

# Notes from St. Helens

## **WW1 Remembered**

May 1917 was the worst month of the Great War, with regard to casualties named on our War Memorial – three men fell, and all three are buried close to where they died.

Firstly, Lieutenant Arthur Chaplin, serving with the 4<sup>th</sup> Brigade Canadian Field Artillery, died on 3 May, aged 34, at Vimy Ridge, virtually two years after his brother Humphrey, who died on 11 May 1915. The brothers had been brought up in Etwall, living at the Gables, Church Hill.

Secondly, Gunner George Harold Toon, serving with 146 Siege Battery, Royal Garrison Artillery, died on 17 May, aged 37, and is buried at Warlincourt Halte British Cemetery, Saulty. He was the son of Edwin & Annie Toon, of Spring Bank, Egginton Rd, and left a widow Helen, who lived in Dorking, Surrey.

Finally, Major Alfred Dawson, MC, Chevalier of the Legion d'Honneur, aged 30, and serving with Royal Field Artillery, died on 20 May, aged 30. He is buried at Fosse No 10 Communal Cemetery Extension, Sains-en-Gohelle. He left a pregnant widow, Martha, living in Portland Square, London, and his father was Colonel Dawson, of Etwall Hall.

We will remember them....

## **Well Dressing and St Helen's**

Along with the rest of the village, May in St Helens will be dominated by preparations for, and clearing up from, Well Dressing, when we plan to provide the usual flower displays and refreshments within the church. This year, the Festival occurs on the week-end before Ascension Day, which falls on Thursday 25 May. We look forward to seeing you over that weekend (or at any other, for that matter!).

## **Advance Warning – Concert by Beatus Choir**

Make a note in your diaries, to get tickets for a concert of 'Choral Music for a Summer Evening', to be given in St Helen's, by the Beatus Chamber Choir, at 7.30pm on Saturday 10 June – tickets £7.50, including wine and canapes, from Andy King 732961, or from church.

*Andy King and Vicki Keene, Churchwardens*