**Frederick Alfred Winfield**

Frederick Alfred Winfield, born in 1886 in Watford, was the son of Alfred Winfield, an outfitter’s assistant, and Sarah Jane Adams. His parents married when they were both twenty in Kentish Town and they had two sons, but within a few years of the marriage, his father died. Frederick and his younger brother, William, moved with their mother to Sutton Road, Watford, who worked as a charlady until she married William Woolhead, a carpenter’s labourer. By 1901, Frederick and William were living at Stanmore Road, Watford with their mother and step-father.

Frederick left home to earn his living and in 1911 had lodgings at ‘The Bothy’, Stowlangtoft Gardens, Bury St Edmunds in Suffolk, where he was employed as an under gardener. Early in 1914 he returned to Watford to marry Florence Franklin and his friend, Isaac Sproat, was a witness at the wedding. In the same way Frederick acted a witness at Isaac’s marriage early in 1914. Frederick enlisted in Watford as Private 4758 in the East Surrey Regiment. He served in France and Flanders and died on 22 August 1916, aged about 29. He is remembered with honour at the Thiepval Memorial on the Somme. He is commemorated at St Matthew’s Church, Oxhey. Isaac Sproat died in France two years after Frederick in 1918.

