

All Saints Church – article in December 2015 Village Views

The Lambourn church choir came to All Saints church on 18th October to lead us in a celebration of Choral Evensong. This was one of the few occasions in the year when there is an Evensong service in the Benefice.

The choir returned on 1st November for our Patronal Festival and we were also joined by the Very Revd Robert Grimley (and Mrs Grimley), a former Dean of Bristol and now a Canon of Christ Church, Oxford, who preached the sermon. Our 14th and 15th Century chalices were withdrawn from the Christ Church Treasury for the occasion. During the service, the congregation placed lighted candles in the Sanctuary in memory of their loved ones that had passed away. The church was beautifully decorated with flowers, so thanks to all the flower arrangers for their hard work. After the service, 25 lunched together at the Queens Arms.

On Saturday 7th November, East Garston was scheduled to hold its Remembrance Service at the village war memorial. However, since the rain was still heavy at the start time, it was decided to hold the service in All Saints Church where there is also a plaque commemorating those villagers who gave their lives for their country in both World Wars. The Wantage Youth Brass coped admirably with the change of venue and played expertly. The Last Post signalled the start of the Silence and Reveille, the end. At the end of the service, the rain having eased by then, the band marched from the church to the war memorial to the march "Slaidburn". The band was followed by the Vicar, the wreath bearers and over 40 villagers. Wreaths were laid at the war memorial on behalf of the Royal British Legion, All Saints Church and East Garston Parish Council. The Vicar led the closing prayers and the service was concluded by the band playing "The Young Amadeus". Many of the band and congregation then retired to the Queens Arms who had very kindly laid on complimentary coffee and biscuits for the occasion.

Many thanks to all those who sponsored my walk in September in aid of the Berkshire Churches Trust. The sum donated was £335 and the trust will be able to reclaim tax of a further £83.75. In due course, the trust will distribute some of the funds and All Saints should receive £167.50.

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Churchwarden