

HOLY TRINITY . LEW

It is with great sadness that I report on the death of Captain Charles Radclyffe who took on the role of Vicar's Warden nearly sixty years ago and for over seventy years he has been the backbone of our church, whenever anything wanted doing no matter how big or small, he would take control and sort it. You just knew that it would be done.

My first recollection of him was as an eight year old choirboy at St Mary's Church, being picked up along with ten of my colleagues, all boys, as girls were not allowed in the choir in those days. Taken from Bampton Church ready dressed in our Cassocks, Surplices complete with Frills in the Captain's Horsebox to Lew to sing at the Harvest Festival Service. What an adventure it was for us all. Can you imagine what furore it would cause today? Young Boys being herded up the ramp of a lorry, not a parent or guardian in sight, no seats or safety belts and told to 'hang on tight' when the ramp was lifted and locked. Then at the end of the service being loaded up again for the return journey in total darkness! For all of the Choirboys it was a terrific adventure, a thrill that has stayed with us until this day.

The Captain was an incredible character who was not only a Horse Trainer to their Majesties the Queen and the Queen mother but also a man who served the local community so well, at one time holding the position of the High Sheriff of Oxfordshire.

I know that many ex servicemen objected to calling him 'Captain' yet to those who knew him and worked with him found it to be a term of endearment as well as respect.

Thank you Captain. You made our village and our church, such a lovely place. You will be sorely missed.

Don Rouse