**Thomas Frederick Hawkins**

Thomas Frederick Hawkins, born in Fulham, Middlesex in 1895, was the son of William and Caroline Hawkins from Bushey. His father was a general labourer and in 1901 the family lived at 35 Herkomer Road, Bushey. There were twelve children, one of whom died during childhood. By 1911 the family had moved to 20 Merry Hill Mount and Thomas, age sixteen, was working as a domestic house boy. He joined up for war service with the Dragoon Guards and then transferred as Private G/3219 in the Royal West Surrey Regiment. He served in France and Flanders and was killed on 16 January 1916, aged 21. He is remembered with honour at Norfolk Cemetery, Becordel-Becourt in France, grave memorial ref 1A30. He is commemorated on the Bushey Memorial and at St James’ Parish Church. His death was recorded in the St James’ Parish Magazine:

Thomas Hawkins was a member of the Sunday School, the Guild and the Boys’ Club, and was much respected and loved by all who knew him. He was killed while digging a trench on Sunday 16 January 1916.

