



# Thame Remembers



## Private William Bowler

William Bowler was born on 29th January 1886, one of 15 children born to Harry Bowler and Mary Hollier of 30 Park St, Thame. In 1911 he and his father are both listed as carpenters. William served in France during WW1 initially with the 5th Btn and then with the 2/4th Btn Oxford & Bucks Light Infantry.

Thame Gazette Nov 1918. *"We much regret to have to record the accidental death of Corporal William Bowler OBLI youngest son of Mrs Bowler and the late Harry Bowler of Park St, Thame which event occurred under sad circumstance in the last stages of the War on Nov 5th. The deceased was in the band and it appears that one of his fellow musicians was examining a German revolver and not knowing that there was a cartridge in the magazine he pulled the trigger and the bullet passed through Cpl Bowler's abdomen as he was standing close by. Another man was badly wounded in the ankle and it is feared he will have to have his leg amputated. Much sympathy is felt for Mrs Bowler in as much as she was expecting him home on leave at the time the fateful telegram arrived. She received a letter of sympathy from the bandmaster in which he describes the accident and adds; "On behalf of the Band I wish to tender our deepest sympathy with you in the sad blow you have received. His good fellowship and cheerful manner will always find a warm corner in the hearts of the Band, by whom he was always greatly respected."*

William is buried in Awoingt British Cemetery, Somme, France and is remembered in Thame on the War Memorial and on All Saints and St Mary's Memorial Boards.



**The Thame Remembers Cross was delivered to his grave on 24th March 2015 by David & Jill Gregory Thame Residents**

