

# War Memorials WWI dates



The dates inscribed on the Borough of Saltash World War 1 Memorial are 1914 – 1918.



The dates on the St. Stephens-by-Saltash World War 1 Memorial are 1914 – 1919.

Why is there a difference between the dates of the end of World War 1 on these two War Memorials?

*See below for answer*

Is it because people of St. Stephens wanted to carry on the fight for an extra year?

*Short answer = No!*

*Long answer:-*

The World War 1 hostilities ceased on the 11<sup>th</sup> Hour of the 11<sup>th</sup> Day of the 11<sup>th</sup> Month in 1918 - a War Memorials Trust help-sheet explains why there are different dates:-

*“It is not unusual to find the dates 1914 - 1919 on First World War Memorials. The 1919 date refers to the year when the Treaty of Versailles was signed. This was the peace treaty drawn up by the nations who attended the Paris Peace Conference and officially ended the state of war between Germany and the Allied Powers when it was signed on 28th June 1919.*

*Some war memorials also feature the dates 1914-1921, although this is less common. On 25<sup>th</sup> August 1921 the United States of America signed a separate peace treaty with Germany, the Treaty of Berlin.”*

So which date is correct?

*“There are no ‘rules’ for war memorial inscriptions so any of these dates are correct as the local community decided to use the dates which were most appropriate.”*

The Borough of Saltash decided on 1918 the year hostilities ceased: but, St. Stephens-by-Saltash Parish decided on 1919 the year the peace treaty was signed.

I think the inscription at the bottom of the St. Stephens-by-Saltash Parish World War 1 War Memorial is very appropriate. It says:-

*“Ye that live on mid English pastures green think of us and what might have been”.*

*Peter Clements  
Regional Volunteer for the War Memorials Trust.*