New War Memorial for Langrish and Stroud

Following the news that St. John The Evangelist Langrish Church is likely to close some time in 2025 a decision has been made by the Parochial Church Council to move the WWI & WWII War Memorial within St. John's to All Saints East Meon. To compensate for this loss, Langrish Parish Council (LPC) and Stroud Parish Council (SVP) are considering a New Memorial to honour those who gave their lives during the First and Second World Wars. There have been representations made to LPC about the positioning of a new War Memorial as to whether it should be placed on Langrish Green or at the new Village Hall in Stroud. Both options may require planning permission, but it is hoped that both options can be funded by grants.

Stroud Parish Council has been consulted about this decision, because at the time the Original Memorial was placed in St. John's, Stroud came within the auspices of the Parish of Langrish and as a result the War Memorial includes residents from Stroud and more oddly Oxenbourne and East Meon. It should be noted that Stroud Parish Councillors have always attended Armistice Services at St John's Langrish on behalf of their Parishioners and are enthusiastic to contribute to a new Memorial.

Most War Memorials are located outside, eg. Clanfield, East Meon, Petersfield and Steep and have been designed to withstand English weather. The existing war memorial in St John's Langrish was designed and constructed to be housed within a building and is not able to withstand weather and will deteriorate significantly if placed outside.

It is important that any new Memorial should be placed in a position that is meaningful for both Langrish and Stroud residents, including Bordean and Ramsdean. The Pros and Cons for each space are as follows:-

Langrish Green: Langrish has been the traditional home of the War Memorial in The Church. There is space for a new, stand alone, Stone Memorial to be placed in between the Memorial Trees on Langrish Green. The Green is owned by Hampshire County Council, but is no longer maintained by them, instead relying on the goodwill of local people to maintain the space. Maintenance of the Green cannot be guaranteed by future generations. The cost of this memorial will be around £1,500.

Stroud Village Hall: The SVH has rapidly become a hub for local people and is in regular use by the WI, The Friends of Langrish and Ramsdean, keep fit classes, and many children and adult parties. It is in a safe place with plenty of parking and convenient for everyone. If placed on an outside wall of SVH, the Memorial would have easy maintenance and be seen by many people, including children and possibly even used for education by Langrish School. There is plenty of space for many people to attend a Remembrance Service and for Tea and Cake afterwards. The cost of this memorial will be around £600.

Everyone is encouraged to visit both options before making any comments about the position of the New War Memorial to Sam Marchant the Clerk to both Stroud and Langrish Parish Council at: clerk@langrish-pc.gov.uk . Representations can also be made at LPCs next Parish Council meeting is on 21st July 2025 at The Cow Shed, Barrow Hill Barns, Ramsdean.