**Arthur James Gates**

Arthur James Gates, born in Watford in 1895, was the son of James and Sarah Gates, and the eldest of five children, one of whom died in childhood. His father was a builder’s labourer and the family lived at 8 Watford Heath. In 1911, Arthur was fifteen and was employed as a telegraph messenger. He enlisted in Hertford as Private 3413 in the Hertfordshire Regiment, 1st Battalion. He served on the Western Front and died on 6 June 1915, aged 19. He is remembered with honour at Etaples Military Cemetery in France and is commemorated on the memorial at St Matthew’s Church, Oxhey.

