



The Lion

A Monthly News Sheet for St. Mark's Church, Basford

www.stmarksbasford.co.uk

NOVEMBER 2018



FOR VALOUR

The **Victoria Cross (VC)** is the highest award of the British honours system. It is awarded for gallantry "in the presence of the enemy" to members of the British Armed Forces. It may be awarded posthumously. It may be awarded to a person of any military rank in any service and to civilians under military command although no civilian has received the award since 1879. Since the first awards were presented by Queen Victoria in 1857, two thirds of all awards have been personally presented by the British monarch.

The VC was awarded **628** times to **627** recipients for action in the First World War. John "Jack" Travers Cornwell was a boy 1st class on HMS Chester during the Battle of Jutland. Only 16 years old, he courageously stuck to his guns throughout and died of injuries soon after. He was the youngest VC winner of World War One.

LOCAL HEROES

Last month, paving stones were been laid at the cenotaph outside Stoke-on-Trent City Council's Civic Centre to remember Ernest Albert Egerton of Longton and John Harold Rhodes of Packmoor.

They were awarded the VC during the Great War. Members of the Grenadier Guards and the Sherwood Foresters (Mercian Regiment) joined the Lord Mayor and Lord Lieutenant as part of the City's WW1 centenary commemorations. The unveiling took place following a memorial service at Stoke Minster.

The VC paving stones programme is a national scheme that will see every VC recipient of the First World War commemorated with a paving stone laid in their home towns.

Lord Mayor Ross Irving said: *"It is a great honour to be present at the unveiling of this worthy tribute to two of the city's greatest heroes. It is the ordinary people who pay the price of war and we must never forget that. By laying these commemorative plaques, we are*



ensuring that the truly heroic deeds of Ernest Albert Egerton and John Harold Rhodes remain in our memories forever. We should never forget such selfless bravery by our men and women during two World Wars and other wars besides. Indeed, without them we almost certainly wouldn't be here today. As I grow older I get more and more annoyed with some people who tend to moan about the least little thing. We should all appreciate how lucky we are to live in a golden era when compared to that of our forefathers."

A VC STORY

TED COOPER WRITES HOW HIS GRANDFATHER WON THE VC.

Edward Cooper was born in Stockton on the 4th May 1896. He left school at the age of 13 and by 1914 he was selling fruit for the Co-operative Society. When war was declared, many of the Co-op's horses were commandeered by the army and Ned was unable to work. He was put on an early holiday, during which he volunteered for the Army, joining the Kings Royal Rifle Corps.

After months of training he went into the line near Ypres before later action on the Somme. Ned returned to Ypres and on 16th August 1917 he went into action at Langemark in the most appalling conditions. Troops were carrying massive back packs and weaponry across the flooded terrain delineated by shell holes and concrete blockhouses. His officer and many comrades were cut down by machine guns, but he was determined to continue. With just three remaining men he advanced towards a blockhouse, where, at about 100 yards range, they tried to silence the machine guns with their rifles. This failed, so Ned then went off on his own, with some covering fire from his men, to get beyond the machine guns arc of fire, and attack the blockhouse on his own. He was lucky, very lucky!

Close to the blockhouse the ground became more manageable, as it was in a main street. He edged round to the front and put a shot into one of the machine guns, disabling it. He then rushed to the rear, where throwing a bomb in would be the normal approach. But he did not

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want unnecessary killing, he just called on them to surrender! And indeed they were coming out until he unfortunately shot the first man dead! This unarmed German was very large and appeared from an unexpected doorway, thus startling Ned as he swung around to face him. Ned was brandishing an unfamiliar pistol, taken from his dead officer, and he squeezed too much on the trigger.

After another trip around the outside of the blockhouse, firing a few shots inside, he again called for their surrender. This time he held his familiar rifle and as all the Germans came out, he lined them up outside, facing the enemy lines. His handful of comrades came forward to help round up the prisoners. But, unfortunately a couple of Germans had previously slipped out, taking a machine gun with them and they soon brought it into action, hitting both British and German troops.

Thankfully Ned had his sniper available, and he put the machine gunner out of action. They captured a total of 45 men and 7 machine guns and also released a wounded British soldier, who had been sheltering in the blockhouse.

Ned was awarded the Victoria Cross for this action and the ceremony was perhaps the first to be held in public at Buckingham Palace, with cine cameras recording the highlights.

Ned was then given officer training and, through his own insistence, he returned to the Western Front to serve through the last weeks of the war. He later served in World War 2 in the Home Guard, retiring as a major. He received the Freedom of his home town in 1985, just before he died.

SUNDAY 11TH NOVEMBER

In order to do our best in helping to mark this important date and all that it represents, we are invited to join the Act of Remembrance at Wolstanton war memorial at 11.00am with other Christian congregations and the general public. The bands of our local uniformed organizations will complete their march from Bradwell to Basford following our time together at the memorial. Do join us if you can.



**They heard the call, they answered yes
They proudly wore the battle dress,
For us who live they gave their all
That our great flag would never fall.**

**Let us this day remember all
Who answered yes, who heard the call,
Who gallantly opposed the foe:
On them let us our praise bestow.**

**They bravely died that we might live,
unselfishly their lives did give
For King and Country and all men,
That we might live in peace again.**

**Let us with praise these men salute,
Let peace and love be our pursuit,
Let's daily lead a life humane
That they will not have died in vain.**

by D. Ross Campbell

Worship Services during November

| | | | |
|------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|
| 4 th | 4 th before Advent | 8.00am 9.30am | Holy Communion (BCP) 'First Sunday' HC - SANCTUS |
| 7 th | Wednesday | 8.00am 10.30am 7.30pm | Morning Prayer Holy Communion (BCP) Men's Mass (Lady Chapel) |
| 11 th | Remembrance | 8.00am 9.30am 11.00am 4.30pm | Holy Communion (BCP) Holy Communion War Memorial – Wolstanton Annual Memorial Service |
| 14 th | Wednesday | 8.00am 10.30am | Morning Prayer Holy Communion (BCP) |
| 18 th | 2 nd before Advent | 8.00am 9.30am | Holy Communion (BCP) Family Worship with Baptism |
| 21 st | Wednesday | 8.00am 10.30am | Morning Prayer Holy Communion (BCP) |
| 25 th | Christ the King | 8.00am 9.30am | Holy Communion (BCP) Holy Communion |
| 28 th | Wednesday | 8.00am 10.30am | Morning Prayer Holy Communion (BCP) |

Diary Dates for November

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|------------------|-----------|---------|---------------------------------|
| 7 th | Wednesday | 7.30pm | Reading Circle (Vestry) |
| 8 th | Thursday | 7.00pm | Everybody Welcome - Pt 4 (PCC) |
| 10 th | Saturday | 7.00pm | WW1 Night (Hall) |
| 15 th | Thursday | 11.30am | Clergy Chapter (Kingsgrove) |
| 17 th | Saturday | 1.00pm | Christmas Fayre |
| 20 th | Tuesday | 7.30pm | Deanery Standing Comm. (Vestry) |
| 21 st | Wednesday | 7.30pm | Baptism Preparation Evening |
| 17 th | Wednesday | 7.00pm | Everybody Welcome – Pt 5 (PCC) |
| 24 th | Saturday | | Chester Christmas Market |

Early December

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|-----------------|-----------|--------|------------------------------|
| 2 nd | Sunday | 6.30pm | Advent Carols - Lichfield |
| 5 th | Wednesday | 7.30pm | Reading Circle (Lady Chapel) |
| 8 th | Saturday | 7.00pm | Parish Christmas Dinner |

Scouting

We're asked to note that our uniformed organisations (all of them) are actively looking to recruit volunteer leaders. Please do all you can to promote our uniformed groups amongst your families and friends.

SANCTUS

The 'First Sunday' theme for November will be 'refugees' and we'll be welcoming a guest representative from the Cobridge SANCTUS project. This would be a good service at which to bring in some toiletries, nappies etc. for our SANCTUS collection.

Christmas Fayre

Remember to put our Christmas Fayre in your diaries for Saturday, 17th November. The weekly sheets show the kinds of things we need to make it a success – please help us!

Advent Carols - Lichfield

The diocese is playing host to nine visitors from our German partner church for Advent this year. The Advent weekend has various activities in which you could join: please have a word with Terry for details. At 6.30pm on Sunday, 2nd December the cathedral will host Advent Carols. If this is a service you haven't yet experienced – then don't miss it, it is a real treat! Those wishing to go might come up with simple car-share to help with transportation.