

Our Wortwell boys went off to war
Those who were born here, grew up here, lived and worked here
Answering the call of Kitchener's Army campaign, 'Your country needs you!'
Seeking travel and adventure, joining the fight
Not knowing what to expect, just doing the right thing, their duty.
Families left behind were proud but had little understanding of the reality of the conditions
in which their men would have to fight
In the trenches, on the muddy battlefields with friends and comrades by their side.
Letters to and from home were comfort to families and the men
Messages of hope and good wishes, to raise morale,
but on the front line the soldiers existence was one of hardship – the bitter cold, lack
of sleep, water up to their knees, the noise of artillery, the smoke, poison gas, the smell
of death.
Comrades not knowing if today would be their last, as they went 'over the top'.
We can never truly understand the trauma and suffering they endured, the horrors
they faced
the friends they lost each day, the carnage, the human sacrifice.
Nearly a million British men never returned
Many more came home, scarred and broken, but would never be the same again,
the trauma they had suffered, the unspeakable memories of warfare, for some, too great
to bear.
One hundred years have passed and every year we remember the fallen,
these courageous boys and men from Wortwell, whose names are written here
But were laid to rest in cemeteries far away
In foreign fields, large and small, headstones standing row upon row upon row
Among their own comrades who lost their lives together, remembered together.
We also remember the families who remained anxiously at home,
those who received the knock on their door
and the feared War Office telegram with the words 'deeply regret to inform you', 'killed
in action', 'died of wounds'
Three times for one family, twice for another
Those who were left behind, those who never saw their loved ones again,
Mothers, fathers, brothers, sisters and children – the pain of their loss, the grief,
the heartbreak.
So, today we pause, we reflect, we remember
To everyone who served, sacrificed and changed our world we say thank you

By Allison Copeman, October 2018