

This week, we say a fond farewell to long serving member of St Mary's Church, Eric Jakes MBE, Freeman of Potton who died on 12 December 2016. Eric passed peacefully away at Park House Nursing Home, Sandy, after a long illness. Eric had lived in Potton for nearly all his life but it was in later years that he was awarded the MBE for services to the Town in so many ways. Eric was Churchwarden of St Mary's for 36 years, also serving as Sunday School teacher and as a member of the Parochial Church Council for a long period. Together with a colleague, he would raise a large amount of money for the Children's Society by serving tea, coffee and biscuits after every Morning Service at St Mary's. He was also an early member of the organising team for the monthly Parish Lunch which since 1993, has raised thousands of pounds for St John's Hospice at Moggerhanger. Before retiring, Eric had worked for British Rail for most of his working life, finishing with an administrative position in Stevenage. But outside of work, he served his community by chairing both Potton Town Council and Potton Consolidated Charity, and also chaired Mid Beds Council for a time. His funeral will take place on 6 January at 11am at St Mary's Potton, to be conducted at Eric's wish by Rev Ian Arthur, Rector of Potton during the time that Eric served as Churchwarden. All are welcome to come and bid Eric the loving farewell he so rightly deserves. After the service and Interment at Potton Cemetery, a Reception will be held at Mill Lane Pavilion.