By the start of the Great War, The Southport School was still a relatively developing school and had a fine band of young men willing to sign up for King and Country.

They were told the war would not last more than a few months and would be a fine adventure for a young man wishing to show his patriotism. Little did they know when they signed up that this war would go on for years and the casualties would be enormous. It certainly was no small “adventure” and by the end would claim 53 of our young boys from TSS. This was equivalent to one third of the whole school at the time. News would filter in at each weekly Chapel service that yet another TSS brother had perished. The sombre mood of the school at the time gave Horace Dixon grave concern, as he was powerless to find anything to change it.

Horace came up with the idea that boys needed a place to worship and remember these lost souls and it was important that their memory never be forgotten. Horace then set up a building fund and the St Alban’s Chapel was built by 1921.

This place of peace and remembrance contains memorials to all boys that served and those that laid down their lives. Next time you are in the Chapel, look around at the stained glass windows, the names on the honour boards, the furniture with plaques, and the foundation stone. This is where our boys would come and remember their friends and brothers that did not come home.

TSS publication of ‘To Honour Your Name’ was released in 2014 to commemorate 100 years since the events that claimed too many of our wonderful young men. Every TSS boy who perished in WW1 is mentioned in this book.

If you wish to purchase this book, links to this publication can be found on the Archive website.

The photograph attached is just one of the 53 that did not come home.

Archibald “Archie” Raymond (MCK) was here at TSS in 1907-10 and died in France in 1917.

Lest We Forget