

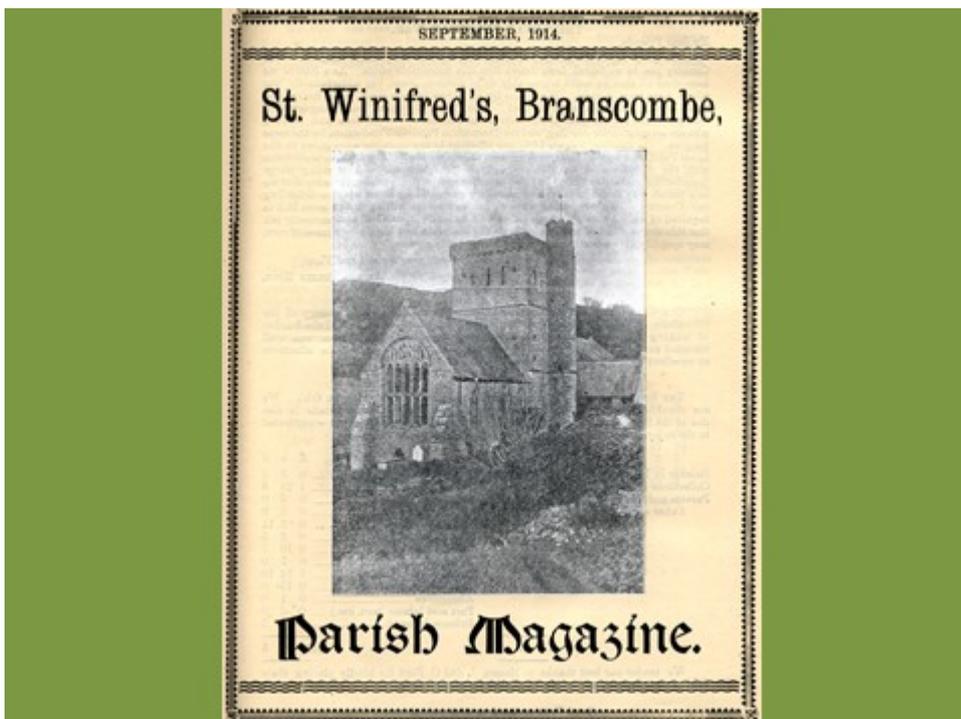


## **BRANSCOMBE AT WAR 1914 -18**

**A drama-doc created by Nigel Freathy using excerpts from the Branscombe Parish Magazine which was largely written by the then Vicar – Revd Steele King.**

**Performed by members of the Branscombe Players in Spring 2011.**

**Pictures assembled & created by Joan Doern & Barbara Farquharson**



## SONG : *It's a long way to Tipperary*

*It's a long way to Tipperary,  
it's a long way to go,  
it's a long way to Tipperary,  
to the sweetest girl I know.  
Good bye Piccadilly,  
farewell Leicester Square,  
it's a long way to Tipperary  
but my heart's right there.*

### Reader 1: September 1914

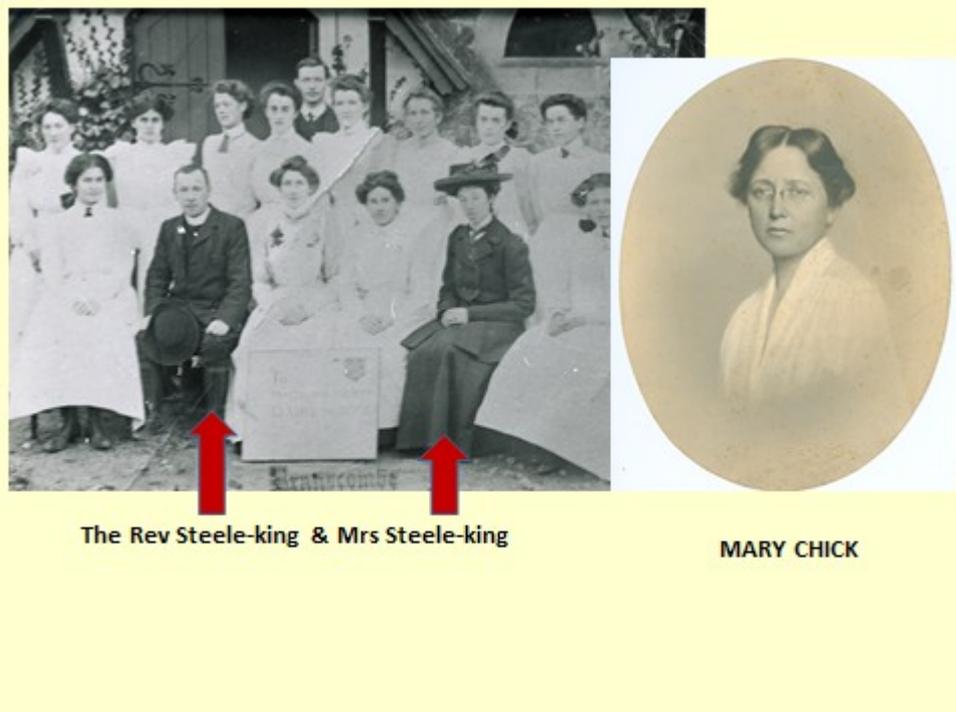
The Great War is the sad and all absorbing topic at the present moment.

**SEPTEMBER 1914 –  
WAR HAS BEEN  
DECLARED!**

Our country has, as we feared, been drawn into this lamentable strife. As a nation we have done all that we could honourably do to preserve peace but unfortunately our efforts have been in vain. It remains for us to face the situation with brave and loyal hearts and with trust in God. A working party (numbering upwards of 50) has been formed in Branscombe, in order that we as a parish may assist in providing necessary garments for those who are defending our country. We are doing what we can and we are

willing to do more if it is required of us. Above all things let us wait patiently upon God and earnestly ask that this storm cloud of war, which is due to the pride and high handedness of men, may speedily give place to an honourable and lasting peace.

**Reader 2:** The following contributions have been made towards the cost of the materials which are being used by those who are making garments for our troops – the Vicar and Mrs Steele-King - £1; Miss E Chick – 1 guinea, Miss M Chick – 1 guinea – Church collections - £2 19s 5d

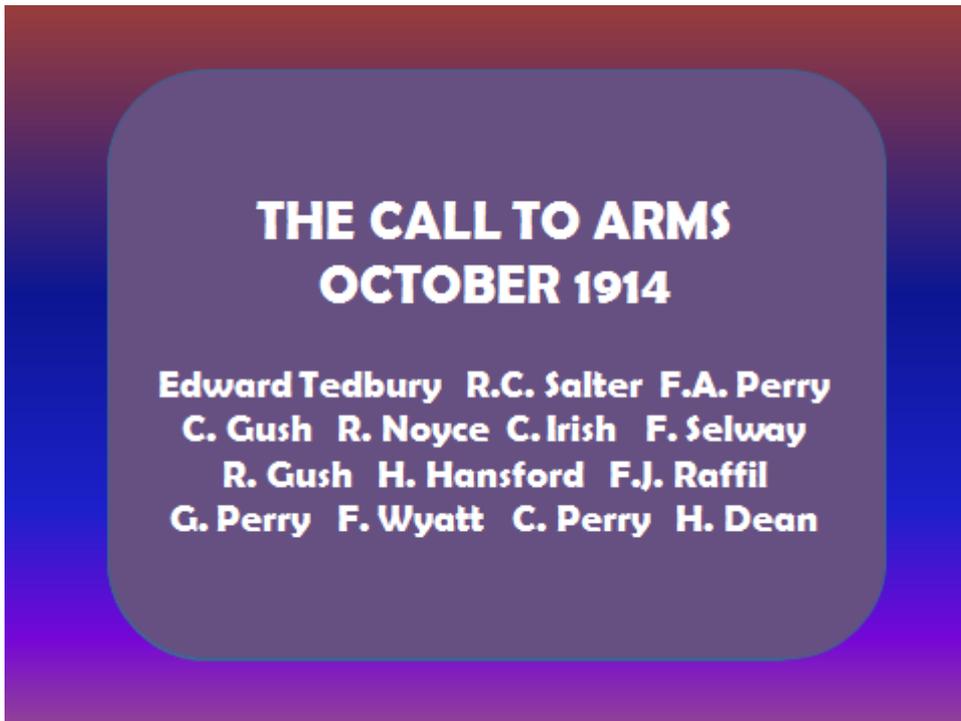


**Reader 3: October 1914**

The Devon Patriotic Fund for the relief of necessitous families of soldiers and sailors has been ably supported in Branscombe. The amounts already remitted include the sum of £8 0s 2d which was collected in our church on August 16<sup>th</sup> and £2 5s 0d collected by the Branscombe Brass Band.



A house to house collection has produced the sum of £40 12s 4d. The call to arms has been heard and obeyed by Mr Edward Tedbury (one of our bell ringers) who has joined the Devons, Messrs R C Salter, F A Perry, C Gush and R Noyce. Four naval reservists – C Irish, F Selway, R Gush and H Hansford have rejoined the colours.



In addition Branscombe is represented in the navy by Messrs F J Raffil, G Perry, F Wyatt and C Perry. In the army we have Mr H Dean serving in the Coldstream Guards. The Vicar asks that each of these may be remembered by name in our prayers daily. Our intercessions should also be offered for all who are in authority, for our troops and allies, for the suffering, the anxious and the sorrowful.

It may be that the struggle to free Europe from the iron heel of Germany will prove long and painful but if we are true to ourselves and to our God the splendid efforts and the heroic sacrifices of our army and our navy will not have been in vain.

### **Reader 3: November 1914**

In our last issue we gave the names of some of those belonging to our parish who are serving in the ranks of HM Forces. Owing to a lack of information the list was incomplete but we believe that the one below is inclusive. It is a roll of honour and every family that is represented therein shares that honour : F Wyatt, S Perry, W Harris, C Irish, R Gush, H Hansford, J Selway, F A Perry, C Gush, H Dean, E Tedbury, R C Salter, R Noyce, Bert Pike.

**THE CALL TO ARMS**  
(amended list)  
November 1914

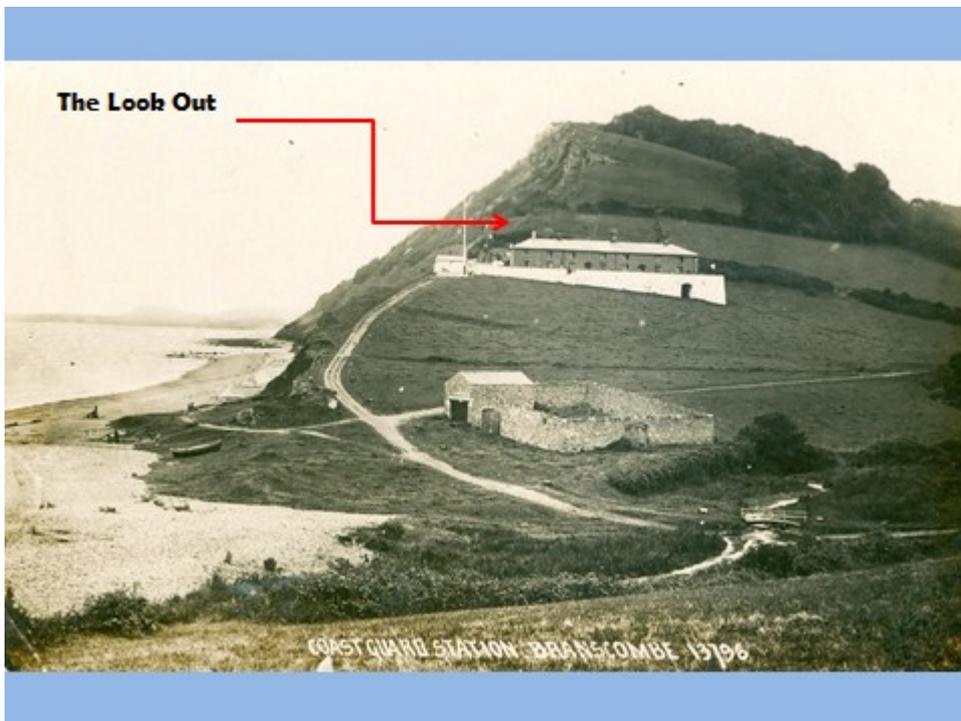
**F. Wyatt S. Perry W. Harris C. Irish**  
**R. Gush H. Hansford J. Selway**  
**F.A. Perry C. Gush H. Dean E. Tedbury**  
**R.C. Salter R. Noyce Bert Pike**

Let us pray daily for our soldiers and sailors and particularly for those who belong to us. They are standing between us and the cruel fate that has befallen our less fortunate Belgian neighbours.



It is to be hoped that Branscombe may yet contribute more of her stalwart young men for the defence of our hearths and homes.

**Reader 4:** Mr L Loyd has kindly placed the Look Out at the disposal of some Belgians who have been obliged to seek a refuge in England.



We feel assured that they will receive a kindly welcome and that everything that is possible will be done to make their stay here a pleasant one. They have a just claim upon our sympathies for they have suffered greatly and are strangers in a strange land.

**Reader 5:** The Brass Tablet giving the names of the Vicars as far back as they are known has now been affixed to the wall of the church. The design and workmanship of this interesting memorial are most satisfactory and meet with general approval.



**Reader 6:** The Churchyard grass has been cut during the past month and now presents a neater and more orderly appearance. It would be an advantage if this work could be carried out four times a year instead of three times as at present.



Of course it is not possible to give special attention to every grave on these occasions and friends of the dead should wherever possible attend personally to the graves of those who belong to them.

#### **Reader 7: December 1914**

We are proud to add the following names to the roll of honour which has already been published : Walter Tedbury, Thomas Henry Northcott, Arthur Collins, Walter Gush, Charles Dean and Sidney Perryman, all of whom have joined the Devon Regiment.

### **CALL TO ARMS more names**

**Walter Tedbury Thomas Henry Northcott  
Arthur Collins Walter Gush Charles Dean  
Sidney Perryman**



We have been assured by Lord Kitchener that more men are wanted and still more. May they be forthcoming.



**Reader 8:** The articles which have been provided by the Branscombe working party for our troops include 38 shirts, 6 blankets and 32 pairs of socks.



Those sent to military hospitals were as follows : 23 nightshirts, 10 bed jackets, 26 hot water bottle covers and 43 dozen handkerchiefs. 63 garments were also forwarded for the destitute families of Belgian refugees. In addition to these a large number of woollen helmets, gloves, mittens, scarves, etc have been sent in by various kind donors.

### Reader 9: January 1915

It is proposed that the first Sunday in the New Year be observed as a day of intercession and penitence throughout the whole of the land. We are fighting in self defence and we are also fighting for national faith and honour. We believe in our hearts that our cause is righteous yet our consciences accuse us of grave national sins and shortcomings. May the day of intercession draw us all nearer together and nearer to God and may he keep our nation Christian and keep it great.



**Reader 10:** Since our last issue the following names have been added to our roll of honour : Courtenay Dowell and Fred Pike. Charles Leonard Dawe son of Mr Dawe of Elverway should also be included in the list. Mr Pike's departure is a serious loss to our band of ringers.



**Reader 1:** The following were honourably mentioned in the recent examination in religious knowledge at the school : J Salter, W Pike, J Ward, M Salter, R Ackland, C Loveridge, G Collins, V Newton, C Leonard, G Collier, F Layzell, I Ward and M Loveridge. These have received cards of merit.



**Reader 2:** Sums placed in the church boxes will until further notice be devoted to the fund which is being raised for the relief of destitute Belgian refugees.

**Reader 3: February 1915**

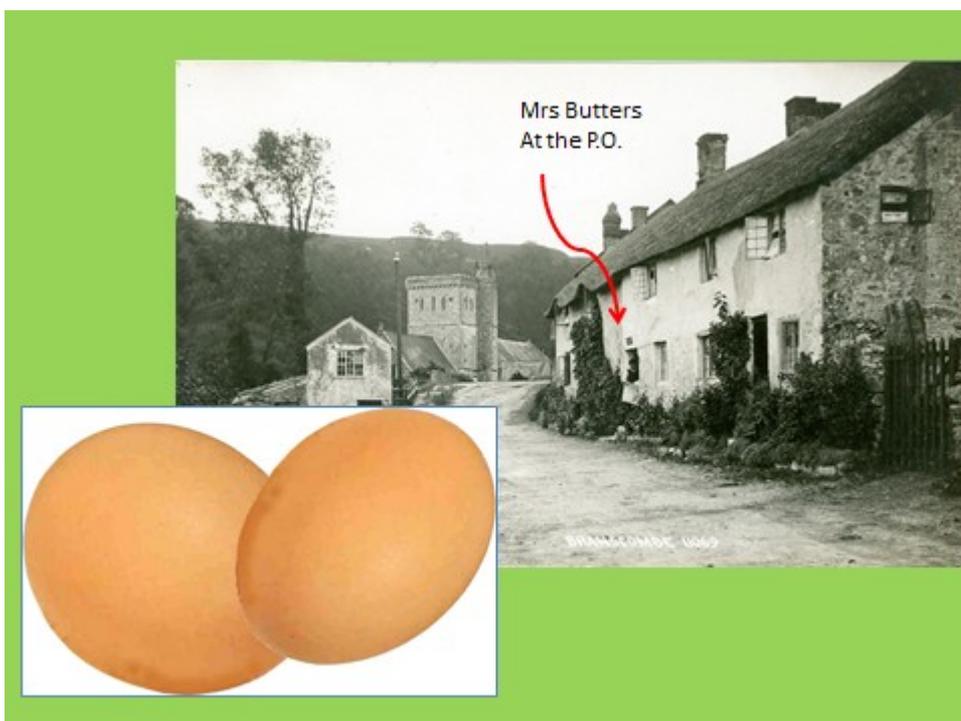
In consequence of the many cases of sickness in the parish, it has been necessary to close the Sunday and Day Schools for a time. For the same reason the Sunday School Christmas treat has not yet been held. All of us deeply sympathise with Mr and Mrs Loveridge in the sad loss they have sustained by the passing away of their little son, Cyril. In his case the disease assumed a virulent form and he succumbed after a very few days' illness.

**Reader 4:** One of the latest efforts to increase the fighting forces of this country is seen in the formation of committees in every parish for the purpose of enlisting recruits. If this effort proves unsuccessful some form of national service will be necessary. At a meeting held in the schoolroom during the past month it was stated that Branscombe ought to supply at least 25 men for the newly organised army – so far twelve have come forward and it is to be hoped that all who are of military age and fitness will seriously consider their duty at the present time.

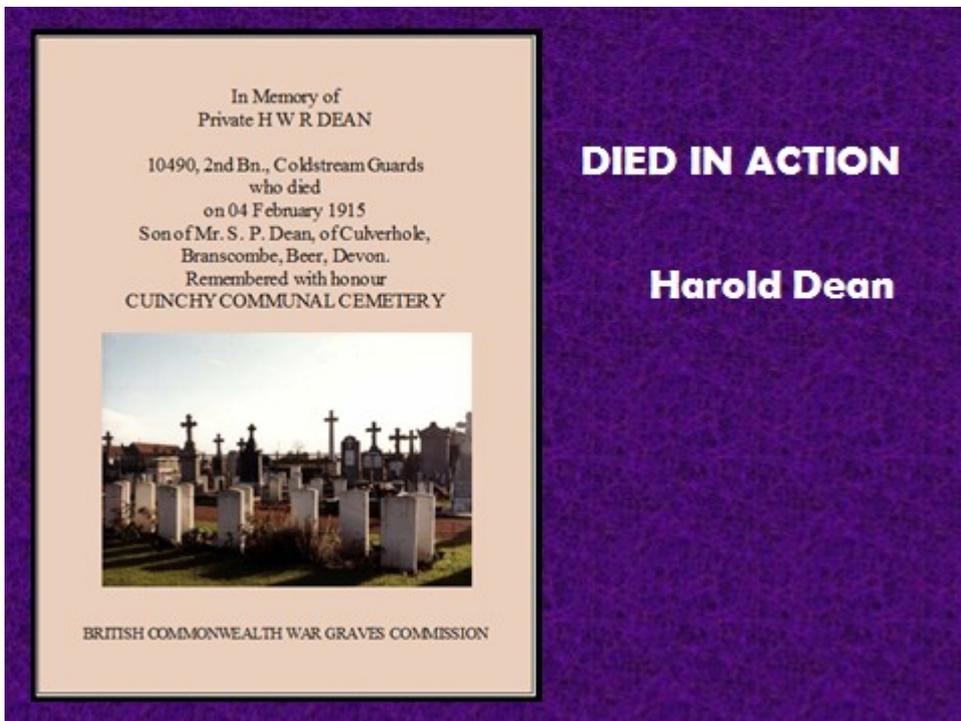
**Reader 5:** Burials : December 31st – Cyril Francis George Loveridge aged 9

### **Reader 6: March 1915**

Our wounded soldiers and sailors need about 200,000 new laid eggs weekly. Who will help? Mrs Butter has kindly undertaken to receive all gifts at the post office and these will be despatched on Friday mornings. At the close of the first week after the appeal had been made, 32 were forwarded from Branscombe. Small offerings of one, two or three eggs weekly will be welcomed. Where no poultry are kept an equivalent in pence may be sent.



**Reader 7:** The sad news has arrived from France of the death of Private Harold Dean. It appears that he was shot in the head and killed instantaneously while occupying a trench which had just been captured from the Germans. His remains were reverently buried in a cemetery nearby and a simple wooden cross was erected by his comrades to mark their resting place. A letter received by his parents from the commanding officer recording the sad event, speaks of him in high terms as a gallant and brave soldier.



**Reader 8:** The Vicar and Mrs Steele King had the pleasure of welcoming the members of the choir and the ringers to the Vicarage Room on Feb 16<sup>th</sup>. After supper, lantern slides were shown illustrating Belgium before and after the ravages of the Germans in August and September last. A very happy evening was spent, although owing to the war the proceedings were of a quiet character.



**Reader 9: April 1915**

Mr W Dowell who left Branscombe for Canada some time ago has enlisted in the Canadian forces.



**Reader 10:** Branscombe is doing well in the matter of egg collection for the brave fellows of our army and navy who are lying wounded in hospitals. May the numbers sent in not decrease. If only the hens understood the need, one feels sure that they would oblige us by laying an extra egg daily.

**SONG : Chick chick**

*Chick, chick, chick, chick, chicken  
lay a little egg for me,  
chick, chick, chick, chick, chicken  
I want one for my tea.  
I haven't had an egg since Easter  
and now it's half past three,  
so chick, chick, chick, chick, chicken  
lay a little egg for me.*

**Reader 1: May 1915**

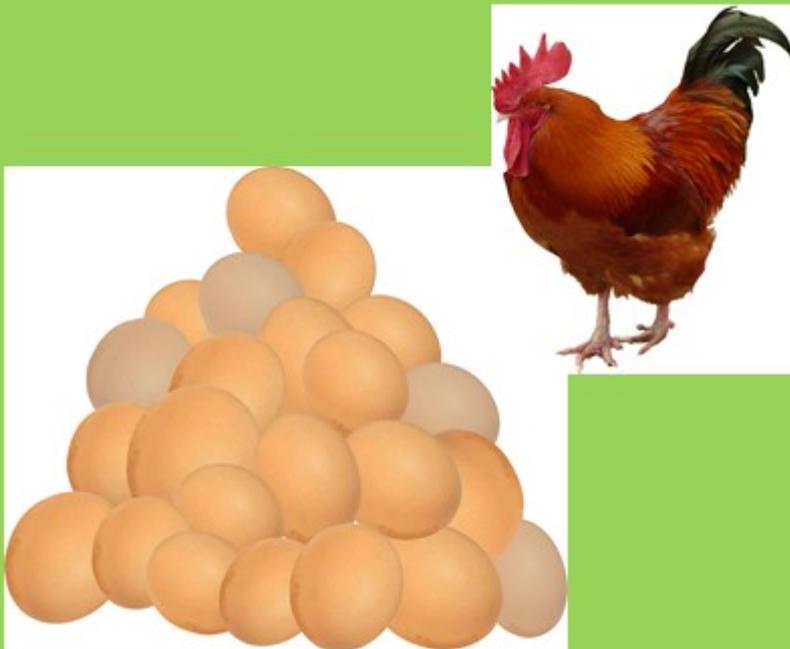
The sudden sad death of Private Bell who was billeted in Branscombe for patrol duty cast a gloom over the whole parish. The interment took place in our churchyard. The deceased was accorded military honours - the firing party and the bugler who sounded the pathetic notes of the Last Post, being brought from Sidmouth.



Private Bell from Dartmouth, billeted in Branscombe, interred in the churchyard

**Reader 2:** The numbers of eggs sent from Branscombe have been - March 19<sup>th</sup> – 145, March 26<sup>th</sup> – 128 etc etc

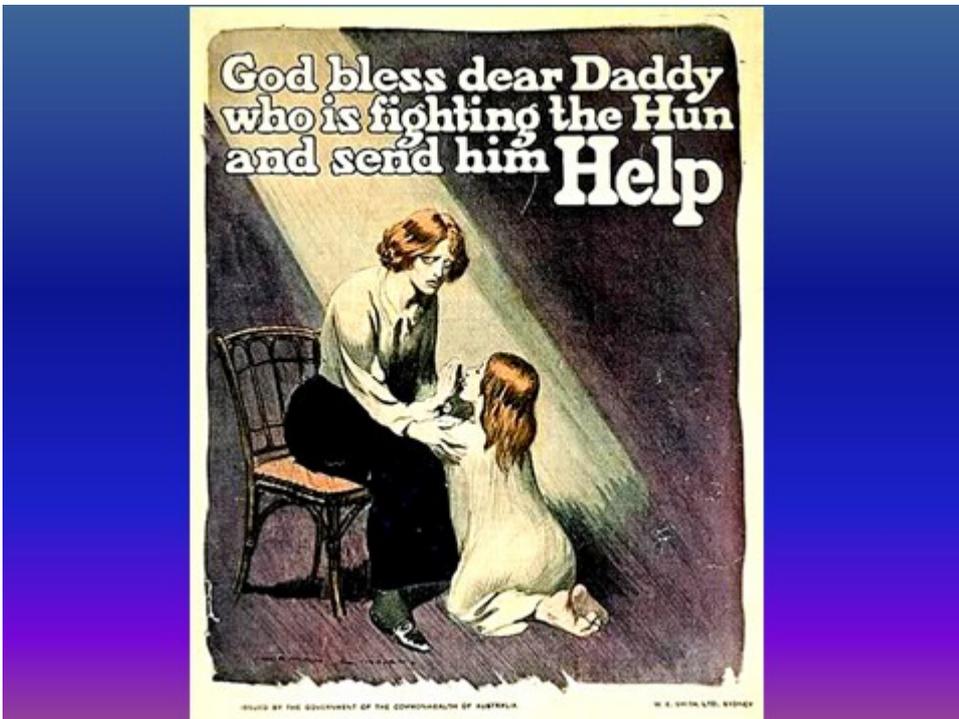
**SONG :** *Chick chick*



**Reader 3:** Burials – April 3<sup>rd</sup> – Eliza Dowell aged 80

**Reader 4: June 1915**

We are at war with a foe which is powerful, cruel and unscrupulous. It is for us and our allies to put every able bodied man into the field and trust by God's help we may cleanse the world of this enemy of the human race which is now at large.

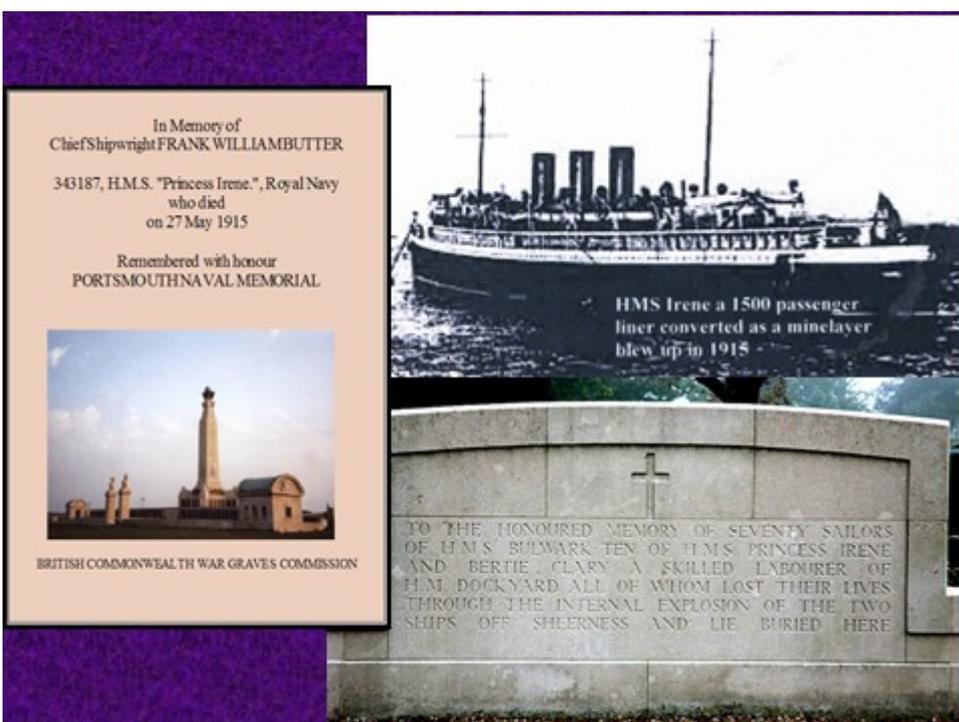


**Reader 5:** The sum of four shillings has been contributed by Branscombe School children to Lady Audrey Buller's Fund in aid of the sick and wounded in the county of Devon.

**Reader 6:** On Ascension Day the children's service was held at half past ten and was followed by a celebration of Holy Communion at 11 o'clock. Evensong with a brief address was held at 7 o'clock. The attendance at these services was fair but we should like to see worshippers gather together in larger numbers on this beautiful festival.

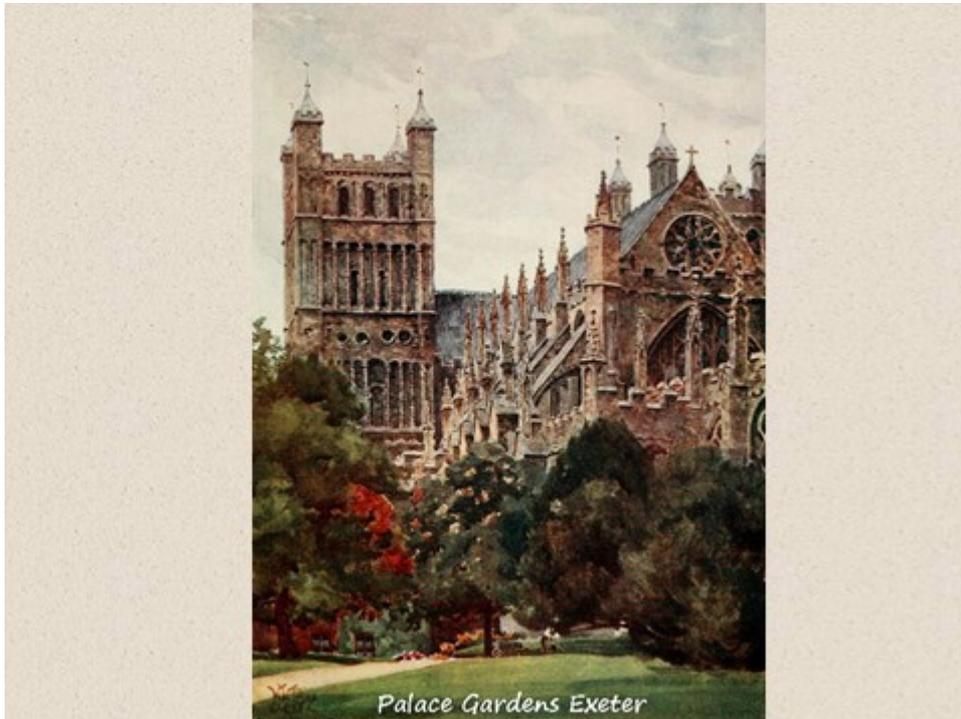
**Reader 7: July 1915**

The destruction of HMS Irene at Sheerness has brought mourning to some homes in Branscombe. PO Frank Butter, who lost his life in this terrible explosion, was well known to us and the sudden and great sorrow which has fallen upon his relatives has stirred the sympathy of us all.



**Reader 8:** We are glad to know that the needlework class which Miss Ford conducts is proving a great success. The majority of the members of the class are those who belong to the Girls Guild which under the superintendence of Miss Dowell did some excellent work during the winter months.

**Reader 9:** The bazaar which was held in the Palace Garden in Exeter on behalf of the convalescent home for wounded Belgian soldiers was a great financial success and we are especially requested to thank all in the parish who so kindly helped by sending gifts in money or in kind.



**Reader 10:** On Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> the military authorities arranged for a visit of a detachment of the 3<sup>rd</sup> battalion of the Devon regiment to Branscombe. The visitors were accompanied by a band and speeches were made setting forth the urgent need for recruiting.



**Reader 1: August 1915**

Holy Baptism – June 27<sup>th</sup> – Cecil Clement Charles, son of William Edward and Emily Elizabeth Hansford.

**Reader 2: September 1915**

The Vicar has been asked to express the grateful appreciation of Captain and Mrs Bell of Dartmouth to all those who have so kindly shown sympathy with them in the loss of their son, Private Bell, and to sincerely thank those who have so kindly placed flowers upon his grave from time to time.

**Reader 3:** The continuous rainy weather has seriously hindered the work of the farmers, several of whom have not been able to gather in their hay. We trust that they may be favoured with a spell of fine weather which will enable them to finish the hay harvest and to turn their attention to the corn.



**Reader 4: October 1915**

On Sunday August 22<sup>nd</sup> a military parade service was held in the morning attended by men stationed at Seaton, Weston and Branscombe. They were accompanied by the Branscombe Brass Band.

**Reader 5:** During the first seven months of this year Branscombe donated 1889 eggs.

**SONG : *Chick chick***

**Reader 6:** We deeply regret to hear of the death of Private Victor Gush aged 28 from dysentery in the Dardanelles. Private Gush had enlisted as a shoeing smith but a few months before.

**VICTOR GUSH**

According to Lily Gush,  
Victor Gush's death at Gallipoli was as a result of dysentery.

Waiting in the trenches at Gallipoli

Turkish troops firing down on Allied troops at Gallipoli

Heliopolis, Egypt, c. 1915. The interior of the Auxiliary Hospital, located in the former Heliopolis Palace Hotel. The patients were from Gallipoli.

Gallipoli casualties			
	Died	Wounded	Total
Australia	8,709	19,441	28,150
New Zealand	2,701	4,852	7,553
Britain	21,255	52,230	73,485
France (estimated)	10,000	17,000	27,000
India	1,358	3,421	4,779
Newfoundland	49	93	142
<b>Total Allies</b>	<b>44,072</b>	<b>97,037</b>	<b>141,109</b>

In addition to those who were killed, died of their wounds or were wounded as listed in the table above, many soldiers became sick in the insanitary environment of the peninsula, mainly from enteric fever, dysentery and diarrhoea.

*It is estimated that a further 145,000 British soldiers became casualties from illness during the campaign.*

**Reader 7: November 1915**

A special service of thanksgiving for the harvest was held on September 23<sup>rd</sup>. The fruit, vegetables, bread etc were afterwards shared among the sick and needy of the village.



**Reader 8:** Our coal and clothing club ended its year on November 30<sup>th</sup>. As there are very many calls for help at the present time, the Vicar has arranged to devote some recent collections to this object.

**Reader 9: December 1915**

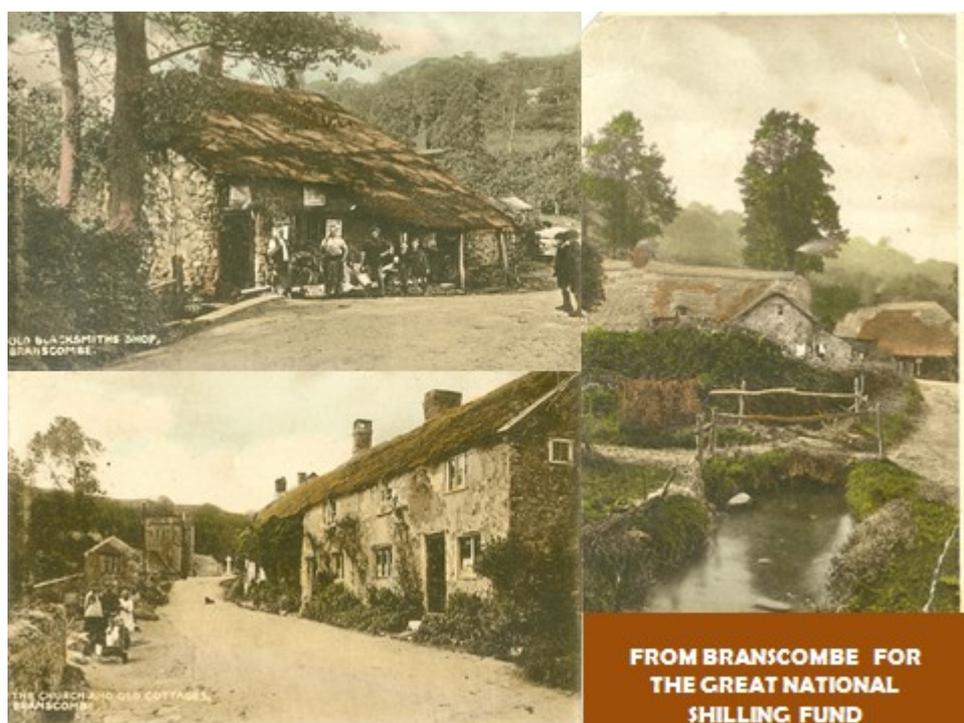
There will be vacant places in many a home circle this Christmastide – our thoughts go out to those loved ones who are absent in strange lands

**Reader 10:** The total number of eggs which have been sent from Branscombe for our wounded soldiers and sailors from Feb 18<sup>th</sup> to Nov 12<sup>th</sup> is 1278. The following is a list of those who have kindly contributed to this splendid result together with the numbers given by each. It has been suggested that the interest in this good work could be increased if a list of donors were inserted monthly in these pages.

**SONG : Chick chick**

Chick, chick, chick, chick,  
chicken  
Lay a little egg for me,  
Chick, chick, chick, chick,  
chicken  
I want one for my tea  
I haven't had an egg since  
Easter  
And now it's half past three  
So chick, chick, chick, chick,  
chicken  
Lay a little egg for me.

**Reader 1:** During the past month the sum of £8.9s has been contributed from Branscombe to the great national Million Shilling fund which is being raised to provide the 180,000 soldiers of the Belgian army with food, clothing, field kitchens, sterilisers, trench heaters and other necessities.



**Reader 2: January 1916**

The Sunday School Christmas treat and prize giving has been fixed for Wednesday in Christmas week. While we feel very strongly the necessity for economy and self denial on the part of older people, we have decided that the arrangements for the encouragement of the children shall, as far as possible, be carried out as usual at this season.

### Reader 3: February 1916

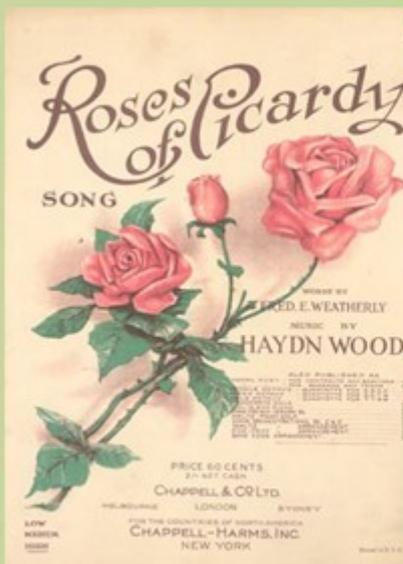
The news that Lance Corporal S Perryman has been wounded arrived early last month, but no particulars were given. His friends are anxiously awaiting further information. We trust that the wound is not severe and that he may make a good recovery.

## Wounded ... S. Perryman



1916: trenches at Kut-el-amara  
where Sydney Perryman was wounded

### SONG : *Rose of Picardy*



#### PICARDY

Roses are shining in Picardy,  
in the hush of the silver dew,  
Roses are flowering in Picardy,  
but there's never a rose like  
you.  
And the roses will die with the  
summer time, and our roads  
may be far apart,  
But there's one rose that dies  
not in Picardy, tis the rose  
that I keep in my heart.

#### Reader 4: March 1916

The vacant post of church organist has been offered to Mrs Restorick and has been accepted by her. During the few weeks in which Mrs Restorick has performed the duties she has shown great promise of success.



**Reader 5:** Holy Baptism – February 6<sup>th</sup> – Winifred May Frances daughter of Francis and Caroline Woodrow.

#### Reader 6: April 1916

Our day schools have been closed for several weeks owing to sickness among the children attending them. We hope that before these words are read there will be such an improvement that the medical officer of health will allow them to reopen and resume work.



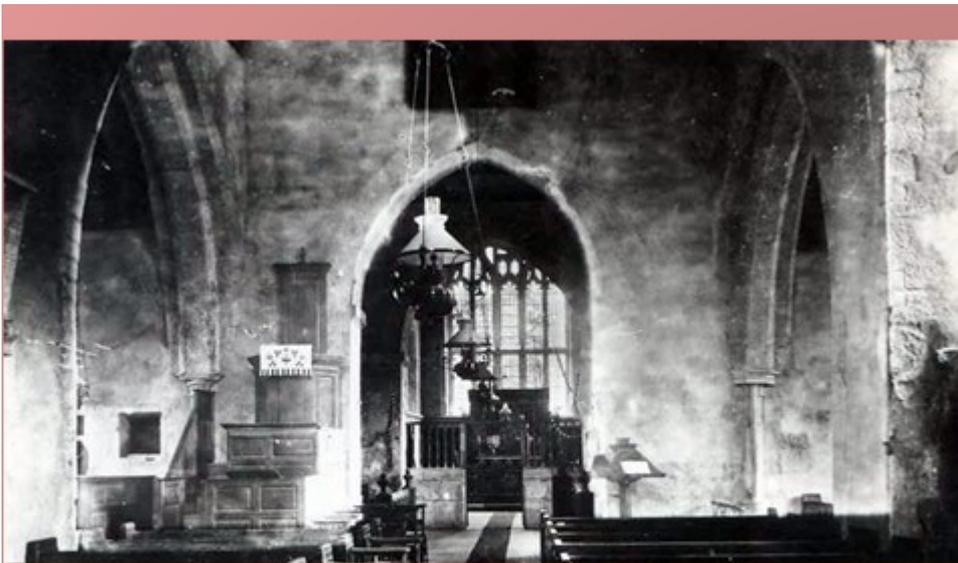
**Reader 7:** Even in this time of trial when the fate of our country is in the balance there are far too many who are never seen in God's house and who bear no share in the public offering of prayers and praise and intercession.

**Reader 8: May 1916**

A silver inkstand has been presented to Miss Dowell by the members of the Girls' Guild as a token of their appreciation of services so kindly rendered by her. The gift is a sign of the very pleasant relationship which exists between Miss Dowell and the members.

**Reader 9: June 1916**

The Vestry meeting took a very serious view of the unseemly conduct of certain young and thoughtless persons during Divine Service on some occasions in the past year. It was hoped that these concerned would take heed to the warning given and that no further measures would be necessary.



*UNSEEMLY CONDUCT OF CERTAIN YOUNG  
& THOUGHTLESS PERSONS*

**Reader 10:** No further news has been received concerning Lance Corporal S Perryman; if, as we suppose, he was among those who were shut up in Kut – el – amara, there is every hope that he may be included in the exchange of wounded prisoners which has been arranged between the Turks and the allies.

**Reader 1: July 1916**

We have drifted into a position which is discreditable and unworthy of a Christian nation. What is wanted is a penitent church, which will leaven and bring about a penitent nation.



*A PENITENT CHURCH ... A PENITENT NATION*

### Reader 2: August 1916

Remember that every War Savings Certificate purchased at the post office is not only a profitable investment but a help towards winning the war.



**Reader 3:** A great deal of anxiety has been caused to the family of Private Walter Gush by the news of his illness in Mesopotamia. As however no further communication has been received up to the time of going to press, we trust that by God's blessing he is on the road to health.

### Reader 4: September 1916

On August 18<sup>th</sup> at the ripe age of 93, Mrs Swansborough widow of the late vicar of this parish entered into her rest. During her residence in Branscombe which extended over a period of 44 years her quite beautiful

and saintly character won the love and respect of all with whom she came into contact. She was ever cheerful and helpful, ever looking for opportunities of rendering some little kindness to those around her and when she was no longer able to continue her active life her presence was sorely missed in many a household. She was a sincere friend to all and while she herself has entered the paradise of God, she has left behind her a sweet and fragrant memory



Revd. & Mrs. Robert Swansborough Circa 1890

THE DEATH OF MRS  
SWANSBOROUGH

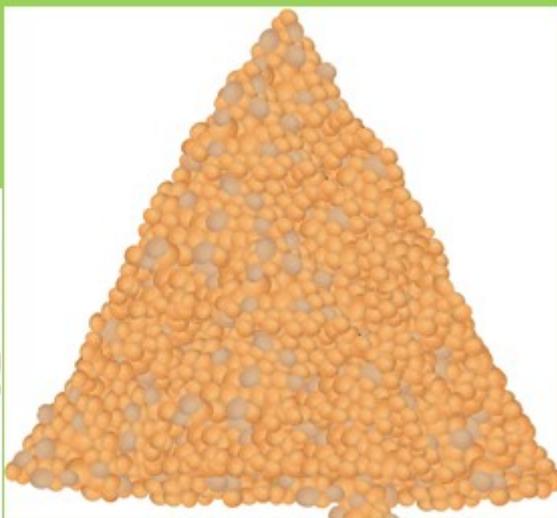
A QUITE BEAUTIFUL &  
SAINTLY CHARACTER

EVER CHEERFUL & HELPFUL ...

A SWEET & FRAGRANT  
MEMORY

Reader 5: Total to date of eggs given – 3760.

SONG : *Chick chick*



Reader 6: October 1916

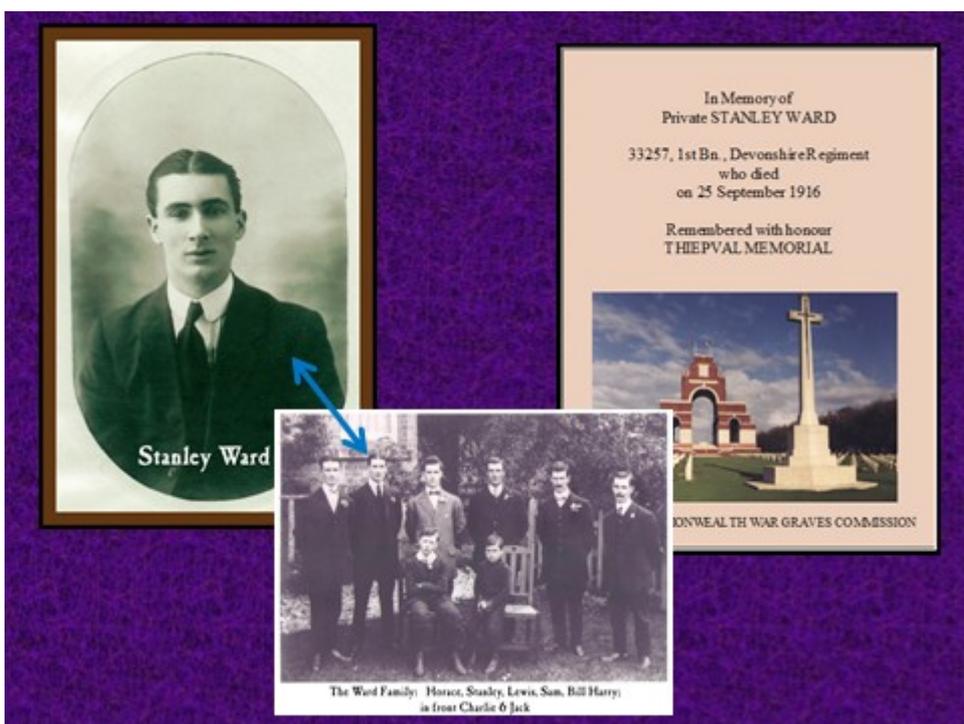
By order of the authorities, our church bells may not be rung for Evensong until further notice. We regret this inconvenience but with a little careful attention to our house clocks we shall be able to maintain punctual attendance at the service.



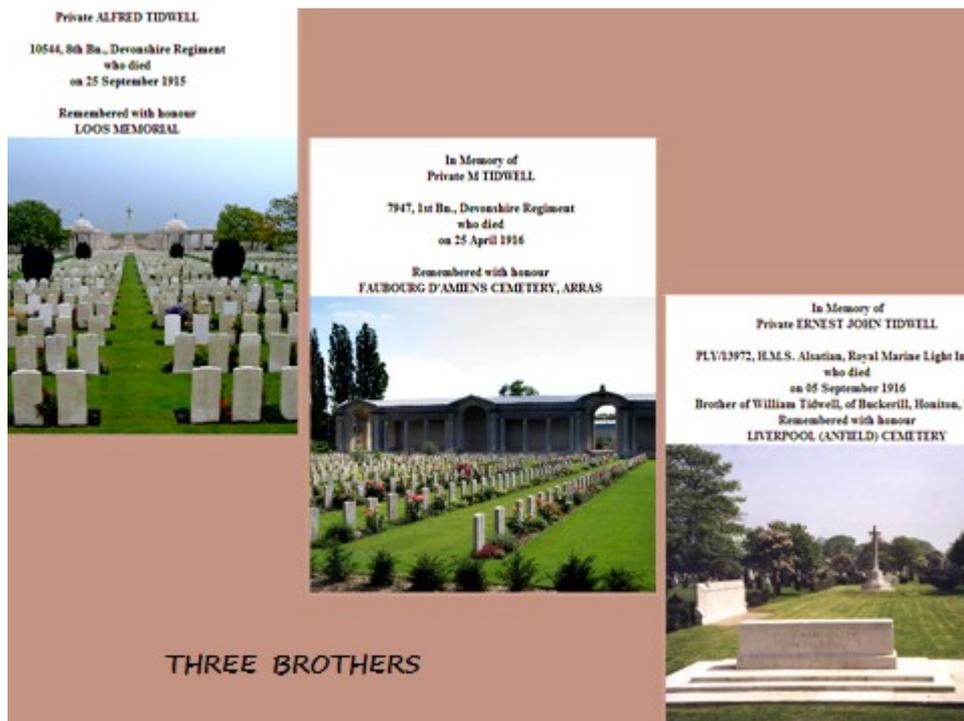
**Reader 7:** The cost of darkening the church windows necessitated by the Defence of the Realm Act will amount to about £3-10s. This will fall upon the Church Expenses Fund which is already somewhat heavily burdened. The Vicar will welcome donations towards this outlay.

**Reader 8: November 1916**

The sad news of Private Stanley Ward in France on September 25<sup>th</sup> came as a great shock to us all and we deeply sympathise with Mr and Mrs Ward and their family in this great sorrow. Truly the struggle for liberty and security demands terrible sacrifices and patient submission.



We have learned also with great concern about the loss of three brothers – Private Alfred Tidwell, Private Mark Tidwell and Private E Tidwell. These were born in Branscombe but were domiciled at Buckerell. May God comfort the broken hearted mourners and sanctify their grief.

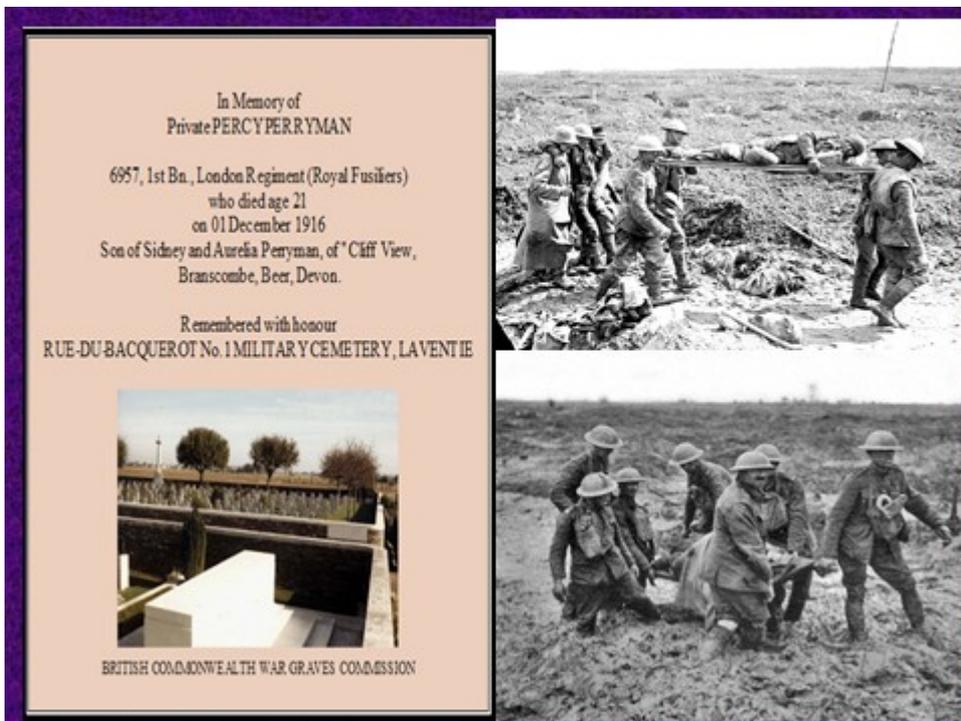


### Reader 9: December 1916

A V.A.D. Hospital is being opened in Seaton. The Secretary writes to ask for gifts of vegetables, fruit etc for the patients. Full details as to a receiving depot in Branscombe will be given in due course.

### Reader 10: January 1917

It is with very great sorrow that we record the death of Private Percy Perryman in France on December 1<sup>st</sup>. He had volunteered as a stretcher bearer for a wounded comrade when an enemy shell burst near and killed him instantaneously. Letters have been received by his parents from his fellow volunteers and also from his commanding officer which contain kindly references to the noble act which cost him his life.



**Reader 1:** The services of intercession for our sailors and soldiers which have been held in the church room on Wednesday afternoons during advent have been well attended. The Vicar hopes that it may be possible to arrange similar gatherings from time to time.

**Reader 2:** The examination in religious knowledge took place on December 2<sup>nd</sup> when the following boys and girls entered for the test : C Ward, L Restwick, M Pike, E Dowell, D Bromfield, E Abbott, K Abbott, M. Ellis, W Pike, I Collier, M Loveridge and V Newton. In the afternoon all assembled in the Vicarage Room where tea was provided and games.



1913: Branscombe School

**SONG : *Keep the home fires burning***

## KEEP THE HOME FIRES BURNING

*Keep the home fires burning,  
while your hearts are yearning,  
though your lads are far way,  
they dream of home.  
There's a silver lining  
through the dark cloud shining,  
Turn the dark cloud inside out,  
till the boys come home.*

### Reader 3: February 1917

A well known and greatly respected inhabitant of the parish has passed away in the person of Miss S Somers who had attained the age of 94 years. Miss Somers was remarkable for her accurate memory of bygone days and was a most interesting link with the past. Owing to her enfeebled health she was unable to get to church regularly of late but many of us will remember her appearance there in September when she came to make her birthday communion.

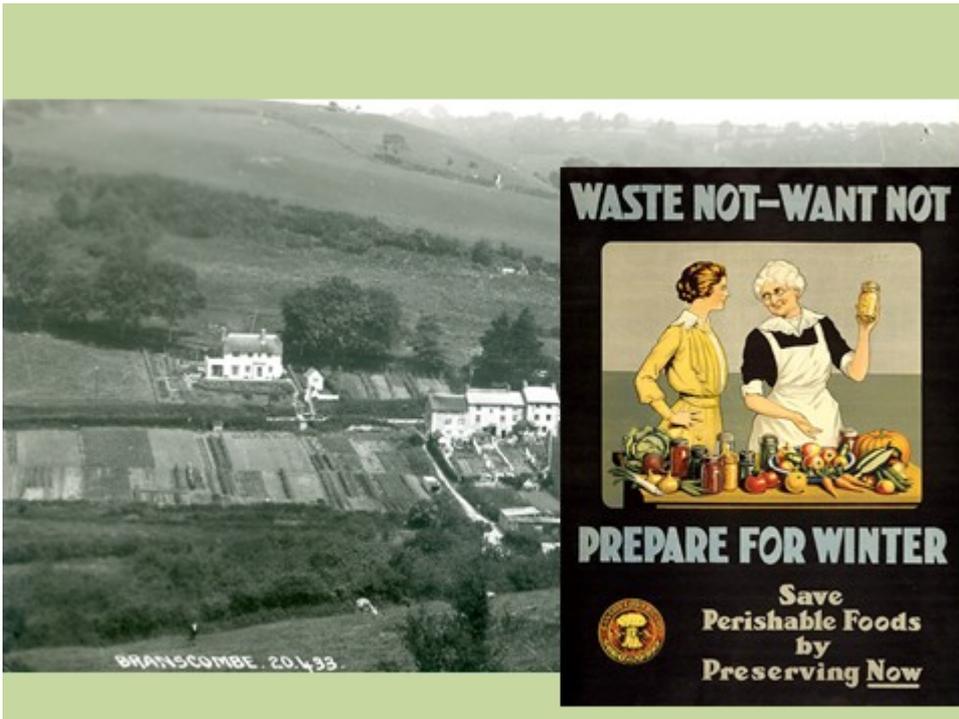
THE DEATH OF MISS S. SOMERS  
NINETY-FOUR YEARS OLD  
REMARKABLE FOR HER ACCURATE MEMORY OF BY-GONE DAYS



**Reader 4:** The sum of £2 6s 6d has been forwarded for the relief of the little children in Belgium who are suffering from the hardships of war. A cheque for £1 has also been sent to Devon County Red Cross Fund.

### Reader 5: March 1917

At this critical time in our national history it behoves us all to aid our country by practising the strictest economy in food and dress and in all else. Nothing must be wasted. Every garden should be made to produce as much as possible.

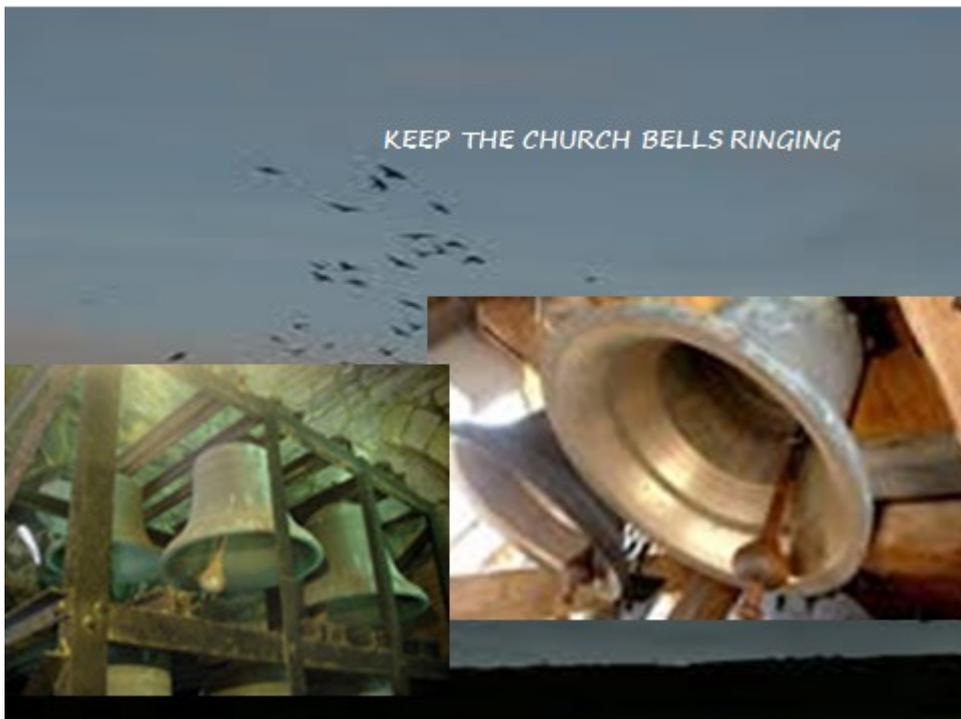


Let us look upon our money as a sacred trust. To keep money hidden away in the house is always a foolish and risky thing to do but at the present time it would be absolutely wrong. Any spare cash should be invested in War Loan Certificates to be obtained from the Post Office. These make a good return to the holder besides being a help to our country in its need.

**Reader 6:** The Vicar and Mrs Steele King had the pleasure of welcoming the members of the choir and the ringers to supper at the Vicarage Room on Tuesday the 6<sup>th</sup> last. The gathering was somewhat smaller than usual owing to the unavoidable absence of those who are on active service. A very pleasant evening was spent.

#### **Reader 7: April 1917**

What a pleasure it is that the government has now removed its restrictions on church bell ringing. The world seemed wrong when our sweet church bells no longer summoned us to prayer. Bell ringing is such an essentially English custom. We are in fact almost the only country which understands the art. Our English bell ringers are a splendid class, giving up their Sunday leisure that all the world may realise the call to prayer.

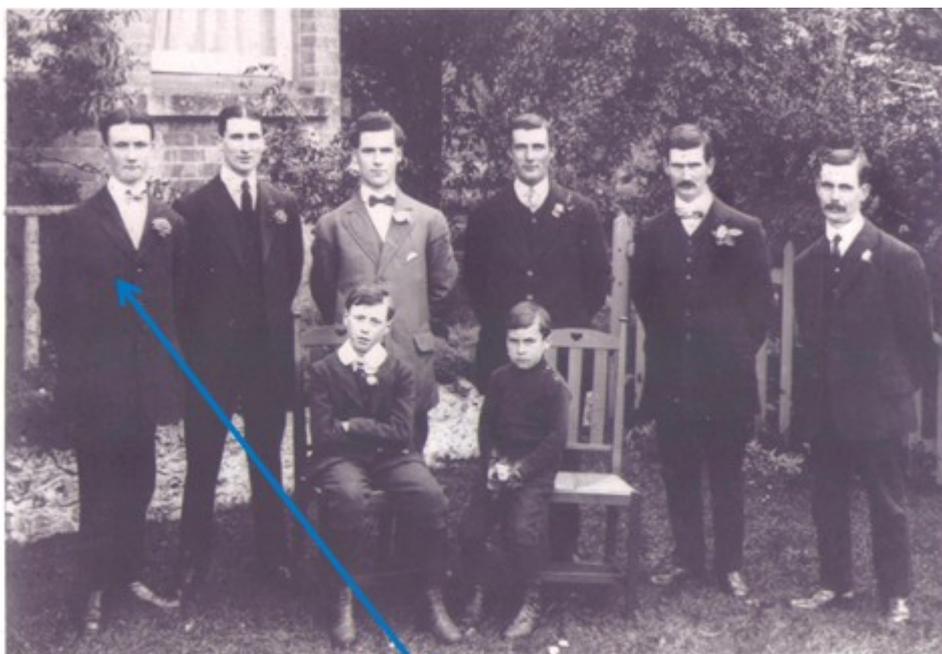


**Reader 8:** We greatly regret to hear that no official news has yet been received concerning Lance Corporal S Perryman or Private T Perry. In both cases this long period of suspense is causing the very gravest anxiety.

**Reader 9:** Burial – March 17<sup>th</sup> – James William Dowell aged 73 years

**Reader 10: May 1917**

We regret to say that Private Horace Ward has been invalided from the Army owing to rheumatism contracted while with his regiment in Ireland.



**The Ward Family: Horace, Stanley, Lewis, Sam, Bill Harry;  
in front Charlie & Jack**

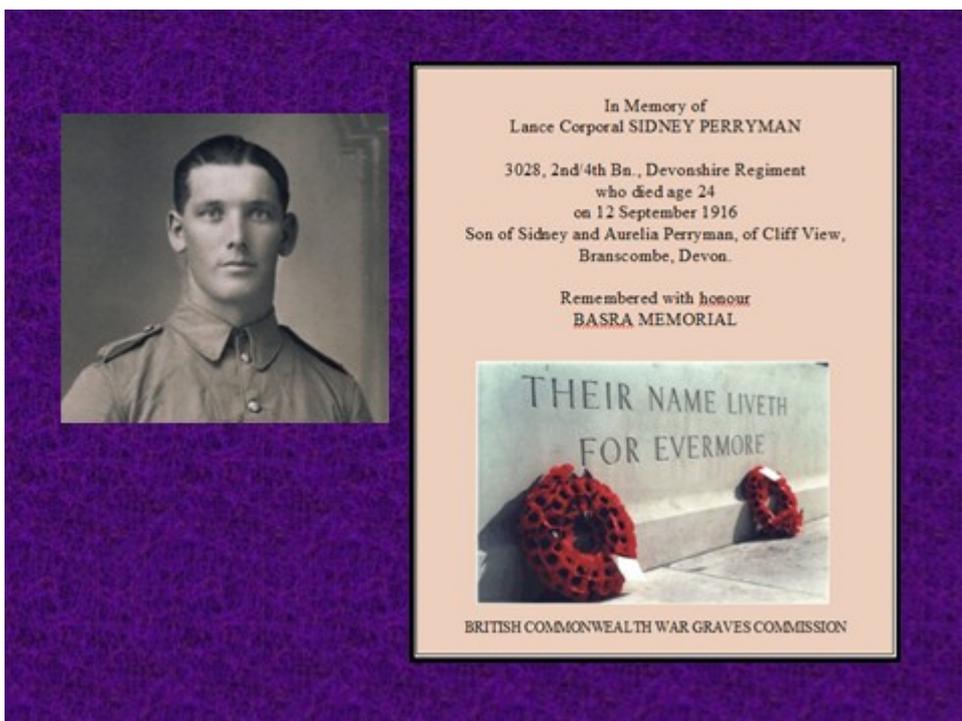
**Reader 1: June 1917**

It is seldom that we are called upon to hear a special message from our sovereign to his people. On Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> last and on the three following Sundays his appeal to us to reduce our consumption of bread was read at our public services.



### Reader 2: July 1917

It is with great sorrow that we record the death of Lance Corporal S Perryman which took place in Mesopotamia. After a long period of very anxious suspense his parents have received information of his decease, which is now endorsed by the authorities. He was wounded and a prisoner at the fall of Kut – el – Amara. It appears that he recovered from his wound but afterwards succumbed to an attack of dysentery.



### Reader 3: August 1917

This month marks the end of the third year of this most terrible war. The great wish of every heart is that we may soon know the blessing of a right and lasting peace; such a peace as will vindicate the cause of justice and liberty, and put an end to the evil spirit of militarism which has been the bane of the enemy's country and a constant threat to the peace of the world.

#### **Reader 4: September 1917**

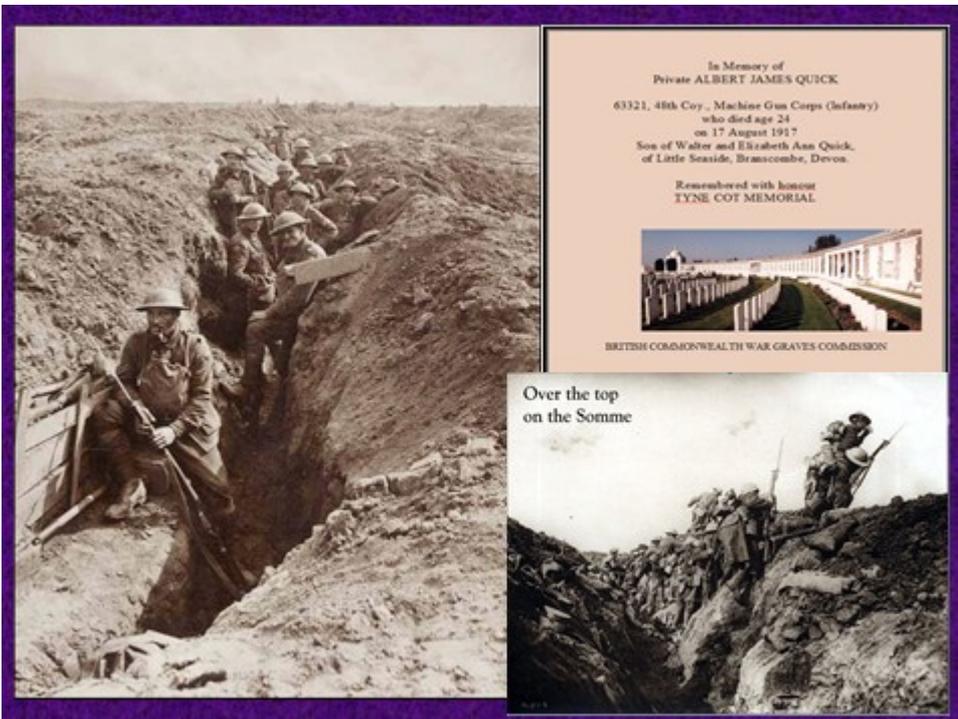
Owing to the necessary restrictions of the Food Controller and in accordance with his urgent wishes, we regret to say that the usual Sunday School tea will not take place this year. It is hoped that the sports may be arranged as on previous occasions and also that something may be done in the winter season to make up as far as possible for this disappointment. In the meantime all our scholars must endeavour by their regular attendance and good conduct to qualify themselves for the Christmas awards.

#### **Reader 5: October 1917**

A familiar figure has passed from us in the person of Mr John Parrett, our sexton, who was called to his rest on August 28<sup>th</sup> (his birthday) aged 69 years. For some 120 years a John Parrett has filled this post in our church, the deceased representing the third generation of sextons in his family. Mr Parrett was a regular and devout communicant. He was for 57 years a member of the choir. He was the leader of our church bell ringers and for a considerable period he acted as organist. – truly an interesting record. We shall miss his fine presence and pleasant manner.



**Reader 6:** Our sincere sympathies are with Mr and Mrs Quick and their family who are sorrowing the loss of their son, Private Albert James Quick, who laid down his life in the service of his country in France on August 17<sup>th</sup> aged 24 years.



**Reader 7:** In our last issue we expressed the hope that some sports might be arranged in connexion with our Sunday School but the continuous rain and the condition of the grass have unfortunately made this impossible.

**Reader 8: November 1917**

On Tuesday the 2<sup>nd</sup> of October at the invitation of the Vicar and Mrs Steele-King, the members of our choir made a pleasant little excursion to Ladram Bay. The day was fairly fine and the drive to and fro was very much enjoyed. Tea was served at the farmhouse near the bay. We owe a great debt of gratitude to our choir for their loyal and valued services.

**Reader 9: December 1917**

On October 23<sup>rd</sup> Private A G Collier and Miss F E Quick were quietly and happily married in our church. We wish them every joy in their new life.

**SONG : *Good bye ee***



## Reader 10: January 1918

Message from the Bishop:



**Reader 1:** The Bishop wishes the parishioners of Branscombe to understand that he profoundly disapproves of those who defer marriage till the shame of their sin becomes public and he strongly supports the Vicar of Branscombe in his godly efforts to reform this lax morality. He has no doubt that those efforts will be crowned with the success they deserve, if supported as they should be by the public opinion of the village. The Bishop hopes that all good church people in Branscombe will urge upon young people about to be married the danger of deferring marriage until they have fallen into sin. The judgement of God is heavily upon our country and at such a moment especially should we endeavour to bring about a higher tone of morality in our country villages.

**Reader 2:** The unavoidable absence of our two churchwardens is a serious loss to us and we miss their kindly assistance at our services. Arrangements have now been made to remedy this as far as possible. Mr J Ford has obtained the consent of his brother to act as his deputy.

## Reader 3: February 1918

During the Christmas week the scholars of the Sunday School assembled for the annual distribution of prizes and presents. Some forty prizes were given and each scholar received a useful gift. This was followed by a conjuring entertainment by Professor Lukos of Exeter, whose clever illusions were most thoroughly enjoyed by all present.

**Reader 4:** A word to mothers: Take a careful and watchful interest in your girls. Do what you can to prepare them to face the difficulties and temptations of their growing years. Teach them to be modest, self respecting and home loving. Let them find their chief interest in their homes and not on the public roads; this is especially important during the dark winter evenings. A want of care in this matter is often responsible for the beginning of evil. England needs good women whose hearts and clean and whose lives are useful.

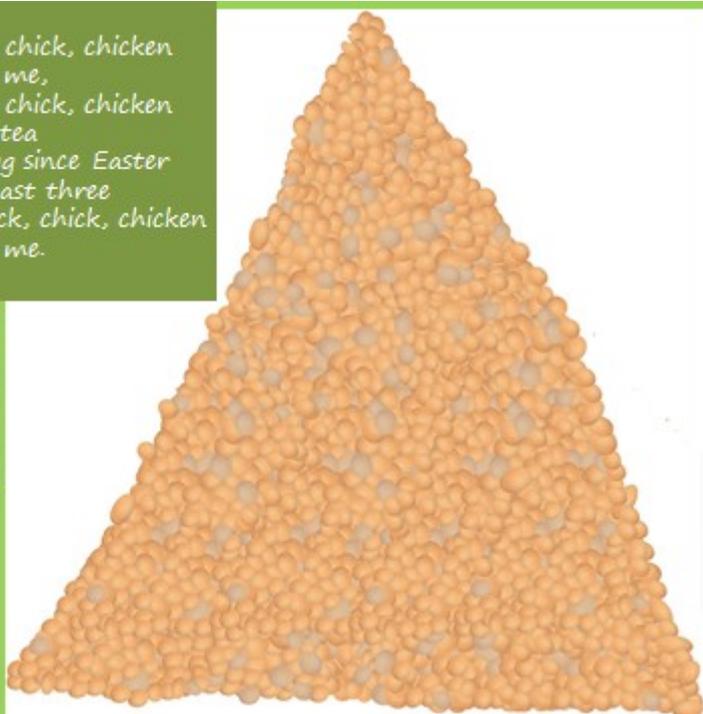


#### Reader 5: March 1918

The Hospital authorities gratefully acknowledge the following gifts for our sick and wounded soldiers – Eggs – Mrs Cooper – 30, Mrs Pike – 4, Mrs Salter – 12 and Mrs Clarke – 6. Total to date – 4987

#### SONG : *Chick chick*

*Chick, chick, chick, chick, chicken  
Lay a little egg for me,  
Chick, chick, chick, chick, chicken  
I want one for my tea  
I haven't had an egg since Easter  
And now it's half past three  
So chick, chick, chick, chick, chicken  
Lay a little egg for me.*



#### Reader 6: April 1918

The weight of chestnuts collected by the school children, including those sent from Barnells was 4cwt. These have been forwarded to the government depot as requested.



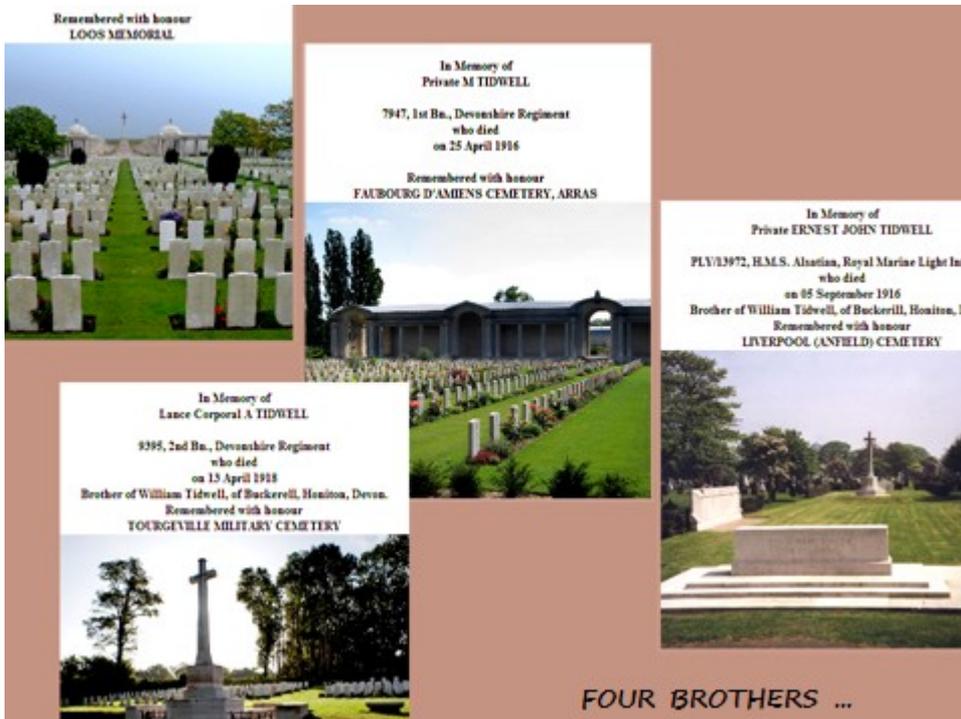
**Reader 7: May 1918**

Branscombe is now represented in the navy and army by about 70 men and fifteen others have already laid down their lives in the defence of justice and liberty since the beginning of the war.

**Reader 8:** At the church annual meeting the Vicar drew attention to the great need for suitable vestry accommodation and expressed the hope that as soon as convenient the want would be met. The best site for a vestry room would appear to be at the western end of the church. A suitable building could be erected there without disturbing any of the graves near. The old west doorway could be opened as the entrance from it into the church and such a building in that position would in no way mar the beauty or the plan of the historic church.



**Reader 9:** Albert Tidwell died in France of wounds. Private Tidwell is the fourth member of his family who have made the great sacrifice. Our heartfelt sympathy goes out to his sorrowing friends in their bereavement.



**Reader 10: June 1918**

In these anxious and troubled times let us pray without ceasing for our country and empire and for our brave sailors and soldiers and airmen.

**Reader 1: July 1918**

We are now limited to one page of notes so that further parish news must be held over for our next issue.

**Reader 2: August 1918**

The 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the wedding day of their majesties King George and Queen Mary which fell on July 6<sup>th</sup> is an added cause for thanksgiving. The contribution to the silver wedding present for the Red Cross Fund from Branscombe amounted to £19.15s with a little old silver.



### Reader 3: September 1918

Our Sunday School treat took place on August 15th. It is to be regretted that owing to illnesses and other engagements only about 60 were able to attend, but a most enjoyable afternoon was spent by those who were present. Tea was served in the Vicarage Room, after which the party adjourned to the field (kindly lent by Mr Ford) for games and sports. Thanks are due to the teachers and to all who in any way contributed to the happiness of the scholars. Miss Hudson and Lt Lloyd, RAF, kindly presented a threepenny piece to each scholar and Miss Porthon gave the sum of six shillings for prizes for races etc.

### Reader 4: October 1918

The members of the choir made a little excursion to Seaton on August 29<sup>th</sup> and were able to attend the Fete in aid of the V.A.D. funds which was held in the hospital grounds on that day. A very pleasant afternoon was spent.

### Reader 5: November 1918

Thanksgiving to Almighty God for the harvest was offered on Sunday October 20<sup>th</sup>. The ingathering this year has been a most difficult and anxious task, for agriculturalists have been faced by a serious shortage of labour, unfavourable weather conditions and an unusually large amount of corn to be harvested but on the whole their labours have been rewarded by a rich harvest which is particularly welcome in these times.



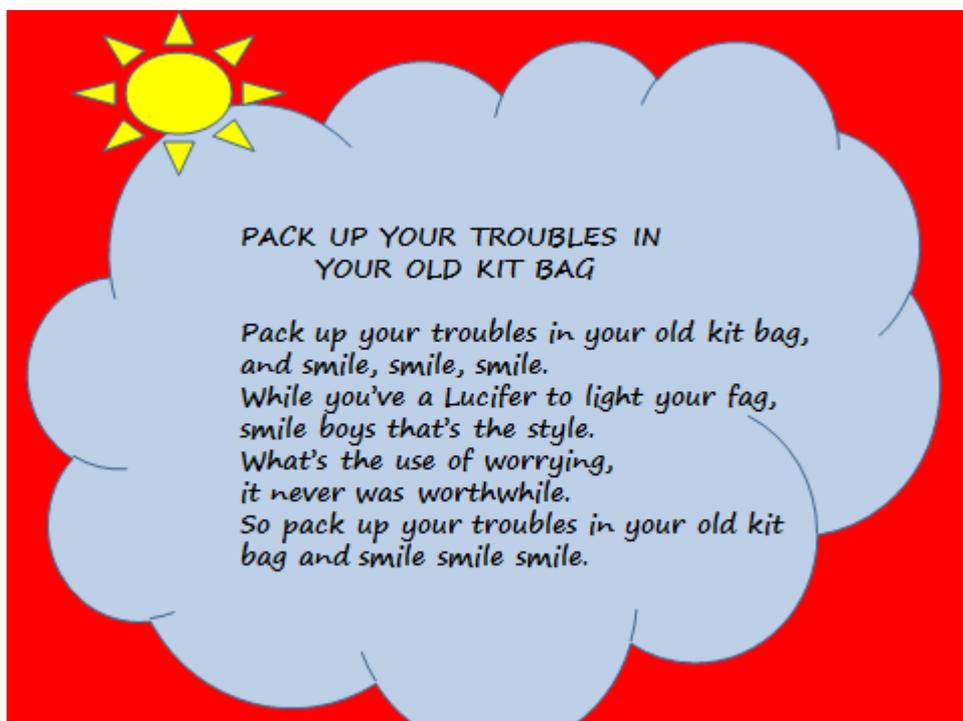
### Reader 6: December 1918

Our church was well filled on Tuesday evening, November 12<sup>th</sup> when we made our humble and hearty act of thanksgiving to Almighty God for the support which he has granted to our arms. The service will long be remembered as marking the cessation of hostilities after the anxious and arduous conflict which has been such a burden on us for more than four years. The offerings on that occasion were given to our blinded sailors and soldiers and amounted to £3 7s 3 and a half pence. It was a great joy to hear the bells speaking again after their long silence and we are very grateful indeed to the ringers for so kindly making up the necessary team both on Monday and Tuesday.



**Reader 7:** The Vicar regrets to announce that owing to the greatly increased cost of paper and printing the issue of the parish magazine must be discontinued for a time. We hope it may be possible to resume its publication later on should circumstances be more favourable.

**SONG : *Pack up your troubles***



**PACK UP YOUR TROUBLES IN  
YOUR OLD KIT BAG**

*Pack up your troubles in your old kit bag,  
and smile, smile, smile.  
While you've a Lucifer to light your fag,  
smile boys that's the style.  
What's the use of worrying,  
it never was worthwhile.  
So pack up your troubles in your old kit  
bag and smile smile smile.*