



FOTHERINGHAY REMEMBERS

Flight Lieutenant Derek Woodhead Jackson, aged 23

Lieutenant Frederick James Burgess, aged 22

Sergeant Leslie Lawrance Bull, aged 32

Flight Sergeant Thomas Henry Brown, aged 23

Flight Sergeant Frank Nicholson, aged 24

Sunday, 22 March 2026

at 1.00 pm

A Service of Commemoration and Remembrance at the Church of St Mary and All Saints, Fotheringhay

On 22 March 1943, two Armstrong Whitworth Whitley V bombers from 296 Squadron, based at RAF Hurn, Dorset, flying in formation, were returning from a routine training flight when they collided mid-air in turbulence over a field in Fotheringhay. All five men in one of the aircraft lost their lives. The second aircraft was piloted by Flying Officer Robert Tope Hamer and, despite damage to his aircraft, he managed to land it on one wheel at Polebrook. F/O Hamer died five months later, tragically shot down in error by US Navy Anti-aircraft fire during the Allied invasion of Sicily.

A letter from Mr A B Gould, 12 April 1943: *The inhabitants of this village wish to express their deepest sympathy with the relatives of the crew of the two-engined plane that crashed and burnt out close to this village on March 22nd last. Those who saw the plane coming down are unanimously of the opinion that the pilot saved the village considerable damage and probable loss of civilian life by his action, although his last one, in turning the plane.*

The service will be followed by the dedication of a memorial near to the crash site.