

ERNEST LEONARD BENNETT



ERNEST LEONARD BENNETT, known as Leonard, was born in 1897, the youngest of the six children of Tom and Kate Bennett of 19 Winchester Road – just north of the parish boundary. In 1911, Leonard was 14 and working as an office boy at the Clarendon Press. Two unmarried older sisters were working at home as dressmakers. His father, Tom, was a bootmaker on his own account working at home, and was a sidesman at St Giles' Church.

Leonard enlisted into the Ox & Bucks Light Infantry late in 1915 as a volunteer and went out to France to join B Company, 1/4th Battalion early in 1916. He was wounded by a shell in early May and died of his wounds on 7 May aged 19. He was buried in Hebuterne Military Cemetery.

The *Oxford Times* and the *Parish Magazine* both carried notices of his death. As a boy he had sung in the church choir.

Leonard's father, Tom, continued his connections with St Giles' Church as sidesman and churchwarden and teaching in the Sunday school until his sudden death in 1928, aged 71. Kate, Leonard's mother left the house in Winchester Road soon after her husband's death. She continued living in Oxford, perhaps with one of her other children, and died in 1943, aged 85.