BLETCHINGDON, Oxfordshire (Cherwell PP) SP 5017

NB. The Post Office prefers 'BletchingTon', but maps and other sources spell it 'BletchingDon'.

The war memorials are in the Parish Church of St Giles in Church End. On either side of the arch in the west wall are memorials to each War:

31185

1914 - 1918

A large limestone tablet, 3'6" high by 2'6", with gilded motifs and with incised gilded lettering:

Capt. The Hon. ARTHUR ANNESLEY. 10th Royal Hussars [see below]
2nd Cl. Petty Officer HARVEY BATEMAN HMS Eden
Sgt GORDON CECIL BAZELEY 13th Durham LI
Lce Cpl ERNEST FRANK TAYLOR 1/4th Oxford & Bucks LI
Gunner GEORGE AUGUSTUS BULLOCK R1 Garrison Artillery
1st Class Boy HENRY WILLIE COLLETT HMS Bulwark
Driver ALBERT THOMAS CLANFIELD R1 Field Artillery
Pte GEORGE WILLIAM DIX DEARLOVE 2/7th Royal Warwickshire Regt
Pte WILLIAM JAMES DRINKWATER 2nd Worcestershire Regt
Pte GEORGE MORRIS 2/4th Oxford & Bucks LI
Pte JOSEPH COLES MORRIS 3rd Oxford & Bucks LI

TO THE GLORY OF GOD AND IN MEMORY OF
THE BLETCHINGDON MEN WHO LAID
DOWN THEIR LIVES IN THE WAR 1914 -1919
Grant them thy peace, O Lord, and
let light perpetual shine upon them

31186

1939 - 1945

A rather heavy-looking tablet of similar size to the ealier one. Lettering in incised capitals. Inscription in blue; names in red.

TO THE / GLORY/ OF GOD/ AND/ IN MEMORY OF/ THE BLETCHINGDON MEN/ WHO LAID DOWN THEIR LIVES/ IN THE WAR OF 1939 - 1945

Flt/Sgt ROY CHARLES GARTON RAF
Stoker ARTHUR WILLIAM HOLTON RN
Gunner ALAN HOWE RHA
Lieut FRANCIS RUCK-KEENE DSC RN HM Submarine "Upholder"
Lieut CHARLES FREDERICK RUCK-KEENE Fleet Air Arm
P/O JOHN CHARLES LANCELOT RUCK-KEENE RAF
Grant them thy peace, O Lord,
and let light perpetual
shine upon them

There is a shelf beneath each memorial, on which wreaths are placed.

[cont: on p.2]

C3 - 88 - 03 - 80

At the east end of the north wall of the nave is a three-light stained-glass window flanked by two wooden battlefield crosses. The window depicts St Alban, St Michael and St Martin, and has the inscription: 31187

TO THE GLORY OF GOD AND IN MEMORY OF ARTHUR ANNESLEY
CAPTAIN, 10th ROYAL HUSSARS. KILLED IN ACTION NEAR YPRES
NOVEMBER 16th 1914. THIS WINDOW IS ERECTED BY HIS BROTHERS AND SISTERS

[Nearby Bletchingdon Park was the family seat of the Annesley family]

One of the battlefield crosses has a metal plate with the name of Arthur Annesley on it; the other bears a name which is not on the parish memorial: 31188

GEOFFREY VAUX SALVIN BOWLBY 31189
CAPTAIN, ROYAL HORSE GUARDS
KILLED IN ACTION 13th MAY 1915
Dulce et decorum est pro patria mori