



Dewsbury Primitive Methodist Church

'They gave their lives in order that the females
and the little ones might be saved'



DEWSBURY SACRIFICES

DEWSBURY PRIMITIVES' WAR MEMORIAL.

UNVEILED BY REV. F. H. CHAMBERS.

An impressive memorial service to the ten men connected with the Dewsbury Primitive Methodist Church, Wellington Road, who laid down their lives for their country in the late war, was held on Saturday afternoon, when a handsome memorial tablet was unveiled by the Rev. F. H. Chambers.

The Rev. T. McKenzie (pastor) presided at the ceremony, there being a moderate attendance, and the Rev. F. H. Chambers, who wore the Army chaplain's uniform, accompanied Mr. McKenzie in the pulpit and delivered an appropriate address.

Mr. Chambers said they were met to remember the 56 men of the church, who went to the war. Forty-six had returned, but ten had not. Some people said that the horrible past should be forgotten. It was almost impossible for some of them to forget, and those who spoke loudest of forgetting were generally those who had nothing to forget and did not know the meaning of sacrifice. There were, of course, many things one would like to forget. We were either proud of the memory of the men who gave their lives, or we were ashamed of it. They were evidently proud of the memory of the men for they had placed the tablet erected to their memory in the most prominent part of that sacred edifice. The most prominent part of that sacred edifice. The terrible things of 1914 showed us the danger of an education divorced from a moral brake. The war showed us the depths to which human nature could sink and how, on the other hand, human nature could rise above the difficulties by which it was confronted. Those were some of the memories of the war. Another of the memories was the common humanity "out yonder." The soldiers knew nothing of class, creed or custom. They found a common brotherhood amongst the fellows by their side. Criticism had been levelled at Christians taking part in the war. The Christian Church hated war always, but the Christian Church was not cowardly. When God made man and woman, God made man a refuge for the woman in the hour of danger and man was looked to for protection. In the hour of danger the male must rise, and, if necessary, give his life in order that the female and little ones might be saved. Did they think that God wanted them, as a church, to turn from that course? The Christian Church hated war, but it hated cowardice, and it hated to see brute force triumph over the world.

the whole world were Christian there would be no war. The Christian Church must fight against evil, but evil still existed and must not be allowed to triumph. We could spend millions in firing bursting shells, and it was passing strange that we could not find money with which to build homes for heroes. The spirit which existed between officer and men in the conflicts was not to be found now. It was agreed that industrial life was very difficult at present, and it was now that the spirit of the trenches was most needed. There was an opinion that there had been an inadequate return for the sacrifices made during the last war. We were told when the war was on that it was a war to end wars but now we were being told that their might be other wars, even more horrible than the last. We, who were left, should put forward our greatest efforts to see that another war was prevented. There was only one religion opposed to war and that was Christianity. The Christian cause was the hope of the universe, and its expression was to be found in the League of Nations. Unless we could get the nations leagued together to do right there would always be the possibility of another war. If we could get them leagued together to do right the possibility of war would simply pass away like a nightmare.

Mr. Chambers then proceeded to the vestibule and unveiled the memorial tablet. The tablet is of oak, with the names of the ten fallen men in brass the names being Thomas A. Bedford, William Crosby, Charles Ellis, Wilfred Hargreaves, Alfred Morris, Allen Metcalfe, Hubert B. Oldfield, Sam Pickles, Fred Taylor, William Taylor. There are also inscribed upon the tablet the names of the 46 men of the church, who served with the Forces.

"The Last Post" and "Reveille," were sounded by Mr. A. Fothergill, and during the service the choir contributed the anthem "The Radiant Morn." Mr. I. Tattersfield presiding at the organ. Appropriate hymns were also rendered.

Lance-Corpl. Morris joined the Forces voluntarily a week before Whitsuntide, 1915, and altogether had been in France three years. Towards the close of summer, 1917, he was wounded in the knee. In civil life he was employed as a piecer at Spinkwell Mills, and attended Wellington Road Primitive Methodist Chapel and Sunday School, being also a member of the school's football team. A brother Pte. Harold Morris, K.O.Y.L.I., who joined up at the age of 17, a week after Alfred, has been in Italy 18 months, following service in France.



Primitive Methodist Chapel,
Wellington Road, Dewsbury.

PROMISING CAREER CUT SHORT.

A promising career has been cut short by the death in action of Pte. William Taylor (24), of the Duke of Wellington's, the soldier, as intimated in a letter from a "pal" in the R.A.M.C., having been instantly killed by a shot in the head from an enemy machine-gun. The letter,



Pte. W. Taylor, Dewsbury
(killed).

addressed to the soldier's parents, who reside in Filey, goes on to say that the writer was sure he would never again get a comrade like him. Pte. Taylor, who was a doctor's orderly, had been serving his country nearly two years, and before donning khaki was employed as an assistant in Messrs. W. H. Smith's, stationers, Northgate, Dewsbury. He was associated with the Wellington Road Primitive Methodist Church, Dewsbury, to which denomination he rendered good service as a local preacher, though his activities were not confined to his own sect. About twelve months ago two of Pte. Taylor's brothers paid the supreme sacrifice, and a third brother, Ernest, is at present sustaining the family's credit with the Army in France.