

RAY SONES, 1926–2011

Ray was born in Adwell, Oxfordshire, on St Valentine's Day, the third of four children. His father was a butler and his job moved him from house to house before settling in Banbury when Ray was ten years old, where he spent the rest of his childhood. He went to Dashwood Road School before moving on to the then Banbury County School (later to become the Grammar School). He sang in the choir at Christ Church in Banbury. He left school at 16 and joined the GPO as 'Youth in Training' at Banbury Radio Station. He was also a member of the ATC and during the war years he volunteered for the RAF and trained as a radar fitter, serving in Blackpool, Egypt and Malta.

Ray was demobbed in 1948 and rejoined the GPO before moving to the General Electric Company in 1951, where he stayed for the rest of his working career before retiring in 1990. Ray married Angela in 1954 in Christ Church in Banbury before moving to Coventry in 1956. They had three children, Carolyn, Elizabeth and Peter, but sadness was to follow when Carolyn died in 1960 and Elizabeth in 2006. Much of Ray's working life took him abroad, sometimes for days and weeks at a time to places such as Nigeria and several countries in South America.

Ray and Angela moved to Hempton in 1991 and immediately became involved in village life. He served on the Parochial Church Council for many years and twice served as churchwarden. He became a member of the Friends of Hempton Church and later a committee member. He was very much involved with projects at both Hempton and Deddington Churches, mainly the new kitchen extension at St John's, and the Living Room and other projects at the Parish Church. Over the years he was a keen vegetable gardener and I know he liked the occasional drink, having used the Red Lion in Banbury (a pub long since gone) which was, by coincidence, a pub that an uncle of mine first took me to in about 1957. I remember Ray as a well-respected member of the community and a person dedicated to getting things done. He will long be remembered, and a fitting tribute was his thanksgiving service in Deddington Church.

Les Chappell