** 'The Buxhall bellringers will be ringing half-muffled quarter peals on the evenings of the services. Nearly all those who died in the Great War are buried overseas and so this may be the first time that the bells have been rung in their memory.'

### Clare SS Peter and Paul – open daily

The evening service at Clare on 3 August will centre round readings from the Bible and poems of the early part of the war – up to that first Christmas.

**The Revd Stuart Mitchell writes:** 'Churches Together in Clare and Cavendish have offered support by attending, although this is not a civic event, simply an alternative Evening Prayer with time for reflection.'

### Carlford Benefice - all open daily

Carlford Benefice in the Woodbridge Deanery is commemorating WW1 together with the Centenary of the Diocese with floral displays and memories where possible of local men who fought or contributed to the war effort.

**Doris Haas of Ashbocking writes:** 'I wrote and directed a short 40-minute play for the fete of our seven parishes at Crow's Hall on 21 June this year.'

**The very militant Suffragette Movement turning their energies to the War effort were included, along with local material from extant records and the reports in the EADT.**

**The action only went up to the end of 1914, and depicted the extreme optimism at the start, descending into the reality of the situation which only Kitchener warned of. We even had a horse, Eric the Hanoverian, disguised as a Suffolk Punch much to the poor things bewilderment!'**

### Culford St Mary

Culford church opens on the morning of 4 August with a service of prayer and readings 10-10.30am when the names of the fallen in Culford and neighbouring villages will be read out. There is also a special service at 10am on 10 August 10 in Fornham St Martin church.



## Bishop David will preach at St Mary's Bury St Eds

St Mary's Church, Bury St Edmunds, the home of the Regimental Chapel of the Suffolk Regiment and its successor, the Royal Anglian Regiment, is holding a special service at 11am on Saturday 23 August, to commemorate the 6,873 Suffolk soldiers who died in WW1. This day marks the 100th anniversary of the death of Private William Flack, the first fatality of the Suffolk Regiment in WW1, and of the regiment's worst loss in Afghanistan 93 years later when Privates Aaron James McClure, Robert Graham Foster and John Thrumble were killed in action.

The service will include a rededication of the relocated cenotaph. The preacher will be the Rt Revd Dr David Thomson, Acting Bishop of the Diocese of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich.



The Revd Sue Nutt with members of the small community of Barnham who have taken an avid interest in researching WW1 and went by coach to visit the WW1 battlefields and Commonwealth War Grave Commission cemeteries.

## This small community has taken WW1 heroes to their hearts

### Barnham St Gregory – open daily

OUT OF a population of just 425 in this small village on the Duke of Grafton's estate near Euston, 70 men - mostly estate workers - went to serve in the war and 19 lost their lives.

When the Revd Sue Nutt was cleaning the church memorial over 18 months ago and asked resident Paul Allen to help reach the top of it, he revealed he had begun researching people linked with WW1.

It soon led to 45 people taking the coach journey to the WW1 sites in Belgium and villagers are now embarked on plans for the Great War Exhibition in Barnham Church.

Bishop David will preach at the commemoration service on 3 August at 10.30am when the congregation will remember all those who served from the villages of Barnham, Euston and Fakenham Magna, to give them recognition, to acknowledge their families and the effect on the village and to pray together for reconciliation between nations. There will be space for anyone to pray and to contemplate in the chancel and there might also be a vigil.

On Monday 4 August the church will be open

10am-8am and there will be guides to inform those who may want to know more. Refreshments will be available all day.

Thereafter the church will be open from 9am-6pm every day and donations are welcomed for Help the Heroes. The exhibition will end on 5 September when the children will be brought to the church to learn about the data and displays. They are making an altar cloth this term and next term they will be studying the Great War.

**The Revd Sue Nutt writes:** 'So many people are involved that it has become something of a mission field with opportunities for friendship and fun with people we have not known before.'

**Various art works are appearing to depict the landscape of 1914 France; the porch will be a dugout; a huge amount of data has been collected and being prepared for presentation together with a timeline, photographs, posters and a prayer tree with cut out poppies to be used for prayers, and a replica of the war memorial is taking shape.**

**Preparation started in early July with the Air Training Corps joining villagers to spruce up the church yard and it has been all go from then on!'**



## East Bergholt and Brantham – both open daily

*The Revd Canon Stephne Van Der Toorn writes: ‘We currently have a magnificent festival in East Bergholt church remembering WW1. It will be up until the 4 August when we are having a service at 10pm’*

## Exning St Martin

*Peter Gill writes: ‘St Martins Exning is in the process of organising two events, one in August and one in November. The hope is to involve the whole parish. We have some unique Rolls of Honour giving details of all those who joined up and their home addresses in the village and these will be used for a Re-enactment of Enlistment. We are also planning another special event incorporating music and singing from both wars.’*



On the back wall of the tower room at Cavendish St Mary are wooden crosses brough back from the graves of local men killed in WW1. The cross in the window opening is for Private Stephen Henry Argent of the 75th battalion, Canadian Infantry (Central Ontario Regiment). He died on Thursday 1 March 1917 aged 24.

## Felixstowe St John – open daily

A WW1 commemoration evening with the Ipswich Hospital Band takes place in the church on Friday 1 August at 7.30pm with proceeds in aid of the Royal British legion and church funds.

The church is hosting a civic Service of Commemoration and Remembrance’ at 11am on the 3 August, followed by a Vigil of Prayer and Penitence by candle light at 10-11pm Monday 4 August to mirror the vigil being held at Westminster Abbey.

*The Revd Robert Hinsley writes: ‘We shall be putting our war memorials on-line, including some graffiti from the church tower and our sword cross.’*

## Felixstowe vigil

*The Revd Mark Kichenside writes: ‘As Chaplain to the Felixstowe Royal British Legion we are organising ‘Lights Out’, a short vigil service with the RBL Standard at the Town War Memorial Undercliff Road West (opposite the Town Hall) Felixstowe. It will take place on Monday 4 August 10.30-11am.’*

## Gazeley All Saints – open daily

The village History Group has done lots of research into the soldiers from the village who were

killed in WW1 with a major display of their findings in the church in July 2013 and also on Remembrance Sunday. Moulton held a flower festival with a special WW1 display in July 2014.

*Lynne Francis writes: ‘Our church is always open and we had a great many visitors to see our display last year so I will suggest that we join in with other churches and stage the exhibition again on 4 August.*

*‘Now the list of names that we read out every year (on Remembrance Sunday) have much more meaning because we can identify with the men themselves and their families.’*

## Glemsford St Mary the Virgin

A WW1-themed, ‘Glorious Glemsford’ weekend will be held in and around the church over the week-end of 20-21 September. Organised by the ‘Action Group’ which raises funds for the church, every village club and organisation is expected to take part.

*Margaret King writes: ‘It is hoped displays will feature WW1 photographs, memorabilia and artefacts. The Glemsford Sewing Group have already constructed a really fantastic, large poppy wreath*

## Thankful villages where everyone came back

TWO Suffolk villages saw all their men return safely from the brutal conflict of World War 1 after the cessation of hostilities.

Culpho and St Michael South Elmham are among the tiny handful of ‘Thankful Villages’ in England and Wales when everyone came back. Both will unveil plaques on Sunday 3 August that were presented by two motor cyclists from South Wales who visited all 53 ‘Thankful Villages’ in 2013 while raising money for the Royal British Legion.

Pictured right is Dougie Bancroft riding his Triumph Trophy bike into Culpho St Botolph.

The 11am Requiem Eucharist at St Michael South Elmham will also include the presentation to each parish in the South Elmham and Ilketshall Benefice with their ‘remembering the fallen’ binder, listing all those from the villages in the benefice who did lose their lives.

All the churches mentioned are open daily.



*made from knitted poppies and leaves and assembled by one very talented member. This will be going on display in the church... and the wreath will be dedicated at the Remembrance Service in November.’*

The sewing group has taken pictures of the wreath and submitted them to Women’s Weekly from where the original idea was taken.

Glemsford church is open Tuesdays (except for school holidays) and open for the ‘Glorious Glemsford’ weekend in September. They hope to open the church on 4 August for prayers and reflection.

## Great Bealings St Mary – open daily

A benefice WW1 Commemoration service will be held at St Mary’s at 6pm on Sunday 3 August. It comprises a narrative, the placing of memorial candles on the altar by Great and Little Bealings with Playford, and Culpho – as a ‘Thankful Village’ - placing a bunch of roses. The narrative will be interspersed with readings, hymns choral pieces and intercessions, specific to the occasion.

*Norman Porter writes: ‘The service will be preceded by an inter-village Quoits match. Great Bealings were champions in 1913 and two of the names on our photograph also appear on the war*

*memorial, so we thought this was appropriate. We are also staging an exhibition of books, newspaper cuttings, pictures and artefacts 4- 5.30pm, against a background of WW1 music and with contemporary refreshments on offer.’*

## Hadleigh St Mary – open daily

A Day of Remembrance on Monday 4 August 10am-7pm will have at its heart a Vigil for Peace to commemorate the outbreak of WW1. On the hour every hour, there will be a time for readings and prayers for peace led by the Churches in Hadleigh and District, followed by time for silence and personal reflection and opportunity to light a candle in memory of a loved one.

The day has the full support of the Mayor and Town Council. People are invited to go along and stay as long as they wish and the church is inviting those who need help with transport to contact Christine Hempstead on 01473 810171.

## Hessett St Ethelbert – open daily

The Friends of Hessett Church are producing a booklet about the lives of men who died in WW1, who are remembered on the memorial cross in Hessett churchyard which they plan to restore.



## Halesworth St Mary – open daily

A commemorative flower festival takes place at the church 2-4 August, with the church open on 4 August (as usual) for reflection and candle lighting. Community groups have been invited to create floral displays.

Wartime memorabilia from Halesworth Museum will be displayed at the festival and Halesworth poets have written nine poems for peace especially for the occasion. Pupils from Bungay High School will display interpretive work and visitors to the festival will be entertained by a pianist and medleys of WW1 songs.

On Sunday 3 August at 3pm a commemorative centenary Town Service will take place in the church to which uniformed organisations, town council and other community groups have been invited. Vintage-style after-service refreshments will feature a picnic in the pews, barley water, ginger beer, and sandwiches.

*Says Jan Bunday: ‘Talking with local people, it seems that marking the centenary is important. It allows so much that wasn’t spoken about by returning soldiers to be aired and shared.’*

## Hintlesham St Nicholas with Chattisham – open daily

The parish of Hintlesham is starting a four-year, low-key commemoration of their war dead.

They intend to have a board in St. Nicholas which will record the whole length of the war. The death of each man will be marked, at the appropriate date, along side ‘current’ information of the progress of the war, the details of machines used, and stories from the local, national and international news.

## Ipswich St Matthew and its link with the Old Contemptibles

The original Standard of the Ipswich branch of the Old Contemptibles Association will be carried for a Remembrance Service at Ipswich St Matthew at 5pm on Sunday 3 August to commemorate the men of the borough who served in WW1. St. Matthew’s holds a special connection to the Suffolk Regiment, being the church that held regular church services of the 4th Battalion and in 1950 the Standard of the Ipswich Branch of the Old Comrades Association was consecrated there. After the service, the flag will go to Belgium for the commemorations there.

Emperor Wilhelm II of Germany was famously dismissive of the British Expeditionary Force (BEF) sent to the Western front during World War 1. He is said to have issued an order on 19 August 1914 ‘to exterminate... the treacherous English and walk over General French’s contemptible little army’.

The survivors of the regular army therefore dubbed themselves ‘the Old Contemptibles’.

*Jenny Cox writes: ‘People will be encouraged to add information about their family members and it is hoped that we can sustain the interest for four years! I suspect, like our forbears, we will glad when it is all over!’*

*‘We are launching all this on the evening of 3 August. There will be an introduction, a chance to chat, and a short vigil, during which we are going to light 90 candles to represent the men we reckon will have signed up over the four years - we have 31 dead. We estimated the number by counting the men in the 1911 census, for both villages, aged between 16 and 35.*

*We are also involved in the Prayers for Peace at St. Mary’s Hadleigh.’*

## Henley St Peter – open daily

*The Revd Cathy Austin writes: ‘Our Remembrance Sunday Service has, for many years, been a mixture of tradition, respect and looking to the future, with the main tribute of the service coming from our Sunday School. This year we do plan to do something ‘different’, and will be inviting all organisations of the village to send a representative. Our planning is not yet complete, but I am sure the service will be moving.’*

## Hunston St Michael

Parishioners at Hunston are performing two one-act plays with a war related theme on Saturday 2 August at 7pm at St Michael’s. The plays, with an all-female cast, are by Tony Layton and both explore misunderstanding and conflict between different generations. ‘The Brown Felt Hat’ is actually set during World War II (rather than WW1) and ‘Remembrance Day’ is set in modern times.

## Kedington WW1 Flower Festival needs you!

Kedington St Peter and St Paul will commemorate the outbreak of World War 1 with a special Flower Festival over the weekend of 16 and 17 August from 11am-5.30pm each day.

The festival will see this beautiful and historic church festooned with flowers and will culminate with Songs of Praise on Sunday evening 17 August.

All are welcome to commemorate this significant milestone in world history.



## Higham, Holton, Raydon and Stratford – all dedicated to St Mary, are open daily.

A benefice commemorative service will be held on 24 August at Stratford St Mary.

## Hollesley All Saints – open daily

The church is hosting an exhibition 8-18 September to commemorate all those who are named on their 1914-1918 War memorial. The lives and deaths of all these individuals, with background information about their families, has been researched and curated by Val Dudley who lives in the village. She is not only interested in the lives of those men but how it must have been for their families and how their loss impacted on the village as a whole.

Val has teamed up with other researchers and there will be an exhibition including our ‘villagers’ in Alderton in August ahead of the Hollesley exhibition.

## Middleton Holy Trinity – open daily

The village is offering a community weekend of displays and gatherings. On Saturday 2 August, the village hall will stage a display of weapons and vehicles with short talks on combat surgery. The church is hosting an exhibition of WW1 documents, maps and local stories as well as an illustrated lecture ‘A Walk through Middleton in 1914’. On Sunday 3 August, the exhibition will be open from 9am with the Benefice Holy Communion taking place 10-11.30am. On Tuesday 5 August, the Bell Inn hosts a vintage sing-a-long.

*Mark Mitchels writes: ‘There was a wonderful letter sent from the Western Front from a villager - Robert Free - and he did not return. The EADT*

*made it the centre of their current WW1 features recently. Robert Free’s grandson will be returning to the village to join us in the commemorations.’*

## Needham Market St John the Baptist – open daily

The church is hosting a service of commemoration at 3pm on Saturday 2 August during which a specially-produced book with information and photographs of those named on the war memorial will be commissioned. This is an ecumenical service represented by many organisations across the community and will be followed by refreshments in the Ark. The book will remain on permanent display in the church.

## Pakenham St Mary, Tostock St Andrew and Norton St Andrew – all open daily

Norton will hold an exhibition on WW1 at the end of August.

Prayer Boards for Peace will be set up in each of the three churches in the benefice throughout August, in the hope that visitors will post up their prayers to be brought to the benefice service at Pakenham on the 31 August.

## Peasenhall St Michael – open daily

A flower festival is being held 26-27 July in conjunction with a photographic display to commemorate the outbreak of WW1.



# Rattlesden Benefice to welcome RAF Padre

A service for the Rattlesden benefice will take place at Hitcham All Saints on 31 August at 10.30am when the Padre from RAF Wattisham will preach.

Brettenham church (and village), in the Rattlesden Benefice, is having an exhibition over the weekend 2-3 August with a special service on the Sunday at 11.15am.

Hitcham All Saints will be holding a commemorative week-end 29-31 August entitled ‘We shall remember them’ which is being referred to locally as ‘our Poppy Weekend’

*Wendy Crease writes: ‘We are planning all sorts of things including memories of 1914 from family archives, the soldiers of Hitcham, a concert, a display of 1914-related household items and a Poppy craft challenge.’*

Rattlesden St Nicholas is holding a commemoration service at the war memorial in the village cemetery on 3 August at 3pm. All three churches are open daily to welcome visitors.

## St Edmundsbury Cathedral

An Evensong and County Service to Commemorate the Outbreak of WW1 will be held at the Cathedral on Sunday 3 August at 3:30pm.

Bishop Graeme Knowles, former Dean of St Pauls, will give the address, and attendance is by ticket only from [deans.secretary@stedscathedral.org](mailto:deans.secretary@stedscathedral.org).

## Stoke Ash All Saints

Parishioners are planning a flower festival to coincide with the weekend of the Suffolk Bike Ride on the theme of WW1. The festival will culminate with a service on Sunday 14 September in which they will remember the 44 villagers from Stoke Ash who served in the Great War and the one member of the community, Archie Moss, who lost his life.

The church is normally locked but hopes to be open on 4 August.

## Stoke by Clare – open daily

*Tom McKenny writes: ‘We are building a display in Church and hope to produce a local history project based upon it.’*

## Tattingstone St Mary – open daily

‘The lamps are going out all over Europe, we shall not see them lit again in our life-time’ — Viscount Edward Grey, 4 August 1914. Foreign Secretary 1905-1916.

St Mary’s will hold a candlelight vigil and evening service of readings, music, reflection and prayer on Sunday 3 August at 8pm.

## Shelley All Saints – open daily

Shelley is planning a fund-raising WW1 themed lunch on 12 October.

## Two Rivers Benefice

Woolverstone church is at the heart of Two Rivers Benefice WW1 commemorations in August. A Woolverstone WW1 walk takes place on Saturday 2 August, leaving the church at 2pm, with the option of a two-mile or four-mile hike, and arriving back at the church for a meal. Afterwards, the plan is to watch the film ‘O What a Lovely War’.

The following day, the church will hold a service ‘simply a Sunday as it would have been 100 years ago’.

‘Voices from the Great War’, an evening of poetry letters and music takes place at All Saints Holbrook on 12 September with proceeds going to the Royal British Legion. Both churches are open daily.

## News on open churches

Athelington St Peter is usually locked but will be open on Monday 4 August and is working hard towards being open daily

Coney Weston – open daily in summer.

Crowfield All Saints – open daily since the beginning of June.

Great Glemham – open daily.

Ipswich St Margaret will be open from 9am-1pm on Monday 4 August.

Lidgate is usually locked but will be open on Monday 4 August for prayer and reflection

South Cove – open daily and maintains its memorials.

Thorndon All Saints opens on Tuesdays only for T-Plus but plans to be open on Monday 4 August for prayers and reflection.



# Greater love hath no man than this . . .

The vessels and ornaments on this memorial shrine in Burgate chancel were made in 1917 by wounded soldiers at Godwaersvelde Hospital near Ypres from shell cases.

## Tuddenham St Mary

A village event on Sunday 3 August will include a free-entry tea party at the village pub with a WW1 sing-a-long and a short act of remembrance.

This follows the removal of a memorial board from the village chapel, now closed, to the church. The memorial lists not only those who died but also all those from the village who served.

*Monica Pipe writes: ‘We are endeavouring to find out as much information as possible about all those individuals which has sparked a considerable amount of interest in the community.’*

The church is normally locked but will consider opening on 4 August.

## Whitton with Thurleston and Akenham

A cream tea at Akenham St Mary at 5pm on Sunday 3 August will be followed by a Eucharist at 6.30pm during which the parish will commit to rebuilding the WW1 memorial in the churchyard, destroyed during a bombing raid in WW1. This will be followed by a vigil in Whitton church 8-11pm when the last candle will be extinguished. On Monday 4 August, the church will be open from 9am-6pm for quiet prayer and reflection.

*Ray Boggis writes: ‘Background music and recitations from WW1 poets will played and there will be a modest display of WW1 memorabilia, with emphasis on recruitment and early combat. Two people will be in attendance throughout, dispensing refreshments and handing out the Psalms from the Trenches.’*

## Wissett St Andrew – open daily

A composer who lives in the village has written a piece of music for a concert commemorating WW1 in the church on Saturday 25 October featuring the Kingfisher Sinfonietta. The programme will also include pieces from each year of the war.

Readings and poems from German as well as UK authors will be featured and, just before the interval, the Wissett Warblers will present some WW1 songs with choruses.

An exhibition in the Village Hall will feature information about WW1 and village residents are researching and writing about various subjects including Gallipoli, horses, the Royal Artillery, Conscientious Objectors, and family members who were in the war. On display will be books, posters, quotes and general information. The church will hold a WW1 display at the same time.

On Sunday 26 October, there will a Songs of Praise Service in aid of the RBL Poppy Appeal

## Woolpit St Mary and Drinkstone All Saints – open daily

A service will be held at St Mary’s on the 6 August at 11am to commemorate the WW1.

*The Revd Ruth Farrell writes: The Christmas Tree festival in St. Mary’s will have a Tree of Remembrance, this year, with poppies rather than angels or doves, and there will be a scene from the first Christmas of the war on display.’*





*Lest we forget: Tributes to the 19 men of Barnham who lost their lives in WW1, three of whom have family members still living in the village. The two crosses, second left, are for the Pryke brothers: Sidney who was killed, aged 21 in 1916, and Arthur, who died in 1918, aged 20.*

**They shall not  
grow old . . .**