

Elfric's story

Elfric John Carpenter (1866 - 1945) was born in Norfolk but by the age of 14, he was a scholar living as a boarder in Monmouth, South Wales. It is possible that he moved to Derbyshire to work as a teacher at the South Wingfield Boys School around 1887. By the 1891 census, he had started work as a Railway Clerk at Wingfield and continued in that role until his transfer to the Derby Superintendent's Office some time before 1911.

In 1892, Elfric married local schoolmistress Ada Handley, daughter of Elizabeth Handley who ran the Crown Inn, South Wingfield. The couple lived at Church Lane and had 3 children. Their daughter Constance Irene was a primary school teacher at South Wingfield Board School from March 1926, later being known as Mrs Sayles after her marriage in 1932.

Their older son Francis Elfric had a long and distinguished civil service and army career, serving in both WW1 and WW2, and was nominated to receive an OBE in 1945 for his service as a Lt-Col in the Royal Army Service Corps in Italy.

Their younger son Frederick Reginald served in WW1 in the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve but died a few years after the war at the young age of 25.

Elfric stood as a candidate for South Wingfield in Local Elections in 1935. He was also the organist and choirmaster at All Saints' Church, South Wingfield for 26 years.

He died in 1945 and family headstones can be found in the churchyard at All Saints Church, South Wingfield.