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January 2025

Dear All

***11th (Service) Battalion (Accrington), The East Lancashire Regiment,
“The Accrington Pals” - Annual Memorial Service
Sunday 16th February 2024
St John’s with St Augustine’s Parish Church, Accrington***

To be seated by 2.30pm for 2.45pm service

On behalf of the Duke of Lancaster’s Regiment I would like to invite you to the Annual Memorial Service for the “Accrington Pals”.

The service commemorates the events, which took place 110 years ago, when the Pals Battalion held their Valedictory Service. The Pals then left their hometowns on the 23rd February 1915, eventually journeying to The Somme region in France, where on 1st July 1916 the majority of the Battalion were injured or killed in action.

We are hoping to involve as many relatives as possible of Pals in the service and so please can you let me know, if this relates to you, and that you would like to be involved, and also for seating arrangements. We would also like to look to the future and if you have a young person with connections to the Pals and they would like to be involved or a group of young people, then again, please let me know, each year we try to involve our future in different parts of the service, to continue the theme of remembrance. As this service continues to commemorate the end of hostilities over a century ago, we would like to “open up the service” to the memory of the men who served from Accrington and District during the Great War, and in this vein, we are asking if you could share this with anyone whom you think would like to come to the service. If you are parading a standard, please can you let me know, so I can inform the Parade Marshall, and he can plan the order of march into church.

If you need any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me on any of the above means. Can I also inform you that there is disabled access to church via the vestry and this is signposted from Dowry Street, however if you need support to get into church, please let me know so that this can be arranged.

There will be refreshments served in the school hall after the service.

I hope you will be able to attend our memorial service to the men of “The Accrington Pals” and all who served from our area.

I close this invitation by reminding you of the motto of The East Lancashire Regiment,

SPECTUMUR AGENDO – “Judge us by our deeds”

Yours sincerely

Shelley

Shelley Whitehead

R.S.V.P.