

Award of the Peter Scribens Memorial Salver 2019

It is with great pleasure again this year that I make the annual award of the Peter Scribens Memorial Salver.

The Parish Council presents this award each year to a villager who takes an active part in the life of the community, as a commemoration to the life of Peter Scribens. He was a committed resident of Flaunden. One of his hobbies was the wellbeing of this village hall.

This year for the first time, we are very pleased to make the award to someone who does not live in the village, but is known by everyone who does live in the village! And has visited every house in the village at least once! And has also attended and joined in with probably at least 90% of our village activities run by The PCC, The Friends, The Village Hall Committee and the Parish Council, secular and religious. The safari suppers, ferret racing, quizzes, Pimms evenings, coffee mornings, Xmas Fayres, Christian Aid lunches, Easter egg treasure hunts, French and Italian food tastings, Budapest Café evenings, Madge's 100th birthday party and many more.

And indeed has been the main organiser and/or instigator, song writer and organ player of many lovely, fun activities for children such as messy church, craft afternoons and nativity plays.

Also, there are of course the "duties" she performs as our minister. For baptisms, weddings and funerals she meets with the families to discuss individual needs and wishes as well as getting to know them personally, prior to the services as well as officiating at them. If anyone is ill, bereaved or dying she visits them in their homes or hospital and gives comfort and reassurance. She is a very special person who is able to connect to everyone, from young children to the elderly and in every situation. She is highly respected by everyone whether they go to church or not.

All this, from the moment she became involved in the village she has shown thorough dedication to the life of the village.

I am of course talking about our friend, Reverend Ruth Boughton.

To quote from a friend

Ruth is "Delightful, friendly, caring and hard working. Ruth visited my friend Keith Robinson in his last few weeks before he died of cancer even though Keith was an acknowledged non-believer. She gave him great comfort just as a kind friend, which I know was appreciated. As we walked to his room at the hospital, she even removed her dog collar, because she knew that it might not be appropriate. She is always available and easy to chat to – a lovely kind person. How great to have Ruth in our village."

And another quote

Ruth “is the most delightful vicar I have ever met. She has so much humanity, humour and acceptance of others’ views and opinions which she does not necessarily hold. When they come to elect the next Archbishop of Canterbury she would certainly have our vote!”

I am sure we all have treasured memories of our friend, Ruth and there are certainly a lot more things I could say to show our respect and esteem.

Ruth I am proud to be able to award the Peter Scribens salver to you tonight for your thorough dedication to all aspects of the life of the village.

Please come forward and accept it.

Vivienne