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PULFORD WAR MEMORIAL UNVEILED AND DEDICATED

In memory of the fourteen men of Pulford Parish who made the supreme sacrifice in the Great War, the parish memorial was unveiled and dedicated on Saturday afternoon. The memorial, which is the form of a cenotaph surmounted by an obelisk, is in Peterhead granite, and has been erected in front of the Reading Room, facing the road, on a plot of land kindly given for the purpose by the Duke of Westminster. The cost, roughly £150, is being defrayed by subscriptions raised locally. The embellishments of the memorial are a laurel wreath above a sword crossed over a rifle, and on the face of the base is the inscription: "Erected by the parishioners in grateful memory of the men of this parish who sacrificed their lives during the Great War, 1914-1918. They died that we might live." The letters are of gold, and below are the fourteen names of Pulford men who lost their lives on service, as follows: Charles Broadhurst, Richard Broadhurst, Alfred Davies, James Davies, Joseph Davies, Thomas Davies, Edward Edwards, Harry Gibson, Cecil Griffiths, Bertie Jones, Ernest Leech, Joseph Probin, John Stockton and Ernest Thelwell.

The ceremony was attended by relatives of the fallen men, ex-Service men of the village, and other parishioners, and was of an impressive nature. The opening hymn was "Let saints on earth in concert sing." The singing was led by the choir, who were ranged to the right of the memorial, and reverently sung by the relatives of the deceased men, who stood in front of the memorial, the ex-Service men, who formed a single rank behind them and to the left of the memorial and the parishioners, who were grouped behind. The Rev. J. R. Fuller, Rector of St. Paul's, Boughton, and formerly Rector of Pulford, offered the prayer of thanks for victory in which all joined, and gave the prayer for remembrance before God of those who lost dear ones in the War, also a prayer of thanks for those who laid down their lives in the service of their King and country. Psalm xxiii was sweetly sung, and then Lord Arthur Grosvenor performed the unveiling ceremony. Before pulling the cord which released the large Union Jack enveloping the memorial, Lord Arthur said: I have the honour to unveil this memorial, to those men who had fallen in this War.

Lord Arthur, in short address, said the men had not died in vain. They had performed their duty to their King and country, and in saying that he felt their memories would be kept in mind for many generations to come. The memorial, he hoped, would last for many generations, and would remind them and bring home to them those brave heroes who gave their lives for the victory, the greatest victory which ever had been attained. They had not died in vain—they had helped to gain the greatest victory against the most base and brutal enemy we ever had fought against. We all knew what War was but we never knew what this past War would turn out to be. Machinery was invented during the early days of the War to kill men and devastate and utterly ruin everything on the land, in fact, it ruined the land as well, for the artillery swept every yard of the land. We had no idea that the War would be such an immensely horrible and appalling calamity. The message they would like to have given to those heroes who died for the great victory was that they died a glorious death, and that with death, victory was assured.

Let them lie in peace. No one knew what they went through; any man who came out of the trenches, with all the machinery and artillery, was a perfect wonder. He felt certain that the parents of the fallen soldiers need not mourn; they ought to rejoice that their men did their duty in a way which every Englishman knew how to do. History repeated itself. Every Englishman who went out to fight never knew defeat. It was the same all through history. It was pluck and endurance of Englishmen, the men this parish, that helped to gain victory. He hoped and trusted those present rejoiced in the victory, and now we were passing through hard times, that they would work like those heroes did, for their King and country, that they would work together, and eventually break through to have a happy and prosperous time. Those men gave their lives for the good of their country and saved our homes from complete devastation which would have happened if the Germans had come into this land; and on behalf of the parish he gave the greatest sympathy to those who had lost sons and relatives in the War.

The dedicatory prayer was then read by the Rev. Mr. Fuller, and after the Lord's Prayer had been feelingly said, Lord Arthur read the names of the fourteen Pulford men who had fell in the War. The hymn, "O God, our help in ages past" was sung, and after verse of the National Anthem was sung and Bugler Harris, of the Depot, Chester Castle, concluded the ceremony by sounding the "Last Post". Relatives and friends of the deceased soldiers placed beautiful floral tributes at the foot of the memorial.

Messrs. W. Mansley and Son, monumental sculptors, Chester, carried out the work of the memorial.