COUNTLESS numbers of men and women lost their lives in the First and Second World Wars. The scale of the conflict was so vast it left its mark on the rural heart of County Down, including Saintfield.

Thirty men from the town died in service during both world wars but the soldiers, as young as 19, have not been forgotten.

According to the United Kingdom's National Inventory of War Memorials, compiled by the Imperial War Museum, there are seven memorials in the town of Saintfield for those who lost their lives in both world wars.

The respective memorials are in Saintfield Parish Church (3), First Presbyterian Church, Saintfield (3) and Saintfield Masonic Hall (1). The Roll of Honour in Saintfield Parish Church commemorates all “Those from Saintfield and District who gave their lives and those who served in the First and Second World Wars.” It was collated by Canon Norman Woodrow, Fred Hazel and Harry Butler prior to the closure of the Saintfield Branch of the Royal British Legion Branch.

The list below summarises all of the information known about those from Saintfield who died during the First and Second World Wars, the names being taken from the Roll of Honour mentioned above.

First World War 1914-18:

Private Edmund McGready
Husband of Anne Jane Ellison. Rifleman; 12th Battalion, Royal Irish Rifles; died on 25 February 1917. He was 22, remembered with honour in Ovillers-Courcelette, France.

Private John Brown
Husband of Effie Brown, late of Glassdrumman, Saintfield. Formally of Lisbane, Saintfield.

Rifleman James Brown
Husband of Anne Jane Ellison. Rifleman; 12th Battalion, Royal Irish Rifles; died on 25 February 1917. He was 22, remembered with honour in Flers-Courcelette, France.

Gunner Thomas Neill
Husband of Effie Brown, late of Glassdrumman, Saintfield. Formally of Lisbane, Saintfield.

Rifleman James Brown
Husband of Effie Brown, late of Glassdrumman, Saintfield. Formally of Lisbane, Saintfield.

Corporal James Newell
Husband of Effie Brown, late of Glassdrumman, Saintfield. Formally of Lisbane, Saintfield.

Private John Wade
Husband of Effie Brown, late of Glassdrumman, Saintfield. Formally of Lisbane, Saintfield.

The names of men on the Roll of Honour in Saintfield Parish Church are Rifleman James Brown, 13th Battalion, Royal Irish Rifles; died on 1 July 1916. He was 33, remembered with honour in Cetigny-Grailly French National Cemetery, Somme, France. Son of William and Lizzie Brown, of Glassdrumman, Saintfield.

Private John Brown, 1st Battalion, Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers; died on 1 July 1916. He was 28, remembered with honour in Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France. Son of William and Lizzie Brown, of Glassdrumman, Saintfield.

Private Albert Connolly, Royal Army Service Corps; died on 25 February 1917. He was 22. He was remembered with honour in Tournoy (Pont-Nesville) Communal Cemetery, France. Son of Mary E. Connolly and the late John Connolly, of Bavara, Ballygowan.

Rifleman Robert Dennan, 15th Battalion, Royal Irish Rifles; died on 24 July 1918. He was 35, remembered with honour in Bertencourt Military Cemetery, Sheffield, France. Son of William John and Mary Dennan, of Cabaugh.

William Ellis (rank unknown) Son of John and Elizabeth Jane Ellison of Tullysawmacnuagh.

Second World War 1939-45:

Private John George Davidson
Husband of Mary Jane Davidson. Rifleman; 1st Battalion, Royal Irish Fusiliers; died 13 September 1940. He was 49, remembered with honour in Parish Church Saintfield. Son of George and Mary Jane Davidson, of Saintfield. Husband of Mary Jane Davidson.

Private John David Davi slender, 6th (B) Battalion, Royal Ulster Rifles; died 13 September 1940. He was 49, remembered with honour in Parish Church Saintfield. Son of George and Mary Jane Davidson, of Saintfield. Husband of Mary Jane Davidson.

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Rifleman Andrew McVeigh, 2nd Battalion, Royal Irish Rifles; Royal Ulster Rifles; died 22 December, aged 22. He was remembered with honour in Bundoran War Cemetery, Bundoran, Co. Donegal, Ireland. Son of James and Lucy McVeigh, of Saintfield.

Rifleman Edward McVeigh, 1st Battalion, Middlesex Regiment; died between 1 and 2 October 1942. He was 23, remembered with honour in Saintfield Church. Son of James and Edward McVeigh, of Saintfield.

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