



ROGER CALLOW (d. 2014)

Roger was a Deddingtonian born and bred. His parents were Cyril and Anne Callow, whom Roger looked after devotedly in their declining years, and he had an elder sister, Gillian. After school in the village Roger worked at the Morris Motors car plant and later as kitchen porter and assistant in the restaurants of the village and the surrounding area.

He became a true village character, one of the Deddington Old Boys; with his shambling swagger of a walk, his wonderful crooked and crinkly grin and all his mannerisms of conversation and behaviour he added colour to the community. A regular in the pubs and the Legion, he was good company, up for the banter – and even the boogieing.

But there was a deeply serious side to Roger too. He became a faithful member of the Parish Church, where he sat on the PCC, and he understood himself in classic Christian terms as one who frequently fell short of the ideal but who wanted to draw nearer to God, to understand God better and experience God more fully. He would often drive to a quiet spot where he could seek out God in the beauty of the countryside and the song of the birds. He would debate the deepest theological questions with his discussion-group friends and he would find particular solace and strengthening in Wednesday morning Communion services. All this helped him to put faith into generous and helpful practice as a good neighbour and friend to many. In pub and church alike, but also in the community at large, in the Deddington where he has been so long such an inevitable and welcome presence, Roger will be greatly and sadly missed. *HW*