



# A Beastly Business

*"This war is a beastly business"* wrote a young soldier to his parents shortly before he was killed in October 1914.

One hundred years on we remember the appalling horror of four years of warfare which, world wide, wiped out 37 million men, equivalent to over half the entire population of England, Scotland and Wales, and deprived us of a generation of young men. Another 30 million enlisted but survived, many of whom carried physical, mental and emotional anguish scarred for the rest of their lives. Almost every city, town and village was affected as the thousands of war memorials and cemeteries around the world testify.

Hanslope's official memorial consists of a stained glass window and plaque in St James Church; a Roll of Honour for those who returned inside the porch; the original Playing Field Pavilion, now replaced; and a bell in the church tower dedicated to those who lost their lives in both wars.

Under the auspices of Hanslope Historical Society representatives from Hanslope Parish Council, St James Church and the Society met earlier this year and set up a World War One Committee. We have applied for a grant to enable the village to commemorate this great tragedy. Our main objective is to pay tribute to the 20 young Hanslope men who died and the 70 who saw active service and survived.

## Plans for 2014

### 4<sup>th</sup> August

War was declared. The church bells to be tolled at 11.00 am and St James will be open all day for anyone wanting to reflect or pray; with an opportunity to light a candle in memory of a loved one.

### November 3<sup>rd</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup>

Display and exhibition in St James Church giving details of those involved in the war and many other items. Any money raised will go to the British Legion and Help for Heroes.

### Also during the next four years

Honouring each man on the date of his death

Restoration of the Roll of Honour

An autumn Bulb-a-thon planting of hundreds of bulbs around the village by children and other groups

A seat near the gate in St James Churchyard

An avenue of 20 trees, one for each man who died

November 2018 some suitable event to mark the end of the war.

We would love to hear from anyone who has information about their family or memorabilia to contribute to our growing knowledge of what happened in Hanslope during the war period; also if you would like to help in any way.

Please contact Kirsten Ash [kirsten.ash@hotmail.com](mailto:kirsten.ash@hotmail.com) or

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Information about the history of Hanslope: <http://www.mkheritage.co.uk/hdhs/index.html>

*Mary Nokes, Chair, WWI Committee*

*Hanslope's War Memorial  
to those who died in World War One and World War Two  
the Soldiers' Chapel, St James the Great, Hanslope*



*Photos courtesy Tony Haddow and John Grace*