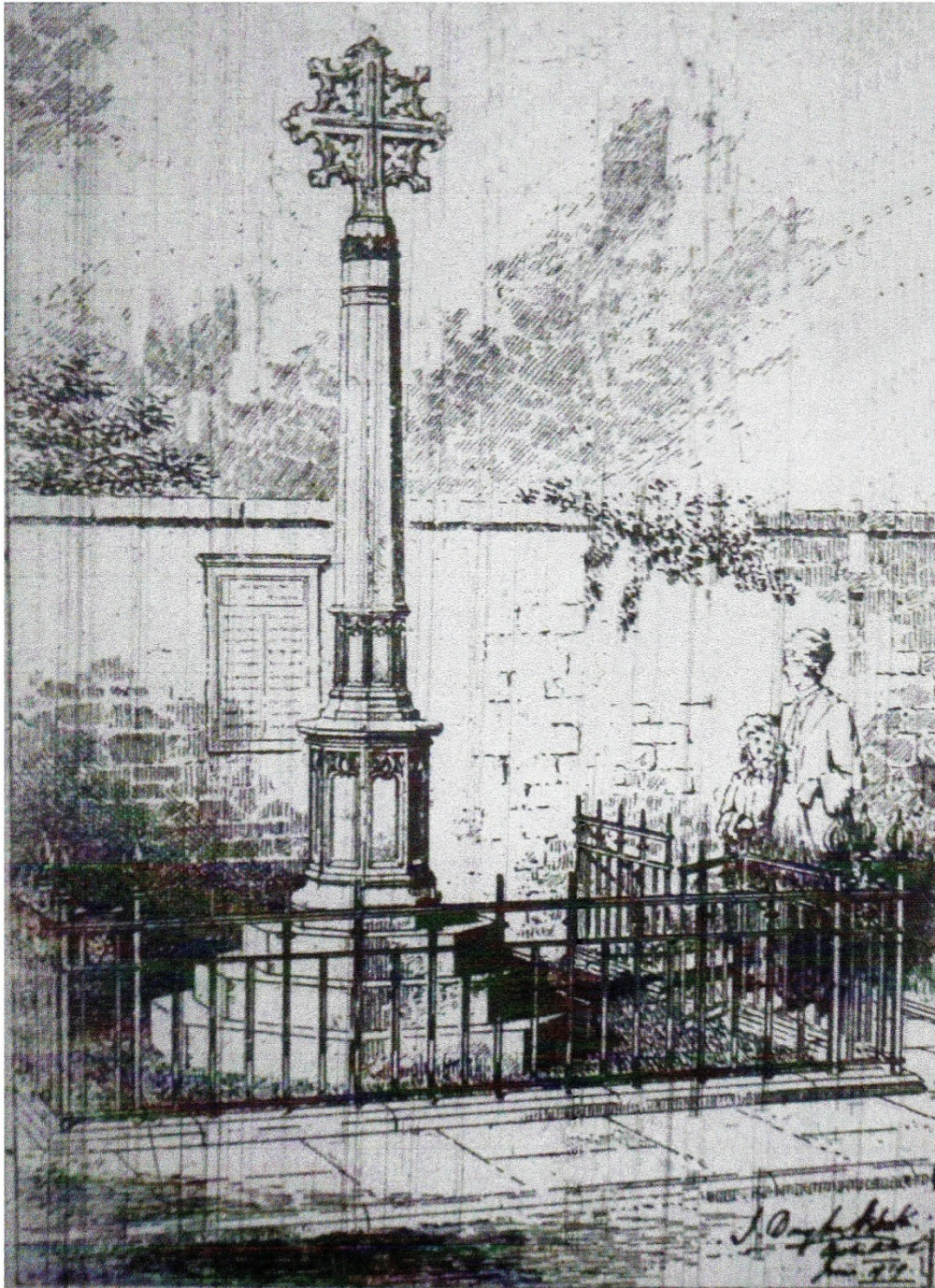


**HARTHILL'S MEMORIAL CROSS**  
DEDICATED BY THE BISHOP OF SHEFFIELD  
**HONOURING THE FALLEN**



**Harthill War Memorial**

In the pleasant village of Harthill, on Sunday afternoon, in splendid weather, and in the presence of an exceedingly large assembly, the memorial cross, which has been erected as a "permanent token of the honour and gratitude due to Harthill men who during the war laid down their lives that others may live," was unveiled and dedicated with befitting ceremony. The memorial replaces the ancient village cross of which the base still remains a little to the south of the rectory. The memorial cross, of which we give an illustration, stands on the grass plot to the north of the rectory gates, and the names of the fallen are inscribed on a tablet fixed to the wall as shown.

The work has been done in Portland stone, and the design is that of Mr. J. D. Webster, Architect, of Sheffield, the sculptors being Messrs. Tory and Sons, also of Sheffield.

The total cost of the cross amounts to something like £350, but so well and liberally have donations been received, that the secretary of the Memorial Committee Mr. C.W. Smith was proud to inform us that the debt has been cleared with the exception of a £5 sum, which will be realised without difficulty. The committee which had the matter in hand was a very representative one, and included members of the Parish Council and the Soldiers' and Sailors' Fund Committee. The Chairman of the Council, Mr. W. Brady, was at the head, and Mr. Smith carried out the duties of Secretary and Treasurer.

The tablet is inscribed as follows: - "To the glory of God and in honorary memory of the Harthill men who laid down their lives in the Great War 1914-19. This cross was erected by their fellow parishioners - Pte. A. Allison, Pte. John Baxter, Pte. W. Covell, Pte. J.T.P. Ellis, 1<sup>st</sup> W.O. Geo. H. Field, Pte R. Featherstone, Pte. E. E. Renshaw, Pte. A. A. Smith, Pte. H. Smith, Pte. E. Waplington.

The ceremony of unveiling and dedication was attended by the discharged and demobilised soldiers and sailors of the parish who marched to the scene under the command of Ex-Sergeant Major Bateman. The 10<sup>th</sup> (Harthill) Troop of Boy Scouts, with bugles and drums, also paraded, and behind them marched the schoolchildren., the roadway being filled over a large area when the ceremony commenced with the singing of "Oh God, our help in ages past." the majority of the Councillors and members of the committee were present, including the Chairman and Secretary, and others present were Messrs. W. Burman and G. Turner, churchwardens, and the organist Mr. A. Harvey. The full choir attended. The cross was veiled with the Union Jack, and flags at half-mast, flew on either side. There was also a flag on the Church tower, and many residents hung them from their windows.

The clergy present were the Bishop of Sheffield, the Right Rev. Dr Burrows, by whom the cross was dedicated, and the Rector of Harthill, Canon Darley. The cross was unveiled by Mr. E Soar, the manager of Kiveton Park Colliery.

The form of the service used was compiled by the Rev. J. Jessop Teague, M.A., and after the opening hymn prayers for the departed and the bereaved were recited by the Rector, and Psalm 130 was sung, followed by the lesson.

Mr C.W. Smith, on behalf of the committee and the parish, then handed over the cross to the care of the Parish Council, and addressing Mr. Brady, requested that the Council would keep the memorial in all due sacredness and honour.

Replying on behalf of the Council, Mr. Brady accepted the care of the cross, and remarked that it was not only the present Council under whose care it would rest, but also those of the future, as it would ever stand to the memory of those names it honoured.

The cross was then unveiled by Mr. Soar, and afterwards dedicated by the Bishop, who then addressed the large gathering.

This service, he said, was the ninety-sixth of its kind in diocese at which he had officiated. In every single parish but two there had been those who gave their lives for their country, and in some of the town parishes there were hundreds of names inscribed on one tablet.

He had been going from one place to another, and it had been continually bourne upon him how great was the cost of the victory, which was won for us. And so these memorials were set up in honoured memory of those who died. As Mr. Brady had said, the cross would stand for all the future generations to see, and the boys and girls of today, after they, the elder ones, had gone would still look upon it and keep it in sacred and honoured memory of those who did their duty. As they looked upon the memorial there were many thoughts came into their minds, and the first was one of deep gratefulness for what had been done. At these ceremonies there were always a number of men present who fought for their country just as nobly and as bravely as those whose names were commemorated on the memorial, but whom, in the mercy of God, were spared to return home, some severely wounded, bearing the marks of their noble service, some without a limb, and others were scarred in many ways.

It had been said by some that before the war the English were getting a soft easy going, flagging race, and that they had lost the determination and bravery of old. But now, those opinions were perforce all changed, - the Englishman of to-day had shown even greater determination and nobleness than those of old. He had shown wonderful cheerfulness under all circumstances, a willing spirit, and marvellous ungrudging sacrifice. Young men flocked to the colours risking everything in order to protect and preserve the peace of the whole world. Their names were written in ever-living letters in the history of the parish. Their next thought was that of deep, heartfelt sympathy with those who lost their dear ones. They did sympathise with them, they could be assured. To those who knew where their dear one lay that was of great comfort. Probably they were buried in sacred ground on French or Belgian soil, and those graves it was always possible to visit. To those who knew not where their heroes lay, this memorial cross was a great comfort, because it would ever keep green their memory of them.

It would be wrong of him if he stopped there. When they looked at the cross, they ought to ask themselves: - "How can I imitate theses men, - their sense on

loyalty, duty, goodwill, comradeship and unity?" Their good humour and cheerfulness. They had astonished the other nations, and he would say without fear of contradiction, that this spirit was the one required at the present time. It would be a poor thing if, after they had fought for us, had died, and had been maimed for us, if with all this in front of our eyes, we failed to benefit by the glorious example. The memorial cross pointed the right way to duty.

The last thought would be to hope that this memorial would urge them to do everything in their power to establish peace and good-will amongst men. This was the very thing for which these men had died. They had passed over, - the trumpets would be sounded on the other side, - but their memory and their example would ever be preserved. Harthill would not forget.

The hymn "For all the Saints" was then sung and the "Last Post" was sounded by the Scouts, after which the Bishop pronounced the blessing.

At the conclusion, a muffled peal was rung on the Church bells.

Information and correct date supplied by:

Stephen Sullivan - Inspire Culture

LCSA

Worksop Library

12th April 2023