

## FROM PAUL'S SISTER'S DIARY

The news of Paul's death was recorded in Paul's sister Dorothy's diary. She had been staying with friends near Brighton.

### Thursday Feb 25th

Blanche and I went to Brighton to lunch. I have never seen such weather in England, it was just like being at the Riviera. Went in to the Metropole intending to have lunch but all the tables were taken, so we went to a humble place called Muttons close by. When we came to the part where we had to get the pistol in the office one of the attendants leant over and put her hand on me, the hand of fate, I shall never forget the movement of that hand coming down on me, it seemed to fill the world. She said you are wanted on the telephone by your father & I knew at once what that was. It seemed so supernatural the way she descended upon me. Joyce had sent me a telegram to tell me to come at once. Blanche came to the station with me & I caught the 5 something train. I wasn't at all agitated; my mind was simply a blank. I rushed into the house (Lancaster Gate, London) as quickly as I could and I saw Mother and Myfanwy. Mother's eyes were very red and so I said "Is it Paul?" & knew.

### Friday Feb 26th

Life has to go on so I took Hes to the Club to go in for her life saving competition. I longed to rush up to everyone for sympathy but as a matter of fact spoke to no one. ...."

**You are invited to take a reproduction of John's Gospel which was given to every service person during the First World War.**

**Light refreshments will be available after the service.**

## COMMEMORATING THE DEATH OF PAUL HOLMAN



**who died on  
15<sup>th</sup> February 1915**



Dawlish World War One Project 1914-1918 / 2014-2018  
Funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund and Dawlish Town Council



### About the service

Welcome to this Act of Commemoration.

Dawlish Town Council and Churches Together in Dawlish and District are commemorating the death in the service of the nation of every Dawlish person who was killed as a result of enemy action during the First World War.

Today we remember the death of Paul HOLMAN who died in Kemmel in Belgium on 15th April 1915.

After the First World War, it was decided that a single town War Memorial would be erected close to the parish church, and no church would have its own War Memorial. In keeping with this decision, these Acts of Commemoration take place in the town centre churches without regard to the denomination of the person they commemorate and they are led by the minister or pastor of the host church. The same Order of Service is used at each service.

There will be opportunity to talk to the leader of the service afterwards when light refreshments will be served.

Please join in the words which are in heavy type

Churches Together in Dawlish & District  
28 High Street, Dawlish, EX7 9HP

### Paul Holman

Paul Holman was born to Herbert (1862–1928) and Sophia Hawkes Holman (née Andrew) (1863–1933); they had six children of whom Paul was the second son. Herbert was a barrister who worked in London in the family's marine insurance business. He bought Holcombe Down as a holiday home. He became a Devon magistrate, Liberal candidate for Mid-Devon and preacher at the Wesleyan Chapel in Dawlish.

Paul's brother Herbert Leigh Holman married Vivian Hartley in December 1932 and she adopted his name as Vivien Leigh.

Paul was educated at The Leys School and Christ College Cambridge where he not only excelled in his studies, but was an ardent lover of most forms of sport. He shot in the Public Schools' team at Bisley, gained his half-blue for lacrosse, was an excellent horseman, and an amateur operatic actor of considerable attainments.

He enlisted in the Honorable Artillery Company, not waiting for a commission, and he was sent to France in September 1914, was involved in the 1<sup>st</sup> Battle of Ypres and the Battles of Ancre and Arras. He was hit by "stray shot" whilst on sentry duty outside the company billets.

#### The circumstances of Paul's death

A comrade wrote: "His first thought was that most evidently he must warn the guard; this he did, becoming unconscious immediately afterwards." A friend wrote that they had been able to give him a "soldier's funeral with simplicity and reverence, and with none of the hurry which is, unfortunately, frequently unavoidable, the Colonel himself reading the Service and the whole of his Section being present." The Colonel adds: "We have erected an oak cross over his grave. I can not express to you how grieved I am, as he was a splendid type of young Englishman and a fine soldier. He was greatly beloved by us all, officers and men."

**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
 hallowed be thy name;  
 thy kingdom come;  
 thy will be done  
 on earth as it is in heaven.  
 Give us this day our daily bread.  
 and forgive us our trespasses,  
 as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
 And lead us not into temptation;  
 but deliver us from evil.  
 for thine is the kingdom,  
 the power and the glory  
 for ever and ever.  
 AMEN.**

### **The Blessing**

God grant to the living grace,  
 to the departed rest,  
 to the Church, the Queen,  
 the Commonwealth and all the world  
 peace and concord:

The Lord bless you and keep you;  
 the Lord make his face shine on you  
 and be gracious to you;  
 the Lord turn his face toward you  
 and give you peace.

**Amen.**

### **Introduction**

We have gathered today as part of our commemoration of those Dawlish people who were caught up in the courageous but tragic events of the First World War.

We remember those who were killed in action,

those who were maimed and those whose minds were disfigured by conflict.

the bereaved and the lost and those who lived in darkness,  
 the families which were shattered,

and all who held in silence the unspeakable memories of warfare.

In particular today on the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his death  
 we remember Paul Holman who died in the service of his country.

### **Prayer**

**Almighty God, the Lord of all,  
 today we pause to remember with gratitude  
 the life and death of Paul Holman  
 knowing that he was, is and always will be  
 known and loved by you.**

**We thank you for his willingness to fight for our country  
 even if necessary to the point of death.**

**And today we remember his family and friends  
 who grieved at his death**

**and whose lives were never the same.**

**Amen.**

## **We hear about the life and death of Paul Holman**

### **Reading** Romans 8:31-39

What, then, shall we say? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword?

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

*please stand*

### **A prayer of Commemoration**

We remember before God Paul Holman

**Lord, have mercy**

Today we commit Paul Holman to the love of God

**We give thanks for his life, and grieve at his death**

May he rest in peace

**and rise in glory.**

**He shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old;**

**age shall not weary him, nor the years condemn.**

**At the going down of the sun and in the morning,**

**we will remember him.**

**We will remember him.**

**A candle may be lit or a bouquet may be placed before the pieta.** 5

### **A time of silence**

*We remain standing*

**The Commitment to all those who died in the service of the nation.**

**Lord God, Father of all,**

**in thankfulness for Paul Holman**

**and in his memory**

**we pledge ourselves**

**to bring comfort to the sad, the lonely and the distressed;**

**to bring relief to all who are in need**

**and to serve you and to work for peace.**

**Keep us ever mindful of the struggles**

**and achievements of former generations**

**and so make us grateful**

**now and in the days to come. Amen**

O Lord, our maker and our strength,

from whose love in Christ we can never be parted

either by death or life:

Look in mercy on those for whom we pray this day,

and grant us your protection and peace,

that we may be saved in body and soul,

through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

As we ask for deliverance from the forces of destruction

and for peace in our time and in our lives

we pray together: