

## **IRENE GREGORY (1917–2010)**

Rene was born in 1917 in Adderbury. After school she went into service and in the war years became an orderly at the Horton Hospital. After the war she worked as a tween-maid at Cross Hill House in Adderbury.

In 1953 Rene married Malcolm, a Deddington man. The couple first lived in High Street and then moved to Philcote Street. Malcolm died in 1968. Though there had been no children and Rene's younger brother Vernon had moved to Northern Ireland, she enjoyed a number of close friendships and there were Malcolm's family and the Parish Church community as continuing sources of support.



Church was a major part of Rene's life; she was verger for a while and sang in the choir for nearly half a century, much appreciating the choir trips away. She was a member of the WI and for some years performed with the Deddington Players. She loved animals – and teddy bears. She loved the Royal Family.

She enjoyed her food and her drop of sherry. She enjoyed company and quickly became a valued member of the community at Featherton House, to which she moved at the end of her life, having determinedly stayed in Philcote Street much longer than seemed feasible. Through loyal friendships, faithful participations and simply as an abiding and reassuring presence over many years, Rene gave much to Deddington. She is greatly missed.

*Hugh White*