Charles Barker (1898 – 10 December 1917)

Charles was the second eldest son of George and Eliza Barker who married in 1892. Charles' father was a Garden Labourer and both he and Eliza were born in Isleworth. Charles was one of seven children. The eldest child in the family was George and Charles' other brothers were Frederick and Harry, while his sisters were Emily, Rose and Violet. Charles was baptised at all Saints, Isleworth on 28th January 1898, when the family was living at Lower Square.

The family were living in a cottage next to the Royal Oak public house in Worton Road, Isleworth in 1901 but had moved to 31 Magdala Road, Isleworth by 1911. At that time, at age 13, Charles' occupation is described as a Shop Boy in an Oil Shop.

On enlistment in January 1916, Charles held the rank of Private in the 12th Battalion of the Duke of Cambridge's Own Middlesex Regiment (Regimental Number TF205141). On 25 June 1916 he married Marie Christina Turner at St Faith's Church, Brentford. This was Marie's local church at the time as she was living around the corner in Darwin Road. Charles' occupation is listed as a soldier and Marie's as a munitions worker. Both the father of the groom, George Barker and the father of the bride, Victor Charles Turner are shown as deceased on the marriage certificate. Parental consent was needed to marry under the age of 21 at the time so it may be the reason that Charles' age is given as 21, although this was not true in 1916.

St Faith's Church, Windmill Road, Brentford

The 12th Battalion of the Middlesex Regiment were at the Front in November and December 1917, near the small town of Boesinghe in Flanders. This is just north of Ypres along the Yser canal. On 3 December the Regiment received movement orders for their third tour of duty on the lines. On 4 December they moved to the Canal Bank area and relieved the 8th Battalion Suffolk Regiment. Charles was killed in action a few days later on 10 December 1917 at the age of 19. Charles is remembered on the Tyne Cot Memorial in Flanders where 11,956 Commonwealth servicemen of World War I are buried or commemorated. He was also remembered in All Saints Memorial Chapel, Isleworth. *See left for a photo of All Saints church*