

**The Whittlesford Society**  
All about Whittlesford Past, Present & Future

**TWO MEMORABLE FUNERALS**

'STOP PRESS' notices in December's *LOOK* told of the funerals of two notable village figures, which took place on successive days late last month. The first, of Capt. Joe Eastwood, at Cambridge Crematorium and then Thriplow village hall; the second, of Professor Peter Spufford at Whittlesford Parish Church and afterwards The Guildhall.

Both services were remarkable for the crowds attending, for the music and for the eulogies, revealing and reflecting two exceptional life histories. (about which, more in the next *Whither Whittlesford, due March*) – and in both cases, formal Memorial Services will be held in the year ahead, with due military and academic honours.

However, many of Joe's comrades-in-arms from the Lancashire Fusiliers and close contacts from many decades were keen to pay respects on the day and came from near and far, by coach load and individually, so the packed crematorium hall was resplendent with uniforms and medals. Recorded music by the regimental band opened and closed the service, which also included evocative pieces by The Whittlesford Community Gospel Choir (of which Joe's only daughter, Jane, is a long-time member), heartfelt singing by all of 'Jerusalem' and 'I Vow to Thee, My Country' and the haunting playing of 'The Last Post' and 'Reveille' by the Fusiliers' bugler at the Committal.

The next day, **Peter's funeral**, held here as he especially requested, within a celebration of Holy Communion, featured glorious church music by the choir of Queens' College, Cambridge, of which he was Professor Emeritus of European History - though he had also chosen two characteristically cheerful and rousing hymns. Revd Caroline Wilson officiated, with special involvement by Peter's daughter-in-law, Revd Dr Jessica Martin, who before her appointment at Ely Cathedral was well known locally as vicar of Duxford and the 'Hinkledux' parishes. She is the wife of Peter's only son, the distinguished author Francis Spufford, who has twice been guest speaker at Whittlesford Society AGMs.

It was also Peter's request that the Collection that day and any donations anyone wished to make should go to the Church of St Mary & St Andrew and Whit Soc were pleased to donate £100 in his memory and to benefit the village's most ancient - only - Grade1 Listed building.

**LOOKING TO THE YEAR AHEAD...** *Whither Whittlesford* no. 122 will also include some plans for future activities and events – and we'd be delighted to hear from anyone else with suggestions and ideas or who might like to be more closely involved in Whit Soc. The views and input of newcomers are especially welcome! ☎832453~[whitsocinfo@tesco.net](mailto:whitsocinfo@tesco.net)

**HAPPY 2018!**

Website: [www.whittlesfordsociety.info](http://www.whittlesfordsociety.info)

