



Moorlands Wesleyan Church

'Their bodies are buried in peace but their name liveth for evermore'



DEWSBURY SACRIFICES



MOORLANDS WESLEYAN HEROES.

MEMORIAL SERVICE.

An impressive service was held at Moorlands Wesleyan Church on Sunday afternoon, when the war memorial in memory of the old scholars who laid down their lives for their country during the late war was unveiled.

Mr. George Senior presided, and said that although many would be mourning for their loved ones he wanted the service to be a triumphal rather than a gloomy one. In a short account of the work of the War Memorial Committee he said that under the chairmanship of Mr. Whitehead they had considered the matter most carefully, and after fixing on the form of the memorial they decided that the best place to put it was inside the communion rail. The cost of the memorial was £21 10s., which had been generously collected by two ladies and the Young Men's Committee, and they had decided that the surplus, after paying all expenses, should go into the offertory in memory of the fallen as a tribute from the boys. The collections were in aid of the renovation fund, the chapel having been newly decorated at a cost of nearly £400. Mr. Senior went on to say that the "boys" gave their lives that we might live, and we ought to prove ourselves worthy of the sacrifice. It would be a long time before the names on the brass tablet were worn out, and he hoped that the members of the congregation would ever keep in their memory the sacrifices of the brave men who risked all for their country and what they considered to be the right.

The Rev. E. A. Wilkinson (pastor) then unveiled the memorial. He said he was glad to have the privilege of unveiling a memorial to the men who stepped into the breach when the war between right and wrong was fought. They had earned for us a glorious liberty, and we must use that liberty in a proper manner. As one looked round at the state of England, one could scarcely say that that liberty was being used in the best possible way. The spirit of the past few years had been one of materialistic philosophy, which led on to selfishness, and it was that spirit that caused war. The whole trend of thought for some years had been selfishness. No questions were asked of the man who was successful in his business career, and business in many cases was simply crushing others in order that a man might succeed himself. That selfish spirit set man against man, class against class, and nation against nation, and bred war. If England was to save Europe, we wanted a better state of ethics and a better state of ideals. We wanted something loftier than mere materialistic thoughts. We wanted the teaching of our Lord, and so long as that teaching was not carried out there was little hope for the future.

The memorial consists of a brass tablet erected immediately under the pulpit desk, and bears the following names:—R. H. Biggs, N. Bright, C. E. Blakeley, W. Bray, W. Chatten, J. Crossland, H. Dyer, H. Ellis, S. Farnhill, G. Gledhill, E. Greenwood, J. Greenwood, B. Howarth, N. H. Lightfoot, G. Lightfoot, J. Longstaffe, A. Lorryman, H. Oates, N. Padgett, S. Riley, G. Simpson, H. Shaw, F. Tolson, A. Wolstenholme, M. Wilson, and A. Walker.

DEWSBURY'S FIRST WAR VICTIM.

IMPRESSIVE MEMORIAL SERVICE.

A service in memory of the late Lance-Corpl. Abraham Wolstenholme, the first Dewsbury soldier killed in the present war, was held on Sunday evening at Moorlands Wesleyan Church, with which the family of the dead soldier has long been connected. The service was conducted by the Rev. J. H. Bailly, superintendent minister, and was of a most impressive character. A large number of relatives, and a soldier-friend, in khaki, were present. The hymns comprised Sullivan's "In memoriam", "Thou dost all things well", "Lead, kindly light", "God moves in a mysterious way," and "Abide with me." The solo "O rest in the Lord" was sung by Miss V. Kitson. Preaching from the words: "And call upon Me in the day of trouble; I will deliver thee and thou shalt glorify Me," the rev. gentleman pointed out the present conflict was not of our seeking. It was a great disappointment after working so hard for peace to find ourselves involved, but we had been forced into it. We had gone in with clean hands and would come out with them still unsullied. Our fidelity to our pledged word had won the admiration of the world. Whilst treachery and the despicable methods of our enemies might gain them a temporary advantage, the righteousness of our cause would eventually prevail. In the meantime the sufferings and trials which we must inevitably undergo would have the effect of welding all classes together for the common welfare of the nation.



This is a reproduction of the photograph of Lance-Corpl. Wolstenholme's three children, which was found on him when he was killed. On the back was written, "With love to our dear Father, from Eva, Marjory, and Bessie."