

REVD KEN REEVES

The 500 copies printed for the Thanksgiving Service for KENNETH GORDON REEVES on 16 April ran out. Many were content to stand with their memories of Ken (Vicar of Deddington from 1989 to 2000), the victim aged 70 of a tragic road accident three weeks before. The Bishops of Dorchester, Ely and Oxford shared in the service with friends from the many areas of life Ken had touched – from education to horse-racing. Afterwards a parishioner thought she heard a murmur from above: 'Why didn't you fill the church while I was there?'



The Revd Simon Pothan, a fellow student at theological college, now Vicar of Pinner, gave the address, recalling the 'head teacher of enormous ability and drive ... with a pastoral heart, and a booming voice which would freeze mercury, and a stature that gave him that gravitas that we all have come to know and love, but beneath that there was a friendly, kindly and gentle demeanour, a gentle giant of a man.

Ken did not know much about cricket, but he looked so venerable and head-masterly that he carried off being an umpire with great aplomb; you did not dare argue with Ken. ... The ability to befriend is a rare and precious gift and Ken had it in spades. His pastoral touch had no airs and graces; he would ensure that the Church was a place of friendship, sanctuary and love. If Ken was there, the place would radiate with his smile, with that great booming voice; those dinner plate hands would be thrust out to greet you and you felt that the world was indeed a warmer place because of his presence.

Our efforts to make him slow down were all in vain; he would sagely nod and say: 'Yes, I will slow down this year'; and then carry on in his own merry way the same as before, only harder.' Since retiring from here, he had been working just as hard in the 11 parishes of the Shill Valley. Ken chose to be buried in Barford St Michael.

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