St Albans Roll of Honour*, Council Chamber, Civic Centre. *No 15*

The memorial bearing the names of 635 men was unveiled in November 1920 and was originally located in the town hall, now the St Albans Museum + Gallery. The memorial was rededicated in the Council Chamber in July 2016. The frame is carved from solid oak and the names of the men are written on vellum panels.

NatWest*, 10 St Peter's Street. *No 16*

Just one name appears, that of Henry Yarde Martin, a bank clerk living in Bedford who joined up at the outbreak of war. A commissioned officer in the Leicestershire Regiment, he died of wounds at Salonika in 1916 aged 27. The memorial was probably unveiled in 1920 in what was then the London, County, Westminster & Parrs Bank.

Edwin Lee & Sons Ltd, Ziggurat House, Grosvenor Road, *No 17*

This simple stone memorial is dedicated to employees of a boot and shoe factory that once stood on the site. Despite many changes over recent years the tablet has survived and has recently been cleaned and beautifully repositioned opposite the entrance to a residential development.

Vyse, Sons & Co Ltd, Ridgmont Plaza, Ridgmont Road. *No 18*

The employees of Vyse's straw-hat factory contributed to the cost of this stone memorial, listing the names of 10 young workmates 'who fell in the Great War'. Regrettably, there is no public access to the site of this memorial.

St Albans War Memorial, St Peter's Street. *No 19*

The striking St Albans War Memorial is dedicated to the men of St Albans who died in both world wars. It was designed by Sir Ernest Wigram and unveiled by Lord Cavan in May 1921. In 2015, to mark the centenary of the First World War, a commemorative paving stone was laid in front of the memorial, dedicated to local Victoria Cross recipient Pte Edward Warner.

Cover image: © Andy Lawrence

* Accessible during opening hours only

Please note: There are eight memorials in the city in buildings or on sites that are either closed to the public or restricted to opening hours only:

No 15 St Albans Roll of Honour

No 18 Vyse, Sons & Co Ltd

No 20 Dagnall Street Baptist Church

Nos 21 & 22 Salvation Army Printing Works Memorial & Salvation Army St Albans Corps Memorial (both in Salvation Army HQ in Victoria Street)

No 23 Spicer Street Church

No 24 Trinity United Reformed Church

No 25 St Peter's Church

Almost a century has passed since most of these memorials were unveiled. So, we perhaps have lost touch with both the emotions and aspirations of those who erected them. These few words from the then Bishop of St Albans serve to remind us:

"As they have won the war, they have left us to win the peace. These tablets you see have been placed where they will be seen, and should be seen by those who will pass by in future years through the streets where these men once lived. Each of these tablets we are unveiling today bears the words: 'For Remembrance'.
I do not suppose that any of you who have lost a husband, son or brother will ever be likely to forget, but there could be others, as the years pass by, who will forget, or indeed who never knew, the price that was paid in those terrible years for what we believed to be the peace of the world."

Dr Michael Furse
Bishop of St Albans
(Extract from the dedication of the Lower Dagnall Street memorial in 1921)

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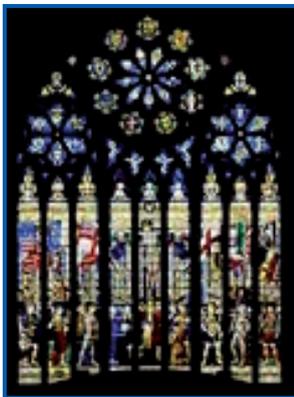# ST ALBANS WAR MEMORIALS WALK

St Albans & Hertfordshire Architectural & Archaeological Society

This guide takes you on a walk round the city's First World War civic, military, street, workplace and school memorials

War Memorial Chapel, St Albans Cathedral, Sumpter Yard, *No 1*

Dedicated in June 1995, the chapel brings together various memorials from around the Abbey, banners of organisations such as the Royal British Legion and a lectern which holds the three books recording the names of those who died in the First World War. On the wall of the chapel is a memorial to men of the Hertfordshire Yeomanry who died during the war. Erected in July 1921, it includes at least five men with St Albans links. The surplus from the memorial fund was used to endow a bed at the local Mid-Herts Hospital, with 'yeomen' having priority use of it.

War Memorial Window, St Albans Cathedral, *No 2*

The plain glass of Lord Grimthorpe's Great West Window was replaced in 1925 with a beautiful stained glass window dedicated to all those in the diocese who were killed during the war. The window features the flags and arms of the allied countries and their patron saints and was designed by the architect Sir John Ninian Comper. England's first Christian martyr, St Alban, features in the second "light" from the left holding his distinctive cross. For information about guided tours visit www.stalbanscathedral.org
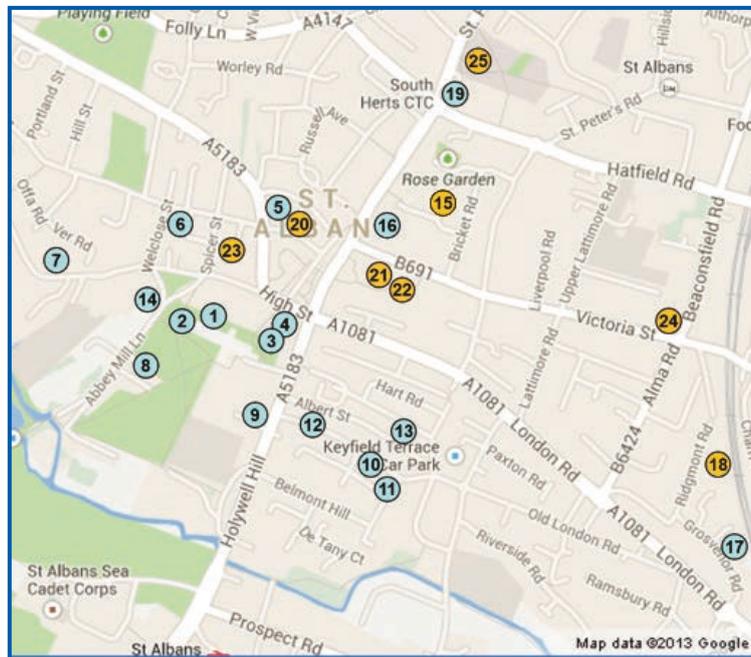
Verdun Tree, Waxhouse Gate, *No 3*

The horse chestnut tree in the Waxhouse Gate garden, seeded from a tree that survived the Battle of Verdun, was planted in 1976 to mark the 60th anniversary of the battle by one of the surviving members of the local Old Contemptibles, Gordon Fisher. The sapling was discovered by Paul Arnold of the City parks department in a Surrey nursery and it was purchased as part of a project to plant trees with local historical connections to beautify the City.

There are 40 memorials in St Albans to local men who lost their lives in the First World War. The most prominent is the St Albans War Memorial standing sentinel at the top of St Peter's Street. There is also the unique collection of ten memorials in the streets close to St Albans Cathedral. Others are easily overlooked. For example, customers visiting NatWest Bank in St Peter's Street pass within inches of a simple brass memorial to the memory of a bank clerk fatally wounded in Salonika, the 'forgotten front'.

Map of St Albans War Memorials Walk

○ Memorials generally on view

○ Memorials not always open to the public

Abbey Parish Street Memorials – see addresses below

In April 1920 the first of the city's unique street memorials was unveiled, dedicated to the men of Albert Street killed in the Great War. Nine more memorials were to follow, some replacing war shrines that dated from 1916.
Each street memorial is individual in design. All are inscribed with the words 'For Remembrance 1914-1918'

Albert Street

and some also list the names of men from adjacent streets who were killed in the conflict. In all, over 100 names are recorded, including nine pairs of brothers.

No 4:   High Street (opp. Clock Tower)

No 5:   Verulam Road (40)

No 6:   Lower Dagnall Street (35)

No 7:   Fishpool Street (52)

No 8:   Orchard Street (Side of 9 Abbey Mill Lane)

No 9:   Holywell Hill (52)

No 10:   Sopwell Lane (82)

No 11:   Bardwell Road (1)

No 12:   Albert Street (34)

No 13:   Pageant Road (11)

(House numbers are given as a guide. Please respect the privacy of these homes).

Guided tours of these street memorials are organised by the City and District of St Albans Tour Guides, www.stalbanstourguides.co.uk

St Albans School, Romeland, *No 14*

This memorial cross is dedicated to the 87 old boys of St Albans School killed in the First World War. The Head Master Major M Montague Jones TD laid a wreath on behalf of the school's Officers Training Corps at the unveiling of the memorial in 1925. Above the names of those who died are the words 'Greater Love Hath No Man Than This'.