

# The Rededication of East Kirkby's War Memorial

19<sup>th</sup> October 2019



The original dedication service at the War Memorial on October 19<sup>th</sup>, 1919.

East Kirkby War Memorial was commissioned by the Memorial Committee of East Kirkby and Hagnaby, under the chairmanship of the Reverend Henry John Bassett BA, the rector of both parishes, after the First World War; The Great War; The War to End All Wars. The parishes collected sufficient funds for the War Memorial and E Browning and Son of Spilsby built the Memorial out of Portland Stone and set it on a plinth inside a dwarf wall with iron railings around all for the sum of £300.00. East Kirkby War Memorial was very probably used as a prototype as the War Memorials at Stickney and Fishtoft, which were also provided by E Browning and Son, are remarkably similar. There are four plaques on the memorial and the South facing plaque records the fallen of the Great War, 1914-18, and also those that fell in the Second World War, 1939-45, with the remaining three plaques recording those who served during 1914-18 and returned. On the 19<sup>th</sup> October 1919, a service was held at St Nicholas' Church and the congregation then walked down Chapel Lane, to the War Memorial, where it was unveiled by Colonel T E Sandall DSO CMG TD. Dedicatory prayers were said by the Rector and the hymns 'O, God Our Help in Ages Past' and 'Fight the Good Fight' were sung. Those attending included officers and men from the Lincolnshire regiment, ex-servicemen, many of the relatives and friends of the fallen, and the Parish Council.



The re-dedication service at the War Memorial on October 19<sup>th</sup>, 2019.

East Kirkby Parish Council decided that it was important that the memory of those fallen, and commemorated on the War Memorial, should never be forgotten and to this end a Service of Rededication of the War Memorial was held exactly 100 years, to the day, after the original Service of Dedication. It was also felt that the Service of Re-dedication, in 2019, follow, as far as possible, the original Service and Dedication Ceremony of 1919. So, a Service was held at St Nicholas Church and the congregation walked down Chapel Lane to the Service of Re-dedication at the War Memorial. At the War Memorial the service was conducted by the Reverend Canon Peter Coates, Rural Dean and Priest in Charge of St. James, Spilsby. The hymn, as in 1919, 'Fight the Good Fight' was sung, the Memorial was re-dedicated followed by The Act of Remembrance, at which the names of the fallen were remembered. At each calling of the names a miniature 'Tommy' was placed on the top step of the War Memorial by a member of the Air Cadets and Army Cadets. The last Post was sounded by bugle, a two-minute silence was observed, and Reveille was sounded. Wreaths were laid, commencing with the Parish Council followed by the Royal British Legion, the Royal Anglian Regiment, The Royal Air Force, and members of the public. The hymn 'O God Our Help in Ages Past' was sung, the Kohima Epitaph said, and the National Anthem sung. The Chairman of the Parish Council, Councillor Brian Nowicki, thanked all those attending and invited everyone to refreshments in the Village Hall. The Royal Anglian Regiment turned out in force with serving officers, enlisted men, army cadets and RA Association Members. The Royal Air Force were represented with a serving officer, adjutant, air cadets and RAFA personnel and a bugler. The Royal British Legion was also there with members from the Coningsby and Tattershall, Spilsby, and Sibsey Branches being present. There were seven Standards paraded at the Rededication from the Royal Anglian Regiment, Royal Air Force, and Royal British Legion. Below are some photographs of a really memorable day with the event being broadcast on television on 'Look North' that evening.



Some of the miniature 'Tommys' each with the name of one of the Fallen.



Some of the attendees arriving at St. Nicholas Church.



Processing down Chapel Lane to the War Memorial



Remembrance.



Army Cadet and Air Training Corp personnel placing 'Tommies' as each of the Fallen's names are recalled.



The Laying of wreaths.

The Chairman of East Kirkby Parish Council, Councillor Brian Nowicki. Squadron leader Greg Coles, RAF. And Sandy Alliss, Royal British Legion. The wreath from East Kirkby Parish Council was formed of Laurel to represent that which would have been available in 1919.



The Village Hall ready for all the participants and a very welcome cuppa.