

# SOUTH PORCH DOORS

## ST. MARY'S CHURCH, GOLDINGTON

**YOU** will now be aware that the new glazed Oak Doors for the South Porch have been fitted and I must say how awesome and stunning they are . They provide a much improved and welcoming aspect to the Church.

**THEY** have been constructed by my colleague Chris Wood at Stafford Bridge Doors over the last 20 months in his spare time with the approval of my M.D. and I am sure you will agree what a fantastic job he has made.

**YOU** may be aware that the initial design had to be modified a number of times to satisfy the needs of Historic England, the Local Planning Authority and the Diocese regarding the Faculty. The final acceptable design became more complicated and my sincere thanks go to Chris for turning this difficult design into reality.

**AT** the initial concept stage, I, on behalf of the Cope family asked the Church if we could provide the new doors and frames in a fitting tribute and memory to our parents, Alfred and Mary Cope, to which they kindly agreed. You will see that their names are carved on the inside of the frame archway with the dates spanning their lives.

**BECAUSE** my parents passed away in the late 1970s there are probably only a few people in the congregation who will remember them so I will write a short history about them.

**MY** mother was born at Fernilee in Derbyshire and my father at Brimington but he soon moved to Westhouses in Derbyshire. My mother`s parents were dairy farmers close to Whaley Bridge but her parents both died quite young, after which the farm was handed back to the landlord. My father started his working life on the railways in the administrative departments but after some years sort to retrain for a different career in poultry husbandry. My mother took a Diploma in Dairying at the Midland Agricultural College at Sutton Bonington which I believe is where she met my father as he started his Diploma in Agriculture. He then transferred to Harper Adams Agricultural College in Cirencester where he studied for a Diploma in Poultry Husbandry. He worked in Warwickshire, Sussex , Derbyshire and for a time at the Royal Farms, Windsor. My Mother worked at a dairy in Redditch processing milk and making butter and cheese.

**THEY** were married in 1934 and initially lived in Mickleover and Belper in Derbyshire where my eldest sister Sheila was born. I understand from photographs that they kept quite a lot of turkeys in Belper. They moved down to Bedford in the early 1940s and lived at "Hedgerows " Putnoe Street, Bedford when there were only three houses in Putnoe Street and a farm at the top with five cottages. We were surrounded by open fields and the road was a narrow country lane at that time. This all changed in the early 1950s when the housing estate of the same name was built and then the house became number 50. My young-

est sister Margaret was born in 1944 and myself in 1945. My father worked for Bedfordshire County Council as a Poultry Advisory Officer and then for the National Agricultural Advisory Service at its inception in 1946. He was seconded to the Bedfordshire War Agricultural Executive Committee during the War. My mother stayed at home to look after us all in very privileged rural surroundings and looked after a very large garden of half an acre with my father and my help as I grew up. We produced our own fruit and vegetables and of course there were some hens to provide the eggs and eventually the old hens were eaten, so you can see we were almost self- sufficient.

**MY** parents became members of the Congregation at St. Mary`s from the early 1940s and worshipped there for many years until their passing in 1976 and 1977 and their ashes are interred in the Garden of Remembrance. My father was Churchwarden for a period in the 1960s and Secretary of the Stewardship Committee for a number of years. All of us children were baptised, confirmed and married at St. Mary's so you can see we have had an association with St. Mary's over many years.

I still have a little more work to do on the doors and the stonework in close proximity to them but that should be completed in the next few weeks. With this in mind we are proposing to dedicate the new doors to the church to the memory of my parents and this will take place on Sunday May 13<sup>th</sup> during the service of Evensong at 5.00 pm. I should like to extend a warm invitation to everyone who would like to come and then to join us after the service for tea and refreshments in the Church Hall.

**GOD** bless and kind regards,

Richard and Mary Cope



Alfred and Mary Cope at  
Goldington Church