

Parish Community Letter - November 2025

Thank you to Sam Durrant for taking the time to write for this month's edition. Appropriately in line with Remembrance Day (11th November) and Remembrance Sunday (9th November), Sam's piece focuses on one of her relatives who sadly did not survive the First World War.

My Great Uncle Osborne William Stone was born June 20th 1892, in Sidmouth Devon. In March 1914 he emigrated to Canada, to become a farmer. By 1916 he was back in England waiting to be sent to France.

Osborne joined the 1st Canadian Infantry Battalion (Western Ontario Regiment). Our family has letters that he sent to his older brother Fred (my grandfather).



He was at the battle of Vimy Ridge and writes about the great advance they were making in March 1917 and how he would never forget seeing the shells bursting in the sky like fireworks. He writes about how his "chum" was wounded and died two days later and how much he misses him.

Sadly, on May 3rd, 1917, Osborne was killed. His name is on the War Memorial at Vimy Ridge, and in the Parish Church Sidmouth, where he grew up.
