

DR GEORGE M HODGES

Coincidences? If Frank had not given Joy my telephone number hoping that I would be able to solve the mystery of 'The Blocks' (the name of the house now known as Featherton House), and Joy had not recommended I read *Hostages to Fortune* by Elizabeth Cambridge, pseudonym for Barbara Hodges, wife of George, country doctor in Deddington between WWI and WWII, I would not have double checked Deddington Deanery Magazines for information on Dr Hodges.

Sadly I only found mention of him in the April 1955 edition where Dr Frost, Vicar of SS Peter & Paul Deddington writes: '... I had a phone call from Mrs Procter to tell me the sad news that Dr Hodges had just died after two heart attacks. A true Deddingtonian who always had the welfare of the town and church at heart, we missed him grievously when he left and now we will no longer have the pleasure of his long and interesting letters. Personally I can but say what Antony said of Caesar: "He was my friend, faithful and just to me". I am sure there are very many who would say the same.

Churchwarden, Secretary of the PCC, Manager of the School, Parish Councillor, member of the RDC, writer and stage manager of local plays and pantomimes, and a keen and successful gardener – such were some of his many activities when living among us.'

Those whose memory is hazy about what life was like here during WWI and later might well read Mrs Hodges' novel, *Hostages to Fortune*.

Ruth Johnson, 2005