

Bentley, Suffolk – WAR MEMORIAL

There is a memorial book, compiled in 2003 by Jennifer Jones, in the Parish Church, containing photographs of the graves or memorials of most of the men of the North Samford Benefice (Belstead, Bentley, Burstall, Copdock & Washbrook, Sproughton and Tattingsstone) who died in the First World War.

The information in this document was researched by Martin Edwards 2003, with additional information researched by Jean Austin 2006.

The War Memorial stands on a road junction and is in the form of a memorial cross; it was first unveiled on 28th November 1921. [The East Anglian Daily Times](#) reported that the vicar, the Rev J Michael Jones, supported by a surpliced choir, first conducted a service for the large crowd which included many from outside as well as in Bentley. Next Colonel C Carnegie, of Stutton, believed to be the vicar's nephew, gave brief and "appropriate address" and then removed the Union Jack covering the base of the Cross to reveal the names of the 16 fallen. The Last Post was sounded and finally relatives of the fallen placed their wreaths around the foot of the cross.

The Cross was designed by H Munro Cautley, architect, writer and the greatest connoisseur of East Anglian churches. EE Saunders of Ipswich erected the Cross.

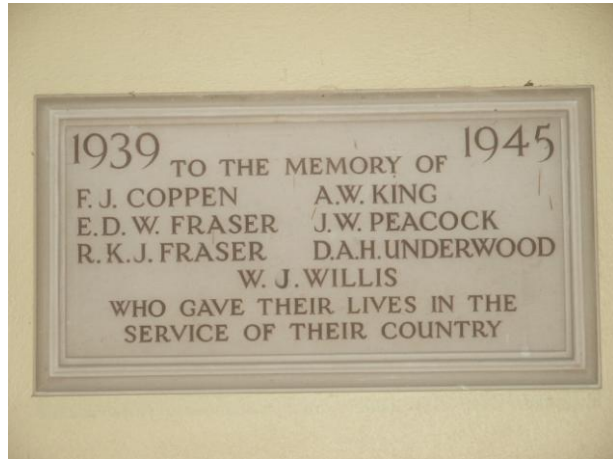


War memorial in village





**War memorial plaques in
Bentley Church**



Photographs © Jean Austin

**TO THE GLORY OF GOD
AND IN THANKFUL
REMEMBRANCE OF THE
MEN OF BENTLEY
WHO GAVE THEIR LIVES
FOR US IN THE
GREAT WAR
1914 - 1918**

BILNER	George [Halbert]	Gunner 86813, "B" Battery, 64th Brigade, Royal Field Artillery. Killed in action 6th March 1916 in France & Flanders. Aged 25. Born Stowmarket, enlisted Ipswich. Son of William and Mary Bilner, of Red Cottage, Bentley, Ipswich. Buried in VERMELLES BRITISH CEMETERY, Pas de Calais, France. Plot II. Row L. Grave 11.
BRAYBROOK	Percy John	Private 17074, 7th Battalion, Suffolk Regiment. Killed in action 22nd November 1915 in France & Flanders. Born Copdock, Suffolk, enlisted Ipswich. No known grave. Commemorated on LOOS MEMORIAL, Pas de Calais, France. Panel 37 and 38.

BULLARD	Herbert	Private 202811, 11th Battalion, Essex Regiment. Died of wounds 1st July 1917 in France & Flanders. Aged 37. Born Bentley, enlisted Warley, Essex, resident St Osyth, Essex. Son of Alfred and Rachel Bullard, of Bentley; husband of Mary Ann Bullard, of Capel St. Mary, Ipswich. Formerly 269511, Hertfordshire Regiment. Buried in NOEUX-LES-MINES COMMUNAL CEMETERY, Pas de Calais, France. Plot II. Row D. Grave 5. Herbert Bullard married Mary Ann Ablitt Samford district December qtr 1908.
CLARK	William	[Spelt CLARKE on SDGW] Private 23996, 11th Battalion, Suffolk Regiment. Killed in action 28th April 1917 in France & Flanders. Born Bentley, Suffolk, enlisted Ipswich. No known grave. Commemorated on ARRAS MEMORIAL, Pas de Calais, France. Bay 4.
COLEMAN	William	Private 41408, 13th Battalion, Essex Regiment, Died 7th February 1917 in France & Flanders. Aged 39. Born 1877 Capel St Mary, Suffolk, enlisted Ipswich, resident Bentley. Son of the late Abraham and Susannah Coleman, of Capel St. Mary, Ipswich; husband of Matilda Coleman, of Co-Operative Cottage, Bentley. Formerly 6739, Cambridgeshire Regiment. EADT 23 February 1917 - " <i>Deaths Whilst on Service: On 7 February at Rouen Hospital, Private <u>William Coleman</u>, dearly beloved husband of Matilda Coleman of Bentley, age 39 years. 'No loved ones stood around him, To bid a last farewell. No word of comfort could he have, To those he loved so well'.</i> " Buried in ST. SEVER CEMETERY EXTENSION, ROUEN, Seine-Maritime, France. Plot/Area ref: O. V. Row D. Grave 6. William Coleman married Matilda Couzens Samford District June qtr 1901.
KEEBLE	Cyril Leonard	Lance Sergeant 3096, 1st/18th (County of London) Battalion (London Irish Rifles), <u>London Regiment</u> . Killed in action 4th October 1916 in France & Flanders. Aged 19. Born Somersham, enlisted St Albans, resident Haverhill, Suffolk. Son of Charles and Alice A. Keeble, of Southill, Biggleswade, Beds. No known grave. Commemorated on THIEPVAL MEMORIAL, Somme, France. Pier and Face 13 C.

LLOYD	George Henry	Gunner 98293, "C" Battery, 84th Army Brigade, Royal Field Artillery. Killed in action 11th March 1918 in France & Flanders. Born 1890 Bentley and enlisted Ipswich. Husband of Mrs. A. E. Lloyd, of 66, Causeway, Maldon, Essex. Buried in BEUVRY COMMUNAL CEMETERY EXTENSION, Pas de Calais, France. Plot II. Row A. Grave 8. George Henry Lloyd married Annie Bucklee Maldon District, December qtr 1917
MONKS	Albert	Lieutenant 29th Battalion British Columbia Regiment, Canadian Infantry. Killed in action 21st August 1917, France. Born 1883 Colchester, son of William and Alice Monks. EADT 7 September 1917 - <i>"Deaths Whilst on Service: killed in action in France, Albert Morton Monks, British Columbia Regiment, husband of May Monks of Cameron, Lake Chalet, Vancouver, BC and son of Mr William Monks of Inglewood, Ipswich."</i> Commemorated on the Vimy Ridge Memorial, France and on the Bentley <u>war memorial</u> .
PEACOCK	Frederick "Fred"	Private 3/10024, 9th Battalion, Suffolk Regiment. Died of wounds 13th September 1916 in France & Flanders. Aged 36. Born Hadleigh, Suffolk, enlisted <u>Bury St Edmunds</u> . Husband of J.E. Peacock, of 8, Bentley Green. EADT 24 August 1917 - news item: <i>"Mrs Peacock of The Green Bentley has been notified that her husband, Frederick, informed missing 13 September 1916 was killed on that date. He served during the Boer war and has served since the beginning of this war. He leaves a widow and eight children."</i> No known grave. Commemorated on THIEPVAL MEMORIAL, Somme, France. Pier and Face 1 C and 2 A. Frederick Peacock married Jane Elizabeth Hynard Cosford District December qtr 1901.
PICKESS	Frederick Thomas	Private 12992, 7th Battalion, Suffolk Regiment. Died of wounds 20th December 1915 in France & Flanders. Aged 18. Born Bentley, enlisted Ipswich. Son of Joseph and Ada Pickess, of Bentley. Buried in BETHUNE TOWN CEMETERY, Pas de Calais, France. Plot IV. Row G. Grave 46.


RICHARDSON	Arthur	Private 16121, 7th Battalion, Suffolk Regiment. Killed in action 3rd July 1916 in France & Flanders. Aged 27. Born Butley, Suffolk, enlisted Ipswich. Son of James and Eliza M. Richardson, of Woodview, London Rd., Copdock, Ipswich. No known grave. Commemorated on THIEPVAL MEMORIAL, Somme, France. Pier and Face 1 C and 2 A.
RUSH	Charles Davy	Private 40160, 9th Battalion, Norfolk Regiment. Killed in action 19th April 1917 in France & Flanders. Aged 24. Born Kergrave, Suffolk, enlisted Bury St Edmunds. Son of Walter Samuel and Ellen Jane Rush, of Malling Farm, Bentley. Buried in VERMELLES BRITISH CEMETERY, Pas de Calais, France. Plot V. Row B. Grave 3.
RUSH	Frederick [Ernest]	Private 7260, 2nd Battalion, East Surrey Regiment. Killed in action 24th May 1915 in France & Flanders. Born and enlisted Ipswich, Suffolk. Born 1896, son of Walter Samuel and Ellen Jane Rush, of Malling Farm, Bentley. His brother was Charles Davy Rush who is listed above. Commemorated on the YPRES (MENIN GATE) MEMORIAL, Ieper, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. Panel 34. Extract from <i>East Anglian Daily Times</i> 25th May 1917 - " Deaths Whilst on Service: On 24 May 1915 in France, Frederick Ernest Rush, third dearly beloved son of Walter and Ellen, age 19."
SCOTT	Herbert [Henry William]	Able Seaman J/18562, H.M.S. "Calypso", Royal Navy. Died 17 November 1917 during the the second Battle of Heligoland Bight. Aged 20. Born 1897 in Bentley, son of Robert and Julia Scott, of 40, Newson St., Ipswich. Commemorated on the CHATHAM NAVAL MEMORIAL, Kent. Panel 22. Note: H.M.S. Calypso was a Caledon Class Light Cruiser built by Hawthorn Leslie, laid down February 1916 and completed June 1917. She was part oif the 6th Light Cruiser Squadron of the <u>Grand Fleet</u> . On 17th November 1917 she took part in the second Battle of Heligoland Bight.




HMS Calypso

HMS *Calypso* was involved in the [Second Battle of Heligoland Bight](#) on 17 November 1917 when she and her sister ship [HMS Caledon](#) intercepted German minesweepers near the German coast. The battle also involved numerous German and Royal Naval Battleships/cruisers and other ships. During the battle the *Calypso's* bridge was struck by a 12" shell which killed all personnel on the bridge including the captain.

SOUTHGATE	John	Rifleman 25957, 3rd Battalion, New Zealand Rifle Brigade. Died 7 June 1917 age 27. Born Stutton. Son of Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Southgate, of England. Commemorated on MESSINES RIDGE (N.Z.) MEMORIAL, Mesen, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. John's brother, Samuel was also killed in WWI – see below
SOUTHGATE	Samuel	Private 22879, 2nd Battalion, Toago Regiment, New Zealand Expeditionary Force. Died 15th September 1916 in France & Flanders. Age 25. Born Stutton. Son of Mrs. J. F. Southgate, of Rookery Farm, Bentley, Ipswich and the late Herbert Southgate. Commemorated on CATERPILLAR VALLEY (NEW ZEALAND) MEMORIAL, Somme, France. Samuel's brother, John was also killed in WWI – see above

THIRKETTLE	Robert	 <p>Private 75614, 29th Battalion, Middlesex Regiment transferred to 156143, Labour Corps. Died 12th July 1920. Age 22. Son of George & Hannah Thirkettle – his father was a railway signalman Buried in the New ground across the road from the main churchyard</p>
1939-1945		
COPPEN	Frederick [James]	Private 5824543, <u>1st Battalion</u> , Suffolk Regiment. Died 22 nd May 1940. Aged 30. Son of William and Bessie Liza Coppen, of Bentley, Suffolk; husband of Frances Mary Coppen, of Bentley. Buried in BONDUES COMMUNAL CEMETERY, Nord, France. Grave 4.
FRASER	Raymond [Kenneth Joseph]	Lieutenant 75565, Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment attached <u>1st/1st Battalion</u> , King's African Rifles. Died 16 th September 1942. Aged 22. Son of Maj. Cecil Eustace William Fraser, M.A., and Nora Cecily (nee Mustard) Fraser, of Uplands, Bentley. Buried in DIEGO SUAREZ WAR CEMETERY, Madagascar. Plot 2. Row B. Grave 5.
FRASER	William [Eustace David William]	Eustace David <u>William</u> Fraser, Sgt 13009, 2Bn Selangor Federated Malay States Volunteers, died 10 January 1942 age 29. Son of Maj. Cecil Eustace William Fraser, M.A., and Nora Cecily (nee Mustard) Fraser, of Uplands, Bentley. Buried grave 6, Kuala Lumpur (Churas Road) Cemetery. Information from his gravestone is that he was of Jalan Acob Estate, Kapar, Selangor. Two other members of the 2Bn Selangor Malay States Volunteers were killed on the same day.
KING	Arthur [William]	Lance Bombardier 953117, 6 Medium Regiment, Royal Artillery. Died 24 th September 1944. Aged 25. Son of Samuel Arthur and Mabel Ellen King, of Bentley. Buried in BERLIN 1939-1945 WAR CEMETERY, Berlin, Germany. Plot 11. Row H. Grave 18.

PEACOCK	John W	probably John Walter PEACOCK, Captain 79017, 2 nd Battalion, Sherwood Foresters (Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire Regiment). Died 15 th October 1943, Aged 23. Son of Herbert St. George Peacock and Marguerite Olive Peacock, of Tattingstone, Suffolk. Buried in CASSINO WAR CEMETERY, Italy. Plot XIX. Row F. Grave 17. <i>John Walter Peacock is also commemorated on the Tattingstone Memorial</i>
UNDERWOOD	Dennis [Albert Henry]	Sergeant (Navigator-Bomber) 1333767, 142 Squadron, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve. Died 17th April 1943. Aged 20. Son of Albert and Dorothy Annie Barbara Underwood, of Bentley. Buried in BONE WAR CEMETERY, ANNABA, Algeria. Plot I. Row E. Grave 15.
WILLIS	William [John]	 <p>Sub-Lieutenant, <u>Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve</u>. Died 23rd January 1946. Aged 35. Son of James and May E. Willis; husband of Alice Martha Willis, of Bentley. Buried in ST. MARY CHURCHAYRD, BENTLEY, Suffolk.</p>

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