

St Peter's Church Memorial Organ



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Brass plaque affixed to the organ, and the slate memorial alongside commemorating the fallen



In the First World War, memorials were typically stone monuments recording the names of the fallen. Subsequently, there was a move towards more practical memorials that could be used by the community. Many villages raised funds to build Memorial Halls which still survive as focal points for village activities. In Port Isaac, St Peter's Church decided to install a new organ as a practical memorial to the fallen.

The first mention of a new organ is in the Bodmin Deanery Magazine for July 1946 when Reverend W. Atterbury Thomas reported that the Parochial Church Council (PCC) had decided to devote the entire proceeds of the Summer Fete to the purchase of a pipe organ. That was held on August 10th in the Church Rooms, raising £210 for the Organ Fund, with a further £7 from a dance on August 15th. The weekly whist drives were being restarted to raise more funds. Osmond's of Taunton were prepared to build the organ, but the vicar felt it would no doubt be months before it is ready for installation.

It was in December 1946 that the vicar reported the PCC had decided that '*the new organ, when obtained, shall be installed as the Church's Memorial to the Fallen*'. The PCC wished it to be '*clearly understood that this will be solely the Church's Memorial and should not be confused with any other scheme the parish as a whole may eventually decide upon*'. Funds were building, as by September 1947 the organ Fund stood at £632 2s 3d (£632.12). In summer 1948 the vicar visited the builders of the Memorial Organ and was able to see it in construction and hear some of the pipes. He had every hope that it would be completed and installed if not towards the end of August at any rate early in September. Messrs Osmond brought the bits and pieces to Port Isaac on July 19th and expected to have the organ ready for use early in September. They worked swiftly, as the Bishop of Truro came to Port Isaac to dedicate the Memorial Organ on Thursday August 19th 1948. The following Sunday Mr J. Provis, the church organist, gave an organ recital. When fund raising started, the cost of the organ was expected to be £700, but, with the addition of a tablet of Delabole slate upon which the names of the fallen were to be inscribed, at the beginning of 1948 the fund had required approximately £100 to clear the total cost. This had been more than exceeded from the money raised at the summer fete. In March 1949 the Advisory Committee had approved of the design for the memorial tablet and work was in hand. In July 1949 The Delabole Slate Co had finished their work on the tablet, which they had now installed to complete the Church's memorial.

Sources:

Bodmin Deanery Magazines July 1946 to July 1949

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