

Clothall Village News - preparing for the Remembrance Season

November is the traditional season of remembering, with feast days for All Saints and All Souls at the beginning of the month, and the end of the First World War adding Remembrance Sunday to our calendars.

It has been some years since we have held a Remembrance service in Clothall Church because we normally join with the RBL Service at Sandon on Remembrance Sunday and we will do so again this year on the 10th of November. Therefore we have decided to use our service on the 27th October to remember the "Sons of Clothall" who fell in the Great War and to learn a little about their lives.

The war memorial in Clothall Church lists four names, and I have looked up at that memorial for twenty five years since Hannah and I moved to Clothall, knowing that three of those men lived on Hickman's Hill perhaps one even in our house.

Many readers will know already about the amazing research work that Jean Handley has carried out to discover the stories of the men that fought and died as a result of their service in WW1 and who came from our villages. Jean has linked a further four names to Clothall Village and the hamlet of Luffenhall which is part of the parish. So to **Maurice Barnes, Harry Hollingsworth, William Lacey and Albert Presland** we must add the names of the other sons of Clothall - **Samuel Castle, Frank Page, Frederick Townsend and Alfred Turner**.



But there is another name too, that of **William Hopkins**, who is buried in the Churchyard having returned from the war but who never recovered and died in 1920 at the age of 50. As Sergeant Hopkins of the Sherwood Foresters (pictured here on horseback) he fought at the Battle of the Somme and was awarded the Military Medal for "gallantry and devotion to duty" in the attack on Gommecourt on the 1st July 1916. William's great granddaughter, Helen, has recently arranged for his grave, to the north of the church in Clothall, to be renovated most beautifully to mark the centenary of the end of the war.

So, in all, there are now nine "Sons of Clothall" that our generation needs to thank.

I hope that the simple service we will hold on the 27th October at 11:15 will be a fitting tribute. Please join us to hear their stories or visit the Clothall Church page on a church near you to read more

<https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/7840/page/50865/view/>

At the going down of the sun and in the morning we will remember them.

Peter Taylor, Clothall Church Warden.

