

Samuel Irving Preece
1892-1917, aged at death 25
Student at the Society of the Sacred Mission

Family History

Samuel was born in Maidenhead in 1892 and had younger brother Howard Blinks Preece who was born in 1899. His father, Harry John, was a Baptist minister whose calling moved the family from place to place. In 1901, they were living in Tewkesbury. Ten years later they were in Tolzey Lane, Melton Mowbray where his mother was born, though by this time Samuel had enrolled at Kelham as a Theology Student.

Samuel was educated at Reading Grammar School and appears to have studied horticulture at University College, Reading before joining the Society of the Sacred Mission on 16 January 1911 aged almost 19.

Some years later, his younger brother, Howard, appears to have also joined the Society and became a priest in South Africa.

Samuel enlisted in the army in November 1915 and was killed in action on 5 March 1917. His Obituary in the Society's quarterly newsletter said that he was 'rather older than his years' and 'already very interested in Indian students and in the Student Christian Movement'.

Military Service

Samuel enlisted as a Private in the Signal Section of the Sherwood Foresters, but after his arrival in France was made a runner. He was encouraged to take a commission but before he could return to England for training he received deep and serious gun-shot wounds on 4 March 1917 and died the following day at a casualty clearing station.

He is buried at Warlincourt Halte British Cemetery, Saulty, Plot 5, row C, grave 14. The inscription on his grave marker reads:

AD GLORIAM DEI IN EJUS VOLUNTATE
Now Abideth Faith, Hope, Love

The Latin translates as 'To the glory of God in his will' and is the motto of the Society of the Sacred Mission.

SOURCES:

FindMyPast <https://www.findmypast.co.uk/>

Nottinghamshire Great War Roll of Honour: <http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/rollofhonour/>

Commonwealth War Graves Commission: <https://www.cwgc.org/>

Forces War Records website: <https://www.forces-war-records.co.uk/>

Society of the Sacred Mission Quarterly Newsletter, Borthwick Institute:
<https://www.york.ac.uk/borthwick/>