

CICELY FRANCIS (IMAGE) BRIGGS

Family, friends and neighbours gathered on Tuesday, 20th December - eight days after her tragic death - for a threefold celebration of Image's life, the whole event presided over and woven together by the Rector of Lewtrenchard, Geoffrey Ball.

First there was the Memorial Service in the morning at Lewtrenchard Church. We sang her Grandfather's hymn 'Now the Day is Over' and gave thanks for Image's caring and committed personality, and her gift of healing developed in later life. We were also remembering her dearly loved cousin Edward (Teddy) Baring-Gould who had died two weeks before her, and doing so in company, time-wise, with their relatives in the USA.

In the early afternoon the Committal took place at Efford Crematorium in Plymouth. The simple ceremony was enhanced by further readings and a message of hope, interspersed with powerful baritone solos by John Hobbs. The opening and closing moments were graced by appropriate renderings on the descant recorder.

Finally there was a 'Reception' at Grimstone Manor, Horrbridge. Guests, unshod, were ushered into a simple room and seated concentrically round a large green candle which was duly lit at 4.00 p.m. After a time of silence there followed an hour of contributions from about ten individuals, offering personal reflections on Image's 'many-faceted' life, in song, reading, history, testimony and prayer.

In reporting an event which was a little strange to this observer, I would not want to say more by way of description than to use the word 'esoteric' (repeated by one contributor), but to underline the affirmation, made by another concerning the theme of light, that Jesus Christ is the Light of the World. At the end of the day we all knew more about her; it would be good to think that we also know more about Him!

As a footnote it must be added that Image was an enthusiastic encourager and consistent contributor to the activities of the Society.

David Shacklock