

The 41 Commonwealth War Grave Commission graves in St. Stephens-by-Saltash Churchyard.

There are 21 WW1 and 20 WW2 Commonwealth War Grave Commission (CWGC) graves in St. Stephens-by-Saltash Churchyard. Some have Commission Headstones (CH); others have Private Memorials (PM) provided by their family.

CH were and are provided, owned, and maintained in perpetuity by the CWGC.

PM were provided by and are the responsibility of the family. The PMs are deteriorating to a condition where they are no longer a fitting commemoration for a Service War Casualty.

Below is an extract from the Commemorations Policy of The CWGC - which draws attention to the fact that the family of the war casualty can request that a Commission Headstone is put on a Private Memorial grave - if it is the CWGC first marking of the grave.

10 Private Memorials

Some war graves are marked by private memorial, generally because the casualty's family declined the offer of a CWGC headstone as they had already, or intended to mark the grave with their own memorial. We do not own private memorials and are not responsible for their upkeep or repair. A private memorial is an adequate commemoration if the casualty's initial and surname are legible.

10.1 Replacement of Private Memorial with a CWGC Headstone We will seek permission from the grave owner and/or the cemetery or church authority to replace a private memorial with a CWGC grave marker if:

- the casualty's name becomes illegible;
- the private memorial is removed by the family or local authority; or
- a relative requests a CWGC headstone, regardless of the condition of the private memorial.

The headstone will be provided without charge if it is CWGC's first marking of the grave.

The Commemorations Policy Document is available online at:

https://www.cwgc.org/media/gjpjajac/policy-how-we-commemorate-war-dead_current.pdf

Four examples of CWGC graves with PM in St. Stephens-by-Saltash Churchyard:





If anybody is, or knows of, a family member of a WW1 or WW2 service casualty whose PM is now in a condition unfit to commemorate a service WW1 or WW2 casualty and is willing to have a CWGC Headstone on the grave please can they inform the CWGC.



With Saltash Heritage's help in finding surviving family members Able Seaman George Stone's grave now has a CWGC CH as well as the Family provided small stone cross PM which was found to be broken in half and snapped off at ground level. The CWGC was informed, who with Family and Church blessing and STC approval provided and installed a CH on his grave.

Peter Clements.

Volunteer for the CWGC 'Eyes On Hands On project'.